



THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL BULLETIN

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THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION

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May-June 2020



*A beautiful greeting card for White Lotus Day
Sent by a Theosophist Ritva Lappi
From Helsinki, Finland
Appreciating 'History of Blavatsky Lodge'
Narrating 140 Years of Theosophy
In Mumbai, India*

MISSION OF TS

**To serve humanity by cultivating an ever deepening
understanding and realization of the Ageless Wisdom,
spiritual self-transformation and the unity of all life**

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***Ripples of the 140th Anniversary Celebration of Blavatsky
Lodge TS, Mumbai
by Bro. Arni Narendran***

The 140th year celebration of Blavatsky Lodge TS, Bombay (Mumbai) has echoed all over the world and has invited fresh interest in our Lodge. The report has appeared in Hermes, Greece, translated in Russian and posted on their Russian Theosophist website and also translated in Japanese for the Theosophists from the Nippon country. *One Theosophist sent me an L.P. of a Hindustani Music song which was sent in the space shuttle of Voyager1 and upon research I discovered it was recorded at the Blavatsky Lodge.* Such amazing stories are surfacing. Also a beautiful greeting card was sent by a Theosophist Ritva Lappi from Helsinki (The card is on the Cover page).

Editor – Bro. Rustom R. Dalal **Cover Page By:** Sis. Kashmira Khambatta Editorial **Committee** –Sis.Mahazaver Dalal (Reporter & in charge of Mailing List), Sis. Kashmira Khambatta, Sis. Aban Patel and **Ex-Officio:** President Bro. Vinayak Pandya. **Note:** News, Notes and Programmes to be printed in the Bulletin be forwarded by e-mail to kashmirakhambatta@yahoo.com latest by 16th each month. Readers' Views are invited.

Thanks to Bro. Arni Narendran our BTF Bulletin of April 2020 with Blavatsky Lodge History was circulated far and wide in

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Theosophical Circle in the world. He shares the appreciations received by him.

“This is Great News. Congratulations to all the members of the Blavatsky Lodge, Mumbai, for the landmark Anniversary. May the Lodge continue to spread the light of Theosophy, in the great city and beyond. A Happy New year to all.”

Dara Tatray-National Secretary

Pedro Oliveira- National Education Coordinator- Theosophical Society-Sydney, Australia

“My Best Wishes for the 140th Anniversary celebration of the Blavatsky Lodge.” ***Mahrukh Shroff, Charolette, U.S.A.***

“I felt as if I was present on 20th February 2020, on reading the report. Congratulations to the Brothers and Sisters who brought the celebration of 140 years. It may seem only, like yesterday to Adepts. I wish you and the loved ones every thought of Safety through the Pandemic.”

Peter Glasson,

Author and Music Composer – Brisbane, Australia.

“Thanks, for those Great pictures of the 140th year celebration, Best Wishes, I wish I was there too.”

Debbie Elliot-Co-Editor- Hermes-Magazine-Athens, Greece

“The photos of the 140th Celebration have been received. Those dresses are beautiful and colorful and handsome. It is important that we respect our culture. Nature inspires us. I can sense the celebration feeling. Best Wishes,”

Ritva Lappi- Helsinki, Finland.

“Thank you for the 140th Anniversary Celebration Report. We are so happy to translate the same in Russian. Please see it on our website and facebook page.” - ***Eugenia and Vladimir***

Theosophical Society of Russia - St. Peterburg, Russia

“I always enjoy the news from Blavatsky Lodge. Please see the Japanese translation of the 140th celebration report. It will be published in our Journal.”

Ms. Yukiko Touma, Tokyo, Japan

“The T.S. has long attracted interesting people, including artists, writers and musicians. Blavatsky Lodge has a long History for education and culture.”

Nathaienl Altman,

Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A., Author and chiropractic

THUS HAVE WE HEARD
Courtesy: The Theosophist May 1991
HPB Memorial Issue 1891-1991

Where is her like?

