



The Theosophical Link

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An excerpt from *The Lives of Alcyone* (Volume I), 1924 edition, by Annie Besant and C.W. Leadbeater.

THREE GREAT FACTORS

From other lines of study we have realised the existence of three great factors as determining the place and time of each man's birth.

First, the force of evolution, which places each man where he can most readily acquire the qualities in which he happens to be deficient.

Second, the law of karma, which limits the action of that first force by allowing the man only so much as he has deserved.

Third, the law of attraction, which brings the man again and

again into connection with those other egos with whom he has already formed links of some kind.

It is true, as we supposed, that the length of a man's life in the heaven-world is determined by the amount of spiritual force which he has generated while on earth. It is true that the karma of his previous lives decides to a great extent the kind of existence which he will have now, and the happiness or misery which he shall experience in that existence.



The Three Objects of the Theosophical Society

1.

To form a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity, without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste or colour.

2.

To encourage the study of comparative religion, philosophy and science.

3.

To investigate unexplained laws of nature and the powers latent in the human being.

Freedom of Thought – Official Statement

As the Theosophical Society has spread far and wide over the world, and as members of all religions have become members of it without surrendering the special dogmas, teachings and beliefs of their respective faiths, it is thought desirable to emphasise the fact that there is no doctrine, no opinion, by whomsoever taught or held, that is in any way binding on any member of the Society, none which any member is not free to accept or reject. Approval of its Three Objects is the sole condition of membership. No teacher, no writer, from H.P. Blavatsky downwards, has any authority to impose his or her teachings or opinions on members. Every member has an equal right to be attached to any school of thought which they may choose, but have no right to force that choice on any other. Neither a candidate for any office nor any voter can be rendered ineligible to stand or to vote, because of any opinion held or because of membership in any school of thought to which they may belong. Opinions or beliefs neither bestow privileges nor inflict penalties. The Members of the General Council earnestly request every member of the Theosophical Society to maintain, defend and act upon these fundamental principles of the Society, and also fearlessly exercise their own right of liberty of thought and of expression thereof, within the limits of courtesy and consideration of others.

Bookshop and Library hours

Tuesday

1:00 pm to 7:25 pm

Wednesday to Friday

12:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Saturday

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Sunday to Monday (and public holidays)

Closed



Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Theosophical Society unless specifically marked as official.

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Open policy

The Minutes of all Executive Committee (EC) meetings are always available to members on request at the office. Rule Books are also available at the office for members.

Submissions

The closing date for all items for inclusion in the next edition of the Theosophical Link is: **10 April 2013**.

Email your submissions to tsperth@iinet.net.au, or leave your typed articles in the Editor's drawer in the office. **Emailed submissions preferred.**

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Mount Helena Retreat Centre

1540 Bunning Road
MOUNT HELENA WA 6082

Mount Helena Retreat Centre has been temporarily closed. Telephone and email enquiries should be addressed to Perth office.

Principal capital city lodges in Australia

National HQ / Sydney TS	NSW	484 Kent St, Sydney NSW 2000
Adelaide Theosophical Society	SA	310 South Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000
Brisbane Theosophical Society	QLD	355 Wickham Terrace, Brisbane QLD 4000
Canberra Theosophical Society	ACT	Condamine and Bent St, O'connor ACT 2601
Hobart Theosophical Society	TAS	13 Goulburn St, Hobart TAS 7000
Melbourne Theosophical Society	VIC	126 Russell St, Melbourne VIC 3000

Visit our website for the contact details of these Branches.

President's Report

Repair of storm damage - Mount Helena

Most quotes for the repair work have been received from contractors and we are currently in contact with our insurers to get things moving, so that the successful contractors can be given the go ahead.

It has been difficult to find suitable contractors prepared to take on the work. Hopefully we will be able to commence the work of restoring electricity to the property soon.

We have to remain patient in the short term.

Results of Mount Helena Survey 2012

I would like to thank all those members who took the time to complete the Survey. Of a total of 135 members, 43 responded. A good response, I am sure you will agree. We have analysed the results which appear below.

Of the 43 responses, 2 had not visited Mt Helena.

18 people responded that they are willing and able to contribute to Mt Helena to make it sustainable. Perhaps this is a reflection of our aging membership.

The Executive Committee will be taking the views of the survey into consideration when making decisions regarding Mt Helena.

Following are the results.

