
❖ THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY ❖

PALMERSTON NORTH BRANCH

www.theosophy.org.nz/branches/PalmerstonNorth/
Phone: 353 2310. Email: pn@theosophy.org.nz

May/June 2006

310 Church Street, Palmerston

2006 VISION:

Spiritual Transformation

The Vision of the Theosophical Society in New Zealand is to inspire and serve the spiritual evolution of humanity by encouraging enquiry with open hearts and minds into world religions, philosophy, science and the arts; and to support the individual's endeavour to understand and apply the ageless wisdom, respect and honour all life, and work towards spiritual Self-transformation.



Dear Truth seekers,

The programme continues to run well, there is a lot to report and we have quite a lot of activity planned for the next few months at our Theosophical Centre.

Anthea Clement Cooper, president.

The Theosophical Centre

The committee have decided to call 'the Theosophical Hall', the *Theosophical Centre*. This branding has a bit more of a dynamic quality to it, and implies a centre of activity - which it very much what it is. The *Theosophical Hall* is entrenched in stone in the façade of the building, and so could also be referred to as the *Theosophical Centre Hall*.

PROGRAMME

We have recently concluded a very successful

Tuesday evening series on Krishnamurti and meditation. And a short series on Theosophy. Our Saturday talks have also been successful with a very interesting talk recently by Hazel Menehira of Wanganui on Creativity, Intuition, and the Intellect. We are shortly having a 4-part series by Dr Doug Osto on Mahayana Buddhism and the stages to enlightenment. This will be complemented with Tuesday evening studies on Buddhism. We also have TS in NZ sponsored speakers with a presentation by Aelred Edmunds, from Dunedin. There are also quite a few regional activities planned. In September, we have Prof. Krishna, our international visitor from India.

SATURDAY MEETINGS

We have visiting speakers, and when available, HQ sponsored speakers from out of town about once a month, and occasionally on a Tuesday. *Please refer to the Programme.* We always offer our visitors a vegetarian meal before the meeting. PLEASE BRING A PLATE to share before the meeting. Meet at the hall before 6:15pm.

TUESDAY STUDY MEETINGS

There is always something on Tuesday evenings, unless specified otherwise. We sometimes have the opportunity of another speaker, or programme item, in which case, it may not be in the newsletter. But if you read the local free newspapers, or have given your email address, you will be sure to know about ALL events. Please make sure your contact details are up to date.

Only a life lived in the service to others is worth living.

- Albert Einstein

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

- Mahatma Gandhi

WEDNESDAY MEDITATIONS

Lorraine is running a regular healing service meditation at the hall on Wednesdays at 5pm. This is a service to our community, everyone can join in. **All welcome.**

Palmerston North T.O.S.

(Theosophical Order of Service)

This is a group dedicated to providing the service arm of the Theosophical Society and is active in service at the lodge and in the community along theosophical principles. If you would like to find out more about the TOS in NZ, please visit www.theosophy.org.nz/tos/. The Auckland -TOS is engaged in humanitarian assistance, working along side other TOS groups in places such as India, Pakistan and the Philippines. The T.O.S. internationally is also involved in animal welfare, arts and music, ecology, family, healing, World Peace, Social Service, Welfare, and relief.

See <http://www.theoservice.org/>

ASTROLOGY AT THE CENTRE

Brian Gawith, a keen astrologer is happy to draw up, and interpret astrological charts for you on Saturday morning during library hours. To make sure that you do not miss him, either contact him—telephone 353 5546 or email bgawith@clear.net.nz to arrange a time.

LIBRARY

Our library, is open on Saturday, 10 a.m. till noon. Library policy is items may be borrowed for up to three weeks. There is a slot in the Hall door for returns if you cannot return them during times when the hall is open. (Mind your fingers!) After three

weeks each overdue item incurs a dollar per week penalty. We have a number of both new and bequeathed books in the library; and a new selection of books for sale. Come along and see for yourself and enjoy the quiet space.

