



The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual International Theosophy Conference

# How to Awaken Compassion?

H. P. Blavatsky and the Eternal Secret Doctrine

**August 8 - 11, 2013**

**The Bohemian National Hall, 321 E 73 St., New York**



2013 INTERNATIONAL THEOSOPHY CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK CITY  
THURSDAY AUGUST 8 - SUNDAY AUGUST 11

Program

THURSDAY AUGUST 8 – MULTIFUNCTIONAL ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR

- 2:00 Setup  
2:30 Registration – Book sales – Music – Art  
3:30 – 4:15 Welcome by Conference Organizer Helena Kerekhazi. Official opening by ITC President Garrett Riegg. Greetings from around the world  
4:15 – 4:30 Tribute to former President Sally Colbert: a presentation of **The Path To Theosophical Unity**  
4:30 – 4:45 Keynote address: **Theosophy and Compassion In The World Today**, by Barend Voorham  
4:45 – 5:00 Stretch break  
5:00 – 6:00 Panel: **Unity In Diversity – How we promote Theosophy in our different Theosophical Traditions**, with Ed Abdill, Jerry Hejka-Ekins, Garrett Riegg, Carolyn Dorrance and Erwin Bomas  
6:00 – 6:10 Greetings from around the world  
6:10 – 7:00 Mixer, social time, and refreshments  
7:00 End

FRIDAY AUGUST 9 – MULTIFUNCTIONAL ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR

- 9:00 – 9:15 Announcements  
9:15 – 10:00 **Occult New York: Gotham's Hidden History**, by Mitch Horowitz  
10:00 – 10:15 Stretch break  
10:15 – 11:15 **Wisdom And Compassion**, by Nandini Iyer  
11:15 – 12:00 **How We Study The Gita**, by Vicky Prinz  
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch  
1:00 – 1:15 Announcements  
1:15 – 2:45 Workshop: **Compassionate Communication: Integrating Theosophy and Modern Psychology In Daily Life**, with Marijn Gijsbers and Garrett Riegg  
2:45 – 3:00 Stretch break  
3:00 – 3:45 **Compassion Is Everywhere – Do you see it?**, by Leslie Pochos  
3:45 – 4:30 **H.P.B. And The Altruistic Heart**, by Ananya Rajan  
4:30 – 5:15 Stretch break  
5:15 – 6:30 **Supernormal: Science, Yoga, And The Evidence For Extraordinary Psychic Abilities**, by Dean Radin  
6:30 – 6:40 Announcements  
6:30 Book signing in library with Dean Radin  
7:00 – 9:00 Banquet

## FRIDAY AUGUST 9 – LIBRARY ON THE THIRD FLOOR

- 9:15 – 10:00 **Theosophy Pure And Simple**, an introduction to Theosophy for newcomers by members of the TS Point Loma / Blavatskyhouse, The Hague, Holland
- 10:00 – 10.45 **Taboo Topics And The Third Object Of Theosophy**, by Ruth Richards
- 10:45 – 12:00 Workshop: **Experiencing Our Inner Dimensions**, with Ed Abdill
- 12.00 – 1.00 Lunch
- 1:00 – 1:15 Announcements in Multifunctional Room
- 1:15 – 3:00 Workshop: **Theosophy And Science Are One. A Theosophical Approach To Addressing Scientific Issues**, with Joop Smits
- 3:00 – 3:15 Stretch break
- 3:15 – 4:00 **H. P. Blavatsky's Proof That You Can Develop Compassion**, by Bianca Peeters
- 4:00 – 4:30 **The Secret Doctrine; Elements Enhancing Empathic Healing**, by Richard Hiltner
- 4.30 – 5:00 **Compassionate Energetic Care**, by Anton Baraschi
- 5:00 End

## SATURDAY AUGUST 10 – MULTIFUNCTIONAL ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR

- 9:00 – 9:15 Announcements
- 9:15 – 10:00 **Yoga Of Compassion**, by Ramu Sudarsan
- 10:00 – 11:00 **For Mind Is Like A Mirror**, by Michael Gomes
- 11:00 – 11.15 Stretch break
- 11.15 – 12:00 **Are We Hard-wired For Compassion: The Neuroscience Of Altruism**, by Helena Kerekhazi
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 – 2:50 Workshop: **Art Unveils Isis**, with NYC Students
- 2:50 – 3:00 Stretch break
- 3:00 – 4:00 **The Child Mirrors The Race**, by Joke Vermeulen
- 4:00 – 4:45 **Gandhi And Blavatsky**, by Veena Howard
- 4:45 – 5:00 Stretch break
- 5:00 – 6:00 **Immortality, Consciousness And Compassion In Esoteric Thought and Modern Science**, by Gene Jennings
- 6.00 End

