

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

New Plymouth Branch



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Committee: Jo Watson, Nicola Haines, Benjamin Upton, Jan Gargan

PROGRAMME / NEWSLETTER August - November 2024 **revision 1**

November	Meeting Type*
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Wednesday 20th 5.30pm <u>End of year Potluck dinner</u> MF

Please bring a vegetarian dish or dessert to share. Come along and share your thoughts about this year's programme and ideas for the next over a potluck dinner! (This is our final event for the year—in lieu of a picnic.)

Followed by Donna's talk at 7.30pm

Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.

Wednesday 20th 7.30pm <u>Framing the task of -" Embracing Wholeness/Oneness by awakening the human heart."</u> by <u>Donna Willard-Moore</u> P

Blavatsky's oneness is also wholeness. However, that idea is best understood by the heart, not the mind. This division before the goal of awakening, is a problem and also a recognition that mind and heart work differently in current cultural conditioning.

Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth. Or, use Zoom Link below.

***Meeting types: MF = Members & Friends; P = Public (all are welcome)**

Zoom meetings: While in-person meetings are definitely the best, if you can't make it person, you can join some of the public meetings - those marked, by Zoom. (The link is the same for all meetings) **Click on the link below**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4642392089?pwd=bHcyMUJ6SWVzWnZOYkhseUkvTTMxQT09>

or use the following : **Zoom Meeting ID: 464 239 2089** **Passcode: 9aR2ZP**

Help with Zoom: let Jim know if you'd like help using Zoom. Ph 021-2511011 or email tsnewplymouth@gmail.com

Note: From time to time, the meetings listed with a Zoom option cannot be zoomed for reasons of either the speaker not wishing to or technical issues with their computer. We apologise in advance for the inconvenience .

Note: Events may change due to unforeseen circumstances — check the latest programme at theosophy.nz/centres/new-plymouth where you can download the latest pdf Newsletter.

Brief biographies of some of the speakers

Donna Willard-Moore, BFA, MA, MFA is an Artist, sculptor, art historian, iconographer, public presenter, researcher and joined NP Branch of the Theosophical Society in 2010.

Benjamin Upton is a software developer from New Plymouth who spends his spare time uncovering the connections between the scientific and the spiritual. A keen follower of scientific theories that have been swept under the carpet by the mainstream scientific dogma, he hopes one day we as a collective will experience a consciousness renaissance.

Carole van Weede Currently a TS member of HPB Lodge in Auckland, Carole has been prior to theosophy, a president for the Pakuranga Spiritualist Centre and a main co-ordinator for the Star Network a friendship group organising activities for (at one time) over 250 people under 30 years, around Auckland. She has a diploma in Holistic Pulsing (a therapy involving rocking the body) and spent five years looking into the well-known but very deep book, A Course in Miracles.

Her current interests are particularly around ancient history, but wherever there is a mystery, she is looking into it!

She has enjoyed teaching many people meditation, healing, spirituality, and personal development. I also host a monthly discussion group called Outside the Square, for spiritually open-minded people and gives talks that she hopes will interest others on their pathways.

Jim Scrivener is a retired architect with an interest in music and theosophy. He plays french horn in the Taranaki Symphony Orchestra and since 1988 has been involved in various roles of the NP Branch of the Theosophical Society.

NATIONAL & REGIONAL EVENTS

see <https://theosophy.nz/events>

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Check out replays of the 148th international convention and other resources at

<https://www.youtube.com/@TheosophicalSocietyAdyar>

John Vorstermans has a love for the works of Blavatsky and the Esoteric movements of both the East and West - at their hearts they are all the same, the challenge is to make their teaching a reality in our lives. John has held various administrative positions in the Society in New Zealand and elsewhere; however, there is nothing better than to have time to explore and share real theosophy.

Murray Stentiford has a wide knowledge of science and spirituality, music and social issues from a lifetime of work and interest in those fields. With a Masters degree in Physics, he has not only worked in a variety of scientific and engineering disciplines, but has played professionally on several musical instruments as well. Murray is a National speaker with the Theosophical Society in New Zealand, and has held various roles within the Society.

Murray delights in widening paradigms and building bridges between science and spirituality, consciousness and matter, and just about anything you can think of. He has a special interest in meditational and energetic practices for healing and transformation of people and other life forms on Earth, with a vision of Global Consciousness ever in mind. Another deep interest is the realm of non-physical creative intelligences in Nature, aka the deva/angelic kingdom, found in not only Theosophy but many cultures as an experientable reality.

One of the highlights of Murray's life was to assist noted seer and writer Geoffrey Hodson in clairvoyant research projects on science and music. This comes up in several of his presentations.