‘This generation has not seen her like. The next probably will not. Take her all in all, with her merits and demerits, her bright and her dark moods, her virtues and her foibles, she towers above her contemporaries as one of the most picturesque and striking personages in modern history. Her life ...has been a tragedy, the tragedy of a martyr philanthropist. Burning with zeal for spiritual welfare and intellectual enfranchisement of humanity, moved by no selfish inspiration, giving herself freely and without price to her altruistic work. She has been hounded to her death-day by the slanderer, the bigot, and the Pharisee ... She was to me a sister in a peculiar sense, as though there had been no period of beginning to our alliance, but rather a psychical consanguinity which dated from anterior earth-lives.’

- . *S. Olcott, President-Founder*

Radiating Power

‘The first thing that strikes all, the first thing that always struck me, was the tremendous power that she radiated. The moment one came into Madame Blavatsky’s presence, one felt that here was someone who

counted-someone who could do things, emphatically one of the great ones of the world; and I think none of us ever lost that feeling.’

Bishop C. W. Leadbeater

What a Woman!

‘Living in a tired old body, misunderstood, vilified and abused, and yet with a brilliant, cultured and deeply learned mind; the very soul of generosity; a woman of direct speech and action, refusing to talk the pious platitudes and nonsense that we chatter under the guise of socially good manners, but offering the truth for everyone who wanted it. If they were hurt by the truth that was their own affair; they hurt themselves. Ruthlessly honest, she hurt the feelings of many, but those who wanted truth remained, and those who left she did not wish to retain ...

‘What did she teach?’ In *Isis Unveiled* she broke down dogmatic theology and science, and so paved the way for a constructive teaching. In *The Secret Doctrine* she taught the Ancient Wisdom and something of its guardians, the Masters of the Wisdom. She taught Cosmogonies, the coming into being of man; the dual evolution of Spirit coming down and matter building up, until the two met in man. She taught the tree and its branches; the original Esoteric Doctrine and some of its branches extant in the various religions of the world. She taught One Life in every form, and the sevenfold nature of man. She gave out the truth in detail about life after death. She taught the doctrines of Karma and Rebirth, older than Hinduism or Buddhism ... She set out in detail the potential future of mankind; it is mankind to seize that opportunity.’

Christmas Humphreys

So tender of heart

‘... Much has been written showing that HPB was masculine, rough and unfeeling. ... all that was a mask ... she was utterly tender at heart. ... There is in Adyar a letter which she wrote to George Arundale on his fourth or fifth birthday. She was very fond of him as a child, and so when his birthday came, she selected a special piece of note- paper with a picture on it a child would understand, and wrote as follows:

To Georges Chela, Esq.,

Happy New Year to the Most Honorable Georgy Esq.

A box of sweets is forthcoming from Russia, a cold and pious country where the undersigned is supposed to have evolved from. When it arrives – you shall have it, and when you understand what your loving old friend means – you shall indeed be a CHELA.

Yours respectfully,

H.P. Blavatsky

I feel utterly convinced that no one who did not have the heart of a child could have written such an exquisite letter to a child.’

C. Jinarajadasa

Strange and wondrous strength

‘I was very young indeed when I knew her. But out of the mist comes the strong sense of her exquisite tenderness to a little child, and of a strange and wondrous strength which then I could not understand yet to which I thrilled even as a child though unconsciously.’ -

Dr. George S. Arundale

A hundred splendid virtues

‘What H. P. Blavatsky was, the world may some day know. She was of heroic stature, and smaller souls instinctively resented her strength, her titanic nature. Unconventional, careless of appearances, frank to unwisdom – as the world estimates wisdom – too honest to calculate against the dishonesty of others she laid herself open to continual criticism and misunderstanding. Full of intellectual strength and with extra ordinary knowledge, she was humble as a little child. Brave to recklessness, she was pitiful and tender. Passionately indignant when accused of sins she loathed she was generous and forgiving to a repentant foe. She had a hundred splendid virtues and a few petty failings.’

