

Elevating Consciousness

Illuminating the Path to a Better World

138th Summer National Convention

July 19–23, 2024

Program Details and Speaker Information

William Meader Lecture and Q&A

Saturday, July 20, 9:00–10:15 a.m.

“Soul of Humanity: *Its Evolution through World Crisis*”

Humanity is facing a set of unparalleled global crises. Whether considering the climate crisis, the untold suffering taking place in Ukraine and the Middle East, or the rise in authoritarian regimes around the world, humanity is at a pivotal point in history. Yet when such events are examined from a spiritual perspective, it becomes clear that we are witnessing the prelude to a great initiatory opportunity facing the human family. Indeed, it is a period when the Soul of Humanity is seeking to shape outer events in support of an emerging era of human betterment and prosperity. In this talk, the nature of crisis will be examined (individually and globally), and how it portends the emergence of the Soul of Humanity.

William Meader Workshop

Monday, July 22, 1:30–4:30 p.m.

“Practical Mysticism: *Paradigm for a New and Dawning Age*”

For countless centuries, mysticism has been the primary means to seek union with God and the spiritual dimension of life. Indeed, our mystical yearning for the divine is ancient, and has been an instinctual impulse within us since the dawning hour of humankind. Though the mystical path has been historically emphasized, a new and emerging paradigm is beginning to crest upon the shores of human consciousness. Occultly referred to as Practical Mysticism, it is truly the way of the future.

In this workshop, the nature and application of Practical Mysticism will be deeply explored. Methods for blending heart and mind will be discussed, as well as an exploration into the nature of soulful service when living as a practical mystic. Listed below are a few additional topics to be presented and discussed.

- The transformation of the mystic into the practical mystic
- Recognizing the spiritual call
- Meditation used by practical mystics
- The destiny of the soul – to be a creative agent
- Methods used by practical mystics in service to humanity



William Meader is one of the most influential and respected international teachers of esoteric philosophy. With his gentle humor, sensitivity, and deep understanding of the spiritual path, he provides a diverse array of workshops and lectures. Author of *Shine Forth: The Soul's Magical Destiny* and his newest book, *Supernal Light: A Compendium of Esoteric Thought*, he has also published numerous articles on all aspects of spirituality. For more information, visit www.meader.org.

Trần-Thi-Kim-Diêu Lecture and Q&A
Saturday, July 20, 10:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
“The Dharma of Humans”

In this lecture we will explore and try to address some fundamental and essential questions pertaining to our true nature and purpose in life. Questions such as, What is a human being? What is the theosophical perspective on evolution? What is the Universe (its manifested “side,” the “other side,” and its real structure)? What is “matter” and what is “space-time”? What is the relationship between the Universe and a human being? What are the powers latent in a human being? And most importantly, How can we grow spiritually in order to benefit all of life?



Trần-Thi-Kim-Diêu has been a member of the Theosophical Society in France since 1972. She is a post-graduate in pharmaceutical technology. She is former chairperson (1995-2022) of the European Federation of the TS and its current vice-chairperson, and president of the TS in France. She is former chairperson of the International Theosophical Centre at Naarden in The Netherlands (1995-2003). She travels widely to encourage cooperation and promulgate the teachings as well as to share experience in service of the TS.

Nicole Goott, Lecture and Q&A
Sunday, July 21, 1:30–2:45 p.m.
“Love in Action: Moving Toward Unity Consciousness”

We always have a choice in how we view the world. We can either look at it as burning and with despair, or we can see it with hope and filled with endless possibilities for change. Choosing hope and accepting the initiation into a higher way of being, we will look at how to engage love in action to be an agent of transformation for ourselves and others. From the wisdom teachings like Theosophy, we can understand how our own professional, personal, and communal expressions of love can make us agents of a global movement toward unity consciousness.



Nicole Goott is an author, facilitator, thought partner, and spiritual mentor. Reflecting a fusion and synthesis of more than two decades of study in various approaches to mind, body, and spiritual practice, Nicole teaches people how to rediscover their inner wisdom and guidance, all within a container of moving oneself and the world closer to harmony and union. She is the author of *Yoga and the Five Elements: Spiritual Wisdom for Everyday Living*. Based in New Hampshire, Nicole offers personal sessions and classes. She can be reached at www.nicolegoott.com.

Kurt Leland, “Parsifal: A Theosophical View”
Saturday, July 20, 7:30–8:45 p.m.

