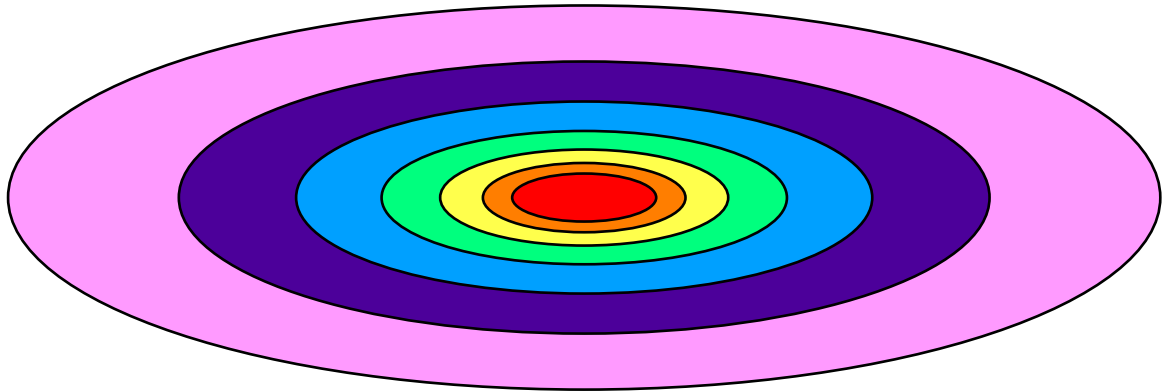


# *Hamilton Lodge of the Theosophical Society*



## **There is no religion higher than truth**

**November 2005**

Greetings, members and friends,

By the time you read this, our A.G.M. will be upon us - please come if you possibly can - it is on Sunday 30 October at 7.30 pm. In October we had talks by June Vallyon from Tauranga and John Vorstermans our National President. Among other things John introduced us to a set of nine principles (written by John Algeo, International Vice-President in *The Theosophist*, February 2004)) for keeping theosophy relevant to the 21st century. Here is a very brief summary:

1. Make and keep the Society international.
2. Quantity (of membership) is less important than quality - we are a nucleus.
3. We are all parts of the whole Society, and all need to contribute in their way.
4. Our presentation of theosophy needs to be in contemporary language.
5. We must address current concerns (e.g. health of the Planet, social justice).
6. We need to adapt to modern media.
7. We must help lead the way (for ourselves and others) to self-transcendence (using our higher self to see that we are all one).
8. It is our calling to further the evolution of humanity. All religions have their "highest good" - our role is to encourage a balance.
9. The Society is the sum of its members, and its future is the future we give to it.

### **6th November**

Aelred Edmunds was a monk for over 20 years; he specialises in dialogue between religions. His topic is entitled "*White Madonnas and Black Madonnas*". Black Madonnas have their origins in Isis and other ancient goddess figures. Aelred links her with the whole contemporary "Goddess Movement".

### **13th November**

Margaret Coldham-Fussell is the first of two of our Waikato University speakers this month and will talk on "*Ritual: Making it Matter*". Rituals are usually something that we associate with religion and, as a consequence, in contemporary secular society many have lost their significance. However, it has become apparent that we still seem to need rituals and not necessarily religious ones. So why is this the case? And how do such rituals bring meaning to our lives? Margaret will attempt to address these questions and more as she explores the importance of ritual at certain times in our life. □

### **20th November**

Charles Sitwell will use a PowerPoint presentation for Founder's Day about the history of the Theosophical Society.

### **27th November**

Kathryn Pavlovich, a Lodge member as well as a lecturer in the School of Management, will talk on "*Educating for Reflective Practice*". Our education systems conventionally focus on teaching the "what" and the "how", even the "why", but rarely the "who". She will discuss her course "Managing with Spirit" which assists students to explore questions such as "Who are we?", "Why are we here?", "What is our purpose?". Reflective practice is a key part of this understanding, and Kathryn will overview the dynamics of the course and the outcomes we achieve from our engagements. □

**Have you tried this one?**

Knights always tell the truth, while Knaves always lie. I asked A. which he was but didn't hear his reply. B. said "He said he was a Knave". C. said "B. is lying". Which of B. and C. is the Knight?

**There is strength in unity - weakness in anger.**

Maori Proverb

With kind regards from Charles, Tony, Fiona, David, Vicki, John, Leo and Brian.

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(C. is the Knight, since A. must have said "I am a Knight")