

COMMON GROUND

SPRING-SUMMER 2016 BULLETIN

CHUNGLIANG AL HUANG RETURNS TO CG JUNE 11 AND 12

We're thrilled to announce that renowned Tai Ji master, scholar, dancer, calligrapher, and teacher Chungliang Al Huang will be coming back to Common Ground for a series of three wonderful programs this June – “**The Hero's Journey**,” “**Mythic Images**,” and “**The Living Philosophies**.” See the Special Events listings (p. 3) for details; and don't miss the photo page (p. 7) featuring Chungliang Al.

COMMON GROUND VIDEOS

Beginning soon, CG will be offering online video recordings of certain lectures, workshops, and special events. We'll be installing video equipment in April and should be ready to start occasional recordings in the coming session.

This is a very important step for Common Ground. It will broaden our outreach, keep us in touch with former attendees, and provide an easy way for us all to introduce our friends to CG.

resource persons

Jim Kenney, CG Executive Director, Doctoral work, Comparative Religions, Northwestern University; Executive Director, Common Ground; former Global Director, Parliament of the World's Religions and Project Coordinator, the International Interreligious Peace Council; author, *Thriving in the Crosscurrent: Clarity and Hope in a Time of Cultural Sea Change*.

Linda Kimball, CG Administrator, former Executive Director, OASIS Chicago; Co-Owner/Director, Great Age Productions; Consultant on Not-for-Profit Management and Development; Licensed Real Estate Broker.

Laura Bernstein, MA, University of Chicago; rabbinical studies, Hebrew Seminary of the Deaf; leader and composer of interfaith chants; author of poetry and articles on spirituality; co-author of *Healing the Jewish-Christian Rift*.

Herbert W. Bronstein, regular CG faculty; Senior Rabbi Emeritus, North Shore Congregation Israel; editor, *Liturgies for the Reform Movement*; lecturer, Lake Forest College; Shakespearean scholar; expert on religions.

Chungliang Al Huang, see section above, and pages 5 and 7.

Rosemary Hurwitz, MA, PS, Loyola University; twenty years experience in career consulting and in leading retreats for Discovery weekends; over ten years studying the Enneagram, certified in 2001.

Kenneth James, regular CG faculty; diplomate Jungian psychoanalyst in private practice in Chicago; Ph.D., Northwestern University; Diploma in Analytical Psychology, C.G. Jung Institute of Chicago; currently the Director of Student Services at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools.

FUNDRAISING FORTNIGHT MAY 31 - JUNE 15

As you know, Common Ground's tuition fees cover only about 40% of our expenses. We run an efficient and cost-effective organization, and we're grateful to our staff and resource persons who are compensated at much lower rates than they would command elsewhere. But we must still attain a significant level of donations each year.

So we're scheduling a “Fundraising Fortnight” (May 31-June 15), during which we'll be making a special effort to reach out to you and all our participants for the assistance on which our continued success depends.

We know you care about CG and we know we can count on you.

COME FREE WITH A GUEST IN JUNE AND JULY

In association with this year's “Fundraising Fortnight,” CG is offering a special “bring a friend” promotion during the months of June and July.

Carl Jerome, regular CG faculty; founding teacher, North Shore Meditation and Dharma Center; Lay Renunciate and Senior Dharma Teacher, Mid-America Buddhist Association; meditation teacher, Cancer Wellness Center, Northbrook.

Anna Trumbore Jones, regular CG faculty; Associate Professor of History, Lake Forest College; author of *Noble Lord, Good Shepherd: Episcopal Power and Piety in Aquitaine*; current scholarship focuses on houses of canons in southwestern France.

Jerrol Leitner, regular CG faculty; M.A., Theology, St. John University, Collegeville, MN; M.A., English, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL; retired; 40 years teaching English and Theology.

Evan Moffic, regular CG faculty; Stanford University; Hebrew Union College; Senior Rabbi, Congregation Solel.

Jeffrey Nigro, M.A. Art History, the University of Virginia; former Director of Adult Programs in the Department of Museum Education at the Art Institute of Chicago; full-time staff lecturer in 1993, Senior Lecturer in 2000; frequent speaker at The Jane Austen Society and Chicago Symphony Orchestra pre-concert events; study leader on Art Institute tours of Italy, Greece, and Germany.

