



Krotona is an international center inspired by a vision of the oneness of all life and dedicated to the spiritual awakening of the human family.

Wild and Beautiful Cynthia Overweg

It has been said that the wild beauty of the natural world quiets the mind and nurtures the spirit. As beloved poet, Rainer Maria Rilke expressed it: "If you will stay close to nature, to its simplicity, to the small things hardly noticeable, those things can unexpectedly become great and immeasurable." The beauty of nature is alive with mystery and wonder, yet we forget to notice it.



The Ojai valley is famous for its natural beauty and its spiritual heritage. One of Ojai's premier destinations is Krotona. Tucked away from the noisy hustle of city life and the stress of a profit-driven world, its majestic mountain views, verdant gardens, abundant wildlife and quiet spaces support and nourish the inward journey. Students and visitors from around the world attend classes, retreats, participate in meditative

inquiry and can embrace nature's transcendent beauty simply by taking a stroll around Krotona's gorgeous landscape.

A special time to witness the wild and beautiful is at dawn. Krotona's towering oaks and venerable deodar trees stand like sentinels on the land to greet a new day. Sometimes morning mist enfolds the trees with life-giving moisture that looks iridescent in newborn light. At various times of the day, you can hear the evocative call of red tailed hawks, listen to a chorus of frogs in the waterway by the Library, witness a roadrunner speed walk, or watch the elegant flight of iconic turkey vultures with wings that can span nine feet. On Krotona's lush grounds you may also spot a family of quail gather in a meadow or see a deer with its mate leisurely walk past the Guest House. You may even encounter a great horned owl sitting motionless in a tree just before sunset.

In this silent seeing and listening, the grace of the wild and beautiful enters us and the tumult of the human-made world recedes for a while. One of the gifts of a beautiful place like Krotona is that it facilitates the inner quest through the presence of its landscape and wildlife. In a world of growing divisions and conflicts, this is why

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spiritual centers and retreat sanctuaries like Krotona are more important than ever. Author and tireless advocate for the natural world, Wendell Berry, puts it this way: "When despair for the world grows in me and I wake in the night at the least sound ... I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water. I come into the peace of wild things."

The fellowship of a mutual inquiry and the "peace of wild things" help ground us in the equilibrium of inner stillness. At Krotona you can connect with the cyclical rhythms of life, death and rebirth simply by giving attention to its ever-

changing landscape and the diversity of its wildlife. They are reminders of the impermanence of life and the eternal within us.

If you feel drawn to reconnect with spiritual inquiry in the beauty of a natural setting, Krotona is open this fall for onsite classes and retreats. The Library is open for book borrowing, study and research, and the Book Shop is open as well. Krotona's friendly, dedicated staff and residential community look forward to welcoming you back to a place where you can freely explore your own inner landscape and be in communion with the beauty of nature. ■

TSOV lodge elects new Board Officers Doug Borgatti



*Lisa Love, Francis Mossé,
Katherine Checkie, Anastasia
Katsikaris, Idarmis Rodríguez,
Douglas Borgatti, Dana
Hachigian,*

On May 24 of this year a new slate of officers was voted in by the membership of the Theosophical Society Ojai Valley (TSOV) lodge. Two of the prior officers, Jim Voirol, Treasurer, and Pablo Minniti, Trustee, completed their terms of invaluable service. Two new electees to the board are Anastasia Katsikaris, Recording Secretary, and Katherine Checkie, Trustee. We welcome them to their first term of service. The remaining board officers will continue to serve their terms as follows: Francis Mossé, President; Lisa Love, Vice President; Dana Hachigian, Corresponding Secretary; Douglas Borgatti, Treasurer; and Idarmis Rodríguez, Trustee.

The TSOV is an independently run lodge, but traditionally holds its meetings at Krotona. Many of Krotona's residents are TSOV members and add valuable insight and guidance to the meetings.

The lodge is planning to meet in person at the Krotona School with an optional Zoom link. We will continue to study W. Q. Judge's, *The Ocean of Theosophy*, and look forward to when our brothers and sisters will gather together again to study the Ageless Wisdom. ■



1924-2024
*Celebrating
100 years of Krotona.
More details to follow.*

Vietnamese Lodge from Orange County Visits Krotona

Elena Dovalsantos



On April 28 twenty members of the Phung Su Chan Ly (PSCL) Vietnamese Theosophical Lodge in Orange County, California visited Krotona. PSCL Lodge president Dr Hiep To and his wife, having visited Krotona before, led the excursion. It was the first visit for the other members of the group.

