



VOLUME 5, NUMBER 2

SEPTEMBER 2007

Coming Events

LIGHT is pleased to announce our upcoming events for September to December 2007. While there are no admission charges for these events, donations would be appreciated!

LIGHT Film Series

A new series of films, on the theme "Spiritual Teachers and Traditions," will run on Sunday evenings once a month, beginning in September.

Location: Robert A. Steen C. C.
980 Palmerston Ave. - Fireside Room
(side entrance off the parking lot)

Dates:

Sunday, September 23 - 7:00 p.m.

Eckhart Tolle: The Flowering of Human Consciousness

In this video, you will come face to face with Eckhart Tolle, for a transformational meeting with this respected teacher and influential author. In clear language, Eckhart explains the process of entering the miraculous state of presence that is always available to us. From guidance about stress and career to insights into the nature of the ego and the delusion of time, here is a far-reaching session that documents the vision of this modern spiritual teacher, and the truth he brings.

Following Eckhart Tolle's wishes there will be a short meditation rather than a discussion following the video.

Sunday, October 21 - 7:00 p.m.

Ram Dass: Fierce Grace

Once a symbol of '60s counterculture and psychedelic drug use, Ram Dass has since become a renowned speaker and author on the topics of aging, spirituality and overcoming the mistakes of the past. This documentary chronicles the journey of Ram Dass from his affiliations with

LSD advocate Timothy Leary, through his relationship with his guru Neem Karoli Baba, to his endeavour to continue remaking himself after his stroke in 1997.

Discussion following.

Sunday, November 25 - 7:00 p.m.

*The Tibetan Book of the Dead
(narrated by Leonard Cohen)*

This 90 minute two-part film explores ancient teachings on death and dying. It was made over a four-month period on location in the Himalayas - where the original text still exerts a strong influence over people's views of life and death. This film, by revealing ancient teachings on how to think about death and dying, can be a valuable source of counsel and comfort.

Discussion following.

LIGHT Lecture Series

The talks, with discussion following, will be held on the first Tuesday of the month in October, November and December. Attendees are invited to a buffet starting at 6:30 p.m., with the talk to follow at 7:00.

Location: Charisma Restaurant
83D Sherbrook St.

Tuesday, October 2

Douglas Staley: "The Journey to Enlightenment"

A slide show presentation featuring ideas, aphorisms, allegories, images and models from the world's spiritual traditions which depict the journey

from ordinary life to an awakened understanding of our higher purpose and being. The talk will examine the nature of human suffering and illusion, the stages of spiritual development and the qualities of the enlightened state.

Douglas Staley is a researcher and statistician at St. Boniface hospital who has studied Western and Eastern spiritual traditions for many years.

Tuesday, November 6

Christina Rai Wheelwright: "Write Away: Finding Your Creative Voice" The creative process is mysterious and sometimes difficult to activate. Where does it come from? Does everyone have a creative voice? How can you find your creative voice? What will you do when you do find it? Join Christina in exploring the creative process.

Christina Rai Wheelwright is a local writer and astrologer who recently published the children's fable, Coyote Moon.

Tuesday, December 4

Christine Bennet-Clark: "Enaction: An Embodied Theory of Consciousness, Cognition and Learning" A presentation (with PowerPoint) on a new theory of cognition called *enaction* that has evolved from the complexity sciences. Enaction is an emergent-embodied consciousness that bridges the dominant bio-cultural views of human cognition.

Christine Bennet-Clark has a B.A. in Psychology and is near completion of an M.A. in Education. Her thesis research is a study of conflict within an organizational context.

LIGHT and the Winnipeg International Storytelling Festival

LIGHT sponsored a storytelling event at the Millennium Library 'Reading in the Round' on Saturday, May 12 as part of the second annual Winnipeg International Storytelling Festival. The Festival, which is presented by the Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice, University of Manitoba, is quickly becoming an important fixture on Winnipeg's cultural and educational calendar. By bringing internationally recognized storytellers to share their stories and experiences, the Festival has created an atmosphere conducive to enhancing cross-cultural understanding and bridging differences between individuals, cultures and nations.

Because LIGHT shares many of the goals of the Storytelling Festival we approached the Festival organizers and, in conjunction with the Winnipeg Public Library, presented a proposal for a storytelling event centered on the



Rukhsana Khan

humorous stories of Mulla Nasrudin. Mulla Nasrudin is a traditional Middle Eastern "wise fool" or "trickster" whose tales are both amusing and contain hidden wisdom.

The event featured professional storytellers Rukhsana Khan and Jamie Oliviero. Rukhsana, an acclaimed author and storyteller whose stories hail from the Middle East and Persia, was born in Pakistan and currently resides in Toronto. Jamie is a gifted Manitoba teacher and storyteller who has previously presented LIGHT-sponsored storytelling workshops. Drawing from the corpus of classic Mulla Nasrudin stories, the two storytellers enchanted the audience of young people and adults with their colorful renditions of the tales.

