



theosophical centre

Structure, Spirit and Us

I watched a video on the great Chartres cathedral last night, hundreds of years old in France. People were so inspired by the idea of building the cathedral at the time, that they came from all over the countryside to take part in it, and noblemen and women pitched in with even the humblest tasks.

Then I fell to thinking how this great cathedral is like the Theosophical Society and the timeless Wisdom itself in some ways, and what that might tell us about the TS. Let's look at this.

The whole form is a container for, and expression of, a great knowing; it's a place that changes, or assists the change of, those who enter it. The buttresses, for instance, rise up to carry the solid energies of the earth upward between the windows, their massive stone fingers cupped like a hand. Inside, the lucent windows fill the arching space with glorious light and pattern that feeds and draws forth the soul. The space itself, even while it dwarfs, somehow enfolds and uplifts, accepting the best that it draws out of each who opens to it.

These stable forms are like the purity and solid expressiveness of the Timeless Wisdom in one aspect, and the light is like its illuminating power, shining through countless symbols.

Even at a more concrete level; that of our own particular Branch, one of many in the Theosophical Society, there are some striking parallels. The different things that have to go on, for the Branch to work, are a bit like the buttresses. They are needed to define and support the windows which represent the teachings and teaching processes that the Theosophical Society offers. Getting really specific now, the "buttresses" in our Branch are Committee work, Financial, Maintenance, Hall Bookings, Study Programme, Office and Secretarial, Bookshop, Library, Publicity, Newsletter, Supper preparation and more. They are not "Theosophy", but without them, we cannot present Theosophy in the world.

Furthermore, none of these "buttresses" can work without the people to do them. We have a good number of workers now, but we need more and, with a new Committee to be elected soon, we all need to consider how we might help to bring our TS to a greater living realisation of its ideals, a kind of Chartres of today.

Would you love to dedicate a little of your precious time to being a co-worker, co-builder, in our own HPB Lodge? Now's the time.

The Chartres video that started all this (smile) will be shown in our video Evening on Friday 5th of November.

September
2004
Issue 7

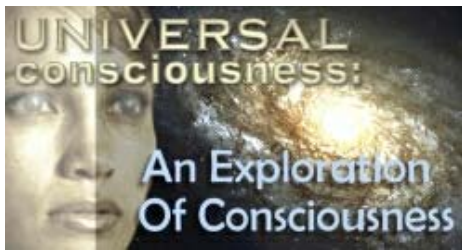
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HPB Lodge of the
Theosophical Society, Inc
4 Warborough Avenue
Epsom
Auckland
Ph. 524 7994

All TS branches in New
Zealand are linked to
the main website at
www.theosophy.org.nz

What's Coming Up



Universal Consciousness

an exploration and dialogue on how to understand and heighten our consciousness in a universal context

with

John Vorstermans

At the

theosophical centre

Thursday, 21 October 2004, 7:30pm
4 Warborough Avenue
Epsom, Auckland

For more information, please phone
(09) 524 7994 or 529 1743.

All welcome. Donation requested

Under the auspices of the Theosophical
Society in NZ

Intuition in Service

Meditations for global peace and information on engaging the intuition to promote global peace and support the United Nations are set forth on this site.

www.intuition-in-service.org

With a good list of related links, it's well worth a visit..

Universal Consciousness

Is consciousness just in the brain? Are mind and brain the same thing? Modern science is discovering huge amounts that often sound familiar to the student of the Wisdom Tradition - although perhaps put in different words. This mini-workshop will explore the different depths of consciousness including the use of some modern tools to help us break through the blocks we create for ourselves. All are welcome. It starts 6:30pm, supper break half way. For more information, ring Murray (09) 529-1743.

Convention 2005

Conventions are always a great experience, and we are especially fortunate this time to have Betty Bland, President of the TS in America as main speaker.

The Convention will be in Hamilton from Friday 7 January to Thursday 13 January 2005. Fill in your yellow registration form from TS Headquarters. Phone 523-1797 for more info.

Awareness Discovery Group

Enthusiastic members of this Sunday morning group have asked for continuous weekly meetings instead of the present month-on, month-off format, and have volunteered to lead the meetings in the gaps. We are in for some exciting variety. Come to the next meeting and find what's up or phone Murray 529-1743.

Reincarnation as it is Experienced

Hey Members! For a discussion with a difference, come along to the members' meeting this Thursday, 23 September at 7:30pm. We might actually enjoy being together, too!

Something to Get your Teeth Into

Vegetarian cooking demonstration at 1pm, enjoy the results at 2pm. What better lunchtime meeting format? 7th October.

The Lamplighters' Group

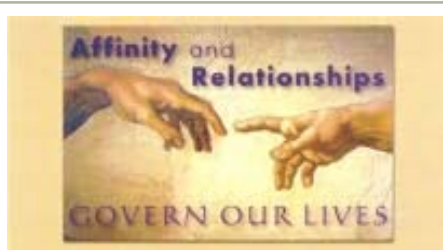
- whimsical name for the In-Depth Studies group that meets in the HPB Library every Tuesday night at 7:30pm.

The topics might seem a bit abstruse at first, but they really are very interesting. More information from Gavin 529-5958.

The Bardo Group

is going well, in its study of life's major transitions and how to lift them from being negative and bruising to being positive and even transcendent. Every Saturday afternoon at 2:30pm at Vasanta House. Details from Val White 524-5776.

