

## Issue 22 – August 2012

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

We hope you are enjoying keeping in touch with our vibrant TOS community through our newsletter. As you will see, we have much to celebrate. You will also find in this issue a range of resources that could be useful and inspiring for your service work.

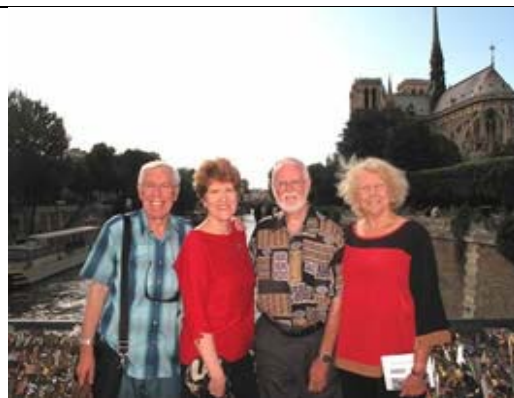
During the last three months, travel plans have enabled us to meet for two planning sessions in Paris to work on international publications and the TOS Conference being held in Wheaton in 2013, hence the new photograph of us below.

Remember that the newsletter is designed to be read while you are connected to the internet.

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 by email to the editors at [carolyn.tosinternational@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.tosinternational@gmail.com).

With best wishes,

*Carolyn, Diana and Geoffrey*



Taking time out from working on the 2013 TOS Conference (L. to R.) -

*Michel Chapotin is the President of the TOS in France.*

*Diana Dunningham Chapotin is the International Secretary of the TOS.*

*Geoffrey Harrod is the International TOS Webmaster.*

*Carolyn Harrod is the past National Coordinator of the TOS in Australia.*

***If you have humans who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have humans who will deal likewise with their fellow humans.***

St Francis of Assisi – quoted in *The Life of St Francis of Assisi* by St Bonaventure



### TOS bore hole project brings water to Kitui

In the face of the current acute food shortage in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, the TOS in Nairobi undertook a project on behalf of us all. From the end of August 2011 until February 2012, 55 families in the town of Kitui, 130 kms east of Nairobi, were given enough staple foods to keep them alive pending the return of the rains. In the meantime funds were collected for the construction of a bore hole and water pump.

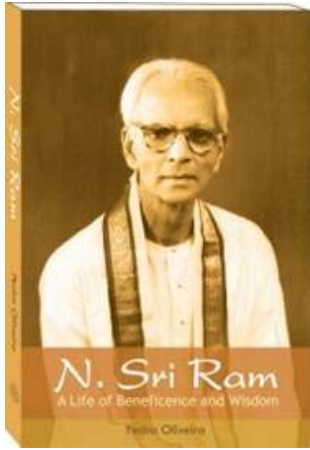
When our bore hole was ready for action, news travelled fast that the water was going to be available the next day, June 29. The whole community was stirred up and next morning a line of yellow and black and green jerry cans appeared with their owners. Prayers were recited, the lock was opened and water gushed out. Incredible! Wow! No more treks! [Read more...](#)



### Information update on the International TOS Conference in 2013

Planning is proceeding well for our three-day international TOS Workers' Conference from the evening of Tuesday 23 July to Friday 26 July, 2013 at Olcott, the national centre of the TS in America in Wheaton, Illinois.

Information about the programme and anticipated costs of accommodation and meals is available [here](#). A registration form will be available in due course.



## A book of special interest to TOS members

**N. Sri Ram** *A Life of Beneficence and Wisdom*, by Pedro Oliveira

If you haven't yet come across this book, published by The Theosophical Publishing House in 2009, it's well worth looking out for. Pedro's record of Sri Ram's life constitutes a source of inspiration for TOS members.

In his biography, Pedro shares numerous examples of Sri Ram's moral courage and his political and social activism. It's full of stories of Sri Ram's charitable actions and quiet but firm stands on controversial issues.