DVD LIBRARY

We have excellent resources to use with CDs, DVDs and videos for Tuesday study group and may show some on Saturday nights. Our video collection is being digitised. We will also be having **Spiritual Cinema Circle**, which means we will be able to show films on our big screen. The films should provide more than just entertainment for the evening. DVD's are proving to be very popular and we would like to purchase some DVD's for the library.

NEW PAMPLETS

Headquarters has sent us a new release of pamphlets. Some have titles similar to the old range but they are totally new. The titles of the new pamphlets are: WHAT is theosophy?; The ART of MEDITATION; Membership Some questions answered; Karma The Spiritual law of CAUSE and EFFECT; Reincarnation Have we lived before?; Psychic GIFTS and Spirituality: Life AFTER Death; THEOSOPHY and ISLAM. These are free literature.

SCHOOL OF THEOSOPHY REPORT

Tenei te mihi atu ki a koutou nga kaikorero, nga kaiwhakahaere, nga kaimahi, nga taurira hoki o tenei tau Kura o Matauranga Tapu.

It was my pleasure in April this year, to attend the annual School of Theosophy held at the Tauhara Centre, Taupo, where guest speaker Ed Abdill along with his wife Mary had come to present lectures. The theme being: *Foundations of the Ageless Wisdom*, many topics were covered some of which included HPB's Three Fundamental Propositions, Karma, Reincarnation, The seven Human Principles, Ethical Living, and The Adepts.

There were several group activities, and some that looked at learning styles, which stimulated much discussion and which I found challenging yet very enjoyable. The food at Tauhara was magnificent, and the surroundings breathtaking. Not only was my body fed, but also my hinengaro and my wairua. I came away from Tauhara with new friendships and a sense of peace and renewal that is not always easy to obtain from the everyday world we live in. I would like to thank all those who made this years school such a success and for also having the privilege of being amongst you all. Kia ora tatou. -Tracy Underwood.



Photo taken at Huka Falls, Taupo. Left to right: Edward (Australian exchange student), Ed & Mary Abdill, Paul, Melanie, Self.

CENTRAL REGION MEETINGS

There will be a regional meeting at our branch on June 10th and another on Sunday Sept 3rd. An-

other is scheduled in Wanganui to coincide with their 110 year celebrations with John Vostermans the guest.

ACCESS RADIO (ACCESS 999AM)

The broadcast time for our interviews is 5:00pm, on the same Saturday of speaker's visits. We are still selecting items for our regular radio programme.

TS CENTRE HALL MATTERS

The engineer is currently doing working drawings for the seismic upgrade of the hall. We are also looking at options to restore the original ceiling.

FINANCIAL: Managing *your* branch

We cannot ignore this aspect of the T.S. The T.S. does need donations to exist. It offers wisdom to the world with a "no-charge-for-spiritual-knowledge" philosophy. However, it does cost a great deal to maintain, upkeep and upgrade our 1920's building. So please channel some donations TS way. **All donations towards the running, maintenance, and upgrade of the Hall are always appreciated by many.** (*Donations over \$5 are tax deductible. Please see the treasurer if you would like a receipt*).

FUNDRAISING ("Fun-raising")

Manik is happy to cover private collections of books with \$2/book going to the TS. Also, \$20 to the T.S. for copying your video on to DVD.

THANK YOU

- to the Trusts Charitable foundation for a grant of \$1500 towards two dehumidifiers. These are very necessary to dry the air in the hall and to keep our books dry.
- To the UNISON Trust for \$1500 towards upgrading the kitchen sink area.
- To the Pub Charity, Inc. for \$1500 towards replacing hall chairs. We are almost there!

NETWORKING AND OUTREACH**Phone line**

We have just installed a phone line at the hall. It is a bit ironical that it has taken us so long to get a phone line installed. The TS hall was the first building custom built to receive electricity in our city. Thomas Edison, one of our members of the Theosophical Society even invented the phone line! The phone line is also necessary to monitor the security system. We would like to use this for streaming audio and video, but do need a much faster connection.

