

**FALL 2007**  
**LECTURE SCHEDULE & CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

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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 the 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.*

**WELCOME TO OUR CENTENNIAL!**

In October 1907 less than four years after the Wright brothers made their famous flight at Kitty Hawk the (then) president of the International Theosophical Society, Annie Besant signed the charter that constituted the Pittsburgh Theosophical Lodge. Since then the world has gone through a great many traumas and changes, but no matter how different our world became the Theosophical Society's calling has remained as steadfast as the day it was first pronounced.

In each generation only the precious few are illuminated with the deep understanding of their own being, of those only a small percentage use such understanding to help us make critical corrections in the general human course and to help other precocious souls evolve. When our lodge was founded the slower pace of life had special advantages for the process of conscious awakening, unfortunately today's fast-paced lifestyle has brought new challenges to this precious and challenging educational process. The modern world has proven especially hostile to the clear and difficult thinking necessary to achieve wisdom, and thus the contemplative oasis cultivated by our group is especially necessary in this moment for our species and our planet.

You help and support make our existence possible. On October 28<sup>th</sup> we are planning a daylong celebration that includes nationally known speakers and formal dinner. For further information see our calendar/or the invitations included with this schedule's mailing. Please come celebrate with us.

Namaste

Andrew Nesky  
President

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**October**

21<sup>st</sup>

**BLESSINGS TO SANCTIFY OUR LIFE – Phil Jannetta**

Join international esoteric educator and practitioner Phil Jannetta for an exploration of what blessings are, their positive effects, and how we can use them to improve our lives.

# The Theosophical Society in Pittsburgh

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October Cont.

## 28<sup>th</sup> **CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION: *A day of Enlightenment***

(For full details see the invitation enclosed with this schedule.)

Event Schedule:

- 1:30 PM – President & officers of the Pittsburgh Branch
- 2:30 PM – Brant Jackson (National Speaker) - "Esoteric Wisdom in the New Testament"
- 3:30 PM – Andrew Nesky (Pittsburgh President) - "Enlightenment"
- 4:30 PM – Ed Abdill – (National Speaker) - "The Secret Gateway"
- 5:30 PM – Dinner in Somerset Room
- 6:30 PM – Final Address and Group Meditation

**Location:** Radisson Hotel Pittsburgh (Washington Room) 101 Mall Blvd. Monroeville, PA 15146  
phone: 412-373-7300 (Call for directions or sleeping room reservations only)

**Meeting cost:** \$30.00 per person – Pre-paid by check or cash before October 23, Dinner is included – Vegetarian meals are available. RSVP before October 22, 2007 by phone 412-462-4200 Press 3 or by [pittsburghts@aol.com](mailto:pittsburghts@aol.com) Pre-Reserved group room rates - \$99.00 a night

## November

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### 4<sup>th</sup> **DOUBLE FEATURE**

**LECTURE:**

**VORTEX MOTION** – Zachary Jones

Vortex motion is the quintessential phenomenon of change and transformation. It permeates all facets of nature, within us and in the world around us. This lecture will demonstrate what may be 'pure' vortex mechanics - which stands to act as a lens to more clearly see natural systems. The phenomenon has not previously been identified, and it stands to refine our understanding of atomic structure, cosmology, electrodynamics, as well as the wellspring and relationship of specific symbols.

**DOCUMENTARY:**

**ECOLOGICAL DESIGN: Inventing the Future**

**"A film about integrating nature, technology and humanity"- See details page 4**

### 11<sup>th</sup> **MASKS OF ETERNITY:**

**The philosophy of Joseph Campbell** – Documentary & Discussion

In this one-hour episode taken from the six episode PBS Bill Moyers interview with Joseph Campbell, Campbell provides challenging insights into the concepts of God, religion and eternity, as revealed in Christian teachings and the beliefs of Buddhists, Navajo Indians, Schopenhauer and others.

"A Myth is a mask of god, a metaphor for what lies behind the visible world... the realization of wonder and also the experience of tremendous power which people living in the world of nature are experiencing all the time. The way in most Oriental thinking, and I think what we call primitive thinking, is that God is the manifestation of the energy – not the source."

Come, watch the movie and then stay with us for discussion.

### 18<sup>th</sup> **DUO** – Richard Herman & Andrea Harman

**Everyday Postmodernism:** – Richard Herman

The postmodern era is defined as a time of "incredulity toward metanarratives." What does that mean? Can it have any bearing on our everyday lives? Richard will examine postmodernism from a layman's perspective.

**A Timeline of World Religions** – Andrea Harman

Culture-changing ideas seldom originate in a vacuum. So many people around the world were working on the invention of the telephone and electric lighting that it was virtually a lottery that anyone got credit for inventing them. The

# The Theosophical Society in Pittsburgh

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November

need and the groundwork always have to be present before anything new emerges, therefore it shouldn't be a surprise that the emergence of popular religions also have certain synchronistic origins. Come and see how the timelines of all the world's major religions relate to each other.

