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Theosophical Order of Service International Newsletter

Issue 15 April 2011

to TOS website

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(L. to R.)  
 Carolyn Harrod is the National Coordinator of the TOS in Australia, Geoffrey Harrod is the International TOS Webmaster and Diana Dunningham Chapotin is the International Secretary of the TOS.

Dear fellow-members of the TS and TOS around the world,

Welcome to this second issue in 2011 of our international on-line newsletter. We aim to keep you in touch with what is happening in the world-wide TOS family, to enable you to get to know TOS members outside your own country and to bring information to inspire your service work within or outside the TOS. Remember that the newsletter is designed to be read while you are connected to the internet.

A great deal of our service work requires us to provide material resources as well as our time, energy and commitment. Consequently, we are often searching for new, easy and enjoyable fundraising ideas. One of our international projects is to put together a compilation of fundraising ideas that have worked for groups. We'd love to hear from as many of you as possible, sharing your stories of successful fundraising events and activities. Please put pen to paper during April and May and tell us how you went about your fundraising. If you have photographs to accompany your story, of course, we would be overjoyed to receive them.

Please also consider sending photographs of your TOS activities and news items that might be of interest to fellow TOS members. We would welcome your contributions, either through your National TOS Director/President/Coordinator/Correspondent or directly to the editors at:  
[carolyn.tosinternational@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.tosinternational@gmail.com)  
 Click to email

**Theosophists all over the world are horrified at the situation in Japan following March 11's earthquake and tsunami and are thinking with deep concern of all its citizens, including the members of the Theosophical Society there. Our prayers are with them all. The TOS is in touch with Mr Taichi Yamaguchi, the President of Nippon Lodge in Tokyo, who will let us know if there is any specific help we can give beyond donating to recommended charities within our own countries.**

### Would you like to receive this on-line newsletter automatically?

- To sign up, you only have to send a message telling us which country you live in with 'Subscribe TOS e-newsletter' in the subject line to [tos.intouch@theoservice.org](mailto:tos.intouch@theoservice.org)  
 Click to email
- If you do not want to receive future newsletters you can easily unsubscribe. All that is needed is a blank message with 'Unsubscribe TOS e-newsletter' in the subject line.

Please ensure the TOS email address is not made available to Facebook or other social networking sites to automatically 'invite'. Also, please do not forward attachments to us unless they are specific contributions for the newsletter or notices of TOS activities.

With best wishes,  
 Carolyn, Diana and Geoffrey

*Be the change you want to see in the world.*

- Mahatma Gandhi



### American TOS Honorary President for Life, Jean Gullo, passes

On Friday, January 28, 2011 Jean Gullo passed away. Although her health had been deteriorating over several years, she was lucid and loving until the end.

From Jean's first days as a TSA member, the Theosophical Order of Service became a focus for her energies. She was strongly influenced by an early mentor, Lois Holmes, who at that time was President of the Theosophical Order of Service. An artist by training, Jean soon found herself head of the TOS Department of Art and Music.

In 1966 Jean became President of the TOS, a position she would hold for the next 41 years! As president she was always innovating. She and her husband, Joe, developed the idea for a magazine and in 1982 the first issue of *For the Love of Life* went to press.

Jean was a writer, speaker, administrator, fundraiser, motivator and constant example of love in action. She will be missed by the many whose lives she has touched over the years.

[Read more....](#)



### The reward of good work is more good work, of course

Reveal too much efficiency and dedication as a rank and file volunteer and you may end up as national coordinator of TOS activities in your country! This is what has happened to two workers after the TS Congress in Rome.

**Rosella Milani Fanzio** acted as saleslady at the bazaar organised by the TOS in Italy at the Rome Congress last July. She and her team put in long hours at their post, remaining charming and courteous to all, even late into the evenings. The reward for Rosella's indefatigability was to be appointed National Director of the TOS in Italy a few months later.