WISH LIST- WANTED

Donations towards: 1) phone line connection and rental, 2) high-speed internet connection (\$400/year) 3) kitchen sink upgrade (\$800), 4) making the washroom behind kitchen functional (\$600), 5) kitchen high cupboards for storage (\$1400), 6) replacing and adding to hall chairs (now \$2800), 7) library shelving (\$330), 8) Fence (\$200), 9) outside furniture (\$100), 10) phone/fax machine, 11) dehumidifier for hall (\$1000)

Save \$ Help the PN TS save \$ (postage and photocopying) and time and reply with your email address to pn@theosophy.org.nz or secretary@pn.theosophy.org.nz

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VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WANTED

There is plenty of room for more volunteers - including in the library area—which is always a very pleasant and interesting area to work in. Descriptions of duties involved are available on request.

ANOTHER THANK YOU

to all who help with the running of the PNTS.

THEOSOPHY ON CYBERSPACE

Excellent Media library at

<http://www.theosophicalinstitute.org>.

Theosophical Society in NZ Livewires (email list).
Email john@theosophy.org.nz to get on.

NOTICES

Anyone interested in joining a Philosophy of Music Group? Would like to share Daniel Barenboim's Reith Lectures on Music and Life. -Aroon

COMMITTEE:

President /hall caretaker: Anthea Clement Cooper, *Secretary/newsletter editor/hall manager:* Aroon Parshotam, *Vice President:* Ricky Cribb, *Treasurer:* Tracy Underwood, *Computer consultant:* Waylon Robertson, *Librarian:* Anthea Clement Cooper, *Library assistant:* Manik, *Hall handyperson:* Tony Ellwood. *Committee members:* Lorraine Alston and Merania Kingi.

MEMBERS NOTICES

Good luck to Merania on her recent B.Ed graduation. Good luck to Kavita on her new Yoga venture. Good luck to Ricky on the launch of his new game, Satori, which was launched at the convention centre recently.

WELCOME

Welcome to recent new members— Robert Shariff, John Simpson (renewing), Firas Al Ali, Catherine Lamb, Keith Bishop (transferring) and Jane Fraser.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If you have been receiving this newsletter, attended meetings, etc. for some years, and feel that the world

The Theosophical Society is a worldwide organisation dedicated to the promotion of harmony among all people and the encouragement of the study of religion, philosophy and science, to the end that we may better understand ourselves and our place in the universe. The Society stands for complete freedom of individual search and belief. It is non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political and non-dogmatic. It was founded in 1875.

is a much better place with the T.S, than without it, then this is your chance to show us your support by becoming a member. The T.S. is a not for profit organization that relies on support from the community. It is also great to have somewhere in the community where we can have a sense of belonging. It is a place where you can be free to express your creativity and your Self. We need each other and your support. And mostly...You belong to a group that stands for Altruism and what is Good!

SUBS DUE!

For those, who have not paid their subscriptions yet, the Oct 2005 to Sept 2006 subscription is now due—please post or give your minimum subscription payment of \$20 to Tracy please. The library-only sub is currently still \$15.

MEMBERS SPACE/CONTRIBUTIONS

Insights into Karma by Robert Shariff

What is Karma? A simple question yet only a deep answer can only satisfy it's beckoning.

Our lives; is a journey, that journey begins with our births, and ends with our deaths. Between the times we are born, or should I say when our spirit enters this world we are faced with choices at every step of our journey. Our choices, during our journey depend on many variables and these variables exert different degrees of fear within us.

Fear is a negative energy - force. We make decisions based on the fear we face and our ability to deal with it. If we do not overcome our fear of a relative cycle in our lives, we end up in a karmic cycle, the same situation will repeat itself until we find the inner light of ourselves where our true answers lay, whether they are perceived to be good or bad is irrelevant.

In short, karma is like a treadmill, the same pattern will emerge in our lives until we find our inner candle-light, to find our true "self" and to love "self" and celebrate that.

