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ALL TIMES U.S. CENTRAL TIME

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Zoom: The Twelve Gates: A Journey To The Heart of the Swedenborgian Tradition

with Dell J. Rose



The Twelve Gates is an immersive introduction to Swedenborgian spirituality, inviting students to journey through Emanuel Swedenborg's visionary theology as a pilgrim bound for the New Jerusalem. Weaving together biblical exegesis, theological reflection, and the imaginative world of medieval pilgrimage, the course uses the metaphor of "gates" to structure a sustained exploration of prophecy, the human self, the Word, heaven and hell, judgment, charity, and salvation.

Its aim is not merely to present Swedenborg's ideas, but to accompany participants as they discern what it might mean, here and now, to live as citizens of the heavenly city.

In Autumn 2026 we will continue *Twelve Gate* with a focus on Swedenborg's Divine Providence. Videos of previous presentations may be found on the Swedenborg Library Chicago's Youtube channel (search Swedenborg Library Chicago within Youtube.com to locate them.)

Please join us; your opinions will be essential to helping us establish this curriculum, and to help future souls join in their own procession to the Holy City.

Sundays @ 3:30–5:00 PM CST

October 11, 25;

November 8, 29

December 13, 27

Zoom: Qoheleth Among the Philosophers: A Critical Reading of Ecclesiastes, with Dell J. Rose

Starting Thursday, September 17, 6 PM CST

Part 2: Thursday, September 24, 6 PM CST

Part 3: Thursday, October 1, 6 PM CST

In the first course in our series focusing on the origins and importance of the book of Ecclesiastes, we will look at the historical background of the book and the intellectual concerns which drive the text. Ecclesiastes, as a wisdom text, is arguing

for a specific response to the ethical concerns of the day, and this course helps us to understand some of the background which grounds these discussions.

Zoom: The Long Shadow of World War I, with Dell J. Rose

Thursdays, October 15–November 5, 6 PM CST

In the fifty years before 1914, Europe manufactured far more reasons than any crisis could possibly consume. It produced philosophies of violence, aesthetics of violence, theologies and hygienes of violence. It learned, in its culture wars over schools and cemeteries, to speak of a struggle to the knife, and it learned this in perfect safety, where the words cost nothing. By August 1914 the continent was not looking for a war. It had spent two generations imagining the meaning of one it had not yet had.

These four evenings ask what happened in the human soul during that reckoning. Apocalypse, in the older sense, does not mean the catastrophe; it means the unveiling, and the catastrophe is merely its occasion. The war invented almost nothing it revealed. It took the lid off, and Europeans discovered at once that human beings could, and had wanted to do this.

15 October- War and the Soul. What is war? We'll discuss Carl von Clausewitz, for whom war was an instrument subordinate to policy, and the Romantic conviction that a nation has a soul that war can test, purify and reveal. We'll explore how war

stopped being something a state uses and became something a people undergoes.

22 October- The March to the Apocalypse. What constitutes a people? We'll discuss Pan-Germanism, the missionary fury of imperial expansion, and the esoteric and religious movements that supplied the nation with a priesthood, a scripture and a promised catastrophe.

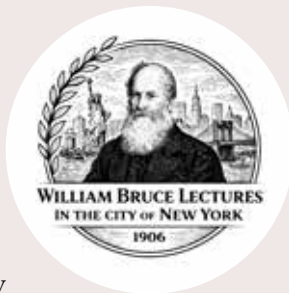
29 October- Humanity after Conflict. What is man? The war destroyed the social and political units within which people had understood themselves. What remained of the person, as an individual, and as a unit of society, when the categories gave way?

5 November- The Long Shadow. What of the future? What of now? WWI and D'Annunzio's Fiume, the League of Nations, and the unresolved antithesis of the individual and the social, running down to our own moment of disintegration will be discussed.

Dell J. Rose develops and hosts programs for the Swedenborg Library in Chicago. 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 Universities van Amsterdam. His research focuses on the intersection of Western esotericism and political reform, particularly with Swedenborgianism in 19th century Britain.



Wednesday, November 4,
Zoom: 5 PM EST
Children and New
Religious Movements,
 with Susan Palmer



What is a child? The answer may seem obvious—until we step inside the world of alternative spiritual communities, where children may be revered as enlightened masters, treated as spiritually unformed subordinates, or embraced as equal souls in small bodies.

Drawing on years of field research, this lecture explores how new religious movements (NRMs) understand childhood, and what those understandings mean for the children who grow up within them. Dr. Palmer presents a typology of three ideal types: Child-centered Groups, where children are seen as spiritually superior to their parents; Adult-centered Groups, where children rank below adults in the community's hierarchy; and Age-Unity Groups, where children and adults are regarded as ontologically the same and equal.

