

## SHIFTING OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES ON THE ESTATE

The Theosophical Publishing House (TPH) was moved from its location in Besant Gardens to the Vasanta Press building in Sri Ram Colony, in order to accommodate the upcoming Adyar Theosophical Academy (ATA), a newly started theosophical school.



Pooja at the new Office of the TPH

To accommodate the TPH office in the premises of the Vasanta Press, a number of modifications to the building had to be carried out. The hall on the northern side of the Press which housed the post print machinery (for cutting, stitching and binding) had to be moved out and this hall was then converted into the TPH sales office. To do this, the flooring had to be redone with new floor tiles, the walls had to be scraped and repainted and the electrical wiring had to be replaced completely, along with the installation of new electrical fittings. In addition, there were repairs done to the godown, renovation and repainting of the room on the western side for use as the TPH dispatch room and upgradation of all the toilets in the building. Once the civil works were completed, large wooden cupboards and shelves with books from the erstwhile TPH had to be transported to the new location in the Vasanta Press building. This project was completed by 31 March 2019 and a puja was

held on 6 April 2019 to mark the occasion. Some more work remains to be done — such as the provision of ladders to reach the roof area and repairs and painting of the outer walls of the building. Presently, with the printing press and the publishing house located in the same building, there is greater coordination and ease of functioning.



The new TPH Office

Offices were shifted in the TS main compound as well. While there was an interchange of the respective offices of the international Treasurer, Nancy Secrest, and the General Manager, K. Jaikumar, across floors in the Administrative Building, the international Secretary, Marja Artamaa, moved to a larger room in the same building on the ground floor.



Marja Artamaa in her new Office

Marja had been functioning from a small corner room in the northwestern side. But since her work required her to meet with a large number of TS members, officials and dignitaries, it was decided that she could work from the larger records room. In this room, while many cupboards containing old documents and files were shifted to the first floor, a few glass-fronted, wooden cupboards,

containing several thousand, handwritten, membership cards from the early 1900s to the 1980s, continue to remain in the office, imparting a whiff of a bygone era to the Secretary's chamber! The new office is more airy and spacious and has a comfortable meeting area for holding discussions. A small puja to inaugurate the move to the new office was held on 7 December 2018.

## EASTER CONFERENCE

The 96th Easter Conference was held at Adyar from 19–21 April 2019 on 'The Real Purpose of the Theosophical Society'. The prescribed book for study was *Theosophy as the Masters See It* by Clara M. Codd, and the venue was the recently renovated Blavatsky Bungalow. The Conference was hosted by the Kerala Theosophical Federation (KTF). Dr M. A. Raveendran, President of the KTF, welcomed the gathering. The international President, Mr Tim Boyd, presided, and said that the real mission of the Theosophical Society (TS) is 'to serve humanity by cultivating an ever-deepening understanding and realization of the Ageless Wisdom, spiritual self-transformation, and the unity of all life.' He added that: 'We should realize this Mission during the Easter Conference when the spiritual power all over the world is rising to redeem humanity from the limitations of matter.'

Ms Nancy Secrest, international Treasurer, then inaugurated the Conference. She pointed out that Codd's book was very relevant even sixty-six years after its first publication, because Universal Brotherhood is not an idle phrase, but a fact in Nature. Dr N. C. Ramanujachary started the discussions with 'Why the Masters founded the Theosophical Society'. He said: 'They did not want the TS to become a cult. The TS is principle-oriented and not person-oriented, and it spreads the value of occult truths in the daily life of man.' In the afternoon, there were

two short talks — 'Religion vs Superstition' by Mr Krishnamurti and 'Science is our Best Ally' by Dr Raveendran.

The second and the third day of the Conference saw the delivery of a number of interesting talks: Latent Powers beyond Science (Ms H. Sripriya); Yoga, Practical Realization (Ms Sandhya Rani), What are the Things to be Discussed? (Dr R. Revathy); New Avenues of Work (Ms Upasika Maithreya); Towards Unification (Ms Marja Artamaa); Dogma, Authority, and Discipline (Mr K. Dinakaran); short talks on Loyalty, Discretion, and Zeal; The People the Master Wants (Mr N. C. Krishna); Hindrances on the Way (Ms Vijayalaxmi); and Joy of the Way (Mr C. Nandakumar). The session came to an end with concluding remarks by Mr S. Harihara Raghavan, Advisor to President and vote of thanks by Mr K. Dinakaran, Secretary, KTF.