What are the effects of the karmic cycle? When one is in a karmic cycle the same pattern will bring pain and suffering, not just to the individual or family (i.e.

private hell) but also to the ones they love or should I say are directly or indirectly affected by your pain and suffering.

When a karmic cycle generates negative energy, it radiates from the epicenter (the product of the perspective karma), which in turn will intertwine and weave itself with energy of the same likeness. This in turn creates an environment that fosters and nurtures that kind of energy. An example is a culture of suicide, or the culture of Borderline Personality Syndrome that lay in particular demographics. You could call this a karmic virus, if we where to speak on this level.

How do we break the Karmic Cycle? Karma being an entity on its own, containing two opposing forces that determine the outcome of the karma. They are fear and love. To know oneself is to love oneself, so to give love is to receive love or the ultimate maxim, what goes around comes around.

To break the karmic cycle one has to change and change itself is a fearful thing. A karmic cycle can come from an individual or it can come from family history. To create change one has to first love themselves; and then give love to those around them. From the very time we are brought into this world, we are conditioned to give love, especially in schools, bad family karma and other such places, the messages are carried in the nursery rhymes, respective family cultures etc, and this creates the seed of fear within us, when I say love, I mean unconditional love, when you give, unconditional love, it comes from a place of "self", the giving is in the receiving, it mirrors ones true existence in this world.

From the time we come into this world until the time we die, we have to face choices, we can take the straight path to our destiny, with the light of our inner "self" the light being our expression of love or we can take the crooked path, which is entwined with karma, until we find that inner light to walk the straight path or perish in the darkness of pain and suffering.

How do I find the love inside of me? Well each of us are given choices in our life, the only person that can answer that question, is you, its your choice to have faith in yourself.

—Mustaq (Robert) Shariff

Palmerston North Branch of the Theosophical Society

Programme—May to June, 2006

All meetings held at 310 Church Street, at 7:30pm, unless otherwise stated

You are invited to contribute by donation to the running costs of each meeting

"Theosophy is not about teaching people anything but rather about coming into groups and together **EXPLORING** what we understand as the timeless wisdom. It is about study, meditation and service— about living the life."

TUESDAY EVENING

(Every Tuesday at 7:30pm)

REGIONAL THEME: SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

Led by our members and encourages group participation and sharing. We are always open to spontaneity and may change the programme slightly to go-with-the-flow. If we have your email address we can send you updates.

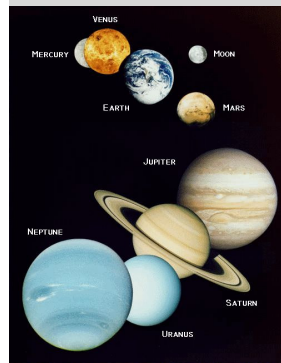
Study Series on Theosophy**April 25th DVD. Theosophy for Everybody****May 2nd DVD. The Theosophical Movement and Its Importance** Talk by Dr John Cooper.**May 9th. Video. What is Theosophy?** By Geoffrey Farthing**Study Series on Buddhism****May 16th, The Noble Eightfold path.** MPEG-4 talk by Ajahn Bramali. This talk puts the Noble Eightfold path in a very practical setting. A good introduction to Buddhism.**May 23rd, Clairvoyance.** A monk's perspective. MPEG-4. Talk by Ajahn Brahm.**May 30th, Desire.** MPEG-4. Talk by Ajahn Brahm.**June 6th—Crisis management.** MPEG-4. Talk by Ajahn Brahm.**June 13th. Stepping away from life's problems. The pyramid in the jungle.** MPEG-4. Talk by Ajahn Brahm.**June 20th. The Energetics of Healing I****June 27th. The Energetics of Healing II****July 4th. The Energetics of Healing III****Programme Coming up/or fillers. Watch this space**

Powerpoint presentations: Prana and the Chakras, The Super-Physical Bodies, Evolution Through Chains and Rounds. The Mystery of the Senses; The Vanguard of Humanity—The Inner Government , The Secret of Thought Power, The Mystery of Death and Reincarnation.