These patterns come to life through case studies of twelve movements, including the Children of God, Rajneeshpuram, the Twelve Tribes, ISKCON, the Raelian Movement, MOVE, and the Order of the Solar Temple. Along the way, the lecture raises broader questions: How do a community's beliefs about the soul, salvation, and the future shape the everyday lives of its youngest members? And what can these movements teach us about our own culture's assumptions about childhood?

Susan J. Palmer is a Canadian sociologist of religion whose primary research focus is new religious movements. She is an Affiliate Professor at Concordia University in Montreal and Principal Investigator of the SSHRC-funded research project "Children in Sectarian Religions and State Control" at McGill University's School of Religious Studies, where she is also a member of the faculty. The author of twelve books on new religious movements, her notable works include *Moon Sisters*, *Krishna Mothers*, *Rajneesh Lovers* (Syracuse, 1994), *Aliens Adored: Rael's UFO Religion* (Rutgers, 2004), *The New Heretics of France* (Oxford, 2011), and *Storming Zion: Government Raids on Religions* (Oxford, with Stuart Wright).

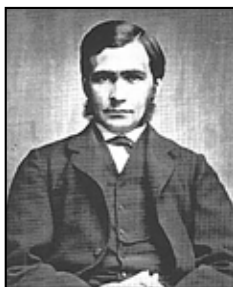


Zoom: Thursday, November 12, 6 PM
Swedenborg and Politics: On the Community
with Dell Rose

Swedenborg's teachings have great importance for the political imagination, and this talk helps us to understand why. This talk will discuss the teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg and the development of 19th-century political philosophy, especially that of the Victorian thinker T. H. Green (1836-1882):

"Both reach one thesis: that the person is realized in a community of persons, through a freedom that consists in the rational identification of the self with its true good, a freedom distinct from unconstrained choice. The comparison is typological and not genealogical. It treats two systems built from different materials, one of philosophical argument and one of revelation, as two answers to a single problem, and it lets each clarify what the other leaves obscure." —Dell Rose

This talk is based on the first essay in Dell Rose's forthcoming book (Published by Swedenborg Library Chicago Press), *On the Community: (Re)Imaging Politics in the New Christian Tradition*.



Thomas Hill Green (7 April 1836 – 15 March 1882), known as T. H. Green, was an English philosopher, political radical and temperance reformer, and a member of the British idealism movement. Green was influenced by the metaphysical historicism of G. W. F. Hegel. He was one of the thinkers behind the philosophy of social liberalism.

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. 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 SwedLib.org Info@SwedLib.org

Swedenborg
LIBRARY

AUTUMN 2026
 Join our free Zoom programs:

THURSDAYS, SEPTEMBER 17, 24; OCTOBER 1: 6 PM CST:
 Zoom: *ECCLESIASTES*, with Dell Rose.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11: 3:30 PM CST Zoom. TWELVE GATES
STUDY with Dell Rose.

THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 15, 22, AND 29: 6 PM CST: Zoom:
THE LONG SHADOW OF WORLD WAR I, Parts 1, 2, 3
 with Dell Rose.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25: 3:30 PM CST Zoom. TWELVE GATES
STUDY with Dell Rose

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4:
WILLIAM BRUCE LECTURE, IN-PERSON IN NYC AND
VIA ZOOM IN THE SWEDENBORG LIBRARY 5 PM CST
 Scholar Susan Palmer will discuss *Children and New Religion*
Movements.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 6 PM CST: Zoom: THE LONG
SHADOW OF WORLD WAR I, Part 3 with Dell Rose.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 3:30 PM CST Zoom:
TWELVE GATES STUDY with Dell Rose.

STARTING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2 PM CST, in person:
At the Newberry Library Chicago:
Till the Gods Speak Again: Folklore, Esotericism, and Romantic
Nationalism in Nineteenth-Century Europe with Dell Rose
 Continues on Tuesdays November 17, 24; December 1, 8

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, ZOOM AT 6 PM
Swedenborg and Politics: On the Community, with Dell Rose.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13–14, 9–4:30 PM
The General Council of the Swedenborgian Church of North
America will meet in the Swedenborg Library.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 3–5 PM CST Zoom:
 Join our online Christian worship service followed by the 3:30
 PM *12 Gates Swedenborg Study*, led by Dell Rose.

SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 13 AND 29, 3:30 PM CST Zoom:
TWELVE GATES STUDY with Dell Rose.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 3 PM CST Zoom: Join our online
 Christian worship service with Dell Rose.

Sponsored by the New York New Church Legacy Fund and
The Swedenborg Library Chicago