Krotona's Resident Head, Guru Prasad, gave an introduction to Krotona and presented an information video; School Director Maria Parisen spoke about the programs at Krotona School; and Elena Dovalsantos, member of the Krotona Board of Directors, was asked to give a few words about the Esoteric School of Theosophy. A fabulous vegetarian lunch brought by the visitors was then shared with Krotonians on the School deck. This was followed by a tour led by Nghia Nguyen, who is currently our longest serving resident.

The group apparently enjoyed their visit so much that they decided to return two weeks later for a Krotona experience and group retreat, consisting of readings and reflections, walking meditations, quiet times with nature, etc. A few stayed for a whole week while the majority overlapped with them for the weekend. Those who stayed during the week had discussions in Vietnamese on "Theosophy and the Spiritual Life" with residents Duc Huynh and Nghia.

During the weekend when fourteen attendees were present, Krotonians provided food for thought through organized sessions. Mihaela Wachsman spoke about "The Eight Limbs of Yoga," followed by a session of yoga movements. Elena Dovalsantos led an interactive session on "The Gift of Theosophy," exploring the practical benefits that can be derived from even the most basic teachings of theosophy. An evening meditative session entitled "The Voice of the

Silence: Reflections on the Inner Journey" was then presented by Cynthia Overweg with beautiful images and music accompanying the reflections. Cynthia ended the evening with a guided meditation. The following day, Pablo Sender gave a talk and facilitated a discussion in the morning on "The Work of a Theosophist in Today's World," while Michele Sender led an afternoon meditative inquiry on "HPB and the Ethics of Theosophy."

The highlight of the PSCL group visit was the Wesak Full Moon observance on May 15, made special by a unique coincidence of a supermoon and a full lunar eclipse. Krotonians, visitors, and friends of Krotona gathered on the Krotona Library front veranda for the full moon and eclipse viewing, Wesak readings, and meditation accompanied by soft music.

It was a remarkable time with fellow theosophical students who were so eager to learn and reflect on Theosophy. Many of them were new to the TS, having had just three to five years with the PSCL lodge, but they seemed to know the teachings as well as many who had been members for much longer. When asked about how they came to have so much familiarity with Theosophy in such a short time, they pointed to the method used by their Lodge president, Dr. Hiep To, for conducting meetings: the members take turns leading meetings. For their preparation, they receive a list of about twenty-five questions on a topic to research and speak on. This motivates them to study seriously and deeply. One member remarked: "I was assigned 'The Astral Plane' and I studied for three months, reading everything about it." Perhaps some of our TS lodges can take a cue from their apparently effective method of learning Theosophy. ■

Memorial Held for Dr. Hein Van Beusekom

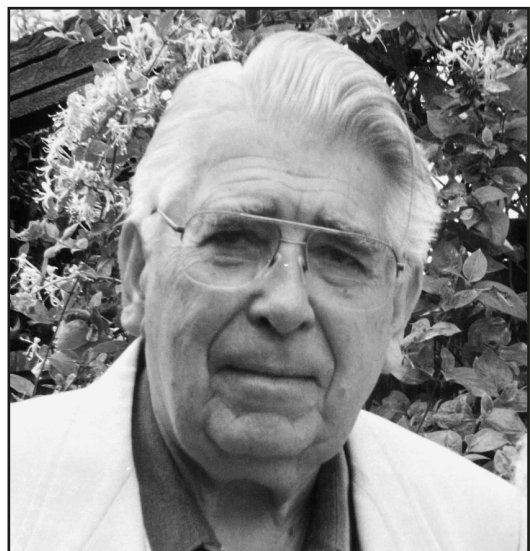
On Saturday, May 28, 2022, a requiem mass and memorial was held for Hein van Beusekom, former Vice President and Resident Head of Krotona from 1991 to 2001. He was also Regionary Bishop of the Liberal Catholic Church (LCC), a member of the International Order of Freemasonry for Men and Women, and the International Order of the Round Table. Hein passed away on February 17, 2020. However, due to the Covid pandemic, the memorial could not be held sooner.

