



# *The Sophia Sun*

*Newsletter of the Anthroposophical Society in  
North Carolina*

**May 2009** **Vol. II No. 4**

## **The Virtue For May (TAURUS)**

**Balance Becomes Progress**

*(Opposites: Covetousness, Apathy, Inertia)*

Brighten, oh glory of being,  
Feel the force of growth and becoming.  
Weave the thread of life  
Into being-filled world existence,  
Into sense-filled revelation,  
Into radiant awareness of being.  
Oh glory of being, appear!

Rudolf Steiner



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(Logo: "The Woman Clothed With the Sun" by Baron Arild Rosenkrantz (1870-1964))

## *Easter Pictures*

(Right) Awaiting the Easter Sunrise in Judy Frey's screened in porch



The Easter Sun emerges from behind the mountain.

Easter Breakfast:  
 Front Row: Mindy Kash,  
 Kathleen Wright, Judy Granberry,  
 Mack; Back Row: Dr. Mark, Doug Frey,  
 Hank Passafero, Tatiana Zybin



# The Sophia Sun

Newsletter of the Anthroposophical Society in North Carolina  
P.O. Box 16024  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
[www.anthroposophyNC.org](http://www.anthroposophyNC.org)

Editor.....Kathleen Wright  
Calendar.....Linda Folsom  
Website Manager.....Mike Senkpiel

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*The Sophia Sun* is the newsletter of the Anthroposophical Society in North Carolina (ASNC), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. It is published 9 times a year (no issues in Jan., July and Aug.). Members are encouraged to receive the newsletter electronically by contacting our website at [www.anthroposophyNC.org](http://www.anthroposophyNC.org). If this is not possible, you may receive a hard copy of the newsletter by mail for free if you are a dues-paying member of ASNC, or if you are not a member, you may send a check for \$45. per year to **ASNC, P.O. Box 16024, Chapel Hill, NC 27516**. Back issues are \$5.00 per copy. This includes postage.

**Note: On line, the newsletter is in color; mailed copies are in black and white, except for the cover; this is due to the high cost of color printing.**

**Submitting articles, letters and ads:** Please send UNFORMATTED text in Microsoft Word to [kathleenwright51@peoplepc.com](mailto:kathleenwright51@peoplepc.com). All calendar items should be sent to: [lfolsom@nc.rr.com](mailto:lfolsom@nc.rr.com). If you have any questions, please contact: **Kathleen Wright, at 919-309-9622 or 919-672-0149 or [kathleenwright51@peoplepc.com](mailto:kathleenwright51@peoplepc.com)**

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## From the Editor

My Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As we approach Pentecost (May 31<sup>st</sup> this year), a festival of Community, of the Free Individuality, of the Future and of the Will, we recall the image of fiery tongues hovering above the individualities of the Disciples. Of this Rudolf Steiner has written: "Just as each one of the disciples received the Christ Impulse into themselves, just as it was granted to them to receive it in the form of tongues of fire inspiring their own souls, so can you men, all of you, if you bestir yourselves to understand the Christ Impulse, receive its power, individualized, into your own hearts, the power which can develop in you ever more and more, which can become for you ever more and more complete. – An all-embracing hope can well forth for us out of this sign, which was thus set at the starting point of Christianity. The more a man perfects himself, the more he can feel that the Holy Spirit speaks out of his own inner being, in the measure that his thinking, feeling and willing are permeated by this Holy Spirit, which through its manifold division is also an individual Spirit in each single human individuality in which it works." ("Whitsun: The Festival of the Free Individuality" by Rudolf Steiner - Hamburg, Whitsunday, 1910)

Judith von Halle tells us that the tongues of flame were also "a symbol for the seed of the phantom body. In these ten days, the first Resurrection body replicated itself and on the tenth day it was possible, for the first time on the entire evolution of the Earth, for a human being to put on this seed of the phantom body, this 'drop of salt water' meant specifically for him." (*And If He Has Not Been Raised*, 160-161) When this fire came upon them, the disciples "had a vision of the future evolution of humanity, namely that they would carry this fire impulse into their next incarnation". (162) As they looked at one another, the feeling came over them that "I and the other person are individuals, but we are both united with one another and with the other fire-bearers; we are perfectly at one through the immense unifying power of the Sun, which is now to

be found on the Earth. Everything in us strives towards the One and this unites us in truth. It is no longer the blood which welds us together, but this Source of the Spirit, the universal, Divine and single source of human selfhood....This community of brothers was born at the time of Christ and is the community of the future, which is able to withstand the counterimpulse which has arisen and will arise through the individualization of human beings: egoism, materialism.” (163)

It is important that we apply this message to our lives, i.e. respecting the Other as an individual who has different perceptions, ideas, opinions, spiritual practices and beliefs than our own, and yet we share the same unifying principle – that of the Christ and Anthroposophia. I am reminded of this by a situation in our community that has caused some divisive feelings. I am referring to the fact that a few people have approached me at different times and indicated their disapproval of the printing of certain announcements in our newsletter, specifically regarding the upcoming Robert Powell Conference and the Christian Community events.

First of all, we need to remind ourselves that many streams, not just one, comprise the Anthroposophical Movement. This reason alone will give us all many different points of view, interests and spiritual practices. Secondly, we must recall the history of the Anthroposophical Society and how its two main spiritual streams have not had such a great start in working together. Steiner begged the members shortly before his death to please be as “brothers and sisters” to one another. He said that the very future of earth civilization depends of the cooperation between the two streams (Aristotleans and Platonists) and their bringing to earth a new culture. He confided in those close to him that the terrible illness he bore at the end of his life, which greatly shortened his life and left so much work unfinished, was a consequence of the negative Karma between the two groups, which he had taken on himself. Steiner foresaw the difficulties that would transpire after his death and warned Ita Wegman that she would suffer because of this (she was forced to leave the Society, in case any of you do not know this), but he also told her that “next time things will be better”. Next time is *now*. Are we striving to make things better? All over the Anthroposophical Society there are signs of new enthusiasm and initiatives. Ahriman is of course furious about this and is trying his best to wreak havoc and discord among our members – his very future depends upon our success or failure.

If we feel that a member or even a highly charismatic anthroposophical speaker is in error, what is the Christ-like way to handle it? The worst thing one can do is to tell a person he is “totally wrong” and you are “absolutely right”. That is very alienating and such behavior is one of the main reasons our Society has not grown as much as it should have. It reminds one of the Inquisition. There would be a lot less factions in the Society if Prokofiev had simply invited Robert Powell to tea and pastries and told him that he had some difficulty understanding the writings of Tomberg, and would he be so kind as to explain what he meant by certain seemingly negative statements. But since he chose instead to write two books condemning Tomberg, it would be helpful if Powell would respond to the accusations because otherwise it leaves a lot of us confused. There is no harm in self-defense. Rudolf Steiner gave a number of lectures about a terrible situation in which a mentally unbalanced woman claimed that Steiner had led her on romantically and she was furiously angry over his marriage to Marie. It turns out that she merely *dreamt* that he told her she was the one for him, but she twisted his quote about one’s dream life being more real than waking life by concluding that since she dreamt it, it must be true. Apparently, a number of members were angry with Steiner, having believed the woman until he set them straight.

