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Far North Theosophy Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Off the President's Press

Dear Members, It's way too late for me to wish you a Happy New Year, and just a little too late to wish you a Happy Chinese New Year (or Lunar New Year, as it's celebrated in many more countries than just China - Infact, it's celebrated by more than 20% of the world!). The 2019 Chinese New Year officially began on February 5th, and ended on February 19th—this period is called "The Spring Festival". Each year a Chinese Zodiac animal is assigned to represent the year, and the pig is designated for 2019. Of the twelve zodiac animals, the Pig is the twelfth, and in Chinese culture, pigs are the symbol of wealth - their chubby faces and big ears are signs of fortune; and homeliness, an especially pertinent attribute at

that time of year, in China, as the largest mass-migration of people in the world happens, when itinerant workers and distant family members make their way home to celebrate the auspicious time together. For them, family is high on their priority list, and they have a strong sense of unity and cohesion. I, along with Maureen Paterson, in January, had the pleasure of experiencing the unity and family atmosphere of Theosophical Society in New Zealand National Convention, in Napier, (page 3), an altogether lovely way to start the new year. It reminded me that most of us are born in to a family, and that family grows over time, as we add close friends and others that we feel bonded to, especially if we join clubs and associations, and do charity work etc. It's easy to see and feel those connections that we have for those people, but



Chinese New Year's Pig symbolizes altruism, honour and homeliness

not quite so palpable or easy to discern are the ties that we have with others that we don't "know", or have never met, and yet, the ancient wisdoms have been telling us for eons that we are "one"; and now science is finally catching up and "proving" that we are all in union with each other. The Theosophical Society's mission statement eloquently states that its aim is to : "serve humanity by cultivating an ever-deepening understanding and realization of the Ageless Wisdom, spiritual transformation, and the Unity of all Life". That sounds like an honorable aim worthy of participating in!

Meeting: Sunday 24th February, 2pm, Theosophy Centre, Kaeo



Murray Stentiford, National Education Coordinator presented last Sunday

Murray Stentiford presented:

"Responsibility in the Webwork of Life"

Murray Stentiford, a past TS National Vice President, and current National Education Coordinator, is graced us with a fascinating presentation that he gave at the National Convention in Napier, in January. For those of you who weren't

able to attend the convention, he brought a slice of it to us in the north. Murray, an accomplished musician, has a Master's degree in Physics, and is able to skillfully combine a knowledge of science, music and spirituality with a passion for exploration. In this presentation he took us on a journey, which is increasingly being backed by science, through the interconnectivity of all life, and how we can use that to effect personal and global change. We did video the talk, so you still may be able to see it some time.



William Meader, an international teacher, is coming to Kaeo during his New Zealand tour.

William Meader is Coming!

“Soul and its Imposter”

**Wed, 13th March,
5pm–8pm**

**at: Theosophy Centre,
18 Waikare Ave, Kaeo
Cost \$30 or
\$20 for Students/CSC
Contact:
Maureen Paterson
Email: theosophycentre@slingshot.co.nz**

William is an international teacher of the Esoteric Spiritual Philosophy, also known as the Perennial Philosophy, promoting the spiritual journey and the evolution of human consciousness.

We're incredibly privileged to have William come to our humble little town, to share his wisdom and insights during his New Zealand tour. If you have family, friends, or know anyone who might like to benefit from William's presentation, bring them along. Tickets can be bought at the door. "When walking the spiritual path, an understanding of the soul is extremely important. In the Esoteric Philosophy, the soul is viewed as one's true identity, and it seeks to express itself through the personality (ego). Yet, it is important to realize that there is an imposter of the soul resid-

ing within each of us. The Imposter is an aspect of the personality that deceptively appears spiritual, but is a wolf in sheep's attire. In this talk, William Meader will closely examine the nature of the soul and how to distinguish it from the imposter. In addition, he will discuss the battle the soul periodically faces as it attempts to gain mastery over the imposter and its deceptive tendencies."

You can find more of his work and information on his website: www.emergentlight.com The poster promoting William's NZ tour has been attached. Please feel free to print it out and distribute in your neighbourhood. Thanks!

Study Course Starting in March

“Theosophy in the 21st Century”

Beginning: **Tue 19th March**
5.15 pm for 5.30 pm start.
90 minutes sessions.

**At: Theosophy Centre,
Waikare Ave, Kaeo.**

\$5/week, to cover costs; to be paid on the night.

We're diving in to a study course, to investigate and familiarize ourselves with the big questions and answers of life.

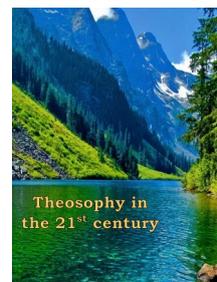
"This course of 12 sessions is aimed at those who want to systematically enter into the study and research of Theosophy, seeing its sources, its reflection in modern knowledge, discrepancies with common ideas, and especially

the potential of Theosophy to transform our practical life and improve the world."