John Nygro, musician, conductor, actor; lecturer on subjects from classical theater and opera to medieval and Renaissance music to film and television; presenter at Northwestern University, Newberry Library, Lyric Opera of Chicago Chapters, and Center for Life and Learning; regular instructor on classical radio stations and National Public Radio.

Ahmad Sadri, regular CG faculty; Ph.D., New School for Social Research; College Professor of Islamic World Stud-

ies, Lake Forest College; author of several books, in Persian and in English, including *Max Weber's Sociology of Individuals* and his recent translation of the *Shanameh* (the *Persian Book of Kings*).

Bring a first-time guest to any *Deerfield Wednesday program* (morning or evening) or to any *Satellite program* (regardless of the day) and you and your guest will be admitted free of charge. It's a great way to let your friends know what Common Ground has to offer.

CG HIATUS • APRIL 10-25

Common Ground will be on hiatus from Sunday, April 10, through Monday, April 25. Classes will resume on Tuesday the 26th. *Note that all Satellite programs (and the Spiritual Practices classes) will be held as scheduled.*



COVER:

Chinese landscape painting, anonymous. The image is courtesy of Wellcome Images, a website operated by Wellcome Trust, a global charitable foundation based in the United Kingdom, and Wikimedia Commons.

Quotation from Chungliang Al Huang.

Pauline Viviano, regular CG faculty; Ph.D., Biblical Languages and Literature, St. Louis University; Associate Professor of Theology, Loyola University, Chicago; recently completed a commentary on the Books of Jeremiah and Baruch for the new Collegeville Commentary Series.

John Wasik, regular CG faculty; M.A., the University of Illinois-Chicago; author of 13 books including *The Cul-de-Sac Syndrome: Turning Around the Unsustainable American Dream*; has lectured across the U.S. and has appeared on NBC, NPR, PBS, CNBC, BloombergTV, FOX, etc.; his latest book is *The Debt-Free Degree*.

CONTENTS

- 1 News • resource persons
- 2 Morning Lecture Series
- 3 Wednesday Evening Series
- 4 CG Satellites
- 5 Chungliang Al Huang (photos)
- 6 Fees and Registration, Donors and Sponsorships
- 7 Special Events, Third Thursdays, Spiritual Practice

MORNING LECTURES

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at the Deerfield Center.

TUESDAY MORNINGS

TUESDAYS, APRIL 26-MAY 10
9:30-11:30 AM (3 WEEKS) \$39

JIM KENNEY

EUROPE AND ISLAM — FEARS AND REALITIES

Terror attacks in France, Brussels, and elsewhere have heightened European anxieties over Islam to the point where Euro-centric nationalism has become a dramatic concern in its own right. Islamophobia – as many Europeans and Americans are coming to realize – is usually linked to anti-Semitism, and is often proto-fascistic. It's a complex and alarming situation. We'll try to sort through the actual reasons for European fears and the somewhat less-alarming realities of the modern encounter of Islam and the West in Europe.

TUESDAY, MAY 17-JUNE 7
9:30-11:30 AM (4 WEEKS) \$52

JIM KENNEY

THE SECOND REVOLUTION

Joseph Ellis' *The Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution, 1783-1789* focuses the attention of one of our premier historians of early America on the shaping of the Constitution and the new republic. The *New York Times* called it a "wonderfully immediate and gripping account of the founders' efforts to transform the freedom won in the war for independence into an enduring nationhood." But this is a departure from Ellis' acclaimed earlier works celebrating the individual and collective achievements of the founders. In *The Quartet*, he takes on "the second founding" and the "second revolution." He recounts the extraordinary efforts of George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison to persuade the states to relinquish a measure of their sovereignty and to join in the creation of a new federal government with power over their own autonomy. So much of our modern political landscape is drawn along lines etched in those critical years.

