



theosophical centre

HPB Newsletter

4 Warborough Ave ▪ Epsom ▪ Auckland 1051 ▪ Ph 09 524 799

Issue 2 April 2007

President: Richard Sell
Vice Pres: Margaret Johns

Secretary: Jeanette Blackburn
Treasurer: Debra Edwards

Presidency of HPB Lodge

Our deepest love and sympathy to Sharn, Sheryl and family on the loss of a beloved husband, father and grandfather.

After some months of coping with an often painful and debilitating state of health, Gavin finally moved into Higher Service on 13th March 2007.

One of our Vice-Presidents, Richard Sell, has agreed to step into the role of President. In accordance with the newly accepted Constitution, his appointment has been ratified by the Committee, and we thank Richard very much for picking up the reins. We also thank our remaining Vice President, Margaret Johns, and the executive committee for their work to date and their continuing support.

With **your** help and support as part of our HPB "family" I am sure we can continue to fulfil Gavin's dream for the remainder of this year....and the years to come!

Sun. 15th April, 7.30pm - Bernie Prior:

'What is Enlightenment?'

Bernie is an international speaker who travels the globe speaking on the true nature of consciousness to those who seek peace, freedom, love and truth.

He speaks with deep insight into the human condition, with clarity, compassion and humour.

Bernie's essential message is powerful in its simplicity: that we already are that which we seek, we just have to uncover the truth of that and live from it.

Thursday 24th May, 7.30pm

Dr Robert Anderson

"Silent Spring Revisited ~ "Surviving a Toxic World"



Research from Washington State University has now demonstrated that *chemicals can confer toxicity 4 generations after exposure*, by forcing permanent, heritable changes in gene expression that change the body's ability to excrete toxic chemicals.

Come and listen to some intelligent and practical solutions to surviving the toxins derived from animal foods, fats and additives (the E-codes) used in modern foods

Tuesday 8th May, 7.30pm

White Lotus Day

[Mark this date on your calendar NOW!!!!](#)

- ❖ A special evening on the Theosophical yearly calendar, marking the anniversary of the death of HPB.
- ❖ An evening following the format requested by HPB herself – with traditional readings from the Idyll of the White Lotus and the Bagavadghita; a talk associated with this day formerly given by a USA member; meditation; general discussion on matters theosophical over a cup of tea and delicious supper, and a SURPRISE component adding a new dimension to this traditional Theosophical Day!



We guarantee you will enjoy yourself in a friendly, inclusive evening of beautiful slides and an exchange of ideas - both new and old.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, 8th May, at 7.30pm, in our beautiful HPB Hall.

Gordon Samuel Shepherd

Passed into Higher Service on 22nd March.

Gordon was a member of HPB for many years, and Treasurer of the Lodge for a number of these years, spanning the move from Queen St to Epsom.

He worked as an accountant for the RSPCA in Auckland for a long time before retiring to take up the voluntary job with our Lodge.

FROM THE BOOKSHOP:

***THE AQUARIAN GOSPEL OF JESUS THE CHRIST* by Levi**

This is a far-reaching work that brings to light the intimate details of Christ's life upon which the New Testament gospels are silent, written from the original "Akashic Records" by a student who devoted forty years to preparing for the task. This unique book is practically a complete record of the words and works of the Man of Galilee, including his eighteen years of study and travel in the Orient. It covers his life from birth in Bethlehem to his ascension from the Mount of Olives. Of special interest and value are the full and intimate details concerning his life during the eighteen years spent in travel among the snow-bound monasteries of Tibet, the stately structures of Egypt, the mysterious temples of India, Persia and Greece, a period when he walked and talked with monks, wise men and seers throughout the Orient.