One must also ask oneself – “How can you be so sure that you are the one who is correct?” Even if one believes that he has had spiritual revelations in sleep or meditation, one must recall that when one is able to cross the Threshold, one meets far more demons disguised as Christ or Steiner than good Angels.

One must also remember to stick to the middle Path of equanimity, being ever watchful that one is neither too gullible nor too skeptical in matters of the Spirit. One should neither deify

nor demonize our fellow humans. Both can do equal harm. I know of lives that have been ruined by people who put too much faith in gurus. As Steiner told us, we should not “believe” anything he has said, but rather prove it to ourselves by our spiritual practice. We are all full of discarnate Beings “stuffed like maggots in cheese” as Steiner put it. An anthroposophist may write the most sublime spiritual books, but still be guilty of ahrimanic behavior toward his fellow man. No one is perfect. We all make mistakes. The more spiritually developed a person is, the more the ahrimanic and luciferic beings will try to destroy one. Even if I disagree with the philosophy some anthroposophist puts out, it is not my place to publicly condemn his work or refuse to acknowledge it. Even if I am correct in my assertion, I must still give others the freedom to find out for themselves. Sometimes it is in one’s Karma to get on a false path for a time. Much can be learned from it.

It also seems to be the case that many anthroposophists come to feel rejected or betrayed in some way by other members. I wonder if this isn’t some kind of test on the Path, a sort of “Betrayal by Judas” or a feeling of a “Prophet not being accepted in his own land”, because it seems to happen to so many and often to the most creative and spiritual people. It is tragic when some leave and don’t come back. Albert Steffen once said that “Anthroposophy must be saved from the Anthroposophists!” (And yet there are some who would have counted him in with the Anthroposophists we need saving from!) Please don’t throw out the Baby with the bathwater if this happens to you!

I hope that these words are not taken personally, because they are not aimed at any particular person. They may apply to all or none or even some of you; but I am not infallible and I strive not to judge. I do realize that we need to be on guard against false prophets, for Steiner has foretold that Ahriman will incarnate in our time and that even the most spiritual of people will be fooled, so we need to read carefully, observe our intuitions and even our physical reactions to people we hear and books that we read, and above all pray for guidance and protection in order that we will not be misled spiritually.

One must also keep the Big Picture in mind and not get bogged down by the differences in the dogmas and perceptions that we have. Does it really matter who Steiner and the Maitreya Buddha were in the past, are now or will be in the future? I am sure that if we gathered 10 anthroposophists in a room and asked them their thoughts on this, we would get 10 different opinions. Steiner warned us about speculations. Ahriman loves to cause confusion by giving us each a different idea about such trivia. What is important right now is saving the planet. If we don’t get our act together, we will face the graveyard of civilization.

Another thought we must bear in mind is that Steiner has repeatedly said that it is good for there to be differences of opinion. It helps us grow. When we are in a room of people who are all in agreement, we go to sleep! There are 12 points of view to every issue, he says, and it behooves us to try to understand as many of them as we can.

I want each and every member of the community to feel supported in his/her work, whether it is a conference, research, a new book they have written, a yard sale or pig pickin they are having, or if they are going through some crisis in their lives. There are not enough hours in the day for us to support each and every endeavor with our time, energy and money, but at least we can give them the space in the newsletter to call on like-minded spirits to join them and we can hold our members and their endeavors in our consciousness with thoughts of Light.

And so in the spirit of Pentecost, let us recall our united mission as Servants of Michael and Christ, and feel love and respect for one another’s individual initiatives.

Kathleen Wright

## ASNC and Initiatives, May 1 – June 6, 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>For information about events, or to <b>add events</b> for upcoming months, please email: <a href="mailto:lfolsom@nc.rr.com">lfolsom@nc.rr.com</a>, or phone Linda Folsom at (919) 493-8323, or mail to 3118 Dixon Rd, Durham, NC 27707.</p> <p>Events need to be <b>sent by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior</b> to appear in the next month's newsletter.</p>					<b>1</b> CC 101 Conversation-7:30p Gerwin Talk Contemporary Issues Group-7:30p	<b>2</b> EWS May Faire  Christian Community Priest Talk-7:30p
<b>3</b> CC Act of Consecration of Man-10:30a (Children's story and service-9:30a)  W/S/YValley SG-6p  Greensboro SG-7p	<b>4</b> ASNC Festivals Committee-7:15p	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Rose Cross SG-7:30p  Wilmington Study Group-7:30p	<b>7</b> Adult Eurythmy-8:30a  Biodynamic Study Group	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Fifth Gospel Study Group-3:30p  W/S/YValley SG-6p  Greensboro SG-7p	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Near-Death Experience Study Group-7p	<b>13</b> Rose Cross SG-7:30p  Wilmington SG-7:30p	<b>14</b> Adult Eurythmy-8:30a  Biodynamic Study Group-7:30p	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Pig Pickin at Will Hicks'
<b>17</b> Meeting of the First Class-10:45a (Review-9:30a) Fifth Gospel Study Group-3:30p Elective Affinity Study Group-4:45p W/S/YValley SG-6p Greensboro SG-7p	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 3p-CC Steering Committee  Rose Cross SG-7:30p  Wilmington SG-7:30p	<b>21</b> Adult Eurythmy-8:30a	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Fifth Gospel Study Group-3:30p  Elective Affinity Study Group-4:45p  W/S/YValley SG-6p  Greensboro SG-7p	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> ASNC Board Meeting-7:15p  Rose Cross SG-7:30p  Wilmington SG-7:30p	<b>28</b> Adult Eurythmy-8:30a	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Biodynamic Study Group Hands-On Gathering-9a  ASNC Branch Meeting and Potluck-3p
<b>31</b> Fifth Gospel Study Group-3:30p  Elective Affinity Study Group-4:45p  W/S/YValley SG-6p  Greensboro SG-7p	<b>June 1</b> ASNC Festivals Committee-7:15p	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Rose Cross SG-7:30p  Wilmington SG-7:30p	<b>4</b> Adult Eurythmy-8:30a	<b>5</b> Contemporary Issues Group-7:30p	<b>6</b>

## *Calendar Details: May 1 – June 6, 2009*

### **ASNC**

May 4, 7:15p – **ASNC Festivals Committee** meets at the home of Linda Folsom, 493-8323. Please join us if you are interested in continuing to bring the Festivals to our community.

May 17 and June 7, 9:30a – **The School for Spiritual Science, Meeting of First Class**. Review of last lesson at 9:30a, 10:30 AM Class Lesson.

May 27, 7:15pm - **ASNC Board Meeting** – Meeting at the home of Peg Carmody. Contact one of the Board members for more details: Peg Carmody, (919)768-7470 / [mcarmody@nc.rr.com](mailto:mcarmody@nc.rr.com); or Kathleen Wright, (919)309-9622/ [kathleenwright51@peoplepc.com](mailto:kathleenwright51@peoplepc.com) To contact the ASNC: PO BOX 16024, Chapel Hill, NC 27516.

