

ZOOM: Friday, April 4, 6 PM Central

The Many Returns of Asgard: Swedenborgian Interpretation of Norse Mythology / Dell Rose, Swedenborg Library

In the late 19th century, there was a fiery passion for all things Norse. William Morris, of Arts and Crafts fame, wrote a translation of *Njal's Saga* (1861), and there was an explosion of interest in Icelandic culture and traditions. Followers of esoteric movements, like Theosophy, were also keen on discovering the spiritual lessons from Norse mythology and its symbolism, and Swedenborgians were also engaged in this pursuit. James J.G. Wilkinson's book *The Book Of Edda Called Voluspa: A Study In Its Scriptural And Spiritual Correspondences* (1897), delivered one of the most ingenious interpretations of the Norse tradition and is a powerful example of the Swedenborgian approach to comparative religion. Delivered from Iceland.

**Zoom Info: Meeting Room 558 403 3057 / Password: Swedenborg
Time: 6 PM Central, Friday, April 4, 2025**

Dell Rose serves as the Program Director at the Swedenborg Library in Chicago. He holds the position of Swedenborg Doctoral Fellow with the Swedenborg Society in the United Kingdom, and is a doctoral candidate at the Centre for the History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents at the Universitet van Amsterdam.



ZOOM: Thursday, April 17, 6 PM Central

Tenrikyo: The Japanese Religion of World Renewal with Rev. Kuni Fumioka

Yonaoshi movements, meaning religions of "world renewal" were exceptionally important in Japanese religions from the 17th century to today. One of the most important, and largest, is the religion of Tenrikyo.

Tenrikyo, founded by Miki Nakayama, emphasizes joyful living, the importance of helping others, and the belief in a single, all-encompassing God known as Tenri-O-no-Mikoto. Through heartfelt devotion and acts of kindness, followers aim to cultivate a world of harmony and compassion. In this program, we'll explore Tenrikyo's rich history, core beliefs, and unique practices, offering insight into how its teachings inspire millions around the world to lead lives of purpose and positivity. Join Rev. Kuni Fumioka and the Swedenborg library Chicago on this enlightening journey into the heart of Tenrikyo!

Zoom Info: Meeting Room 558 403 3057

**Password: Swedenborg
Time: 6 PM Central, Friday, April 17, 2025**



Rev. Kunihito Fumioka is the senior minister of the Tenrikyo Church Midwest in Des Plaines, Illinois. He is actively engaged in cross-cultural dialogue and expanding awareness about Japanese religious culture and spirituality.

Zoom: Thursday April 24, 6 PM Central

Paul Amongst The Gentiles: Strategies of Legitimization in the Work of Paul of Tarsus / with Dell Rose

Accounting for more than half of the New Testament, the letters of Paul remain some of the most influential writings ever. Yet their familiarity also masks their strangeness.

In this program we will discuss Paul and his rhetorical strategies, examining their context in the first century world, focusing especially on other Hellenic groups who were likewise seeking validation and converts.

We will examine Paul's relationship with the mystery religions of the ancient world, the influence of monotheistic practitioners of Greek and Roman religions, and his relation to the literature of oracles. Much of Paul's theology shares a common ancestry with other Hellenic groups, yet due to the prevalence of Christianity in Western history, this has mostly been forgotten.

As Christianity's most important articulator, we must seek to understand both Paul's motivations and the reasons for his lasting success. (Suggested reading: Matthew Sharp. *Divination and Philosophy in the Letters of Saint Paul*. 2024)

**Zoom Info: Meeting Room 558 403 3057
Password: Swedenborg
Time: 6 PM Central, Thursday, April 24**

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

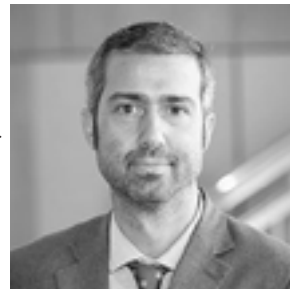
ZOOM: Saturday, April 26, 6 PM Central

**Zoom and in-person in the Swedenborg Library
The Missouri Platonist—Thomas Moore Johnson**

with special guest Dr. Vadim Putzu, Missouri State University
"The Missouri Platonist," Thomas Moore Johnson amassed one of the largest philosophical libraries in the Midwest, the Bibliotheca Platonica, in Osceola Missouri and was a major thinker in the transmission of hermetic philosophy in America and around the world. Johnson had extensive correspondence with members of the Theosophical Society, and with members of the Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor, which connected his small community with the wider intellectual world of the 19th century. Johnson was also an interesting node in the distribution of Swedenborg's works throughout the central United States. Professor Putzu will help us navigate these fascinating intellectual waters. Join us in the Library, or via Zoom:

**Zoom Info: Meeting Room 558 403 3057
Password: Swedenborg
Time: 6 PM Central, Saturday, April 26**

Dr. Vadim Putzu is Associate Professor in the Languages, Cultures, and Religions Department of Missouri State University.



Zoom: Wednesday, May 7, 6 PM Central

A New Swedenborg: Deguchi Onisaburo, Swedenborg and the Quest for a New Kingdom in Manchuria with Dell Rose, Via Zoom, and in the Swedenborg Library

"Emanuel Swedenborg was the greatest theologian of all time," wrote Deguchi Saburo, the flamboyant co-founder of the Omoto faith and one of the most significant figures in modern Japanese history. Onisaburo was a promoter of a form of 'Shinto Universalism,' and he sought to inform the world of the realm of the gods. When he began to read Swedenborg in the late 1890s, Onisaburo found a kindred spirit in the Swedish seer, and utilized many of Swedenborg's concepts in defining his own cosmology.

However, calling Swedenborg the "greatest theologian" was far from a vague intellectual appreciation, but rather the grounds for political action. Deguchi used Swedenborg's depictions of Tartary, as the bases for an attempted theocratic coup in 20th century Manchuria. This tale is stranger than fiction! This lecture is one of the first to be inspired by Dell Rose's book project: *The Meiji Swedenborg*.



**Zoom Info: Meeting Room 558 403 3057 / Password: Swedenborg
Time: 6 PM Central, Wednesday, May 7, 2025
or join us in the Swedenborg Library at this time.**

Zoom: Thursday, May 15, 6 PM Central

The Language of Angels: Japanese Engagement with Swedenborg in the Quest for a Universal Language with Dr. Avery Morrow, Ph.D.

Dr. Avery Morrow, a Japanologist specializing in Japanese esotericism, will introduce us to the role that Swedenborg had within 20th century Japanese occult discourse, especially that relating to the origin of language. The notion of a "language of the gods" had fascinated Japanese intellectuals for centuries, and the concept gained exceptional prominence in the nationalist culture of the Meiji-period and continued into the Showa. In the search for this universal language, several major Japanese occultists found inspiration in Swedenborg's notion of the languages of angels, and sought to wed these theories to their own nationalist and occult projects. Linguistics, after chemistry, might rightly be called the first esoteric science and Japan gives us another testament to this strange attempt to get to the center of communication. Join us in the Library, or via Zoom:

**Meeting Room 558 403 3057 / Password: Swedenborg
Time: 6 PM Central, Thursday, May 15, 2025**

Dr. Avery Morrow is a Japanologist and scholar of religion, with interests in Japanese esotericism, 'gishi' or 'alternate history,' and its role in directing Japanese culture. He is author of "The Sacred Science of Ancient Japan: Lost Chronicle of the Age of the Gods," which introduced readers to the genre of parahistory, providing many salient comparisons with European esoteric traditions.