Man Know Thyself—a more in depth study of the Seven Rays, facilitated by Lorraine Alston—

Tentatively early September..

Theosophy and Myth—The Power of Myth.

**VISIT TO MANAWATU OBSERVATORY**

The Theosophical Society has booked **MONDAY 22nd** at 8pm for the visit to the Manawatu Observatory (to see the stars and planets through a very powerful telescope). If the night is clear, we should see Jupiter and Saturn and double stars and star clusters. Meet outside the T.S. Centre Hall at 7:30pm. Welcome to bring friends and family.

OUT OF TOWN TALKS

Nature and The Environment. Seminar by Aroon Parshotam. (Probably 9.30 am to 4pm.). Wanganui T.S. A full day workshop based on the teachings of Krishnamurti. This is a special workshop. It is 20 years since Krishnamurti passed on, but his teachings and thoughts are still with us.

Please see www.theosophy.org.nz for lots of events at neighbouring branches in the region, some given by our very own speakers.

**Palmerston North Branch of the Theosophical Society
Branch and Regional Programme—May to June 2006**

SATURDAY EVENINGS

May 20th, 27th and June 3rd and 10th, 7:30 pm— Four part series on Mahayana Buddhism presented by Dr Douglas Osto, lecturer in Asian religions at Massey University. The Stages of the Path to Enlightenment: A Lecture Series on the Buddhist Practice of "stages of the path" - Lamrim

May 20—Lecture 1: Introduction to *Lamrim* Teachings

Topics: The Teachings of Atisha, Tsongkhapa and Geshe Keslang Gyatso

May 27—Lecture 2: The Initial Scope of Training

Topics: Relying upon a spiritual guide, this precious human life, death and impermanence, the danger of lower rebirth, refuge practice, *karma*

June 3—Lecture 3: The Intermediate Scope of Training

Topics: the Four Noble Truths, developing renunciation for *samsara*

June 10—Lecture 4: The Great Scope of Training

Topics: developing equanimity, equalising self and others, exchanging self with others, Great Compassion, the practice of taking and giving, the Mind of Enlightenment, Tranquil Abiding, realising Emptiness

July 1st 7:30 pm—Presentation by Aelred Edmunds, from Dunedin. **Why? Why? Why? The Role of Crisis and Disturbance in the Spiritual Life.** The key theme is to be seen in Carl Jung's suggestion that it is only as we are unsettled in our spiritual life that there is any hope for us! Habit = boredom = a killer of spiritual growth.

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

September— Monday 4th. In Pursuit of Happiness. Presentation by Prof. Krishna from India. Prof. Krishna has written a number of books and articles relating to Krishnamurti. Please see Prof Krishna's homepage at <http://www.pkrishna.org/>

REGIONAL MEETINGS

December 2nd & 3rd, at Wanganui T.S., to share in the celebration of their 110th birthday.

Saturday, June 10th, Palmerston North

Sunday September 3rd, Palmerston North

FUTURE DATES TO KEEP FREE

October: AGM

December - end of the year celebration—we have invited the Dance for Universal Peace people to join us.

INVITATIONS

Sat. 8 July MUBA Buddhist monks visit and talk at the T.S. Centre.

For those who saw the movie 'What the Bleep', the Paramount in Wellington is hosting Dr Emoto's visit on Wednesday 5th July at 6:30pm. Julie from Lightworkers asks if anyone wishes to go to let her know.

POT LUCK MEALS

Before all the visitor's presentations we offer them a vegetarian meal. You are invited to take part in a POT-LUCK vegetarian meal beginning at 6:15pm. Please bring a contribution - It is usual to bring at least as much as you, and those you bring with you, will eat and then to allow some more as well to contribute towards the meals for our guests.

LECTURES/WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS

Keep an eye on the Guardian or Tribune to see 'What's on'. People who have given their email addresses will always be notified of what is on. And feel free to bring a friend. Our research has shown that this is the best way to introduce people to the T.S.