

TOS-USA passes the baton



The baton has been passed in the TOS-USA from Nancy Secrest, who has been its president for the last six years, to Ananya Sri Ram Rajan.

Ananya has been a member of the Theosophical Society for over 30 years. She lived in the United States but moved to India when she was 18. While living in India, she was part of the young theosophist movement and served as president of the Vasanta Youth lodge in Adyar and afterwards as secretary for the Adyar lodge. After moving back to the United States, she raised her two children under the influence of Theosophy which has given them a solid foundation. More often than not, discussions at the dinner table were, and still are, on existential and metaphysical

questions.

In 2001, Ananya was asked by John Algeo, former president of the Theosophical Society in America, to be an editorial assistant for *Quest* magazine. She readily accepted and eventually became the assistant editor under Betty Bland until 2005. At this time the Theosophical Order of Service in the US was in need of an editorial assistant, so Ananya became actively involved in the TOS. She has been the editor of *For the Love of Life*, its magazine, since 2007 as well as its *OneHeart* newsletter.

Aside from her editorial work, and now her responsibilities as TOS-USA president, Ananya is a mental health counsellor, specialising in suicide prevention, trauma, and grief. As a healing practitioner, she incorporates healing techniques into her practice as well as Theosophy, of course. She finds that without even trying to, theosophical concepts make their way into a counselling session and often provide answers to questions as well as comfort for the client. She states, “*Of course I don’t mention that it is Theosophy. Unless they ask. I just sometimes share with them a different way of looking at a situation.*”

Ananya is honoured to be serving as TOS-USA president. Service, to her, goes hand in hand with Theosophy. She feels that we cannot achieve the first object without putting our principles into action. To her, Theosophy is altruism, so where there is a need – whether it is a mineral, plant, animal or human – we need to help with an open heart when we are called to do so. “*If we are really living a theosophical life, we can never say we don’t have time or something is too inconvenient when another is suffering. It becomes impossible.*”