ITC has several purposes. First, at our annual conferences we share the great ideals and concepts of Theosophy. Second, as we plan and present the conferences, we promote friendship and brotherhood among students all over the world. Third, we strive to build bridges of understanding and mutual support between leaders of many different Theosophical organizations.



## **SATURDAY AUGUST 10 – LIBRARY ON THE THIRD FLOOR**

- 9:15 – 10:00 **Battles Fought For Space**, by Jeff Clark  
10:00 – 10:15 Stretch break  
10:15 – 11:00 **From Nirvana To Compassion**, by Orest Bedrij  
11:00 – 12:00 **Awakened Compassion For Animals**, by Judy Saltzman  
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch  
1:00 – 2:50 Workshop: **The Healing Power of Compassion**, with Steve Levy  
2:50 – 3:00 Stretch break  
3:00 – 3:45 **Blavatsky's VOICE OF THE SILENCE; Poetry, Paradox And The Path Of Compassion**, by Ken Small  
3.45 – 4:30 **H. P. Blavatsky's, THE SECRET DOCTRINE And The Rose**, by Frankie Hutton  
4.30 – 4.45 Stretch break  
4.45 – 5:50 Workshop: **Exploring Afterlife Stories And Beliefs**, with Jane Gignoux  
5:50 End

## **SATURDAY AUGUST 10 – PROJECTION ROOM ON THE FIRST FLOOR**

- 9:15 – 10:00 **Theosophy Pure And Simple**, an introduction to Theosophy for newcomers by members of the TS Point Loma / Blavatskyhouse, The Hague, Holland  
10:00 – 10:45 **Compassion And The Golden Age Of Heros**, by Keith Pritsker  
10:45 – 11:00 Stretch break  
11:00 – 12:00 **Religion, Mysticism, Education And Compassion**, by Barend Voorham  
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch  
1:00 – 2:30 Workshop: **The Lost Art Of Compassion**, with April Hejka-Ekins  
2:30 – 3:00 Stretch break  
3:00 – 4:00 **The Seven Types of Dreams And Programmed Dreaming**, by Clancy McKenzie and Odin Townley  
4.00 – 5:00 **Tsong Kha Pa, The Buddha Of Compassion**, by Jan Jelle Keppler  
5:00 End

## **SUNDAY AUGUST 11 – MULTIFUNCTIONAL ROOM AND LIBRARY ON THE THIRD FLOOR**

- 9:00 – 9:15 Announcements  
9:15 – 10:30 Panel: **Unity**, with Herman C. Vermeulen, Jim Colbert, Gene Jennings and Jan Nicolaas Kind  
10:30 – 11:00 Official closing of the conference by ITC President Garrett Riegg  
11:00 – 12:00 Membership meeting

On Sunday afternoon August 11, around 4 o'clock a river cruise is being planned.  
Announcements will be made during the conference.



**Ananya S. Rajan** serves on the board of the Theosophical Order of Service (TOS) through the Theosophical Society in America and is editor of the TOS journal *For the Love of Life*. She recently published a book titled *Get Real! Fighting the Mythic Woman, Finding Your Authentic Self*. As a mental health counselor she works to incorporate mindfulness, self-awareness, and Theosophical concepts into her practice.



**Anton Baraschi** has 20 years of experience as a facilities project manager for global financial institutions and is a bioenergy specialist, promoting integrative medicine as the President of the New Dawn Foundation. Anton Baraschi is the editor of the informative internet Newsletter [www.EnergeticRejuvenation.com](http://www.EnergeticRejuvenation.com). He is a founding partner in New Health Solutions, an integrative medicine venture aiming to develop and implement a network that facilitates personalized health and well-being.



**April Hejka-Ekins** is Professor Emeritus at California State University, Stanislaus in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration where she specializes in teaching graduate courses in Public Service Ethics, Combating Political Corruption, Organizational Theory and Development and Human Resource Management. She is co-founder with her husband, Jerry, of Alexandria West, a non-profit corporation dedicated to the study of Eastern and Western Wisdom Traditions.