Sri Ram's extensive experience as a journalist in his early years equipped him to write trenchant editorials, letters and lectures on public matters, ranging from the advancement of women in society to the plight of the Tibetan people under Chinese rule. On the subject of animal cruelty, he wrote to the Russian Ambassador in New Delhi regarding the sending up of a live dog with the Sputnik rocket in 1957, declaring: "Perhaps mankind would be better without knowledge obtained by such heartless methods". [Read more....](#)



Clara Codd and a young Radha Burnier

## Theosophy in action a century ago – personal memories of four English suffragettes

A long forgotten initiative of the TOS in its earlier years was the formation, in 1914, of a League to promote the cause of women's suffrage and to further the women's movement generally. Its intention was to co-operate with all organisations and individuals working for the same object and to take a neutral attitude as to tactics. The outbreak of the First World War brought a suspension of the campaigns for women's suffrage, but the contributions of women to the war effort led to some of them getting the vote in the UK at the end of the conflict, and all of them by 1928. The formation of the TOS group bore witness to the contribution of Theosophical Society members.

*Fr Kevin Tingay, a theosophist and now retired parish priest and former Interfaith Advisor in the Church of England Diocese of Bath & Wells, had the privilege of meeting four of them in the latter stage of their lives. Here he shares his memories of Eileen Casey, Clara Codd, Leonora Cohen and Grace Roe.*

[Read more....](#)



Mobility aid recipient in India

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

Our [Latest News](#) this month comes from India where Mr Jatindra N. Patowary, the tireless President of the TOS in the Assam and Arunachal Region reports that he and his fellow workers have had the joy of learning that the State Bank of India has made a grant to the TOS for the provision of mobility aids, educational kits and school uniforms.

The new [Featured Article](#) is by Pamela Zane Keys, the current editor of *TheoSophia*, the magazine of the Theosophical Society in New Zealand. "While we may think of the latent powers referred to in the Third Object of the Theosophical Society as extraordinary and spectacular, I have recently realised that they may also be small and outwardly indiscernible yet inwardly life changing," she writes.

In our [Featured Project](#) we bring news of a seminar conducted by the TOS in France on an unusual and rather delicate theme: *Burial, cremation and alternative funeral services*. The seminar attracted more than fifty participants keen to gain a theosophical perspective on cremation in a predominantly Roman Catholic country where burial is the traditional practice. Participants said that they found the seminar helpful in making choices for themselves and their loved ones and in organising ceremonies reflecting their own spiritual perspective. They were enthusiastic at seeing Theosophy made directly relevant to essential life choices.

You'll also find additions to the TOS photo gallery and the Inspiration section.

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



Seminar participants in France

## New video: On Root Causes and Symptoms

An outstanding talk by Vicente Hao Chin Jr, entitled "On Root Causes and Symptoms", has just been made available for public viewing on the internet by the Audio-Visual Department of the TS in America.

It is of direct interest to TOS members in their work. We cannot recommend it too highly!

[Read more....](#)



## Insights through service

In the third article in this series, Ananya Rajan, a Board Member of the TOS in the USA, shares an insight into her relationship with her disabled sister who now lives in a care facility.

She writes, "One day as I was feeding her, I could feel the guilt/shame I sometimes have. As I watched her chew her food, I suddenly saw past my sister into the face of the being that held her body. It was this incredible being who radiated compassion. The being did not feel angry or upset, but joyful. I was 'shown' that there was no reason for guilt or shame because the being chose Rani's body and



circumstances; the soul had lessons to learn. While my sister's physical condition had nothing to do with me, I was fortunate enough to be given the insight as to why she was in my life. From a visceral level I understood Rani was a sacred gift to me and I was a gift to her. [Read more....](#)



### Invitation from the TOS healing network in the USA

The coordinator of the healing network of the Theosophical Order of Service in America invites us to send her the names of those we know to be suffering and in need of healing. She will immediately forward the names to the many groups and individuals across the USA regularly performing the TOS's healing ritual.

[Read more....](#)



### Tanzanian TOS teens excel

"The great aim of education is to bring out of the child who comes into our hands, every faculty that he brings with him and then to try to win that child to turn all his abilities, his powers, his capacities, to the helping and serving of the community of which he is a part," wrote Annie Besant.

Indeed, TOS Tanzania upholds this great philosophy in nurturing its youth. There could be no greater evidence of this than the excellence exhibited by the teens of 'World Care Way', in both their community involvement and their academic work.

Vidushi Yadav, Krunalika Mutha and Khyati Dubal are this year's top achievers in the high school examinations in the CBSE stream of education and have places in Indian universities. Malaika Kapur, having completed an International Baccalaureate, has won an 'International Leader of Tomorrow' scholarship from the University of British Columbia in Canada. [Read more....](#)



### Massacre on Midway!

Midway Films has produced a video that everyone who is interested in the wellbeing of all life on our planet should see.

