

# 148<sup>th</sup> International Convention

31st DEC 2023 to 4th JAN 2024

“Exploring and Understanding  
UNIVERSAL INTELLIGENCE”



**THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY**

International Headquarters, Adyar, Chennai, India

[convention.ts-adyar.org](http://convention.ts-adyar.org)

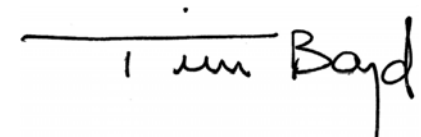


CONVENTION THEME

**‘Exploring and Understanding  
UNIVERSAL INTELLIGENCE’**

President’s Message

There is a shared misconception that we seem to treasure: that there is a Universal Intelligence, and there is us; there is a Heaven and an Earth; a God and all the rest. The sooner we release ourselves from this conviction of separation the sooner both we and the Earth can heal.



# DAILY PROGRAM

Times are in IST (Indian Standard Time)

UTC / GMT is –5.30 from the IST

ie. 8:30 AM IST = 3:00 AM UTC/GMT

## Saturday, 30 December

- 8.30 AM GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE TS.....*Library, Conf. Hall*  
*(For members of the General Council only)*
- 3.00 PM CANDLE CEREMONY.....*Headquarters Hall*  
Order of the Round Table  
*Delegates can watch the Ceremony and*  
*are requested to occupy seats by 2.45 PM*
- 4.00 PM Order of the Round Table, Council.....*Headquarters Hall*  
*(For members of the RT Council only)*
- 5.00 PM Inauguration of New Quadrangle and the Indian Canteen

Read from the Information Booklet about the coupons for Canteen

### INDIAN CANTEEN TIMINGS

**From 30 Dec Dinner to 5 Jan Lunch**

05:30 am – 06:00 am Coffee & Tea\*

06:45 am – 08:00 am Breakfast

12:00 noon – 01:30 pm Lunch

04:15 pm – 04:45 pm\*\* Snacks

07:00 pm – 09:00 pm Dinner

\*On payment of Rs.10/- \*\*Except on 31st

### LEADBEATER CHAMBERS TIMINGS

**From 30 Dec Dinner to 5 Jan Lunch**

07:00 am – 08:15 am Breakfast

12:00 noon – 01:30 pm Lunch

04:00 pm – 04:30 pm Snacks

06:15 pm – 07:30 pm Dinner

## Sunday, 31 December

- 6.00 AM Bharata Samaj Puja at *Bharata Samaj Temple*  
*Adyar Theatre*
- 8.30 AM OPENING OF THE CONVENTION  
Prayers of the Religions, Universal Prayer, Greetings,  
Invocation and opening by the International President,  
Launch of book of Radha Burnier, Group Photo
- 9.30 AM KEYNOTE “ADYAR EXTENSION”  
TS REPORT worldwide in 2022-23  
Tim Boyd, *International President, TS Adyar*  
*Library building*
- 11.00 AM INAUGURATIONS AT LIBRARY BUILDING  
a) Art Exhibition: Sculptures and Paintings  
by Artist Hemalatha Senathipathi  
b) Surendra Narayan Archives Exhibitions:  
◇ The Spirit of Adyar—A Journey into the Past  
◇ Radha Burnier—a Multi-Faceted Leader  
*Enquiry Office*
- 11.45 AM Opening the stalls of OES and BMAD  
OES = Olcott Education Society: Olcott School, Vocational Train-  
ing Centre, and Social Welfare Centre  
BMAD = Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary



## Sunday, 31 December

- Blavatsky Bungalow*
- 1.00 PM INDIAN SECTION COUNCIL MEETING — I  
*(For members of the Council only)*  
*Headquarters building*
- 1.30 PM INAUGURATIONS AT HQs  
1. The Renaissance of Art in Adyar: Paintings of Florence  
Ada Fuller  
2. Blavatsky Museum: exhibition of historical items  
*Adyar Theatre*
- 2.30 PM BESANT LECTURE  
“Virtue”  
M. M. Sundresh  
*Judge, Supreme Court of India*
- 3.30 PM RECEPTION *Note: Near Admin building*  
*Adyar Theatre*
- 4.30 PM NEW YEAR’S WORLD MUSIC CONCERT  
Global Rhythms—Blueprint of a New World  
*Award winning Vocalists, Musicians, LEAP Boundary Breakers*  
*Headquarters Hall*
- 7.30 PM RITUAL OF THE MYSTIC STAR  
*Delegates can watch the Ceremony and are requested to  
occupy seats by 7.25 PM*