Q. 3	When was the last time you visited Mt Helena?					
	2012	2011	2010	2009	2007	2006 or before
A.	20	4	1	3	4	8

Q. 4	When you last visited Mt Helena, did you stay overnight in the Chalet accommodation?	
A.	Yes: 28	

Q. 5	How often have you stayed overnight?	
A.	Of those who stayed overnight, most had stayed many times.	

Q. 6	What is your opinion of the accommodation and facilities provided? Do you believe the facilities at MHRC can be improved on?	
A.	Good	Can be improved / complaints:
	28	9

Q. 7	Did you have meals as part of the stay? What was your opinion of the meals provided?	
A.	Most people had meals provided and there was overwhelming satisfaction.	

Q. 8	Would you prefer self-catered events, or meals provided? Why?	
A.	There was little support for self-catering, with inconvenience being cited as a major reason.	

Q. 9	Does cost determine whether you attend?	
A.	Yes	No
	11	20

Q. 10	Does programme content determine whether you attend?	
A.	Yes	No
	32	4

Q. 11	Give suggestions on how you believe programme content can be improved.	
A.	Quality	7
	Satisfied with status quo	6
	A reference to Theosophy	4
	Relaxation / entertainment	4
	Modernisation	3
The remainder gave a variety of different responses.		

Q. 12	Did you enjoy your most recent experience at Mt Helena?	
A.	Yes	No
	29	7

Q. 13	Would you prefer to attend weekend events at MHRC or at Perth Branch?	
A.	Mt Helena	17
	Perth	9
	Either / both	11
	More older members prefer Perth.	

Q. 14	What are you prepared to contribute to Mt Helena to make it sustainable?	
A.	Able / willing to help: 18	

Q. 15	In the light of the comments in the President's letter, what do you think should happen in the future regarding the MHRC?	
A.	Keep Mt Helena	10
	Not stated but inference is to keep Mt Helena	13
	Sell Mt Helena	10
	Sub-divide and sell part	3
	Hard to ascertain what is wanted	5
	No comment	2

Further comments
Upgrade property
Hire to broader range of outside organisations / youth groups / housing and accommodation / wedding groups:
Alter nature of Manager's responsibilities
Raise a levy for more capital works
Keep and run at a loss
Keep and increase accommodation rates and cut down on menu
Provide transport for older members
Pay for good outside speakers from sale of MH
Do more marketing

Kind Regards

Harry Bayens

Mount Helena Report

As the Mount Helena Retreat Centre is not operating as a business for the next short while, there is no need for a formal report in this edition of the Link.

The 2012 survey results indicate that many members support the continuation of MHRC despite the recent adversity. This is especially heartening to those who champion the idea of having a spiritual centre in the West. The hard work of getting MHRC back on its feet will begin soon. Your help is always greatly appreciated – keep an eye out for the next busy bee!

“It is only in sorrow bad weather masters us. In joy we face the storm and defy it.”

Amelia Barr

Library / Bookshop Report

Wendy Smith calls it a *(Wednes)day*.

Wendy, after over 24 years faithful volunteer library service retired this last November.

For a long time she kept 'tabs' on any overdue books, a task now fallen to Bea who shared the Wednesday shift with her. Wendy was one never short of a succinct comment, when she felt it was needed, something that shall be missed by some of us, as also her colourful and varied attire.



Speaking of overdue books there has been a recent rise in the number of TS members who have not brought

back or renewed their books in the time given when checked out. All members are reminded that it is your responsibility to return or renew (via phone call, e-mail or personal visit) your book as it costs not only the time for staff but overdue books need to be identified, reminder cards written out, costs for postage incurred etc. If you do not take action via this reminder then another follow up reminder is made via a phone call and its costs also incurred by the branch. A final reminder letter, with costs, is then sent and if still no response is received a possible temporary suspension of library privileges may result. As you can see there is plenty of scope to renew or return your book before all of these time consuming measures and their associated costs are incurred so please take personal responsibility for returning or renewing your book on time.

Library Volunteers.

We have lately had a considerable change in volunteers. As a result we warmly welcome new volunteers Gailene, Virginia, Linda, Candessa

and Neville to our library staff. All have been duly and efficiently inducted by Skip. We hope that you all find that the time spent away from your other obligations is rewarded by this service and interaction with the books and their borrowers.