TUESDAYS, JUNE 14-JULY 5
9:30-11:30 AM (4 WEEKS) \$52

JIM KENNEY

WHY THE CIVIL WAR STILL MATTERS

The 2016 presidential race should make it clear to all thoughtful observers that the eddies of the American Civil War still swirl. James McPherson, the preeminent historian of that war and the author of *The War that Forged a Nation*, writes that "the tragic irony of the Civil War is that both sides professed to fight for the heritage of liberty bequeathed to them by the Founding Fathers." And that tragedy resonates

today in racial inequality and intolerance, in the political intransigence that has all but frozen our governing process, in the painful division of our country into Red and Blue factionalism, in questions of states' rights and national governance, and in the disturbing rise of demagoguery. To understand this complex yet interwoven array of issues, we need to look to the Civil War.

TUESDAYS, JULY 12-26
9:30-11:30 AM (3 WEEKS) \$39

JIM KENNEY

TOWARD THE PRESIDENCY — THE 2016 CAMPAIGN

As this CG Bulletin goes to press, the odds seem almost overwhelming that Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton will be the nominees of the Republican and Democratic parties. There are, of course, other possibilities. Bernie Sanders could conceivably effect an upset of extraordinary proportions. More possible (though still unlikely) is a successful bid by anti-Trump forces in the GOP either to block his nomination or to send an "independent" candidate into the fray. Whatever happens, it's clear that the 2016 campaign is a watershed and that it may yet change American politics forever. That's the story we'll be pursuing, and we'll touch all the bases, from "populism" to political violence, from Wall Street to the new voices on the left, from racial tension to white nationalism, and from party politics to party implosion.

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS "THE HUMAN SEARCH"

WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 27-MAY 11
9:30-11:30 AM (3 WEEKS) \$39

JIM KENNEY

JOSEPH CAMPBELL — ON MYTH

Has there ever been a better teacher than Joseph Campbell? Jim thinks it's unlikely. He was the preeminent scholar of the world's mythic traditions. He brought to his study the insight of a literateur, the eye of an artist, and the soul of a seeker. We'll follow Campbell's bliss as we inquire into the power of myth.

WEDNESDAYS, MAY 18-25
9:30-11:30 AM (2 WEEKS) \$26

JERROL LEITNER

THE DIDACHE — THE TEACHING OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

The Didache (did-a-kay), a brief early Christian treatise, dates from the mid to late first century. Its importance is highlighted by the fact that some church fathers pushed to

include it in the New Testament. Written perhaps even before the first gospel, the book's version of ritual and belief both agrees and clashes with that found in the New Testament – making for intriguing and enlightening study.

WEDNESDAYS, JUNE 1-8
9:30-11:30 AM (2 WEEKS) \$26

PAULINE VIVIANO

DIGGING IN GOD'S GARDEN — ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE

Archaeology in the Middle East has had a profound impact on reading the Bible. In this two-week series we will explore the major archaeological discoveries that have expanded our knowledge of the ancient Near East and the Greco-Roman world and so have revolutionized our understanding of the Bible. Our focus will be on written material uncovered over the last century, but we will also take into consideration what we have learned about the way life was lived in the biblical period.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15-22
9:30-11:30 AM (2 WEEKS) \$26

HERBERT BRONSTEIN

EINSTEIN AND SPINOZA'S GOD

When Albert Einstein – the iconic scientist of our time – was asked whether or not he believed in God, he replied (to Rabbi Herbert Goldstein in 1922) that he believed "in Spinoza's God, who reveals Himself in the lawful harmony of the world, not in a God who concerns Himself with the fate and the doings of mankind." What are we to understand from Einstein's words? How does his concept of divinity actually compare to Spinoza's – how do they converge and how do they differ? It's an illuminating question and we'll take the time to explore it in depth.

WEDNESDAYS, JUNE 29-JULY 6
9:30-11:30 AM (2 WEEKS) \$26

KENNETH JAMES

THE EGO'S STRUGGLE — JUNG'S ANSWER TO JOB

In this series we will examine the book of Job as a paradigm for the Ego's encounter with the Self, from the perspective of Jung's psychology. A discussion of the main points of Jung's essay, *Answer to Job*, will provide a means for examining our relationship to the core of our being, called by Jung "the Self."

WEDNESDAYS, JULY 13
9:30-11:30 AM (1 WEEK) \$15

CARL JEROME

INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM

What is Buddhism? What is a Buddhist? Join us for this introduction to the different types

SPECIAL EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted, all Special Events are held at the CG Center in Deerfield.

