

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

There is movement in life. The effects of this movement we recognize as change. In our elevated moments we perceive a center point around which change and events seem to revolve — the still center we know as Truth, or Theosophy. Our role within this ever moving world is first to experience, and then to demonstrate the possibility of stillness.

## **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

To the 139th Annual Convention of the Theosophical Society  
Adyar, 26 December 2014

It is with much pleasure that I welcome all of you to this 139th International Convention, and wish you a joyful and stimulating time at our sacred and peaceful Adyar Headquarters. Let us invoke the blessings of our Elder Brethren, and let our minds and hearts be ready and open to receive what they are willing to give.

**May those who are the embodiments of Love immortal bless with their help and guidance this Society, founded to be a channel for their work. May They inspire it with their Wisdom, strengthen it with their Power, and energize it with their Activity.**

I am very glad to open this 139th Annual Convention of the TS.

The theme for this year's convention is 'Theosophy in Changing Times'. A year ago at this same time there was a sense of uncertainty within our convention. Radha had passed. The process leading to a new president was under way. Change was in the air, but its nature was unclear. One year later the election process has ended and we are beginning to move in a yet uncharted direction. One of the most basic recognitions for any conscious person is the

fact of change. Whether the effects of change are welcomed or not, the fact that it is part of the fabric of existence is universally recognized. I have known people who have openly declared that they are opposed to change. Although this is clearly an unreasoned reaction, it is understandable. Often, because we have become accustomed to functioning in a particular way, shifting to some other approach to doing the same thing can be challenging.

A number of years ago, when the use of computers was becoming widespread and the internet was becoming widely available, I used to help my father with the business of his farm. At that time he was approaching 80 years old. He would tell me what he needed to do, the projects he was focusing on and I would show him ways that we could use technology to help accomplish it. I remember on one occasion showing him something on the computer. He asked, 'You can do all of that with this machine?' When I answered yes, his response was, 'I think I have lived too long'. Although it was typical of my father's humor, the idea he was trying to express was that he felt overwhelmed by the rapid process of change. Unlike many, he did not oppose it. It was simply that having spent a lifetime viewing the world from a particular angle, shifting that point of view was too demanding for him. In part as a result of the aggressive nature of the changes currently upon us, my father's response is now being echoed in a global sense of unease with the pace and direction of technology-driven change. Outer

change requires some inner response. Given the relentless nature of the movement we describe as change, for the mind that demands stability or some sense of security, it can be disconcerting.

Helen Keller was born in the late 1800's without sight, hearing, or the ability to speak. During her life she overcame these substantial obstacles and went on to become a world-renown author, inspirational speaker, and one of the greatest humanitarian activists of the twentieth century. She said many profound things, but on the subject of change she said this, 'Security is an illusion. It does not exist in Nature'. The idea that there is the possibility of some static condition in life is the product of superficial thinking and the source of needless suffering.

For us, as students of the Ageless Wisdom and members of the Theosophical Society, it is not uncommon to fall into a similar trap. Too many sincere spiritual seekers find themselves searching for peace, enlightenment, and liberation on their own terms. These words are familiar to all of us, but the reality behind them goes beyond terminology. What is peace? What is enlightenment? Too often the conventional view of these states of consciousness is negative. It is negative in the sense that peace, for example, is regarded as a void, an absence – an absence of strife, conflict, worry, personal difficulties, and so on. In essence the imagined fruit of the state of being at peace is static and unchanging. This is more of an expression

of a personal desire for comfort than a description of the reality. So many things in the spiritual life can become colored by the projection of our personal wants. Until we become grounded in the experience of a higher life we are necessarily subject to such projections.

In her *Inner Group Teachings* H. P. Blavatsky made the poignant statement that 'Whatever plane our consciousness may be acting in, both we and the things belonging to that plane are, for the time being, the only realities'. In a certain sense, we are stuck. We cannot see what we cannot see. One of the beauties of a genuine embrace of the Theosophical worldview and its teachings is that it

holds the potential for transformation – for an utterly new way of seeing. There is no formula or road-map for this type of profound change, but within us there is a certainty of two things, 1) transformation is possible, and, 2) at the deepest levels of our being, it is our need. Whenever we reach a point in our unfoldment where we find meaning in something like Theosophy, it is because we are approaching a more expansive plane of consciousness.

