



*Season's Greetings  
December 2009*



As holiday light fills the hearts of so many, we reach out to our wealth of friends in philosophy with the warmest of Season's Greetings, whether this coming solstice means to you the year's longest night gives way to the return of increasing light once again, as here in the North where we will have winter solstice, or whether it means that the long days of summer will begin to yield to shorter nights, barely perceptible at first, as for our friends below the equator, who will celebrate their summer solstice. The Paul Brunton Philosophic Foundation extends our deepest gratitude for the generosity and participation of our global network of friends in the work of the Foundation over the last year. Thank you each and every one.

We have had inquiries this year regarding who, generally speaking, the "membership" or friends of the PBPF comprise. And the answer is somewhat surprising to most. It is inspiring to some of us to see how far and wide PB's influence has reached, as reflected in interest in PBPF. This letter, for example, will have a broad readership in the U.S. and neighboring Canada, certainly, and in the U.K., PB's home country. Substantial interest in PB's philosophic vision is evident in the far corners where this letter and all PBPF materials reach: Sweden, the Czech Republic, Australia, New Zealand, India, South Africa, Egypt, Cyprus, Denmark, Ireland, Scotland, Norway, Spain, Germany, Equador, Brazil, Haiti, the Dominican Republic... And this is a partial list!

The PBPF work principally emanates from the Finger Lakes of Upstate New York (where this is being written), where many students of PB's beloved student, the late Anthony Damiani, led by Timothy Smith and Paul (Randy) Cash, have continued to work with PB's voluminous unpublished work, including the editing and publishing of the Notebook series and the small books taken from the Notebooks.

It has been a long and rewarding road. There have been many involved. Imagine we could one of us in this broad family of friends do PB's sunrise exercise - maybe you! (described in chapter 14 of The Wisdom of the Overself and also in Vol.III, Category 3 "Relax and Retreat" of the Notebooks of PB and a few paras scattered in other volumes) while at the same moment, around our whirling planet, another of us is doing the sunset exercise! We could truly say that the sun never sets on the friends of the PBPF.

So much has been happening through PBPF this year, and so many people have been responsible for that. The newly expanded Board of Directors is no idle group. The 12 volunteers have been working like dynamo staffers on myriad projects to bring the vision of PB's philosophic ideals into accessible arena for more and more target audiences. Who might possibly be open to the perennial philosophy that PB so brilliantly articulated for our time? How might we put his work, and the work of like minded philosophers – those he espoused - in their path? That is a question we ask persistently. And more and more now, we are coming up with good responses.

Any work that is done can only be accomplished through the financial support of our donors. With the turn of the year upon us, we would like to thank once again, those who have donated to the work of the Foundation in 2009, and to request that others are generous toward this work at this time.

*Take a look at some of what's been going on!*

### **“5 for \$15” small books**

PB and Anthony inspired us to make the philosophic vision available to others. Indeed, they indicated it was the most important undertaking of our worldly life. In honor of this guiding direction PBPF is offering sets of the small books -- What is Karma, Meditations for People in Crisis and Meditations for People in Charge -- for a very low cost to all those interested in sharing the books with others. For any combination of 5 of the 3 books the cost will be \$15, and that will go back to a reprint fund. If you wish PBPF to give the books out on your behalf, we will also be happy to do that. We can make books available in various settings (schools, libraries, hospitals, etc.) for different audiences, as we do with the Karma book and prisons. We are also happy to report that we will be producing more small books as time goes by. See enclosed order form.

### **The ‘Grace’ project**

A small book on Grace will soon be available. Originally developed in Portuguese from PB’s chapter on Grace in the Notebooks by Figuera, the book has been sponsored in part by Mikael (Alan) Berkowitz and Gran Rockett for its English publication. The PBPF publications committee is working hard now to refine aspects of the text and add an introduction. Many of us may wish to have – and to give – this jewel of a final booklet once it comes off the presses.

