

The Theosophical Society in the Ojai Valley

Established in 1927



**Tuesday Evenings, 7:00-8:00 pm
September 2018 to January 2019**

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Krotona and Lodge Information
805-646-2653

The lodge meetings take place at Krotona School (#46 Krotona Street, Ojai, CA), unless otherwise indicated. All meetings are open to the public free of charge.

Donations are greatly appreciated.

We invite you to support the Society and its work by becoming a member. Membership is open to all who are in sympathy with its objects. Application forms are available in the library and at the meetings.

Three Objects of the Theosophical Society:

1. To form a nucleus of the universal brotherhood of humanity without distinction of race, creed, gender, caste or color.
2. To encourage the comparative study of religion, philosophy and science.
3. To investigate the unexplained laws of nature and the powers latent in the human being.

Note: During the lodge business meeting held in May 2018, members voted overwhelmingly to change the focus of the lodge meetings to have, as much as possible, an average of: one public lecture, one introductory level theosophy meeting, and two members' study meetings, the latter devoted to exploring deeper topics. All meetings will continue to be open to everyone.

September 25 Members' Meeting: Introduction to the Study of *The Evolution of Higher Consciousness*

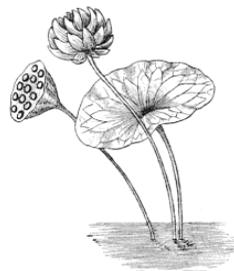
The members' study meetings this year will take up the book of Dr. Pablo Sender on *The Evolution of the Higher Consciousness: An In-Depth Study of HP Blavatsky's Teachings*. (Information on the book and additional resources are available on www.fohatproductions.com.)

The general aim of the work is two-fold: (1) to bring together what Blavatsky has presented throughout her voluminous writings about the evolution of the higher consciousness; and (2) to examine the practical aspects of these teachings and how to apply them to our everyday living. Each study session will consist of theory and practice.

In this first session we will explore the Aims of the Book, its Plan, and some helpful hints in the Study of Esoteric Philosophy.

October 2 Introductory Theosophy: Who am I? What does it Mean to be Human? Facilitator: Maria Parisen

"Know Thyself" is the famous aphorism from the Delphic oracle in Ancient Greece. The advice is good even today. In this session we will explore our nature as human beings and try to understand the purpose for which we exist.



October 9 Members' Meeting: Theosophical View on Evolution

(This is part of the ongoing series on *The Evolution of the Higher Consciousness* as described on Sept 25.)

In this session, we will explore HPB's statement: "There exists in nature a triple evolutionary scheme, which in our system is inextricably interwoven and interblended at every point. These are the Spiritual, the Intellectual, and the Physical evolutions."

October 16 Public Talk: Theosophical Symbolism in *The Wizard of Oz* Gerry Kiffe



The Wizard of Oz, written as a children's novel, was transformed into a musical that became one of the greatest movies in cinema history.

The author, L. Frank Baum was a theosophist and the story is full of veiled references to the spiritual path, the human constitution, magic, and self-transformation. What is the message of this allegory? And what are the meanings of the symbols in the story? We will view some clips from the film and enjoy one of the most famous pieces of modern music ever written, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

Gerry has been an avid theosophical student for over 40 years. He regularly leads meetings of the United Lodge of Theosophists in Santa Barbara and in Los Angeles. He and his wife Diane also host monthly introductory Theosophy classes at their home in Newbury Park. Gerry is a horticulturist and is the General Manager of GardenSoft, which publishes Water Conservation Web Sites for Water Agencies in the Western United States and a Plant Database for landscape design professionals.

(Members please bring refreshments.)

October 23 Members' Meeting: Atman, the Higher Self

(This is part of the ongoing series on *The Evolution of the Higher Consciousness* as described on Sept 25.)

The spirit [ātman], being universal, should not be regarded as a *human* Principle, in the normal sense of the phrase. In other words, it cannot be said to *belong* to that fragment of the whole which we call a human being.

October 30 Introductory Theosophy: The Art of Meditation Facilitator: Pablo Sender

The art of meditation has been practiced for thousands of years. Why should we meditate? What are the types of meditation and what techniques can be helpful as we endeavor to take up the practice?

November 6 Public Talk: Creative Revisioning: Using Symbols and Sand Laurie Hope

The psyche expresses itself in symbols and images more than words, and our subjective reality is highly determined by the stories we tell and the symbols we use. Based on Jungian Sandtray Therapy using miniature figures placed in sand, Creative Revisioning reveals meaning in our past and current experiences, illuminates our strengths and challenges, and invites us to envision greater possibilities.

Laurie Hope is a retired psychotherapist and was on the faculties of Sonoma State University and Santa Rosa Community College. She has used the Sandtray process in her work with clients and groups since 1989. Her book *The Unchosen Path* is intended to give support to people living with chronic illness. Laurie currently teaches tai chi, attends classes at Krotona, and enjoys making music.

