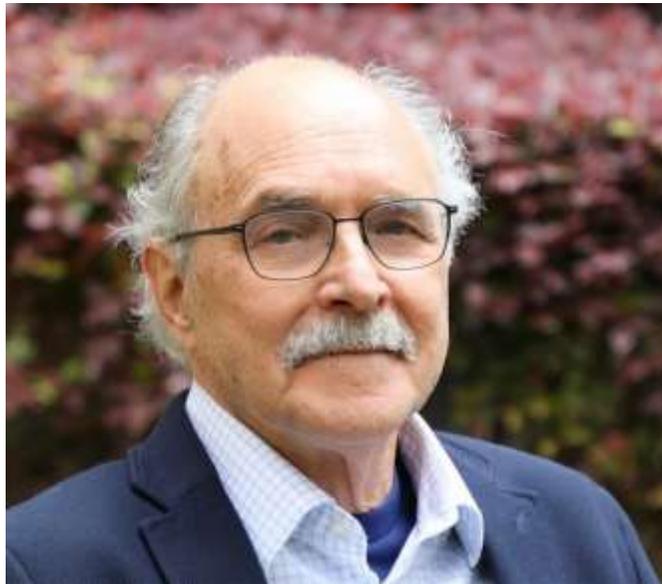


Thomas R. Cole



“My Journey to the Angels: Toward a Spiritual Renewal”

This talk will summarize the message of Thomas Cole’s forthcoming memoir, *My Journey to the Angels: Toward a Spiritual Renewal*. It will include personal stories of consciously living into the paradox of physical decline and spiritual growth; a critique of capitalist and scientific materialisms; and a call to cultural spiritual renewal and to the recovery of sacred nature as a key to our planet’s future.

Biosketch

Thomas R. Cole graduated from Yale University, B.A. in philosophy (1971); from Wesleyan University, M.A., in history (1975); and University of Rochester, Ph.D. history (1981).

Cole has written or edited 14 books, many peer-reviewed articles and produced 4 documentary films. From 1982, Cole taught at the Institute for Medical Humanities UTMB, Galveston, where he founded and directed the nation’s only Ph.D. program in Medical Humanities. In 2002, he moved to UT Health in Houston, where he founded and directed the Center for Humanities and Ethics, retiring in 2022.

Cole has also taught courses on aging, spiritual autobiography, and medical humanities at Rice University, the University of Houston, and the University of Graz in Austria.

In 2021, Cole was vested as a Jewish Spiritual Director. With Rabbi David Lyon, he subsequently founded and currently works at the Center for Spiritual Direction at Temple Beth Israel in Houston.

Over the years, Cole has also served as a consultant to the President’s Council on Bioethics, the United Nations’ NGO Committee on Aging, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the University of California at Berkeley, and various other universities and nonprofits.

He is currently completing a spiritual memoir, *My Journey to the Angels: Toward a Spiritual Renewal*.