This fascinating and valuable book is available in paperback for \$28.70 or in hardcover for \$42. It can be ordered by writing to 4 Warborough Avenue, Epsom, Auckland, e-mailing to hpb@theosophy.org.nz or by telephoning [09]524-7994. The cost of postage anywhere in New Zealand is \$3.50

STUDY CLASSES

Module 2 23rd April to 21st May Life after Death, Reincarnation and Karma

This module covers life after death, reincarnation, the return to incarnation and karma. We discuss the concept of reincarnation and why this concept has been accepted by many people as true. Does our consciousness continue to exist? We also look at the concept of karma, as impartial universal law going hand-in-hand with reincarnation. Does it explain the apparent injustices we see in the world? The Theosophical viewpoint on these topics is presented. This module also covers the after-death state and its various stages and time frames. The return to physical existence (incarnation) is also included in this module and other agents involved discussed.

Module 3 28th May to 25th June The Purpose of Man, the Spiritual Life, the Path and the Masters This module takes a look at the spiritual journey of man. Do we have a purpose in life and what is it? What are the different stages on the human journey? What is it about the spiritual life that attracts people and what does the spiritual life demand of us in terms of behaviour etc? What is the spiritual Path, how do you find it and what are its various stages? Who are the Masters, what are their functions and what evidence is there for their existence? The TS viewpoint on these topics will be explored.

Module 4 16th July to 13th August The Devas

Who are the Devas (Angels), what types are there and what is their purpose? We look at areas in which Devas are operating, which we usually do not appreciate, such as in healing, in music and in nature. The work of Geoffrey Hodson and his communication with the Devas will be discussed and we also look at the relationship between Man and the Devas.

Change of address?

Have you changed your address?
Have you let us know?



Please notify us via email to:
hpbsubs@theosophy.org.nz or post to
the address at the top of this Newsletter.

Email Newsletters

Would you prefer to receive your Newsletter via email? We are updating our database over the next month or so, **so NOW is a good time to let us know!** hpbsec@theosophy.org.nz

* * *

Revised Constitution: a copy is available in the Library for members interested in reading this.

Gavin Frederick Laurie

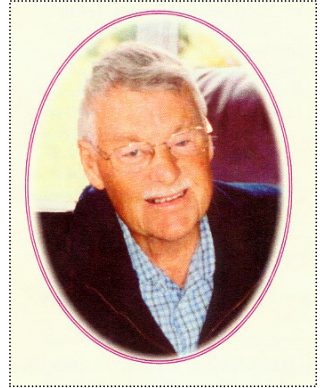
2ND AUGUST 1934 ~ 13TH MARCH 2007

OBITUARY ~

Gavin was a man of many parts – loving father, husband, grandfather, co-freemason, church deacon, national lecturer, gardener, musician, thespian, golfer.... and throughout all, a lifelong student of the Ancient Wisdom.

He was a staunch member and principal personality in the Theosophical Society and its kindred movements, including the Esoteric section of the Theosophical Society, International Co-Freemasonry, and the Liberal Catholic Church of St Alban (Wellington).

He started out as a Young Theosophist in Wellington, and wrote many articles for the national magazine, Theosophy in New Zealand, of which he was to become the editor many years later. He was president of Wellington Branch for many years, and throughout his life very active at a National Level, at one stage becoming National Speaker for the Society. Every year, he was happy to travel around New Zealand speaking to branches whenever he was able. From 1996 to 1999 he served in the role of National President of the New Zealand Section – a role which saw Gavin and Sharn move to Auckland.



Gavin was an invaluable part of our Auckland Lodge - a tireless worker, serving the Masters and the Society with a constant dedication! Whatever was requested of Gavin he was only too happy to help, always willing to put the work required before personal needsand in his final months, irrespective of personal health.

Gavin also travelled extensively for the Theosophical Society, spending time at our International Headquarters in Chennai, India, the School of Theosophy at Krotona, Ojai, and at many international gatherings where he was well respected, contributing in his own unique way to the proceedings that were taking place.

On the personality level, he will be fondly remembered (especially by the Baby Boomer generation!) for his delightful sense of humour, and the enjoyable sessions at long-past Conventions when Gavin enthused over aspects of the Ancient Wisdom, leading the young on fascinating voyages of self discovery. Memories of this period include his loving patience, and good listening skills; his cheerfulness, friendliness, warmth, helpfulness, brotherliness, and above all, his joie de vivre. Gavin seemed to have the ability to stay eternally young, never talking down to the younger generation, but instead, catching them up in his enthusiasm for the inner quest.