## Monday, 1 January 2024

- 6.00 AM Bharata Samaj Puja at *Bharata Samaj Temple*
- 6.00 AM Silent Walking Meditation, Ven. Ananda Olande  
*Gather before 6 AM at LBC*
- 6.00 AM Yoga and Pranayama, Vimal Chand  
*Blavatsky Bungalow upstairs*
- Adyar Theatre*
- 8.30 AM SYMPOSIUM ON “EXPLORING AND UNDERSTANDING”  
“Understanding an Explorer’s Mind”  
Richard Sell, *National President, TS in New Zealand*
- “The Science and the Art of Living”  
Isis de Resende, *TS in Brazil*
- “Seeking and Knowing”  
Gerard Brennan, *President of Indo-Pacific Federation*  
- the talk will be read by the Moderator Vinayak Pandya
- 9.45 AM SHORT LECTURES  
“Understanding Universal Intelligence”  
Dr Deepa Padhi, *International Vice-President*
- “Intelligence: The Foundation of All Life”  
Mr Stephen McDonald, *National President, TS in Australia*
- 11.00 AM INDIAN SECTION CONVENTION-I  
“Inaugural Address”  
Tim Boyd, *International President*
- “State of The Indian Section Address”  
Pradeep Gohil, *President, Indian Section*

## Monday, 1 January 2024

- 1.00 PM TOS India Executive Committee  
*Note: at Headquarters Hall*  
*(For TOS India Executive members only)*
- 1.30 PM VISIT to Social Welfare Centre  
*Note: Adjacent to Main Gate*  
*Cultural Activities by SWC and Vocational Training Centre*
- WORKSHOPS 3.00 – 4.00 PM
- Blavatsky Bungalow upstairs  
“Theosophical Education –The Inner Flowering”  
Sonal Murali, *Director, Adyar Theosophical Academy*
- Headquarters Hall  
“Chanting workshop”  
Jaishree Kannan  
*Librarian, ALRC and Officer in Charge of the Surendra Narayan Archives*
- Blavatsky Bungalow downstairs  
“An Exploration of the Seven Rays”  
*World Federation of Young Theosophists*
- Adyar Theatre*
- 5.00 PM THEOSOPHY-SCIENCE LECTURE  
"Contemporary Science: Facts, Ideas, Questions"  
Prof. Rajaram Nityananda  
*Professor of Physics, International Centre for Theoretical Sciences, TIFR*
- 7.30 PM THEOSOPHY BY ART (Choir & Skit)  
BEAT, *Bank Employees Art Troop, an awarded Choir*  
Skit by B.T.F., *Bombay Theosophical Federation*

## Tuesday, 2 January

- 6.00 AM Bharata Samaj Puja at *Bharata Samaj Temple*  
6.00 AM Silent Walking Meditation, Ven. Ananda Olande  
*Gather before 6 AM at LBC*  
6.00 AM Yoga and Pranayama, Vimal Chand  
*Blavatsky Bungalow upstairs*

*Bharata Samaj Temple*

- 8.30 AM DEVOTIONAL MEETING  
*Bharata Samaj Temple*  
Chandrika Mehta, *TS in India*

*Adyar Theatre*

- 10.15 AM PANEL ON "INTELLIGENCE AND HUMAN NEED"  
Marcos de Resende, *TS in Brazil*  
Trần-Thi-Kim-Diêu, *TS in France*  
Chally Romero, *TS in Philippines*  
Krista Umbjarv, *TS in France, Chairperson*

