



theosophical centre

HPB Newsletter

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Issue 4, July 2009

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From the President

A Guardian article reproduced in last week's Sunday Star Times opened with "What do you get when you put a Muslim imam, a Greek Orthodox priest, a rabbi, a Buddhist monk and 10 atheists in the same room?" I know, it sounds like the beginning of a bad joke, but it sparked my interest when I read on and discovered that it was introducing a new show on Turkish television, "Penitents Compete". The four religion's representatives seek to offer atheist contestants a spiritual path, hoping to at least convert one of the ten non-believers. It could be seen by some as a new low in reality TV, trivialising faith and the spiritual path. However it could be noted as an indication of an increasing interest out there, even in an overwhelmingly Islamic population, in the study of comparative religion. I feel we are moving into a world where the services potentially offered by the TS could be in demand.

We have had many interesting and insightful talks this year, and great discussion generated at our Monday evening group looking at the Stanzas of Dzyan. See below for a continuation of our 2009 programme, with a unique opportunity in September as Vic Hao Chin will be visiting from the Philippines.

This will be my second to last newsletter of the Lodge's year as my partner and I will be heading off on a three month adventure mid August, taking in the USA on a roadtrip with a brief visit to Europe thrown in for good measure. We will be visiting the Theosophical Society in America's headquarters in Wheaton Illinois early September and helping in any way we can with preparations for their annual *Theosofest*. I will look forward to providing a report to our members upon my return.



Vasanta Reunion Reminder

Former pupils of the Vasanta Garden School of which Vasanta House was the main building, are planning the first reunion in 50 years at the school on **Saturday 3 October 2009**. The organisers are seeking to contact former pupils of the school. The school was an important Theosophical influence on many people.

Do YOU know anyone who attended this special theosophical school?

Those who would like to attend the reunion can get more details by phoning:

Margaret 027 448 1876 or Sue (09) 832 2662 027 214 8129

ROOF REPAIRS

As any member who has visited the Hall recently or read the last few Newsletters will know, the flat part of our Hall roof definitely needs replacing, and the 'decorative' pillars surrounding the hall also need to be 'capped' and properly sealed to prevent repeat problems in the future.

After discussions with the project manager appointed to oversee the work it has been agreed to wait until the winter weather settles down before starting the repair/replacement, thus minimising any possible damage to the interior of the library/office/foyer areas. We can guess that the weather might be more settled around mid-October but as our hall's wonderful acoustics are then needed for music exams, it now looks as though repairs/replacement will not be able to start until Christmas time.

Obviously, the longer it is left, the more the work is likely to cost, but the work can't be done in bad weather. The job will of necessity include scaffolding and tarpaulins (for protection), and once erected, these are left in place and cost us on a daily basis, irrespective of weather restrictions on the builders' work.

So, positive thinking for fine, settled weather over Christmas please – and any amount (however small or large) you can donate towards the cost of the repairs would be really appreciated! Alternatively, can you assist with appropriate scaffolding/tarpaulins to keep costs down a little? Please ring, or email the Secretary: hpbsec@theosophy.org

FROM HQ... A small **two bedroom flat** owned by TS is available for renting at 2/72 Margot Street, adjoining Vasanta House. The flat is available to a TS member as first choice. If you know of a member who could be interested please ask them to contact **Graham Eden** at Vasanta House in the first instance. The rental is \$400 per week. It would be good to have another TS member in the small community here. (hopefully still available by the time this goes to print!)

[NB] Venue is HPB Hall unless otherwise stated.

MEMBERS MEETINGS

Notice of Special Convention

A special convention has been announced for **August 3rd** by our National Council to ratify the decision made at the weekend workshop on the future of the Orewa property.

The convention vote will be carried out via post and HPB Lodge will have three votes, based on our membership numbers. Details of the workshop's decision will be sent out to the newsletter email list and will be displayed on notice boards at the lodge. Any member's views will be welcome at the member's meeting on **July 23rd**, before our three delegates make their votes.

Discussion & Research Group – led by Darryl Crofsky and Val White
Monday evenings at 7:30pm

The Stanzas of Dzyan II; Anthropogenesis

Ganesh Kumar "Acceptance of the disciple and initiations"
Thursday 23rd July at 7.30pm

Continuing our discussion on C.W. Lead beater's '*Masters and the Path*'.

The TS in South America presented by Alistair Macarthur
Thursday 27th August

A glimpse at a South American Lodge's activities. Alistair will guide us on a visual tour of the Argentine section's colourful website.

Self Transformation Seminar Vic Hao Chin
September Monday 7th – Wednesday 9th
9:00am to 5:00pm

Vic Hao Chin's Self Transformation Seminar, **for new attendees**. This is all all-day (9-5pm) events, numbers will be limited - we will keep you posted.

Self Transformation Seminar Vic Hao Chin
September Thursday 10th – Friday 11th
9:00am to 5:00pm

Vic Hao Chin's Self Transformation Seminar, **for facilitators**

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Introduction to Theosophy Series

'What is Theosophy?'
Monday August 3rd at 7.30pm

A series for beginners which will serve as a precursor to further development on a potential Theosophy 101 course to be offered next year. Held on Monday evenings, it will run for 6 weeks, with a discussion session on the 7th week for participants to offer up their questions and views. A full course outline and advertising to be released shortly, so if you know of any interested seekers who are new to the T.S. we would like to see them.

LIBRARY & BOOKSHOP

THE TIBETAN BOOK OF LIVING AND DYING

by Sogyal Rinpoche-\$30

An acclaimed spiritual masterpiece, *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying* is a manual for life and death and a magnificent source of sacred inspiration from the heart of the Tibetan tradition. Sogyal Rinpoche delivers a lucid and inspiring introduction to the practice of meditation, to the nature of mind, to karma and rebirth, to compassionate love and care for the dying, and to the trials and rewards of the spiritual path. This jewel of Tibetan wisdom is the definitive spiritual classic for our times. The author speaks directly and clearly to the Western mind and heart with humour, joy and great warmth. Like all the great teachings, it is both simple and complex, and full of love and compassion.

This and many other valuable and reasonably priced books can be found in the bookshop at 4 Warborough Avenue, Epsom, which is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11.30 to 2 pm and on Saturdays from 10 to 12.30 pm. It can also be posted to you at a cost of \$4. To order phone 5427994 or email hpbbooks@theosophy.org.nz



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