May 30, 3p – **ASNC Branch Meeting and Potluck** – at the home of Bruce and Margaretta Bornhorst, 5800 Prioress Dr, Durham, NC 27712. (919) 237-1021 Please join us for the potluck after the meeting.

### **Christian Community**

May 1 - 3 – **Christian Community Priest visit**. Patrick Kennedy will be here from Washington DC/Baltimore congregation for the weekend. Individual sacramental consultations, a Community Conversation, a Public Talk, and the Act of Consecration of Man are planned. See this newsletter for more details, or you may call Linda Folsom at 493-8323.

May 20, 3p – Christian Community **Steering Committee Meeting** – at the home of Margit Gratzl, 519 Wheeling Circle, Durham, 27713. Please call Margit if you have questions - (919) 484-2764.

### **Other Activities of Interest**

Thursdays, 8:30a - **Eurythmy for Adults**. Adult Eurythmy on Thursdays 8:30 - 10:00 am at EWS. Cost is \$10 per class, scholarships available. For information call Eve Olive 489-2564

May 12, 7p - **NDE Study Group** - a once-a-month study group, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, for near-death experiences (NDEs). the Raleigh/Durham Friends of IANDS group, part of the [International Association for Near-Death Studies](#). This is part of our research work in the fields of consciousness studies, neuroscience and NDEs. We welcome all people who are interested in NDEs, especially those who have had an NDE are invited to share their experience with the others. At the home of Robert and Suzanne Mays, 5622 Brisbane Dr, a few miles north of Chapel Hill, just north of I-40, off Mount Sinai Road. See this [Google map](#) for directions. For more information, please call us at 919-929-1073 or [mays@ieee.org](mailto:mays@ieee.org).

**Note: the May meeting will be at the Rhine Center in Durham.**

**Please note: Calendar events for the June Sophia Sun need to be sent out by Friday, Wed, May 20th.** Please send calendar items to Linda Folsom at [lfolsom@nc.rr.com](mailto:lfolsom@nc.rr.com) or call 493-8323. Send articles and flyers directly to Kathleen Wright at [kathleenwright51@peoplepc.com](mailto:kathleenwright51@peoplepc.com) by the same date.

## Study Groups:

**Asheville Study group** – currently reading *The Festivals and their Meaning* by Rudolf Steiner. It meets bi-weekly on Thursday evenings at the home of Clare Coriell. Please contact Clare at 828-225-1189 or email her at: [clarestar@bellsouth.net](mailto:clarestar@bellsouth.net).

**Biodynamic Study Group** – The Biodynamic Study Group is meeting twice a month. On the 2nd Thursday of the month they meet together from 7:30 - 9 pm to read Maria Thun's book: "*Gardening for Life: the Biodynamic Way*". On the last Saturday of the month, the group meets for work mornings. Usually the work mornings are in member's homes, but sometimes there can be a community outreach. For more information and meeting locations contact Jon Lyerly at 357-1453 or Sandy Demeree, 341-8934

**The Elective Affinity Study Group** – Sundays at 5pm, check with Roger for dates. The Elective Affinity study group is dedicated to developing "the capacity for conceiving pictorially the other human being." We plan to do this by reading various lectures, sharing biographical details that emphasize how others have shaped us, and sharing meals together. We meet at 5 on Sundays at the home of one of the members, which changes weekly. The host provides the meal as a gift to the group. Dinner is at 6:30. Please contact Roger Schultz for more information: (919) 475-7180, or email [rms333@nc.rr.com](mailto:rms333@nc.rr.com)

**Child's Needs Study Group** - monthly, on a selected Saturday morning, from 10a – 12n. Location varies between Chapel Hill and Durham. Currently reading: "*The First Seven Years: the Physiology of Childhood* by E. Schoore!". Please call Lauren Mills Nyland with any questions – 968-7721, or [mills.lauren@gmail.com](mailto:mills.lauren@gmail.com).

**Contemporary Issues Group** –The group is currently meeting on the first Friday of the month, with the location changing. Rather than studying a particular book, the group has discussions about current issues such as the economy and agricultural concerns with an emphasis on "What can we do?" For more information, please contact Jon Lyerly at 357-7453.

**Greensboro Study Group** - Sunday nights 7 p.m. at the home of John and Judy Boyd, currently reading *Broken Vessels: The Spiritual Structure of Human Frailty* by Rudolf Steiner. Contact Sandy LaGrega (336) 292-7947 or Judy Boyd (336) 454-2451.

**Rose Cross Study Group** – Wednesdays, 7:30p, at the home of Judy Granberry, 95133 Vance Knoll, Chapel Hill, NC 27517, phone 967-4671. Currently reading *Supersensible Knowledge* by Rudolf Steiner. Newcomers are welcome! Please call Judy with any questions.

**Fifth Gospel Study Group** – Sundays at 3pm, at the home of Martha and Dirk Kelder, 120 Kenan Street, Chapel Hill. Phone: 942-4795. Please park as far down the driveway as you can go - no parking is allowed on the street. The Sunday Group is reading *The Fifth Gospel*, by Rudolf Steiner. We hope that everyone will feel welcome to join us.

**Wilmington Study Group** – Contact Anna Bowman, (910) 792-0959, for more information.

**Winston-Salem/Yadkin Valley Study Group** – The Winston-Salem/Yadkin Valley Study Group meets from 6-8 every Sunday at the home of Sarah Putnam, 118 Fox Run Drive, Mocksville, NC 27028. Call 336-940-6004 for information and directions. We are currently reading *An Outline of Occult Science*, the 1972 edition, translated by Maud and Henry B. Monges and revised by Lisa D. Monges.

**Please update the information about your Study Group by emailing Linda Folsom about any changes or new groups forming at: [lfolsom@nc.rr.com](mailto:lfolsom@nc.rr.com)**

## *From the Board:*

As was noted at our February Branch Meeting, there are many ways to support an organization. Because our purpose is to further the work of Anthroposophy in North Carolina, attending study groups, festival gatherings, Branch meetings, workshops, and First Class lectures are vital ways to show your support. Individual study, meditation, and artistic activity are key ways one can bring Anthroposophy to life. Involving yourself in a Waldorf Education setting, a biodynamic farm, or Anthroposophical medical practice are practical opportunities to demonstrate the results of spiritual science in the world. Financial support such as dues and extra donations is another important way.

Thank you to all those who have sent in their membership dues so promptly! We are up to 36 members just 6 weeks into our drive.

We should not underestimate the value of support at any level to our work. Without interest (even of those who question or criticize our efforts), encouragement by those who recognize our efforts and the commitment of those who wish to see this work succeed, we cannot overcome the inertia inherent in modern life to soul/spiritual development or the social challenges precipitated by our precious personalities. Thank you to all who support our community in whatever way they can!