Members attending the Easter Conference

## WHITE LOTUS DAY



The statues of the Founders

White Lotus Day which falls on 8 May every year, is a very special day for theosophists all over the world. For, on this day we commemorate the passing of H. P. Blavatsky out of this world to a state of greater life, light and love. In her will, Madame Blavatsky had expressed the wish that every year, on the anniversary of her death, some of her friends should assemble at the Headquarters of the Theosophical Society and read extracts from *The Light of Asia* and *The Bhagavadgita*. At Col Olcott's behest, readings from *The Voice of the Silence* by Madame Blavatsky were also added. All over the world, at the TS Sections, Branches and Lodges, members gather together on this day, to express their loving regard for HPB who brought the wisdom

teachings to the theosophical fraternity and indeed, to the entire humanity!

At Adyar, the function began with opening remarks by the international Secretary, Ms Marja Artamaa, who spoke about the importance of keeping the memory of HPB's services to humanity and her selfless love for the TS, evergreen in our minds and hearts. While Dr R. Revathy spoke about the significance of this day to all members, there were readings from the three books, namely, *The Voice of the Silence* (Ms Nancy Secrest), *The Bhagavadgita* (Mrs Veena Ramachandran) and *The Light of Asia* (Ms Marja Artamaa). After concluding remarks by Prof. C. A. Shinde, and chanting by Ms Jaishree Kannan, the meeting concluded with the offering of flowers to the statues of the Founders.



Offering of flowers to the Founders

## THEOSOPHICAL WORKERS' TRAINING CAMP

A Theosophical Workers' Training Camp was held at Adyar during 12–26 May 2019. It was inaugurated by the international Secretary, Ms Marja Artamaa. The Director of the Camp, Dr N. C. Ramanujachary, then gave an outline of the study proposed to be undertaken during the two weeks. Incidentally, the expenses of the training programme were met from a fund created by Dr C. R. Kamath

of Chennai, a long standing member of the TS, since 1959.

Twenty-five participants attended the programme from different parts of India – Chennai, Maharashtra, Andhra, Karnataka, other parts of Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

The topics covered during the training programme included: Theosophy and the Theosophical Society, the purpose of



establishing the Society, its basic principles and policies, the work of the Founders, past presidents and leaders, the work of the Lodges, responsibilities of members, constitution of the human body and many other topics. Special stress was laid on studying the Mission Statement and the latest 2019 resolution of the General Council on Freedom and Responsibility of the Lodges and branches.



Dr N. C. Ramanujachary handles a class for the participants

Besides the Director, Ms Nancy Secret, international Treasurer, Ms Marja Artamaa, international Secretary, Mr S. M. Umakanth Rao, Prof. C. A. Shinde, Dr R. Revathy, Ms Jaishree Kannan and Mr Mathurnath, also provided support by giving lectures and presentations.



Address by Ms Nancy Secret

The camp closed with an address by Ms Nancy Secret, on the 'Never-ending search for Truth'. Dr Ramanujachary, thanked the participants and requested them to work for the Theosophical Society and popularize Theosophy.

## LEADBEATER CHAMBERS RENOVATION

Leadbeater Chambers (LBC), which is over a hundred years old, and has the distinction of being the first concrete building put up in Chennai, is proposed to be taken up for major renovation in 2019. Prior to undertaking this renovation, the structural soundness of the existing LBC structure had to be evaluated by a well-known structural consulting firm. This evaluation exercise concluded that the vintage LBC building is definitely undergoing 'distress', with cracks on the inner and outer wall surfaces, structural column cracks, corrosion in most pillars/columns, damaged/cracked balusters and railings in the balconies, concrete shrinkage due to ageing, water leakage/ seepage through the walls, and so on. Hence, a comprehensive structural rehabilitation programme for the LBC building was recommended. This work is currently in

progress with two specialized contractors, having prior experience in rehabilitating distressed concrete buildings, having been commissioned to undertake the work. This project is likely to be completed by the end of August 2019 and the interior remodelling/renovation work will commence around the same time.