Audit of Library Books

Some members may be interested to know (if they don't already) that currently behind the scenes we are conducting an audit of our entire library stock of over 7,500 books. To the best of our knowledge a full inventory audit has never been done during the existence of the Branch. Hence, increasingly in recent years we have not accurately known what stock we actually possess due to missing books, incorrect entries, etc. This daunting task was initially



estimated to take at least a year or two as each book has to be identified; accurately verified by title, author, category and unique volume number against their original entry ledger and then our computer database; spelling corrections made; relocating misplaced books to their correct category; and more. However with the enthusiasm of the volunteer staff and implementing time saving procedures, the progress to date has exceeded all expectations with about 65% of the stock take completed as of early January. During this process many inaccuracies and anomalies were found some of which required considerable corrective measures and decision making. To date we have found many books on the database missing, as expected, but we were also surprised to find many books of an almost equal number on the shelves not entered into the database for one reason or another. Nevertheless, we feel deeply

Indebted to former member Bobbie Taylor whom in the 1990s diligently set up over about 3 years' time the current database entries we are now updating. Without her efforts our task today would be much longer and more arduous.

'The Theosophist' magazine – an offer to Members.

We currently have very many old surplus *Theosophist* magazines from India from as far back as 1912 available free to members which contain many very interesting articles. If you would like to have a look at what is available please make your interest known to library staff.

Hans Smit

Librarian

Light from the East Speeches – Part 3

The following article has been selected from just one of the talks delivered at the event titled *Light from the East Speeches*. This public forum was delivered in London at the first annual convention of the Theosophical Society in Europe on July 10th, 1891, and included talks by prominent Theosophists: H.S. Olcott (on the origin of the TS), Bertram Keightley (on reincarnation), Annie Besant (on human duty), as well as William Q. Judge's talk on karma and justice, which featured in the last edition of the Theosophical Link. The following talk is by Herbert Burrows and features his thoughts on the relationship between theosophy and science.

Herbert Burrows on Real Science

The subject on which I am to speak is about the relation of Theosophy to Science, meaning by Science our Western science, and not one but fifty meetings would be required to touch even the fringe of the subject. I shall only find it possible to place before you one or two of the leading ideas which we Theosophists have in our own minds, as to the relations of our Eastern science to the Western science of the day.

Two fundamental ideas

As I understand the two fundamental ideas of the best science of the day, and I use that word 'best' advisedly,

because science is of course changing from time to time, progressing in the cycle of evolution, they are these. First, the unity of force, and next, the permanence of force and life. Not a permanence of course of man's life apart from the body, but the permanence of life as energy in the universe, for neither matter, life, nor force, can be argued away out of the universe.

- 1. The unity of force**
- 2. The permanence of force and life**

Taking then those two leading ideas, the unity of

force and the persistence of energy, the Theosophist finds in them a clue to those problems of life and of mind which must present themselves to every thinking, intelligent person, especially to the thinking, intelligent materialistic scientist.

As Theosophists, we want to know

Those of you who know the thought of Professor Tyndall, especially the thought which he elaborates in his Belfast address and in that wonderful lecture of his on the "Scientific use of the Imagination", know that he says that in his scientific

thought he is continually brought face to face with problems which his materialism and his science cannot solve; but both he and Huxley are practically content for the time being to be satisfied with that science, and to leave the further elucidation of those problems to other thinkers, to other scientists, or to people who may come after them. Now here is where the Theosophist parts company with the Western scientist. The Theosophist is not satisfied to rest here, and so we are in this position. Two courses are open to thinkers in studying themselves and in studying the universe. They can rest satisfied with what they know, or they can say to themselves that they are dissatisfied and that they want to know more. As Theosophists we want to know.

The laws of my mind, of my own existence, lead me and always have led me to investigate. I want to know more than I know now; I want to know more about myself; I want to know more about my fellow men, and I want to know more about the laws and facts of the universe, in order that increasing knowledge may be useful for good. For many years I could get no clue to farther knowledge about myself, about other men and women, or the underlying vital forces of nature, and it was only when I came to study Theosophy that I got that clue which I believe, and

the more I study Theosophy the greater is my belief, will at last land me on the other side of the dead wall which Western science and Western materialism placed, as it seemed to me, in the way of my knowledge.

The five senses – and the sixth

Professor Huxley's famous discourse on "Protoplasm, the Physical Basis of Life", stated that if our ears were fine enough as we walked through the corn fields on a summer's evening, we could hear the ceaseless movement of the protoplasm in the stalks and ears of corn, and it would appear to us like the



sound of the rushing waves of the mighty sea. Then when I came to study optics and acoustics, I found out, what to me now is the real fact, that instead of our five senses being avenues of knowledge to the real and the vital universe, they are, in their present form, practically barriers, and that, following out Huxley's clue and Huxley's lead, if we could develop these senses, of sight, of hearing, of touch and the other senses, we could gain little by little a knowledge of the underlying universe, and of those finer, subtler forces which every materialist is bound to acknowledge as existing, although he has no actual

knowledge of the laws of their operation.

