



Issue 28 – October 2013

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

We still get a warm feeling when we think back to our TOS conference in July and the many dedicated TOS members that we met and worked with. After all the sharing that took place, what are TOS groups now putting at the top of their agendas for service action? We bring you some of their ideas in this issue of our electronic newsletter.

We also share some of the talks from the conference. We hope you find the videos informative and useful in your TOS work. Perhaps your fellow TOS and TS members would enjoy viewing one together.

We remind you of the richly documented TOS Handbook released in July that can be viewed on your screen as a [pdf file here](#) or sent to you in printed form for use with your local TOS group. (Write to Diana at tosinternational@wanadoo.fr for a copy.)

Finally, don't miss the wonderful opportunity announced below to receive help when your pets are ill.

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.

With best wishes in putting theosophical principles into action,

Carolyn, Diana and Geoffrey



The editorial team (L. to R.)

Diana Dunningham Chapotin is the International Secretary of the TOS

Carolyn Harrod is the past National Coordinator of the TOS in Australia and

Geoffrey Harrod is the International TOS Webmaster.

A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens - citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilisation.

A. Josland



Progress report on our Plan of Action for the TOS from 2008 to 2013

At our recent International TOS Conference, we shared with delegates the progress that had been made in implementing the five year Plan of Action developed by participants at the previous International Conference. The development of the TOS as an international organisation over the past five years has been truly impressive, and we are delighted to provide the progress report here for all TOS members and friends to read.

[Read the report...](#)

What are TOS groups putting at the top of their agendas for service action in the next few years?





Participants at the International TOS Conference, held at Olcott, Wheaton, in July this year, worked together to contribute ideas for our Plan of Action for the next five years. They then identified activities that they thought could be priorities for their countries. Here are some of the ideas that delegates committed to. We expect to see many of them taking form soon here and there in the world. It is interesting to note how many commitments to action include making better known amongst Theosophists, the opportunity to join in the TOS's constructive and joyful activities.

[Read the action plans](#)



More photographs from the International TOS Conference

In our August newsletter, we brought you lots of photos of our July TOS Conference. We have since posted many more to our website.

[You can view and download them here.](#)

We invite conference participants to send us their best shots to add to the collection. Please send them to Diana at tosinternational@wanadoo.fr.



Three talks from the International Conference available as webcasts

If you did not attend the international TOS Conference in July and would like to watch the principal addresses, it is possible to do so thanks to the rapid work of the TS in America technical wizards.

[Visit the TS in America website to select the talk you want to hear.](#)



Vic Hao Chin speaking on "The TOS 100 years from now"



Maria Parisen speaking on "Creative Meditation: Balancing Inner and Outer Action"



An overview of the international TOS: Carolyn Harrod speaks on the TOS in terms of its values and work and how they fit together. She also introduces us to the international website and takes us through some of the wonderful resources being gradually built up on it.



The TS in Italy helps build and support an orphanage in India

The TS in Italy was a major donor in the construction of a children's home in Muttom, Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu, southern India, inaugurated in 2010. It is a regular supporter of the home which houses over 200 children and teenagers. The TS recently funded the purchase of computers for the Fatima Academy, a vocational training centre where the youngsters can acquire the skills necessary for a variety of careers in information technology, including design.

[Read more...](#)



Self-Transformation Seminar for the Military

There is a silent revolution in military thinking going on now in the Philippines, where the



focus is more on peace-building than war-making. The TS is actively supporting this new focus by conducting seminars for military personnel.

A seminar was held in August 2012 at the main camp of the Army Reserve Command in Tanza, Cavite for a batch of 92 trainees destined to become army officers. It was handled by Victor and Jo Penaranda, assisted by Marilyn Ranola.

[Read more....](#)

The TOS in America launches an animal healing network

Theosophy acknowledges the important role animals have in our world. Especially in today's society, animals and pets are often just as dear to us as any other member of our family or circle of friends. So when illness or injury strikes, we often feel helpless, alone and scared about our ability to help our beloved companions when they need us most.