Leadbeater Chambers under renovation

## LARGE ANIMAL REFUGE

The Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary (BMAD) has a new facility for rescued large animals. This beautiful refuge is located in the *Sapota Thottam*, the orchard area of the TS estate that has a number of fruit trees, like sapota, mango, jackfruit, gooseberry, coconut, drumstick, lemon bushes and many more. It is a verdant, quiet and beautiful space for our animals who spend their time peacefully grazing, basking in the sunshine and being pampered by the attenders and volunteers. Currently the sanctuary provides refuge to

four donkeys (two adults and two foals), a cow, two calves, four pigs, a horse, a goat, a ram and four bulls. Also busy pecking on the ground, are five snow white cockerels with brilliant red combs, which strut around pompously, crowing at all hours of the day, much to the amusement of all. Barring the four bulls which have been retired from garden work in the TS, all the other animals have been rescued from slaughter or from extremely harsh and abusive environments from various parts of the city.

### Animals at the Sanctuary





## DONATIONS TO THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY (TS)

1 January to 31 March 2019

	<u>Rs.</u>		<u>Rs.</u>
<b>GENERAL DONATIONS</b>		Rotary Club of Madras	
Mr Rhutik Ashok Kajale, India	500	Magnum Projects, India	25000
Mr Clinton Woodall Jr, USA	70	Bala Vidya Mandir, India	50000
Mr S. Srinivasan, India	12000	Mr Sivananda Rajaram, India	50000
Madras Photo Bloggers, India	2000	Linarc India Pvt Ltd, India	7000
Kaukomieli Lodge, Finland	8077	Ms V. B. Anushree, India	3000
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<b>ADYAR DAY CONTRIBUTIONS</b>		Mr Amit Sudhir Nichani, India	20000
Adyar Lodge, India	2000	Mr Dinesh, India	500
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Chapra Lodge, India	10000	Ms Sushmaamasa, India	2500
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Sangli Lodge, India	700		
Mr Harish, India	2500	<b>ARCHIVES</b>	
Rohit Lodge, India	1000	Ms Weiwei Du, Singapore	100000
Nittur Lodge, India	1250		
Bro M. N. Sowbhagyavathi Devaru, India	2000	<b>SCHOOL OF THE WISDOM FUND</b>	
Ahmedabad Lodge, India	1500	Mr Vishwa Nath, India	5000
Vasishtha Lodge, India	2300	Ms Barbara Zanarb, USA	9000
Brethren of Bombay Theosophical Federation, India	5000	Mr S. B. Parswanathaiah, India	2000
Theosophical Society of Mysore, India	2400	Major (Adv) Raj Pal Sharma, India	5000
Bellary Sanmarga Theosophical Society, India	3000	Mr Tia Wilson, India	3896
The Utkal Theosophical Federation, India	1402	Ms Birgitta Skarbo, India	9000
Indraprastha Lodge Delhi Members, India	3100	Ms Weiwei Du, Singapore	100000
Noida Lodge, India	4000	Dr Urmila Sharma, India	1000
Universal Successes Lodge, India	2300	Mr Hauw Tio Hiong, Singapore	15555
Mrs G. Roopa, India	1000	<b>ANIMAL WELFARE FUND</b>	
Amsterdam Lodge, Netherlands	13708	Mr Madhav Bhaskarrao Naidu, India	10000
The Theosophical Society in France	37960	<b>SOCIAL WELFARE FUND</b>	
The Theosophical Society in Argentina	9728	Mr M. R. Gopal Sowrabha, India	2500
<b>RENOVATION FUND</b>		<b>ADYAR THEOSOPHICAL ACADEMY</b>	
Mr M. R. Gopal Sowrabha, India	5000	Mr M. R. Gopal Sowrabha, India	2500
Late Mrs Sushilaben and Mr Ramashankar Himmatram Pandya, India	175000	Ms Ananya Sriram Rajan, USA	20000
Major (Adv) Raj Pal Sharma, India	5000	The Theosophical Society in USA	1767371
Ms Weiwei Du, Singapore	200000	Mr Karthikeyan Siva, India	1008
Mr Nitin Sonawane, India	1000	Dr Deepa Padhi, India	50000
The Theosophical Society in USA	4350555	Mr Vic Hao Chin, Philippines	674802
Dr Khujith Rajueni, India	1000	Ms Maria Liusa de Dios, Spain	4038
Dr Deepa Padhi, India	350000	Mr Felix Undevarrieta, Spain	12115
Mrs Thrity Cyrus Dalal, India	50000	<b>LILY BOYD OES FUND</b>	
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The Theosophical Society in Argentina	11118	Ms Dianne Kynaston, Australia	94720
Ms Soegeng Widjaja & Ms Wiharti Limanto, Indonesia	6800	The Theosophical Society in Ukraine	10571
<b>BESANT MEMORIAL ANIMAL DISPENSARY</b>		<b>ADYAR FREE DISPENSARY</b>	
Mr G. Gowthaman, India	3000	Mrs T. A. Pomeroy, England	26016
Rotary Club of Chennai Towers Charitable, India	100000	<b>ADYAR NATURE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE</b>	
Mr Jigisha Darbha, India	23006	Mr T. M. Kannan, India	10000
Mrs Neelima Bajaj Swamy, India	50306	Transcend Therapeutics Pvt Ltd, India	5000
		Apex Laboratories Limited, India	5000

