

Program of Lectures

All sessions, unless otherwise stated, start at 7:30 PM

All of the contents and images presented, and opinions expressed in the lectures are fully the responsibility of the speaker, and not necessarily those of the Theosophical Society in Perth.

Date	August 2026
Tuesday 4 August	Insights from the <i>Patañjali Yoga Sutras</i>: the cause of suffering and the way to end it, by Dara Tatray An outline of the core treatise on Raja Yoga, focusing especially on the way in which Patañjali treats the mental processes that stand in the way of awareness and freedom. The Yoga Sutras provide us with the nuts and bolts of the religious life in a uniquely practical way, largely applicable to all faiths concerned with suffering and salvation.
Tuesday 11 August	Beyond Memory: The Psychospiritual Dimensions of Dementia, by Samgiita In this session, we will approach dementia not only as a neurological and medical condition, but also as a deeply human and psychospiritual experience that invites us to reflect on the nature of identity, consciousness, and what endures beyond memory. Drawing inspiration from contemplative traditions and resonating with the Vedic vision of transcendence, we will consider the possibility that our essential being exists beyond the fluctuations of the mind and the changes of the personality.
Tuesday 18 August	The Swan River Tarot, by David Mitchell. This 50-minute film explores a fascinating connection between the Tarot and the ancient Dreaming story of the Swan River. It reveals how the narrative of the Tarot can be traced back to this Indigenous story, showing that each card in the Major Arcana of the Rider-Waite Tarot aligns with specific locations along the Swan River. Through this journey, the film maps symbolic meanings of the cards onto the landscape itself. It also explains why some of the traditional card names have been altered, offering insight into how these changes better reflect the cultural and geographical context presented.
Tuesday 25 August	The Power of Mystical Poetry, by Kate Barrett-Lennard Explore the poetic and mystical writings of three authors: Madame Blavatsky, Swami Sivananda, and Kate, drawing on selections from her recently launched book, <i>Mystical Writings</i>. Through a thoughtful examination of their works, the presentation highlights the enduring spiritual themes of compassion, inner stillness, and the transformative power of metaphor. Participants will discover how poetry can illuminate profound philosophical truths, inspire self-reflection, and deepen spiritual understanding. Rich in symbolism and insight, this engaging presentation offers an opportunity to appreciate the timeless wisdom expressed through the poetic voices of these three writers.

Date	September 2026
Tuesday 1 September	Journey into Eternal Wisdom: Discovering the Timeless Principles of Theosophy, – Part 3, by Hana O'Rourke This Open Discussion invites participants to delve into the timeless principles of Theosophy, the divine wisdom that underlies all world religions and philosophies. In the first session, we will explore key concepts such as: This time, we will explore key concepts such as: The Work and Qualifications of a Theosophist, Brotherhood, The Search Within, and How to Express Theosophy?
Tuesday 8 September Members Only	General Members Meeting. Annual General Meeting Note that a quorum of fifteen members is required to proceed. Please make a special effort to attend so we do not need to reschedule this meeting. Members who wish to be elected for the next twelve months as a member of the Executive Committee must be in good standing. See the separate page for AGM.
Tuesday 15 September	Taking the Side of the Fire-Thief, by Malik Tillman Why does nearly every mythology tell of a war in heaven? Greece has its Olympians and Titans, the Indo-Iranian world its devas and asuras and in each telling, one figure breaks ranks: the rebel who steals fire and wisdom from the gods and gives them to humanity. He appears as Prometheus in Greece, Enki in Mesopotamia, Mithra in Persia, and his shadow falls across the Christian Lucifer. Yet the same figure is honoured in one culture and damned in the next. This talk traces the light-bringer across these traditions, asking what the war between gods and titans really encodes, and why cultures so sharply disagree about who the villains are, before turning to the archetype's deeper legacy: its flowering in Gnosticism and the ancient mystery schools, and its place as a cornerstone of wisdom in ancient philosophy itself.
Tuesday 22 September	Mind, Thought and Self, by Li Farghaly A journey through consciousness in its manifestations in ourselves as mind, thought and self. We will explore the relationship between brain and the mind; mind and thought; thought and the self.
Tuesday 29 September 	From Unfinished Animal to Spiritual Human: Theosophy and the Evolution of Consciousness, by Stephen McDonald (T.S. National President) Explore the Theosophical view of human beings as unfolding, self-developing entities whose true nature is not fixed but emergent. Drawing on Gerald Heard's striking description of humanity as "the one creature of infinite promise," we will examine the idea that human evolution proceeds inwardly through education, culture, and self-knowledge. The presentation reflects on the dangers and necessities of opening the mind to deeper questions, and how sincere inquiry, rightly guided, becomes the path by which the "unfinished animal" awakens to its superhuman potential.

Date	October 2026
Tuesday 6 October	The Spiritual Beauty of the Bhagavad Gita: A Westerner's Perspective, by Douglas Hodgson <i>The Bhagavad Gita - The Song of God</i> - is a small part of the epic <i>Mahabharata</i>. The Gita is considered to be the highest expression of Hindu philosophy and is regarded as more illustrative than any other text of the main themes and concerns of Hinduism. What can the Gita teach us in the West? Professor Douglas Hodgson will examine what the Gita has to say about karma and reincarnation, what our relationship should be with God, what Divine virtues each of us should aspire to in the living of our daily life, and how we may attain final liberation. Where appropriate, he will draw parallels between the Gita and the messaging of those who have had a near death experience.
Tuesday 13 October	Journey into Eternal Wisdom: Discovering the Timeless Principles of Theosophy, – Part 4, by Hana O'Rourke This Open Discussion invites participants to delve into the timeless principles of Theosophy, the divine wisdom that underlies all world religions and philosophies. In the first session, we will explore key concepts such as: This time, we will explore key concepts such as: The Work and Qualifications of a Theosophist, Brotherhood, The Search Within, and How to Express Theosophy?
Tuesday 20 October	Understanding the Concept of Egregore, by Merran Semple The term, egregore, originates from the ancient Greek word meaning "wakeful" or "watchful". In esoteric traditions, egregore has been used to describe the "collective consciousness" or "group mind" of a philosophical, social or religious group. This concept will be examined and considered in the light of Theosophy.
Tuesday 27 October	The Burning of Friar Girolamo Savonarola, by Terry East In 1482, at the height of the Italian Renaissance, a provincial Dominican Friar entered the glorious city of Florence preaching a fiery message of repentance, judgement and sacrifice. Whilst initially ignored by the sophisticated Florentines, Savonarola's preaching eventually triggered an extraordinary religious revival, culminating in him becoming the <i>de facto</i> ruler of the city. What happened next was one of the most intriguing sagas in European history. With a wonderful cast of characters, including Botticelli, Michelangelo, the Medici family, King Charles VIII and the notorious Pope Alexander VI, Terry explores the art and culture of renaissance Florence, and illustrates the tension between religious puritanism and pagan excess in western spirituality.

Perth Branch of The Theosophical Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



To be held at 21 Glendower St., Perth
Tuesday 7:30 pm on **8 September 2026**

Members Only

Note: Nominations Close on 1/9/2026 at 7:30 pm