

## Canada-Tanzania Meeting, June 5, 2017, in Calgary, Canada

I was delighted to meet with Deepa Kapur, her husband, Runjiv and daughter, Malaika, from TS Tanzania, as they were in Vancouver, Canada for Malaika's graduation from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. From Vancouver, they drove to Calgary, where they spent one night and the following morning met with David Sztain, editor of the *Canadian Light Bearer* magazine, editor of the international TOS e-newsletter and group secretary for Lux Study Group in Calgary.

Deepa serves as chief editor of the *Theosophical Light* magazine (in printed form), as well as the Tanzanian TS vice-chairperson and TOS co-ordinator in Tanzania.



*Tanzania - holding a Tanzanian scarf with flag colours! Proudly Tanzanian*

*From left: David Sztain, Editor of TOS international e newsletter, Deepa Kapur, TOS Director, Tanzania and Malaika Kapur, Inaugural President of Dar TOS Youth Group*

During the meeting, both Malaika and Deepa discussed the growth of the dynamic TOS Youth Group in Tanzania. She was happy to mention the names of President Chandni, Hitesh, Jyoti and all the dynamic youth members, who are our future torch bearers.

As well Deepa conveyed greetings on behalf of GS Narendrabhai, Kenya, AGS Mitesh, Uganda's Nile Lodge Virchand bhai, Tanzania, Dubal bhai, Zambia, Jayu bhai, TOS co-ordinators Ushaben Shah, Bro. Ebrony and Aruna. As well Deepa sent regards from all others, including Lily Aunty, Kiran bhai, Ranjitbhai Arya, Nileshbhai, Rekhaben... basically the entire group from East and Central Africa.

Runjiv and David were delighted to discover that they share the same birthdate... June 30<sup>th</sup>! Deepa's birthday is on June 26<sup>th</sup>, so very close to Lorraine Christensen's birthday on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Lorraine is the TOS co-ordinator for Canada. She is 77 years old, and could not meet with us, but is still very active in both the Canadian TOS and Veritas Study Group, the second study group in Calgary.



*From left: Malaika Kapur, Inaugural President of Dar TOS Youth Group, Tanzania, David Sztain, Editor TOS International e newsletter and Deepa Kapur, TOS Director, Tanzania*

Deepa and her family were so kind as they brought gifts, including the *Theosophical Light* magazine (in printed form) from the Dar convention (since Malaika had it with her at university), as well as Tinga Tinga paintings, handmade in Tanzania and AFRICAN trinket boxes for both David and Lorraine.

I reciprocated our greetings with best wishes to our GS, leaders, TOS groups and the Youth Group. However, I didn't have Canadian gifts for them. As you can see, I'm still new at this. I should be better prepared next time.

We spoke about Nancy Secrest's commitment to TOS work and also about Ananya Sri Ram Rajan's forthcoming lecture tour to Argentina. I was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and lived in Tel Aviv, Israel, before ending up in Canada with my family in 1993, so that was really interesting to hear. I'm still fully fluent in written/oral Spanish.



*Runjiv Kapur and David Sztain*

The meeting reaffirmed our faith in the universal bond of brotherhood, through which we are all connected through an invisible thread, irrespective of geographical or cultural differences. It is our diversity that enriches our memberships in the TS and TOS!

In speaking of Canada, Deepa said, in her own words: *“This part of the world is simply a slice of heaven!”*

I was really happy that we connected and wish them the best in their efforts.