Gavin's driving force in life is perhaps best encapsulated by the following quote:

"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)

Despite a number of trials and tribulations during this incarnation, Gavin rarely forgot his "errand." Throughout some major setbacks in the physical life, he always retained a stoic approach to problems, demonstrating a strong unswerving belief in the principals of his living theosophy, and a strength of character that was truly praiseworthy.

In his latter years, Gavin's undiminished enthusiasm for the Ancient Wisdom, took the form of the Lamplighters' Group – a whimsical name for the group led by Gavin for in-depth studies of theosophical topics....this in addition to ongoing studies, lecturing, running Study Class programmes and contributions via committee work.

Knowing that his time in this physical world was running out, Gavin still accepted the challenge and embraced his last role as President of the HPB Lodge with an infectious enthusiasm, catching others up in his vision and goals for the Society, and creating a band of Committee members willing to join him in his final venture on behalf of his beloved Theosophy.



Intimations of

Immortality

Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting;

The Soul that rises with us, our life's Star,
Hath had elsewhere its setting,
And cometh from afar;
Not in entire forgetfulness
And not in utter nakedness,
But trailing clouds of glory do we come
From God, who is our home.

As fellow travellers on the Path, let us all embrace his vision of the great goal and possibilities of human transformation and renewal, with an equal enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge; with a harmony, brotherly love and willingness to serve, worthy of his life's work and memory.

Let us remember our own 'errand' with an enthusiasm to match Gavin's, and ensure our lives are filled with the on-going study, sharing and living of the Ancient Wisdom.

Excerpts from 'Memories of Gavin' by Jocelyn Garvin:

Wellington Lodge was Gavin's Theosophical home when I joined the Society around about 1980. And what a vibrant, interesting and exciting place it was too. I was made to feel so welcome that the lodge quickly became like another home inhabited by a very diverse group of people whose commonality was the study and dissemination of Theosophy. In this warm and welcoming environment my friendship with Gavin, and later on, Sharn, began.

Most of you will remember Gavin as a "deep student of Theosophy", lecturer, administrator, and generally one of the totally committed people whom the Society is lucky enough to have in its ranks.....

...Today it is my pleasure to share with you the Gavin I met and grew to love in those early Wellington days. My most dramatic memory perhaps, is Gavin's part in the wonderful Pageant, written and produced, (I think) by Eileen Styler, for Wellington Lodge's Centenary celebrations. This mammoth production included most of the active members in the cast, and was written to incorporate among other things, the perceived skills and strengths of the membership.

Tracing the supposed historical progress of Wellington Lodge, there was a scene where we witnessed two pre-historic men, played by Gavin and Wally Hopkinson (for those of you who didn't know him, he was also an L.C.C. priest) clad only in skimpy loin-cloth type garments, horrible grimaces on their faces, leaping about the stage uttering guttural grunts and brandishing clubs.

They brought the house down!

I think they both participated later on in slightly more advanced and civilized roles, but that part of the production will always bring a smile to my face. I'm sure it is remembered with great amusement by all who witnessed it.

Gavin, as you can so clearly see, was a good sport and a great lover of fun and jokes. Gavin-ish guffaws were a normal part of lodge goings on and helped to keep the atmosphere light and sunny...

...My perception of Gavin is a man of great passion, focus, determination and courage, in combination with sensitivity, tenderness, love, compassion, enthusiasm, humility and a great love for, and commitment to, Theosophy and its ultimate goal of hastening the evolution of life for all mankind...

... Moving right along from feeling very sorry for us all, can you imagine the wonderful reunion (which will no doubt be taking place) of departed Wellington Lodge members??

I have a lovely vision of Gavin being surrounded by Frank and Muriel Harding, Wally Hopkinson, Vladimir Loncar, Isobel Ashforth and heaps of others, welcoming him and all talking excitedly, as well as comforting him on his physical separation from his loved ones.