Topics include:

1. What is Theosophy?
2. Fundamental Ideas of Theosophy
3. The Unity of Life
4. Manifestation
5. Who Are We?
6. Cyclical Evolution
7. Karma: The Universal Law of Cause and Effect
8. The Mind and Beyond
9. Symbolism and The Esoteric Tradition
10. Theosophy Through The Ages
11. Evolution
12. The Awakening of Consciousness

This is a modern approach to Theosophy, depicted through



colourful power point presentations and supported with printed material. Come and join us as we immerse ourselves in this study course - the more the merrier! If you're not too sure about it, come and test the waters for 3 or 4 weeks. More information is in the attached document.

Please book in advance by emailing Fiona: secretary.farnorththeosophy@gmail.com

Or Karen: farnorththeosophy.president@gmail.com
Ph: (09)4050864

"Inquire of the earth, the air and the water of the secrets they hold for you."

Light on the Path



Looking bright at the Summer Solstice setting, at the Theosophy Centre

Summer Solstice Celebration

On December 22nd 2018, we held our Sumer Solstice Celebrations at the Theosophy Centre, in Kaeo. There were a number of keen Theosophy members who attended. Karen presented some history and details about solstice celebrations throughout the ages,

world-wide, and in particular how wiccans celebrate it in today's setting. The hall was gaily decorated in bright colours and flowers, thanks to Maureen, Alf, Mandy, Karen and Fiona, who put in a lot of effort to make it a successful event. Summer solstice events

are usually held outside, with a bonfire or fire-pit, but ours was held inside due to rainy weather and a fire ban in the area! Even so, we had music, singing and dancing, which was rounded off with a shared feast - fun was had by all!

Diary ~ What's On

March

Sunday 03 10.00 am – 4.00 pm, **HPB Lodge Open Day**, 4 Warborough Avenue, Epsom, Auckland.

Wednesday 06 1.00 - 4.00 pm, Theosophy Centre **Library open**

Wednesday 13 5.00 - 8.00 pm, **William Meader "Soul and Its Imposter"**, Theosophy Centre, Waikare Ave, Kaeo. \$30 or \$20

Tuesday 19 5.15 - 7.00 pm, **Study Course** begins **"Theosophy in the 21st Century"** **Week 1** topic: **"What is Theosophy?"**

Wednesday 20 1.00 - 4.00 pm, Theosophy Centre **Library open**

Tuesday 26 5.15 - 7.00 pm, **Study Course** **Week 2** topic: **"Fundamental Ideas of**

Theosophy"

Wednesday 27 1.00 - 4.00 pm, Theosophy Centre **Library open**

April

Tuesday 02 5.15 - 7.00 pm, **Study Course** **Week 3** topic: **"The Unity of Life"**

Wednesday 03 1.00 - 4.00 pm, Theosophy Centre **Library open**

Tuesday 09 5.15 - 7.00 pm, **Study Course** **Week 4** topic: **"Manifestation"**

Wednesday 10 1.00 - 4.00 pm, Theosophy Centre **Library open**

Saturday 13 12.00 pm, **pot-luck lunch**, followed by **Barry Bowden "Search of the Inner Self" workshop**, Theosophy Centre, Waikare Ave, Kaeo.

Tuesday 16 5.15 - 7.00 pm, **Study Course** **Week 5** topic: **"Who Are We?"**

Wednesday 17 1.00 - 4.00 pm, Theosophy Centre **Library open**

Tuesday 23 5.15 - 7.00 pm, **Study Course** **Week 6** topic: **"Cyclical Evolution"**

Wednesday 24 1.00 - 4.00 pm, Theosophy Centre **Library open**

Tuesday 30 5.15 - 7.00 pm, **Study Course** **Week 7** topic: **"The Universal Law of Cause and Effect"**

May

Wednesday 01 1.00 - 4.00 pm, Theosophy Centre **Library open**

Tuesday 07 5.15 - 7.00 pm, **Study Course** **Week 8** topic: **"The Mind & Beyond"**



"The way to final freedom is within thy SELF"
The voice of the Silence

Convention 2019 at Napier

It was New Zealand's 122nd National Convention, 17th - 23rd January 2019, held in Napier, Hawke's Bay - and what a delight it was! The theme of "Connectivity and Responsibility", suggested by international guest speaker, Betty Bland, sparked interesting and thought-provoking topics for presentations and round-the-dinner-table debates. Betty, a prior USA National Theosophical Society President for nine years, graced us with a number of talks, with titles such as: "Science and the Akashic Field", "The Cosmic Web and

You", and "The Seven Rays, Different Together". Her decades of Theosophy experience were a real gift for those present at the convention. Betty's husband, David, also enthused us with a passionate talk about Social Action. Many other members of TSNZ gave presentations, providing us with a full programme - along with an afternoon trip out, a visit to the Hawke's Bay Lodge, and musical evenings. It was evident that a team of dedicated people had worked tirelessly to



provide us with an entertaining, comfortable week, where we had chance to meet other "truth seekers", and feel the unity of the society's brotherhood. I highly recommend attending convention if at all possible! National Convention 2020 will be held in Hamilton.