Suggestions as to how ASNC can better support you and our community to nurture soul/spiritual development can be sent to ASNC, PO Box 16024, Chapel Hill, NC, 27516 or [mcarmony@nc.rr.com](mailto:mcarmony@nc.rr.com)

Warmly,  
Peg Carmody

**ASNC BRANCH MEETING AND POTLUCK  
SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2009  
AT THE HOME OF MARGARETTA AND  
BRUCE BORNHORST  
5800 PRIORESS DR.  
DURHAM, NC  
3 PM-7 PM**

**Please join us for an afternoon of fellowship and important discussions. Some items we may choose to talk about are: choosing a branch name, what to do about our Branch Home Fund, items for this coming year's budget and guest speakers for conferences you would like to see in the future.**

**Schedule for the weekend visit of  
Rev. Patrick Kennedy in Chapel Hill May 1-3, 2009**

**Friday 5/1 and Saturday 5/2 (9 am to 1 pm only)**

**Sacramental Consultation or other private conversations with Patrick:**

Consultations will be at the home of Linda Finigan, 50 Citation Drive Durham. Please call Linda at 493-2925 or email lfinigan@earthlink.net as far in advance as possible to reserve your time with Patrick.

**Friday evening, 5/1, 7:30pm:**

Conversation led by Patrick, "**Christian Community 101**". Patrick likes to use this time to answer our questions about The Christian Community, and he also talks about news of the wider movement. It is a wonderful evening of learning and sharing, and we strongly invite you all to attend if you can manage it. This evening will be hosted by Linda Folsom, 3118 Dixon Dr. Durham, 919-493-8323 or email lfolsom@nc.rr.com. Please note: this is not a potluck and you do not need to bring anything. A dessert and beverages will be served.

**Saturday, 5/2, at 7:30p: Priest Talk: Part 3 of "A Logos Filled Christianity":**

"The Death and Resurrection of the Word in Human Beings: Easter & Pentecost"

A talk by Patrick Kennedy, free and open to the public. Held in the Dining Room Building at New Hope Camp, 4805 Highway 86, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Follow directions on website or below.

**Sunday, 5/3: in the Dining Room Building at New Hope Camp**

**9:30 am: Children's Story-for children of all ages.** Everyone welcome.

**10:00 am: Children's Service,** for children ages 7 – 14 (please take younger children to childcare during this short service. (May building at New Hope Camp.) Bring a few books and toys to help occupy them. We will provide an adult to watch over the children. Unfortunately we cannot accommodate children younger than 3 years.

**10:30am: Act of Consecration of Man** - for adults and children over age 9 1/2.

Please try to arrive early and enter the room reverently.

Noon: Community Potluck - Everyone is welcome! Please bring a dish to share.

Beverages will be provided. We hope you can stay after the service to talk Patrick and meet other members of the community. The Potluck will be held in the May building at New Hope Camp.

**For more information, contact Linda Finigan 493-2925/lfinigan@earthlink.net, or Linda Folsom 493-8323/lfolsom@nc.rr.com**

**DIRECTIONS TO NEW HOPE CAMP:**

Website directions and map to the camp can be found at

**<http://www.newhopeccc.org/conference.htm>**

If you come on I-40, take the exit #263 New Hope Rd. You turn right coming from east or left coming from west. Continue on New Hope until you get to Hwy 86 (about 1 mile). Turn right, and you will see the New Hope Church on your right.

For all: The camp is behind the Church. Please do not park in the church parking lot.

There is a separate parking lot for the Camp. We will put up signs.

## A Letter from Patrick Kennedy to the North Carolina Christian Community:

*(Reverend Patrick Kennedy was unable to come to NC in March for his planned visit in order to accompany a member of the Baltimore/Greater DC Christian Community who was preparing to pass over the threshold. He sent this letter to us, which we would like to share with you):*

Dear North Carolina Community,  
Dear Friends in Christ,

I send you my warmest greetings and must confess to the sadness that I could not see you this weekend. A dear soul in our community - a 91 year-old Air-Force colonel and regular attendee of the service, Clyde "Chip" Bergwin - has been consciously and slowly dying of old-age.

Accompanying him and his daughter has been a life blessing, as many of you know such time can be from personal experience. It is the first time I have been with someone who is not dying from any medical complication, sickness, or injury, but simply because it is time to lay aside what had become his home during the last century: his body. There is always a sadness at leaving home, and he does feel this loss as well as the loss of seeing his devoted daughter, Lark Bergwin-Anderson, whom some of you know. Yet, as he told me yesterday, he is ready.

One can palpably feel that the death on our side of the veil is a birth into his *spirit-home*.

Walking with him day by day towards this birth has been truly wonder-filled. With each step he takes towards that day, the mood of sacredness in the room increases and one can't but help feeling blessed in his presence. And that he has been doing this awake, conscious of what is taking place, readying himself, brings the free element of his humanity into the stark necessity of death. As he himself has said, *he* is dying. Death is not simply coming to take him, he is also knowingly come to meet it, inwardly upright, still with a great sense of humor and full of overwhelming gratitude for God's gift of life and the people he has known.

To do this with him at the start of Passiontide leads in such a real way to the meaning and fullness of the mystery of the Cross. When we turn our attention to Holy Week and Good Friday, we behold the heart of the Divine Ground of All Being, the Creator Spirit of overflowing life, walking willingly and consciously into death, letting it into him, with all the enormous power of his empathetic being, so that his very being *became a part of death*, turning the tragedy of death into the bringer of *true* meaning and life.

It is the very substance and reality of this *life* that I wish you this morning, and the holy gratitude that comes to those who feel the reality of what He did on the mount of Golgotha. May this life-substance continue to be the living bond that unites us, and builds us up into His community.

Faithfully yours,  
Patrick Kennedy

.....

## Anthroposophical Society in North Carolina Membership Request Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you would like to be included in the ASNC Membership Directory  
Check below how you would like to receive our newsletter:

- Online
- US Post

Dues – Teacher/Student/Senior \$30.00.....	\$ _____
Individual \$50.00.....	\$ _____
Family \$90.00.....	\$ _____
General Fund Donation.....	\$ _____
Library Donation.....	\$ _____
Festival Events Donation.....	\$ _____
Scholarship Donation (Assistance to qualified Members).....	\$ _____
Heart Fund Donation (For Members in times of need).....	\$ _____
Newsletter Donation.....	\$ _____
Branch Home Donation.....	\$ _____

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Please make your tax deductible check payable to:  
ASNC, P.O. Box 16024, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

**Your dues to the ASNC serve many functions:**

- ❖ They fund the Newsletter which helps us stay in touch with each other, keeps abreast of activities in our community and informs us about the interests and concerns of the national and international Anthroposophical Society.
- ❖ Through our Heart Fund, they enable us to send messages of comfort or flowers and to offer assistance to members in times of sorrow or need.
- ❖ They provide scholarship money for members who need help attending conferences and workshops that benefit the whole community.
- ❖ They support the work of the School of Spiritual Science.
- ❖ They allow the local branch to offer festivals, artistic events, workshops, and conferences.
- ❖ They provide funds for outreach to new members and groups.