Kavitha Viswanathan Foundation, India	20000	<b>N. SRIRAM CHARITABLE ENDOWMENT FUND</b>	
Mr D. V. Ramesh, India	10000	N. Sriram Trust, India	693367
Naturalist Conclave, India	4980	<b>ADYAR SECURITY FUND</b>	
Mr S. V. Sankaran, India	12500	Ms Dara Tatrav, Australia	682500
<b>INDIAN REGENERATION ENDOWMENT FUND</b>		<b>THE THEOSOPHIST</b>	
HK Patwardhan Memorial Trust, India	425000	The Theosophical Society in Argentina	17371

## DONATIONS TO THE OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

1 March 2019 to 31 May 2019

	<u>Rs.</u>		<u>Rs.</u>
<b>FCRA DONATIONS</b>		Dharma Paripalana Sabha, India	26000
TS Library and Book Shop, Australia	71626	Wipro	100000
<b>INDIAN DONATIONS</b>		ECS	14900
Mrs Shantha Bai & Mr Achuta Rao, India	30000	Akshaya Vidya Trust	200000
Mr Ramachandra Rao Scindia, India	30000	Ms Shailaja	20000
Mr N. Subramanian, India	2400	Mr C. V. Shankar	75000
Mr Vallimoorthy, India	13000	Saba Foundation	10000
Mr K. Kumar	6000	Financial Software	250000
Tamarai Credit & Investment Pvt. Ltd., India	10000	Mr Prabakar	5000
Wipro Cares, India	3451384	Ms Vijayalakshmi Chidambaram	17000

### Cover Picture: R. R. Chari

The Purple Sunbird (*Cinnyris asiaticus*) is a common bird of the woodlands and urban gardens. Like other sunbirds, they feed mainly on nectar, although they will also take insects, especially when feeding young. They have a fast and direct flight and can sip nectar by hovering like a hummingbird but often perch at the base of the flowers. The males appear all black except in certain lighting, when the purple iridescence becomes visible. Females are olive above and yellowish below.

## ADYAR NEWSLETTER

PARTICULARS UNDER SECTION 19D SUB-SECTION (B) OF THE PRESS AND REGISTRATION OF BOOKS ACT - FORM IV (RULE 8)

1. Place of Publication	: The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020
2. Periodicity of Publication	: Quarterly
3. Printer's Name	: Mr V. Gopalan
Nationality	: Indian
Address	: The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020
4. Publisher's Name	: Mr S. Harihara Raghavan
Nationality	: Indian
Address	: The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020
5. Editor's Name	: Dr Geetha Jaikumar
Nationality	: Indian
Address	: The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020
6. Names and addresses of individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total capital.	: The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020

I, S. Harihara Raghavan, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated : 29.03.2019

S. Harihara Raghavan  
Publisher

Edited by Dr Geetha Jaikumar, published by Mr S. Harihara Raghavan and printed by Mr V. Gopalan  
at The Vasanta Press, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India

ISSN 09720-1878

Regd. No. R.N. 5627/1960