“Our five senses... are, in their present form, practically barriers.”

Now the Theosophic position with regard to that is this: We say that it is possible by good physical, mental, moral, and spiritual training to refine these five senses, and also to develop what may be termed a sixth sense, which if developed properly by this physical, mental and moral training, it being, of course, a long process, will bring us into conscious relation here on earth as we are now, as men and women, with other planes of being, peopled by other intelligences — will bring us as proved spiritual beings into connection with a proved spiritual universe. To me, that is an object which is above all things worthy of being pursued. I want to know about these other planes of existence, I want to know about these other intelligences, and I want to know all I can know about this spiritual universe.

Scientific thought

But to guard myself in my Theosophical thought, to guard against possible delusions, I try to be scientific, and my scientific thought leads me in this direction. Suppose I were to go to Huxley and say that I wanted to learn biology, and that I knew little or nothing about it. He would perhaps invite me to attend a course of his lectures on the subject.

In the first lecture which he would give he would in all probability mention certain nerves in the body, about the functions of which I knew absolutely nothing. He would tell me that I should be very foolish if I denied the existence of these nerves, if I denied their functions, simply because I had not before had an opportunity of studying them. He would tell me, and I suppose every man and woman in this audience would say the same, that I should be an exceedingly stupid man if, wanting to learn biology, I got up in the middle of his lecture and left because he was telling me things which I did not previously know.



Theosophical thought

Now, I apply that line to my Theosophical ideas and to my Theosophical endeavours. The Theosophist teacher tells me this — "I do not ask you to believe anything because I tell you". The Theosophist says, if you choose to enter upon a course of training, this physical, moral, mental and spiritual training which I mentioned, if you choose to be patient in your endeavours to learn, and willing to open your mind to every avenue of knowledge, I can place you on a path of thought and study which by-and-by, if you are true to yourself and to your own self-consciousness, true to those around you, and true to the facts of the universe as you

find them, will show you far more about the universe, about nature's laws and the laws of your own being than you know now. I want to learn; I believe it to be my duty to learn and therefore I have made up my mind to enter as a Theosophist upon this line of knowledge, the usefulness and beauty of which to me lies here.

"Thought and consciousness are separable from the body and can exist as independent entities apart from the body."

Separateness of thought and consciousness from the physical body

To me the investigations which I have carried on since I became a Theosophist, taking, as I did, my previous scientific training into that Theosophy, have led me more and more in the direction, not of assumption but of certainty; they have proved to me, and in like manner to others on this platform, by scientific experiment and demonstration, which is open to any man or woman in this hall, who chooses to enter upon the proper training, that here in life now, thought and consciousness are separable from the body, and can exist as independent entities apart from the body. It would be unphilosophical of you to accept that on my assertion, but it would be unscientific in you to deny, because that denial would be a declaration that your

knowledge is the sum of all other knowledge, and no wise persons would commit themselves to that position. To suspend your judgment till you investigate for yourself is the wiser course.

Theosophy as a great unity of moral force

But if all this be so, if you cannot argue force and life out of the universe, as even the materialist will tell you, then thought and consciousness even in their lowest aspects, being a form of force, must be permanent elements not only in human nature, but in the universe at large. And here is the foundation of our morals. They are built up on man as a spiritual being, on the universe as a spiritual universe, and on the conscious relations of the two. We shall I am confident, if not in our day, yet in the days to come, give to mankind by our Theosophy, a system of science, a system of philosophy and a system of religion which, welded together as a trinity of thought into one great unity of moral force, will build for man and woman in the future, a fit spiritual dwelling-place in the universe, a temple and a palace, whose foundation shall be self-knowledge, whose pinnacle shall be self-sacrifice, and whose twin pillars shall be, the one the sisterhood of woman, the other the brotherhood of man.



Wisdom Board

For as much as there is no bliss but eternal life,
and eternal life is the knowledge of the truth,
therefore there is no other bliss than the
knowledge of the truth...
So, if there is no misery but eternal death,
and eternal death is the ignorance of the truth,
there is consequently no misery except
ignorance of the truth.

John Scotus

If wisdom's ways you wisely seek,

Five things observe with care:

To whom you speak,

Of whom you speak,

And how, and when, and where.

Caroline Lake Ingalls

(The Original Yoga) Blessing

May the stars light your eyes to see the Self is Paradise

May the 4 winds blow through you

May the 7 seas wash around you

May the silver of the moon be on your tongue

to speak the words of Truth,

and may the gold of the sun shine from your heart

to the All of which you're part –

and may you walk forever within the Circle

of the True Yogi -

the Lover of all Mankind.