The ASNC is a branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America. Please consider supporting Anthroposophy on a national level at **Anthroposophical Society in America** 1923 Geddes Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 Tel: (734) 662-9355, Fax: (734) 662-1727  
Email: [information@anthroposophy.org](mailto:information@anthroposophy.org) Website: [www.Anthroposophy.org](http://www.Anthroposophy.org)

## ASNC COMMUNITY OBSERVES HOLY WEEK

On Good Friday, Margaretta and Bruce Bornhorst opened their home to the community for a solemn contemplation of the Stations of the Cross followed by a Meditation. Just five were present, but the experience was profound as we read Judith von Halle's descriptions of Christ's suffering on the road to Golgotha.

On Easter Saturday, Judy and Doug Frey welcomed over 20 members of the community to their gorgeous new home. Saturday evening brought a concert by pianist who played sombre pieces interspersed with community members' sharings of poetry and passages that conveyed the feelings of death and emptiness that the Apostles felt after the Crucifixion on the first Holy Saturday. This was followed by a delicious supper of soup, salad, breads and cheeses. About 10 people chose to spend the night at Judy's to welcome the Easter Sun. We gathered before dawn in the beautiful enclosed porch facing the East in the chilly morning. Following some readings and thoughts prepared by Judy, all were treated to a scrumptious breakfast buffet. Thank you so much to Judy for this wonderful Easter Gift and making the day so much more special. If you have never been to sunrise at Judy's, do mark your calendar now for next year, because you really missed something wonderful!



Judy Frey, Faye Hardy and Doug Frey in their new kitchen

Breakfast: top row: Doug Frey, Hank Passafero, Tatiana Zybin;  
Bottom row: Mindy Kash, The Easter Bunny (alias Dr. Mark), Kathleen Wright, Judy Granberry and Bob Wright



## WILL HICKS TO HOST COMMUNITY PIG PICKIN SATURDAY MAY 16-SUNDAY MAY 17

In honor of his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday, Will Hicks has invited our ASNC community to share with him in a gala Potluck Pig Pickin Bonfire and Campout May 16-17. Please bring a dish to share, your whole family, friends, musical instruments, chairs, tents and sleeping bags if you wish to stay overnight. The festivities will begin at 5 PM on Saturday. There will be horseback riding, fishing and just having fun.

**The address is 380 Jerry Dixon Rd. in Leasburg, NC**

**Directions:** Take 86 North toward Roxboro; After crossing the Person/Caswell County Line, look for Gordonton Rd. Turn Left onto Gordonton and head North. Cross HWY 158 and in about a mile Turn Left onto Jerry Dixon Rd. The horse farm is at the end of it.

Hope to see you there. It will be a blast!

(Please note: This party is not at Will's home, so please don't be confused and go there instead!)

## FREE COLUMBIA – A NEW ONE-YEAR COURSE IN ANTHROPSOPHICAL PAINTING TECHNIQUES

Nathaniel Williams sent us the following email about a new Painting Course, which he and artist Laura Summer have initiated. It will begin this Fall. :

"The Free Columbia Art Course is a full-time, yearlong course which will take place in Ghent, NY. The course is based on the fundamentals of painting as they appear and come to life through Anthroposophy. We will seek out the colors and their relationships, the living laws of composition, light and darkness, and the spring of imagination where all pictures have their source. In addition to painting and drawing, the course will include study of the basic elements of Anthroposophy, the History of Art as an image of Evolution, the Philosophy of Aesthetics (past and present), social questions in relation to Art and Economics, as well as other themes. We will work with a wide variety of media including watercolor, oils, egg tempera, charcoal, surface collage, block printing and pastel. The year will not consist solely of art. There will also be regular work in the community in various areas; everyone in this course will be integrated into the local community through work.

There are five positions available for those interested in joining such a course this September of 2009. There are neither material costs nor tuition for these positions. We will choose full-time students who show a strong commitment to following the path of the course.

The course is open to all who want to pursue it. The capacities that one unfolds in artistic creativity benefit all areas of life, for human nature is not mechanical, but artistic."

If you would like to learn more, you can visit the web page: [www.freecolumbia.org](http://www.freecolumbia.org), or you may write us at: [freecolumbiaart@gmail.com](mailto:freecolumbiaart@gmail.com) or you may phone: Laura Summer at 518-672-7302 or Nathaniel Williams at 518-672-4090

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## ARTICLE BY ED SCHULDT TO APPEAR IN NEXT ISSUE OF RENEWAL MAGAZINE

Be sure to check out the next issue of the Waldorf publication *Renewal*. Our community member, Ed Schuldt, has written an article for it that is entitled "Who's in Charge Here, or Rather, Who Should Be in Charge?" The article concerns Waldorf School governance and the central role of the cultural life and the need to protect it from undue pressure from the economic and rights spheres. If you would like to subscribe to *Renewal*, or would like more information about it, go to the website:

[www.awsna.org](http://www.awsna.org)

## Passing Together Through the Portal New Limited-time Study Group begins.....

*By Margareta Bornhorst*

**The Portal of Initiation** is the first of Rudolf Steiner's four Mystery Dramas. It will be performed in its entirety this August in Spring Valley, New York. (Please see the accompanying brochure in this issue of the *Sophia Sun* for more information about this wonderful opportunity.) Several of us here in the community plan on taking a little road trip up north this August to attend this wonderful conference and production.

In preparation for this event, a new short-term study group is starting (and ending) this summer. For those of you who know already that you will not be able to join us in Spring Valley for this happening, but would like to join us in consciousness and knowledge, **Passing Together Through the Portal** is a new study group designed to bring deeper understanding through a brief immersion into the world of Anthroposophy at work in community and group life as depicted in artistic form by Rudolf Steiner.

Perhaps you have no experience with the Mystery Dramas. Some of you have read through them with Mark Eisen once or twice over the last few years. Some of you have actually seen a scene, or perhaps even the whole of the four dramas performed. Regardless, we hope you will join us for opening session of this new offering. While it is always beneficial to have a commitment to a group such as this (and we hope that you will continue for the short duration), that is not necessary. It is, after all, Summer, and therefore please come even if you can only make it to one or two of the 6 weekly meetings. There are 11 scenes in *The Portal of Initiation*. There are also several supplementary books to aid in more in-depth study. We will read and refer to and work with the helpful resources available to us.

**Passing Together Through the Portal** will begin sometime in June and continue through July. The start-up date is not yet determined, so please watch the ASNC list-serve and next month's *Sophia Sun* for more information. If you know you would like to join us but have time restrictions, let me know; we'll try to accommodate as we can.

Where: Bruce and Margareta Bornhorst's, 5800 Prioress Dr.,(north) Durham, 27712  
919-824-7337 (M) 919-225-0825 (B)

"By this landmark—if we may call it so—in our work, we wished to show how the influx of spiritual ideas, of spiritual life into our civilization is to be regarded. Today, humanity may not yet be inclined to absorb into external culture what can spring from the spiritual life. However, at least in artistic pictures we can show how life may develop, and what in the form of thoughts and feelings flows into our souls and permeates them. The result can be the kindling of the presentiment that out of its present, humanity must go toward a future in which it will be able to experience the streaming down of spiritual life into man on earth. For humanity is approaching an age when man will perceive himself as the intermediary between the spiritual world and the physical world. These performances were given in order that this presentiment might be awakened."

