

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

New Plymouth Branch



Corresp.: Pres. Benjamin Upton, 92 Pioneer Rd, New Plymouth; tsnewplymouth@gmail.com
Website: <http://theosophy.nz/centres/new-plymouth> facebook: www.facebook.com/TheosophyNP/

President: Benjamin Upton, Ph 027-517 6739

Vice President/ Treas.: Jim Scrivener, Ph 021-2511 011 or 06-758 3511

Committee: Norah Lambie, Nina Vink, Peter Vink, Glen Willard, Donna Willard-Moore, Kayla Upton

PROGRAMME November, 2019 – February, 2020

Venues & Time - Public and Members' & friends' meetings will be held where noted, starting at 7.30pm unless shown otherwise. Members & friends' meetings begin with a Healing Group ceremony for the first 10 minutes.

If you're thinking of bringing a friend to a members & friends meeting, as a courtesy to the hosts, please phone Peter or Nina Vink on 758 8174 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 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 Jim Scrivener on the numbers above, for extra copies of pamphlets etc.

November 2019

Friday 1 **Patience** - a presentation by visiting TS member from France Jacques Mahnich **Members & friends**
Patience is a Buddhist Paramita (or perfection), so is needed.



Jacques Mahnich spent his professional carrier in Aeronautical Engineering Industry, specializing in Aircraft Powerplant Systems. He is a regular member of the French Theosophical Society, Adyar, since 1978, and of TOS-France. He is the founder of a Theosophical Study Group in the South of France, and supports regular theosophical training courses and conferences. Involved in theosophical activities at the international level, he is a member of ITC (International Theosophical Conferences Inc.), a worldwide lecturer, the co-founder of a web blog dedicated to the search for the origin of the Stanzas of Dzryan <http://prajnaquest.fr/blog>, and the co-founder of a web-based project <http://theoscience.org> which publishes a quarterly review of Researches Relevant to Theosophy.

Time & venue: 5.15pm at the Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth

Followed at 6.15 – 7pm by a **Pot Luck dinner** at the same venue
Please bring along a vegetarian dish (finger-food preferred) to share for a pot luck tea with our guest speaker.

Summary:

5.00pm Arrive and set up

5.15pm Members & friends talk

6.15pm Pot luck dinner

7 – 7.15pm set up for the public meeting following at 7.30pm

Friday continued 1 **The Ego** - a presentation by visiting TS member from France Jacques Mahnich **Public**
We often see our ego as a problem but what is it, really? How does it work, and how is it transformed by our higher Nature?

Time & venue: 7.30pm at the Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth

November 2019 continued

Wednesday 6 **An Introduction to the Law of One** – discussion introduced by Benjamin Upton, Glenn Willard and Donna Willard-Moore **Members & friends**

Take part in a discussion about "The Law of One". This series of books records a modern day communication between Professor Don Elkins and a cosmic consciousness called Ra. Throughout the series Don asks a number of questions about the nature of our universe and the origins of humankind. Ra's answers are astounding and shine light on the underlying truths that link all philosophy and religion.

Venue: Peter & Nina Vink's house, 218 Mangorei Rd, New Plymouth

Wednesday 20 **End of year Dinner** **Members & friends**
A chance to socialise, not worry about the dishes, and experience some great Indian cuisine. By Monday 18th December, please email Ben on tsnewplymouth@gmail.com or phone 027-517 6739 to let him know if you will be coming, so that he can let the restaurant know numbers.

Venue & time: 6pm at Flame Restaurant, 151 Devon Street East, New Plymouth

December 2019 and January 2020

December 13 **Hidden Realms - Art exhibition in Stratford** **Public**
to January 19

Although not organised by us, this exhibition contains interesting theosophical themes, so do make time to visit the Art exhibition organised by at least 4 of our members, curated by Donna Willard-Moore with exhibits from Donna, Kayla & Benjamin Upton and Nina Vink. Hear Donna Willard-Moore and Benjamin Upton give an introduction to the theosophical roots of the exhibition. Come for the opening 7pm, 13th December.

See details next page.

February 2020

Wednesday 5 **Hildegard of Bingen** – a presentation by Jim Scrivener **Public**

A look at the life and work of this remarkable 12th century Abbess, mystic, author and composer.