### **New Website!!**

Hopefully the next time you receive a newsletter there will be a concurrent version through the email list of a fabulous new website! It has overcome monumental hurdles to be at the threshold of launch. An enormous amount of material is being processed, and it is our hope that this will be an invaluable resource in advancing the vision of PB and like minded philosophers, bringing ideals into the world.

On the PBPF website you’ll find, among other things:

- The Notebooks of PB *in a searchable form*;
- A large collection of images, most of which have never been seen publicly. These divide into 3 categories:
  - 1) photos of PB;
  - 2) photos taken by PB, from his travels around the world, and illustrative of many of his writings, &
  - 3) photos about people and places referred to in PB’s notebooks and other writings;
- New resources of PB’s own works – including the unpublished Notebooks;
- Plans for study guides;
- Access to articles re: PB and like-minded philosophers, and
- A store – to purchase certain books directly from PBPF.

We hope the new website will provide a service in and of itself, plus bring like minded lovers of philosophy together, make it much easier for lines of communication among the many far flung friends dedicated to the philosophic vision and to a philosophic life.

### **Email list**

We plan to initiate an email list through the new website, and we dearly hope you will sign on! Future newsletters will be distributed through that list, and we will explore how many paper copies to continue to send. Address forthcoming – stay tuned.

## **International Connections**

PBPF is very excited to work with Avery Solomon on two dynamic projects.

His **two-year course in "Philosophic Life"** will begin in January in Sweden, and will run concurrently in the U.S., and possibly in Canada. The six seminar course will extend on beyond in-person gatherings and include online readings and discussions, group and individual meditations, booklets and books, plus edited audio recordings of each weekend. The course is designed to, "awaken our deeper intelligence", and equip us (you) to, "continue on your own unique journey toward awakening". Seminar dates extend through December 2011.

Two PBPF Board members, Barbara Plaisted and Cleta Rudolf, participated in Avery's 2008 Scandinavian seminars, and were profoundly moved. Several of the philosophic friends they met expressed interest in developing and participation in an international spiritual community network linked to PB's philosophic teachings and ideas, and that is just what is being worked on now. Your comments and ideas are welcome and encouraged.

A **second Website** dedicated to PB work and study is also just about ready to come online, and Avery is the driving force behind it, along with Robert (Bo) Carlson. This is a nimble and responsive website, geared for interactive study. A plethora of creative ways to approach PB's ideas abounds on its pages. We expect it to be a terrific synergistic companion to the PBPF website, and we hope the two are easily linked.

## **Prison Project**

Thanks to the generous response to our May letter requesting support, we have been able to resume sending What is Karma to all prisoners who request it in the U.S. More than 62 people sent one-time contributions, for a total of \$5,480, and more people continue to give monthly pledges of varying amounts. It broke many a heart here to have to decline requests and use the 'lottery system', and we suspect it corroded the credibility of the program a bit, so the same number of prisoners don't yet have the confidence in us again to make the effort to request the books. You can see in the prisoners' hand written letters that it is not always an easy task. But the program is rebuilding, and there have always been at least 30 requests a week, even at the ebb.

Response to the program has been sufficiently enthusiastic that many would like to extend this service to other countries. This would require people *in* other countries to be in contact with both prisons and book publishers. Various books are already available in at least 17 languages. We would help in every way. Is anyone interested? Contact Martha Cohen.

## **Encouraging philosophic projects**

PBPF is actively encouraging projects based on the philosophic vision promulgated by PB, his student Anthony Damiani, and like minded philosophers. There are several projects in the works, and we encourage others. We hope to have some exciting announcements of original philosophic works in the near future! This brings us to an area where volunteers are sorely needed.

*See volunteer opportunities!*

## **Volunteers Needed**

There are so many ways to help make the philosophic vision available to others, and so many ways help is needed on PBPF projects!

**Word Processing** – typing, editing and moving text around – there is so much of this work to be done on the philosophic projects people have underway. Help is needed!

**Outreach classes** – anyone interested in offering classes in PB “themes” to college students or other groups?

**Website** – overseeing discussions and organizing written papers. There is still need for lots of help entering data, writing sections for the new website and more.

