

# Swedenborg's Global Influence

Local pbs Station, wybe, presents *Global Lens*

On November 29, 2004, Ashok Gangadean, host of wybe's program *Global Lens*, taped a half-hour interview with New Century Edition Series Editor Jonathan Rose, and Foundation Executive Director/Publisher Deborah Forman on the topic of Swedenborg's global influence.

At the Parliament of World Religions in July 2004, Forman attended sessions given by Dr. Gangadean, a professor of religion at Haverford College, and was stimulated by his global perspective and vital, life-affirming spiritual perspectives. An accomplished author, lecturer, and philosopher, Dr. Gangadean has worked with numerous organizations such as unicef and the World Commission on Global Consciousness. He has written several books on global reason, global philosophy, and dialogue between worlds and is Founder-Director of the Global Dialogue Institute, which specializes in cultivating common ground and deeper global awareness among diverse worlds in our emerging global communities. Upon returning home,

Forman contacted him, and he expressed an interest in learning more about Emanuel Swedenborg.

After receiving books and videos sent by the Foundation, Dr. Gangadean expressed serious enthusiasm about Swedenborg and extended a marvelous opportunity for Foundation spokespersons to discuss Swedenborg on the acclaimed show *Global Lens*, formerly *Philly Live*.

Dr. Gangadean skillfully and seamlessly guided the interview, alternately directing questions to Dr. Rose and Ms. Forman, beginning with questions about Swedenborg's spiritual experience, the era in which he lived, and his influence in Europe and America. The conversation turned to Swedenborg's experience of people from other religions in heaven, how remarkably advanced such an insight was for its time, and how this insight inspired Charles Carroll Bonney with the idea of creating a Parliament of World Religions at the 1893 World's Fair. Other topics included his influence on new religious movements, on the advancement of women, on abolition and his system of correspondences.



The program was aired on December 13, 2004 and its footprint extended through Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. On Friday, January 14, the Foundation screened the program to kick off its 2005 lecture series, followed by discussion with Dr. Rose and Ms. Forman. ♦

## SWEDENBORG LECTURE SERIES 2005

**January 14:**

*Global Lens* screening of Ashok Gangadean's interview of Deborah Forman and Jonathan Rose

**March 18:**

*The Holy Center*: a talk by Dorothea Harvey

**February 25:**

*Swedenborg: A Hidden Source of The Light and Dark in the Art of Edgar Allan Poe* a talk by Jane Williams-Hogan

**April 15:**

*Observing Spirit*: a talk by Peter Rhodes

**May 13:** a talk by Ashok Gangadean