– *Annie Besant*

HEAL THE WORLD - TS ENDEAVOUR

Novel Corona Virus – SARS-CoV2 – COVID 19 germinated in Wuhan, China in December 2019 and engulfed whole world. World Health Organization (WHO) announcement of Pandemic is followed by Lock-Down in many countries by Governments. Frontline Medical & Health Workers and providers of daily needs & services are working at the risk of their life. Protective instructions, social distancing and working from home are observed. Electronics and Internets are now connecting ways. It is realized that not just an individual, but humanity as One is subjected to pandemic. One wonders whether it is a Biological invasion or wrath of Mother Nature victimizing millions and taking lives of thousands. Is it a corrective measure of Nature to make humanity aware of their life style and to prepare humanity to start afresh with New Light of Wisdom?

COVID 19 has become a call to contemplate where man has gone wrong and how to heal the Mother Earth with its humanity and all other Beings.

Theosophical Society globally and locally is endeavouring with concern & compassion for safety and healing of all in the world.

On 16th March 2020 International President Tim Boyd with his letter shared the measures taken at Adyar Campus ‘to do our part to limit the transmission of the virus’ and for safety and care of Campus Residents and workers. Eastern Conference scheduled for 10th – 12th April 2020 at Adyar was cancelled.

Indian Section TS Treasurer V. Narayan informed that the Bhowali Study Camp of Summer 2020 was cancelled. Indian Section TS President Shri Pradeep Gohil instructed Federations and Lodges not to hold Study Camps and Lodge Meetings during pandemic. The Consecration Ceremony of new building of India’s First Co-freemasonic Lodge Dharma, Varanasi in the campus of Indian Section TS was cancelled.

International President Tim Boyd with his Corona Message Video inspired Brethren to contemplate on pandemic as a creative moment with words like:

- There is no script for this situation in the world. This is a completely creative moment, new patterns; new ways of thinking are called for.
- Unity, Oneness, interdependence, interconnection, have been ideal or highly valued theories but now they have gone beyond theories. Now it is a demonstrated fact. We are linked to one and other.
- Doing what has been advised over and over again is valuable. But beyond that is a deeper importance which is self-awareness. Our thoughts and emotions can either purify the stream or pollute it.
- What can the little me do? This is our deepest creativity.
- When we pass this moment of virus we enter into a very different moment.
- Imagine: What is the nature of the world in which we want to live? What does that world look like? How do we act toward one and other? Who do I want to be on the other side of this moment of the viral pandemic?
- Call someone, write a letter, connect.
- Allow yourself to be in this moment. Sit and imagine a world suitable to growth and peace, what we desire for ourselves, friends, family, nation - expand if you can.
- Learn something new. Now you have the time. Study something.
- Give and receive.
- Use this time now. It is a necessity to approaching challenges that lie on the other side of this viral moment.

TS International President Tim Boyd's call to have 10 minutes meditation at 8.00 am, 12.00 noon or 8.00 pm every day to unite from all over the world to send out healing thoughts.

The Healing Group Ritual of TOS Mumbai Region was conducted on Zoom by Bro. Farhad Dalal on 12th April 2020. It was a unique experience to come together through Technology from one's own home to unite and invoke Healing Grace. On 10th May 2020 they had Healing Group Ritual conducted by Sis. Rashna Jehani, on Free Conference Call App., to radiate thoughts of strength and cheer during COVID 19 Lockdown.

