



PRANA

Newsletter of the Wellington Branch of the Theosophical Society

Volume 37: Issue 1, 1 JANUARY - 30 APRIL 2020

Greetings Members and Friends!

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year. The year ahead will have many things to look forward to at our Wellington Branch. The year 2020 has been divided into three terms focussing on the three pillars of the spiritual life -- **STUDY, MEDITATION and SERVICE.**

During the first term we will be studying some chapters from the **Key to Theosophy** by H. P. Blavatsky. The following terms will focus on Yoga and Meditation. There will be many opportunities for service during the whole year.

We will be beginning this year on Sunday, 2 February 2020 with our Members' study on the **Seven Principles of Man** so that by the month of April we can begin our study and practice of Pablo Sender's book: **Evolution of the Higher Consciousness.**

Theosophy can be theoretical or practical depending on how each person relates to it. Let us ponder on H.P. Blavatsky's words when making our New Year's Resolutions:



Let no one imagine that it is a mere fancy, the attaching of importance to the birth of the year. The earth passes through its definite phases and man with it; and as a day can be coloured so can a year. The astral life of the earth is young and strong between Christmas and Easter. Those who form their wishes now will have added strength to fulfil them consistently. -- HPB

One of the New Year resolutions of our Branch is to streamline our processes and activities to make it sustainable. Our Branch Secretary, Leigh Cain brings her experience in helping to manage the various tasks involved. She and I have been working together in this vain for the last few months and will continue to do so in the coming year.

Wellington Branch will be hosting the National Convention in 2021 and Gloria Henderson has been working with the National Office in finalizing the venue. Watch this space!!

Our Branch Committee, members and friends help out in numerous ways to make sure the Branch runs smoothly. In spite of personal commitments and health issues they make sure that the Theosophical work does not suffer. If there are any lapses then there is a valid reason. On behalf of all our Members I thank them for their invaluable contribution to the Wellington Branch.

-- Sushma Webber,
Branch President

The 131st AGM was held on Sunday, 6 October 2019 and the following Officers and Committee were elected:

WELLINGTON BRANCH COMMITTEE:

Sushma Webber	President
Leigh Cain	Secretary
Simon Webber	Treasurer
Silvia Soto-Bussard	Librarian
Bill Keidan	Committee Member
Gloria Henderson	Committee Member

Heartfelt gratitude is due to three of our long-standing Committee Members who have chosen to step down this year: Allan and Diane Morse, and Clive Conland have served for more than 30 and 20 years respectively. They have kindly agreed to continue to support the work with their advice and other tasks whenever they can.

Special Day of the Theosophical Society

Sunday, 16 February 2020 (2.00-4.00pm)

ADYAR DAY

(Honoring H. S. Olcott and C. W. Leadbeater)

and New Members Welcome

Character Day Seminar

was held on Sunday, 29 Sep 2019



Murray Stentiford from Auckland gave the keynote address on 'The Power of Thought and Character Building'. **Dr Arzoo Syeddah** our Guest Speaker shared her experiences on 'The Power of Authenticity and Gratitude'. Short films and discussions were also an important part of the day. 17 persons attended the event which was well-received based on the feedback.

Welcome to New Members

Arzoo Syeddah, Hillary Reid, Sunanda Trotter
Jeni Mihova and Camilla Cockerton



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Three of five new members who joined before 30 Sep., were present on **Tuesday, 1 October 2019** on the occasion of Annie Besant's birthday. Four new members have joined since then.

On Tuesday, 29 October 2019, international speaker, Jacques Mahnich (right) from France, presented on 'The Ego -- Its Constitution, Process and Transformation'. In all 35 members and public attended the session. National Vice-President, Renee Sell had accompanied him on his visit to Wellington.



**Central Regional Event at Wellington
Sat-Sun, 23-24 NOVEMBER 2019
Two-Day Weekend Members Only Retreat**

THEME: MYSTICS, SAGES, SEERS AND THE MASTERS OF WISDOM

The recently concluded Regional Event which we hosted was a very memorable and inspiring weekend. Around **24 members** attended the two-day event including members from all the central region branches viz., New Plymouth (1), Hawke's Bay (2), Whanganui (1), Palmerston North (2), and also Waikato Study Centre (1) and National Section (1) members. Wellington members hosted members from other Branches in their homes and we thank them.