CHUNGLIANG AL HUANG RETURNS TO COMMON GROUND • JUNE 11-12

Common Ground is thrilled to welcome back one of our most popular (and wonderful) presenters, Chungliang Al Huang, Tai Ji master, scholar, dancer, calligrapher, and a long-time friend of CG. Chungliang Al will be offering three programs, two on Saturday and one on Sunday. **All programs will be held at the CG Center, 815 Rosemary Terrace, Deerfield. Pre-registration is required for all events. All three events for just \$50/person (or \$20/session).**

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

SATURDAY, 9:30 AM-12:00 PM (\$20)
**THE HERO'S JOURNEY —
FOLLOWING ONE'S BLISS
ON THE TAI JI PATH**

For 10 consecutive years during the week of Joseph Campbell's birthday (March 26th), Chungliang and Joseph co-led seminars called "MythBody To Live By" at Esalen Institute in Big Sur, CA. Both leaders confirmed that the Tai Ji Circles which Master Huang had created were indeed the *Heroic Journeys* about which Campbell had written in his classic book, *The Hero with A Thousand Faces*. Master Huang will re-enact and share with us the experience and rewards of his unique collaboration with Joseph Campbell. **If attending afternoon session, bring your own brown bag lunch, if you wish, or plan to eat at a nearby restaurant.**

SATURDAY, 1:30-3:30 PM (\$20)
**MYTHIC IMAGES —
CHINESE METAPHORS AND
THE SPIRITUAL SEARCH**

Learn to recognize and embody the mythic images animating the symbolic wisdom of Chinese calligraphy. We will embark on a journey of deeper intellectual and spiritual dimensions. Be prepared to expand your visual and kinesthetic dimensions, and to uncover your artistic potential with surprising delight.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

SUNDAY, 1:00-3:30 PM (\$20)
THE LIVING PHILOSOPHIES AND

MODERN EVERYDAY LIVING

An exploration of the deep personal value of the great Chinese "living philosophies" — Taoism, Neo-Confucianism, and Zen Buddhism. In everyday Chinese living philosophy, the balanced and successful human being, may simultaneously don a Confucian hat (while at work), wear a Taoist robe (while at leisure) and slip on a pair of Buddhist sandals (while reflecting on the afterlife). We will openly discuss and share this ancient wisdom of multi-dimensional consciousness, which can enhance and enrich our daily lives.

THIRD THURSDAYS

*The theme for this series is
"LITERATURE AND LIFE"*

These special programs, featuring presentations on the arts and humanities will be held on the third Thursdays of May, June, and July, from 1:00-2:30 pm. \$39 for the series or \$15 per session. All programs are held at the Deerfield Center.

**THURSDAY, MAY 19 • JERROL LEITNER
1:00 – 2:30 P.M. \$15**
**EMILY DICKINSON —
A LIFE IN POETRY**

When Emily Dickinson died, only eleven of her poems had been published. Today, however, she is considered one of America's greatest poets – and a national treasure. This talk examines her poems and discusses Dickinson's life, the influences that formed her, and her place in American literature.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 16 • JOHN NYGRO
1:00 – 2:30 P.M. \$15**
**WHAT SHAKESPEARE TELLS US
ABOUT LIVING
IN THE MODERN WORLD**

The four-hundred-year-old writings of William Shakespeare can, at first read, seem distant and out of touch with our current world. However, in this presentation, we'll come to understand how Shakespeare's principles can apply to our own survival in a world of instant gratification and ultra-fast communication.

**THURSDAY, JULY 21 • JEFFREY NIGRO
1:00 – 2:30 P.M. \$15**
**"NOTHING TO DECLARE BUT
MY GENIUS" — THE LIFE AND
WORK OF OSCAR WILDE**

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) has become an iconic figure as a wit, dandy, aesthete, and vic-

tim. Wilde was above all, a brilliant writer whose work continues to dazzle as well as disturb readers. Join us for an illustrated presentation that explores the complex relationship between Wilde's life and his work.



SPIRITUAL PRACTICE AT COMMON GROUND

MEDITATION

EVERY MONDAY, 7:00-8:30 PM

LAURA BERNSTEIN

Free-will offering goes to CG.