News and Notices



A Review

“Love not only makes the world go round but holds it together”, was one of the themes of Gavin Laurie’s talk at HPB Lodge on 16 September. Introduced in gentle stages, we arrived at a vision of the great primary energies of the Universe expressing themselves in everything we do, against the majestic backdrop of Theosophy.

Joan Patterson

One of HPB’s most dedicated and generous workers, Joan Patterson, wife of the late Jack Patterson, died on 23 August 2004. Let us remember her with love and appreciation, and wish Christopher, Malcolm and Moira well.

Library & Bookshop



Mon – Fri.
11:30 am – 2:00 pm
Sat. 10 am – 12 noon

Also open before Study Classes
and Public Talks.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the HPB Lodge of the Theosophical Society Inc. will be held at 7:30pm on Thursday 28 October 2004 at the HPB Lodge building.

Please be there if you are a member of HPB. The whole Committee will be up for election, and your vote matters. NB: Your dues must be up to date, to vote.

Nominations

Nobody can be elected to the Committee unless somebody nominates them first. To do this, fill in a nomination form enclosed with this newsletter and post it to the Secretary, HPB Lodge, 4 Warborough Avenue to arrive by 18th October 2004. The person you nominate needs to agree and sign the slip.

Next Newsletter is in November

We are going to space them out to bi-monthly until further notice, so hang onto your Diary sheet at the back of the Newsletter a month longer.

Science Group is Closing

Numbers have fallen recently and perhaps the energy has gone out of the format, so we are closing down the Science Group after 1st October. Thanks to all who came and shared.

The Path of Toltec Wisdom

It’s refreshing, yet complementary to HP Blavatsky’s work. Francis Evans, HPB member, will speak on it at Goodeys Bookshop Tuesday 21 September, phone 524-5000. \$10.

Mobility for Disabled

Joan Patterson has very kindly left her 3-wheeled Fisher and Paykel Mobility vehicle to HPB Lodge for members to use for a nominal rental.

With rechargeable batteries and a 20km range, it can give more freedom to anyone who walks with difficulty. Phone Murray 529-1743.

Black Suedette Couch

Three seater for Sale, \$280.
Phone Renee 528-7373.

Founders’ Day

All welcome. Monday 15 November at 6:15pm for a potluck, then the Founders’ Day celebration. Ph 528-7373.

You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand.

- Woodrow Wilson - 28th President of the United States

For your diary

20-Sep-04	7:30pm	Mon	Study Classes	---	No classes - school holidays
23-Sep-04	7:30pm	Thur	Members	Discussion & exchange	Reincarnation as an Experience. It is getting harder to disbelieve!
26-Sep-04	10:00am	Sun	Awareness Discovery	Mike McCarty	Spiritual Healing
27-Sep-04	7:30pm	Mon	Study Classes	---	No classes - school holidays

01-Oct-04	7:30pm	Fri	Science Group	Video and discussion	Interview with David Bohm, of Implicate Order. FINAL MEETING
03-Oct-04	9:30am	Sun	Round Table	Group members	Ceremonial and companionship
03-Oct-04	10:00am	Sun	Awareness Discovery	New group leaders	Topics for this month's weekly meetings to be announced. It will be good!
04-Oct-04	7:30pm	Mon	Study Classes	Renee & Rich. Sell, G Laurie	Remarkable Lives, Origin & Work of the TS (Stages 1 & 2, respectively)
07-Oct-04	1:00pm	Thur	Lunchtime Meeting	Margaret Johns etc	Demonstration & Sample the Goodies, by the Vegetarian Society
11-Oct-04	7:30pm	Mon	Study Classes	J Wilson, H Dixon	Avatars, Occult Chemistry
18-Oct-04	7:30pm	Mon	Study Classes	M Stentiford, G Laurie	Theosophy & Modern Science, Akasha & Akashic Records
21-Oct-04	6:30pm	Thur	Public	John Vorstermans	Universal Consciousness – an exploration of consciousness Supper break half way. Yes, it starts at 6:30pm
25-Oct-04	7:30pm	Mon	Study Classes	---	Labour Day – no Study Course meetings
28-Oct-04	7:30pm	Thur	AGM	All Members	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Please come! Help set the directions

01-Nov-04	7:30pm	Mon	Study Classes	Gavin Laurie	History of Atlantis - For both classes, combined
04-Nov-04	1:00pm	Thur	Lunchtime Meeting	Ecie Hursthouse	Compassion & Care in a Buddhist-oriented hospice
05-Nov-04	7:30pm	Fri	Video Evng	Keith Critchlow	Chartres, Heaven on Earth. An inspiring video about the great cathedral
07-Nov-04	10:00am	Sun	Awareness Discovery	Murray Stentiford	The Web of connectedness, Integration
07-Nov-04	9:30am	Sun	Round Table	Group members	Ceremonial
08-Nov-04	7:30pm	Mon	Study Classes	M Stentiford & Gavin Laurie	Personal Growth & Unity, Mystery of the Pyramids
14-Nov-04	10:00am	Sun	Awareness Discovery	Murray Stentiford	Social needs and applications, spiritual needs of children, Indigos
15-Nov-04	6:15pm	Mon	Study Class students and All welcome	Several Speakers The rest of November will be	Founders Day celebration with Potluck at 6:15pm. For all members in the November Newsletter.