"...we first-world humans find ourselves lacking the ability to discern anymore what is nourishing from what is toxic to our lives and our spirits," writes one reviewer. Through its powerful images, the video challenges us to re-examine our choices, both inwardly and outwardly.

[Read more....](#)



### Eyes for the blind: a final letter from Roscoe

In the last two issues of the newsletter we shared letters from Roscoe, the Guide Dog who lived with Ann Davis, a member of Pretoria Lodge, and her family. Roscoe has told us about his adventures as a puppy, his training and his graduation to the life of a working Guide Dog.

In this issue we share a third and final letter from Roscoe, originally published in *The South African Theosophist* in June 2009. In it, he tells us about an incident with his partner, Annemie, now a lecturer at Cape Town University. He goes on to share the news that Ann and Tom have another black Labrador guide dog puppy in training called Angie. She has all the normal puppy attributes and is keeping them busy.

"Angie's puppy walking is great and she is progressing well," writes Roscoe. "She has passed all her tests so far at the puppy school." [Read more ....](#)

### 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 to [tos.intouch@gmail.com](mailto:tos.intouch@gmail.com) with "Subscribe TOS e-newsletter" in the Subject line.
- If you do not want to receive future newsletters you can easily unsubscribe. All that is needed is a blank message to [tos.intouch@gmail.com](mailto:tos.intouch@gmail.com) with "Unsubscribe TOS e-newsletter" in the Subject line.

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## TOS borehole project brings water to Kitui

*In the face of the current acute food shortage in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, the TOS in Nairobi undertook a project on behalf of us all. From the end of August 2011 until February 2012, fifty-five families in the town of Kitui, 130 kms east of Nairobi, were given enough staple foods to keep them alive pending the return of the rains. In the meantime funds were collected for the construction of a bore hole and water pump.*

The last few weeks have been hard for Kitui. The neighbouring districts had so much rain that it was feared that some crops might get destroyed and yet in Kitui, no water! The maize plants were withered and dry. The greens looked sad and thirsty. There were the daily treks looking for places to buy water and then the task of carrying water-filled jerry cans home. No mean task! It is only women who do the water carrying in Kitui and young girls have to help, missing out on school. (The men only use water as a business, selling it to women coming from far and wide on foot.)



When our bore hole was ready for action, news travelled fast that the water was going to be available the next day, June 29. The whole community was stirred up and next morning a line of yellow and black and green jerry cans appeared with their owners. Prayers were recited, the lock was opened and water gushed out. Incredible! Wow! No more treks! And best of all: so much time that was spent fetching water every day that can now be used by the women in more beneficial ways! Once the modalities have been worked out, water will be used not just for drinking and washing but for watering subsistence crops.





As the women left with the water, they could not hide their joy and there were blessings and thanks galore. Yes, a very warm thank you to all the TOS members around the world who assisted so generously with this project. Be blessed.

Usha Shah, Convenor, TOS Nairobi.

*P.S. TOS Kenya is proud to be part and parcel of the worldwide TOS.*

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## Information update on the International TOS Conference in July 2013

***We are happy to remind you that the TS and TOS in America have kindly agreed to host a three-day international TOS Workers' Conference from the evening of Tuesday 23 July to Friday 26 July, 2013 at Olcott, its national centre in Wheaton, Illinois. A five-day Summer National Convention of the TS in America will take place immediately preceding the Conference, from 19 July to 23 July. All are invited to attend this event as well.***

*A registration form will be available in due course.*

*A broad outline of the proposed Conference Programme and information about anticipated accommodation and meal costs are below.*

### **Conference Programme Outline**

#### **Tuesday 23 July**

- Conference opening
- Programme overview
- Getting to know each other better

#### **Wednesday 24 July**

- "The TOS into the Future (1): What has been achieved in the past five years?"
- Keynote Talk: "The TOS 100 Years from Now"
- Choice of workshops e.g. "Deep Listening"; "Social Action as Spiritual Practice"
- Orientation to the TOS's international website

#### **Thursday 25 July**

- "The TOS into the Future (2): planning for the next five years"
- Keynote Talk: "Creative Meditation: Balancing Inner and Outer Action"
- Choice of workshops
- Round table discussion: "Rising to the challenges we face in our TOS work"

#### **Friday 26 July**

- "The TOS into the Future (3): commitments to action"
  - "Rising to the challenges we face in our TOS work" (conclusion)
- Conference closing (Check out 27 July)



### **Anticipated costs of accommodation and meals** (subject to change)

#### **Olcott - On Campus**

Very limited availability, 2 or 3 in a room.