November 13
Founders Day Program: The Gift of Theosophy
Elena Dovalsantos

When the Theosophical Society was founded in NY in 1875, it brought to the western world the Secret Science that has been known to seers throughout the ages. As we celebrate our founders, we dwell on the precious gift of theosophy and how we can keep it as a gift that keeps on giving.

Elena has been a member of the Theosophical Society since 1972 and is the current president of the TS in the Ojai Valley.

(Members please bring refreshments.)

November 20
Thanksgiving Week,
No Meeting



November 27
Holiday Handbells Concert

The Hallelujah Handbell Chorus, led by its new director Chris Gilman, returns to Krotona to honor us with a holiday concert. Please join us to celebrate and spread the joy and beauty of the season.
Venue: Krotona Hall, next to the library.
Donations are gratefully accepted.

December 4
Members' Meeting: The Monad

(This is part of the ongoing series on *The Evolution of the Higher Consciousness* as described on Sept 25.)

“The [word] monad is from Greek, [meaning] “One,” the unit, whatever it is.... *Ātman* in reality is not a unit, but the one universal Principle, and it is simply a ray ... which uses *buddhi* as a vehicle.... Therefore, in reality it is *buddhi* which is the monad, the one unit.” (*SD Commentaries*, p. 566)

December 11
Public Talk: Spiritual Psychology and
Theosophy's Role in Creating It
Lisa Love

Psychology is the “study of the soul.” Few people, however, understand how that soul study and the psychological field was influenced to a large degree by Theosophical thinkers. From Carl Jung in the past to the founder of the Integral movement, Ken Wilber today, this talk will show the direct role Theosophy had in shaping psychological ideas and how Theosophy is still helping to shape where the field of psychology is headed in the future.

Dr. Lisa Love is a counselor with degrees in Marriage, Family Therapy, Transpersonal Psychology, and Esoteric Psychology. She also has training in Psychosynthesis and Integral Psychology. For decades she has worked to help advance people's understanding of who they are as spiritual beings primarily through the field of psychology. She is the author of five books on meditation, love and relationships, and her best-seller called *Beyond the Secret*, a book that takes a more spiritual look at the Law of Attraction.

(Members please bring refreshments.)



December 18
Members' Meeting: The Ego

(This is part of the ongoing series on *The Evolution of the Higher Consciousness* as described on Sept 25.)

It is from *manas* that we get the awareness of being a distinct entity. From the higher *manas*, we have a pure sense of “I am I,” beyond the identification with a particular personality. From the lower *manas*, we get a selfish sense of being a separate personality. Instead of the simple and undefined feeling of “I am I,” we have “I am—John Smith.”

December 25 and January 1
Christmas and New Year, no meeting



January 8
Members' Meeting: Kama, The Animal Soul

(This is part of the ongoing series on *The Evolution of the Higher Consciousness* as described on Sept 25.)

As we have seen, in order to gather experience on the physical plane, the higher ego emanates a manasic ray to animate the body. As a consequence, its expression becomes greatly limited. In this “descent,” however, there is something else that happens—the Ray becomes entangled with the kāmīc Principle, forming what is known in Theosophical literature as “*kāma-manas*.”

January 15
Introductory Theosophy: Christianity and
Theosophy
Facilitator: Robert Ellwood

Theosophy, meaning “divine wisdom,” recognizes that within the many outward forms of all the great religions of the world, there is an inner core shared by all of them. Theosophy and Christianity agree in their essence, with Christianity providing its unique way of expressing the Wisdom Tradition. How is theosophy compatible with Christianity? In what ways does it shed light on questions that Christianity does not address? How can it make the Christian faith more intelligible to the mind and more alive in the heart? What does Theosophy say about the inner side of Christian teachings? We will explore these topics and more.

January 22
Members' Meeting: Communication with the
Higher

(This is part of the ongoing series on *The Evolution of the Higher Consciousness* as described on Sept 25.)

The presence of the *antahkarana* helps the personality by providing a means for spiritual influence from the higher nature. The communication, however, goes both ways. The *antahkarana* is not only the source of “all good and noble aspirations” expressing through the lower nature, but is also the bridge to transfer any valuable personal experience to the higher ego.

January 29
Public Talk: Means, Motive and Opportunity -
The Keys to Change
Douglas Keene, MD

Doug will discuss how the universe speaks to us and that life offers us opportunities for change. Are we listening and willing to respond positively when a door may open? What are the ingredients that coalesce? How should we bring experiences to our world? Is there a theosophical perspective? He will describe how these forces have impacted his own life, particularly his decision to live and work in Africa. Some of the challenges and hopes he saw in Lesotho will be presented.

Doug has been a member of TSA since 1980 and currently serves on its Board of Directors, representing the Eastern District. He is a family doctor who has practiced more than 30 years. He has a masteral degree in public health (MPH) with specialization in Global Health. Doug currently serves as a medical director in a nursing home. He lives with his wife Risa in New Hampshire.

(Members please bring refreshments.)