In response, the TOS in America has launched an Animal Healing Network devoted to providing daily healing meditation for sick or terminally ill pets and their owners.

Just as with the TOS Healing Network for people, these healing meditations call upon the angelic hosts to send loving, healing power over time and distance to the suffering animal to comfort and protect until health returns or the soul departs the body. Network organiser Rozi Ulics says, "By providing this service, we hope to shoulder some of the burden pet owners feel when faced with a pet's illness."

[Read more....](#)



Gentle comments on the first object of the TS

Here we share two graphics that provide gentle reminders about how living the first object of the TS changes the way we view everyone with whom we come in contact.

[View the cartoons in full size....](#)



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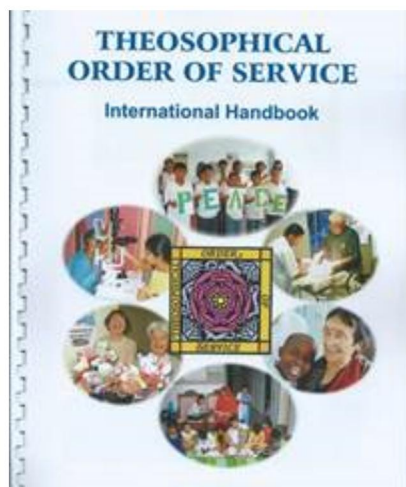
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What are TOS groups putting at the top of their agendas for service action in the next few years?

Here are some of the ideas that delegates at the TOS Conference, held at Olcott, Wheaton in July this year, committed to. We expect to see some of them taking form soon here and there in the world.

- ✓ Create activities to empower women such as vocational training in tailoring, computer skills and other income generating projects.
- ✓ Take on extensive tree planting for the environment.
- ✓ Create spiritually uplifting resources for children and young people. Initiate activities for the young.
- ✓ Encourage the starting of healing groups.
- ✓ Start up local TOS groups.
- ✓ Identify potential leaders and volunteers through leadership seminars.
- ✓ Make as many TOS workers as possible aware of the beautiful new *TOS International Handbook* and all the material it contains, particularly the 'Principles of Organisation' document that serves as guidelines for management of the work. (This document is available on line. See <http://international.theoservice.org/members/running.html>).
- ✓ Translate key TOS documents such as the *TOS Principles of Organisation* into local languages.



- ✓ Identify experienced TOS volunteers available to tour the TS branches in their country or region to give talks on the TOS and its work. Request that TS National Speakers give out information on the TOS when touring the branches.
- ✓ Encourage collaborative projects between TS and TOS and encourage local TS branches to incorporate TOS presentations. Offer a TOS presentation at TS conventions.
- ✓ Request that information on the TOS be published on TS websites and in TS magazines.
- ✓ Prepare PowerPoint presentations on the work of the TOS for local TOS organisers to show.
- ✓ National coordinator to write simple but friendly letters or emails regularly to local TOS organisers and workers.
- ✓ National TOS committee to compose written guidelines about what comprises a theosophical service project.

It is interesting to note how many commitments to action include making better known amongst Theosophists, the opportunity to join in the TOS's constructive and joyful activities.

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The TS in Italy helps build and support an orphanage in India

The TS in Italy was a major donor in the construction of a children's home in Muttom, Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu, southern India, inaugurated in 2010. It is a regular supporter of the home which houses over 200 children and teenagers. Communication and collaboration between the TS and the Ashoka Foundation, which runs the complex, are harmonious and constructive. The TS recently funded the purchase of computers for the Fatima Academy, a vocational training centre where the youngsters can acquire the skills necessary for a variety of careers in information technology, including design.



Fatima Computer Academy, in the orphanage



Children dancing for guests at the inauguration of the orphanage



Inauguration day, 20 November 2010: Pat Calvi in the centre, representing the TS in Italy, with Ashoka Foundation board members

Self-Transformation Seminar for the Military

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A seminar was held in August 2012 at the main camp of the Army Reserve Command in Tanza, Cavite for a batch of 92 trainees destined to become army officers. It was handled by Victor and Jo Penaranda, assisted by Marilyn Ranola.