Barry Bowden Visits Us April 13th

Barry's passion is Theosophy. He has worked for many years as a Bio-dynamic farmer, through challenging and rewarding processes of nature. He finds there is a process going on inwardly, a sensitization through nature, which always stimulates the inward life. Carefully guided by an

understanding of deeper Theosophical truths, this knowledge has helped him understand himself, and how this is the key to understanding others and life itself. He aspires to help people realize the hidden potential within themselves, and awaken their inner life.

The "Search for the Inner Self" extended presentation tackles how to deal with negative emotions and reactions, and understanding how the mind is really meant to work. This is both intellectual and practical with discussion and feedback. We will meet at 12.00 midday for a pot-luck vegetarian lunch before the presentation begins



Barry Bowden, from Australia, is coming to Kaeo April 13th to talk about "Search for the Inner Self"

FAR NORTH
BRANCH OF THE
THEOSOPHICAL
SOCIETY IN NEW
ZEALAND

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"There is No Religion Higher Than Truth"

The Theosophical Society Mission Statement:

To serve humanity by cultivating an ever deepening understanding and realisation of the Ageless Wisdom, spiritual self-transformation, and the Unity of all Life.

The Theosophical Society does not require its members to accept all or any of the Theosophical teachings. The motto of the Society is "There is no religion higher than Truth." "Religion" in the motto refers to churches, and any belief system or ideas – including the Society's statement of Theosophy.

Most Theosophical members generally agree on the basic ideas and ideals of Theosophy, but they are encouraged to interpret them according to their own lights, and are free to reject any of them. To be a member of the Society, one must only subscribe to its objects. However, the Society offers a view of life that is comprehensive, coherent and timeless: a contemporary formulation of an ancient Wisdom Tradition that is the foundation for a satisfying, productive life that enables those who follow it to discover their own inner nature and to contribute to the welfare of the world.

The Ancient Wisdom Tradition has been offered under various names and in many languages throughout the ages, but its essence is fundamentally the same, even though its facade and manner of presentation has varied. It especially points to the reality of brotherhood and the imperative necessity of practising that; it also gives insight into the unexplained around us and helps us to develop our latent powers; and it is the inner harmony of religion, philosophy and science.

Theosophical Library in Kaeo

Library Opening Times:

Wednesdays 1 – 4 pm

& During Meetings

We have a large selection of Theosophical and related books and magazines in our library at the Theosophy Centre, in Waikare Avenue, Kaeo, which you are welcome to borrow, to further your study of this magical, mystical universe we live in.

Maureen Paterson is our Lodge Librarian, and will be manning the library on Wednesday afternoons. If you arrive at the hall and she is nowhere in sight, you may find her in the garden behind the hall; alternatively you can call her on 09 405 0707 or 021 045 9991 to arrange out-of-hours access to books.

New Book Arrived!

"The Initiate Life"

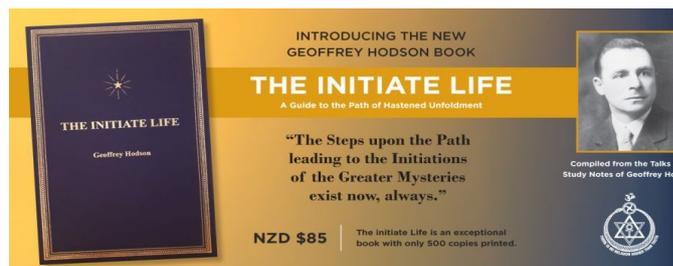
A Guide to the Path of Hastened Unfoldment

Compiled from the Talks
and Study Notes

of Geoffrey Hodson

The Path of Hastened Unfoldment is one of Geoffrey Hodson's key teachings and this book is composed of material pertain-

ing to this very subject. It is thus particularly relevant for the serious student, whether he or she be an aspirant, disciple, or Initiate. Whilst many of these talks were addressed to Theosophical Society members and audiences, the message of the Ancient Wisdom and the Path of Swift Unfoldment is universally applicable to all humanity.



Geoffrey Hodson's new book "The Initiate Life" is available for borrowing at The Theosophy Centre Library in Kaeo