

Public Events, Conclaves and Summer Schools

I have received many questions concerning the activities and programs offered by our *Friends of the Rosicrucian Spirit* group. They are questions like “Why do you allow so many presentations that are not in the Rosicrucian philosophy?”, “Why do you allow speakers who are not interested in Rosicrucian philosophy?” or “Don’t you think newcomers and the general public will be confused by all of these different points of view?”. What follows is a brief explanation of these things *as I see them*. It also contains attitudes and ideas on the subject expressed by various members of our group from time to time.

A **public event** is an event *open* to and *directed* to the general public. It assumes that the attendees are unfamiliar with Rosicrucian philosophy and, therefore it is introductory because its purpose is to introduce the Rosicrucian philosophy to those who are interested about it but who are also uninformed about it. Our group rarely holds public events. Richard Koepsel does offer introductory classes directed to the general public on Rosicrucian-like topics but that is an independent initiative.

By definition in the English language, a **conclave** is a private event or closed assembly to carry out spiritual or religious business. We have treated our conclaves as reunions to share with fellow Rosicrucian students and bolster each other’s aspirations. Our conclaves are usually more love feasts than anything else. Our conclave is *open* to the general public but it is not *directed* to the general public which would be unfair to Rosicrucian students who have gathered to share with each other. In the presentations members and friends share their current thoughts, studies and interests with others of like mind. In this writer’s mind it would be ideal if the presentations were current thoughts, studies and interests about reality as seen through Rosicrucian philosophy but that is not the way many of the presenters approach life and it is much more important to have friends sharing their findings than to try force them to censor their activities to make them follow party line. Therefore, we have a wide variety of presentations but most are usually within Rosicrucian philosophy. It would seem to be a courtesy by presenters to inform the audience how and why their presentations deviate from Rosicrucian philosophy but that too would have to be done voluntarily. Thus, while we are liberal about allowing members and friends to freely share their current aspirations and studies, it is not our wish to provide a forum for individuals who have no interest in spiritual aspiration along the lines of the Rosicrucian philosophy or to champion causes oblique or even contrary to the principles and ends of Rosicrucian philosophy. If that were to happen we would have

to change this celebration of fellowship to something more along the lines suggested in a strict definition of a conclave. It is hoped that presenters are sensitive to the delicacy of this matter.

Our **summer schools** are public events in that they are *open* to and *directed* to the general public; however, they are not necessarily introductory. The depth and content of the material is at the discretion of the presenter. Since they are named Rosicrucian Fellowship summer schools, we are much more strict about staying within the Rosicrucian philosophy in all presentations than in conclaves, and we request that potential presenters show some degree of commitment to the Rosicrucian Fellowship.

If you have comments or suggestions on these matters please contact me or, if you would like help putting on a public event like a summer school, I may be able to help.

Thank you for your interest and your reading of this.

Richard Koepsel