Cost includes **room and vegetarian meals**:

#### **Holiday Inn - Off Campus** (2 miles from Olcott)

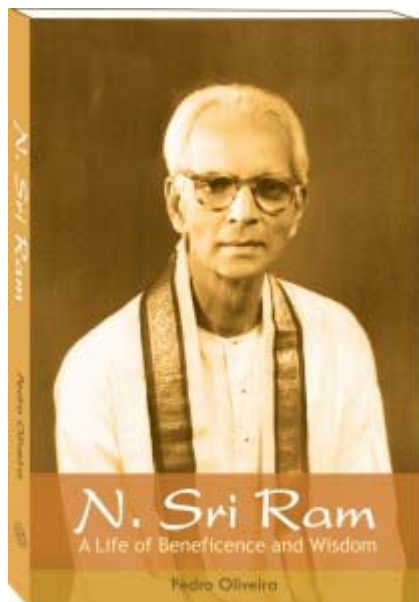
Special daily rate for those attending both TS & TOS events: \$84.95 per night plus 11% room tax for

\$50 per person / per night; \$400 for all 8 nights  
(Check in 19 July – Check out 27 July)

single room. \$42.50 plus tax per person for twin  
room. Two-room suite at \$99.95 plus tax.  
*Free shuttle service available to and from Olcott*  
Daily package of lunch and evening vegetarian meal  
at Olcott - \$15; \$120 for the eight days

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## A book of special interest to TOS members



**N. Sri Ram**

***A Life of Beneficence and Wisdom***

by Pedro Oliveira

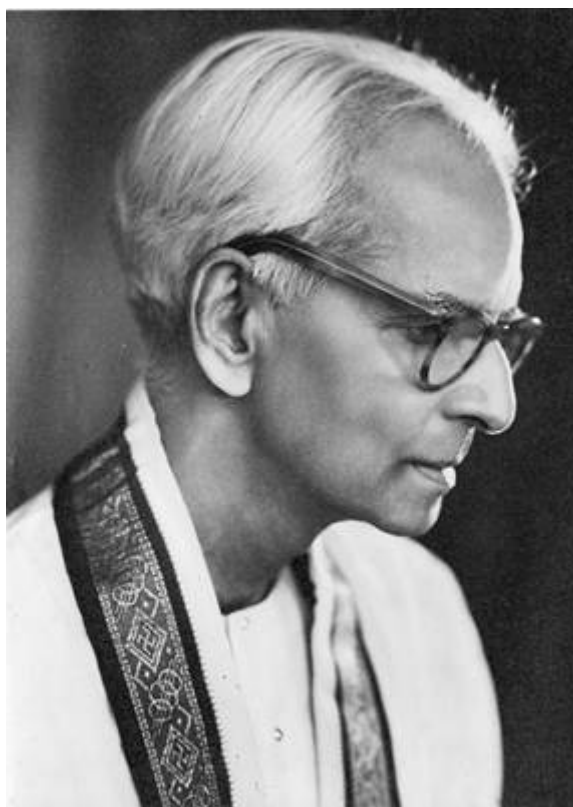
Adyar: Theosophical Publishing House, 2009. 223 pages, paper. 120 rupees.

*“Theosophy exists to change ourselves and change the world. Its truths must ever be, and are even now, the means of transcending present difficulties, whether national, international or individual. And we cannot change the world without identifying ourselves with its interests and problems.”*

*-- Sri Ram in a letter to the Secretary of the Tamil Theosophical Federation, March 1949.*

Amongst Theosophists, N. Sri Ram is remembered as the ‘gentle sage’. In fact those who were closest to him say that one of the most striking traits of his character was his refusal to be bound by conventions. Pedro Oliveira’s biography of the Theosophical Society’s fifth president abounds with examples of his moral courage and his political and social activism. This record of Sri Ram’s life constitutes a source of inspiration for TOS members.

