



The Sophia Sun

*Newsletter of the Anthroposophical Society
in North Carolina*

November 2009

Volume II, Number 8

The Virtue For November (SCORPIO)

PATIENCE BECOMES INSIGHT

(Opposites: PRIDE, MEAN-SPIRITEDNESS)

Existence consumes being,
Yet in being existence is held.
In action, becoming wanes,
In becoming, action remains.
In the chastising wielding of worlds,
In avenging forming of self
The being sustains the beings.

Rudolf Steiner



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

ASNC and Initiatives, Nov. 1 – Nov 30, 2009

For information about events, or to add events for upcoming months, please email: lfolsom@nc.rr.com, or phone Linda Folsom at (919) 493-8323, or mail to 3118 Dixon Rd, Durham, NC 27707.
Next calendar will be in December, 2009. Items for that calendar should be sent by November 20, 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Remembrance of the Dead 3-5pm Asheville Soul-weaving Study Group-2p Fifth Gospel Study Group-3:30p W/S-YValley SG-6p Greensboro SG-7p	2 CC Steering Committee-12:30p ASNC Festivals Committee-7:15p Pittsboro SG 7:30p	3	4 Rose Cross Study Group-1:30p Biodynamic Study Group-7p Kim Payne lecture 7p	5 Asheville Steiner Study Group 7-9p	6	7
8 Meeting of the First Class-10:45a (Review-9:30a) Fifth Gospel Study Group-3:30p W/S-YValley SG-6 Greensboro SG-7p	9 CC Steering Committee 10:30a	10	11 MARTINMAS Rose Cross Study Group-1:30p	12 Asheville Biodynamic Group-7p	13	14 ASNC Branch Meeting and Potluck 3p
15 Asheville Handwork Group-2p Fifth Gospel Study Group-3:30p W/S-YValley SG-6 Greensboro SG-7p	16 Pittsboro SG 7:30p	17	18 Rose Cross Study Group-1:30p ASNC Board Meeting-7:15p	19 Asheville Steiner SG 7-9p	20 Rev. Kennedy Talk 7:30	21 Rev. Kennedy Talk 7:30p
22 Act of Consecration 10:30am Fifth Gospel Study Group-3:30p W/S-YValley SG-6 Greensboro SG-7p	23	24	25 Rose Cross Study Group-1:30p	26	27	28 Chapel Hill Biodynamic SG Hands-On -10a Asheville B-D SG 10-12a
29 Advent Study 4p Fifth Gospel SG 3:30p WS YV SG 6p Greensboro SG 7p	30					

Study Groups:

Asheville Study Groups:

Steiner Study Group – 1st and 3rd Thursday's, 7-9pm. We are reading *Theosophy*. Contact Marie Davis at 828-273-5647

Soul-Weaving Study Group for parents - 1st Sunday of the month, 2-4pm.

Biodynamic reading group - 2nd Thursday, reading group (book to be determined) and 4th Saturday 10-12am hands on in garden.

Basic Books Study group – Mondays at 7 PM at the home of Margaretta and Bruce Bornhorst, 5800 Priore Dr., Durham; currently reading *Occult Science*; call 824-7337 for more information.

Biodynamic Study Group – The Biodynamic Study Group meets twice a month: the first Wednesday at 7 pm to read, and on the last Saturday of the month at 10 am for work mornings. Tatjana Zybin, (919) 643-2663, or tzybin@att.net

Child's Needs Study Group – meets 10-12am one Sat. per month; currently reading *The First Seven Years: Physiology of Childhood* by Edmond Schoorel – call Lauren Mills for more details: 968-7721, or mills.lauren@gmail.com

Greensboro Study Group - Sunday nights, 7 pm. Currently reading Steiner's *Fifth Gospel*. Contact Sandy LaGrega (336) 292-7947 or Judy Boyd (336) 454-2451.

Pittsboro Study group – focuses on the social question. We will be reading *Spiritual Science as Foundation for Social Forms*. The group will meet at the home of Roxanne Hollander and Ron Veitel, which is across the street from the Chatham Marketplace on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:30 PM. Contact Jeff Barney for more information at 919-260-0066 or email Jeff at ethicindiv@yahoo.com

Rose Cross Study Group – Wednesdays, 1:30pm, at the home of Judy Granberry, 95133 Vance Knoll, Chapel Hill, NC 27517, phone 967-4671 or at the home of Judy Frey 55207 Broughton, Chapel Hill 27515, phone 928-8749. Newcomers are welcome! We are reading Steiner's lectures on Faust. Please give Judy Frey a call before attending to check the group location and time for that week.