- 11.15 AM DISCUSSION GROUPS



## Tuesday, 2 January

- 1.00 PM INDIAN SECTION COUNCIL MEETING —II  
*Note: at Blavatsky Bungalow*  
*(For members of the Council only)*  
1:30 PM Bharata Samaj Association, General Body meeting  
*Bharata Samaj Temple*  
1:30 PM VISIT to Adyar Theosophical Academy (ATA)  
at *Besant Gardens*  
'Wonderscape': An exhibition of ATA primary & middle  
school student explorations

*Adyar Theatre*

- 3:15 PM INTERVIEW  
Ven. Olande Ananda Thera  
*Venerable Buddhist Monk, Sri Lanka*  
Interviewed by Patrizia Calvi, *TS in Italy*  
5.00 PM PANEL  
"THEOSOPHY AND ART: From Origin to Horizons"  
Elif Kamisli, *Exhibition Manager, Turkey*  
Anupama Gaur, *Consultant Conservator, India*  
Erica Georgiades, *Director of The School of the Wisdom, Greece*  
7.30 PM EVENING PROGRAM  
Movie or documentary

## Wednesday, 3 January

- 6.00 AM Bharata Samaj Puja at *Bharata Samaj Temple*
- 6.00 AM Silent Walking Meditation, Ven. Ananda Olande  
*Gather before 6 AM at LBC*
- 6.00 AM Yoga and Pranayama, Vimal Chand  
*Blavatsky Bungalow upstairs*
- At Adyar Theatre*
- 8.30 AM THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE (TOS)  
Presentation by Nancy Secrest  
*TOS International Secretary,  
USA / Resident at Adyar, India*
- DANCE GROUP  
*Sri Arunodayam Home for Mentally Challenged Destitute  
Children*
- 9.45 AM DIALOGUE  
"THEOSOPHICAL WORK AND UNIVERSAL INTELLIGENCE"  
Tim Boyd, *International President*  
Trần-Thi-Kim-Diêu, *TS in France*
- 10.45 AM INDIAN SECTION CONVENTION II  
"Illumination from Within"  
Opening and closing remarks, Deepa Padhi as Chairperson  
"Meaning of Illumination from Within", Vinay Patri  
"How to get the Illumination from Within", Harsha S.S. Sonthi  
"Advantages of having Illumination from within", Adi Keshav  
Shastri  
"Difficulties in Getting Illumination from within", Mitalini  
Choudhury  
"Consciousness as Source of Illumination", Harshvadan Sheth

## Wednesday, 3 January

- 1:00 PM TOS INDIA Annual General Body  
*Note: at Headquarters Hall*
- 1.30 PM VISIT to Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School  
*Besant Gardens, Cultural Activities by the students*
- WORKSHOPS 3.00 – 4.00 PM
- Blavatsky Bungalow upstairs  
"Education for Life: The Art of Living and Learning"  
Sonal Murali, *Director, Adyar Theosophical Academy*
- Headquarters Hall  
"Chanting workshop"  
Jaishree Kannan  
*Librarian, ALRC and Officer in Charge of the Surendra Na-  
rayan Archives*
- Blavatsky Bungalow downstairs  
"Art as a Language of the Universal Intelligence"  
*World Federation of Young Theosophists*
- At Adyar Theatre*
- 5.00 PM PUBLIC LECTURE  
"Remembering the Future Garden"  
Joss Brooks  
*Veteran Australian Ecologist  
Pitchandikulam Forest, Auroville*
- 7.30 PM CULTURAL EVENING  
Artistic Sharing by the Delegates and Adyar Choir  
Vinay Patri, *Moderator, TS in India*

## Thursday, 4 January

- 6.00 AM Bharata Samaj Puja at *Bharata Samaj Temple*  
6.00 AM Silent Walking Meditation, Ven. Ananda Olande  
*Gather before 6 AM at LBC*  
6.00 AM Yoga and Pranayama, Vimal Chand  
*Blavatsky Bungalow upstairs*