We learn, for example, that Sri Ram worked in close association with Annie Besant for Indian Home Rule, writing and lecturing at every opportunity on freedom for his homeland. Few probably know that, for his pains, he was placed under surveillance by the British Central Intelligence Department. In 1914 Sri Ram stepped outside social norms in employing a ‘harijan’ (a member of the lowest Hindu caste at that time) at his home in Guindy, Madras. He stood behind his sister Rukmini Devi in her marriage to George Arundale, at a time when Anglo-Indian marriage was severely frowned upon. Sri Ram’s younger brother, N. Subramaniam Sastry stated that as a result of this marriage, “relatives forsook us and ostracism was practised. But Sri Ram was our guiding star, particularly to my brave mother”. When working on the newspaper, New India, Sri Ram gave his entire earnings to his wife, Bhagirathi, as he felt that a woman should never feel dependent on her husband. (Even the pocket money he took to work to pay for his afternoon tea disappeared regularly into the hands of the beggars he encountered.) He also defended the right of an Indian widow not to dress in mourning clothes for the rest of her life.







Sri Ram was the father of the current President of the TOS, Mrs Radha Burnier. Radha has continued in the footsteps of his humanitarian and educational work. Pedro's biography casts light upon Radha by showing us family influences and inspiration.

Highly recommended!

**A copy of the book can be ordered online here:**

<http://www.adyarbooks.com/books/nsri-ram-a-life-beneficence-and-wisdom>

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Pedro's fine biography is full of stories of Sri Ram's charitable actions and quiet but firm stands on controversial issues. Sri Ram's extensive experience as a journalist in his early years equipped him to write trenchant editorials, letters and lectures on public matters, ranging from the advancement of women in society to the plight of the Tibetan people under Chinese rule. On the subject of animal cruelty, he wrote to the Russian Ambassador in New Delhi regarding the sending up of a live dog with the Sputnik rocket in 1957, declaring: "Perhaps mankind would be better without knowledge obtained by such heartless methods."

Sri Ram served as chairman of the New India League, which succeeded Annie Besant's Home Rule for India League. He also served as chairman of the Besant Theosophical School at Adyar from its inception in 1934 until 1938. He was an ardent vegetarian and spoke and wrote about animal concerns whenever the opportunity arose. He was also a firm supporter of the United Nations and in a message to the European Federation of the TS on the occasion of a meeting in 1953, he voiced the hope that the UN "someday ere long must develop into that Parliament of Man, the Federation of the World, of which the poet Lord Tennyson dreamt even in the last century."



*Pedro Oliveira*

## Theosophy in action a century ago – personal memories of four English suffragettes



*The author of this article is Fr Kevin Tingay, now retired parish priest and former Interfaith Advisor in the Church of England Diocese of Bath & Wells. He continues with occasional lecturing at Bath Spa University. Kevin joined the TS in 1965 before entering the Anglican Church, at first participating actively in TS life as a member of Kensington and Camberley Lodges, and since then only as far as his numerous church tasks have allowed. Kevin has just started writing items for the on-line version of the Theosophical Encyclopaedia.*

A long forgotten initiative of the TOS in its earlier years was the formation, in 1914, of a League to promote the cause of women's suffrage and to further the women's movement generally. Its intention was to co-operate with all organisations and individuals working for the same object and to take a neutral attitude as to tactics. The outbreak of the First World War brought a suspension of the campaigns for women's suffrage, but the contributions of women to the war effort led to some of them getting the vote in the UK at the end of the conflict, and all of them by 1928. The formation of the TOS group bore witness to the contribution of Theosophical Society members. I had the privilege of meeting four of them in the latter stage of their lives.



*Clara Codd as a young woman*



*Leonora Cohen as a young woman*

### **Eileen Casey (1886-1966)**

I encountered Eileen at the Liberal Catholic Church in London in the last years of her life. She was very stooped with osteoporosis and was somewhat forgetful. Her appearance was, however, deceptive.

