

Florida Federation of the Theosophical Society in America, Inc

Theosophical Network of Florida

Fall 2012



From the President...



As the fall season approaches, leaders of Lodges and Study Centers are busy planning programs and activities for the coming season that will benefit us spiritually.

Please remember that you can access many opportunities for learning offered by the Theosophical Society in America on their website at www.theosophical.org.

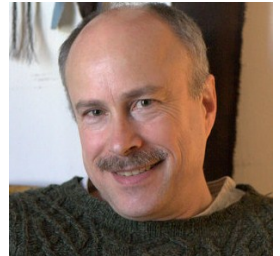
Leaders of the Florida Federation are planning for our state 2013 Spring Convention and I am pleased to announce it here. We will be returning to the place of our 2008 Convention, **DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center** in Parrish, FL. DaySpring is a lovely retreat facility on the Manatee River near the Gulf coast, nestled just north of the Sarasota-Bradenton area and south of St. Petersburg and Tampa.

The dates of the Convention are **Friday afternoon, April 5 through Sunday noon, April 7th**. You can read about our presenter in the adjacent column. Also our January newsletter will have much more about him, the program schedule and registration forms for the convention. I recommend that you go to DaySpring's website to learn more about DaySpring accommodations and to enjoy the photos of the beautiful grounds. www.dayspringfla.org

Love and Light — Judith Snow-Clewell

Spring Convention Speaker...

The Federation welcomes **Kurt Leland** as the presenter for the annual **2013 Spring Convention** (details in adjacent column). Kurt is a researcher in consciousness studies and intuitive consultant from Boston. His Convention presentation is entitled:



Cosmic Songs: Consciousness and Invisible Worlds.

Kurt is author of five books. In his latest *The Multidimensional Human*, (2010) he gives insights on psychic development based on personal experience. He is also a musician and composer and in his book, *Music and the Soul* (2004) he gives guidance in using music to enhance mystical states of consciousness.

Kurt spontaneously began having out-of-body experiences, (astral projections), as a teenager. Though fearful at first, after finding the written works of other out-of-body experiencers, he became a researcher himself. In 2005 he came across Theosophist, Annie Besant's book *Man and His Bodies* and discovered that her own and other Theosophical material on the various bodies (etheric double, astral, mental, causal and Ego) as well as the Planes correlated with his personal experiences of these other realms. Kurt's investigations nicely satisfy Theosophy's Third Object, to explore the hidden powers latent in humanity.

At the Federation Convention Kurt will share the results of forty years of inner and outer exploration of the subtle bodies and planes. Also he will help us explore our spiritual depths through Transcendental Musical Experiences.

Message to All Members

As your nominating committee elected at the Florida Federation Meeting during the Spring Convention, March 2012, we are placing in nomination the following persons for Federation offices for the years 2013-2015. **President:** Nori Rao; **1st Vice President:** Ricardo Basurto; **2nd Vice President:** Judith Snow-Clewell; **Treasurer:** Steve Schweizer; **Director of Communications:** Bill Bauer.

According to our by-laws anyone may present an additional nomination for any of these offices with that person's consent to run. If you wish to present an additional nominee for an office please submit that person's name with his or her written consent by January 1, 2013 to: Carol L. Hurd, 2261 Everglades Dr. Miramar, FL 33023, Dhurd39239@aol.com. If there are no additional nominees, those presented by the Nominating Committee will be declared elected.

With warm good wishes, your Nominating Committee, Carol Hurd, Steve Schweizer and Nori Rao



At the Florida Federation's first convention at sea we were inspired by the presentations by Dr. Scott Olsen speaking on *Maya, 2012 and the Quest*



for Transformation. At the Cozumel, Mexico port-of-call, many of us took the excursion to the Pre-Columbian Maya walled city of Tulum located at the east coast of the Yucatan Peninsula in the Caribbean Sea.

A good time was had by all!



Current Federation Officers

Judith Snow-Clewell, President
Ricardo Basurto, 1st Vice President
Nori Rao, 2nd Vice President
Bill Bauer, Secretary

Florida Federation Lodges and Study Centers

Bradenton Study Center

Contact: Judith Snow-Clewell, phone 941-531-3879
Email: judithsnow@email.com

Fort Myers Study Center

Contact: Karen Schweizer, phone 630-868-8385
Email: flanders_karen@hotmail.com

Gainesville Study Center

Contact: Lal C Garg, ph: 352-378-4623, lcgarg@ufl.edu
Contact: Amubhai Raval, phone: 352-372-5132
email: amubhairaval@yahoo.com

Jinarajadasa Lodge (Hialeah, Spanish)

contact: Jose Gallo Ramirez, phone: 305-926-8828
email: josegallo9@bellsouth.net

Miami Beach Study Center (Spanish)

contact: Gustavo or Margarita Rodriguez
phone: 305-534-9306, email: margus446@aol.com

Miami-Dade Blavatsky Lodge (Spanish)

Contact: Olga Donadio, phone: 305-271-7740
email: odonadio@aol.com
Contact: Juan B. Rodriguez, phone: 305-244-8119

Miami-Dade Study Center (English)

Contact: Ricardo Basurto, Phone:305-301-0685
rbasurto2@gmail.com
Contact: Ram Kumar Singh, phone: 305-606-6066

Miami Lodge at Deerfield Beach

Contact: Tony Spatarella, phone: 954-420-0908
email: TSPATS642@aol.com
web: www.theosophymiami.org

Ocala Study Center

Contact: Jean Brown, phone: 352-236-0911
email: jbrown203@cox.net
Contact: William Bauer, phone: 352-426-4436

Pensacola Study Center

Contact: Mo Michel, phone: 850-433-3151
email: lamajam@cox.net

St. Petersburg Lodge

Contact: Judith Snow-Clewell, phone: 941-531-3879
email: judithsnow@email.com

Tampa-Besant Branch (Spanish)

Contact: Armando Santana, phone 813-806-9288
email: armandoygloria@verizon.net



In the Spotlight

The Miami Lodge at Deerfield

Florida has twelve Theosophical lodges and study centers (list on previous page). The Miami Lodge at Deerfield is the most active group in Florida and also one of the most active in the United States.