The event also featured skits of some of the best known Nasrudin stories by a group of community children under the direction of LIGHT board member Richard Bredsteen. The enthusiasm and creative imagination of the young performers connected immediately with the audience who thoroughly enjoyed the prop-enhanced skits of Nasrudin tales.

At the event the Winnipeg Public Library showcased LIGHT's recent donation of children's book titles by Sufi writer and teacher Idries Shah with a display of the books. Karin Borland, Administrative Coordinator of Youth

Services, thanked LIGHT for its continuing donation of children's spiritual books and noted how popular the titles are with young library patrons.



Richard Bredsteen and the 'Greenwood Place Players'

LIGHT is planning to participate in the third annual Winnipeg International Storytelling Festival in the spring of 2008 and has invited Rukhsana Khan to return to Winnipeg and once again share her storytelling gifts with the children and adults of our city. Concurrently, LIGHT intends to donate the complete series of Mulla Nasrudin stories collected by Idries Shah to the Winnipeg Public Library. The titles include *The Exploits of the Incomparable Mulla Nasrudin*, *The Subtleties of the Inimitable Mulla Nasrudin*, *The Pleasantries of the Incredible Mulla Nasrudin* and *The World of Nasrudin*.

LIGHT Is Now a Charitable Organization

In May of this year LIGHT was officially granted status as a registered charity under the Income Tax Act, following a 3-year process of application and resubmission with the Charities branch of the Canada Revenue Agency. The wheels of the Federal government bureaucracy indeed turn slowly and, although the lengthy process was sometimes frustrating, the final result was gratifying.

The challenge for LIGHT was to

convince the Charities branch that our organization met their strict requirements as an educational or religious body. According to Canadian law, an organization must clearly demonstrate that they perform strictly-defined educational work (e.g. job skills training) or is a recognized religion (e.g. Anglican Church of Canada) in order to qualify as a charitable organization.

LIGHT was able to create a precedent by persuading the Charities branch that its mandate did indeed meet these requirements, by arguing that it recognizes and promotes the

universal heart of spiritual truth that underlies all of the world's spiritual traditions. In the past few years LIGHT has presented talks, workshops, films and storytelling events featuring themes and presenters from the Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu and aboriginal spiritual traditions.

Because of LIGHT's dialogue with the Charities branch other community organizations with the same vision and understanding of spirituality may now hopefully find it easier to obtain standing as a registered charity.

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The Journey to Enlightenment

Some selections from the upcoming presentation at Charisma restaurant on Tuesday, October 2:

The world is a fashioning instrument
which polishes humankind.

- Proverb

Surrender is the simple but profound
wisdom of yielding rather than opposing
the flow of life. Surrender is to accept the
present moment unconditionally and
without reservation.

- Eckhart Tolle

Love is the remedy of our pride
and self-conceit, the physician of
all our infirmities. Only he whose
garment is rent by love becomes
entirely unselfish.

- Rumi

Do not be concerned with the
fruit of your action -- just give
attention to the action itself. The
fruit will come of its own accord.
- Bhagavad Gita

The ability to love others and the
world unconditionally begins with
loving oneself.

- Adage

When it is time for stillness,
stillness;
In the time of companionship,
companionship;
At the place of effort, effort;
in the time and place of
anything, anything.
- Sufi saying



You are complete here and
now, you need absolutely
nothing. Live in tune with
things as they are and not
as they are imagined.

- Jean Klein

Do not permit the events
of your daily life to bind
you, but never withdraw
yourself from them.

- Zen saying

It's all an open secret.
- Ramana Maharshi



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A Special LIGHT Friend

We are pleased to report that Mitesh Trivedi, the owner of Charisma restaurant and host of the popular LIGHT lecture series held on the first Tuesday of the month, has fully recovered from the heart attack that struck him unexpectedly last Spring.

Mitesh has been a strong supporter of LIGHT since its inception and has provided a wonderful atmosphere (and excellent Indian cuisine!) for our lecture series audience. He looks great, has lost

more than 30 pounds and is now exercising on a daily basis as well as carefully watching his diet. LIGHT wishes all the best to Mitesh and his family and hopes to continue our friendship and community involvement with him and his restaurant.

Mitesh would also like to thank all the LIGHT attendees who sent healing energy and prayers to him in the days immediately following his illness.



Charitable Organization

(Continued from page 2)

The charitable organization status also gives LIGHT the opportunity to apply for many community and cultural grants which require such a status as a condition for funding support. This opens many possible doors for continuing and expanding LIGHT's activities in the community. Individuals

who make financial or material donations to LIGHT will also benefit by receiving an official income tax receipt.

Become a LIGHT member! Here's how:

- Fill in a membership form and mail it to the address at the bottom
- The membership form is available on our website

For more information, call us at 453-2717