The Theosophical Society Philippines' invitation to online Guided Meditation:

On 14th April 2020 at IST 12.30 pm (Singapore Manila, Philippines Time 3.00 pm) there was a Guided Meditation **facilitated by Vic Hao Chin on Zoom. The Meeting ID: 985079815 Password: 936188.** This online Guided Meditation was for those who wish to take up the practice and discipline of meditation for the first time. Thanks to Bro. Vinayak Pandya's gentle reminder on WhatsApp Dr. Ajay Hora, Sis. Meherangiz Baria, Bro. Navin Kumar, Sis. Thrity Dalal and others from Mumbai had also joined the meeting. **The Theosophical Society Philippines scheduled online Guided Meditation every Tuesday of April 2020 and 5th & 12th of May 2020.**

At the Zoom Meetings after conducting the meditation Vic Hao Chin spoke about Meditation process and purpose & effects of Meditation. He said that Meditation is for Awakening and Nurturing Higher Faculty. With meditation Inner Perception leads to clear & correct thinking to deal with problems / actions of Life. The intention of thinking is most important.

Meditation practice leads to self-awareness and self-discovery. With breathing for meditation body, emotions & mind become calm and a change goes within. Agitation, anger, irritability, hurt, distrust, hostility

etc go away. One does not react and responds with awareness & understanding. Relationship with Family, friends and even at work improves. Man is a creature of emotional & mental habits. With meditation guidance is received for thoughts & activities of daily life. Conflict between deep rooted lower habits and higher intentions will end. Inner consciousness begins to unfold from physical to all vehicles of body leading to the stage of '*Ananda*'. Meditation re-educates 'personality' and so with Inner Awareness Spiritual Life begins. Inner awareness spiritual life begins. There will be obstacles, but stick to practice of meditation starting with five minutes. Counting of Breath, which is not a religious practice, helps beginners and then there will be meditation without counting. Quietness in increased gap between breathing will dawn Inner awareness leading to Spiritual Life.

Quite a few Brethren of Mumbai have joined these meditation sessions on Zoom and they have greatly appreciated the opportunity to learn meditation from Vic Hao Chin..

Global Silence Five Minutes

Humanity is living through a challenging moment as we address the immediacy of the pandemic while also experiencing a crisis in so many areas of living. To seek the ways to help in this time, on 16th April 2020 at 2 pm GMT people of the world experienced together a Global Silent Five Minutes: Coming together to *Heal the World*.

TS Brethren of India had joined the event organized by Sine Network on Zoom from 7.00 to 8.00 pm IST (Indian Standard Time) with Five Minutes Silence at 7.30 pm IST. The Speakers who spoke before and after observing the Silence on Purpose & Power of Silence were:

- Tim Boyd, Theosophical Society
- Sri Sri Ravi Shankar , Art of Living Foundation
- Sister Jenna, Brahma Kumaris
- Ben Bowler, Unit Earth

-
-
- And many others

It was a contemplative experience to realize:

- A beautiful moment of Silence to come together across the Lands & Seas from one's own home
- To come together uniting entire world and embracing whole humanity to unite with The Creator
- To realize crises need people to cooperate for Ecological Peace of our wonderful world with clean elements of earth, water, air, fire & ether
- To come together with sharing & watching of thoughts full of power to bring the change
- To unite with Planetary Logos and with those on other side of the world, who help humanity
- To realize Oneness of Life and Silence as Action
- To reflect on emotional & mental nature of people
- To pray from heart for inner & outer peace and with song of heart to connect with cosmic nature
- As a child of Mother Earth to realize preciousness of Life and to reach out with love & gratitude to Family, to Nations, to four-legged friends and even ancestors who passed away to the other world
- The meditative moments will be an opportunity for inspiration
- To have hope as New Energy will come down from Heaven to energize our bodies and through us Mother Earth and things around us will be energized
- Silence has opened hearts to take one beyond mind. One feels the Power of Silence
- There will be a global shift of Consciousness. Power of Silence will have Global Unity full of thoughts of Oneness, Love & Gratitude.

On WhatsApp Groups of ‘TS Mumbai’ and ‘Propagation of Theosophy’ contemplating & inspiring Thoughts, Forwards and Videos have kept Brethren aware about Corona Virus pandemic – COVID 19 about medical, ecological and spiritual effects. **Bro. Vinayak Pandya’s** daily inspiring messages & Sunday Stories and Theosophical messages of other Brethren have kept spirits high under lockdown and have helped Brethren to think how to start afresh with positive perspectives after Lockdown is over.

