



theosophical centre

HPB Newsletter

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From the President's Pen

Welcome to the new year at HPB Lodge. 2016 got off to a bit of a roaring start with the Annual Convention held in Auckland at the Kawai Purapura Retreat Centre. This great event was followed by a wonderful Self Transformation course held at our Lodge and run by Victor Peñaranda from the Philippines. It was nice to see so many of our members at both events and our new umbrella in the courtyard getting some use in the balmy summer days.

We will have another busy programme this year so check out the newsletters throughout the year for what's on, or go to our website hpb.theosophy.org.nz/content/programme. Our full programme gets underway in March (see attached) with some of the great talks heard at Convention kicking off the year. If you are perchance interested in becoming a Presenter yourself, National Section are holding a workshop from 11 to 13 March; please see the notice below.

With such a busy programme we are always in need of help. If you are willing to volunteer some of your time assisting with the grounds, in the library, or setting up for meetings please contact me on hpbpres@theosophy.org.nz.

Sadly, amongst all this activity one of our long term members Sharn Laurie passed away in January 2016. She will be greatly missed by us all and I would like to pay tribute to her dedicated work at the Lodge where she worked so hard without any fanfare. She could always be seen in the library or bustling around the kitchen or having a chat with people at our study programme evenings and other gatherings. We salute this wonderful lady on the next step of her journey.

I look forward to seeing you at our Theosophical Centre soon. It's the people who make it hum and provide the wonderful energy and passion which enriches our small community.

"Do not be afraid of your difficulties. Do not wish you could be in other circumstances than you are. For when you have made the best of an adversity, it becomes the stepping stone to a splendid opportunity."

Helena Petrovna Blavatsky

Namaste, Richard



Coming Events:

Adyar Day Celebrations

Wednesday 17 February

at 6pm for a shared meal – please bring a plate of food to share

To be followed at 7.30pm by a talk on Adyar and what is happening there
Come and test out our new umbrella
which is now installed and working well!

**Monday Nights at HPB Hall
starting 14 March at 7.30pm**

Did you get to Convention?
Maybe you couldn't get there?

We are kicking off the year with some of the great talks from Convention. Come and refresh your minds, share your thoughts and ideas....

See you on the 14th March!

**Coming Events
contd...:**

Member's Meetings:

**These start up again on
Wednesday 23 March 2016
at 7.30pm**

Theosofest 2016 - Sunday 6th March - 10am - 4.00pm



Come & join us for a relaxing day of activities at the HPB Annual TheosoFest Open Day.

From 10am through to 4pm we have a variety of events scheduled; short talks during the day, great food and beverages provided by Blue Bird Café, yoga, 2nd hand book sales..... in fact you need to come and experience the range of stalls and other activities.

See our website for more details!

This is a special time to come and meet other members and see what is going to be happening at HPB Lodge during the year. A great day for us to reach out to the community in our local area and further afield right across Auckland.

Make a day of it! Browse exhibits and some vendor booths, experience yoga or meditation, sample tasty vegetarian food, visit the Book Shop, explore the John Ross Thompson Library; have a cup of tea/coffee on the patio under the shade of our **new umbrella** or just meditate in nature. Look forward to seeing you at our special event.

As always, we are looking for volunteers to help us with this event.

Please contact Richard: hpbpres@theosophy.org.nz if you would like to "Make a Difference"

Presenter Skills Training Workshop

Are you interested?

Theosophy is alive and well in this day and age, embracing modern technology and techniques, as evidenced by the upcoming programme being offered to all NZ Branches:

**Friday 11 March (evening) to Sunday 13 March 2016
(to approx 3pm)**

This workshop is an opportunity for members who would like to develop the necessary skills for preparing and presenting good theosophical presentations to branches and/or other gatherings.

Different learning styles will be discussed and demonstrated, and the basic skills necessary for creating good presentations, including the use of audio/visual aids such as PowerPoint slides to enhance presentations, plus how to facilitate discussion both during and following a presentation.

Participants will need to come with a basic outline of a presentation they would like to develop and be prepared to work on their possible presentation during the weekend, with support from experienced presenters. This workshop will have a follow-up workshop on the weekend **6 - 8 May**.

