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Welcome everyone to our winter edition of TOS Links. Winter brings home to many how fortunate we are in having a warm abode to rest in nightly, yet thousands of our countrymen and women are homeless and are forced to find refuge on the street.

TOS encourages members to reach out to our community as well as supporting our international projects. Knowing the purpose of TOS (loving action) is vital to shift our own consciousness and take our world forward. Our Perth TOS has been active in assisting homeless and disadvantaged people; distributing small back packs filled with basic necessities and a few treats. They do this through a local community service organisation. On the Sunshine Coast several of our members work with a refugee support group and recently participated in a Picnic Outing at Mooloolaba beach for refugee women from Brisbane, about a 1.5hr bus ride away.. In addition to the picnic lunch, they were treated to a Lucky Dip of items which may seem everyday items to us, but to these women they were luxury items such as hand and body lotions. Most of the women and their children were from Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan and had been in refugee camps in Thailand for ten years, our hearts went out to them. They were so happy for such a simple outing as a drive in the country followed by a beach picnic. These small thoughtful projects can make such a difference to those struggling to fit into our society.

Theosophy is built on altruism based on the model of Study, Meditation and Service. All three of these are equally important as we journey to perfection. Our lives and the lives of others in our sphere of influence may change if loving action or living theosophy is part of our daily life.

The Special Nature of the TOS: – Extract from an article of our late President Mrs Radha Burnier, featured in *The Theosophist*, Dec.1944



It should go without saying that the basic work of the Theosophical Order of Service is to help humanity to discover the cause of suffering by cleansing the mind. For the mind to cease being the source of problems, it must discover the centre that is self, which it has created.

That self, as Krishnamurti pointed out, can be observed best in relationships and in action. He, who abstains from action, as *The Voice of the Silence* clearly indicates, cannot gain freedom, because he has no means of learning about the intricate and subtle ways in which the self operates and is sustained. For Theosophists who understood, at least theoretically, that unity is the nature of existence, daily life must be a process of watching how the self intervenes in relations and creates confusion and conflict. As the faculty of self-awareness develops, action becomes purer and more truly helpful because the barrier between the self and the other is breaking down. Indifference to the suffering of others is a negative form of self-centredness and proof of the absence of self-awareness. Loving action, on the contrary, shows that there is growth in understanding, and a weakening of the selfhood that separates. Loving service increases the power of the mind to know. Unfortunately, not enough members of the Theosophical Society realize that the Order of Service is a wonderful means to the realization of unity. Its work has the potency to ennoble the worker while relieving the distressed.

When the Order was founded many groups came into existence throughout the world. In the course of these many years of enormous amount of work has been done by the Order, but there are also many areas where no awareness of the importance of such work exists. In a few places there has been even discouragement, because of a misconception that nothing should distract people from the main work of the TS. The main work of the TS and should always be to effect the inner transformation of which mention was made earlier. But the work of giving immediate help to those who need it cannot be neglected.

Your Stories: Sponsoring a Golden Link College Student **Beverley Parker, National**

In early April this year I travelled to the Philippines to see my sponsor student graduate from the Golden Link College as a Bachelor in Secondary Education, majoring in mathematics. Jonadette A. Dimanlig is the only Cum Laude of her group. I had sponsored Jonadette for four years. We wrote often and exchanged photographs. It was so wonderful as I walked into the college grounds to be greeted with such love and enthusiasm. We hugged for ages. I met all her class mates, all amazing young people, so respectful and loving.



Bev. treating her sponsored child and her parents to a birthday indulgence. Jonadette's first ever birthday cake.

The Mission and Vision of the Golden Link College is to educate children and young adults to become competent, well balanced, emotionally mature, socially responsible, morally upright and spiritually sensitive individuals. This is so obvious, as the first day I attended the "moving up" ceremonies at the college, very young children came up to me, then put out their right hand, looked me in the eye as they shook my hand and thanked me for visiting the Golden Link College. All the children expressed a desire to have a good education, find an amazing position in the work place and help their people.

The college vision is to bring quality and right education to the less privileged through sponsorship paid yearly. My time in Manilla ended with a special birthday celebration for Jonadette, seen above enjoying candles and a chocolate birthday cake, her very first real birthday experience ever.