I learnt that she had been one of the most active of the militant suffragettes, imprisoned several times, and had been forcibly fed after going on a hunger strike. Released on the outbreak of the Great War in 1914 she trained as a landgirl and later as a gardener at Kew Gardens. From 1923 to 1940 she worked as a teacher in Japan, and from 1940 to 1951 in Australia. She was a translator for the Board of Censors during WW2. She spoke several European languages as well as Japanese, Russian and Esperanto. She returned to England in 1951 where she continued in her commitment to the TS and related movements, and to work

with her fellow veterans of the suffrage movement.



### Clara Codd (1877-1971)

Clara was a well-known organiser and lecturer for the TS but had been active in the Women's Social and Political Union and was briefly imprisoned while supporting the movement. She ceased to be an activist on taking up full time lecturing for the TS. She has given an account of her life's work in her autobiography, *So Rich a Life*, published in 1951.

She spent the last years of her life in Camberley with her sisters, close to Tekels Park. At that time my wife and I were living in the Park and saw her from time to time in the last year of her life. She was always interested in encounter and dialogue with young people and had none of the censorious attitudes towards them which some of her contemporaries manifested. Whilst being a living link with the story of the TS in the earlier part of the 20th century, she was a stimulus to us who were more recent members to look to and build for the future.

### Leonora Cohen (1873-1978)

Leonora was famous, some might say notorious, as the woman who attacked the display case of some of the royal regalia in the Tower of London in 1913. She was arrested but the case against her was dismissed after the jury failed to reach a verdict. She was a native of Leeds, where she was active in the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), and where, after the Great War and the achievement of the first franchise for women, she was active in social work as a prison visitor and magistrate.

She spent her final years in a vegetarian home for the elderly in Colwyn Bay in North Wales. I visited her there and observed the certificate of her membership of the Order of the British Empire which she was awarded in 1928. She told me this story of her investiture at Buckingham Palace: *King George V, a monarch not noted for a public sense of humour, thanked her for her public service in Leeds, and then went on to say that he hoped she had not brought her hammer to the palace on this occasion! Leonora, quick as a flash (a quality she maintained to the end of her life), replied, "There is no need for it today, Sir, as we now have the vote!"* She had joined the TS in 1909.



### Grace Roe (1885-1979)

Grace was amongst the best known of suffragettes with a commitment to Theosophy. She was imprisoned and forcibly fed and her work for the WSPU is well recorded.

Like other suffragettes she ceased militant activities in the Great War and applied herself to social service. When peace came she moved to America with Christabel Pankhurst and remained in California until her return to England in the 1960s. She lived in Kent in her retirement, and her final years were spent in the care of Michael Foot, MP, and his wife Jill Craigie in their London home.



My most vivid memory of her is being with some of her friends at a conference where we were watching a TV news bulletin. It was the occasion of the demonstrations against the Vietnam War which were taking place outside the United States Embassy in London. She, then well into her 80s, exclaimed that if she had been ten years younger she would have been there! On other occasions she spoke of her suffragette work, including her attempts to make friends with the plain clothes police officer whose duty was to follow her wherever she went, but to pretend that he was not on a surveillance assignment!

These women were powerful witnesses to the ideals of equality and justice, undergirded by a spiritual world view, which the Theosophical movement was called to present to the world. There were others, men as well as women, who strove to apply Theosophy in the social sphere, in the earlier years of the last century. Gertude Baillie-Weaver, Mona Caird, Charlotte Despard, Marion Wallace Dunlop and Countess de la Warr were amongst those committed to the cause. I am working on a more detailed study which, it is hoped, will appear in the on-line version of the Theosophical Encyclopaedia. This small contribution, which may be of interest to supporters of the TOS, was requested as it is based on my personal memories of these remarkable women who remain an inspiration after 40 years or more.

**Further information can be found in these books:**

Crawford, Elizabeth (1999) *The Women's Suffrage Movement – A Reference Guide 1966-1928*. London: Routledge.

Dixon, Joy (2001) *Divine Feminine – Theosophy and Feminism, in England*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Raeburn, Antonia (1973) *The Militant Suffragettes*. London: Michael Joseph.

***KevinTingay would welcome personal information on Theosophists who were active in social service and reform movements in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. His e-mail: [kgxt@btinternet.com](mailto:kgxt@btinternet.com)***

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## New video: On Root Causes and Symptoms

*There are a thousand hacking at the branches of  
evil to one who is striking at the root.*

**Henry David Thoreau**



An outstanding talk by Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, entitled *On Root Causes and Symptoms*, has just been made available for public viewing on the internet by the Audio-Visual Department of the TS in America. It is of direct interest to TOS members in their work. We cannot recommend it too highly!

