

## **Newsletter greeting and Intro: President Hal Pascal**

Greetings. Hope your holidays contained many blessings and they continue through the New Year. Imagine! We're beginning another year of informative insightful classes. Sure we still look in the mirror daily, but now we also look through more windows on the world. Our classes give us that attitude to open ourselves up to the experiences abounding in this planet. We imitate parachutes, which only function when open. Receptive to new ideas, new ways of looking at life, new ways of seeing the world not as problem-filled, which it has aplenty, but also as opportunities to seek solutions.

Welcome to the 2018 year of shared learning. I'm privileged to be your leader for this year. Maury Molin has passed on a solid growing community of learning and camaraderie. I look forward to your input to make this year memorable. We're in this together, everyone counts. You are a member of a loving, caring, learning group, who always go the extra mile for each member. Don't forget to share this program with your family, friends, neighbors and strangers.

Our highest priority is to continue to create a learning, respectful, listening community of awakened, aware people. We are also trying to enhance personal transformation in ourselves through prayer. A healthy spirituality is a must in commodity-based society. If we give in to the craving for every new object, every new craze, then we can easily lose our sense of balance. We are more noble than material things, our destiny is higher than just accumulating stuff.

Be prepared-scout's motto. Read, think, reflect, take time outs from the hurly-burly of everyday life, discuss your goals, listen to others. Let's set the bar higher. Get to know each other, form friendships, who doesn't need mutual support in our journey through life?

The technological tools, apps and other innovations are hugely convenient, but they also carry the risk, if improperly used, can run counter to who we are as human beings. Some persons, many of our youth have formed addictions, to these metal, digital aids.

We are barraged with news about algorithms. Investment houses and banks fire the traders to make room for computer engineers. Now millisecond trading doesn't need the human factor. AI replaces the human element. It's touted as error free decision-making. AI will give us the fastest route to anywhere. It's better at spotting melanomas than doctors, much legal work can be done by computer programs. Ordering and home delivery eliminate the human element. Put everything online in your cart and wait for delivery. Digital music will send you what you and your friends like in music with a push of a button. Social glue and lubricant can do it without humans. Ride-hailing apps don't have to tell the driver where you're going, you punched it in already with your smart phone. All the driver has to do is drive. Driverless cars and trucks are on the horizon. Eliminate the human. Automated checkout for anything picked out in the store, sensors will know what you have. Presto, you're done. No humans at the counter. Robot workforce, no personalities to deal with, no agitating for overtime, no illnesses, no

worker's comp, no social security, no taxes, no Medicare, no unemployment benefits  
No personal assistants, Google's Home. Amazon's Echo. Tell Alexa what you want and  
it's done. Big data can crunch trillions of bits of information pointing out trends and  
eliminate research. Video games are virtual, one player and the game. On-line  
education, teachers are expendable. Social media, Facebook, Twitter and all the others  
are simulations of real connections.

Often the digital world inhibits human contact. This has become the new norm.

Now enter TOALC, a face to face, warm, friendly contacts with the real world of human  
beings interested in you. Wow, humanity still exists. Thank God for TOALC. Of  
course, your goals are yours, personal, not mine. You have to make it happen.  
Although relying on a higher power is mandatory.