*At Adyar Theatre*

- 8.30 AM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
Tim Boyd, Deepa Padhi, Pradeep Gohil, Douglas Keene
- 9.45 AM SHORT LECTURES ON ADVAITA  
"Universal Intelligence is to Know the Field and  
the Knower of the Field" — An Advaitic Perspective Based  
on *Śrīmad Bhagavadgītā* 13.2"  
Dr Radha Raghunathan  
*Director of Adyar Library and Research Centre*
- "Advaita, self-Knowing and Universal Intelligence"  
Sri Sankar Bhagavadpada  
*A Hindu teacher of Jnana Yoga and Commentator on the  
life-time work of Sri J. Krishnamurti*



## Thursday, 4 January

- 12 noon INDIAN SECTION COUNCIL MEETING — III  
*Note: at Blavatsky Bungalow  
(For members of the Council only)*
- 2.00 PM ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS  
*Headquarters Hall*

*At Adyar Theatre*

- 3.00 PM PLENARY SESSION  
Reports from the workshops  
World Federation of Young Theosophists (WFYT)  
Propagation Project, including SOW
- 5.00 PM PUBLIC LECTURE BY THE PRESIDENT  
"The Land and Us"  
Tim Boyd  
*International President, TS Adyar*
- 6.00 PM CLOSING OF THE CONVENTION  
Tim Boyd, *International President*  
Vote of Thanks, Shikhar Agnihotri, *Convention Officer*

## Thursday, 5 January

- 6.00 AM Bharata Samaj Puja at *Bharata Samaj Temple*  
6.30 AM Breakfast  
12 noon Lunch included in the package

# EARLY MORNINGS

&

# WORKSHOPS

## EARLY MORNING PRACTICES

1, 2, 3 and 4 January 2024

6.00 AM

Three choices to wake you up for a brilliant day

6.00 AM

**Bharata Samaj Puja**

*at Bharata Samaj Temple*

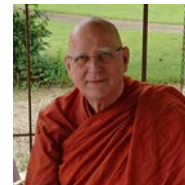


6.00 AM

**Silent Walking Meditation**

Led by Ven. Ananda Olande Thera

***Gather before 6 AM at LBC***



6.00 AM

**Yoga and Pranayama**

Led by Vimal Chand with Elena Bessie assisting

***Blavatsky Bungalow upstairs***





## HEADQUARTERS HALL

Jaishree Kannan

### **1 and 3 JANUARY (3-4 PM)** **“CHANTING WORKSHOP”**

Delegates are requested to attend both the sessions. The leader recommends the ancient Vedic way of learning chanting which is by complete listening. Hence there would not be any written material required nor does it require any stationery (paper, pen, pencil etc.) Let there be peace by chanting the Shanti Mantra.



## BLAVATSKY BUNGALOW

DOWNSTAIRS

World Federation of Young Theosophists

### **1 JANUARY (3-4 PM)** **“AN EXPLORATION OF THE SEVEN RAYS”**

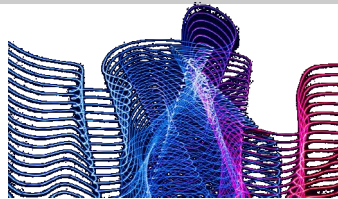
Esoteric Philosophy tells us that the universe is composed of seven distinct energies called in the Theosophical teachings as the seven rays. These rays serve as the building blocks of the universe in any particular place or time.

In a similar manner human beings are also composed of these same seven rays. In esoteric psychology, each body or vehicle may be composed of a particular ray. As human beings, we are all composed of all seven rays but there will be one or two which will be most predominant.

By knowing which rays are most predominant we are able to know more about ourselves and our spiritual path. This workshop aims to explore this concept of the seven rays as it applies to our personalities. Helping us to know more about ourselves through our dominant rays.

### **3 JANUARY (3-4 PM)** **“ART AS A LANGUAGE OF THE UNIVERSAL INTELLIGENCE”**

At this Workshop we would like to invite you to explore and understand the Universal Intelligence through art and creativity. After a moment of inspiration where some poems of esoteric character will be offered to you accompanied by music and images of artwork, we will invite you to share poems (your own or those that inspire you) or to express your vision with brush and colors!