The following presentations were given over the two days: **The Divine Wisdom, The Occult Hierarchy and its Messengers** by Sushma Webber;

Count of St Germain by Carol Collier; **Confucius: Chinese Philosopher** by Kirsty Morton; **Tehuti or Thoth: An Egyptian God** by John Carver; **Rumi: A Sufi Mystic** by Arzoo Syeddah; **Bran Stark, Mystic and Last Ruler of Westeros** by Allan Morse; **The World Mother** by Barbara Zanarb; **Hildegard of Bingen** by Jim Scrivner; **The Maha Chohan's Letter** -- a Discussion facilitated by Anthea Clement and Simon Webber.

Later on Tuesday, 26 November 2019 we had two inspiring talks by Carol Collier on '**Theosophy -- Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent**' and Barbara Zanarb on '**Who am I in the Light of Theosophy?**', both National speakers from Hamilton.



VISIT TO TE PAPA, NATIONAL MUSEUM:

Some of the visitors from other branches who had attended the Regional event visited Te Papa on Sunday, 24 November 2019 with our members.

The following members have offered to help:

TASKS FOR VOLUNTEERS

PRANA Proof readers - Pam Stainton and Leigh Cain

Tuesday Facilitators - Esme Ridgeway and Gloria Henderson

Sunday Study support - Esme R. and Leigh C.

Lodge Custodians - Faye Tohbyn and Brett Carstens

Cleaning Bee - Members' Meetings attendees

Library Team - Pam Stainton

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Convention 2021 - volunteers - before and during

Meet and Greet - for Tuesday meetings/Events

The following tasks will be **DISCONTINUED** for lack of volunteers:

E-newsletter/Event Reminder - Mailchimp skills

Help with Promotion - Facebook/Radio/Posters

Please note: PRANA NEWSLETTER will be the ONLY means of communication. Email reminders will **not** be sent henceforward. Members who wish to take part in the events/study have to register on time in person, by post, by email or call/text.

Contact:

Secretary - tswlgtn@gmail.com/ 027 387 8027

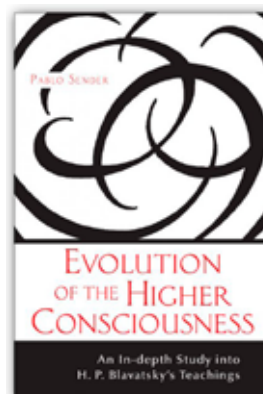
MEMBERS' STUDY PROGRAMME

(2 FEB 2020 ONWARDS) See programme

We will be studying Pablo Sender's new book '**EVOLUTION OF THE HIGHER CONSCIOUSNESS -- An In-Depth Study into H. P. Blavatsky's Teachings**' (2018).

We have begun the study of Annie Besant's book *The Seven Principles of Man* as a preliminary to Pablo's book. Those members who are interested in joining in this study programme are required to register in advance.

Registration: \$20.00 (includes the *Seven Principles of Man* and other printed material/workbooks). To buy a copy of Pablo's book for yourself then please check out the website: <http://fohatproductions.com>



Upcoming Events

WELLINGTON

ORIENTATION DAY

1-DAY SEMINAR FOR MEMBERS ONLY

SUN, 1 MARCH 2020 (10.00AM-4.00PM)

This 1-day event is for those who would like to learn about the work of the Theosophical Society at the international, national and local levels. It is especially for new members and also those who would like to be of service to humanity through the Theosophical Society.