Words spoken by Rudolf Steiner  
with reference to the first performances  
of **The Portal of Initiation**

### **EURYTHMY FOR ADULTS AT EWS MAY CHANGE DATE**

Eve Olive has announced that the Thursday Eurythmy classes may change to Wednesday mornings. Please let her know if you are interested in joining the class. Eve's phone number is: 489-2564.

## *News from Tammy Hughes in China:*

My work in the Beijing kindergarten is particularly busy, as I am continuing to train more and more teachers as the kindergarten plans to expand in the fall to meet the long waiting list. The new kindergarten could have 17 classrooms of fifteen children each! The kindergarten is not a Waldorf kindergarten, but I am able to train the teachers using Anthroposophical ideas and Waldorf methods. The teacher's interest to study is steadily growing. My work is really fascinating and challenging. I will be home in June, I look forward to having a chance to meet together.

In late March I went to visit a few places in order to reconnect with The Chengdu Waldorf School, visit new projects in Guangxi, and see the schools in Guangzhou. It was a quick, but enlivening trip. I would say that my overall impression of the trip was that people are really taking up their own inner development. I met with many friends who are steadily studying, attending talks, practicing what they are learning, and questioning themselves. Watching the development of the work in China is a very heartwarming experience. As teachers often say, "I am learning more from the students than they are from me"; I definitely find this true for myself in China.

My work in Chengdu was brief, but perhaps it interests you what happens when I go on a trip. I was fortunate that Johannes, a German Waldorf teacher who works with spiritual landscaping was in town. I was able to hear about his daily dot drawings of the earth that he is doing this year. I gave a talk to the new parents at the school where I answered many basic questions about sleep, eating and the curriculum. I watched a German class, a parent/child class and peeked into the kindergarten classes and met with the kindergarten teachers. I met with Whitney MacDonald, my son's former teacher and his son Asher, and took them around to a temple and shopping. (Dear friends when will you come!). I had a few meetings with teachers and friends.

In Guangxi, I went to look more at the possibilities in the future for Waldorf education or anthroposophy connecting to other people's work. I visited Qingping, which is a very small village near the beautiful limestone mountains in Guilin. In this village, a former very high power businesswoman, Guolin, who has had cancer is opening a Cancer Survivor Center. It is a big and beautiful project. She is open to the idea that people could use her center for conferences. She would like me to buy books that would help cancer survivors. Any one have any thoughts? Please let me know

.Also in Guangxi, I met three young women ,Ada, Li Fen, Mingping and the farmer Liuyibing; in the fall they had all come to the biodynamic conference in Guangzhou. The young women have been working for The Farmer's Friend, which is an organization which links farmers in the area with a restaurant and others needing organic products. Liuyibing is one of the farmers. It was great to have him show me his compost piles, see his enthusiasm for the richness of the soil, here is observation about bugs, and eat his fresh lettuce! The women are looking to start their own farm. These people have all been supported by my friend Zhuming, who has a great interest in biodynamics, anthroposophy and community development. (He plans to go to the Anthroposophical conference in Manilla, and then attend a biodynamic conference in the Don Bosco center in Davao. Previously I sold cloth; the profits of this cloth will support him.)

In Guangzhou, I had the great pleasure of attending a Biography and Initiative Development workshop given by Chris and Signe Schaeffer at the new building of the independent Waldorf Second grade. (Their new school is a converted horse stable!) While at the school, we dug up the cow horns which we had buried with Hans Mulder in the fall.

As I look forward to the work in China, I am very encouraged. Friends of Waldorf Education has continued to fund part of my travel. I am finding that I am able to create and organize workshops of value. I am enjoying the study of biodynamics with my Chinese friends.

And thank you to all my friends in the ASNC that have supported my work over the years. A special thanks to Mark for all the encouragement!

This week I am going to The Philippines Conference, I will have the rare pleasure of hearing a Class Lesson, (the seventh lesson).

Warmest wishes to all of you!

## RIDE NEEDED TO YUKON CONFERENCE IN AUGUST

If anyone reading this is planning to attend the Conference in the Yukon "Encircling Light: Expectant Silence" Aug1-8 and are willing to share your vehicle with a female Anthroposophist, please contact Peg Carmody at: 768-7470.

The Conference is sponsored by the Anthroposophical Society in Canada in collaboration with colleagues in Norway, Alaska, Denmark and at the Goetheanum.

For more information about this conference go to [www.encirclinglight.ca](http://www.encirclinglight.ca) or call 1-604-740-0676 or write: Encircling Light – Expectant Silence Conference, P.O. Box 72, Roberts Creek, B.C. VON 2W0, Canada

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## PICK YOUR OWN BIODYNAMIC STRAWBERRIES

### STARTING MAY 1 AT WHITTED BOWERS FARM

Just \$20. for an 8 lb. bucket

8707 Art Rd. in Cedar Grove, NC

Mon.-Fri: sunup-sundown

Saturday: 2 PM-sundown

Sunday: sunup-sundown



Directions: From Hillsborough, take 86 North about 11 miles to a flashing yellow light. Make a Right turn onto Hurdle Mills Rd. Go 1.2 miles and make left on Art Rd. Whitted Bowers Farm is .25 miles on the Right.

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## DOUGLAS GERWIN TO SPEAK AT EWS MAY 1

This will be another great weekend with another Master Teacher. Please come if you can to hear Douglas Gerwin speak on "Waldorf Education -- And Who Shall Teach the Teachers?" In the national debate concerning religious practice in education, Waldorf schools often get caught in the crossfire. Sometimes they are charged with being too Christian, at other times with being too pagan. Again and again the schools are accused of practicing Christian rituals while downplaying, perhaps even denying, their Christian roots, for instance in the seasonal festivals. And yet, speaking at the assemblies of the first Waldorf school in Stuttgart, Germany, Rudolf Steiner repeatedly invoked the name of Christ as the guiding spirit of the school and the "teachers' greatest Teacher". To understand this statement, however, one needs to recall that Steiner insisted on complete unqualified freedom in matter of religious practice and felt "that the only true Christianity is the Christianity which makes possible absolute freedom in the religious life." Indeed, he predicted there would come a time when Christianity as it is commonly practiced today would pass away, but the central role of the Christ in helping people become more fully human would continue. In other words, when Rudolf Steiner invokes the Christ as the guiding spirit of the Waldorf schools, this is not a call to Christian worship nor is it an appeal to any sectarian

Christian doctrine. What is it, then? This is the question we will be exploring in a lecture open to the public on Friday evening, followed by discussion and artistic activity on Saturday for participants in Foundation Studies in Anthroposophy and the Arts culminating in the graduation of this cluster. Preparatory reading :*And Who Shall Teach the Teachers? The Christ Impulse in Waldorf Education* (especially the articles by Douglas Sloan and Roberto Trostli). Copies are available from the Center for Anthroposophy: [info@centerforanthroposophy.org](mailto:info@centerforanthroposophy.org)

## **Eastern Regional Council Holds Conference In Spring Valley With Various Local Groups**

On Palm Sunday weekend (April 3-5), the Eastern Regional Council met in Spring Valley to confer with one another, as well as to share conversations with representatives from various mid-Atlantic groups, including The Threefold Branch, the New York City Branch, the Michaelic Group from Connecticut, The Youth Movement, the Planning Committee for the 2009 Annual General Meeting and with Barbara Renold to hear about the plans for the Mystery Drama Workshop in August. There was great enthusiasm in the exchanges and much that is being planned around the region in the coming year.

