



Hamilton Lodge of the Theosophical Society

April 2007

Greetings, members and friends,

It is almost two months since the last newsletter went out, and so much has happened in that time that a summary is inadequate. All the same we are pleased to note that we have had two international speakers, one national and one regional speaker as well as our picnic, Convention report, president's address and three other meetings. This month sees the start of our special six week programme, entitled *Practical and Spiritual Healing*. Apart from the first two sessions shown below, there will be talks in May on Homeopathy (Mardi O'Shea), Steiner Medicine (Maree Smith), Past Lives and Healing (Kayla McKenzie-Kopp) and Ayurvedic Medicine (John Vorstermans). Details are shown in the Waikato Times Continuing Education tabloid (p. 29) – any publicity will be appreciated.

April Programme

1 April

Spiritual Cinema Circle

The Alma Drawings - our first showing of the year (with our new data projector) is a film about a woman who draws, rather than writes, automatically, producing some very special mandalas.

8 April - Easter (no meeting)

15 April

Title: **Body, Mind and Spirit - how they relate to each other.** Presented by **Leo Swart**

This is Leo's swansong before we lose him to Christchurch. He wishes to sort out the confusions and sillinesses that abound on the subject. - responses welcome!

22 April

Practical and Spiritual Healing - Session 1 of 6

Title: **Crystal Healing** Presented by: **Pip Oxlade**

Pip is a qualified healer in several therapies. Crystals have been used throughout history for healing, personal reflection and meditation. Crystals work well with the human energy field; they can move, absorb, focus, direct and diffuse energy within the body. When the body is unwell or "dis-eased" it is usually because the person has in some way lost their balance or natural rhythm. Working with crystalline energy helps the body to find that natural rhythm again. Attuning, channelling the healing energy and using the crystals as a powerful healing tool achieve a wonderful vibration. Crystal Healing is a therapy which is non-invasive and can be used in conjunction with a number of therapies (especially Reiki) and orthodox medicine.

29 April

Practical and Spiritual Healing - Session 2 of 6

Title: **Herbal medicine and its place in Holistic health.** Presented by: **Trisha Hishon**

Trisha is a Medical Herbalist with an interest in the power of medicinal plants and weeds that grow in one's back yard. The talk will briefly explain how modern Western Herbal Medicine encompasses scientific data along with age-old traditional understanding – the inter-relationship of the three key philosophies (Wisewoman, Heroic and Scientific). We'll touch on the use of the doctrine of signatures and its correlation with the chakras. Healing can begin at home, in the kitchen, and from within your own garden. Trisha will introduce a few key herb friends: some are 'weeds', which have strong healing abilities.

A Theosophical Perspective

We pass on a beautiful update by Pedro Oliveira (President of the Indo-Pacific Theosophical Federation) of what it means to be a theosophist:

“The Theosophical Society, founded in 1875, extends to all its members and sympathizers alike complete freedom of thought and of individual search. The Society does not have an official doctrine or teaching which its members have to subscribe to. Their bond of union is not a common belief, but a common search and aspiration to find the truth about existence.

The Society derives its name from the Greek word *theosophia*, divine wisdom, the spiritual heritage of all humanity, 'past, present and future' alternatively referred to as the Ancient Wisdom and the Wisdom Tradition. It is linked to this universal stream of inquiry not only through its name but also by what it stands for. Madame Blavatsky, a principal co-founder, stated that the Theosophical Society was formed to assist in showing people that such a thing as Theosophy exists, and to help them to ascend towards it by studying and assimilating its eternal verities. Such a work is the privilege and the responsibility of those of its members who voluntarily choose to undertake it.

Three core values of this Wisdom-Tradition are altruism, self-knowledge and openness of mind. They express themselves as selfless service, self-awareness, respect for each other's points of view and reverence for life. While the Theosophical Society does not impose any values or behaviour on its members or sympathizers, it seeks to promote the values of the Wisdom Tradition in an atmosphere of freedom of inquiry, mutual respect and a shared sense of community.”

April's Mandala

At the top of this newsletter is a mandala of a cross made up of semicircles within a larger circle. If the circle has a radius of 10 centimetres, what is the area of the background (in white)?

All we see or seem is but a dream within a dream.

Edgar Allen Poe

With kind regards from Brian, Charles, John, Leo, Peter, Tim and Vicki.

The Lodge meets on Sundays at 7.30 pm. A light supper is provided.

Mandala answer: The radius of the semicircles is 5 2 cm, so half of each arm is:

$(\frac{1}{2})(5\sqrt{2})(5\sqrt{2})(\sqrt{2} - 1)$ sq cm. Since there are 8 of these we get $100\sqrt{2} - 200$ sq cm for the arms, leaving exactly **200 sq cm** for the background.

73 Anglesea Street, Hamilton

President: Brian Stokes

Tel. 07 843 5191 Email brstokes@ihug.co.nz

Secretary: Vicki Pennington

Tel. 07 823 1915 Email john_vicki@hotmail.com

