

## Mythic Movies: The Search for Meaning

Cinema is a powerful and captivating medium for exploring the mythic, archetypal nature of our experience as human beings. Using contemporary films as a springboard, this discussion group will explore a rich variety of mythic themes and archetypal characters. The movies we'll be discussing in this series have also been selected to reflect the general theme of "The Search for Meaning" and are intended to stimulate reflection of the perennial question of how we make sense of both our own lives and the human condition.

Each session will begin with a brief presentation about any aspects of myth or archetype central to the movie being discussed. After this initial presentation, we will move to an animated, yet focused, discussion of the film for that session. Each of our discussions will also include questions asking us to reflect on how the mythic dimension of each of these films relates to the collective mythologies of our society and culture, as well as to the development of our own personal myths. Our exploration of mythic movies will begin this year with the Academy Award winning film *American Beauty*, a work that explores one man's painful awakening to the lack of meaning in his life.

Discussions will be held on the last Tuesday each month from 7:30 to 9:00 pm at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland, located at 685 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Oakland. All of these films are readily available from local and online rental outlets and **participants will be expected to view these films prior to the evenings of discussions**. Participants can either register for the whole series of discussions (\$15 for contributors; \$30 for non-contributors) or attend discussions individually (\$3 for contributors; \$5 for non-contributors). Please contact Richard Stromer (510-682-6302) for more information about this discussion series or the church office (510-893-6129) to register.

### THE MOVIES:

September 30: *American Beauty*

November 25: *Into the Wild*

October 28: *I Heart Huckabees*

December 30: *Cinema Paradiso*

*Additional movies to be announced*