Prof. C. A. Shinde’s series of Meditation thoughts on ‘Propagation of Theosophy’ Group of Whats App were:

- It is high time that the human race should rise to a higher level of consciousness.
- They should be noble, kind and compassionate.
- Go Veg, be Green, do Good is just not for Planet, but for the whole human race ennobling spiritual merit and quality.
- We have to turn back to our caring and compassionate nature of our heart.
- Heart is full of Love & Life. Life that is vibrant in every atom and Love that embraces all in One.

Blavatsky Lodge TS, Mumbai Zoom Meeting of 5th May 2020 hosted by Bro. Navin Kumar was on ‘Thoughts on Corona Virus’. Thoughts shared were profound as they were with understanding of Theosophy, concern about people affected under Lockdown and efforts to reach out even individually. The meeting had ended with a message that ‘This is indeed a time to understand Mother Nature’s Corrections and to be prepared for life ahead with fresh and positive perspectives’.

NEWS & NOTES

WESAK PURNIMA BLESSINGS

Under COVID 19 Lockdown, Wesak Purnima Blessings meeting of 7th May 2020 could not be held in Green Room of Blavatsky Lodge with an Alter Table near the Statue of Lord Buddha. Members were asked to be in tune with Wesak Purnima Blessings Ceremony in their own homes.

WHITE LOTUS DAY 8TH MAY 2020 ATTUNEMENT

Under pandemic for Corona Virus – COVID 19 BTF & Blavatsky Lodge jointly organized an Hour of Attunement with audio presentation on TS Mumbai WhatsApp Group on 8th May 2020. The Server Group of Blavatsky Lodge with their pre-recorded audios presented recitations as under:

- Significance of White Lotus Day by Blavatsky Lodge President Sis. Kashmira Khambatta
 - Chanting of the Universal Prayer by Sis Aban Patel
 - Readings from '*The Bhagvad Geeta*' with explanations by Sis. Dr. Rajam Pillai
 - Readings from '*The Light of Asia*' by Sis. Navaz Dhalla
 - Bro. Arni Narendran spoke on 'Last Four Years of H. P. Blavatsky's Life in London'
 - Sis. Ruby Khan read '*The Three Absolute Truths*' from '*Light on the Path*'
 - Readings from '*The Voice of The Silence*' by Sis. Aban Patel about '*The Three Halls*'
 - Readings from '*The Voice of The Silence*' by Sis. Jasmine Cawasji on '*Path with Seven Gates*' leading to '*The Buddha of Compassion*'
 - Sis. Aban Amroliwalla read an article on '*Life of Madam H. P. Blavatsky*'.
 - Concluding Sanskrit Universal Prayer by Bro. Navin Kumar
- Listening to audio clips was a beautiful uplifting experience. Each well articulated recitation was with devotion & feeling to pay tribute to *Light Bringer H. P. Blavatsky* on White Lotus Day.

BLAVATSKY LODGE ONLINE MEETINGS

Blavatsky Lodge with Bro. Navin Kumar as Admin/Host is trying different modes to hold their Tuesday & Friday Meetings online. Once mode is worked out, it will be announced on TS Mumbai Group.

BRETHREN REACH OUT TO BRO. KHOSRAV PAVRI

Bro. Khosrav Pavri, Life Member of Blavatsky despite his physical handicap used to come to Blavatsky Lodge for TS meetings & activities. His study of Theosophy is the source of inner strength to him. When his mother was in hospital he could not attend Lodge meetings. His mother passed away. Now he is alone and has developed problem with legs. With great difficulty and a helping hand of day & night caretakers he is able to move around in the house. As he cannot work he is facing financial strain. Bro. Rustom Dalal suggested to TS members to make an appeal for him. Bro. Navin Kumar on behalf of Blavatsky Lodge placed the appeal on TS Mumbai Group and compassionate response is encouraging. Even under Lockdown members have started making online transfer in his bank account. **Bro. Khosrav is touched and has expressed his sincere thanks to Brethren for standing by him in his time of need with generous donations.**

Editor also expresses sincere thanks to generous donors for reaching out to Bro. Khosrav Pavri in true Theosophical Spirit.

