



The International Theosophical Centre aims to foster the principle of Universal Brotherhood and Peace under the inspiration of the highest human values, with the will to serve the world and under the perspective of the Oneness of Life. This means that the ITC aims to be an active and inspiring spiritual centre, contributing to the uplifting of mankind in particular, inviting people to the Centre to work on the process of human regeneration through personal transformation.

Second Quarter 2012

After a short but very cold winter spring is finally in the air. The ITC is preparing for a range of activities this year. We are also improving the facilities for visitors. Such improvements are often part of a long term project. Patience, perseverance and right action are required. Even practical work at the ITC has many spiritual elements indeed.

EFTS Executive at ITC: A very positive meeting

The Executive meeting of the European Federation of the T.S. was an important event. It provided an opportunity to discuss plans for the future of the ITC. These were well received and will allow the ITC to facilitate T.S. work in Europe further. The ITC has made an offer to sections and lodges to stay at Arundale House at very low cost at times when the building is not used otherwise.

Log Cabins needed for ITC as study and retreat centre

The discussions in the Council on the future of the ITC (see St. Michael's News winter 2010, still available on request) resulted in a plan to create individual self-catering units for those who want to have a private retreat. Gradually the details of these plans have emerged, and they were very well received by the EFTS. It is our intention to build a few log cabins close to the meditation garden. More details will be given in the next issue of Centre News.

The library: Long term project starts to bear fruit

A modern library is an important element in our view of the ITC as a study and retreat centre. Several years ago the library group started cataloguing the books of the library on the computer. We now have entered some 3.800 books in the electronic catalogue, which is about half of the collection. In the last few months we fitted the library with double glazing, a new carpet and new furniture. In the near future audio and video facilities will be added.

Co-operation with the library of the Dutch Section of the T.S. adds much value

The Dutch Section has in Amsterdam one of the largest modern and well accessible T.S. libraries in Europe, with some 29.000 books as well as 5.000 magazines, dvd's etcetera. This library will also be available to those who want to study at the ITC. Moreover the librarian in Amsterdam was able to secure very professional book cases for the ITC. We are in the process of replacing the old shelves with these new ones.

The ITC is host for a diversity of spiritual organizations

In addition to T.S. activities the facilities of the Centre are also used for activities by other meditative organizations such as yoga schools, Buddhist groups, sufi's and ceremonial groups. In order to preserve the spiritual atmosphere of the ITC only organizations with comparable aims and similar core values as the Centre are admitted. Last year the use of our facilities increased by 15%, mainly because existing groups including the T.S. organized more meetings. Nowadays our agenda is often full. Increasingly we seem to succeed in showing who we are and thus attracting compatible activities. For this, clear communication is crucial.

One of the organizations hosted by the ITC is Sangha Metta. Several times a year they organize retreats of one or more weeks. This Buddhist group often invites monks from Burma. One day two of these monks visited St. Michael's House. They very much appreciated the beautiful Buddha statue in the main hall, and were much interested in the history of the T.S., HPB and its Presidents. It is always good to experience that visitors feel and appreciate the special atmosphere of the Centre.

Silent film about the Star Camp

We recently found an old (approx. 1930) film on the Star Camps, donated to the ITC in 1957 by the Professor Selleger family, prominent members of the Dutch Section. It is a private 18 minutes film with images of the Selleger family, as well as the Star Camp, Krishnamurti, Annie Besant and of Leadbeater visiting the premises of the Dutch section in Amsterdam. The movie has been digitised and converted to DVD. It has unique elements, but the sections attractive to a larger audience are relatively short. The movie has been shown at the ITC at a meeting of the Krishnamurti Foundation, as well as at a members meeting of the Dutch Section.

Ashrama looks as new again

Ashrama is the oldest (1932) building of the ITC. It was a project of Arundale and specially built for young people. The first stone was laid by his wife Rukmini. Standing in the humid woods of the ITC this wooden building needed frequent maintenance. Lately the roofs started to leak. Drastic steps had to be taken, either to demolish the building or to renovate it in such a way that it would be less costly to maintain.

As the building is used often for smaller activities we decided for the latter. The wooden panels have been replaced by plastic ones with the same shape and green colour. With new doors and a new roof the building looks like new again and seems ready for the next decades.

Wood & Garden Group clearing up parts of the wood

In addition to their "regular" work to maintain the woods and gardens the W&G group has been active to take down a number of dead acacias, in particular between the chapel and Ashrama. Some of the trees that were close to buildings have been removed by a professional tree surgeon.

Arend Heijbroek, Chairman

Important Dates

Date	Activity (more information: www.itc-naarden.org or info@itc-naarden.org)
12-17 June	Seminar COSMOGENESIS (Stanzas of Dzyan), Martin Leiderman
19-22 July	Silent Retreat THE PARAMITAS or Transcendental Virtues , with Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu
23-26 July	Summer School Pays Latins
15-16 Sept.	Weekend Spiritual Crises , partly at Leiden University, with support TVN and ITC
15-20 Oct.	European School of Theosophy. A Mind to embrace the Universe
2 nd weekends	Usually every month: Wood & Garden Group make the ITC more beautiful
14-21 June 2013	Seminar Bhagavad Gita with Ravi Ravindra

Some Additional Information

We draw your attention to the very attractive programs this summer. The seminar with Martin Leiderman will provide us with a refreshing view on **COSMOGENESIS** (Stanzas of Dzyan). The silent retreat on **THE PARAMITAS** promises to become an inspiring journey again. For all these activities see: www.itc-naarden.org. Please register in time!

International transfer of money has become much cheaper recently, provided BIC and IBAN data of our bank are mentioned. Within Europe the bank charges are similar to domestic charges, and thus very low. For payments outside Europe Friends are advised to make payments with "shared costs". This is the cheapest way and means that you only pay local costs, whereas ITC pays domestic costs, which are very low. Our treasurer keeps notice of individual contributions as well as donations from Friends and Sponsors. Donations and contributions for 2012 will be used for the renovation of the library.

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