Programme:

9.30am - Registration

10.00am -- Inner Purpose of the TS

10.45am - Morning Tea

11.00am - Intro - Constitution and Structure

12.15pm - LUNCH - Vegetarian/Vegan Potluck

1.00pm - Lodge Work - Original Vision

2.15pm - Afternoon Tea

2.30pm - Workshop - Theosophy in the 21st Century

3.45pm - Feedback

4.00pm - Closing

Registration - \$10.00 (Late Registration - \$15.00)

Contact - Secretary - tswlgtn@gmail.com/
027 387 8027

Last Date for Registration: 25 February 2020



CENTRAL REGION EVENTS

During the Regional event (August 2019) held at Palmerston North, the central region Branch Presidents got together to plan for 2020. We meet at the regional events and the President's Forum to discuss how to support each other. The following events will be held during the year:

- **Sunday, 8 March 2020** -- Open Day: Hawke's Bay Branch, Napier
- **Sat-Sun, 6-7 June 2020** -- New Plymouth Branch
- **Sat-Sun, 22-23 August 2020** -- Palmerston North Branch
- **Sat-Sun, 14-15 November 2020** - Wellington
- **Whanganui** -- To be decided

Wellington Branch of the Theosophical Society

19 Marion Street, Te Aro, Wellington 6011

PROGRAMME (1 JAN-30 APR 2020) 7.30PM TUESDAYS

'THE KEY TO THEOSOPHY' - 7 Weeks (25 Feb-7 Apr 2020)

Registration: Members - \$20.00, Non-members - \$30.00 (Casual - \$5.00/day)

DATE/DAY	TOPIC	Presenter/s
JANUARY 2020		
16-22 JAN	ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION, HAMILTON	
FEBRUARY		
2 FEB, SUN	(2.00-4.00pm) -- 'The Seven Principles of Man' -- Manas in Activity	Members only
9 FEB, SUN	(2.00-4.00pm) -- 'The Seven Principles of Man' -- Subtle Forms of IV and V Principles and The Higher Manas + Cleaning Bee	Members only
16 FEB, SUN	(2.00-4.00pm) ADYAR DAY and New Members Welcome	Members only
18 FEB, TUE	7.30pm - CONVENTION UPDATE AND SOCIAL EVENING	All Are Welcome
25 FEB, TUE*	7.30pm - Part I -- Free Intro Evening -- THE KEY TO THEOSOPHY by H. P. BLAVATSKY + Registration	Sushma Webber
MARCH		
1 MAR, SUN	(10.00-4.00pm) : ORIENTATION DAY - \$10.00 (Vege POTLUCK LUNCH)	Members only
3 MAR, TUE	7.30pm - Part II -- Exoteric and Esoteric Theosophy	Simon Webber
10 MAR, TUE	7.30pm - Part III -- The Working System of the TS	Esme Ridgeway
15 MAR, SUN	(2.00-4.00pm) -- 'The Seven Principles of Man' -- Atma-Buddhi, the 'Spirit'	Members only
17 MAR, TUE	7.30pm - Part IV -- Relations of the TS to Theosophy	Bill Keidan
22 MAR, SUN	(2.00-4.00pm) -- 'The Seven Principles of Man' -- The Monad in Evolution + Cleaning Bee	Members only
24 MAR, TUE*	7.30pm - Part V -- Fundamental Teachings of Theosophy	Gloria Henderson
31 MAR, TUE	7.30pm - Part VI -- Theosophical Teachings About Nature and Man	Allan Morse
APRIL		
7 APR, TUE	7.30pm - RECAP AND Q&A -- What Theosophy Means to me	Panel + Discussion
14 APR, TUE	7.30pm - Library Evening -- Learn about the Wellington TS Library	All Are Welcome
19 APR, SUN	(2.00-4.00pm) 'Evolution of the Higher Consciousness' by Pablo Sender - INTRODUCTION + Cleaning Bee	Members only
21 APR, TUE	7.30pm - SLOW READING HOUR -- Reading Printed books without distractions from devices	All Are Welcome
26 APR, SUN	(2.00-4.00pm) 'Evolution of the Higher Consciousness' -- ATMAN -- THE HIGHER SELF	Members only
28 APR, TUE*	7.30pm - Free Intro Evening -- THE UNIVERSAL YOGA TRADITION by Radha Burnier + Registration	Sushma Webber

All Meetings and Events are Open to Public (except Members' Meetings)

Contact: tswlgn@gmail.com (Secretary) www.theosophy.nz

Library Timings

Tuesdays: 4.00-7.00pm

* **Committee Meeting at 6pm** -- Members who wish to attend as observers may contact the Secretary a week in advance.