The ERC presently consists of Herbert Hagens of Princeton, NJ, Ed Scherer of Long Island, Ann Finucane of Washington D.C, Kathleen Wright of Durham, NC, who joined the Council in Spring 2008 and Ruth Bruns of Harlemlville, who joined in Fall 2008. One of the items of discussion amongst the ERC members was the possibility of adding two more members to the Council. The idea would be that instead of the entire Council visiting just one or two areas per year, the Council would travel by twos to areas close to them. This would save on travel expenses and enable more groups to be visited more frequently.

On Friday evening, ERC members formulated questions that they wished to discuss among themselves, as well as with the groups. Some of these included: What should be done in communities and in the General Society when factions arise over controversial individualities? What should a community do when members are giving more time and energy to daughter movements and little if any to the Society? What questions do we want to bring to the Spring Valley Communications Summit in May and the Three Regions Council meeting in the Fall? What branches have their own websites and what are they? What is happening with the Society's tax exempt number – how may groups use it? Should the ERC be contacting new members, and how can we obtain this information? How does our outreach work? How can we encourage friends of the Society to become dues-paying members? How are other groups going to be celebrating Michaelmas this year? How can we encourage groups to celebrate it early so that it does not conflict with the AGM, which is earlier this year than usual?

These questions, most of which concerned the ERC itself, were discussed throughout the weekend and a few of these were brought to the Saturday afternoon session with the 14 attendees. The conversation began with introductions, reports from the AGM Planning Committee, the Mystery Drama Group, and then from the various groups present.

Spring Valley will be bustling with activity from August through October beginning with a workshop with Gary Lamb on Social Transformation August 8-12. It will include an Art and Science exhibit featuring the work of Seth Wulsin and others. This will be immediately followed by the Mystery Drama Conference August 12-16.

. Barbara Renold, who will be directing both Steiner's *Portal of Initiation* and Goethe's *Fairy Tale* at the August 12-16 Conference, made the remarkable observation that the Mystery Drama will be performed on the 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first performance of the play (August 15, 1910) – three cycles of 33 years! She noted that Steiner wrote his first mystery drama 21 years after reading Goethe's *Fairy Tale* and that his drama is based on it. Barbara handed out the beautiful brochures for the conference and told about the preparations for it. **(continued on next page)**

September will bring Michaelmas festivities and Ray Manacas shared some thoughts about Michaelmas and its importance. This will be followed by the Annual General Meeting October 2-4 which will be entitled "Creating Living Connections: Christian Rosenkreutz and the Social Impulse". Members of the Planning Group provided a Draft of the conference schedule. It was noted that there will be various anthroposophical groups meeting the week prior to this conference as well as the week after it. This year the conference will be open to friends, as well as members of the Society and there will be a talk by Virginia Sease for members only with pink cards required. An alternate lecture will be available from Torin Finser at the same time that is open to all.

Walter Alexander announced that this year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Anthroposophy Coming to America. The St. Mark's Group was founded in 1910. Its members met in Carnegie Hall until Ralph Courtney brought the group to Spring Valley. The New York Branch is planning a celebration in March and Virginia Sease has been invited to speak.

Other items that were discussed or mentioned during the meeting: The national website will soon have a page for each branch in the country. During the AGM in October, The ERC will meet with whomever wants in the Threefold Auditorium during the Saturday lunch break. It was noted that the same questions live in branches all over the country: how to recruit new members, especially the young; how to respond to the issues of the day; daughter movements who seem to have forgotten "the Mother"; how to increase communications; how to bring the many spiritual streams within Anthroposophy into greater harmony and how to reach the Michaelic groups out in the world with whom we share common goals.

As is typical, the most interesting conversations were held among individuals during the snack breaks. I spoke with Youth Movement representative Jordan Walker about why it is that years ago, the youth and the older members worked together and now there seems to be two separate movements within the Society. Jordan said that he hears this question all the time. We both agreed that we need to work together more, as we both have different things to offer each other, each vital to the Society's future.

Kathleen Wright

## **REVIEW OF PAINTING WORKSHOP WITH MARTHA LOVING ORGAIN**

On Palm Sunday weekend, about 40 people attended Martha Loving Orgain's talk on Friday evening and 22 people participated in the Painting Workshop on Saturday. On Sunday, a Painting Workshop for the Waldorf teachers was held in which 6 teachers attended. Some comments on the workshop were:

"The Teacher Workshop was great! The main thing I got was how important, healing and necessary it is to paint. The simplest painting can be profound. I would definitely like to work with her again in the future, and hopefully even do more paintings. It was also really nice to come together with an artistic impulse as a group of faculty. I wish we did more of that!" – Shannon O'Connor

"After the workshop I pinned up my three paintings to survey the day's work. Not only is there the mysterious soft magenta appearing on the blank white paper between the cobalt blue and the viridian green, but there is an even more insistent yellow appearing on the unpainted white paper between the magenta and the blue in the lower half of the painting. I wonder if others have had this experience with their paintings?...With the painting in gray, I really became clear for the first time about the whole business of "the light in front of the darkness and the darkness in front of the light". The form in the center of this painting I thought was something like a rose, but now it looks like a tiger – ears, claws, stripes and all! Well, you have heard of a tiger- *Lily* and now there is a tiger – *Rose!* Thank you to Martha Loving for bringing us this experience. " – Eve Olive

Name:.....  
 Address:.....  
 City:..... Zip:.....  
 Telephone:.....  
 Email:.....

Seat Preference for Saturday Performance : \_\_\_ Front \_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_ Back  
*(Preferential Seating for Conference Participants before June 30)*  
 Conference Fee \$275/\$150 Seniors and Students \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conference Fee \$250/\$125 before June 5th 2009 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Saturday Only Performance \$70/\$35 Seniors and Students \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation to the Threefold Mystery Drama Group \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation for Conference Scholarships \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

Visa or Mastercard  
 Credit Card:.....  
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Or Check Mailed to:  
 Threefold Mystery Drama Group  
 260 Hungry Hollow Rd  
 Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977

Scholarships are available. If you wish to attend the conference but are unable because of financial reasons please contact Barbara.  
 For Community Housing please contact Susan Wallendorf at [housing@threefold.org](mailto:housing@threefold.org).  
 For Holder House accomodations please contact Julie Schwartz at [holderhouse@threefold.org](mailto:holderhouse@threefold.org).  
 Meals can be obtained at local venues.