## WORKSHOPS AT 3-4 PM

## BLAVATSKY BUNGALOW

UPSTAIRS

Sonal Murali



### **1 JANUARY (3-4 PM)** **“THEOSOPHICAL EDUCATION—THE INNER FLOWERING**

Theosophical education explores how to nurture the inner being and how to awaken the spark within.

A child is young only in body but may be wiser than adults around him/her, a being who is to be understood before being helped. Each child is an individual with his/her unique abilities in extraordinary ways and has come into this world to express that being in the best possible manner. We are unaware of the spiritual germ, the creative nebulae, within the child.

The theosophical approach to education is to see that the uniqueness of each child is celebrated, drawn out and given wings to express freely in myriad ways. In this session we will explore how theosophical education views the child and what inner flowering means.

### **3 JANUARY (3-4 PM)** **“EDUCATION FOR LIFE: THE ART OF LIVING AND LEARNING”**

We are all students of life and the learning never ceases. It is an ongoing process. Children have their active subconscious mind which like a tree has the power to gather its food from the surrounding atmosphere. Every day the child is searching to understand something, to grasp a piece of life.

An Educator's role is an interface for child to explore the inner and the outer spaces. Like life itself, education is not an isolated process instead it is a collaborative journey. In a holistic approach, both the teacher and the student are learners. They are equals, there is no hierarchy there and no psychological authority. Rabindranath Tagore said that the primary objective of education is to enable the preservation of the perfect symphony between one's life and the world outside.

School is not preparation for life. School is life itself. In this session we will explore how school can be the place to learn the art of living and learning.

# PUBLIC LECTURES

31.12.2023, 2:30 PM



BESANT LECTURE

“VIRTUE”

**Justice M. M. Sundresh**

*Judge, Supreme Court of India*

1.1.2024, 5:00 PM



THEOSOPHY-SCIENCE LECTURE

“CONTEMPORARY SCIENCE:  
FACTS, IDEAS, QUESTIONS ”

**Prof. Rajaram Nityananda**

*Professor of Physics,*

*International Centre for Theoretical Science*

3.1.2024, 5:00 PM



PUBLIC LECTURE

“REMEMBERING THE FUTURE  
GARDEN”

**Joss Brooks**

*Veteran Australian Ecologist,*

*Pitchandikulam Forest, Auroville*

4.1.2024, 5:00 PM



PUBLIC LECTURE BY THE PRESIDENT

“THE LAND AND US”

**Tim Boyd**

*International President,*

*Theosophical Society, Adyar*

# CULTURAL PROGRAMS

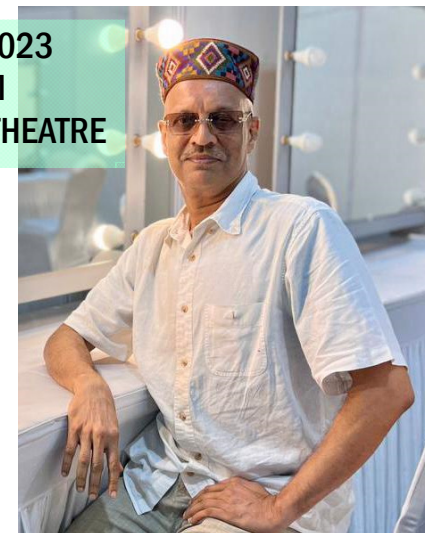


**Award winning vocalists**  
Sachin Shankor Mannath  
Vidushi Vishruthi Girish  
Anirudh  
Ikshika Sarode

**31.12.2023**  
**4:30 PM**  
**ADYAR THEATRE**

**Accompanying musicians**  
Jai Ganesh (electronic keyboard)  
Radhakrishnan (electronic percus-  
sion)  
Parthasarathy (percussion)

**& LEAP Boundary Breakers**  
Artistic Director—Srinivas Krishnan



1st January 2024 at 7:30 PM, ADYAR THEATRE

## BEAT CHOIR & SKIT BY B.T.F.

BEAT, Bank Employees Art Troop, an awarded choir  
B.T.F., Bombay Theosophical Federation

**7.30 PM BEAT CHOIR:** 17 women, 10 men, 1 teacher with 3 musicians will entertain us by the following songs of various languages.

