

ZOOM: Thursday, January 9, 6 PM Central
The Case Against Hope: Geopolitics and
The Reality of Conflict

With Dell Rose, Swedenborg Library

Join us as we discuss current global conflict as a unsolvable situation. We will draw both from historically significant political philosophers, as well as the work of English philosopher John Gray, especially his book *The New Leviathans*. How does civil society appear in a post-hope world, and how do we cultivate a rich personal life in spite of global conflict?

Dell Rose serves as the Program Director at the Swedenborg Library in Chicago. Additionally, Dell holds the position of Swedenborg Doctoral Fellow with the Swedenborg Society in the United Kingdom, and 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.



Zoom Info: Meeting Room 558 403 3057
Password: Swedenborg
Time: 6 PM Central, Thursday, January 9, 2025

ZOOM: Thursday, January 16, 6 PM Central
Tengrism and Ancient Turkic Culture
With Professor Kağan Arik, University of Chicago

Join us as Prof. Arik delves into the ancient shamanistic and animistic beliefs of the Turkic peoples, exploring their spiritual practices, cosmology, and the veneration of the sky deity Tengri. This religion which was the main faith of the Mongol empire literally spread around the world, and yet remains almost completely unknown.

We will also examine the rich tapestry of Turkic cultural heritage, including traditional customs, social structures, and historical developments. Through engaging lectures and interactive discussions, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the profound influence of Tengrism on the cultural and spiritual life of ancient Turkic societies. Perfect for scholars, students, and enthusiasts of Central Asian history and culture.

Dr. Kağan Arik is the Ayaslı Lecturer in Modern Turkish and Turkic Languages at the University of Chicago. Teaching since 2000, he coordinates the Modern Turkish language program and lectures on Uzbek and Central Asian Studies.



Dr. Arik's research includes the historical development of the Turkish language, pre-Islamic Turkic cultures, and traditional healing practices. He is a member of the American Association of Teachers of Turkish and Turkic Languages and founder of the Central Asian Studies Society.

Zoom Info: Meeting Room 558 403 3057
Password: Swedenborg
Time: 6 PM Central, Thursday, January 16, 2025

Zoom: Thursday February 13, 6 PM Central
Swedenborg Library on Location:
Alfred Deakin and his Gospel of Swedenborg:
Australia as a Swedenborgian Political Project.
With Dell Rose at the Swedenborg Society Sydney

Emanuel Swedenborg's mystical writings were a profound influence on Alfred Deakin, one of Australia's founding fathers and second Prime Minister. We will delve into how Deakin's Swedenborgian beliefs shaped his vision for Australia's political and social landscape, promoting ideals of spiritual enlightenment and moral governance. Participants will gain insights into the intersection of spirituality and politics in Australia's early history and the lasting impact of Deakin's Swedenborgian faith on the nation's development.



Zoom Info: Meeting Room 558 403 3057
Password: Swedenborg
Time: 6 PM Central, Thursday, February 13

Dell Rose serves as the Program Director at the Swedenborg Library in Chicago.

Zoom: Friday, February 21, 6 PM Central
Swedenborg Library from Bedford England:
Joanna Southcott: Prophetess, Theologian,
Visionary with Dell Rose, Swedenborg Library

Southcott was arguably the most important female religious leader of the modern English speaking world, yet she is almost totally unknown today. We will explore her life and impact of this influential 18th-century religious figure known for her prophetic writings and theological insights. We will delve into her visionary experiences, her role in shaping religious thought, and her lasting legacy. This presentation will show her legacy direct from Bedford England, home to one off-shoot of her teachings.



Zoom Info: Meeting Room 558 403 3057
Password: Swedenborg
Time: 6 PM Central, Thursday, February 21, 2025

Zoom: Thursday, March 6, 6 PM Central
Theosophy and the Internationalist Turn

With Dr. Bjarke Stanley Nielsen, Københavns Universitet
This event will explore the pivotal moment when the Theosophical Society expanded its focus beyond national boundaries, embracing a global vision. We will examine key figures such as Helena Blavatsky and Henry Steel Olcott, and the impact of their internationalist policies on the spread of Theosophy. We will gain a comprehensive understanding of the society's transformation and its influence on global spiritual movements as well as on the entire field of international relations and the League of Nations. One major theme is the specific nature of 'theosophical global ideas' as a contemporary form of cosmopolitanism formulated as "Universal Brotherhood" - a means to counter national and euro-centric sentiments.

