

Society,' thinking it to be all in all, and not properly perceiving its *de facto* and piecemeal character as an organization nor that it was likely that this devotion to mere form would lead to a nullification of Brotherhood at the first strain. And this latter, indeed, did occur with several members. They even forgot, and still forget, that H. P. Blavatsky herself declared that it were better to do away with the Society rather than to destroy Brotherhood, and that she herself declared the European part of it free and independent. These worshippers think that there must be a continuance of the old form in order for the Society to have an international character" -

(from <http://www.filosofiaesoterica.com/ler.php?id=1387#UwzpHoV7S5Q> ).

When I first came to the United Lodge of Theosophists through the introduction of a Dutch friend, I was really very fortunate to have experienced warm greetings and fellowship from two older patient and unhypercritical class facilitators who taught classes for teenagers. At the time, teenagers were really searching for answers and asking a lot of questions, so it was trendy to do spiritual searches. Thus we should always look to what young people need and where they are to inform themselves about how the teachings can help them today with what they are up against, and remember to extend to others a nonjudgmental hand of fellowship.

What are the issues these days for youth? I think their hopes and dreams have been greatly shaken now because of economic and domestic pressures, as well as seeing their friends go off to serve in foreign wars. Those experiences require some of the strongest words of advice and support that the teachings can muster. We are facing combat veterans returning with post-traumatic stress disorders that need our help and support. The Bhagavad Gita describes family wars in a way that can lead to an understanding of our own internal wars. Its message cannot be overemphasized today. The great battle lies within each of us rather than outside us. If our inner demons are exorcised, the outer ones will disappear.

Making connections with youth today is accomplished mostly through the social media, so attempts to have an Internet presence for Theosophy is very important. We of older years enjoy magazines and books: youth are more comfortable in their notebooks and hand-held devices. A time will surely come when they will get fed up with such media and reach out to more real face-to-face contact, for example in Internet cafes for meetings. But now, to break