

# FALL 2005 LECTURE SCHEDULE

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## THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN PITTSBURGH



**THE OBJECTS OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY:** To form a nucleus of the Universal Brother & Sisterhood of Humanity regardless of race, sex, caste, creed or color. To encourage the study of comparative religion, philosophy and science. To investigate the unexplained laws of nature and the powers latent in humanity.

**PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ROOM ASSIGNMENT!**

*All lectures are presented Sundays from 1:30 to approx. 3:00 PM and are held in room 1500 on the 1st floor of Posvar Hall (formerly the Forbes Quad. classroom building) on the Campus of Pitt University (next to Hillman Library). Attendees need not be a member of the society. Unless otherwise indicated, all programs may be attended free of charge. Call our 24-hour automated phone system at (412) 462-4200 for the most current information on lectures and Society sponsored events. This number will have all the latest information on weather and unforeseen cancellations. Officers can be reached at this same number.*

October

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2<sup>nd</sup>

### **DOUBLE FEATURE**

**LECTURE:**

**TRAUMA & AWAKENING – Andrew Nesky**

Darth Vader knew it, Jesus knew it, Buddha and Job knew it... consciousness only evolves through trauma. Come join us as we explore this phenomenon and its ramifications. Then stay with us as we view the movie Forrest Gump to see how this principle comes to life in the character of Lt. Dan.

**MOVIE:**

**FORREST GUMP – See page 4 for details!**

9<sup>th</sup>

**WELLNESS: Our Five Expressions of Health – Phil Jannetta**

An incomplete vision of health produces frustration, pain and self-destructive behavior. This will be a discussion of total well being based on traditions of East and West

16<sup>th</sup>

**THE TALL WHITES: ET Experiences in the Nevada Desert with Charles James**

– Video & Discussion with Fran Szarnicki

This lecture was originally presented at the 2nd annual exopolitics Expo (X-conference) in Washington DC in April 2005. The Tall Whites: ET Experiences in the Nevada Desert with Charles James Hall, author of the Millennial Hospitality Series. Charles Hall was a weather observer in the USAF during the mid sixties. He was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base and the Indian Springs gunnery ranges outside Las Vegas. This is an account of one man's experiences with extraterrestrials in the Nevada desert while in the service of the government. 45min. video with commentary by Fran Szarnicki.

23<sup>rd</sup>

**THE HIGHEST STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS – Ted Kneupper**

"The Highest State of Consciousness" Among the variety of spiritual teachings there are profound differences concerning the nature of the final state the mind can attain in its unfolding: whether there is an experience of duality (including the multiplicity of souls and a plurality of beings existing in space/time, as is essential to what we know as the physical universe, or the complete ending of any

# The Theosophical Society in Pittsburgh

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October cont.

trace of duality in the One without a second. Our concern will be to clarify the substance of these differing views and to examine their implications both for understanding and practice.

30<sup>th</sup>

## **THE SPIRITUAL APPROACH TO HEALTH & HEALING – Giulia Plum**

Join us for this must see journey into the world of spirit and healing. Join spiritual healer and psychotherapist Giulia Plum as we learn how to pray effectively for ourselves and others, learn how to overcome fear and how to use spirituality to achieve practical results in everyday life.

## November

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6<sup>th</sup>

### **DOUBLE FEATURE**

#### **LECTURE:**

#### **THE NEUROSCIENCE OF IDENTITY**

#### **A Layperson's Look at the Frontiers of Brain Science – Shawn Nevins**

What are we? Memories, personality, soul, or spirit? Each year advances in brain research edge closer to finding biological explanations for what we believe unique or sacred about ourselves. This talk will review some of our latest research to probe how close neuroscience is to finding the very source of who we are.

#### **MOVIE:**

#### **THE RAZOR'S EDGE – See details page 4**

13<sup>th</sup>

### **LIFESTYLE OF YOGA – Ruth Rittenhouse**

Yoga is much more than exercise. When practiced properly it is a philosophy and a lifestyle. Join Himalayan Institute Director Ruth Rittenhouse as we learn the why's and how's of Yoga postures, relaxation and meditation

20<sup>th</sup>

### **MOKSHA:FAQs, Fax & Facts – Art Ticknor**

A review of questions frequently asked to spiritual masters such as Easterners Hui-neng, Huang Po, Ramana Maharshi and Nisargadatta Maharaj, and Westerners Richard Rose and Douglas Harding, about how to become liberated – and their inspiring, often humorous, responses that separate the facsimile from the real.