Events accessible by Zoom

If you can't do Wednesday nights for our branch's meetings, check out **Wellington branch's** Hybrid Zoom meetings at 7pm on Tuesday nights at

theosophy.nz/membership/local-centres/wellington

Other resources on the web – Theosophy World

<https://www.theosophy.world/>

Have a look at a wealth of articles publications, ebooks, video and audio archives, all searchable and perfect to help you research something.

Weekly Study Course - calling all keen members!

Four of us - Donna, Nikki, Jan and Jim have just finished an 8-session study course 'Theosophy—an introductory study course' by John Algeo'. It made for some interesting discussions over a cuppa. We held these weekly on Wednesday afternoons from 3-5pm approximately at one of our homes. Study courses are a great way to get more out of theosophy and hear other people's interpretations of what they've read.

We are starting another one, so this is a great opportunity to get involved. We are currently considering a course called '**The Pilgrim and the Path: Living Theosophy**' by John Algeo. It has 39 chapters, so we could potentially meet for 39 sessions. This study course among others can be found on the TSNZ website at

<https://theosophy.nz/membership/membership-resources> under the heading 'Self Study Courses'.

Although we are currently meeting on Wednesdays at 3pm, **we need a day and time that suits as many as possible**, so if you're interested, **please email** us on tsnewplymouth@gmail.com and let us know the day of the week and time that would suit you (and more importantly the ones that wouldn't) and we will try to suit as many as possible. It could be during the day or evening. Also, if you can share your home for the purpose, let us know too - that would be fantastic.

Members & Friends meetings

If you're thinking of bringing a friend to a members & friends meeting, if the meeting is at someone's house, as a courtesy to the hosts, please phone them to let them know beforehand. Ideally we invite people to members & friends meetings after they have been to at least a couple of public meetings and show interest. If your friend hasn't made it to a public meeting and is still interested, then either point them to the Theosophy New Zealand website <https://theosophy.nz/> or hand them first some of the pamphlets and the 'green book' as an introduction, so they will have some idea of what we're about. Ring or email Jim Scrivener (see details above), for extra copies of pamphlets etc.

Other events outside our branch – keep an eye on the Theosophy NZ website <https://theosophy.nz/> for upcoming events you might be able to attend. Also keep an eye on neighbouring branch activities via the pages at <https://theosophy.nz/centres> (e.g. Whanganui, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Napier, Wellington) - if there is a talk or event you'd like to attend, email tsnewplymouth@gmail.com to see if other members here are also interested in getting a car-load together.

New Plymouth Branch Library of over 750 books is sorted & catalogued by author at the president's place. To visit, please phone or text Jim on 021-2511 011 (or email tsnewplymouth@gmail.com) to arrange a time. We receive new books from time to time from National Office.

Membership subscriptions reminder

Subscription invoices issued on 25th August, 2023 for the Sept2023-Aug2024 year were due on 20th September, 2023. A reminder that we have to lapse members when they are a full 2 years in arrears of the invoice date, so please check if you've had a reminder, or if you have any questions, email the treasurer Jim (tsnewplymouth@gmail.com) or ph 021-2511 011. Even if you can't make it to meetings, bear in mind the subscriptions are at a similar level to those for National Section members who are not affiliated to any branch, but still receive the magazine and all the other advantages of membership. Annual subs for the 2024-25 year are \$35 for waged and \$30 for unwaged.

New Plymouth Branch Programme/Newsletter

We publish this usually every 6 months with the programme. We welcome a short article, quotation, event report, book review etc. either your own thoughts or others' that is theosophically related, or generally helpful, please email it in to Jim at tsnewplymouth@gmail.com. While inclusion is not guaranteed we will do our best depending on content and space.

Ideas for future talks or events: Please get in touch with any of the committee with your ideas.

The Masters of the Wisdom are compassionate, supremely so, but not according to our notions and wishes. They seek to awaken us, not to reward us. As their compassion is far-reaching, their aim is to set us definitely on the path. They do not want to provide temporary compensations and satisfactions. So, as H. P. Blavatsky said, each receives by way of inspiration and guidance strictly what they make themselves worthy to receive. From the beginning of the path, the aspirants must try to fill themselves with "goodwill without measure", a deep concern for all life. When compassion begins to move the heart and the aspirants learn to seek the good of all others, not just their own, they ensure their own good.

Radha Burnier (nee Radha Sri Ram) (15 November 1923—31 October 2013) was the 7th international president of the Theosophical Society, Adyar. Having taken office in 1980, she was the longest serving president of the Society (33 years).

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