**Usha Shah**, one of the members of the Kenyan delegation at the TS Congress in Rome last July, offered to carry 30 teddy bears knitted by Italian TOS members back to Nairobi for distribution to children experiencing tragedy. Usha is diminutive in size and she bravely shepherded her bag of teddies through customs check points all the way from Rome to Nairobi.

Spending 24 hours with a bag of teddies for company apparently affords plenty of time for creative thinking. Usha ended up organising a Christmas party for 30 children at the cancer ward of Kenyatta National Hospital. Usha was appointed Coordinator of TOS activities in Nairobi in March.

[Read more....](#)



### TOS news from around the world

Read the report of the annual colloquium of the TOS **Mumbai Region in India** and how it included a practical expression of the ideals of brotherhood and service by involving delegates in activities with a local school for the handicapped. Learn how the TOS in **France** is working with the Liberal Catholic Church to support a school for disadvantaged children in the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo. Find out about the work of the TOS in **Sweden** with orphans in neighbouring Latvia and the support the TOS in **Wales** is giving to animal welfare..

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### Making the most of our website – Who are we?

The first area on our homepage menu is **Who are we?** You'll find a brief history of the founding of the TOS, the purpose for which it was established, and its relationship with the Theosophical Society. While this section provides information for enquirers and new members, it is also worthwhile for established groups to return to the purpose for the TOS as they plan and review their activities. Do we, for instance, make the most of the framework that the TOS offers to:

- work along self-selected lines of service for the uplifting of humanity and the protection of the planet;
- apply theosophical principles in a practical way to issues of contemporary concern; and
- honour and nurture social action as spiritual practice?

Take a look at this material at <http://international.theoservice.org/whoarewe.html>

### What's new on the International TOS website?

We've added an inspirational article, Self-transformation: from egoism to altruism in service, to the **For Members** section. Annie Besant is the key player in a conversation that explores some of the issues surrounding self-transformation or inner growth in the context of service. All of the words attributed to her are her own and have been extracted by Dorothy Bell from her teachings that appear in the compilation Annie Besant... on Service, Duty and Sacrifice.



In our new **Featured Project** we share the extensive educational and social welfare work of the TOS in Pakistan. You'll find details and photographs of their Education Sponsorship Program, their Literacy Centre Home Schools and the Jamshed Memorial Montessori School. We are very happy to be sharing this update. It takes a great deal of courage for our members in Karachi to maintain the excellent and extensive work they are doing there and if anyone deserves our interest, caring and moral support, they do!

Joy Mills invites us to participate in the 'Divine Lunacy' of a commitment to brotherhood in the new **Featured Article**. She challenges us to consider that in a world in which so many corners are in need of light, even a tiny glow of neighbourliness, of loving thoughtfulness, of patience, courage, tolerance and faith, may serve to diminish the dark around us. If we cannot sustain at every moment the 'divine lunacy' of enduring compassion, can we at least participate in the glow-worm lunacy of trying?

Our **Latest News** features Joy Mills who has been awarded the Subba Row Medal by the General Council of the Society in recognition of her extensive contribution to Theosophical literature and understanding. Joy is one of the most outstanding teachers of theosophy the Theosophical Society has ever had in its ranks. We congratulate her warmly on this richly deserved award.

There are also additions to the TOS photo gallery and the Inspiration section.

Go to <http://international.theoservice.org>



### Passport for Service

Pedro Oliveira shares a story from the 9th World Congress of the Theosophical Society held in Sydney, in January 2001, about one of the guest speakers, Ven. Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche. The Rinpoche, which in Tibetan means 'precious one', is today the Prime Minister of the Tibetan Government in Exile. In August he will be handing over to his successor.

The story tells how the Rinpoche, one of the most respected persons in the world, an acclaimed scholar, a reincarnated Lama and a teacher in his own right, sees his profession and occupation just as service to the suffering humanity.

