



Hamilton Lodge of the Theosophical Society

Dear members and friends

September 2004

August was a great month; we had some absolutely fantastic speakers, and really inspiring topics. We began with part three of our Joseph Campbell series (fortnightly), which has been very popular. This was followed by June, from Tauranga lodge, sharing her knowledge of angels. Our fourth Joseph Campbell video of Sacrifice & Bliss brought forth some worthy and lively discussion. Fiona's overview of Buddhism had us all on the edge of our seats wanting more – so much in an hour, so little time to explore. And we still have Dragons to hear about, as this newsletter is being written.

September 2004

5th: Study group:
Love and the Goddess
by *Joseph Campbell*
(video and discussion)

12th: **Zoroastrianism**
Charles Sitwell

19th: Study group:
Masks of Eternity
by *Joseph Campbell*
(video and discussion)

26th: **Strange Theories**
Members' meeting, shared
vegetarian meal at 6.00pm

All meetings are at 7.30pm,
73 Anglesea Street
Visitors – gold coin donation
All welcome

5th – **Study group: Love and the Goddess**, *Joseph Campbell video and discussion.*

Love and the Goddess looks at the mythology of love, from ancient India's erotic mysticism to the 12th century troubadours, William Blake and Thomas Mann. It also explores the image of woman as goddess, virgin and Mother Earth.

12th – **Zoroastrianism**, with
Charles Sitwell

An introduction to the history of one of the first great monotheistic religions, with some suggestions of its influence of those which followed.

This is one of Charles' topics as National Speaker, and a very popular one countrywide.

19th – **Study group: Masks of Eternity**, *Joseph Campbell video and discussion.*

The Masks of Eternity looks at the images and myths of God. It presents challenging insights into the concepts of religion and eternity as revealed in Christian teachings and the beliefs of Buddhists, Navajo Indians, Schopenhauer, Jung and others.

26th – **Strange Theories:**
Members meeting

This was one of our most popular topics last year as we all crammed into the library to hear about strange theories, rewrite history, and debate tales of the unknown.

This topic is in line with the Third Object of the Theosophical Society - *"To investigate the unexplained laws of nature and*

powers latent in humanity". We'll have an informal discussion about unproven theories that may have, due to their popularity, become "fact", or those that may be widely replicated, but due to their lack of "evidence", remain unproven theory. So come along with a "strange theory" you'd like to discuss, and we'll do some exploring. I've provided you with some web links in this newsletter, to get you thinking.

This is a Members' meeting so join us for a shared vegetarian meal before the meeting, at 6pm. If you're new to our Members' evenings, our shared meals are an informal and relaxed opportunity to get to know other members.

Bring something suitable either for a main or dessert.

Welcome to our newest members Jim Valley (rejoined), and Loretta Pennington. We hope your spiritual journeying will be enhanced by the sharing and learning among fellow members.

The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honours the servant and has forgotten the gift.
--Einstein

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Taking pot luck

Here's some suggestions of what to bring to our pot luck meals, if you don't cook, are on a tight budget, or are short on time.

Garlic bread ~ herb bread ~ rice crackers, vegetables ~ delicious flavoured dips ~ hummus ~ sliced fruit ~ specialty breads ~ fruit salad ~ muffins ~ fruit juice ~ toothpick nibbles: cheese, pineapple, olives, tomato, etc. We have an oven at the lodge, if you need to heat anything.

Light on the Web ...

Here's some web links that might get you thinking in line with our Member's "strange theories" night. "The truth is out there", but remember we do need to learn to discriminate!

Banned Books Online. - <http://www-2.cs.cmu.edu/People/spok/banned-books.html>

Exploring consciousness - http://www.well.com/user/elliotts/smse_myst.html
and Institute of Noetic Sciences - <http://www.noetic.org/ions/new.html>

A smorgasbord of alternative thinking and conspiracy sites. You decide!
<http://www.nexusmagazine.com/Othersites.html>

Darwinism, a crumbling theory - <http://www.nexusmagazine.com/Darwinism.1.html>

<http://www.nexusmagazine.com/> - Scroll down for the good stuff!

Snippets ...