Bill Wood (1954)

A brief history of the Perth Lodge of the Theosophical Society 1897 to 1976 – Part 4

Since our inception in 1897 when we received our Charter, the Lodge (as it was called till the recent name change) has acquired a rich history both within the public domain and the Society due to the wonderful hard working efforts of some of our past members.

Continuing in this issue is the fourth installment of our historical article, a compiled and printed history of our Branch ('Lodge') undertaken by long-time members Clare and Keith Thompson during the 1970s.

The difficult years of Depression: 1930 – 1954

As we have seen, after 32 years (1897-1929) of planning and striving, the Lodge had progressed from very slender beginnings to the remarkable achievement of creating the fine building in which we still meet. But life does not stand still and as the poet and mystic Blake wrote, "Joy and woe are woven fine, a garment for the soul Divine". So, unknown to the members, close ahead lay the testing times of world depression (1929-1935) and world war (1939-1945). As the following extracts from our records show, the same dedicated spirit which had led to the creation of our own home, was also to lead us safely through to the happier times of peace.

In these early days the Lodge had its ups and downs, both financially and with its membership. There were slight financial losses in the running of the property as we were still paying mortgage interest. Innumerable committees were formed to try out many ideas and these together with various fetes, functions, and gifts from generous members, gradually reduced the debt. In the Annual Report for 1930 it was stated

that the Lodge had had a difficult year. These were the Great Depression times and although our membership stood at 131, only 66 were financial. At this time, we were paying £500 annually for mortgage interest. In 1931 finances were so low that we had only £4 in the bank with accounts of £13 passed for payment. In 1934 the mortgage of £7200 was renewed.

Life was not all serious in those difficult times. In 1932 our car park was a tennis court much used by the Young Theosophists. For some years a shadow convention was held to match the Eastern States Easter Convention which distance prevented us from attending. After several years the shadow convention was abandoned because it was difficult to get people together during the holiday period. In 1934 a social was held in the form of a mock banquet in Elizabethan times and an amount of £10 was passed to the ever hungry building fund. The members were dressed up in Elizabethan costumes and we had great fun.

During this period we had frequent visits from our leaders.

Mr. (later Bishop) C.W. Leadbeater then lived in Sydney and frequently visited Adyar. He stayed the day in Perth while his ship was in port. Other visitors were Mr. C. Jinarajadasa and Dr. Arundale (who both later became world Presidents). In 1933 Miss Clara Codd came to Perth for an extended stay. The Town Hall was booked and a special reception arranged. Invitations were sent to 100 leaders of other organizations. In 1936 Miss Mary Neff and also C. Jinarajadasa visited Perth. Anzac House was engaged for the lectures and 300 leaflets were distributed throughout the metropolitan area advertising their visit. In 1937 Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Hodson (the first Mrs. Hodson) stayed in Flat 1 for three months and gave many lectures and classes.

In 1933 a letter was sent to Adyar expressing sympathy at the passing of Dr. Besant (who died in September 1933). C.W. Leadbeater died in Perth about five months later.

He was taken from the ship at Fremantle while en route to Sydney from India and died after three days in St. Omar's Hospital in West Perth. His body was

embalmed and sent to Sydney where it was cremated. Some of the ashes are behind a special plaque in the wall of the Liberal Catholic Church in Perth.

In 1938 Mrs. Henrietta Patterson (one of the founders of the Lodge) passed away. We have already met one of our dedicated members Mrs. Bessie Rischbieth. It is interesting to recall the beautiful words on her fine tomb.

"The kiss of the sun for pardon,

The song of the birds for mirth,

You're nearer God's heart in a garden,

Than anywhere else on earth".

In January 1941 the government asked (in fact demanded) that we let the whole of the ground floor to them for use as military offices. They paid £12-10 per week plus £2 per week for depreciation and maintenance together with 50% of the rates. We had no choice under the

wartime regulations and so we shifted to the top floor of the Alliance Building (opposite Howard St. in St. Georges Terrace) opening there in February. In July the military took over the flats also. Suggestions to sell the Arundale buildings were not adopted.

In the 1942 report it was stated : "The year passed with most of the world at war and a most anxious outlook for Australia but we who have the hope given in our teachings will be expected to help those less fortunate and in need of our comfort and assistance during the year ahead". There was no interstate conference in 1942 owing to the war but at our shadow conference Mr. (later Bishop) Ewart said: "Wars do not happen, but have deep roots. Everything in life has a spiritual basis and it is only when man develops right thought, right action, and right desires that the cause of war will cease". Books were distributed to soldiers in

camps.