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### United Nations Day celebrated at Golden Link College

The Golden Link College celebrates United Nations Day by holding a program in October on the Sunday nearest the UN Day. The children usually wear the costumes of different nations, with a sash mentioning the name of the country. Parents and relatives of the students are invited to attend the program.

The program starts with a parade around the community, with the flag of the UN in front and a person who beats a small drum. The community people usually watch the parade because of the beautiful costumes.

Then a program is held in the school hall where students deliver speeches on subjects related to the UN, World Peace, Universal Brotherhood, etc.

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### Simple acts of kindness

It goes without saying that many, not to say all, Theosophists perform acts of service regularly that no one gets to hear about. They do it as a natural and routine part of their lives. We would like to celebrate these small acts of kindness. Perhaps they will give us inspiration and practical ideas.

In this issue we introduce Canadian TOS member, Elizabeth Smith, who adopted an old Shetland sheepdog when his former family were no longer able to take care of him because of circumstances beyond their control.

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## American TOS Honorary President for Life passes

With thanks to the TOS in America website for this text

On Friday, January 28, 2011 Jean Gullo passed away. Although her health had been deteriorating over several years, she was lucid and loving until the end.

Jean joined the Theosophical Society in America in 1953. She was fond of saying that the question she asked when joining the TS was "What do we do?". The issue of putting our studies and principles into action was to become a theme of her theosophical life. Shortly after joining Jean became active in a number of service activities at the Hollywood Besant Lodge in Los Angeles, promoting the work of the U.N. and working with the Lakota Indians.

She was strongly influenced by an early mentor, Lois Holmes, who at that time was President of the Theosophical Order of Service. An artist by training, Jean soon found herself head of the TOS Department of Art and Music.

1966 was a crucial year for Jean. In that year a number of important events occurred: her first husband died; she went on the road as a national lecturer; she became President of the TOS, a position she would hold for the next 41 years; and perhaps most importantly, while presenting at the TSA annual meeting in Wheaton, Illinois, she met her future husband, co-worker and the love of her life, Joe Gullo.



When Jean and Joe eventually married they became a team in every sense of the word, travelling around the country presenting talks and workshops on theosophy and service. Together they developed the idea for a magazine and in 1982 the first issue of *For the Love of Life* went to press.

From Jean's first days as a TSA member the Theosophical Order of Service became a focus for her energies. As president she was always innovating. She was a writer, speaker, administrator, fundraiser, motivator and constant example of love in action.

Jean will be missed by the many whose lives she has touched over the years.

*< Jean and Jo Gullo at Wheaton attending the International TOS conference in July, 2007*

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## The reward of good work is more good work, of course

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Rosella Milani Fanzio acted as saleslady at the bazaar organised by the TOS in Italy at the Rome Congress last July. She and her team put in long hours at their post, remaining charming and courteous to all, even late into the evenings. The reward for Rosella's indefatigability was to be appointed national director of the TOS in Italy a few months later.



Rosella Milani Fanzio, left  
and  
Usha Shah, right



Usha Shah, one of the members of the Kenyan delegation at the TS Congress in Rome last July, offered to carry 30 teddy bears knitted by Italian TOS members back to Nairobi for distribution to children experiencing tragedy. Usha is diminutive in size and she bravely shepherded her bag of teddies through customs check points all the way from Rome to Nairobi.

Spending 24 hours with a bag of teddies for company apparently affords plenty of time for creative thinking. Usha ended up organising a Christmas party for 30 children at the cancer ward of Kenyatta National Hospital. Here is her description of the event:

"Our party went off very well and it was a delight to see the children enjoying every moment of the two hours the members of the TOS were there. The youngsters were all receiving their treatments and going out and coming in but at last all of them were done. We started with a prayer recited by one of the children. Acrobats came in and juggled their hats and their baseball bats and then engaged in some acrobatic exercises, making the children laugh and shout. They were delighted to be drawn into the act themselves. Skipping had never seemed so funny. Even the adults were convinced to skip, much to the amusement of the children. The acrobat act really broke the ice and even the really ill children began to smile and clap.