Richard Wagner’s final opera, *Parsifal* (1882) was based on the legend of the Holy Grail and a brotherhood of Initiates acting as its caretaker. A frequent lecture topic for Theosophists in the early 20th century, *Parsifal*, with its themes of Buddhist reincarnation and Christian redemption, was seen as a parable of the Theosophical path of initiation. This program recreates such a lecture using antique magic lantern slides from the collection of the Theosophical in America archives, accompanied by a four-hand piano arrangement of the score that condenses five and a half hours of music into seventy-five minutes.

Kurt Leland, Lecture and Q&A

Sunday, July 21, 10:30–11:45 a.m.

“Elevating Consciousness by ‘Going Beyond’”

An ancient mantra from the Heart Sutra advises us that the ultimate wisdom is to keep “going beyond.” Every step on our long journey back to Oneness with Source is a “going beyond.” Some of us go by the path of Lawful Power, others by Loving Wisdom, and still others by Creative Action. Each of these paths can illuminate the way to a better world, teaching us the “right best steps” needed to go beyond our limitations in self-understanding and in service to others. What is Theosophy but the art and science of “Going Beyond”?

Kurt Leland Workshop

Monday, July 22, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

“Daily Practices for ‘Going Beyond’”

In this workshop, we will learn a basic, an intermediate, and an advanced practice for identifying our limitations and finding steps to go beyond them. The basic practice is one we can do every day: “Show up. Be fully present. Be kind to yourself and others. Find a step to take in mutual joy and understanding.” The intermediate practice involves bettering the world by applying the basic practice to each level of Annie Besant’s “Ladder of Lives,” which embraces minerals, plants, animals, and people—as well as nonphysical beings, such as the human dead, nature spirits, devas, and angels. The advanced practice involves meditating on a set of six questions that can help us understand and elevate our consciousness toward what Annie Besant calls “The Mind of the Master,” thereby embracing and embodying the ideal of compassionate service to all beings.



Author and composer **Kurt Leland** is a national and international lecturer for the Theosophical Society. He is the author of books on out-of-body, near-death, and transcendental experiences arising from composing, performing, and listening to music. He has also published *Invisible Worlds: Annie Besant on Psychic and Spiritual Development* and an annotated version of Charles Leadbeater’s *The Chakras*, as well as *Rainbow Body: A History of the Western Chakra System from Blavatsky to Brennan* and *The Multidimensional Human: Practices for Psychic Development and Astral Projection*.

Pablo Sender, Lecture and Q&A

Saturday, July 20, 1:30–2:45 p.m.

“The Spiritual Ascent from Selfishness to Illumination”

In an era where social reform is frequently pursued through external avenues, this presentation explores the indispensable role of inner transformation as a catalyst for enduring social change. Drawing upon the wisdom found in Theosophical literature, we will examine the essential stages in the raising of consciousness, which encompasses actions such as the purification of desires, development of intelligence, cultivation of spiritual aspirations, and the ultimate realization of higher consciousness. This talk is an invitation to those seeking to understand how to navigate this transformative journey, which not only enriches their individual existence but also fosters the collective evolution of consciousness.

Pablo Sender workshop

Tuesday, July 23, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

“Steps to Higher Consciousness”

According to Theosophy, our true nature is that of spiritual beings. As such, we are eternal, complete, and connected to everything. However, we have forgotten this reality and become identified with our temporary physical existence. This mistaken identity is the source of selfishness, fear, greed, and competition, which create the majority of our societal afflictions. The cure for all these ills lies in the realization of our true nature, an endeavor that requires intelligent and active work on our part. In this workshop, we will explore practical methods to ascend through the steps delineated in the talk, "The Spiritual Ascent from Selfishness to Illumination." We will explore practices aimed at:

- Purifying our emotional nature
- Cultivating a discerning mind
- Stimulating spiritual aspirations
- Developing the ability to contemplate abstract realities

These practices include meditation, exercises of self-knowledge, and the application of these teachings in our daily lives.



Pablo Sender, Ph.D., became a member of the Theosophical Society in his native Argentina and has presented Theosophical lectures, seminars, and classes around the world. He is the author of *Approaching the Secret Doctrine* and *Evolution of the Higher Consciousness*, and his articles have been published in several Theosophical journals. Learn more at his website, www.pablosender.com.

**Music by Claude Bolling, including
Selections from *Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano*
Sunday, July 21, 7:30 p.m.**

Composed by Claude Bolling in 1973, *Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano* is a delightful mix of classical and jazz styles. Selections from the composition will be performed by Nancy Kandl on flute, Nibandh Nadkarni on piano, Julian Webb on bass, and Jim Bond Harris on drums.