Facing the pressing needs in the world today, we must ask ourselves what we can do to hasten this unfoldment, and turn our faces towards a world in need.



## MUSEUM

The Museum will be open during the Convention everyday from 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm. It holds a unique collection of memorabilia from several Presidents of the TS as well as other leaders. It also displays a significant art collection, including paintings and statues. Delegates are kindly requested not to take photos inside the Museum and to switch off their mobile phones or tablets.

## SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE

The Social Welfare Centre (SWC) runs a day-care centre cum nursery school for small children of working parents from low income families. This year the centre took care of sixty children who were provided with nutritious food, milk and fruits. The children were taught colouring, numbers, alphabets, rhymes, songs, drill and dance. The children were also taken for outings to parks and the zoo outside. Dr R. Revathy visited the Centre regularly for conducting

health check-ups and also provided guidance to parents on healthcare for the children. On the Adyar Day, dresses were given by TOS India. Members from Slovenia and Finland also visited the SWC and donated mats, playthings and clothes for the children and teachers.

**Visit:** Delegates are invited to a cultural programme and exhibition at the SWC on Saturday, 27 December 2014, 1.30 – 3.00 p.m.



## VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

The Vocational Training Centre (VTC) will be having a stall at the Theosophical Society Annual Convention. It will be inaugurated on 26 December 2014 at 10 a.m. Products on sale include handicraft items like greeting cards, wire baskets, bracelets and key chains.

**The Weaving** unit has two trained instructors and is exhibiting around 100 items for sale in the stall such as carpets, meditation mats, door mats, napkins, hand towels, bath towels and much more.

**The Tailoring** unit exhibits emblem bags, travelling bags, shoulder bags, ladies' handbags, clutches, coin purses and kids' fancy bags etc, totalling around 500 items for sale in the stall.

A regular one year Certificate Course

was introduced in the year 2000, and VTC gives training to 25 women under 2 trained teachers. The course content includes cutting, designing, crafting the pattern, layout and estimation of cloth requirement for ladies' and children's dresses. Also, around 40 different hand embroidery stitches are taught.

Every year, during the Convention VTC students display their skills with models, records, albums and other handiwork at the Exhibition. It will be inaugurated on 27 December 2014 at 1.30 p.m., at the SWC.

Eight of our students who have successfully completed the tailoring course this year are getting Merit Certificates during the cultural event held after the inauguration programme.



## OLCOTT MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

In the last academic year 2013-14 the school was upgraded and the first batch of Class XII students will be taking the HSC board exams in March 2015 with the Commerce group — commerce, accountancy, economics and computer science. This academic year the school has offered two groups to Class XI students — Commerce and Arts streams. We have admitted 55 boys and girls in the two streams. Both streams have computer science as part of the group. The school functions with 2 full-fledged computer labs of 15 computers each.

The school students continue to get support from volunteers from different companies and NGOs who add value to the regular academic learning with general knowledge and awareness programmes. The volunteers have also organized dental and eye camps and provided follow-up care as well. The school has had follow-up visits from the earlier donor agencies and also an assessment visit from an Indian foundation with support MOU for 3 years.

The noon meal provided by the government to the children has seen a radical shift in the variety of food served.

The school has ensured that the meals are well cooked. The children now enjoy the noon meal with relish.

Both boys and girls have been at the forefront in the inter-school games and sports events, kabaddi, kho-kho, handball and volleyball. Newer games like frisbee have found favour with both boys and girls. The teams are ready to participate in tournaments outside school as well. The International Awards for Young People (IAYP) adventure and physical fitness camps were conducted at Yelagiri under rigorous conditions. The service activities of beach cleaning have been done well. Further service activity orientation is being emphasized.