The military tenancy of the flats terminated in January 1943 but the Government retained the buildings for other uses and it was not until September 1954 that we returned to Arundale Buildings. As was to be expected the rooms were in rather poor condition and considerable repairs and painting throughout was necessary. A special meeting of rededication and rejoicing was held. Included in the greetings were letters from Sri Ram, Miss Emma Hunt, New Zealand, our General Secretary Mr. Davidge and other Australian Lodges. Mrs. Marion Lavender and 90 members were present. Mr. Ron Rees being President and Mr. John Sumpton secretary. We still had a mortgage of £1000 and the membership was 104.

The next and final instalment continues with "The Lodge celebrates its 75th anniversary 1955 – 1976".

Three Truths

The Soul of man is immortal, and its future is the future of a thing whose growth and splendor has no limit.

The principle which gives life dwells in us, and without us, is undying and eternally beneficent, is not heard, or seen, or smelt, but is perceived by the man who desires perception.

Each man is his own absolute law-giver, the dispenser of glory or gloom to himself; the decreer of his life, his reward, his punishment.



From: The Idyll of the White Lotus and Light on the Path (Mabel Collins)

News and Updates

Social networking

Facebook is proving to be a great way to attract new people to Theosophy. Regular broadcasts on Facebook include the program of lectures, activities and events, and other useful or interesting information about the Perth Branch. Take a look for yourself!



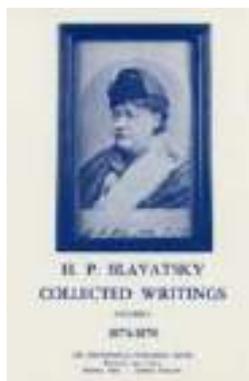
Perth Branch Christmas Party 2012



The Christmas Party held on 11 December 2012 was a great success! The Branch was packed to the brim with TS Members, along with their friends and family. How wonderful that so many attended. Congratulations to Jason and Shelley for winning the Christmas gift bags at the Bingo games. Congratulations also to Renee Jonas for winning the 'special' Christmas hamper. Raffle tickets for this hamper were sold, and money collected amounted to \$111, which was donated to the Theosophical Order of Service. The facilitators of the 2012 Christmas Party would like to thank everyone for all the wonderful food and drinks, and for coming along and helping to end the year on a high note.

Activities and Events

The Collected Writings of H.P. Blavatsky – *Isis Unveiled*



"This work I dedicate to all true Theosophists, in every country, and of every race, for they called it forth, and for them it was recorded. " – HPB.

This group meets on Fridays (see dates below) from 2 – 4 pm in the TS reading room.

February: 1st, 15th

March: 1st, 15th, 29th

April: 12th, 26th

Hatha Yoga Classes



Hatha Yoga classes for the not so young and not so flexible

Held from **10am to 12pm on Fridays.**

In this class we work on increasing body awareness, discovering and lengthening tight muscles, learning breathing techniques, relaxation and some of the simpler yoga postures. The last half-hour is for practicing meditation for those who wish to participate. No experience necessary and all are welcome.

THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE - PRESENTATION NIGHT

TUESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2013



At 6.30pm a light supper will be available for the cost of \$5. At 7.30pm Julie Hodgins, from Free the Bears, will be presenting a DVD which will show the work this organisation undertakes in its quest to release captive bears. The inhumane practices and ill treatment of these lovely creatures has to be seen to be believed.

The TOS Committee has already made a donation of \$100 to Free the Bears for the purchase of a leather hammock so that one of the rescued bears may enjoy the rest of their life in comfort. After all, don't they deserve that?

As usual, we will have a raffle basket for you to win. Our books will be on sale, together with Elizabeth's lovely cards & Gaelene's garden goodies will be available for a donation.

Theosophy-Science Discussion Group (Perth)



The Theosophy-Science Discussion Group meets to discuss topics of current scientific interest, in the light of Theosophy. Members of the Group are not required to have a scientific background, merely an interest in how science is shaping our lives. It is expected that each member of the group will take turns in presenting on scientific topics.

Starting from February, meetings will be held on the first Saturday of each month at 2pm in the main hall. Please contact the facilitator, Hana O'Rourke, via the Branch's contact details, for more info.