**Barend Voorham** has been a teacher for more than 30 years. He is member of the Theosophical Society Point Loma - Blavatskyhouse The Hague, since 1981. Barend is editor of the Dutch and English *Lucifer, the messenger of Light*, and gives lectures and courses. He tries to apply Theosophy in the education of his three daughters; with a small group of other Theosophical parents he organized a study group 'Thinking different for children' for their children.



**Bianca Peeters** is an historian working in project management and communications. She is an active member of the Theosophical Society Point Loma, Blavatskyhouse, The Hague since 2003. She writes, edits and translates for the organization's magazine *Lucifer - the messenger of Light* (Dutch and English publications), helps to organize local, national and international events and gives lectures.





**Clancy McKenzie** is one of the world's foremost experts on schizophrenia and mental health. He dedicates his life to educating people worldwide about the simple origin, mechanism, treatment and prevention of serious mental disorders. Dr. McKenzie's deep commitment to serving people was recognized when he was awarded Temple University's Nelson and Winnie Mandela's Humanitarian Award for his outstanding devotion to patients suffering from the effects of schizophrenia. His work is noted in both the US Senatorial and US Congressional Records.



**Dean Radin** is a Senior Scientist at the INSTITUTE OF NOETIC SCIENCES (IONS) and Adjunct Faculty in the Department of Psychology at SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY. Before joining the research staff at IONS in 2001, he held appointments at Princeton University, University of Edinburgh, University of Nevada, and several Silicon Valley think-tanks, including Interval Research Corporation and SRI International, where he worked on a classified program investigating psychic phenomena for the US government.



**Ed Abdill** is author of *The Secret Gateway*, *Modern Theosophy and the Ancient Wisdom Tradition*, Vice President of the Theosophical Society in America, past President of the New York Theosophical Society and lives in New York. He lectures for the Society throughout the United States and internationally. His video course, *Foundations of the Ageless Wisdom* has been used by Theosophical groups across the United States and internationally.



**Frankie Hutton** is a Theosophist and founder of the Rose Project ([www.roseproject.com](http://www.roseproject.com)). She is an award winning author and researcher, a former collegiate professor and journalist. Her latest book, *Rose Lore: Essays in Cultural History and Semiotics* is soon to be published in Mandarin. Frankie regularly lectures to Theosophy groups in Baltimore, Deerfield Beach, Florida and New Jersey and has served on several boards and commissions, civic and humanitarian.



**Garrett Riegg** is an attorney in Oakland, California and ITC's President. He grew up in the United Lodge of Theosophists where he continues to teach. He is also President of the Theosophical Society in Oakland, a Unity Heart Minister and a teacher of A Course in Miracles since 2011. He studied NVC with the Peace Academy of Costa Rica and has lectured in many states and countries. Since 2007 he has led a Consciousness MeetUp studying science and spirituality in light of Theosophy.



**Eugene Jennings** works as a Community Based Psychiatrist treating young children, adolescent youth, families and adults in the state of Pennsylvania. He works with and serves as an Adjunct psychiatrist affiliated with the local community hospital in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania and maintains a private practice. He has served as an active member of the United Lodge of Theosophists for more than thirty years, and has had the privilege of sharing Theosophy via lectures, written articles, and workshops locally and internationally.



**Group Biography** - Gotham's Glass Beadery. We are writers and artists aiming to integrate the concepts of radical unity, individual spiritual evolution, critical thinking, deep ecology, living systems, and deep time as wellsprings. Through creative expressions we explore Theosophical understanding in what has become a continuing stream of shared interests and opportunities.



**Helena Kerekhazi** has her M.S. in Special Education and Technology and is a Ph.D. Candidate in Neuropsychology. Her specialty is brainmapping and develops natural brain rehabilitation therapies. She has taught, consulted and received many referrals. Helena lectures on neuroscience, neuroplasticity, Lyme disease, autism, learning disabilities, epilepsy and aging, certifies health care providers and has a private practice which consults over the Internet.



**Odin Townley** works at Theosophy Watch and New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications. Studied at Columbia University. Member of ULT New York.