Eknath Easwaran was one of the 20th century's great meditation masters. Our ongoing *satsang* (spiritual community) studies his profound, pluralistic teachings (known as the 8-point program) and practices "passage meditation," a unique method of stilling the mind and translating spiritual ideals into daily living. Contact Laura before attending: LJBernstein339@gmail.com.

THE ENNEAGRAM

FRIDAYS

11:00 AM-1:00 PM

ROSEMARY HURWITZ

Free-will offering goes to Rosemary and CG.

(when CG is in session; check with the office if you have questions. Call Rosemary for more information: 847-334-2558.)

What is the Enneagram? The term is derived from the Greek and refers to the "nine-pointed" star-like figure within a circle which represents 9 universal personality types. Left to us by seekers and mystical thinkers well over two thousand years ago, it has within it, a powerful compass which leads us to our essence, and can help us know and anchor our purpose. In this ongoing course, you will gain an in-depth understanding of your own type and of the profound "wellness map" that lies within.

FEES AND REGISTRATION

PROGRAM FEES

LECTURE SERIES

2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, 6-week Lecture Series:
Entire series \$26, \$39, \$52, \$65,
\$78; single session \$15

SINGLE LECTURES

Single evening presentations \$15 or
\$13 with CG Pass;
Satellites: \$10/lecture (no discounts)
Student discount: \$8 for all 2-hour
lectures
(No other discounts)

LECTURE PASSES

“Lecture Passes” may be used for
all CG

Deerfield and CG Satellite
(except Naples) *lecture* programs
and *workshop* sessions. They are
not valid for “Special Events”
offerings.

Passes may be purchased at the
CG Center
or by calling or writing.

Passes: 5 Sessions/\$65; 10 Ses-
sions: \$130.

**If you have questions about the CG pro-
gram, please contact Linda Kimball at
the CG Center
(Linda@cg.org OR 847-940-7870).**

Unless otherwise noted, programs are held at
the CG Center (adjacent to the Christ United
Methodist Church, at 815 Rosemary Terrace,
just north of Deerfield Rd.). It is one block
east of Waukegan Rd. and two miles west of
Route 41 at the Deerfield Rd. exit. You can
pre-register for classes online, at the CG web
site, www.cg.org or by calling the CG Cen-
ter.

**COMMON GROUND,
P.O. BOX 1435
DEERFIELD, IL 60015**

**TEL.: (847) 940-7870
FAX: (847) 940-7872
Linda@cg.org**

DONORS, DECEMBER 1, 2015-MARCH 17, 2016

Richard and Andrea Amend	Nancy Greenebaum	Patrick and Teresa Mulcahy
Michele and Bud Baldwin	Suzanne Greenwald	Naoki Nakamura
Louis Behm	Jeanne Hanson	Joan Neil
Lois Berman	John Hedrick	John Payton
Joan Boggs	Lynne Heller	Thad Penn
Bruce Bradley	George and Ann Hewitt	Mary C. Petersen
John and Linda Brodson	Evelyn Horwich	Sandra Petron
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Allan Burke	Diane V. Hunter	Anne F. Pollock
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Clarks Fork Foundation	Harvey Kallick	Phillip Richman
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Anita Flournoy	Jerrold and Lou Leitner	J. Michael Tooman
Pieter and Nina Fockens	Linda Long	Theodore Utchen
Sharyn Fradin	David and Ruth Mackler	Mary Vasquez
Willard Fraumann	Barbara Malmquist	Frank Wagenaar
Gerald Freedman	Tom and Ann McMahon	Mary Eleanor Wall
Janet Freund	James McShane	Mary M. Walther
Suzanne Fulton	Joann Meigs	Catherine Weingart-Ryan
William and Kristina Gall	Jack and Marcia Melamed	Richard Whitaker
Douglas Gerleman	Norman and Linda Merwise	James and Joan Wilbur
Ruth E. Goldsmith	Larry and Carole Metnick	Paul and Carole Wisner
Alice Goodman	Wendell and Marlene Miller	Marianne Zelewsky
David and Virginia Gordon	Carol Mitchel	Ed and Marilyn Zieserl
Paula Grasso	Nancy Moe	

THE COMMON GROUND TRIBUTE FUND

Celebrate a birthday, anniversary or special occasion...