Then came our singer who had brought his keyboard. All joined in the singing, the children participating gustily. During this entertainment, face painting was going on. The children just loved it. Next on the programme was food. We were told not to bring any cooked food, sweets or chocolates so we brought along pineapples, oranges, grapes, mangoes, bananas, apples and melons with fresh fruit juices made of melon, passion fruit and tree tomatoes. Except for the grapes and bananas all the fruit was washed, cut into slices etc. and put in the fridge so it was deliciously cool. Our Nairobi TOS coordinator's wife, Pratibha, had made queen cakes and each child was given a dish with a cake and all the fruits. Some children were delighted with this feast but others were unfortunately not able to eat as they had swallowing problems or had just been given medicines, etc.

The children took their dishes to their bedside lockers to finish later and sat on their beds for gift time. First they received a party pack with bubble gums, sweets, a Bagun toy, balloons, a book etc. and then a second gift pack was distributed with a toy, sweets, chocolates, stationery and a soft toy. And the final moment of fun was the presentation of the teddy bears knitted with such love by our Italian sisters. The children's cup of happiness was full. Now the whole ward was simply a place full of children playing with their toys or just clutching their teddy bears with love, looking at all the goodies which had come their way!

All this happened just because the TOS in Italy was kind enough to knit us a big bag of teddies. A great idea germinated in Rome and resulted in joy for thirty children in Nairobi. We send loving thanks to our sisters in Milan, Forli and Rome."

Usha was appointed coordinator of TOS activities in Nairobi in March. Moral of the story? Hide your light under a bushel or you may be the next person appointed to an official role in the TOS!



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## Nairobi Christmas Party for Cancer children - More photos - [Back to Nairobi story](#)















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### TOS news from around the world

#### Rewarding annual colloquium of the TOS. Mumbai Region in India

The big event in the year of the TOS Mumbai Region is the five-day TOS colloquium with 50 delegates that takes place in October or November, at hill stations near Mumbai. The group's convenor, the indefatigable Brother Rusi M. Toddywalla, assisted by a solid team of helpers, always arranges a varied programme of activities, directed particularly at young people so that they gain confidence as workers and helpers of humanity.

On the opening evening of the 2010 colloquium, all delegates attended the TOS healing ritual. Gracefully conducted by the president of TOS in Mumbai Region, Sister Parinaz Gandhi, the ritual impressed the Chief Guest, Sister Tehmina Baria, and everyone else present as it was performed with sincerity and awareness. Benevolent forces seemed to be generated.



*Bro. Rusi M. Toddywalla, convenor of the TOS in Mumbai, who has been active in the TS for over 50 years and in the TOS for almost as long.*

The Governor of Maharashtra (Mumbai), Sri K. Sankaranarayanan, and other Indian and overseas dignitaries sent greetings and messages of appreciation for the excellent work being carried out faithfully by Mumbai Region. A rich variety of speakers active in the TOS and the larger community explored the theme 'Be firm as a rock where right and wrong are concerned, yield to others in things which do not matter'. The young people had their own theme for the thirteen member Youth Discussion session: 'Keep your face towards the sun and you will not see your shadow'. Sister Meherangiz Baria, the chairperson, recommended concentration on the positive side of life. Sister Berezida Gandhi said that people should consider themselves as diamonds in the sense that the more they are cut, the more they sparkle.



*Distribution of sweets to handicapped children*

To give practical expression to the ideals of brotherhood and service, delegates visited the Vikas Mandir School for the Handicapped where they learned how the physically and mentally challenged are taught to function independently and to develop their strengths. Gifts of sweets were distributed to the residents and bags of milk powder were donated to the Centre.