Fifth Gospel Study Group – Sundays at 3pm, at the home of Martha and Dirk Kelder, 120 Kenan Street, Chapel Hill. Phone: 942-4795. 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

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, 7719 Whitehorse Dr, Clemmons, NC. The group is studying *Knowledge of the Higher Worlds and Its Attainment*. This group reads all the basic books and is now reading them in earlier translations/ editions, as a way of studying them in more depth. Call 336-972-8243 or 336-766-5445 for information and directions.

Upcoming Branch Events...

REMEMBRANCE OF THE DEAD NOVEMBER 1st AT MARIE NORDGREN'S

All are welcome to attend the annual All Souls Day gathering to remember our Loved ones who have crossed the Threshold. It will take place on Sunday, November 1st at 3 PM at the home of Marie Nordgren. The program will be a simple one: Suzanne Mays will play the lyre, Judy Frey will give a short talk, people can then light candles for those who have died in recent years. Following the observance, there will be a Potluck Dinner.

For more information, please contact Marie at 544-9184 or email her at amnordgren@aol.com. Her address is 3928 Hope Valley Rd., Durham 27713

BRANCH MEETING NOVEMBER 14

A continuation of the discussion begun in September will take place on Saturday, November 14 at the home of Board President, Peg Carmody. It will begin promptly at 3 PM. Please try to arrive any time between 2:30-2:55 PM. The agenda for the meeting follows Peg's **From the Board** column on page 16 of this issue.

ADVENT SUNDAYS WILL BE HOSTED BY ROGER SCHULTZ



Advent begins on Sunday November 29, which is before our next *Sophia Sun* comes out, so do mark your calendars now that Advent Sundays will again be at Roger Schultz's home this year (5624 Earl Rd. in Durham). Plan to arrive between 4:00 and 4:30. There will be readings and discussions followed by a dinner which Roger will provide, but would appreciate donations to help cover the cost. Keep posted to the list-serve for details. Roger writes about the plan for the Advent Study this year:

We invite all to help us enliven our experience of the Advent season, in line with indications provided by

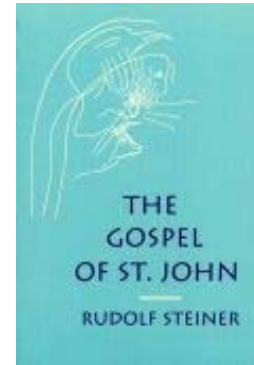
Prokofieff in his "Cycle of the Year".

For four weeks we will try to nurture and develop our understanding of how opposing forces work in our soul to hinder our experiencing this most wonderful season. We will also explore those qualities or virtues that enable us to resist such attacks.

Each week, however, the study will depend on those who come, and what they bring with them to share or discuss. This may range from personal experiences related to the soul conditions or qualities indicated, to literature illustrating them. What we wish to accomplish is to enliven our individual awareness of these soul workings as they work in each of us. We do not strive for an esoteric study as such, but to use esoteric understanding to enliven an experiential, inwardly experienced, approach to the season. Please email me at rms333@nc.rr.com if you would like the materials from which we will be working during our Advent study.

STEINER'S GOSPEL OF ST. JOHN CHOSEN FOR HOLY NIGHTS 2009

The Festivals Committee has announced that the book our community will read during the Holy Nights this year will be Rudolf Steiner's *Gospel of St. John (Hamburg May 5-31, 1908, 12 lectures)*. Apparently there are two books with this title. We will be reading the one that contains 12 lectures. Jubilee Books will be ordering the books for us. If you would like a copy, please contact Kathleen Wright at kathleenwright51@peoplepc.com or call her at 919-309-9622 or 919-672-0149 by November 20. We will be ordering the books at the special Study group rate from Jubilee Books at Dr. Mark's. The regular rate is \$19.95. We will get a 15% discount from this.



SIGN UP NOW FOR THE HOLY NIGHT OF YOUR CHOICE

Please give Linda Folsom a call at 493-8323 or email her at lfolsom@nc.rr.com to book a Holy Night at your home. The completed calendar will be printed in the December *Sophia Sun*. For those who have never been to a Holy Night in our community, here's what we do: Members sign up for a day of their choice to host a Holy Night at their home. Most nights we simply read a lecture from the book, discuss it, perhaps do some singing and enjoy refreshments and fellowship together. You do not have to follow this format; if you have some creative ideas, by all means go for it! You might also want to summarize the chapter for your guests instead of having people read the entire chapter.