Six months earlier Vic Hao Chin led a half-day seminar on the theme, *Inner Peace*, to about 190 graduating students of the Philippine Military Academy, the institution where the future military leaders are trained. The seminars cover the topics of self-awareness, meditation, managing stress and emotional distress naturally, service and leadership, values and moral integrity.

This work with the military was initiated by the Godea Lodge of the TS in the Philippines, which is based in Iligan City. Members have been conducting seminars for military officers in Mindanao since 2007.

This year one of the seminar facilitators was invited to a planning meeting in the Philippine Military Academy where they discussed the incorporation of the Peace Module into their regular curriculum.

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The TOS in America launches an animal healing network

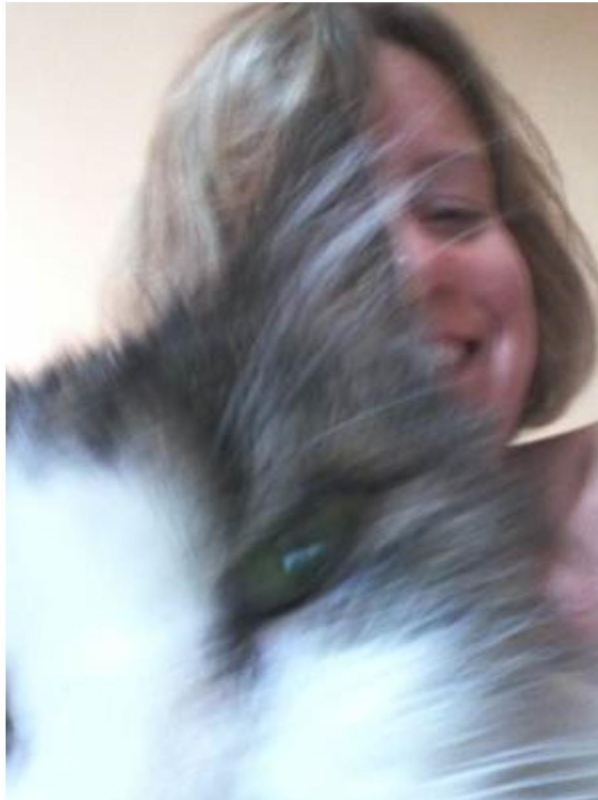
Theosophy acknowledges the important role animals have in our world. Especially in today's society, animals and pets are often just as dear to us as any other member of our family or circle of friends. So when illness or injury strikes, we often feel helpless, alone and scared about our ability to help our beloved companions when they need us most.

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Just as with the TOS Healing Network for people, these healing meditations call upon the angelic hosts to send loving, healing power over time and distance to the suffering animal to comfort and protect until health returns or the soul departs the body. Network organiser Rozi Ulics says, "By providing this service, we hope to shoulder some of the burden pet owners feel when faced with a pet's illness."

If your pet is suffering from an injury, medical condition or terminal illness, please write to TOSAnimalHealing@gmail.com. Please include your first and last name, your pet's name, and your state (and country, if outside the USA).

If you love animals and would like to join the Animal Healing Network, please contact us for more information.



A truly generous gesture was made by organiser, Rozi, at our recent international TOS Conference. To launch the network, she made a gift to each participant of a stamped postcard to send to a friend. Here is just one of the cards.

Would you like to let others know about this service for their pets? You can print out the announcement at the end of this article and post it on the noticeboard in your TS branch or leave it on a table for people to pick up.





Via internet, Rozi designed the postage stamps using two of our TOS logos.

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TOS Animal Healing Meditation

Is your pet sick, injured or terminally ill?



Photo by Dynamite Imagery at FreeDigitalImages.net

The Theosophical Order of Service offers **free** healing meditation for pets. If your pet is suffering, please contact us at TOSAnimalHealing@gmail.com. No strings attached, we just love animals and want to help. For more info: www.theoservice.org

Gentle comments on the first object of the TS

**"Dude, racism is stupid.
I'm Black, White and Asian.
But everyone still loves me."**