25<sup>th</sup>

**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO MEETING**

**December**

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2<sup>nd</sup>

## **DOUBLE FEATURE**

**LECTURE:**

**FOLLOWED BY SUCCESS:**

**Esoteric Principals of Business Mastery** – Andrew Nesky

There is no success without the cooperation of the unseen, yet many “successes” think this cooperation is their due. Former generations of senior business leaders understood the invisible realm's veto power and knew how to get in its graces, a skill that has largely been lost in the modern era. Come join us as we learn the secret of being *Followed By Success*.

**DOCUMENTARY:**

**ENRON: The Smartest Guys in the Room** - *See details page 4*

9<sup>th</sup>

**AS ABOVE; SO BELOW: A STARGAZER'S VIEW** – Donna Greco

Astrologer-Musician Donna Greco will discuss the significant current outer planet transits and the messages we are being graced with both personally and collectively. Donna also will discuss the spiritual significance of the winter solstice as the sun enters Capricorn and there is always the unexpected inspiration that strikes just before the talk! There will be opportunity for open discussion. Original music by Donna will accompany us on this journey.

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

## **Speaker's Biographies**

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**Donna Greco** - *astrologer, tarot practitioner, counselor, pianist, teacher, composer...* During Donna's Saturn return, she awakened to callings, which inspired her to explore the metaphysical world. She has devotedly pursued the study of Astrology and Tarot for 25 years. Donna blends art with spiritual knowledge and sensitive attunement as a facilitator for personal transformation. She is available for lecture-presentations, workshops, individual mentorship and private consultations.

She is well known and respected as an accomplished pianist-teacher-composer. Her musical career spans 30 years, and has studied with many renowned musicians. She is accomplished in the classical, jazz and contemporary instrumental genres. Her Intuitive Music practice is designed to create personalized musical settings for the facilitation of healing and meditation. She also receives commissions for specialized musical recordings produced and designed for personal and sacred intentions. She is in the process of becoming a Certified Music Practitioner providing music for healing and transition in the hospice setting. Donna Greco is a native of Pittsburgh. She counsels, composes and teaches in her Squirrel Hill Studio. [WWW.DONNAGRECO.COM](http://WWW.DONNAGRECO.COM)

**Andrea Harman** has studied esoteric teachings for 30 years. She has been involved with the Theosophical Society since 1992 and is the current the secretary and part time cook.

**Richard Herman** is a gardener/landscaper working in the Sewickley area for the past 30 years. He designs and installs gardens and garden architecture.

**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

# FALL 2007 LECTURE SCHEDULE



*Speaker's Biographies cont.*

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."

**Zachary C. Jones** is an artist and researcher whose work focuses on rendering the poetics of subtle patterns and phenomena that span fields of inquiry - including the scientific, artistic, and the spiritual. He has an extensive history of project enactment and coordination that spans funded research, public events, art works and installations, and computer-based systems. Each of these works is aligned around a pursuit to expand the senses, tuning them to ever more subtle faces of the evolving environment in which we live, and participate.

**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.

## **Theosophical Society Movie Series**

**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*)**

### **ECOLOGICAL DESIGN: Inventing the Future** – Documentary

**Producers:** Brian Danitz & Chris Zelov

**Run Time:** 64 min.

**Rating:** NR

**Description:** This educational film illuminates the emergence of ecological design in the 20th century. Beginning with the work of Buckminster Fuller from the 1920s through the 1960s, continuing through the counter-culture and ending on the doorstep of the 21st century, this video follows the evolution of ecological design from the early visions of a few independent thinkers to the powerful movement it has become today. Winner of several awards, the film includes the interdisciplinary perspectives of many noted designers and thinkers such as Jay Baldwin, Mary Catherine Bateson, John Todd, Stewart Brand, Amory Lovins, Paolo Soleri, and many others. A powerful educational tool, Ecological Design provides a practical basis for learning about the environment and about our capability to design a desirable and sustainable future.

### **ENRON: The Smartest Guys in the Room** – Documentary, 2005

**Director:** Alex Gibney

**Run Time:** 110 min.

**Rating:** NR

**Description:** "Alex Gibney... examines the rise and fall of Enron's infamous corporate juggernaut... The film, based on the book by Bethany McLean and Peter Elkind, opens with a reenactment of the suicide of Enron executive Cliff Baxter, then travels back in time, describing Enron chairman Kenneth Lay's humble beginnings as the son of a preacher, his ascent in the corporate world as an "apostle of deregulation," his fortuitous friendship with the Bush family, and the development of his business strategies in natural gas futures. ... The Smartest Guys in the Room explores the lengths to which the company went to appear incredibly profitable. Their win-at-all-costs strategy included suborning financial analysts with huge contracts for their firms, hiding debts, and using California's deregulation of the electricity market to manipulate the state's energy supply. Gibney's film reveals how Lay, Skilling, and other execs managed to keep their riches, while thousands of lower-level employees saw their loyalty repaid with the loss of their jobs and their retirement funds. The filmmaker posits the Enron scandal not as an anomaly, but as a natural outgrowth of free-market capitalism. ~ Josh Ralske, All Movie Guide"

*For information call (412) 462-4200*