Remember a departed friend or loved one...

Show your gratitude and admiration for the notable contributions of a special person...

Or sponsor a program at Common Ground to show your appreciation of our work...

You can do any or all of these things with a gift to the Common Ground Tribute Fund. At the same time, you'll be lending your support to CG as a unique center for inquiry, study, and dialogue, exploring the world's great cultural, philosophical, religious, and spiritual traditions.

In Memory of Ron Miller

Marilyn Biederer

Jim and Cetta Kenney

In Memory of Tamar Bronstein

Jim and Cetta Kenney

Robert and Linda Kimball

In Memory of Sue Caffrey

Gwen Conzelman

In Memory of Joyce Hewitt

George and Ann Hewitt

In Memory of Marilyn Weisberg

Jim and Cetta Kenney

In Honor of the Common Ground Board

Linda Kimball

In Honor of Jim Kenney

Marilyn Biederer

In Honor of Linda Kimball

Judith Samuelson Kaiser

Sponsorship of Workshop Series

Richard Whitaker

WEDNESDAY AM WORKSHOPS (CONTINUED)

and schools of Buddhism, their ideas and practices, and American Buddhism with its unique emphasis on understanding Buddhist principles through neuro-science, secular mindfulness, and a range of new meditation and yoga practices. Learn the basic tenets of Buddhism in a simple, easy-to-access way, and how to apply them to your life to make each day a little happier, healthier, and more peaceful.

WEDNESDAYS, JULY 20-27
9:30-11:30 AM (2 WEEKS) \$26

JIM KENNEY AND PAULINE VIVIANO

CONTEMPLATION OR ACTION? THE SPIRITUAL CONVERGENCE

One of the most venerable and most influential dynamics in the history of Christianity lies in the centuries-long discussion of the respective merits of a life of contemplation versus a life devoted to active service to the community, the needy, and the larger world. Can the deep inner spiritual life and the life of active compassionate service exist in isolation from each other? Or is "spiritually motivated social engagement" the ideal to which the seeker should aspire? In this workshop, Pauline and Jim will touch on influential figures including Augustine, Gregory the Great, Bernard of Clairvaux, Teresa of Avila, Ignatius Loyola, Francis of Assisi, Thomas Merton, and Richard Rohr. Along the way, we'll look briefly at the contemplation-action dyad in several other traditions (including Judaism, Islam, and Buddhism).



Founders

(Ron Miller and Jim Kenney)

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

LECTURES ARE HELD ON ALTERNATE WEDNESDAYS AT THE CG CENTER (DEERFIELD)
7:30-9:30 P.M. • \$15/LECTURE

APRIL 27 • JIM KENNEY
1995 — FIVE EVENTS —
AND THE BEGINNING
OF THE FUTURE

Renowned critic and essayist Louis Menand calls *1995 – The Year the Future Began* "a worthy, informative, and sporting attempt to convince us that the world we live in was crucially shaped by things that happened in 1995." The book's author, W. Joseph Campbell, chooses an odd, but ultimately beguiling, set of events as *tipping points*: Clinton's affair with an intern, the O.J. Simpson trial, the Oklahoma City bombing, the Dayton negotiations settling the Bosnian war, and the rise and fall of the Internet browser Netscape Navigator. If that list doesn't get you thinking, you need to get out more. So *do*: join us at CG for a truly intriguing conversation.

MAY 11 • JERROL LEITNER
THE DIDACHE —
THE TEACHING OF
THE TWELVE APOSTLES

The Didache (did-a-kay), a brief early Christian treatise, dates from the mid to late first century. Its importance is highlighted by the fact that some church fathers pushed to include it in the New Testament. Written perhaps even before the first gospel, the book's version of ritual and belief both agrees and clashes with that found in the New Testament – making for intriguing and enlightening study.

MAY 25 • EVAN MOFFIC (WITH JIM KENNEY)
EVAN MOFFIC'S NEW BOOK:
WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN NEEDS
TO KNOW ABOUT PASSOVER —
WHAT IT MEANS AND
WHY IT MATTERS

Rabbi Evan Moffic will introduce his new book and then be joined by Jim Kenney in a discussion of its most central points and its value to Christians (and people of other faiths as well). Join us (from 7:30-9:00 pm) in a celebration of an important first book!