The requiem was held at Our Lady and All Angels (LCC), led by Reverend James Voirol. It was attended by friends and family, notably: Hein's children Justus, Elizabeth, and Helena from Germany and the Netherlands; Mark Ray, son of Hein's second wife, Joan van Beusekom-Wils, from Washington state, and Hein's third wife Pauline Petchey and her daughters Julia and Suzanne. Joan's daughter Isis Pearl Ray and Pauline's son, David Petchey, were unable to attend.

During the mass, Helena (aka Heleen) sang a beautiful a cappella rendition of Gounod's "Ave Maria." Guru Prasad, Krotona's current Resident Head, spoke of Hein as a colleague, friend, and former head of Krotona. Justus spoke

on behalf of his siblings with reminiscences of their father, while Mark reflected on the many people whose lives Hein had influenced in a positive way as a doctor and leader in various theosophical and spiritual organizations. The requiem was followed by a reception.

Hein was keenly interested in psychology, healing, and the medical arts, including acupuncture. He will be remembered for his child-like laughter, sense of humor, deep spirituality, and devotion to the theosophical vision of Oneness. ■



The Krotonian

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School of Theosophy

Maria Parisen

Krotona School hosted eleven winter-spring classes, which ranged in length from Andrew Harvey's single morning on the "Revolution of the Divine Feminine," to Ravi Ravindra's eleven sessions over three weeks on "Yoga and the Journey of Self-Transformation." Most were presented on Zoom, with unedited recording links provided for registrants. Joslyn Lawrence's weekly discussions, "Let's Talk About Death" and Cynthia Overweg's Saturday retreat, "Being with the Earth" were held outdoors. The Krotona library verandah and gardens proved the perfect setting for these first programs fully on-site in two years.

Fall classes begin with a second 2022 TS Members Intensive, based on past International President Radha Burnier's text, *Human Regeneration: Lectures and Discussion*. Open to all TS members, the five-day program features inquiry with Partners in Theosophy mentors into essential aspects of the Society's purpose and our work together. See **krotonainstitute.org** for all program details. Student accommodations are now fully opened. Required health precautions, if any, will be posted as received.

Krotona School, Programs Fall of 2022

Sept 30 – Oct 4 (Friday - Tuesday)

TS Members Intensive/

Partners in Theosophy Initiative

B. Bland, E. Dovalsantos, B. Hebert,

D. Keene, M. Parisen, P. Sender

Human Regeneration: Our Response to a World in Crisis

Oct 6, 13, 20, 27 (Thursday Evenings)

Catherine Ann Jones

Discovering the Sacred in Film

Oct 9 – 10 (Sunday - Monday)

Carolyn Wayland Workshop

The Spiritual in 20th Century Art: A Continuing Lineage

Oct 14 – 16 (Weekend Retreat)

Juliana Cesano

Nurturing the Mystical Heart: Divine Intimacy Beyond Traditions

Oct 22 (Saturday)

Kirk Gradin

Pythagorean Harmonics: Sacred Number and the Golden Verses

Nov 4 – 6 (Weekend)

Michael Mendizza

Living the Insights of J. Krishnamurti

Nov 9 and 16 (Wednesday Mornings)

Michael Mendizza

500 Years: Essential Themes with First Generation Highlights

Nov 19 (Saturday)

Morning: Alex Bianchi

The Heart as a Particle Accelerator

Afternoon: Martin Leiderman

The Weighing of the Heart

Nov 28 – Dec 2 (Five Mornings)

Susan Johnson

Radical Forgiveness: Radical Compassion

Dec 2 – 4 (Spanish Weekend)

Fernando deTorrijos

Mindfulness: Construyendo un puente entre lo ordinario y lo trascendental ■

New Krotona Resident — Elena Granados Idarmis Rodríguez



In the first years of Elena's life, she was immersed in the historical times of the Cuban Revolution government that began in 1959. The cultural and economic expression of that society became an integral part of her life with many lessons. Early in the process, she was able to use the tools and skills acquired through her education to help her understand the experience of the society she lived in. This helped her build the very important qualities of endurance and tolerance which later aided her to understand the real meaning of helping the world spiritually and from a practical aspect.

In mid-July of this year the Krotona community welcomed new resident Elena Granados. She is very happy to be part of the Krotona family and sees the organization as an active group with the purpose of working for the good of all sentient beings on this planet.

