

**Thursday, May 29, 6 PM Central**  
**Swedish–American Museum, Chicago**



### ***The Satanic Tyranny of Money:***

August Nordenskiöld,  
Alchemy, Slavery, and  
the Tradition of Political  
Swedenborgianism  
With Dell Rose,  
Swedenborg Library

Join us for an overview of the ‘anti-economic’ vision of the Swedish radical utopian August Nordenskiöld (1754–1792). For Nordenskiöld the world was in fetters to a false idol, a spirit of Moloch which required human lives for gold, and he promoted a radical agenda of alchemical liberation. Nordenskiöld was also a perfect representative of an important yet neglected political tradition, ‘political Swedenborgianism.’ This tradition was advocated by an international community of activists engaged in an array of different social causes, but were united by the conviction that the writings of the Swedish prophet Emanuel Swedenborg (1688–1772) lay the key to a more just society.

Swedenborg’s descriptions of heaven became the foundation for a new terrestrial vision, one that would overcome the challenges of the time with insight drawn from Swedenborg’s revelations. The promoters of this tradition were on both sides of the political spectrum, with Nordenskiöld being on the radical fringe of the libertarian wing of this tradition, advocating the abolition of money, of legal marriage, and of racial oppression.

In recognizing political Swedenborgianism as a distinct tradition, we honor one of the most important intellectual currents of 18th and 19th century social reform, and gain a more complete vision of the intellectual heritage of modern political activism.

**Location:** Swedish-American Museum, 5211 N. Clark St., Chicago  
**Time:** 6 PM Central, Thursday, May 29, 2025  
**Fee:** \$10 payable at the door

*Dell Rose serves as the Program Director at the Swedenborg Library in Chicago. Dell holds the position of Swedenborg Doctoral Fellow with the Swedenborg Society in the U. K. He is a doctoral candidate at the Centre for the History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents at the Universitet van Amsterdam. His research focuses on the intersection of Western esotericism and political reform, particularly with Swedenborgianism in 19th century World.*

- *Join us from home for these upcoming programs*
- *that will be hosted via Zoom.com including our*
- *series on the Apostle Paul. Go to Zoom.com,*
- *and “Join meeting” by entering the Meeting ID*
- *and the Password, when prompted.*

**Swedenborg Library**  
**Meeting Room ID: 558 403 3057**  
**Password: Swedenborg**  
*for all of our Zoom programs*

- **Zoom: Thursday, June 5, 6 PM Central**
- ***Paul & His Conversion* with Dell Rose**

Paul’s rhetoric of conversion frames his transformation as both personal and universal, shaping early Christian identity. Discrepancies in the Pauline conversion accounts across Acts and his epistles raise questions of historical accuracy and theological intent. Through close textual analysis, the discussion explores how Paul constructs apostolic authority, negotiating divine revelation and his evolving role within the Christian movement.

- **Zoom: Thursday June 19, 6 PM Central**
- ***The Gnostic Paul* with Dell Rose**

Paul’s reception among Gnostic Christians reveals a re-imagining of his writings within mystical and dualistic frameworks. This discussion examines Gnostic readings of Pauline texts, tracing themes of hidden wisdom, cosmic redemption, and spiritual liberation. Through comparative analysis, the session explores how Paul’s epistles were appropriated to shape alternative theological visions, challenging orthodox interpretations and redefining early Christian spirituality.

- **Zoom: Thursday, July 10, 6 PM Central**
- ***Paul & Mediterranean Divination* with Dell Rose**

Paul’s engagement with Mediterranean divination reveals tensions between emerging Christian identity and longstanding ritual practices. This discussion explores divination’s role in Greco-Roman society, its intersections with Jewish traditions, and Paul’s responses—ranging from denunciation to strategic adaptation. Examining texts like Acts 16 and 1 Corinthians, we assess how Paul navigates prophetic authority, magic, and spiritual legitimacy within a world steeped in esoteric knowledge.

- **Zoom: Thursday, July 24 6 PM Central**
- ***Luther’s Paul* with Dell Rose**

Martin Luther’s engagement with Paul shaped the trajectory of Protestant thought, emphasizing justification by faith and scriptural authority. This discussion examines Luther’s Pauline interpretation, tracing its theological, exegetical, and polemical dimensions. Through key texts like Romans and Galatians, we assess Luther’s use of Paul to critique medieval Catholic doctrine, redefine Christian liberty, and establish a radical reconfiguration of grace and law.