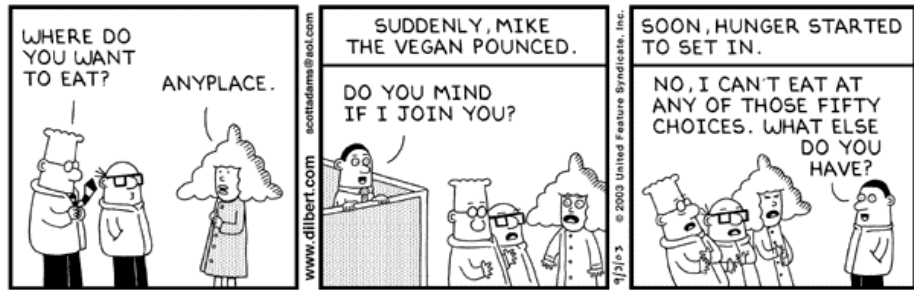
Collective Wisdoms

There's a book on the table by the door at the lodge, called *Collective Wisdoms*. If you have a favourite quote, saying, snippet or wisdom, please add it to our collection.

This is a group effort of members and friends of our lodge ...it will be fun in years to come, to read all of our collective wisdoms. Perhaps we can share new additions each members' night.

This success of this, as with any other undertaking at the lodge, depends on our collective enthusiasm.

Don't forget to add your own.



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Fifty good reasons for joining us on Members' night for a shared meal...

Cosmic Law, Love & Alignment

The Cosmic Law of Economy dictates that in any situation we take the line of least resistance, and this is the line we seek to follow in the physical form. In our world the line of least resistance is **Love**.

On the Path of Involution (spirit coming into matter) we are seeking the line of least resistance. On the Evolutionary path (matter returning to spirit) we seek to follow the cosmic Law of Attraction, where we are drawn back to the Source.

The Law of Economy has a subsidiary law, the Law of Repulsion. "The cosmic Laws of Attraction and Economy are therefore the *raison d'être* [our reason for existence] ... that goes on as Spirit seeks ever to liberate itself from form."¹

In short, the cosmic Law of Attraction draws us to a Higher purpose, but the Law of Repulsion acts to hold us in physical consciousness by separating spirit and matter. It also acts to repulse connection with group consciousness and spirit.

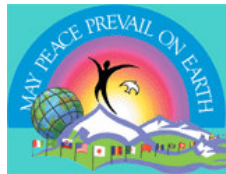
When we align, initially through meditation, we begin to overcome the struggle through attraction of the Higher Self, and eventually to align to the Higher purpose. When we are aligned with a Higher purpose we move in the One direction, with group focus, intent, and purpose. We are eventually liberated from the struggle of form, as the Indweller moves from consciousness of the self to a more directed and Higher principle.

Is change causing conflict in your life? Are you aligned according to the Law of Attraction, or the Law of Repulsion? Remember, the Law of Economy (governing the cosmic Law of Attraction) dictates that we let go of resistance, and take the path of Love. Let go of those things that are causing resistance, move on, and embrace the lesson with love.

¹ Reference: *Cosmic Fire*, AAB, pp143-145

Coming Up ...

Here's a rundown of things to keep in mind over the next couple of months.



September

21st - International Day of Peace, as declared by the United Nations in 2001.

"To encourage the observation of a worldwide, grassroots 24-hour vigil for peace and nonviolence on the International Day of Peace, ..."

So ... let's each make a special effort to live in the consciousness of peace this day.

October 2004

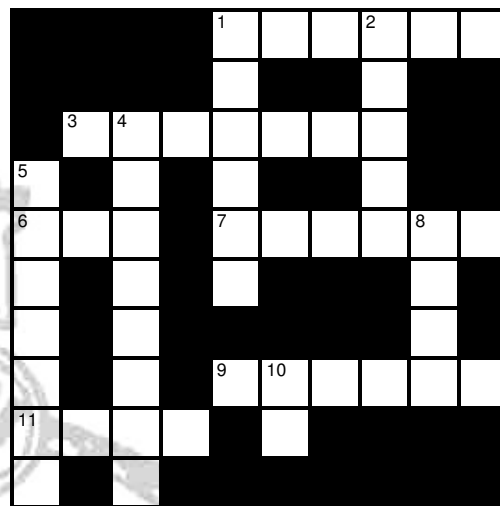
3rd - Leo Swart, our newest member, has offered to share with us his knowledge on the **First Moment in Time**. Not to be missed, I'm sure!