Post-dinner sessions were devoted to the preparation of a programme of artistic expression for the handicapped children, delegates shedding their inhibitions and rehearsing devotional and patriotic songs, folk and Bollywood dances, short skits and action songs. Chief Guest Brother Arvind Rathod, Chairman of the All India Disabled Rehabilitation Educational Institute, was delighted with the creative efforts and sensitive communication of the TOS members.

To recharge the delegates' batteries, there were prayers before meals, devotional songs before the talks, morning and evening walks, indoor and outdoor games and visits to holy shrines.

The colloquium succeeded as usual in communicating the message of the TS and TOS, namely the importance of love, brotherhood, service and the search for truth.



*Here we see Rusi Toddywalla again and to his right, Bro. Purvez Gandhi, Chairman of the Colloquium Committee. Seated: Rusi's daughter, Parinaz*

*Gandhi, president of the TOS Mumbai Region.*

### ***In France – cooperation with the Liberal Catholic Church***

Last year, the TOS in France joined the Liberal Catholic Church in an educational project in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is lending support to the extension of a school for disadvantaged children in a war-torn suburb of Kinshasa. The school is being equipped to increase its roll from 80 students to 150. The TOS funded the purchase of school books, locally-made benches and an electricity generator at a cost of nearly US\$7,000. The Liberal Catholic Church has reliable members in the city to oversee the project, which is essential in this sort of situation. The teachers are members of the Church and are paid a symbolic sum for their services.



### ***TOS Sweden helps neighbouring Latvia***

The TOS in Sweden supports four educational and residential establishments for children in difficulty in the neighbouring country of Latvia, under the steady and devoted leadership of TOS National Director, Birgitta Stålhammar: an orphanage for children from three to twenty years of age in Lauveri, a community home for teenagers and two day-care centres for young children in Riga.

The TOS provides not just money to keep these establishments going but substantial amounts of furniture, clothes, toys and Christmas gifts which Birgitta sometimes transports to Latvia herself with the aid of volunteers.

To the right we see Birgitta (back centre) and her colleague Kickan Håkanson (front row, second from right) with some of the children of Stikli orphanage in the countryside of Latvia. Some of the orphan teenagers who live in a community home in Riga supported by the TOS, have their younger sisters or brothers living at Stikli. The TOS made it possible for them to meet.



Birgitta with Julia, a parentless young person now living at the teenage community home in Riga. As a small child she was badly burnt on the face by boiling water.

Birgitta in the toy room of a new day-care centre in Riga. The TOS helped supply not only toys but also furniture, clothes and money.

### ***Supporting animal welfare in Wales***

In Wales, the Bangor Lodge of the TS collected donations for PETA on behalf of the Theosophical Order of Service at their Christmas meeting.

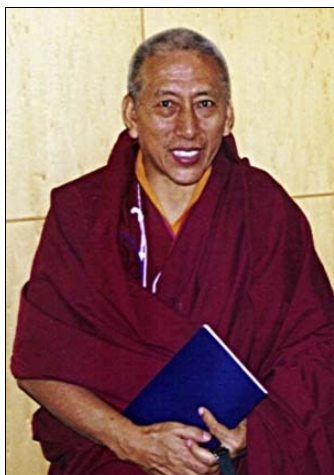
PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) is a worldwide organisation with national groups in many countries. PETA raises awareness about animal issues, provides information to people wanting to live a cruelty-free life and conducts campaigns for the compassionate treatment of all animals



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## Passport for Service

Pedro Oliveira



When the 9th World Congress of the Theosophical Society was held in Sydney, in January 2001, one of the guest speakers was Ven. Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche. He had at that time retired from his position as Director of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies in Sarnath, India. His gentle and self-effacing presence was appreciated by many participants.