**Introduction to Theosophy Course
Basics of the Ancient Wisdom Philosophy**

Members and non-members are invited to participate in this seven week Powerpoint introductory course on some of the fundamental ideas which are considered to be the "foundation stones" upon which the "Ancient Wisdom Tradition" is built. There will be a DVD shown each week in the second half of the session to help illustrate the ideas presented in the first part of the session. This course will begin Sat. March 9th from 10 am to 12:30 pm. The course is open to all and is free of charge. Participants may attend any or all sessions on offer and may join in the course at any time which will cover the following basic ideas of the occult wisdom tradition and philosophy:

Week 1	March 9	The different states of matter	Week 4	April 6	Life after death
Week 2	March 16	Reincarnation	Week 5	April 13	Progressive development and cycles
Week 3	March 23	Karma or Justice	Week 6	April 20	The spiritual path and the occult hierarchy
-	March 30	Easter Sunday – No classes	Week 7	April 27	One life in all things

For further information please contact The Theosophical Society in Perth, 21 Glendower St Perth 6000 Phone 9328 8104 or the facilitator Skip Pry on 9228 8753.

Easter Weekend Seminar

Ancient Wisdom for Modern Times

Featuring Richard Larkin, National Lecturer for the
Theosophical Society in Australia

Date: Saturday 30 – Sunday 31 March 2013

Venue: 21 Glendower Street, Perth

Cost: No charge for the Seminar. There is a \$10 charge for lunch if you would like a meal provided, otherwise BYO lunch. All welcome.

Registration required for meals – Please fill in a registration form for catering purposes.



Saturday 30 March

10:00 – 11:00 am	The Noble Path of the Buddha – Richard Larkin A look at the Four Noble Truths and the Eight Fold Path of the Buddha.
11:00 – 11:30 am	Morning Tea
11:30 – 12:30 pm	Taoist Energy Systems – Jason Braunstein Taoism is an extremely broad spiritual philosophy that touches virtually every aspect of life. Its lofty principles are complemented by mundane concerns, some of which may even raise doubts about their spiritual connection. This talk will touch on some of the energy systems upon which much of this philosophy is based, starting with the sublime.
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 – 3:00 pm	The Garden of Light – Richard Larkin An historical examination of the rise and fall of the world wide Gnostic religion of Manichaeism, including a discussion of Gnostic mythology and its place in Gnosticism.
3:00 – 3:30 pm	Afternoon Tea / Close

Sunday 31 March

10:00 – 11:00 am	My Words are Easy to Understand – The Philosophy of Lao Tzu – Richard Larkin An examination of the Tao Te Ching and some of its main philosophical tenets. This book is both a seminal text of Taoism and a major work of the world's spiritual literature.
11:00 – 11:30 am	Morning Tea
11:30 – 12:30 pm	Our Mystery Journey – The Ancient Wisdom of Christianity – George Wester Does life have a deeper purpose? In this powerpoint presentation we will explore the nature of our mystery journey and the deep significance of the Easter season to us, as viewed from within the ancient Christian tradition.
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Shinto – The Japanese Sense of Spirit Aesthetics – Richard Larkin The Japanese artistic spirit and sense of the sacred grows out of the ancient spiritual tradition of Shinto. Here we look at its shamanic origins and contemporary place in Japanese culture.
3:00 – 3:30 pm	Afternoon Tea / Close

Program of Lectures

Definition of meeting types and relevant guidelines

- **Public meetings** – All members and public are welcome to attend.
- **General meetings** – For members, with interested persons of the public welcome to attend up to 4 meetings, with the objective to explore and confirm an interest in becoming a member of the TS.
- **Members only meetings** – Generally for TS members only. However, members attending may invite a guest to whom the presentation would be of interest and benefit, is known to have a basic understanding of theosophy, and is in harmony with the membership requirements and the general principles of the TS. It is recommended that the member contacts the President (or the meeting convenor) prior to the meeting so that any issues may be addressed beforehand and that the guest may be received appropriately on the night.
- **Strictly members only** – are strictly for current members only. Non-members will not be admitted to the meeting.

All sessions, unless otherwise stated, run from 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

The opinions expressed in the lectures are those of the speakers and not necessarily those of the TS in Perth.