- **Zoom: Thursday, August 7, 6 PM Central**
- ***Paul & the Moderns* with Dell Rose**

Paul’s legacy continues to shape modern theological and philosophical thought, influencing figures from Nietzsche to Karl Barth. This discussion examines Paul’s role in existentialism, political theory, and contemporary theology, with a focus on Barth’s Christocentric interpretation. We assess how Barth redefined Pauline doctrines of grace and faith, contrasting his approach with secular engagements that critique authority, ethics, and human identity.

- **Zoom: Thursday, August 21, 6 PM Central**
- ***Swedenborg’s Paul, Part 1* with Dell Rose**

Emanuel Swedenborg’s engagement with Paul presents a distinctive reinterpretation of Pauline theology within a visionary framework. This discussion explores Swedenborg’s reading of Paul’s writings, particularly his views on justification, regeneration, and spiritual influx. We assess Swedenborg’s deviations from traditional Pauline exegesis, examining how his mystical revelations reshaped concepts of grace, faith, and the spiritual structure of the human mind.

- **Zoom: Thursday, August 28, 6 PM Central**
- ***Swedenborg’s Paul, Part 2* with Dell Rose**

Swedenborg and Paul share foundational concerns—grace, regeneration, and spiritual transformation—but diverge sharply in their theological frameworks. This discussion examines their points of intersection and opposition, focusing on Swedenborg’s rejection of Pauline justification by faith alone. While Paul foregrounds apostolic authority and external revelation, Swedenborg emphasizes personal enlightenment through divine influx, positioning his vision as an alternative to traditional Pauline doctrine.

Join us for this special program from Vilnius Lithuania:

**ZOOM: Tuesday, June 24, 6 PM Central**  
**Introduction to Karaite Judaism**  
**with Geršom Qiprisçi**

This lecture introduces Karaite Judaism, a tradition emphasizing scriptural interpretation over rabbinic authority. Led by historian Geršom Qiprisçi, we will explore Karaite origins, theological distinctions, and historical evolution. Key texts and practices will be examined, shedding light on how Karaites have preserved their identity while engaging with broader Jewish and scholarly discourses.

**Zoom Info: Meeting Room 558 403 3057**  
**Password: Swedenborg**  
**Time: 6 PM Central Time, Tuesday, June 24, 2025**

Geršom Qipriçi is director of special projects at The Literary European Publishing house and Director General / CEO at LIRM Leiden Research Institute for Rational Monotheism, the Netherlands.



Founded in Chicago in 1877, the Swedenborg Library offers programs on spiritual topics and has on loan the works of 18<sup>th</sup> Century Swedish scientist and theologian Emanuel Swedenborg. Unlike the Christianity of his day, Swedenborg's theology emphasized an ecumenical, i.e. inclusive view of heaven. All are welcomed to the Library's programs, discussion groups and workshops.

The Swedenborg Library is open Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-5 p.m., and by appointment.  
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Email: [Info@SwedLib.org](mailto:Info@SwedLib.org)

# CALENDAR

**THURSDAY, MAY 22**  
TIME: 6 PM Central: Zoom Program  
*The Composition Of The Pauline Canon* with Dell Rose

**THURSDAY, MAY 29**  
TIME: 6 PM Central Live at the Swedish-American Museum  
*The Satanic Tyranny of Money: August Nordenskiöld: Alchemy, Slavery & the Traditions of Political Swedenborgianism* with Dell Rose

**THURSDAY, JUNE 5**  
TIME 6 PM Central: Zoom: *Paul & His Conversion* with Dell Rose

**THURSDAY, JUNE 19**  
TIME: 6 PM Central: Zoom: *The Gnostic Paul*, with Dell Rose

**TUESDAY, JUNE 24**  
Time: 6 PM Central: Zoom Program:  
*Introduction to Karaite Judaism* with Geršom Qiprisçi

**THURSDAY, JULY 10**  
TIME 6 PM Central: Zoom: *Paul & the Mediterranean Divination* with Dell Rose

**THURSDAY, JULY 24**  
TIME: 7 PM Central: Zoom: *Luther's Paul* with Dell Rose

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 7**  
TIME 6 PM Central: Zoom: *Paul & the Moderns* with Dell Rose

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 21**  
TIME 6 PM Central: Zoom: *Swedenborg's Paul, Part 1* with Dell Rose

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 28**  
TIME 6 PM Central: Zoom: *Swedenborg's Paul, Part 2* with Dell Rose

**In the Library:**  
Prayer Gathering & Community Meal  
Sunday June 22, July 20, August 17, 3–5 PM  
RSVP to [Info@SwedLib.org](mailto:Info@SwedLib.org) please.



## SUMMER 2025 Programs



Swedenborg Library  
Chicago