During the conference two panels will be held; one on Thursday August 8, with as title **Unity In Diversity**. The other panel takes place on Sunday August 11, simply entitled **Unity**. (see program for details) Panel members not mentioned here as speakers are: **Jerry Hejka Ekins**, **Carolyn Dorrance**, **Jim Colbert** from the USA, **Erwin Bomas**, **Herman C. Vermeulen** from The Netherlands and **Jan Nicolaas Kind** from Brazil.





**Jan Jelle Keppler** received his master's degree in Dutch Civil Law in 1971. In 1976 he became member of the TS in The Dutch West Indies, where he was acting head of the national Customs service from 1973 till 1977. In 2008 he was elected General Secretary of the Belgian Section, in which function he was re-elected in 2011. He organized, gave and attended study groups on *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Mahatma letters*, *The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali* and *The Voice of the Silence*. Jan Jelle currently lives at the International Headquarters of the TS in Adyar, India.



**Jane Hughes Gignoux**, a native New Yorker, is the author of *Some Folk Say: Stories of Life, Death, and Beyond*, a collection of stories and poems from cultures around the world and throughout time, with commentary and original color illustrations. She has offered many workshops, courses and talks. Jane is an ordained certified Celebrant, working with couples, families and groups to offer ceremonies of all kinds. In addition, she participates in the NYC Metro Anti-Racist Alliance, an affiliate of The People's Institute of Survival and Beyond.



**Jeff Clark** is from Orange County, CA., and spent a year in Osaka as a teen exchange student fascinated by Buddhist art and Zen. In his college years he became a devout Buddhist and ardent student of Theosophy and Agni Yoga. Went to Tokyo for Master's research on Japanese lit in 1974 and began working with Mrs. Emiko Tanaka, head of the Nippon Lodge in the Adyar TS. Mrs. Tanaka and Jeff translated over 1000 pages of H.P.B.'s writings, a book of articles by W. Q. Judge, and four of the Agni Yoga books. In 2004 he returned to the USA.



**Johanna Vermeulen** has lived and worked at the International Headquarters of The Theosophical Society, Point Loma - Blavatskyhouse, The Hague in The Netherlands since 1973. She combines her professional interest in healthcare issues with a love for and knowledge of the Classics and, through these, for Theo-sophia, the core of all world religions. She is the archivist of The Theosophical Society, Point Loma, translates books, writes articles, and also gives lectures, public courses and private studies.



**Joop Smits** graduated in Mechanical Engineering at the Delft University of Technology in 1978 and spent most of his professional career in the field of ports, transport and environment. His assignments abroad have exposed him to cultures in Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Having the inner conviction that science, philosophy and religion can be brought into harmony with one another, he became a student of Theosophy in 1985. During the last 17 years he has been lecturing on Theosophy.





**Judy D. Saltzman** received her B.A. in philosophy with Honors in Humanities from San Jose State University. She received her philosophy M.A. with a minor concentration in sociology from the UC Berkeley. After a year as a Fulbright scholar in Germany, she earned her Ph.D. in Religious Studies at the UC Santa Barbara. She taught philosophy and religious studies for 29 years at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.



**Keith Pritsker** is a lawyer and consultant in Southern California. He worked for 30 years as a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Los Angeles. Keith helped create the first county bar environmental law section in the United States. He has held elective offices in his community and helped secure funding for public services and other improvements for that area. He has been an associate of the United Lodge of Theosophists since 1974 where he speaks regularly.



**Ken Small** lives in San Diego, Ca. and facilitates the Point Loma School of Theosophic Perennialism and also gives instruction in Zen meditation at Enso Meditation Retreat and the Dharma Burns. As a third generation Point Loma Theosophist who had the opportunity to absorb Theosophy through an oral tradition, he naturally embraces Theosophy outside the label and organizational constructs. He has also worked in the area of utilizing the principles of community building and cooperative organizational methods.



**Michael Gomes** is the Director of the Emily Sellon Memorial Library in New York City. He is author of a number of books, articles, and monographs on Theosophy in the Nineteenth Century. He has also produced abridgements of H.P.B.'s two seminal works *Isis Unveiled* (Quest, 1997) and *The Secret Doctrine* (Penguin, 2009). Michael Gomes is the recipient of the Herman Ausubel Memorial Prize for achievement in history from Columbia University in New York, and was selected to deliver the Blavatsky Lecture in 2000 and 2007 in England.