There is a registration fee of \$30 for this course. Reasonable travel costs (air fares or car travel allowance) will be met and free accommodation is available at Vasanta House.

Closing date for registration is Friday 4 March 2016

If you would like to participate, please register your interest with the National Programme Coordinator, Warwick Keys at: program@theosophy.org.nz



School of Theosophy 2016 : The Yoga of Theosophy : 8th – 14th April

Director of Studies: Dr Pablo Sender from the USA

(Please note you must register in advance for this event) See attached flyer or the latest TheoSophia magazine for details

The Theosophical tradition has developed a wealth of teachings about the spiritual life that constitutes a distinctive system of yoga. This path is particularly relevant for today's world since it is not meant to be trodden in retirement, but in the midst of our daily life. Some of its prominent practices are study, meditation, purification, self-observation and service, all of which stimulates a holistic unfoldment of our physical, moral, mental and spiritual nature. In these sessions, we will be exploring the practical aspects of Theosophy and their deep theoretical foundations.



This is an opportunity not to be missed

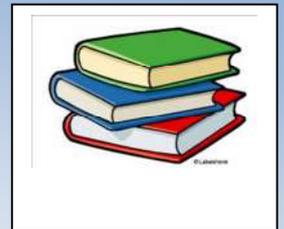
Library and Bookshop:

The library and bookshop will re-open at 10 am on Saturday 5th March 2016. Opening hours this year will be:

7.00 - 9.30pm on Monday evenings

12noon - 2.00pm on Fridays

10am - 12noon on Saturdays



We desperately need some new volunteers to help with staffing the library. Even a couple of hours once a month would be appreciated.

If you think you may be able to help please contact the librarian Johanna Vroegop johannav@orcon.net.nz or 817 7087

Maintenance:

Here we are at the start of another year and as those who have visited the Lodge during January will have seen, we have a beautiful suspended umbrella now installed on the courtyard outside the Supper Room. We have also had expert arborists help with trimming the trees and the committee is planning to have the carpark cleaned and the parking strips repainted.



As with any building as it mellows and ages, our building needs to be maintained to keep it in order and to keep major problems at bay. The screws in the long run iron roof over the top part of the hall need to be replaced to keep rust at bay so if you know of any tradesman you can recommend to help with this work, please let the secretary know (email: hpbsec@theosophy.org).

In the meantime, our thanks go to those often unseen helpers who look after the garden and plants in between caring for their own garden and plants. Your help is always much appreciated as are the beautiful flowers which result from your work. The busy-ness of life these days precludes many people from volunteering but an hour or two spent in the garden or helping clean the venetian blinds in the supper room can be very satisfying!! Do let us know if you are able to spare an hour or two to help look after our lovely building.

(email: hpbsec@theosophy.org)

OR ... phone Margaret, Maintenance Coordinator, on 0274 765 002.

HPB LODGE OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, INC.

<http://hpb.theosophy.org.nz>

Office and Library: 09 524 7994

CONVENTION 2016

Held in the gloriously peaceful setting of Kawai Purapura Retreat Centre, this was a Convention that gave attendees a really special experience.



Feedback from a few attendees:

- * "It was the most amazing Convention"
- * One lady and her husband who were from Australia, said they have been to many conventions and this was the best one they had been to in over 25 years; absolutely full of heart.
- * Another person from New Zealand sent a text just after the convention and Self Transformation Seminar: 'What a remarkable 10 days it was, I feel transformed & missing already the heart felt love flowing from those we journeyed with to new ways of knowing. Thank you for that beautiful gift.'

The beauty of the bush, lecture room and glorious wooden furniture - the delicious food! - in conjunction with inspirational talks and people, all combined to produce an uplifting time of renewed energy for all who attended.



Guest speaker Victor Peñaranda chatting to Julia Tarnawsky



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Travels of a Young Theosophist – part 1



One of our young theosophists, Lara Sell is spending 3 weeks in the Philippines at the Golden Link School this January/February. She said it was such a different experience from New Zealand, particularly the way the kids help each other out in a non-competitive manner. Lara not only attended some classes but helped out by teaching English to some of the younger students in years 9 and 10. She also spoke at the Declamation programme in Manila city in the weekend 5/6th February.