Zoom Info:
Meeting Room 558 403 3057
Password: Swedenborg
Time: 6 PM Central, Thursday,
March 6, 2025



Dr. Bjarke S. Nielsen teaches the course "Nature, Humanity, and Global Perspectives in Modern Spirituality and Esotericism" at Copenhagen University.

Join us for a two-part series on *Understanding the Christ Event* with Rev. Robert McCluskey.

Part one will be offered via Zoom on Thursday, March 20 at 7 PM Central, and will address Swedenborg's revelation as found in his 1763 work, *On the Lord*. Part two will address ideas of salvation found in various traditions and Swedenborg's Christus Victor over death perspective.

**ZOOM: Thursday, March 20, 7 PM Central
Part 1: *Understanding the Christ Event*
with Rev. Robert McCluskey**

Before the council of Nicea and the authoritative vision of Paul of Tarsus, new believers in the Jesus movement struggled to understand just what had taken place, ontologically, with the appearance of Jesus of Nazareth.

In many ways we continue to struggle with defining the momentous importance of the Lord's appearance in the world. Rev. Robert McCluskey will help us to understand the special viewpoint of New Christian Christology. The first lecture, on March 20, will examine Swedenborg's revelation through his 1763 work *On the Lord*. The lecture will examine the importance of understanding the true nature of the Lord for New Christians, and especially exemplify our unique view of the Trinity.

**Zoom Info: Meeting Room 558 403 3057
Password: Swedenborg
Time: 7 PM Central Time, Thursday, March 20**

Rev. Robert McCluskey holds a B.A. and M.A. in philosophy, with a focus on Greek philosophy, modern idealism, existentialism, and hermeneutics. He is a graduate of the Swedenborg School of Religion and was ordained into the Swedenborgian Church of North America in 1984. He has pastored churches in Portland ME and NYC, and served on the denomination's Social Justice Committee, and as a representative to the National Council of Churches for 18 years. Recently, he administered rites and sacraments at Wayfarers Chapel in Rancho Palos Verdes until it closed due to land movement in 2024.



**Zoom: Thursday, March 13, 6 PM Central
*The Body in the Frankist Sabbatean Heresy***

With Rabbi Dr. Jay Michaelson
The Frankist Sabbatean movement, a mystical and heterodox Jewish sect that emerged in the 18th century, held complex and often controversial views on the body and within. Delving into the beliefs of Jacob Frank and his followers, we will examine how they interpreted corporeality, sexuality, and physical existence in the context of their radical religious ideology.

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Time: 6 PM Central, Thursday, March 13, 2025**

*Dr. Jay Michaelson is an Affiliated Assistant Professor at the Chicago Theological Seminary. He holds a Ph.D. in Jewish Thought from Hebrew University, a J.D. from Yale Law School, and nondenominational rabbinic ordination. Dr. Michaelson is a nondenominational rabbi, meditation teacher, and legal affairs columnist for *The Daily Beast*. He has founded two LGBT Jewish nonprofits and authored several books, including "The Heresy of Jacob Frank." Literary Award finalist "God vs. Gay? The Religious Case for Equality." His research interests include LGBT issues in religion, queer theology, and contemporary American spirituality.*



**In the Library:
Prayer Gathering & Community Meal
Sunday February 9, March 16, April 6, 3-6 PM
RSVP to Info@SwedLib.org please.**

Founded in Chicago in 1877, the Swedenborg Library offers programs on spiritual topics and has on loan the works of 18th 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.
77 W. Washington St., Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60602
312-346-7003 Web: SwedLib.org
Email: Info@SwedLib.org



Illuminating the world of spirit



**WINTER 2025
No-Fee Zoom Programs**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9
TIME: 6 PM Central: Zoom: *The Case Against Hope* with Dell Rose

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13
TIME 6 PM Central: Zoom: *Alfred Deakin & His Gospel of Swedenborg: Australia As A Swedenborgian Political Project* With Dell Rose, Swedenborg Library

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21
TIME: 6 PM Central: Zoom: *Joanna Southcott: Prophetess, Theologian, Visionary* with Dell Rose, Swedenborg Library

THURSDAY, MARCH 6
Time: 6 PM Central: Zoom: *Theosophy & the Internationalist Turn* with Dr. Bjarkus Stanley Nielsen, Københavns Universitet

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TIME 6 PM Central: Zoom: *The Body in Frankist Sabbatean Heresy* with Rabbi Dr. Jay Michaelson, Chicago Theological Seminary

THURSDAY, MARCH 20
TIME: 7 PM Central: Zoom: *Understanding the Christ Event* With Rev. Robert McCluskey, Swedenborgian Church