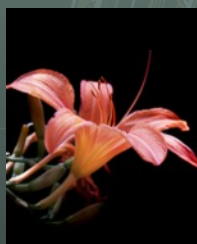
**Marijn Gijsbers** works as a coach/trainer/consultant in change management. Marijn is experienced in working with smaller and larger groups on four different continents. He is an active member of the Theosophical Society Point Loma – Blavatskyhouse in The Netherlands. He is a member of the Dutch board and has been involved in many different groups that prepare conferences.



**Mitch Horowitz** is vice-president and editor-in-chief at Tarcher/Penguin, the division of Penguin books dedicated to metaphysical literature. He is the author of *One Simple Idea: How Positive Thinking Reshaped Modern Life*, forthcoming from Crown in January 2014. His previous book, *Occult America* (Bantam), received the 2010 PEN Oakland/ Josephine Miles Award for literary excellence. Horowitz has written for The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, U.S. News & World Report, The Huffington Post, CNN.com, and the weblog BoingBoing.



**Nandini Iyer** is a longstanding associate of the United Lodge of Theosophists who has given numerous talks on religion and ecology in India, England, Europe, Japan and the United States. With her husband, Raghavan Iyer, she founded the Santa Barbara branch of ULT. She earned her BA and MA degrees at Oxford University in England.



**Leslie Pochos** is an associate of the United Lodge of Theosophists since 1970 and she feels gratitude towards those who kept teachings alive and available. She says: "The only way to repay such a gift is to do as they did, point to the Teachers and the Teachings."



**Orest Bedrij** is a researcher into the nature of God. At the age of twenty-nine, Orest was IBM's technical director at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology responsible for the development of the Space Flight Operations Facility computer complex and programming that controlled the first soft landing on the moon. Orest is the author of many books, among them: *Yes It's Love: Your Life Can Be A Miracle*, *One, You*, and *Celebrate Your Divinity: The Nature of God and the Theory of Everything*.



**Ramu Sudarsan** received his B.Sc. from the Madras University and had a long career with the Indian Subsidiary of the then British Chemical giant, ICI (Imperial Chemical Industries). He has been associated with the Theosophical Society, Adyar, for 20 years and serves as the General Manager of The Theosophical Publishing House, living on the Adyar estate. He is the President of the Madras Theosophical Federation, Vice-President of the Adyar Lodge, and Board Member of the Olcott Education Society and a patron member of the Theosophical Order of Service.





**Richard Hiltner** has been a Medical Doctor for 41 years specializing in Family Medicine, 36 years in Homeopathic Medicine and 23 years in Traditional Chinese Medicine including Acupuncture. He has been the President of the California Homeopathic Medical Society for 15 years as well as Editor of its past Journal/Newsletter. Over the last eleven years he has been the National Vice-President for the United States to the International League [Liga] of Homeopathic Medical Doctors. He was the Congress President for the 2010 USA Liga Congress in May 2010.



**Ruth Richards** has authored numerous articles and books on creativity. She is a professor of psychology at Saybrook Graduate School in San Francisco, research affiliate at McLean Hospital, and lecturer in the department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School. She has multiple publications and has been a regular lecturer at ITC conferences. Ruth is a Buddhist practitioner and serves on the Advisory Board of the interfaith organization AHIMSA.



**Stephen H. Levy** is an associate of the United Lodge of Theosophists. He lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Stephen has been in private practice as a psychiatrist and physician for over 35 years.



**Veena Howard** teaches in the Religious Studies Department and Asian Studies Program at the University of Oregon and is a frequent conference presenter. Her interest lies in Hindu thought and comparative religion. Veena's current research is on ideological debates that take place within the native discourse of Indian thought, as well as in the recent interactions between native and Western interpretations. Her publications include *Gandhi, The Mahatma: Evolving Narratives and Native Discourse in Gandhi Studies*.



**Victoria Prinz** had read the Bhagavad-Gita for many years, focusing on the earlier chapters. When a change in life circumstances led to relocation in Los Angeles, she began to participate in the weekly "Gita Class" held at the LA United Lodge of Theosophists. She soon realized that she knew nothing at all about the "real Gita." Victoria is an associate of the United Lodge of Theosophists.



# The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual International Theosophy Conference

For Information and Registration Forms:  
[www.theosconf.org](http://www.theosconf.org)

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