The annual fees range from US240 for preschool to US690 for college courses. I can recommend to all our TOS members to consider the option of sponsoring a child or have your group sponsor a child. It is amazing the difference it can make to the life of a child. For further information to participate in this worthwhile programme please email the college at;- goldenlink2002@gmail.com

Report from TOS Pakistan **Mushtaq Ali Jindani, Karachi**

You would be happy to know that TOS has revived its tradition of holding study groups and meditation sessions as were common features in the past. Now after a lapse of few years, TOS made a humble beginning to hold a workshop on a 'Formula for a Successful Life' on Wednesday April 27, 2016 at 12.30 PM at the Jamshed Memorial Hall.

The program was a great success as the audience included the President of TOS Mr. Hamid Mayet, the Hon. Secretary Mrs. Vaqar Zaman, the members of TOS, KTS PPRS, the staff members, teachers of JMMS and Qandeel, MMI students and participants from general public. The speaker for the event was Mr. Mushtaq Ali Jindani. The central theme of the program was to inspire the audience to lead a successful life of performance, productivity, prosperity, peace and happiness. He defined success as achievement of goals with happiness and peace of mind that one had set up for one's life.



Participants at a workshop in Karachi, Pakistan

The session started with a practice of meditation suggested by the great Montessori educationist Dr. Maria Montessori. The participants were requested to gently close their eyes and focus on their incoming and outgoing breath. After the exercise the participants experienced calm and peace within themselves.

The speaker illustrated his talk with examples of people who aimed high, were successful, contended and happy despite their disabilities. He talked about and showed video clips of people like Nick without arms and leg, Srikanth Bolla CEO of a Rs.100 crore company despite being a blind person and Samina Baig living in Hunza being the first Pakistani woman to conquer Mount Everest.

The speaker emphasized that for a successful and peaceful life one has to begin by assessing one's talents and weaknesses. one needs to set goals; be proactive; meditate, eat nutritious food, do exercises regularly, read books, attend classes and seminars, be helpful to others, serve the family and community and understand other people.

Reports from national groups
Mornington Peninsula - Alice Opper

At our Sunday monthly TS meetings, during our 11 am meetings, I read aloud sections of interest, and inspiring articles from the Australian/International TOS Newsletter, which I receive by email, plus other TOS State Newsletters with accounts of their original, interesting activities. Perth still leads the field with their intriguing contents, beautifully presented.

We collect donations for TOS at our TS meetings. Totals of these collections came to \$230.75. These donations will be used for TOS international projects in the coming year. Creative Art and Mandala Healing Workshops conducted by Georgina Fode are held monthly on a Saturday afternoon at our local Mornington library and open to the general public as well as TS members. The latter donations totalled \$980.00. Total payments for TOS projects for the current year were \$1, 180.00

Our committee decided that donations be divided into two, with half going to the Theosophical Golden Link College in the Philippines, and the other half to the Olcott Memorial School in Adyar, India. The former was via the Kern Foundation in the U.S.A who pledges to double any donations received. A further \$200 was given in conjunction with \$400 from the Melbourne TOS, for the Golden Link College and presented in person to visiting international speaker, Vic Hao Chin Jr. (a founder of this College) at the Melbourne TS Centre following his inspiring talk/power point presentation on Wellbeing and Happiness and the value of self-awareness as an aid to achieve this.



Blavatsky Lodge Sydney New Premises

Blavatsky, Sydney – Richard Larkin

This year we have continued our change of direction beginning last year by introducing speakers from organisations sympathetic to the work of the TOS, in particular a very eye opening presentation from Humane Research Australia into the use of animal testing in scientific research and alternatives to the use of animals for such research. We will continue this contact with other charitable organisations to build a network of those who are concerned with making Australia a better place, and for our members to involve themselves with social issues to make theosophical principles part of their daily lives.