27<sup>th</sup>

### **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO MEETING**

## December

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4<sup>th</sup>

### **DOUBLE FEATURE:**

#### **LECTURE:**

#### **THE ROLE OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN – David Schrader**

Socrates was executed for playing a role in the public life of Athens that many of his contemporaries found too aggressive. By contrast, the discipline of philosophy receives a good deal of criticism today for being too quiet in the face of problems confronting our public life. This lecture will propose that philosophers are obliged to play active lives as citizens, both by virtue of their role as citizens and their professional training as philosophers; but that they must play this role in a manner that reflects their citizenship in “the ethical republic” (William James) without taking on the mantle of the “Philosopher King” (Plato).

#### **MOVIE:**

#### **CIRCLE OF IRON – See details page 4**

11<sup>th</sup>

### **THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:**

#### **Second Vatican Council – Fr. Thomas Hart**

The Catholic Church defines itself according to the sixteen documents issued forty years ago at the Second Vatican Council. What are these documents and what is their implication for the Holy See? Come join St. Vincent College religious studies department chairman Friar Thomas Hart as we investigate these proclamations with special emphasis on the influence of Nostra Aetate: The Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to non-Christian religions.



December cont.

18<sup>th</sup> **LOVE** – Andrew Nesky

**ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS! SEE YOU IN JANUARY!**

## Speaker's Biographies

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**Thomas Hart** is from the Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, PA, where he has been a member of the Benedictine Order since 1983. He teaches in the Religious Studies Department at Saint Vincent College and works for the College President with issues pertaining to Mission and Identity. His interests include biblical studies as well as interreligious dialogue.

**Phil Janetta** is an internationally known Feng Shui teacher and consultant, as well as a published author. He comes to this county after spending over 15 years in Asia as a student, teacher and consultant and where he studied Feng Shui with professional Chinese practitioners, Taoist scholars and Buddhist monks. For more than a decade Mr. Janetta operated a successful consulting practice in Tokyo. His advice was based on the principals of Ch'I energy, and their application to physical and mental well being. Since returning to the U.S., Phil has appeared on television and radio, and in major newspapers. He consults and lectures throughout the US, Europe and the Far East, and regularly teaches at the University of Pittsburgh and Community College of Allegheny County. His published works include co-authorship of several books with Michio Kushi, including the acclaimed "Macrobiotics and Oriental Medicine."

**Dr. Theodore Kneupper** received his Ph.D. in 1972 from the University of Louvain (Belgium), where he focused on the foundations of modern science from a phenomenological perspective. His interests have since expanded to questions concerning the nature of consciousness. He has traveled to the Orient, meeting and discussing existential ideas with numerous masters and scientists in those traditions. Most recently he has been seriously involved in the study of the teachings of J. Krishnamurti and "A Course In Miracles." Dr. Kneupper is keenly concerned with the development of practical understanding and application of 'inner' teachings in the context of the urgent problems facing modern human beings. He is former chair of the Slippery Rock College Philosophy Department.

**Andrew Nesky** is the president of the Theosophical Society in Pittsburgh. He has twice been elected to the position of Master of a Masonic Lodge and is a published writer. An actor with regional credits, he also lectures on the subject of metaphysics and human development and coaches high-school competitive public speaking, specializing in value-based Lincoln-Douglas format debate. In addition to being a ULC Minister, he has hosted the web-casted talk show "Science and the Outer Streams" which investigates the frontiers of human thought, science and spirituality.

**Shawn Nevins** has spent the last fifteen years seeking ways and means to self-knowledge. He is the webmaster of spiritualteachers.org, an active writer of poetry and prose, and has facilitates sessions on spiritual retreats, success, the work of Douglas Harding, and other spiritual topics. He is currently working on a documentary of several spiritual teachers. He lives in Louisville, KY and conducts teambuilding and environmental education for the parks system.