Many reform programs address the symptoms of social problems but not their roots. In this talk, Vic Hao Chin addresses the deeper causes of social and human problems and outlines five principles through which efforts to undertake reforms will be more permanent in their effect.

Vic gives extensive examples of historical and contemporary issues to illustrate the application of each principle.

Vic Hao Chin is the Chairperson of the TOS Foundation in the Philippines. He has given seminars and talks on social and individual transformation in many countries.

To view the video go to

[www.theosophical.org/ts-network/order-of-service](http://www.theosophical.org/ts-network/order-of-service)

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## Insights through service

*So far, in our series of insights, our International Secretary, Diana Dunningham Chapotin, and Cynthia Trasi, Secretary of the TOS in England, have shared stories about experiences that have influenced their service work.*

*In the third article in this series, Ananya Rajan, a Board Member of the TOS in the USA, shares an insight into her relationship with her disabled sister who now lives in a care facility.*



My older sister, Rani, has been in a wheelchair her whole life. While I have never really thought of 'serving' her, childhood play often consisted of pretending she did the things other kids did and then me doing the action on her behalf. This was all very normal to me as I did not know anything different. However, the question always remained as to why my brother, five years older to me, and I, three years younger than Rani, arrived in this world without any physical disability. To me, it didn't seem fair and as a child, I lived with the slight guilt of having arrived in this world after her with a normal body while hers is disfigured and she often suffers from pain. To compensate for my feelings of guilt or shame, I have tried to be the best sister I can and support Rani in any way possible.

Rani now lives in a facility not too far from where I presently live in Wheaton. She needs around-the-clock care. Years ago, when I worked at the TS, I would quickly run over to her place and feed her lunch as she is now incapable of doing so herself. Eating is a difficult affair as my sister suffers from a curved oesophagus which can make swallowing precarious. Through the years I have found that I need to be 'truly present' with her and forget about time and my other worries, otherwise the experience of feeding her can become frustrating. In turn, visiting Rani has become somewhat meditative and the experience has helped me apply the practice to other areas of my life.

One day as I was feeding her, I became aware of how much Rani goes through to eat her meal. I could feel the guilt/shame I sometimes have. As I watched her chew her food, I suddenly saw past my sister into the face of the being that held her body. It was this incredible being who radiated compassion. The being did not feel angry or upset, but joyful. I was 'shown' that there was no reason for guilt or shame because the being chose Rani's body and circumstances; the soul had lessons to learn. While my sister's physical condition had nothing to do with me, I was fortunate enough to be given the insight as to why she was in my life. From a visceral level I understood Rani was a sacred gift to me and I was a gift to her. Our lives came together to help our souls progress in this lifetime.

The experience left me grateful beyond measure for having this wonderful being in my life. I realised that she is one of my greatest teachers.

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## Invitation from the TOS healing network in the USA

The coordinator of the healing network of the Theosophical Order of Service in America invites us to send her the names of those we know to be suffering and in need of healing. She will immediately forward the names to the many groups and individuals across the USA regularly performing the TOS's healing ritual.



If you know anyone who is ill and would appreciate this service, or if you are ill yourself, write to the TOS in America's healing network coordinator, Diane Eisenberg, at [TOS2healing@gmail.com](mailto:TOS2healing@gmail.com), providing the following information:

1. The full name of the person or persons concerned. (Please obtain their permission first.)
2. The country where they live.
3. Your name and country as point of contact.

The name or names you send will be kept on the healing list for just one month unless you write asking for renewal.

If you would like an electronic copy of the TOS healing ritual, please write to the International Secretary at: [tosinternational@wanadoo.fr](mailto:tosinternational@wanadoo.fr)

## Tanzanian TOS teens excel

*The great aim of education is to bring out of the child who comes into our hands, every faculty that he brings with him and then to try to win that child to turn all his abilities, his powers, his capacities, to the helping and serving of the community of which he is a part. Annie Besant*

Indeed, TOS Tanzania upholds this great philosophy in nurturing its youth. There could be no greater evidence of this than the excellence exhibited by the teens of 'World Care Way', in both their community involvement and their academic work.