Moving Day Sydney to St Leonards

Despite some disruptions due to preparation for the move to St Leonards, we have continued our various activities such as the weekly meditation sessions each Thursday evening for those who would like refresh themselves after a hard day's work, The "Mushroom Network" for retired TS members continues to work to help them stay in touch with Lodge functions, so they can still feel part of our Society, Our fund raising activities for various charities have also continued, such as for the Exodus Foundation and the Animal Dispensary at Adyar. We are also raising money for the Nepal Earthquake appeal run by Oxfam, which is ongoing. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who assisted in the work of the TOS Sydney. Firstly to the speakers who have supported our work with their fascinating talks each month. While we have had to temporarily stop our book sales until the move has been completed. I would still like to thank all those who have helped with the book sales, including Wendy Fitzpatrick in Adyar Library, and Ana Purumian, Carole Bowen and Graham for organising and running the book sales. We hope to restart the sales once the move has been done. A special thanks to my fellow committee members: Vice President Anthony Raymond, Treasurer, Lucille Crocker, Assistant Treasurer, Ly Ngoc, Secretary John Spraggon and committee member Lodi Warouw. Another thank you to the members of Blavatsky Lodge, in particular President Simon O'Rourke, Pamela and Ilze, the Executive Committee and Louise Proudman of the Lodge Office and all those who have assisted us in so many ways throughout the year. Finally, I would like to express my thanks to everyone who has attended our Saturday afternoon sessions. Their interest has made these gatherings the success that they are, I hope to bring all of our supporters another year of interesting and thought provoking sessions that they can engage with in the future.

A Changing World: The Power of Service – Keeping focused

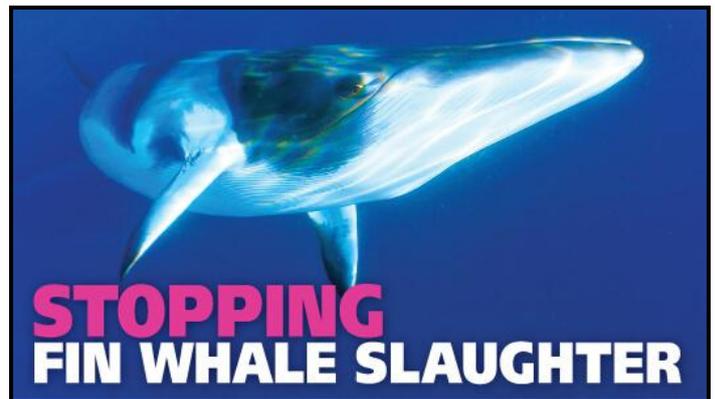
We are living at amazing times; global change is all around us. There is evidence of a new awareness or a spiritual awakening and a shift in consciousness throughout the world that Madame Blavatsky predicted. Populace the world over are challenging the old feudal system - political, social, economic and environmental institutions are being forced to adjust to a new more inclusive way of thinking. We have seen evidence of this in recent elections in the United Kingdom and at home here in Australia.

In this age of Kali Yuga the world sometimes appears to be very dark, yet on the other hand there is much light which offsets the darkness. I am reminded from the timeless Wisdom Teachings that evolution requires tension. If we can see tension as part of the evolution of the spirit and stay focused on the purpose of theosophical teachings then we can surely live life to uplift mankind. An awareness of the purpose of our teachings that we are here to liberate our minds into a new way of thinking and recognize the unity of all life may enable us to live a life of loving action. We can then creatively and joyfully do the work that needs to be done in service to the world. Through living theosophy we may grow and change and not be caught up in what appears to be the outer harshness of the world.

Online Activism – “Avaaz” – Can we change the world one click at a time?

Ricken Patel, a young Canadian thinks so. He is executive director of a global civic organisation committed to accuracy and his ambition goes back half a lifetime. When Patel was 18, he was on holiday in Mexico with his family, who live in Canada. One night he sat everyone down, very gravely, and told them he had an idea for making the world a better place. His insight was that most people in the world want pretty much the same thing and what they want is actually quite modest. He was going to mobilize global citizens to act together to achieve this. His family were taken aback, and Patel remembers his aunt making the first remark. "So, you want to be a do-gooder?"

Avaaz now has over 40 million members please consider joining this NGO and glimpse how you can change the world. Their web site www.avaaz.org
The following illustrations are just some of their achievements over the past twelve months;-.



To give to strangers is the beginning of transformation. This type of giving is the best antidote for attachment.

Annie Besant

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