Rasika Priya (not a song),  
Spanish (Voy a reir),  
English (Que sera),  
English (Let there be peace),  
Tamil (Thirukural),  
Hindi (Yeh waqt ki awaaz),  
Bengali (Baulo Baulo).  
Two songs for reserve – Hindi (kisi ki muskurahaton), Tamil (Bhoomi)

**8.15 PM B.T.F. SKIT:** After the Choir we will be entertained by skits presented by members from Bombay. They also have been awarded.



## VISITS TO Social Welfare Centre, Adyar Theosophical Academy, Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School





# EXHIBITIONS

**Open During the Convention daily 1.30 - 3.00 /4.00 PM**

## **ADYAR LIBRARY**

CONFERENCE HALL

- ◇ Art Exhibition by Hemalatha Senathipathi  
*Sculptures, Paintings, Metal Repousse Reliefs*

SURENDRA NARAYAN ARCHIVES

- ◇ The Spirit of Adyar: A Journey into the Past
- ◇ Radha Burnier—a Multi-Faceted Leader

DISPLAY ROOM

Old manuscripts and rare & old books

## **HEADQUARTERS BUILDING**

BESIDE THE MUSEUM

- ◇ The Renaissance of Art in Adyar  
*Paintings of Florence Ada Fuller*

BLAVATSKY MUSEUM

- ◇ Exhibition of historical items

## **ENQUIRY OFFICE**

OES = Olcott Education Society

BMAD = Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary

TPH = Theosophical Publishing House, *Note: at Kasi Vilas*



ADYAR LIBRARY BUILDING  
 CONFERENCE HALL  
 Arranged by the School of the Wisdom

**EXHIBITION**

**ARTIST S. HEMALATHA**

*Chennai, India*

S. HEMALATHA, Chennai based Sculptor and Painter was trained under the guidance of her father Eminent Artist M. Senathipathi of the erstwhile Madras Art Movement, Cholamandal Artists' Village, Chennai. An artistic career spanning over three decades, dedicatedly working in the medium of metal in the form of Sculptures and repousse reliefs. Her recent suite of works constitutes of metal sculptures in medium size and miniature formats, metal repousse reliefs and paintings. She delicately drawn peacocks with enamel on welded copper, and a variety of playful Ganesha sculptures with splashes of riotous color in enamel. Common themes run across the metal works, from the mythological to abstract renderings of animal and bird forms, evocative human figures as well as masks inspired by African tribal Art. She had executed many sculptures in many sizes, for corporate galleries, private art connoisseurs and worldwide. She received:

- 1991 GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU STATE AWARD
- 2019 GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU STATE AWARD



**SCULPTURES**

I desire to bring SCULPTURES into reality an object which expresses our dreams, aspirations and which is a part of ourselves. I merely in my own way continuing this tradition of Frontal & Three-dimension Sculptures. I delicately drawn peacocks with enamel on welded copper, and a variety of playful Ganesa sculptures with splashes of riotous color in enamel. Common themes run across the metal works, from the mythological to abstract renderings of animal and bird forms, evocative human figures as well as masks inspired by African tribal Art. I draw my inspiration from concepts found in nature, birds and various elements in Hindu mythology. It is my passion to create sculptures in a contemporary mode. It's my zeal to bring out historical significance in each piece and to contextualize ideas from classical narratives within the framework of my personal experience and understanding. It is for the beholder to judge whether I have indeed created a body of work which is both impressive in its presentation and significant in the message that I seek to convey.

**PAINTINGS**

My Paintings are an extension of my visual vocabulary and repertoire from my sculptures. The composition is dense with intense flowing curvilinear lines that create an effect of ceaseless dynamism and movement. The manifest energy is kinetic with fluid forms as its saliency. The colours are equally brilliant and dissonant, yet result in creating effervescent visual effects. My paintings reveal an inherent restlessness that is curbed in my sculptural forms but manifest unduly in my painted canvases. I have created the Painting in different angles like shapes of thoughts, appearance, images, structures, tele shapes with great feelings, sentiments and Mythological Series. I have not only exposed the Texture on the topic of Humanity but also have created the images in a different style by new materials in a different angle and have proven my ability.