This Lodge has several different classes on every day of the week, year round, with some 23 different teachers who are all members of the Lodge and of the Theosophical Society in America. The Lodge's July–September flier lists such classes as The Ageless Wisdom; The Secret Doctrine; The Bhagavad Gita; The 12 Labors of Hercules; Meditation; Exercises in Awareness, Studies in the Tarot, Pantanjali Yoga Sutras; The Course in Miracles; The Gift of Mystic Poetry, and many more.

The Lodge is the oldest in Florida, still in existence with a charter dated February 9, 1919 and signed by then International President, Annie Besant.

In February 1919, a Mr. and Mrs. Hanchett, who gave lectures though out the U.S., came to Miami and rented the auditorium of the Woman's Club for three evenings to give Theosophical lectures. Mrs. Hanchett reported that they had gone to Miami, The Magic City and rented the auditorium on faith, not knowing that there was a single Theosophist in the city.

The lectures were well advertised and the first evening the hall was packed and many turned away. From those lectures, the Lodge was founded with 19 members, many of whom were deep students of Theosophy and had belonged to lodges in other places.

During the 1920s and 30s the membership of the Lodge rose and fell from a high of 66 in 1932 to a low of 34 in 1934. In the 1960s through the 1980s the membership stayed around 50.

Through the years the Lodge members met in various places, and in 1960 they bought a garage apartment in Miami and renovated it to serve as a meeting space and a bookstore. By the end of the 1980s the membership dropped to a low of 30 for various reasons and then the leadership decided it would be best to move. For many years they looked for a suitable location in Miami that the lodge could afford. It was in 1993 that the opportunity came for them to move to their current location in Deerfield Beach. They had a benefactor who loaned the lodge the money for the down payment. They were able to sell their Miami property in time to close the Deerfield deal and reimburse the benefactor. It was a good move and the lodge is thriving in its new location.

The Miami Lodge at Deerfield's Famous Son, John Algeo

Former National President and former International Vice President, John Algeo got his start in Theosophy through the Miami Lodge. In 1947 when he was 16 years old he started confirmation classes at a local Catholic Church. In the course of his reading in the Parish Library he came upon a series of booklets on "dangerous heresies," which were intended to warn the faithful against what the good Jesuit Fathers thought was wickedness. One of the little booklets was on Theosophy. John says that he read it and thought to himself, "My goodness, but that sounds interesting." A few weeks after that he noticed an ad about a meeting of the Theosophical Society and decided to see for himself what the dangerous heretics looked like up close. He was given the book *Elementary Theosophy* by L. W. Rogers and that book sold him on Theosophy. John says, his story has a moral: "We should not worry about critical comments and unfair reports, or about being called names and misunderstood. Those who are seeking will find in whatever reports come their way that which they need to find. Truth is great and will prevail over and even out of falsehood."

Resurgence of the St Petersburg Lodge: The conference announced below with Ed Abdill is a big step to rejuvenate the St. Petersburg Lodge, chartered in 1919 by Annie Besant. The Lodge nearly closed last year. Members from the Spanish-speaking Tampa-Besant Study Center, lead by Armando Santana, and the Bradenton Study Center joined forces with remaining St. Petersburg members in a concerted revitalization effort. Federation President Judith Snow-Clewell leads this coalition with assistance from the Theosophical Society in America in Wheaton.

**Regional Theosophical Conference
St. Petersburg Lodge**

Featuring International Speaker ED ABDILL

Vice President of the Theosophical Society in America

Author of *The Secret Gateway:*

Modern Theosophy and the Ancient Wisdom Tradition



Saturday & Sunday October 27-28, 2012

Saturday: 10:00-Noon *Inner Dimensions*

We all know that we have a body, but what about a soul? Today the speaker will offer a way for us to discover our own soul, and he will help us to experience the difference between our temporal and eternal principles. Evidence, rather than beliefs, will be presented for consideration, and an effort will be made to induce participants to experience within themselves something of the Inner Reality that the Ageless Wisdom describes as the immortal SELF.

Saturday: 2:00- 4:00 pm *The Secret Gateway to Inner Peace*

In the Ageless Wisdom tradition, there are allusions to a path that leads to wisdom and freedom from human suffering. That path lies within ourselves. This talk will point us toward the secret gateway that opens on to a steep and thorny road. Why is that gateway secret and why does it open on to a difficult pathway? Most take the broad and easy road, but for those who travel the more difficult one to its end there is sublime peace and reward past all telling.

Sunday 1:00– 3:00 pm (Theosophical members only)

Everything You Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask

A dialog with Ed Abdill

Here's an opportunity to ask the Vice President any question you might have about Theosophy and the Theosophical Society. Your questions can range from Theosophical teachings to the origins and current status of the Theosophical Society, and anything in between. Ed Abdill promises to consider any and all of your questions, no matter how far out you may think they are. Come and join fellow members in a lively dialog even if you can't think of a question. Sessions such as this often turn out to be not only informative, but fascinating.

723 17th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL Suggested conference donation \$20
Contact Lodge Secretary Andre Clewell (clewell@verizon.net or phone: 941-531-3879)
For directions, motels, pre-registration or to reserve your seat at the conference.