

Theosophy in Wanganui

The Newsletter of the Wanganui Branch of
The Theosophical Society in New Zealand

Room 32, Second Floor, Community House, Ridgeway St,
Wanganui, New Zealand

June 2011

Hi Members and Friends.

Your committee has decided to reinstate a regular newsletter to members and friends. We want to keep in contact with everyone. As many members do not have access to e-mails they miss out on communications sent by that means so we have decided to reintroduce a hard copy newsletter.

A newsletter also provides a useful reminder to keep in a handy place to remind you about upcoming meetings, speakers, discussion groups and courses.

We welcome member contributions – little 'gems', poems perhaps, mini articles, even perhaps a photo – all at the discretion of the editor and committee of course. WK

New National President to Visit

New TSNZ National President Sandy Ravelli will be with us on **Sunday 25th September**. Sandy will present a talk on **The Seven Rays**. This is your opportunity to meet and hear Sandy and share 'a cuppa' with her.

Please note this date.

Branch contacts:

President: Vicky Weston
Ph 343 3202
V/President/Treasurer: Jim Sharpe
Ph 343 2449
Secretary: Warwick Keys
Ph 345 0305

Upcoming Meetings

- Sunday 12th June:** Warwick Keys
"Will The Real Jesus Please Stand Up?"
- Sunday 26th June:** Robert Watts
Colour Healing.
- Friday 1st July:** Open Day at Community House
- Sunday 10th July:** (No meeting)
- Sunday 17th July:** Murray Stentiford, National Education Coordinator
"The Conscious Heart"
- Sunday 14th August:** (To be advised)
- Sunday 28th August:** Gen Kelsang Demo, of Amitabha Kadampa Buddhist Centre.
- Sunday 11th September:**
Possible Interfaith panel discussion.
- Sunday 25th September:**
National President Sandy Ravelli
"The Seven Rays."

Community House Open Day

Friday 1st July is an opportunity for members who have not yet been to our new rooms to come and have a look, have a cup of tea and also see what else goes on in Community House. All the organisations who are housed in the building will be open for people to visit and talk to. TS members will be on hand to welcome folk, answer questions and give out literature. We would love to see you.

The Sylvia Gifford Fund

The Sylvia Gifford Community Fund has been 'ring-fenced' from the normal branch funds. The fund consists of the proceeds from the sale of Gifford House - our former premises in Dublin St, which had originally been financed from the sale of Miss Gifford's home which she generously gifted to the Society many years ago.

Your committee has resolved that the interest from the invested money will be used to assist charitable community groups in the Wanganui district. Many organisations are struggling to survive in the present economic climate and TS Wanganui through the Sylvia Gifford Community Fund is in a position to help. This is an act of Service which we are now able to afford to undertake.

We have made two donations already - to Riding for the Disabled and to SPELT. Other donations will follow. Three of our fellow organisations in Community House are really struggling financially and are being forced to cut back their valuable services to the community. We can support them.

We are sure that all branch members will endorse the use of the interest gained from the Gifford account for such purposes.

Jesus – Fact or Fiction?

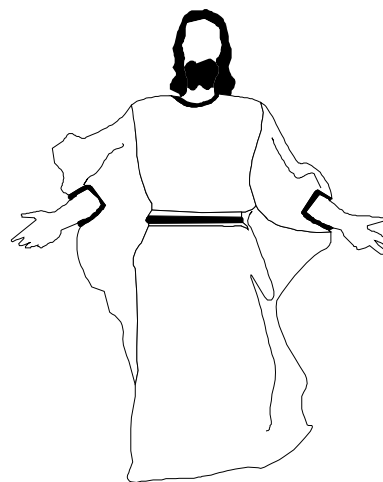
"Will The Real Jesus Please Stand Up" is the subject of a public presentation on Sunday 12 June. The subject will be explored by Warwick Keys.

"Did Jesus really exist? The historical evidence about him outside of The Gospels is almost nonexistent," says Warwick. "But this does not necessarily mean that there was not a historical Jesus. There is evidence suggesting

a historical Jesus did exist but not in the time period normally accepted.