The TS in Sydney has a group of devoted Vietnamese members, some of whom came to Australia as 'boat people' in the aftermath of the Vietnam war. The Society used to have a strong presence in that country. One of the members attending the Congress was Huynh Huu-Duc. He was called Duc by everyone. During one of the meals at the Congress Duc came to me and said, "I need to take Samdhong Rinpoche to the Indian Consulate. I need you to come with me." He then explained that his English was not good enough for communicating with Rinpocheji, and added, "I drive, you talk." I naturally agreed, but suggested that we should leave soon after breakfast to avoid being caught in the morning rush hour.

Next morning we left for the city, as planned, just after breakfast. When we arrived at the Consulate building, shortly before 9 o'clock in the morning, I realised that it would only open at 10:00 am. I thought to myself: "Well, we have an entire hour with a Rinpoche!" Duc immediately decided to buy tea and coffee for us and we sat in the main lounge on the ground floor.

We talked about a number of things, including the concept of Kali-yuga. Rinpocheji said that according to the Tibetan tradition, during Kali-yuga there is collective darkness and individual clarity, but that in Satya-yuga, the future age, there will be collective clarity but individual darkness, "because these two opposites must always be together". I also told him that in the west nowadays there are a number of groups and individuals claiming to be in contact with Maitreya-Buddha. What was his view of Maitreya-Buddha's coming? "Maitreya-Buddha will come a million years from now," he said, calmly. Not the kind of statement that would generate media interest.

The conversation then took on a more personal dimension. I asked him, "You have been living in India since 1959. Are you not an Indian citizen?" "No", he replied. "The Indian government issues identity cards for Tibetans living in India. And the permit to reside in India needs to be renewed regularly." I then asked, "But what is your citizenship then?" He replied, "I am classed as a stateless person." First lump in the throat. A bigger one was to come. I was standing next to a man who was the embodiment of gentleness, quietude and warmth, and who had been robbed of his citizenship and of his country.

When we reached the Indian Consulate the person at the counter seemed to recognise him. He was then told that he had to pay the necessary fees. As he was reaching for his pocket – yes, Tibetan lamas do have a pocket in their robes – Duc was quicker than him and gave the lady at the counter the necessary amount. While Rinpocheji smiled, Duc said to me, in an excited voice, "Good karma! Good karma!" Rinpocheji was then told that his identity card would be ready for collection the next day, which I volunteered to do. He asked me to make sure that they had given him the correct residence extension permit because he had a number of international travels ahead.

The next day I went to the Consulate and collected his identity card. I opened it and verified that the correct residence extension permit had been given. I then looked at the personal information pages and they contained interesting revelations. They stated his date of birth, his place of birth in Tibet, his parents' names, but when it came to the item "profession" it stated "service". Further down, on the item "occupation" it also stated "service". I had to pause a little as I did not want to leave the reception hall of the Consulate in an emotional state, but it was not possible. There and then I was overcome by the staggering truth of that experience. One of the most respected persons in the world, an acclaimed scholar, a reincarnated Lama and a teacher in his own right, sees his profession and occupation just as service to the suffering humanity.

The Rinpoche, which in Tibetan means 'precious one', whom Duc and I had the honour to help in Sydney in January 2001, became the Prime Minister of the Tibetan Government in Exile. His life continues to be one of unreserved service to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, to the Tibetan people and to humanity. In the end, Duc was right: "Good karma! Good karma!" Not necessarily for us who helped him, but for humanity. His constant and unwavering service makes humanity better, uplifts it and gives it hope. Humanity is profoundly changed in him. Duc and I had indeed precious moments together with someone who does not live for himself. Such moments cannot be forgotten.





## United Nations Day celebrated at the Golden Link College

*Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, National Director of the TOS in the Philippines and Chairman of the Golden Link Board, writes:*

All our schools, specifically Golden Link College, Sunshine Learning Center and TOS Learning Center, celebrate the United Nations Day by holding a program in October on the Sunday nearest the UN Day. The children usually wear the costumes of different nations, with a sash mentioning the name of the country. The parents and relatives of the students are invited to attend the program.

The program starts with a parade around the community, with the flag of the UN in front and a person who beats a small drum. The community people usually watch the parade because of the beautiful costumes.