There are also some traditions that have developed for certain nights, for example, Christmas Eve has traditionally been at Infinity Farm and we all sing to the animals; on New Year's Eve the biodynamic Three King's Preparation is made. On January 5 there is usually a reading of *The Three King's Play* from Oberufer. Please call as soon as possible so that you can get the day of your choice. Even if you can't host an evening, try to attend as many as possible. It really is a special experience.

JUDY FREY TO HOST OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

All are invited to the Annual Holiday Party, which will be at Judy and Doug Frey's beautiful new home on Saturday, December 19 at 6 pm. It will be a Pot Luck. Judy's address is 55207 Broughton in Governor's Club in Chapel Hill. This will be a purely fun event – no Studies. More details to follow in our next issue, but please mark your calendars now - This is one event you don't want to miss!

EDWARD SCHULDT WILL BE OUR FEATURED SPEAKER AT OUR SPRING PARZIVAL CONFERENCE March 12-14

Please mark your calendars now: March 12-14 2010 our community will be sponsoring a Parzival Conference. Ed Schuldt will be the featured speaker. More details will follow in our subsequent issues. Meantime, please read the article on the next page, which Ed has written to awaken your enthusiasm for this fascinating story that speaks to us during this age of the Consciousness Soul.

Parzival and Gawain: the Knot of Destiny

Edward Schuldt



If you are thinking about reading *Parzival*, it is perhaps better not to know what riddles lie in wait before starting the book.

The unwary, however, will not hesitate to wonder about the three drops of blood that fall into the snow and mesmerize Parzival. What is it about these three drops of blood that have such an hypnotic effect on Parzival, and what is it about Gawain that gives him the insight that can free Parzival from his dream? What further consequences will these events have?

It is October 1, 823. Two days before, on Michaelmas Day, Parzival has found the Grail Castle. He had left his wife, Condwiramurs, to search for his mother, Herzeleide; and in the course of searching for his mother comes instead to the Grail Castle. He is taken inside and allowed to

witness the mysteries of the Grail: the wounded King Amfortas half-lying on a couch; the bleeding spear; the sorrowing of the 400 knights; and the procession of the Grail maidens led by Repanse de Schoye, the Grail Bearer. Then Amfortas gives Parzival a sword, saying, "Sir, I took this into the thick of battle on many a field before God crippled my body."

Parzival does not ask about any of this, what these strange events mean or how it was that Amfortas received his wound. The next morning he finds himself alone in the castle, his horse wandering the courtyard. As he rides across the drawbridge, a page, hidden in the yard, draws up the bridge, making Parzival leap to the far side of the moat, and calls out: "You goose! You should have asked the question!"

Parzival spends that night at a hermitage. During that night, between the 30th of September and the 1st of October, an untimely snow falls, obliterating the tracks and trails that show the way through the forest. Parzival leaves the hermitage with no idea where he is going.

Now, in that vicinity, King Arthur was encamped with the Knights of the Round Table. The day before, a knight had let loose a falcon that had not returned to its handler. That morning, as Parzival rides through the snow, the falcon attacks a goose. The goose manages to escape, but three drops of blood fall onto the snow just in front of Parzival. He sees, in the three drops, the rosy cheeks and chin of his wife. He falls into a dream of her.

The alarm is raised in Arthur's camp that a strange knight has invaded their territory. One after another, two knights ride out to challenge Parzival, and attack him when he will not acknowledge them or name himself. Parzival unhorses them both without becoming fully roused from his dream; each time, he returns to gaze once more into the three drops of blood in the snow. Then Gawain rides out, unarmed, and understands how Parzival has been captivated. Gawain takes a white silk kerchief and lays it over

the three drops of blood in the snow. Immediately, Parzival awakens and becomes aware once more of the world surrounding him.

Parzival's path is a path from love to compassion. Parzival understands love and is married to Condwiramurs, "the Bearer of Love." But he lets himself be cut off from the world around him and lacks the capacity to understand what is going on in the people in his life. To achieve the Quest of the Grail, he will have to overcome this failing.

Gawain's path is a path from compassion to love. Gawain has an unparalleled capacity for understanding what is going on in other people, but he is incapable of true love. He goes from woman to woman in the course of his adventures. To fulfill his destiny and become King of the Castle of Wonders, he will have to learn what true love is.