JUNE 8 • JOHN WASIK
HOW YOU CAN AVOID THE
STUDENT DEBT MORASS

Whether you're a concerned grandparent or a student looking at colleges, the debt beast is staring at you. Some 40 million Americans are carrying debt – from those in their 20s to retirees. What can be done about it? John will discuss the problem and present some concrete ways to avoid college loans. His research is in relation to his new book, *The Debt-Free Degree*.

JUNE 22 • PAULINE VIVIANO
DIGGING IN GOD'S GARDEN —
ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE

Archaeology in the Middle East has had a profound impact on reading the Bible. In this presentation, we will explore the major archaeological discoveries that have expanded our knowledge of the ancient Near East and the Greco-Roman world and so have revolutionized our understanding of the Bible. Our focus will be on written material uncovered over the last century, but we will also take into consideration what we have learned about the way life was lived in the biblical period

JULY 6 • ANNA TRUMBORE JONES
THE PLACE OF VIOLENCE IN
ROMAN AND MEDIEVAL
CHRISTIANITY

In the earliest centuries, Christian identity was largely shaped by Christians' status as victims of violence. Indeed, some early Christians argued that to be a Christian – to be Christ-like – was by definition to die violently. Christian authors reveled in imagery that subverted expectations about the meaning of power, victory, and life. All this changed, however, with the conversion of the emperor Constantine. How did Christians adapt to holding political power, which brought with it the need to use force? What did an ideal Christian ruler look like, down the centuries? How did Christians become persecutors of other faiths? And how did they determine what types of violence were acceptable or even praiseworthy, and what forms were unjust? We will explore the complex conversations Christians had about the proper role of violence in their faith in the first millennium of its existence.

JULY 20 AND JULY 27 • NO CLASS
CG will not be holding Wednesday Evening Lectures on either July 20 or July 27, to avoid conflict with the GOP and Democratic conventions during those two weeks.



COMMON GROUND SATELLITE PROGRAMS

CG CHICAGO

77 West Washington St. at Clark, Chicago. Usually the *first Thursday* of the month, 7-9 pm, \$10. Presented in partnership with the Swedenborg Library. (For information: 312-346-7003.) **Note day change.**

APRIL 7 • JERROL LEITNER

THE DIDACHE — THE TEACHING OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

The Didache (Did-a-kay), a brief early Christian treatise, dates from the mid to late first century. Its importance is highlighted by the fact that some church fathers pushed to include it in the New Testament. Written perhaps even before the first gospel, the book's version of ritual and belief both agrees and clashes with that found in the New Testament – making for intriguing and enlightening study.

MAY 5 • JIM KENNEY

EUROPE AND ISLAM — FEARS AND REALITIES

Terror attacks in France, Turkey, and elsewhere have heightened European anxieties over Islam to the point where Euro-centric nationalism has become a dramatic concern in its own right. Islamophobia – as many Europeans and Americans are coming to realize – is usually linked to anti-Semitism, and is often proto-fascistic. It's a complex and alarming situation. We'll try to sort through the actual reasons for European fears and the somewhat less-alarming realities of the modern interface of Islam and the West in Europe.

JUNE 2 • AHMAD SADRI

THE RELIGIONS OF ANCIENT PERSIA AND THE ABRAHAMIC FAITHS

The pre-Islamic religions of Iran have had a deep and lasting influence on the Western religions of the world. This workshop explores the unique and enormously influential dualistic theology and colorful mythology of Zoroastrianism as well as its later, syncretistic manifestation: Manichaeism. These ideas have shaped the messianic and end-time expectations of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

CG CRYSTAL LAKE

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Pierson and Florence Streets, Crystal Lake; usually, 2nd Thursday of the month, 7:30-9:30 pm, \$10. Follow Rte. 14 (North-

west Highway) to Florence St., one block southeast of Dole Ave. Go south on Florence for one block. Parking behind the church. Enter through west side door.

APRIL 14 • JERROL LEITNER

THE DIDACHE — THE TEACHING OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

(See description under CG Chicago.)

MAY 12 • AHMAD SADRI

IRAN — NO LONGER A PARIAH?