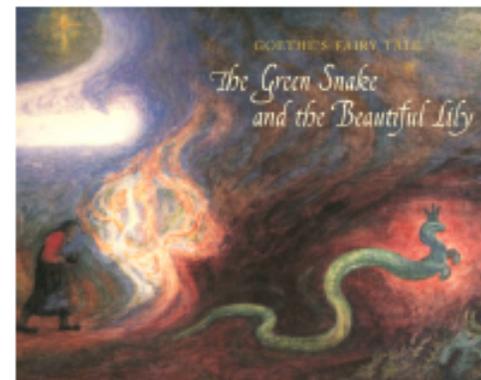
For more information, please contact:  
 Barbara Renold, 845-356-0674  
[barbararenold@yahoo.com](mailto:barbararenold@yahoo.com)

Sponsored by the Threefold Mystery Drama Group,  
 Threefold Educational Foundation  
 and the Eastern Regional Council.



## August 2009 Conference **THE PORTAL OF INITIATION** AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO **GOETHE'S FAIRY TALE**

**Wed., Aug. 12 - Sun., Aug. 16, 2009**  
 Threefold Auditorium, Spring Valley, NY



Performances of "The Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily" and "The Portal of Initiation", with lectures and conversation groups.



Wed., Aug 12	Thurs., Aug. 13	Fri., Aug. 14	Sat., Aug 15	Sun., Aug 16
	9:00 Lecture:  <i>Goethe's Fairy Tale and the Mystery of the Human Ego</i>  Joan Almon	9:00 Lecture:  <i>Transformative Forces of Sacrifice: the other Maria and the Green Snake</i>  Els Woutersen	Performance:  "Portal of Initiation" through Rudolf Steiner  Directed by Barbara Renold	9:00 Conference Open Forum:  Moderated by Herbert Hagens
	10:30 Break	10:30 Break	10:00 Prelude and scenes 1-3	10:30 Break
	11:15 Lecture:  <i>From Goethe's Fairy Tale to the Portal of Initiation</i>  Joan Allen	11:15 Performance:  "Portal of Initiation"  Scenes 4-7		11:15 Final Thoughts:  <i>The Metamorphosis of the Story</i>  Daniel Hafner
	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	
3:00 Registration	3:00 Conversation Groups	3:00 Conversation Groups	3:00 Scenes 4-7	
	4:30 Break	4:30 Break		
5:00 Lecture:  <i>From Mystery Tale to Mystery Drama: Steiner's own Story</i>  Herbert Hagens	5:15  <i>Intro to Portal</i>  Barbara Renold	5:15  <i>Intro to Portal</i>  Barbara Renold		
SUPPER	SUPPER	SUPPER	SUPPER	
8:00 Performance:  "The Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily"  Portocarrero and Williamson	8:00 Performance:  "Portal of Initiation"  Prelude and scenes 1-3  Directed by Barbara Renold	8:00 Performance:  "Portal of Initiation"  Interlude and scenes 8-11	8:00 Interlude and scenes 8-11	

\* Program subject to changes

In 1910 a new impulse in the history of drama was born. Rudolf Steiner brought down to earth "The Portal of Initiation", uniting mystery wisdom with the stage art for the first time since the end of the Kali Yuga, the spiritual dark age of humankind (1899). In one of those rare moments, Rudolf Steiner describes his own process of spiritual investigation with the bringing to earth of this drama. He portrays how, what emerged as his first Mystery Drama (There are a total of four), is a metamorphosis of his inner work with Goethe's fairy tale, "The Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily". It took the great initiate of the 20th century 3x7 years of spiritually working with the tale to have it re-emerge, transformed as "The Portal of Initiation." With this conference we would like to offer the opportunity to deepen our relationship to these two works of art and the mystery of their connection, which lie at the heart of Rudolf Steiner's Spiritual Science, Anthroposophy. Our Saturday performance coincides with the 99th anniversary of the first performance of "The Portal of Initiation" in Munich, German on August 15th, 1910.

#### Biographical Notes of the Lecturers

**Barbara Renold** has directed Rudolf Steiner's Mystery Dramas since 1984. She resides in Spring Valley, N.Y.

**Herbert O. Hagens** has taught courses on Rudolf Steiner's Mystery Dramas at the Rudolf Steiner Summer Institute and in the Anthroposophical Studies Program at the Goetheanum. Herbert serves as co-chair of the Circle of Class Holders in North America and is president of the Board of Trustees for the Threefold Edu-

cational Foundation in Spring Valley, New York. He resides in Princeton, New Jersey, where he works with the family's audio and video recording business.

**Joan Allen** is an architect, who founded "Camphill Architects at Bottom Village". She currently lives in Kimberton Hills, PA. Together with her late husband, Paul Allen (+1998), she wrote "The Time is at Hand: The Rosacruzian Nature of Goethe's Fairy Tale and the Mystery Dramas of Rudolf Steiner".

**Joan Almon** has frequently performed the Green Snake as a large marionette show with the Washington, D.C. Green Snake Players. She was a Waldorf early childhood educator for over 30 years in the U.S. and abroad and served as a General Secretary of the Anthroposophical Society for five years. She is currently serving as director of the Alliance for Childhood in the U.S., a non-profit that advocates for children's health and well-being. She resides in College Park, MD.

**Els Woutersen** was born in the Netherlands and worked as a restorer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. She was one of the keynote speakers at the first Pan-American Conference in San Diego. She served as vice-president of the board of Heartbeat Lifesharing in Vermont and has helped to organize the Heartbeat Youth Conferences. She organized the recent Young Economist Course at the Goetheanum with her husband Tiemen. They currently reside in Baltimore, MD.

**Daniel Hafner** is a priest of the Christian Community, currently in Toronto.



## What is Anthroposophy?



Anthroposophy, which means “the wisdom of man”, is a spiritual philosophy and path to self-knowledge, which “leads the spiritual in the human being to the spiritual in the universe”, according to its teacher, Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925). Rudolf Steiner was a brilliant “Renaissance man” from Austria who was a philosopher, scientist, artist, playwright, architect, social activist, teacher and meditator, who had a direct perception of the spiritual worlds. Anthroposophy, which is also known as Spiritual Science, teaches, among other things, the laws of reincarnation and Karma. It has a Christ-centered view of world evolution. Steiner founded the School of Spiritual Science, as well as the General Anthroposophical Society, which he described as “a union of people who desire to further the life of the soul – both in the individual and in human society – on the basis of true knowledge of the spiritual world”. In addition to giving over 6,000 lectures most of which have been made into books, he helped to found many initiatives that are still thriving today including: the Waldorf School movement, anthroposophical medicine, biodynamic farming, and Eurythmy. Based on his indications, hundreds of initiatives have developed such as: the Curative education movement, the Camp Hill Villages for the handicapped, Weleda remedies, Dr. Hauschka cosmetics, WALA, True Botanica, Astrosophy, Rhythmical Massage, the Alliance for Childhood, The Christian Community, Anthroposophic Prison Outreach, Lazure painting, Demeter, advancements in architecture, science, social and economic reform (The Threefold Social Order, community banks), mathematics and painting. In addition, there are many publishing houses and libraries dedicated to his works throughout the world. For more information, check the national website at [www.anthroposophy.org](http://www.anthroposophy.org) or our local website at [www.anthroposophyNC.org](http://www.anthroposophyNC.org)