Born into a theosophical family in Cuba, Elena was introduced to Theosophy at a very young age. Her childhood home in Matanzas was close to the Dharma Lodge, where she met many members. Her father, a pharmacist, was her first inspiration for the study and practice of Theosophy. He also encouraged Elena to inquire into the profound teachings of J. Krishnamurti, with whom he had a personal encounter at the Oak Grove School in Ojai.

In 1979 Elena left her Cuban homeland to go to Spain as a political refugee, and later emigrated to the United States. After a few years she went back to her roots, rejoining the Theosophical Society and all the discipline and work that the teachings of Theosophy represent. She settled in New Jersey and for twenty-five years was a social worker, starting as a case worker and eventually retiring as a supervisor.

Having some knowledge of Theosophy, she conducted study groups in the Spanish-speaking community of New York and New Jersey. She also worked as an editor in Spanish for local newspapers in New Jersey, writing about different topics pertaining to Theosophy. ■

Krotona Bookshop Carol Nicholson



During the past several months Krotona Quest Bookshop has received many large donations of books. We will be having some big sales and great discounts coming this fall and in the spring of 2023!

Sale days will be posted on the Krotona website. But if you would like an email reminder letting you know when they are, please contact us at **bookshop@krotonainstitute.org** ■

Krotona Library Susan Johnson

The Krotona Library has hosted a steady stream of weekend visitors, local and worldwide. It has been a joy to assist serious scholars and curious out-of-town tourists alike. Interesting discussions take place regularly and many patrons leave, newly inspired, with up to three books checked out at a time, appropriate to their needs.

One new Krotona Library member is Heidi Volpe from Ojai. She is the Director of Photography for Patagonia, the outdoor clothing and equipment corporation headquartered in Ventura. After her initial visit, Heidi returned a few weeks later with her team of photography editors, digital asset managers, and archivists. They wanted to familiarize themselves with the library's extensive esoteric collection and "to give them resources to learn about different spiritual practices and how spirituality might benefit their lives." Patagonia, a socially and environmentally responsible company, with stores in more than seventy countries, is involved in global activism of various kinds, including fair trade and humanely and ethically sourced materials. It was a pleasure getting to know Heidi and welcoming her and her team to Krotona.

The library has received a new Dell computer, monitor, and printer due to the generous donations of patron Joan Munn and Edward Moskowitz. The new system was installed by resident technician Richard Ellwood. While transferring documents, I discovered untold treasures of photos and other materials on Joy Mills, so we moved the old computer into the library office for more careful perusing and future archiving. With the help of Olcott library staff in Wheaton and IT Specialist Jeff O'Fallon, the SWAN library database was installed on our

reliably fast and improved new computer.

The library has a slightly new look, as we have relocated the reception desk. This has opened the flow (Feng Shui) of the foyer space, allowing a clear view of the front door into the library itself. It also provides a view through to the beautiful picture window, highlighting the fountain and the cascade pool on the western side of the library. Visitors are welcome to contemplate and enjoy the tiny and colorful birds that sometimes flit around the bougainvillea just outside the window. In addition to this update, Krotona's maintenance crew has refurbished all of the old oak countertops in the library kitchen, making them look like new! The kitchen is now ready for hosting library events and maybe even a vegan cooking class, once we open full-time to the public.

Head-librarian Cristin McVey, from Borrego Springs Public Library, visited again in early May. A longtime Theosophist, she helped process an accumulation of nearly twenty boxes of books donated to the library over the past year. Many days were spent sorting, studying editions, and assessing the quality and conformability of the overall collection. Cristin also made several helpful suggestions for better use of shelf space as well as how to display our most popular titles. The Krotona Library is grateful to Cristin's continuous support.

And just a reminder, Carolyn Wayland's, *Painting the Cosmos* exhibit of abstract paintings, inspired by her study of H. P. Blavatsky's *The Secret Doctrine*, will be available for viewing in the Krotona School and Library through this coming October. ■



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



When we recognise that unity of all living things, then at once arises the question — how can we support this life of ours with least injury to the lives around us; how can we prevent our own life adding to the suffering of the world in which we live?

Annie Besant

As a Theosophical community, Krotona:

1. Nurtures living in harmony and compassion with self, others, and nature;
2. Inspires spiritual transformation through an earnest quest for Truth and living the ageless wisdom, Theosophy.
3. Offers a peaceful, welcoming environment to encourage a life of self-inquiry, study, meditation, and selfless service.