The historic Nuclear Agreement reached between Iran and the P5+1 on July 14, 2015 was groundbreaking. It promised to cause a paradigm shift in the Iran/US relations and a realignment of regional alliances of the United States and Iran. How is it actually unfolding today? We will explore the historical roots of the 12-year nuclear negotiations, and reflect on their far-reaching social and political consequences.

JUNE 9 • JIM KENNEY

EUROPE AND ISLAM — FEARS AND REALITIES

(See description under CG Chicago.)

CG GLENVIEW

CG Glenview is hosted by the Glenview Community Church, 1000 Elm Street, Glenview 60025. Park behind the church and enter through the Church Office door. Lectures are usually held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, from 7:00-9:00 pm, \$10.

APRIL 20 • AHMAD SADRI

THE RELIGIONS OF ANCIENT PERSIA AND THE ABRAHAMIC FAITHS

(See description under CG Chicago.)

MAY 18 • JIM KENNEY

EUROPE AND ISLAM — FEARS AND REALITIES

(See description under CG Chicago.)

JUNE 15 • JERROL LEITNER

THE DIDACHE — THE TEACHING OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

(See description under CG Chicago.)

CG GRAYSLAKE

CG Grayslake is on hiatus until Fall.

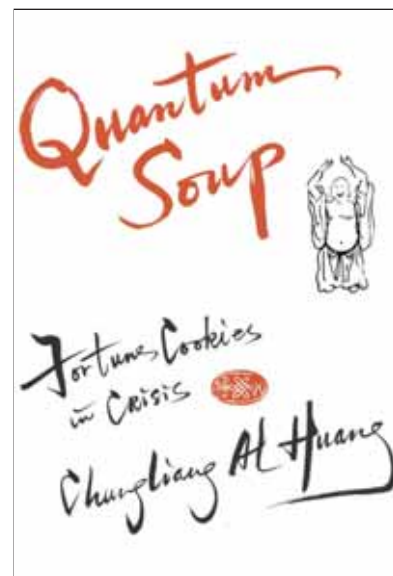


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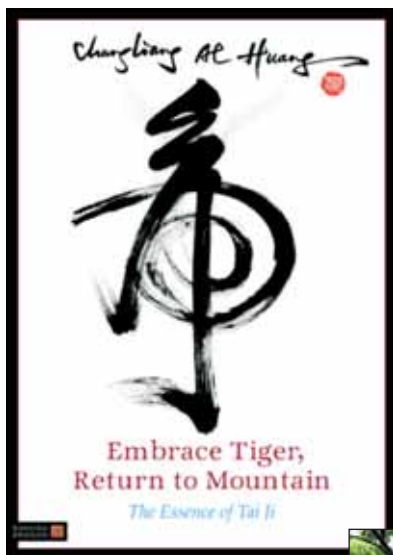
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(SEE OTHER TITLES ON FACING PAGE.)



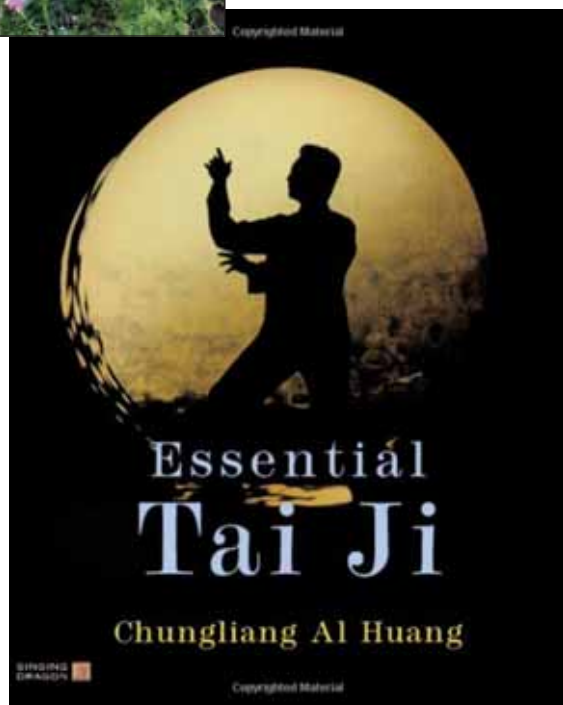
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