	<p>Classical Musical Meditation every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month A classical music meditation will be held in the meditation room commencing at 6:15 pm for about thirty minutes. All welcome.</p>
FEBRUARY	
<p>Tues 5 Feb Members only</p>	<p>Light on the Path – An ongoing study group – George Wester This book is one of a trilogy, considered to be the mystical gems of theosophical literature. This series of powerpoint workshops will explore the deep significance and far reaching implications of the perennial teachings embodied in this classic text, whose subject matter is the path of inner transformation and spiritual realization.</p>
<p>Tues 12 Feb General meeting</p>	<p>Free the Bears – A TOS fund raising night – Julie Hodgins from <i>Free the Bears</i> campaign For the TOS meal please arrive at 6:30pm to partake of our delicious snacks and light supper for only \$5 and to check out the raffle basket and other items for sale for fund raising purposes. Followed by a DVD which will show the work this organization undertakes in its quest to release captive bears. The inhumane practices and ill treatment of these lovely creatures has to be seen to be believed.</p>
<p>Tues 19 Feb General meeting</p>	<p>Psychic Kids – Sue Bishop While some say that psychic ability is a gift few people have, the truth is that all children are psychic, even though it might not be apparent. How do you know if your child has the gift and what do you do when you find out? Sue is the founder of the Chiara Metaphysical College and author of the book “Psychic Kids”.</p>
<p>Tues 26 Feb General meeting</p>	<p>Journey to Self-Realisation – Jannette Barrett from the Self-Realisation Fellowship “Your life will reflect spiritual consciousness if you meditate. If you enter the inner temple of silence and worship before the altar of God with prayer and invocation of His presence, he comes quickly” - from Paramahansa Yogananda</p>

MARCH	
Tues 5 Mar Members only	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Light on the Path – An ongoing study group</i> – George Wester</p> <p>This book is one of a trilogy, considered to be the mystical gems of theosophical literature. This series of powerpoint workshops will explore the deep significance and far reaching implications of the perennial teachings embodied in this classic text, whose subject matter is the path of inner transformation and spiritual realization.</p>
Tues 12 Mar General meeting	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Peace Be With You</i> – Gailene Wester</p> <p>This is the traditional greeting of the Essenes. In this presentation we will have some glimpses into the origins of the Essenes through the centuries, their lives, their initiations and their communions with the Heavenly Father and the Earthly Mother.</p>
Tues 19 Mar General meeting	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Insight and Influence of Emmanuel Swedenborg (1688 – 1772)</i> – Reverend Trevor Moffat</p> <p>This will be a powerpoint overview of Swedenborg's Life and Influence. It shall take into account his life and influence, detailing some of his insights and where he stands in history including links with Theosophy and influence upon modern thinking.</p>
Tues Mar 26 General meeting	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Bhagavad Gita, Ancient Wisdom for Modern People</i> – Perry Coles</p> <p>In tonight's powerpoint presentation we will explore some key passages and ideas from the Gita and see how this classic Indian spiritual text is still highly relevant for our modern world and daily lives.</p>
Sat 30 – Sun 31 March	<i>Easter Weekend Retreat</i> – See Page14 for more information
APRIL	
Tues 2 Apr Public meeting	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Gospel of Mary Magdalene</i> – Richard Larkin, National Lecturer for the TS in Australia.</p> <p>An examination of an ancient Gnostic text from the dawn of Christianity, which illuminates Mary Magdalene's place in the early church.</p>
Tues 9 Apr General meeting	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Alchemy – The Art of Transformation</i> – Deise Carvalho</p> <p>In tonight's powerpoint presentation we will explore the application of the art of alchemy as it manifests itself on the physical, mental and spiritual planes.</p>
Tues 16 Apr General meeting	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Chakras – Lights, Sounds and Vibrations</i> - Adam Phoenix</p> <p>In tonight's lecture there will be an exploration of their relationships as well as a powerpoint presentation followed by a visual application with microphone, music and instruments.</p>
Sun 21 Apr (2:00 to 4:30 pm) Public meeting	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Unfolding the Higher Consciousness</i> – Dr. Pablo Sender, International Lecturer for the TS in the USA.</p> <p>Each of us has vast inner resources that remain untapped because our consciousness works constrained within a narrow section of reality. The teachings of modern Theosophy present valuable tools we can use in our quest to realise our full potential. For this, the spiritual seeker has a two-fold task ahead: To raise his/her consciousness from the concrete mind to the spiritual nature, and to attune body, emotions and mind, so that the higher within can be expressed through his/her everyday consciousness.</p>
Tues 23 Apr General meeting	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ask the Oracle</i> – Elizabeth Collins</p> <p>In this powerpoint presentation will be presented a number of interesting topics including the, as yet, unexplained phenomena of oracular activity which formed part of ancient Egyptian religious practice. Also, as a result of pursuing academic studies in this field, this presentation reviews the relationship between the 'intuitive' teachings of selected Theosophical writers and the current attitudes of academic scholars.</p>
Tues 30 Apr Members only	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Secrets and Immortality – A Theosophical Discussion</i> – Rob Russell</p> <p>Tonight's interactive audience discussion will focus on secrets and immortality as well as various other theosophical subjects, so bring along your questions on life and life after death, ghosts, curses and much more that you might want to talk about.</p>