Time & venue: 7.30pm at the Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, NP

Wednesday 19 **The Life and Thoughts of Krishnamurti** - a presentation by Peter Vink **Members & friends**
Hear about this amazing philosopher, speaker and writer. Although questioned a lot, most of his answers would encourage the questioner to look at the why of their question and therefore encourage self enquiry.

Venue & time: Peter & Nina Vink's house, 218 Mangorei Rd, New Plymouth

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. Wanganui, Hamilton, Palmerston North) - if there is a talk or event you'd like to attend, see if others here are interested in getting a car-load together. If you can let me know well ahead of time there may be a chance of applying for regional funding to help with travel costs, e.g. petrol. Note that it can't be retrospective.

Other resources on the web – Theosophy World
<http://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.

New Plymouth Branch Library – At the moment it is out of action in boxes at the vice president's place. If you'd still like to have a fossick anyway, please phone or text Jim on 021-2511 011 to arrange a time.

Membership subscriptions reminder

Subscription invoices for Sept2019-Aug2020 were due on 20 September, 2019. A reminder that we have to lapse members when they are 2 years in arrears, so please check if you've had a reminder, and if you've since paid by direct credit, drop the treasurer an email to let him know. 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.

New Plymouth Branch Programme/Newsletter – We publish this usually every 1-2 months with the programme. If you have a short article, quotation etc. either your own thoughts or others' that is theosophically related, or generally helpful, please email it in to Ben at tsnewplymouth@gmail.com While inclusion is not guaranteed we will do our best depending on content and space.



Hidden Realms - Art Exhibition

Throughout history, cultures have used sacred systems to understand life; Thus to distinguish and examine the hidden but fundamental aspects of our universe. Sacred systems would include the Qabalah, the Bible, Astrology and the Zodiac, or contemporary Integral theory.

Through the creation of art, these sacred system formulas can be solidified, which allow for opportunities for spiritual and mental development in those who view and express through art, expanding the possibilities within the human psyche.

The exhibition will be running from 13th December to 19th January. Further details are due to follow on the website of the Percy Thomson Gallery <https://www.percythomsongallery.org.nz/>

Venue & times: Come for the opening - 7pm, Friday 13th December at Percy Thomson Gallery, Prospero Place, 56 Miranda St, Stratford.



Central Regional Event - Wellington

A members' retreat at Wellington Lodge Saturday/ Sunday 23/24 November.

"Mystics, Sages, Seers and the Masters of the Wisdom", with speakers from other branches. Registration \$20, by 19 November. From Wellington Lodge's newsletter:

During this weekend members will have the opportunity to learn about a few these 'Great Servants of the World whose wondrous story is written by its effect on the hearts of men and women, who look up to them in deathless devotion.'

Join us for a weekend retreat to contemplate, reflect and ponder on the spiritual path that leads to perfection so that one day we ourselves can be co-workers with the Great Ones in fulfilling the Divine Plan.

See full details on Wellington Lodge's Prana Newsletter

https://theosophy.nz/sites/default/files/field/file_attachment/1910_1912_Prana_Final_web.pdf

Car-pooling - Jim will be taking a car, so get in touch (ph 021-2511 011) if you'd like a ride.



TSNZ Annual Convention 16-22 January 2020, in Hamilton

"One Heart, One Breath, One World"

See details: <https://theosophy.nz/events/convention-2020>

Early-bird registrations by 28 November (save \$50).

Car-pooling - Jim will be taking a car, so get in touch (ph 021-2511 011) if you'd like a ride.



New branch president

A warm welcome to our new branch president Benjamin Upton. In his nearly 3 years as a member, he and his wife Kayla have contributed greatly not only to branch events, but to regional events and national conventions. In December 2019, they will be travelling to India to the international headquarters of the society in Adyar, Chennai and also to Varanasi, to participate in the International Youth Convention and the International Convention respectively. We look forward to hearing of their experiences on their return.

Jim Scrivener, (immediate past president)



Letting go gives us freedom, and freedom is the only condition for happiness. If, in our heart, we still cling to anything – anger, anxiety, or possessions – we cannot be free.

Thich Nhat Hanh
quoted from Theosophical Digest No. 122, p28