"Another theory suggests that the Jesus figure could have been based on a combination of two historical figures merged together over time to produce the Jesus we know.

"Or is the Jesus story simply the continuation in a new form of the age old Man/god story, the progress of individual spiritual progress, told and revered in many different cultures and civilisations over thousands of years.



"In the end it does not matter what story you think is true; what matters is the revolutionary teachings, particularly on Unconditional Love, embraced in the Jesus story and the acceptance of those teachings. The debate about Jesus continues fuelled by The Da Vinci Code and other publications."

The presentation will be at Community House, Rutland St at 2pm.

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Colour Therapy - energy balancing

On Sunday 26th June at 2pm Wanganui colour therapist Robert Watt will give a talk on the principles of colour therapy and energy balancing.

Robert says "The increase in numbers of people seeking the many forms of complimentary treatments is growing as our awareness grows and we begin to take responsibility for the care of our 'Self'."

Robert has some firm views on what may cause all forms of illness in the physical-emotional and spiritual bodies of which we are made up.

"By understanding these causes, treatment can be given in a safe harmless way using frequencies such as colour and sonic vibrations. Wanganui has been lucky in that it has become a home for many colour therapists over the past 80 years."

Robert will demonstrate his method of treatment and says he will welcome any questions.

The Conscious Heart

What is "the Conscious Heart?" Murray Stentiford, National Education Coordinator of the Theosophical Society, will discuss the subject at our public meeting on Sunday 17th July at Community house at 2pm.

"Poetry and tradition abound with expressive sayings about the role of the heart. Mystics and seers have described the chakras or energy vortices associated with the heart and other organs," says Murray.

"In the world of science, the discovery of a functional heart brain has sparked a veritable explosion of research in neurocardiology and the neuroscience of emotions.

"My talk will touch on the activity of the neurons in the heart and their two-way relationship with the brain, and will explore the role of the heart in human consciousness.

"I will also demonstrate the HeartMath Institute's heart rate and emotion-monitoring device called a 'Freeze Framer.'"

Murray's talk will conclude with a contemplation of the Mystic Heart; the heart at one with All.

Murray Stentiford has led a life of many roles. A former scientist and engineer, he now works as a life coach and energy therapist. He is also an accomplished musician and speaker and is national education coordinator of the Theosophical Society.

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What is Theosophy?

What is Theosophy? Why use this pretentious name, we are asked at the outset. When we answer that Theosophy is Divine Wisdom, or

the Wisdom of the Gods (*Theo-Sophia*), rather than that of a God, a still more extraordinary objection is raised: "Then, are you not Buddhists? Yet we know that the Buddhists believe neither in a, nor several Gods. . . ."



H.P. Blavatsky

Nothing could be more correct. But, in the first place, we are no more Buddhists than we are Christians, Mussulmans, Jews, Zoroastrians or Brahmins. Furthermore, concerning the question of Gods: we hold to the esoteric method of the *Hyponia* taught by Ammonius Saccas--i.e., to the occult meaning of the term. Did not Aristotle

say: "The Divine Essence permeating nature and diffused throughout the entire Universe (which is infinite), that which the *hoi polloi* call Gods, is simply . . . the first principles"--in other words, the creative intelligent forces of Nature. From the fact that Buddhist philosophers admit and know of the nature of these forces as well as anybody, it does not follow that the Society--as a Society--is therefore Buddhist. The Society, in its capacity as an abstract corporation, believes in nothing, accepts nothing, teaches nothing. The Society *per se* cannot and must not have any religion, for it contains all religions. Cults are, after all, but external vehicles, more or less material forms and containing more or less of the essence of the One and Universal Truth. In its essential nature Theosophy is the spiritual as well as the physical science of this Truth--the very essence of deistic and philosophical research. As visible representative of the universal Truth, since it contains all religions and philosophies, and since each of them contains in its turn a portion of this Truth--the Society could not be sectarian, have preferences, or be any more partial than, say, an anthropological or geographic society. Do the latter care to what religion their explorers belong, so long as each of their members bravely carries out his duty

(From an article by H. P. BLAVATSKY
La Revue Theosophique, March 21, 1889)