31st - John Vorstemans, our National President will be gracing us with his presence to take us on a journey of **Universal Consciousness**. Sounds great, doesn't it!

November 2004

7th - Annual General Meeting. Keep this date free, folks! Come and hear how things have been moving along, and join us in discussion on what you'd like to see over the coming year. The committee for the year ahead will be elected on the night, and all members are welcome.

Your support and input, as always, are appreciated. More on this in the next newsletter.



Across

- 1 From another dimension, our personal helpers (6)
- 3 Wheel of [] (7)
- 6 "I", the consciousness in man of the "I am I" (3)
- 7 Body, ethereal counterpart or double of any physical body (6)
- 9 Astrological mandala, of symbols, the Twelve Creative Hierarchies, through which the Seven Planetary Logoi work (6)
- 11 Blavatsky's first work, [] Unveiled (4)

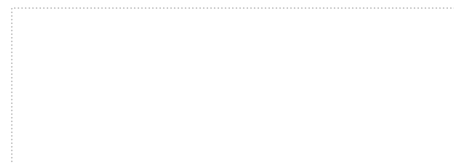
Down

- 1 The third kingdom; close to the human state (6)
- 2 Four most subtle substances of physical matter (5)
- 4 Hidden, secret (8)
- 5 Third race continent, now submerged (7)
- 8 Subtle invisible essence or fluid that emanates from human, animal, and other bodies (4)
- 10 Supreme mantra, representing creative sound which sustains the universe (2)

Enjoy your month.

Sonia, Charles, Brian, Diane, Fiona & Tony, Patsy

Sender: 73 Anglesea Street
Hamilton



National Theosophical Convention 2005

5-13th January, at Waikato University

Each year theosophists and friends from around New Zealand gather to learn, share, and connect with one another. In January 2005, Hamilton lodge is honoured to be hosting this event. The theme for the convention will be:

“Ancient Wisdom in a Modern World”

The theme for the convention will be focusing on how we can make the Ancient Wisdom practical in our daily lives. Theosophy has to be made practical to be of any use.

This is an opportunity for us to hear some highly regarded and knowledgeable speakers, from across the country, and overseas.

Betty Bland (pictured left), National will be the special guest at this Society, and has presented the United States and abroad. She Theosophical Order of Service and member of the Society since 1970, regional activities. She is interested to everyday life situations.



President of the Theosophical Society in America, convention. She is a national lecturer for the workshops and lectures on the spiritual life both in also serves on the Boards of Directors of the Theosophical Book Gift Institute. She has been a and has served in many capacities for local and in the practical application of theosophical principles

Preparation

A lot of preparation goes into National Convention, and most of this happens at Headquarters. However the host lodge does need to add it's own personal touch.

Entertainment: The last evening of convention, when guests have thought, talked, philosophized, shared, and bonded to exhaustion, is an entertainment night. Traditionally the host lodge provides the entertainment. So folks, if you belong to a group (I know we have a brass band out there (big hint)), are musical, sing, dance, do poetry, perform, or just entertain in one way or another, let me know, so that we can start preparing.

Personality: We need to add those personal touches to the Convention centre ... flowers, simple decorations, colour, music, gifts for special guests.

Hosting: We need to greet people, answer questions, give directions, be available to assist with any matters that might need sorting, help with morning & afternoon teas.

Any other ideas that you think would be great to make sure our guests have a memorable time.

Have fun!

Let me know if you will be around at this time, and can help in any way. December will be a busy month this year, in more ways than the usual.



Sonia

Crossword solutions

Across: 1 Angels, 3 Rebirth, 6 Ego, 7 Astral, 9 Zodiac, 11 Isis.

Down: 1 Animal, 2 Ether, 4 Esoteric, 5 Lemuria, 8 Aura, 10 Om.