Lara said "Yesterday was my first day at Golden Link College and as I walked in the gates a whole class of pre school children flocked over to me and all held out their hands to shake and smiled up at me. It was such a heart warming welcome. I then got taken around the school and into each class and they would all recite "hello Miss Lara we are inspired to meet you" or "happy to meet you" all in unison and then most classes would then run up and all shake my hand. I must have shaken over a couple of hundred hands! Everybody is so lovely and friendly and happy to see me.

The school has the most amazing culture and atmosphere that is incredibly heart-warming."

The Golden Link College was started by the Theosophical Society in the Philippines and the Theosophical Order of Service Foundation Philippines back in 2002. The Golden Link College adopts an educational approach that

- Gives importance to the development of life skills and character building, such as self-awareness, integration of values, effective relationships, conflict resolution, public speaking, etc., side by side with academic competencies;
- Motivates students to study by awakening their interest in the subject matter instead of using rewards and punishments or threats;
- Creates an atmosphere of care, fun and challenge that enables students to dare to try new things without the fear of being humiliated or punished;
- Does not use rankings, honours or medals to compare a student with another;
- Involves the parents and family in the education of the children, by holding parenting seminars and family day programs;
- Enables students to be aware of the larger picture such as the environment, meaning of life, comparative religion, world peace and similar themes.

The vision of the school is "to create an education system in which individuals can discover the core values of their lives for themselves, free from fear, coercion and prejudice. Through innovative teaching methods that respect and nurture the individuality and creativity of students, it attempts to integrate the physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual aspects of their growth in a well-rounded programme. Teaching students to embrace their common humanity and to recognise their place in the web of life, the school strives to honour many faiths. It holds the conviction that individuals who are at peace with themselves will ultimately create a world at peace. In short, the school is an experiment in transformative education."

NZ TOS supports this wonderful school. If YOU would like to support this, or other TOS New Zealand projects, here are ways you can assist –

Financially, via

1. **Bank directly into account** : TOS New Zealand, 03-0104-0088756-03 - **with your name and donation in the reference lines**

2. **By cheque** : to the TOS C/- HPB Lodge, 4 Warborough Avenue, Epsom (Attention: Renee Sell)

Or in person/with ideas/request for more information, via

Email : tos@theosophy.org.nz



Theosophical Centre HPB Lodge, Auckland PROGRAMME	
FEBRUARY 2016	
Tuesday 16 6.00pm	Yoga and Meditation
Wednesday 17 6.00pm	Shared supper Followed by Adyar Day Celebration
Tuesday 23 6.00pm	Yoga and Meditation
MARCH 2016	
Tuesday 01 6.00pm	Yoga and Meditation
Sunday 06 10.00am – 4.00pm	TheosoFest Open Day - HPB Lodge 4 Warborough Avenue, Epsom, Auckland
Tuesday 08 6.00pm	Yoga and Meditation
Monday 14 7.30pm	The experience and process of Theosophy with Murray Stentiford
Tuesday 15 6.00pm	Yoga and Meditation
Monday 21 7.30pm	Theosophy - A transformative approach with John Vorstermans
Tuesday 22 6.00pm	Yoga and Meditation
Wednesday 23 7.30pm	Members Discussion Meeting (members only) Thought Forms Followed by supper
Monday 28	Easter Break (no class)
Tuesday 29 6.00pm	Yoga and Meditation

APRIL 2016

Monday 04 7.30pm	Fragments of the One life with Richard Sell
Tuesday 05 6.00pm	Yoga and Meditation
08-14 April	School of Theosophy The Yoga of Theosophy Director of Studies: Dr Pablo Sender from the USA (Please note you must register in advance for this event) see flyer attached to newsletter or in TheoSophia magazine
Tuesday 12 6.00pm	Yoga and Meditation
Monday 18 7.30pm	TOS UPDATE followed by short talk True Service - an expression of the Heart with Renee Sell
Tuesday 19 6.00pm	Yoga and Meditation
Monday 25	Anzac Day (no class)
Tuesday 26 6.00pm	Yoga and Meditation
Wednesday 27 7.30pm	Members Discussion Meeting (members only) Followed by supper