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RETIREMENT: Dr KENNETH FRIEDLANDER

How do you say thank you to a man who has been so much to so many? This was our dilemma at Hohepa North as we gathered in our Clive hall in early December 1992, to wish Dr Ken Friedlander a happy retirement, and to convey our gratitude for all he has given in the years he has been with us.

Ken came to Hohepa in 1974, leaving his general practice in Auckland to become physician to the children and residents at Hohepa. His influence as an anthroposophical doctor on the development of curative work within Hohepa has been profound, and we count ourselves extremely fortunate as a community to have had Ken among us these eighteen years.

Ken wore many cloaks at Hohepa: he was, of course, a doctor and healer; he was also a mentor, a teacher, a confessor. Despite giving countless lectures, study groups, child studies, and tending to the varied daily health needs of children and adult residents, Ken always found time for personal consultations: no-one in need was ever turned away.

At the farewell concert to a hall packed with community members, family and friends, Rosie Simpson spoke of the meaning of sacrifice: "To sacrifice is literally to make sacred - it is to take something out of common use and make it over to God. It is a symbolic act by which we recognise that everything in this world derives from another order of being, and seek to enter into communion with that other world. Ken did that for us - he lined our everyday work out of the commonplace and placed it in relation to the spiritual world."

St Nicholas and his friend Black Peter also attended the concert, by special arrangement, and speaking from the many golden pages under Ken's name, mentioned the little known fact that Ken attends nearly every meeting at Hohepa! (The "black page" was very small - in fact, merely tinged grey, St Nicholas said.)

In saying thank you to Ken, we also thank Agneta and the Friedlander family for their sacrifices too. This first year of Ken's retirement is to be a sabbatical from all lecturing and such-like commitments. Knowing how much he puts into every lecture he agrees to give, we're all glad he's going to allow himself a complete rest, and trust that others will join us in refraining from asking for speaking commitments this year.

Retirement Travel Fund: As our farewell gift to Ken, the Hohepa North co-workers have established The Kenneth Friedlander Retirement Travel Fund, with Prometheus. We invite others who may also wish to express their gratitude to Ken to also contribute to this fund. Cheques can be sent directly to Prometheus, PO Box 969, Napier, enclosing a note as to its purpose.

Susan Jenkins