The first school magazine *Thulir* meaning tender shoot/sprout has been brought out in printed form and the second one is getting ready. The Republic and Independence days were celebrated with fervour. Cash prizes were awarded to the top rankers in the SSLC exams of March 2014.

**Visit:** Delegates are invited to attend the cultural activities and exhibition at the Olcott School on Monday, 29 December 2014, from 1.30 – 3.00 p.m.



## ADYAR LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTRE

Col. H. S. Olcott established the Adyar Library and Research Centre (ALRC) in 1886 with the main aim of reviving the study of Oriental literature, philosophy, and religion, and encouraging genuine scholars in Indian studies. The ALRC,

which was earlier known as Adyar Library, began its work by bringing out modest publications on Indian philosophy and religions. Later this developed into a fine series of publications bringing to the Western world knowledge of

Sanskrit and other Eastern literature. The Centre is functioning under the guidance of the International President of the Theosophical Society. We all condole and make note of the passing of our past chairman Dr Radha Burnier on 31st October 2013. We are all grateful for her dedicated service to the Adyar Library and Research Centre. From 1954-59 she was the Assistant Director and from 1959-1980 the Director of this prestigious Indological institution. As the Director, she was the editor of the Library's Research journal *Brahmavidya* and supervised its publications. She also translated a few Sanskrit works, such as the *Hatha-yoga-pradipika*, a well-known manual on Hatha Yoga, and the chapter on dance in the *Samgitaratnakara*, a classic work on music and dance. She continued to be on the editorial board of the Library's journal on Indology.

It has been decided to publish the next combined issue of *Brahmavidya* vols. 78-79 (2014-15), as a commemoration volume of Dr Radha Burnier incorporating some good articles.

We all condole and make note of the passing of Dr Srinivasa Sankaranarayanan on 19.9.2014. He was a Gazetted Officer for 21 years in the Epigraphy Branch, Archaeological Survey of India and Director and Professor in the Oriental Research Institute and Department of Indian Culture, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, for 10 years. He was also a UGC Professor for 3 years in the Department of Sanskrit, University of Madras. During 1986-2010 he was Hon. Prof. in the Adyar Library and Research Centre. The title *Vedasāstraratnākara*

has been conferred on him by Sri Paramacarya, Kanchi Kamakoti Pitham (1984). To his credit he has some 100 published research papers on different Indological and philosophical topics and 9 books in Sanskrit and English. We are all grateful for his dedicated service to the Adyar Library and Research Centre.

The present editorial board includes the following eminent persons for our journal *Brahmavidya*:

1. Mr Tim Boyd — Chairman
2. Dr T. Narayanan Kutty
3. Prof. Christian Lindtner
4. Mr Subhash Kak
5. Mr N. Kazanas
6. Dr K. N. Neelakantan
7. Dr S. Ramaratnam
8. Dr G. Gangadharan Nair

Mr Tim Boyd is the 8th International President of the Theosophical Society from 2014. Dr Chittaranjan Satapathy worked as the Director of the Adyar Library and Research Centre for six months. Prof. C. A. Shinde has been the Librarian from October 2006 and Dr K. N. Neelakantan Elayath worked as the Director (Sanskrit Studies) after the retirement of Dr S. Sankaranarayanan. Mr S. Harihara Raghavan held additional charge of the Director in his absence. Dr T. Narayanan Kutty has now been appointed as the Director from April 2014. He was a Professor in Sanskrit with specialization in Advaita Vedanta. He has many publications to his credit.

Dr S. Bhuvaneshwari, Ms T. M. Ramani and Mrs Padma Padmanabhan are fully associated with the research and publications of the Centre.

## **Publications and Reprints**

1. *Brahmavidya*, the Adyar Library Bulletin Volume, 76-77, 2012-13.
2. Alphabetical Catalogue of the Adyar Library Publications.
3. Introductory Booklet on the Adyar Library and Research Centre.
4. Supplement to *Brahmavidya*, commemorating the 125th year of The Secret Doctrine by H. P. Blavatsky — re-
5. The Saiva Upanishad-s, English translation based on the commentary of Upanishad Brahmayogin by T. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar (ALS 85).
6. Vishnusahasranâma English translation by Ananthakrishna Sastry (ALGS 8).
7. Amarakosa (vols. I and II) with rare South Indian commentaries (ALS 101).