**Prison project** – volunteers are needed to enter information into a database program.

**Shipping and handling** – help is needed with dissemination of books.

**Preservation** – as we preserve the items and works of PB, many functions are needed to record data.

**Office/Finance/Auditing** – administrative help, working with the Treasurer to assist in financial tasks as well as auditing safeguards

**Dharma/Sangha Community** – Help develop local and international networks with other spiritual communities as consistent with ideals of PB, Anthony and like minded philosophers. (Thanks to Avery Solomon for major strides forward in this arena!)

**Fundraising/Grantwriting** – Help is needed both brainstorming and implementing ideas that come forward to finance myriad projects on the ‘wish list’ of PBPF.

There is lots of work to be done, but what a good feeling to be doing this, and what a treasure to join with others who choose to do it too – to help in some way to make the philosophic vision to which we are so privileged, available beyond our precious circles of friends.

“A true power will inform the hands of those who will act at the behest of the god within, whose daily admonishment to us is: ‘Go out and live for the welfare of all the Light you find in the deep recesses of your own heart’.” Notebooks, Cat 20, Chap 4 #308

In this season of light, may we share some sense of unifying inner Light, and may that shine for the welfare of all.

In Love and Light,  
Martha Walsh Cohen  
President  
PBPF

December, 2009

Dear Friends,

PBPF is moving ahead with a mission and vision set out in its new bylaws at a pace that few could have envisioned even when those bylaws were adopted in 2008. The vibrancy of this progress shows in the people who are on board to make things happen.

I am especially glad to announce our most recent change, the appointment of Martha Walsh Cohen as President of PBPF. The naming of a President was part of the plan encoded in our bylaws, and we are very pleased to be able to implement that part of our plan already.

As some of you may know, Martha comes to us with a background of 10 years as a senior official at UNICEF, among other professional posts she has held. She took college degrees in philosophy, including 3 years of study at the Sorbonne in Paris. She met Anthony Damiani in 1973 and remained a student of his throughout his life, often from afar. Married to Sam Cohen, Martha has served on the boards of both Wisdom's Goldenrod Center for Philosophic Studies and PBPF.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am very pleased to welcome Martha to the position of President of PBPF, and to wish her a fruitful tenure, working to advance the vision of PB and like minded philosophers.

I am also so gratified to name recent additions to the Board of Directors, and remind our readership who comprises the rest of the Board, because it is a great team these days. You may wish to look up brief bio information on the website, once it's up and running!

This year we added Tom Marino and Janet Selby; we also added Martha, who will step down as a voting member but remain a non-voting member, in keeping with by-laws. Already serving on the Board are: Beverly Bennett, Lisa Berardino, Sam Cohen (a casualty of sorts, we feel, in that he stepped down as vice-chairperson when Martha was named President), Harriet Eisman, MaryAnn Flory, Barbara Plaisted, Cleta Rudolph, Timothy Smith, and of course, myself. It adds up to an extraordinary working group of 12!

On behalf of all the Board and the extended PBPF community of friends, I join Martha in wishing you all a holiday season and New Year filled with light and inner joy.

Kira Lallas  
Chairperson  
PBPF

*Gift to PBPF and Order Form*

Donation

I wish to support the work of the Paul Brunton Philosophic Foundation  
With a tax deductible donation of:

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“ 5 for \$15” Book Sets

Put together sets of 5 from the following 3 titles:

	# of books
Meditations for People in Crisis	_____
What is Karma?	_____
Meditations for People in Charge	_____

Total # sets of 5 \_\_\_\_\_

\$15 for each set of 5 books = \_\_\_\_\_

New York State residents add  
8% sales tax (\$1.40 per set) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total including donation =** \_\_\_\_\_

Check or money order payable to Paul Brunton Philosophical Foundation Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_  
Type \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3 or 4 digit security code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail, fax or phone to: The Paul Brunton Philosophic Foundation  
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