*Students returning from the parade around the community in their costumes and the flag of the UN*



*A group of primary students during the United Nations Program*

Then a program is held in the hall of the school where students deliver speeches on subjects related to the UN, World Peace, Universal Brotherhood, etc. They also do the following:

- Introduce selected countries and feature something special about that country, such as the Angel Falls of Venezuela, the Taj Mahal of India, etc.
- The speakers greet the audience in the language of the country they are representing. Those representing China or Singapore would say "Ni Hao!" or "Xie Xie!" Those representing Spain would say "Buenos Dias!" or "Muchas Gracias!". There are times when students even deliver the speeches in Mandarin, Spanish or French, with the appropriate translation by the speakers themselves.
- There are often features about the cultures, practices or religions of different countries. For example, the program might discuss the different traditions in marriage, or in gift-giving, or ways of showing respectfulness, etc. In Thailand for example, it is inappropriate to touch the crown of children's heads, or point your toes to a person in front of you while sitting and crossing your legs. In Southern China, it is not appropriate to give clocks as a gift because the word for clock sounds the same as the word for 'death'. The students often prepare slide presentations about the practices or features of each culture or country. The slide presentations entail research and the students get to know deeper glimpses of other countries and cultures. This encourages understanding and compassion about people of other countries, and promotes friendship, tolerance and cooperativeness with people of other cultures.



*College students making a presentation during the UN program*



*Primary students of Golden Link College preparing for a presentation on stage during the United Nations program. Each student represents a country and gives interesting facts about that country.*

Added to these experiences is the fact that Golden Link College often has visitors from many countries (Australia, France, Japan, China, Switzerland, etc.) and whenever we have visitors, we often ask them to visit classrooms of primary and high school students and speak about their countries. The students often ask questions about the visitor's country and there is lively interaction. The visitors often teach students how to speak in their own languages, such as greetings in Japanese, and they usually have a lot of fun doing so.

As a result of these activities, the students feel very comfortable and friendly with people of any race or religion. Knowledge about other cultures and

languages prevents fear of other people and intolerance. On the contrary, it develops a tendency to be friendly to such people.

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## Simple acts of kindness

It goes without saying that many, not to say all, Theosophists perform acts of service regularly that no one gets to hear about. They do it as a natural and routine part of their lives. We would like to celebrate these small acts of kindness. Perhaps they will give us inspiration and practical ideas.

We have pleasure in introducing you to Elizabeth Smith. She is a pillar of the theosophical movement in Canada and has held a number of positions over many years. Elizabeth handles all inquiries coming in through the website of the Canadian Theosophical Association, sends out information packages and prepares reports. She proofreads and edits for both the TS and the TOS. She currently serves on the administrative committee of the TOS and also on the international TOS UN committee. Look, though, at the joy Elizabeth derives from a completely different form of service – one of those simple acts of kindness.



Here is Elizabeth in her garden with Desti (short for Destiny), the little Shetland sheepdog she and her husband, Dave, adopted six months ago. He is 13 years old, almost deaf and with diminishing eyesight.

Desti's former owners were no longer able to take care of him because of circumstances beyond their control. They felt it would be more humane to have him put down than place him in an unsuitable home or animal shelter. Elizabeth and Dave stepped in and adopted him and he is now happily continuing his retirement under their loving protection.

The surviving former owner was overjoyed to entrust Desti to Elizabeth and Dave. The poor gentleman had lost everything – his wife, his beautiful home and his health...

Elizabeth says she is receiving more from Desti than she is giving. "We are so glad we adopted him," she writes. "He is loved by us and many others. He is a joy and great company – our nearest neighbours adore him. He stands and walks like the retired Canadian and American Champion he is. He likes to wander around his trees in the back lawn, especially in the snow. He stays very close to both of us and has no wish to be alone or to leave the house and garden and wander elsewhere."



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