## **BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY**

The Chennai Centre of Beauty Without Cruelty (BWC) and the Animal Welfare Centre of the Theosophical Society (TS) have again organized a stall during the Annual Convention this year. On display are easy-to-read posters that give extensive details about the suffering and death inflicted upon innocent animals at factory farms, in the cosmetic industry, and so on. BWC is an international educational trust dedicated to the total abolition of abuse to animals. It is a way of life which causes no creature of land, sea or air, terror, torture or death. It opposes the commercial exploitation of all animals, believing that they too have the right to live and enjoy the same care and consideration as humans.

The Animal Welfare Centre of the TS cares for the welfare of the animals on the campus, both domesticated and wild. The core value of 'the one life' in all creatures, big and small, human and non-human, is central to its work and operations.

Anyone may become a member. Life membership of the BWC costs Rs 300/- (Rs 600/- outside India). All are welcome to visit the stall from 26 to 30 December. The Poster Exhibition is open for 24 hours during this period. The timing for information, sales and membership subscription is 10 a.m. to 12 noon. T-shirts, calendars, non-leather wallets and information pamphlets will be on sale. The stall was inaugurated by Mr Tim Boyd, international President of The Theosophical Society, after the opening of the Convention.



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**Number of delegates registered Friday, 26 December: 1,130.**

# THE THEOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING HOUSE

## MISSION

Our mission is to disseminate Theosophical literature by increasing the number, availability and readership of the publications of the Theosophical Publishing House (TPH) and the Adyar Library and Research Centre.

We will work towards this mission by distributing more extensively both in-house publications as well as selected compatible publications of other reputable publishers and ensuring customer satisfaction, in conformity with the best international publishing practices and the ideals of the Theosophical Society.

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The Theosophical Publishing House (TPH), Adyar, welcomes you to the 139th International Convention and to the sacred and serene 'ashrama' of Adyar.

TPH appeals to you to contribute your best to the cause of Theosophy and the Theosophical Society by buying its books, and subscribing to the journals published by TPH and the Adyar Library and Research Centre (ALRC). Theosophical publications and journals make a precious gift to your friends and relatives, spreading awareness about our great organization, that attempts to mould world thought towards universal brotherhood, harmony and peaceful coexistence.

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## OUR PRESTIGIOUS JOURNALS

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### ***The Theosophist (Monthly)***

**A journal for all serious students of Theosophy**

Started in 1879, with HPB as Editor, *The Theosophist* has continued without a break, linking each succeeding President and readers throughout the world. Articles in the journal represent the views and insights of leading Theosophists worldwide. The President's column 'On the Watch-Tower' draws attention to recent and important trends in the world from a Theosophical point of view.

### ***Adyar Newsletter (Quarterly)***

*Adyar Newsletter* brings up-to-date news to members about the International Headquarters. You can keep in touch, wherever you are, with events, publications, programmes of the School of the Wisdom, the work of the departments, information about Adyar's wonderful trees and other aspects of Nature, personalities who visit or stay, educational activities and brotherhood in action through welfare work.

### ***Wake Up India (Quarterly)***

The journal of the New Life for India Movement, a movement for Right Citizenship, Right Values and Right Means, focuses attention on current issues of social, environmental and ethical relevance and sensitizes the public on these matters.

### ***Theosophical Digest (Quarterly)***

This magazine, published by the Theosophical Society in the Philippines, contains very interesting and illuminating articles with insights into the higher life, practical wisdom, and Eastern and Western philosophies. It is of interest to students of Theosophy as well as to the general public.

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## Subscribe to Our Prestigious Journals

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*Either for yourself or as gift subscriptions to your friends and relatives. Subscriptions to our journals will be accepted at the TPH and at the Adyar Bookshop, and are much appreciated.*

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