Since 1996, **Giulia Plum** has been a full-time spiritual healer, using ideas from the book *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy. Previously she had a private psychotherapy practice, which included work as a licensed marriage and family therapist.

**Ruth Rittenhouse** is the President and Director of the Himalayan Institute of Pittsburgh, a branch of the Himalayan International Institute of Yoga, Science and Philosophy. She has been practicing of over 30 years and teaching for over 12. She has two yoga certifications and also trains teachers in the Pittsburgh area.

**David Schrader** (B.A. – Saint Olaf College; M.T.S. – Harvard University; M.A. and Ph.D. University of Massachusetts) Has been a member of the Washington and Jefferson College Philosophy Department for sixteen years and has taught philosophy for a total of thirty years. His primary areas of professional interest are applied ethics, philosophy of religion. And philosophy of science. He is past president of the Society for Philosophy of Religion and current president of the International Society for Value Inquiry.

**Fran M. Szarnicki** is a native of Pittsburgh. She is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, the University of California at San Francisco, the Monroe Institute in Virginia, and the University of Science & Philosophy, also in Virginia. Fran is a Philosopher, Professional Numerologist, Author, Speaker, and Experiencer. Fran is the author of *SZAR CARDS* and *THE KEY* (a numerology primer).

Presenter **Art Ticknor** met Richard Rose in 1978 and began a long-term search for the Truth that sets you free. His quest came to a successful conclusion in May 2004, six months after a memorable visit with British master Douglas

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*Speaker's Biographies cont.*

Harding. Art is active in the Philosophical Self-Inquiry group and in the TAT Foundation, which carry on the work of Richard Rose of providing non-dogmatic environments for truth-seekers.

## Theosophical Society Movie Series

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Ever finish a movie and say, “Wow – that was *really* deep,” maybe wishing you had some way to further explore the ideas you’d just encountered? *Well wish no more!* Join the Theosophical Society once each month after a scheduled lecture to view some of the finest “deep” movies and documentaries ever made. Each month the movie will be introduced by a member or guest lecturer and then after the movie – stay for the discussion and questions! (*See the main schedule for dates and times*)

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### **FORREST GUMP** – Comedy/Drama, 1994

**Director:** Robert Zemeckis

**Run Time:** 142 mins

**Rating:** PG-13

**Featuring:** Tom Hanks, Robin Wright Penn, Gary Sinise, Mykelti Michael, Conner Humphreys

**Description:** “Life is like a box of Chocolates... You never know what you’re gonna get.” Like the movie itself, this line from Forrest Gump became an instant classic and an inspiration to millions of people worldwide. Tom Hanks gives an astonishing performance as Forrest in this acclaimed film. Through three turbulent decades, Forrest rides a tide of events that whisks him from physical disability to football stardom, from Vietnam hero to shrimp tycoon, from White House Honors to the arms of his one true love. Forrest is the embodiment of an era, an innocent at large in an America that is losing its innocence. His heart knows what his limited IQ cannot.

### **THE RAZOR’S EDGE** – Drama, 1946

**Director:** Edmund Goulding

**Run Time:** 146 mins

**Rating:** NR

**Featuring:** Tyrone Power, Gene Tierney, John Payne, Anne Baxter, Herbert Marshall

**Description:** W. Somerset Maugham's brilliant novel, "The Razor's Edge," was first brought to the big screen via this 1946 adaptation. Tyrone Power stars as the idealistic Larry Darrell, who finds himself searching the world for enlightenment. This is a very different movie than the Bill Murray remake.

### **CIRCLE OF IRON** – Action/Sci-Fi/Fantasy, 1978

**Director:** Richard Moore

**Run Time:** 97 mins

**Rating:** R

**Featuring:** David Carradine, Jeff Cooper, Roddy McDowall, Eli Wallach, Erica Creer, Christopher Lee

**Description:** The movie's dedication says it all: "Prior to the death of the legendary Bruce Lee, he helped create a movie story that might capture not only the spirit of martial arts, but a part of the Zen Philosophy he lived by. He was aware that a film with these dynamics would cause controversy, particularly among those unfamiliar with Zen beliefs. But it was this very uniqueness that he believed would enthrall the moviegoer. Bruce set the story in a land that never was and always is. It is to Bruce Lee that this film is posthumously dedicated."