We have already reported twice on their outstanding social action. Now we are happy to mention that three of them - Vidushi Yadav, Krunalika Mutha and Khyati Dubal - are this year's top achievers in the high school examinations in the CBSE stream of education that gives access to Indian universities. Khyati will shortly leave for media studies in a university in Chennai, which will bring her in close contact with Theosophical Society activities at Adyar. Krunalika and Vidushi will also pursue tertiary studies at other universities in India.

Malaika Kapur, having completed an International Baccalaureate, has won an 'International Leader of Tomorrow' award from the University of British Columbia in Canada. This award recognizes her outstanding skills as a leader in 'World Care Way' and other community activities and her academic excellence. The scholarship, granted for four years, is for the amount of \$ 100,000 Canadian dollars!

Heartiest congratulations to the girls of 'World Care Way'! Were all young people like them, the way would rapidly be paved for a much better world.



*Vidushi Yadav*



*Krunalika Mutha*



*Khyati Dubal*



*Malaika Kapur*



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## Massacre on Midway!



On Midway Atoll, a remote cluster of islands more than 2,000 miles from the nearest continent, the detritus of our mass consumption surfaces in an astonishing place: inside the stomachs of thousands of dead baby albatrosses. The nesting chicks are fed lethal quantities of plastic by their parents, who mistake the floating trash for food as they forage over the vast polluted Pacific Ocean.

For me, kneeling over their carcasses is like looking into a macabre mirror. These birds reflect back an appallingly emblematic result of the collective trance of our consumerism and runaway industrial growth. Like the albatross, we first-world humans find ourselves lacking the ability to discern anymore what is nourishing from what is toxic to our lives and our spirits. Choked to death on our waste, the mythical albatross calls upon us to recognise that our greatest challenge lies not out there, but in here.

~cj, Seattle, February 2011, Chris Jordan

To view the video go to <http://www.midwayfilm.com>

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## Eyes for the blind: a final letter from Roscoe

*In the last two issues of the newsletter we shared letters from Roscoe, the Guide Dog who lived with Ann Davis, a member of Pretoria Lodge, and her family. Roscoe has told us about his adventures as a puppy, his training and his graduation to the life of a working Guide Dog. In this issue we share a third and final letter from Roscoe, originally published in the South African Theosophist in June 2009.*

### The Highest Ideal in Life is to Serve

Hi! I am Roscoe the guide dog for the blind, whom the TS in Pretoria sponsored. I go to Cape Town University every day and know my way about this part of Cape Town. Everyone, including all the dogs I meet daily, greets us. They are very friendly and helpful around here.

Everything has been fine except for a little scare I recently gave Annemie, my partner who lectures at the University. Annemie was not feeling at all well all day, so on the way home I pulled hard and took her another route which I had remembered. Annemie began to panic, which she should not have done, because I was in charge and knew exactly where I was going. I took her to the doctor before taking her home. Then Annemie was pleased and surprised that I had remembered where the doctor's surgery was. Annemie is much better now.



I am pleased to tell you that Ann and Tom have another black Labrador guide dog puppy in training called Angie. There were nine puppies from her litter. She was born on September 2008. How about that for a karmic moment? – a double nine!

She was so small she could be held in one handler's hand. Now she is 30 kg and she is coming along very well. She enjoys the TS meetings every Sunday.

Aunty Ann has been doing substitute teaching and taking her along to school. Labradors are just natural at adapting. The children love her and she sits and watches over them all day.

She has re-landscaped Tom and Ann's garden, pruned some of the rose trees, removed several plants and demolished a wooden step ladder stool, because she likes the taste of them and loves to chew wood and hard stems of plants and shrubs.

Ah well! She is still a very young dog and will grow out of it.

However, her puppy walking is great and she is progressing well. She has passed all her tests so far

at the puppy school and will soon have to go in for a small operation to stop her from having puppies, because her job in life is not to be a mother to pups but to look after a blind person, which is very important.

So Angie, well done so far, keep your nose up and walk quietly past those barking dogs. Although there will be many testing times to come, I hope you get through it all as a fully trained guide dog.

Thank you to all the TS members who have given so generously to the Dogs for the Blind School and encouraged the trainers and dogs in their valuable work.

May you always be blessed and care for others.

Woof! Woof!

Roscoe,  
*the South African Theosophical Guide Dog*



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