**METAL REPOUSSE RELIEFS**

Metal repousse reliefs mark the highpoint of my artistic career. The meticulous details, surface textures and clean and precise forms stand testimony to my perfection of skills in this medium as well as to my visualization. The works evoke a sensuous feel because of my extensive use of curvilinear elements that simultaneously provoke dynamism of movement. The oxidization of the metal result in black highlights that further enriches the metal surface. In the repousse reliefs the spatial manipulation is limited, which in its judicious placement provides focus to the subject manner – Ganesha with Gopies, Krishna, kalinganadha, Hanuman, Shiva, Peacock, Christ etc.



THE ADYAR LIBRARY AND  
RESEARCH CENTRE



EXHIBITION

## RADHA BURNIER

*A MULTI-FACETED LEADER*

Mrs Radha Burnier was the seventh and longest serving International President of the Theosophical Society. She had a brilliant academic education having obtained a Master's Degree in Sanskrit and in Arts. She was also the first to graduate in Bharata Natyam from Kalakshetra, an institution founded by her aunt, Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale. In 1984, she was awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters by the Nagarjuna University for her "distinguished contribution to the advancement of learning and promotion of human values".

Radhaji, as she was affectionately known, was the Assistant Director of the Adyar Library and Research Centre (ALRC) from 1954 to 1959. She went on to become its Director and was also the Editor of Brahmavidya - the prestigious research journal brought out by the ALRC. She held these posts until 1980, when she was elected as the International President of the Theosophical Society. She translated Hathayogapradipika and the dance chapter of the Sangitaratnakara and other works.

We, at the Adyar Library and Research Centre, deem it an honour and a privilege to present a small exhibition to remember, celebrate, and honour our former Director, Smt. Radha Burnier, on her birth centenary, as well as on her 10th death anniversary.

ADYAR LIBRARY BUILDING  
SURENDRA NARAYAN ARCHIVES

EXHIBITION



## THE SPIRIT OF ADYAR

*A Journey into the Past*

**At Adyar there is a timeless beauty which the eye cannot see and mere words cannot capture, but which takes possession of the soul. Brooding over Adyar is a Presence, breathing benediction and peace. . .**

Accompany us on a journey into the distant past, shrouded in the mists of time, when our great Founders, Mme Helena Petrovna Blavatsky and Colonel Henry Steel Olcott, came to Adyar in 1882 for the first time and chose it to be the centre of the Theosophical world, not merely because of its physical beauty, but for its magnetism and spiritual atmosphere.

## EXHIBITION

# THE RENAISSANCE OF ART AT ADYAR

## Paintings of Florence Ada Fuller

Florence Ada Fuller (b. 1867, South Africa; d. 1946, Australia) was a distinguished portraiture and landscape painter. She studied at Melbourne's National Gallery School in 1883 and 1888 and with her uncle Robert Dowling, the renowned portrait painter, between 1884 and 1886. In 1889, she won the prize for best portrait painted by an artist under 25 at the Victorian Artists Society. During the 1890s, Fuller exhibited at the Manchester Art Gallery (UK), the Royal Academy and Royal Institute of Oil Painters (UK), and the Paris Salon (FR). She joined the Theosophical Society in Perth in 1905. Following Annie Besant's visit to her studio in 1908, she moved to International Headquarters in Adyar between 1909 and 1911, where she painted the portraits of the theosophist leaders. The exhibition brings together eight of her works from this period after being restored during The Adyar Art Conservation Project.

Portrait of Dr Annie Besant  
by Florence Ada Fuller



### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

O Hidden Life, vibrant in every atom;  
O Hidden Light, shining in every creature;  
O Hidden Love, embracing all in Oneness;  
May all who feel themselves as one with Thee,  
Know they are therefore one with every other.

### MISSION

Mission of the Theosophical Society 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.



website: <https://convention.ts-adyar.org/>



**The Theosophical Society**  
International Headquarters, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020, India.  
website: <https://www.ts-adyar.org/>