OBITUARY

BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya and Brethren of Bombay were sorry to learn from Bro. Bhupendra Vora about passing away to Light Eternal of **Ms. Mary Anderson on 14th April 2020 in UK. She was a highly learned Theosophist over 50 years and International Secretary & International Vice-President. She had graced BTF Annual Session as the Chief Guest.** On her second visit to Bombay, she had given a talk to an informal gathering of Brethren on the verandah of Besant Villa at Juhu Theosophical Colony. May her soul blessed with Eternal Peace continue noble work on Higher Planes.

Sis. Mehru Engineer of Blavatsky Lodge with TS Membership of over 50 years passed away to Light Eternal on **12th May 2020.** She was Associate Member of Vimadalal Bilia Lodge, Dadar. She was one of the

senior Co-Freemasons of Higher Degree with deep understanding of Masonic Teachings. She participated in Mystic Star Ritual also. May her soul be blessed with peace in her heavenly abode.

BTF & LODGE PROGRAMES MAY – JUNE 2020

Under the Lockdown for Novel Corona Virus – COVID 19 in India started from 25th March 2020 and extended up to 31st May 2020 no TS meetings or activities were held by all of following Nine BTF Lodges at their premises. We hope, from June 2020 gradually lockdown will be removed and by July 2020 Brethren will be able to meet at their Lodge premises.

1. ANANDA LODGE:

Theosophical Colony, Juhu, Mumbai 400049. Contact Ananda Lodge Secretary Sis. Zenobia Khodajji (M): 9820308163 or Bro. Nilesh Mehta (M): 9821354707 for Meeting

2. BLAVATSKY LODGE: 7 - French Bridge, Mumbai 400007 Tel: 23685026 (M): 9821459504 (M): 9819334333

3. CENTENARY LODGE:

Please contact Sis. Najma Dewan (M): 9987204038 for meetings.

4 JYOTI LODGE: Contact Bro. Taral Munshi, C/101, Building No.19, New Mhada, Garden Hill C.H.S., New Mhada Colony, Behind N.P.A., Goregaon (East), Mumbai 400065 (M): 9820187317

5. SHANTI LODGE: C/o Bro. Rustom Dalal, Vijay Niwas, 2nd Floor, Plot 5, Sleater Road, Mumbai 400007 Tel: 23800422 (M): 9833131216 Time: 6.15 p.m

6. UNITY YOUTH LODGE: Sis. Soonoo Vesuna (M): 9619339787
Please contact her for Third Wednesday Meetings at 5.30 pm

7 & 8 VASANTA LODGE & GANESH LODGE: C/O Sis. Kalpana Pramod Jani, 804, Ajanta, Tilak Road, opp. Shabari Hotel, Santacruz (West), Mumbai 400054

9. VIMADALAL BILIA LODGE: Family House, Parsi Colony, Dadar, Mumbai 400014.



NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR BLAVATSKY LODGE, T.S.
MANAGING COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEARS 2020-2022

Nominations are invited for the following on the Managing Committee of the Blavatsky Lodge, T.S., for the term of two years 2020-2022:

- (1) President
- (2) Vice-president
- (3) Treasurer
- (4) SEVEN Members of the Managing Committee

Nomination slips are available with Lodge Assistant Sis. Asha Mhatre.

These slips duly filled in and signed by the Nominee and the Proposer / Secunder (Blavatsky Lodge Members) should be handed over to **Election Officer Sis. Rajam Pillai** latest by **30th August 2020**.

Sis. Jasmine Cawasji

Hon. Secretary

14-05-2020

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