



## AUTUMN 2016 REPORT FROM THE THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE IN CANADA TO THE INTERNATIONAL TOS

*Prepared by Lorraine A. Christensen, Director of the TOS Canada, this report, with its strong support for the work of the United Nations, is illustrative of the uniqueness of each TOS Section.*

During the past year, the TOS in Canada has moved forward steadily in making the TOS and its work better known, holding events and raising thousands of dollars for its three major fund raising projects which support:

- *Animal welfare initiatives at Adyar, including educational and outreach programs to prevent cruelty to animals worldwide;*
- *The Golden Link College in the Philippines where impoverished children from pre-school to college level are given an excellent, well-rounded education, patterned on Theosophical principles and ideals;*
- *The Tibetan Delek Hospital in Dharamsala where poor and destitute patients, many of whom suffer from tuberculosis, are given free medical care.*

TOS highlights in Canada for the past year include a series of talks and book launches given by Fiona Odgren, TOS member and President of Victoria TS in British Columbia. Fiona's recently published book ***Insights from the Masters*** – a compilation of various themes regarding esoteric knowledge presented in ***The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*** was very well received. Fiona has graciously stated in her book that all proceeds from sales will be donated to the three major fund raising projects of the TOS in Canada.



Lorraine Christensen and Fiona Odgren – September 27, 2016

+++++

### **TOS CELEBRATION OF UNITED NATIONS DAY**

TOS groups in Canada are encouraged to hold special events in support of the United Nations as a vehicle for global transformation. In Calgary, the local TOS branch has established a yearly tradition of celebrating UN Day in October. The program each year is centered on a particular theme that encourages Theosophists to support UN initiatives for enlightened social action. Afterwards the group enjoys refreshments and ethnic food, with participants bringing a vegetarian dish from a country of their choice.



## THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY AND THE UNITED NATIONS

### A History of Support

Theosophists wishing to see spiritual principles permeate and uplift society will be interested to know that presidents of the Theosophical Society have actively supported the United Nations (and its predecessor, the League of Nations) since its inception. They have always believed in its potential as a vehicle for spiritual forces and global transformation.

In this leaflet published by the Theosophical Order of Service, the history of the Theosophical Society's support for the UN is outlined and some suggestions made for practical action in continuing this support. Since the TS is strictly neutral in political matters, activities focus on support for the UN's aspirations in the realm of world peace, unity and relief of suffering.

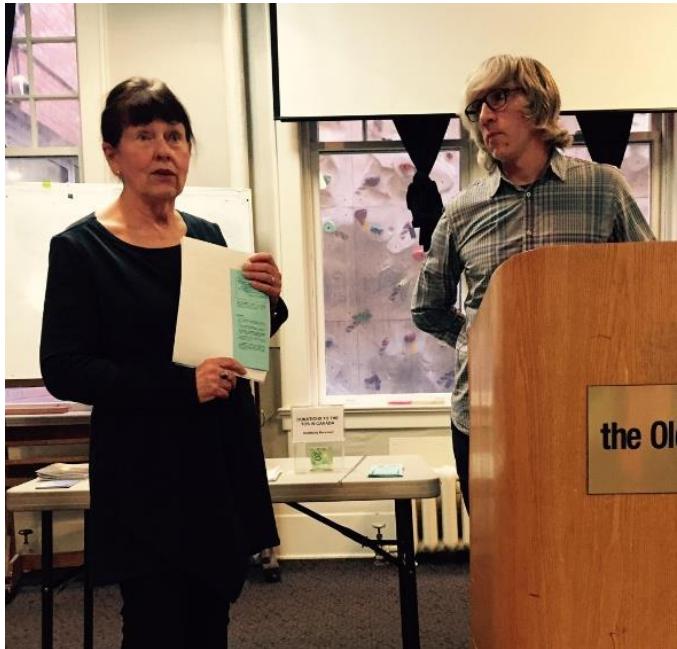
Page 1 of TOS UN Brochure



CELEBRATION OF UNITED NATIONS DAY  
Lorraine Christensen, Director of the TOS in Canada and  
David Sztain, Secretary of Lux Theosophical Study Centre, Calgary

On October 23, 2016, the Calgary, Alberta branch of the TOS sponsored a well-attended event to celebrate United Nations Day. This event was jointly hosted by Lux and Veritas Theosophical study groups in Calgary. The theme for this year was ***The Theosophical Society and the United Nations – A History of Support***. Readings were taken from the brochure of that name published in 2011 by the International TOS UN Committee, and endorsed by our late international president, Radha Burnier. The brochure was well received throughout the world, and within a year of coming out, it had been translated and published in French, Spanish, Hindi and several other East Indian language editions.

Those attending were reminded that The Theosophical Society has a history of members working at the forefront in serving causes to promote peace and improve the well-being of all, and of how the United Nations was built on spiritual principles and universal values such as peace, human rights, human dignity and worth, justice, respect, good neighbourliness, freedom, respect for nature and shared responsibility. These reflect the fundamental principles of the Theosophical Society since its inception in 1875.



**Lorraine Christensen and Gerald Riddell of Veritas Study Centre, Calgary**

Over the years, many Theosophists have supported the United Nations work and its initiatives. Among them are several TS presidents. When C. Jinarajadasa took over as international president in 1948, a resolution was passed by the General Council of the Theosophical Society (Adyar). Advisory rather than mandatory, it points to real support and commitment on the part of the Theosophical Society. The resolution reads as follows:

***As all members of the Theosophical Society desire earnestly to establish World Peace as a realization of Universal Brotherhood, the General Council of the Theosophical Society recommends all Lodges throughout the world to be informed of the work of the United Nations. And the Council further suggests that one meeting each year be devoted to describing the work of the United Nations towards ushering in the era of World Peace and Brotherhood.***



**Readers at the TOS UN Celebration in Calgary on October 23, 2016: David Sztain, Shahryar Vasseghi and Reid Pollock from Lux Study Centre - and - Svetlana and Gerald Riddell representing Veritas Study Centre**