It is Parzival's single-minded devotion to love that puts him in thrall before the three drops of blood in the snow; it is Gawain's capacity of compassion that allows him to release Parzival from this thrall. But in this moment, the destinies of Parzival and Gawain become knotted together. For either of them to achieve his quest, the other will also have to achieve it. They will be bound to each other through the next four-and-a-half years.

If, after this warning, you are still incautious enough to begin the Parzival by Wolfram von Eschenbach, I would suggest the translation by A.T. Hatto, published by Penguin. These events are narrated in chapter five.

Verses Given by Rudolf Steiner

for those who lost their lives in battle (1914)

Spirits of your Souls, Guardian Guides,

On your wings let there be borne

The prayer of love from our souls

To those whom you guard here on earth.

Thus, united with your might,

A ray of help our prayer shall be

For the souls it seeks out there in love.

Out of courage shown in battle,

Out of the blood shed in war,

Out of the grief of those who are left,

Out of the people's deeds of sacrifice,

Spirit fruits will come to grow

If souls with knowledge of spirit

Turn their mind to spirit realms.

CARING FOR OUR OWN AT DEATH

Workshop led by Crossings' founder, Elizabeth Knox

HOME-BASED AFTER-DEATH CARE OF THE BODY AND GREEN BURIAL OPTIONS

Death is inevitable and like birth is a passage to be honored.

Crossings is dedicated to renewing simplicity, dignity and sanctity to death care, demonstrating that home funeral care is still legal and possible, and restoring death care as a family and community event.

Workshop includes a discussion of:
simple rituals adaptable to family and community,
care of the body, laws, practicalities, expenses and experiences

Friday, 11/13/09 from 7pm to 9pm

Saturday, 11/14/09 from 8:45am to 5pm

Location: 3305 Kettering Place

Greensboro, NC 27410

Space Limited to 20 participants

Cost: \$135 includes workshop, resource guide, lunch and snacks

Contact: Sandy LaGrega, SunSan52@aol.com or 336-292-7947

Registration Form: www.crossings.net/events

*Sponsored by The Sophia Center for Life Studies and
New Garden Crossings Care*

CROSSINGS: CARING FOR OUR OWN AT DEATH
A NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL, NON-PROFIT HOME FUNERAL
AND GREEN BURIAL RESOURCE CENTER

www.crossings.net

**Crossings Care: Compassionate Closure Workshop
Home-Based After Care and Green Funerals**

November 13-14, 2009

*Sponsored by The Sophia Center for Life Studies and
New Garden Crossings Care*

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Name: _____

Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone (Home): _____ **Cell:** _____

E-mail address: _____

**Event: Crossings Care: Compassionate Closure Workshop
Home-Based Care of the Body and Green Funerals
Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Knox, Founder of Crossings
Friday, 11/13/09 from 7pm to 9pm
Saturday, 11/14/09 from 8:45am to 5pm**

**Location: 3305 Kettering Place
Greensboro NC 27410
336-292-7947**

Cost: \$135 (includes resource guide, lunch, and snacks)

Registration Deadline: Friday, October 30, 2009

Send completed registration form and a minimum of 50% deposit to the address below. The remainder of the cost will be collected on the day of the workshop.

**Judy Boyd
501 Fairidge Drive
Jamestown, NC 27282**

**Make checks payable to: *The Sophia Center for Life Studies*
(additional donations for scholarships are welcome and tax deductible)**

Cancellation policy: Before 11/7/09, deposit is refundable minus \$25 administration fee. Cancellations received after 11/7 are non-refundable.

NEWS FROM TAMMY HUGHES IN VIET NAM



I arrived in Ho Chi Minh City at the end of September. It was quite exciting to go somewhere new, but daunting as well. Like many others, I grew up during the Vietnam War, hearing about it on the television over many, many dinner times. I came to Vietnam with many thoughts and questions and wondered how I would be received as an American. The night I arrived was hot, but fortunately given it is the

rainy season, the rain was light. Suong, the kindergarten teacher of Tho Trang and a friend picked me up on their motorcycles. I had quite the introduction to life in Ho Chi Minh City as we sped down the road with the rest of the motorcycle pack, about 4 or 5 motorcycles wide. The left hand turns we made were breath taking as they seemed at first life threatening. As we neared the house, the traffic subsided, I could begin to see the lovely French influence in the small lanes and apartments. We were going to the family home of her younger sister where all her family is living. While we were unloading the bikes, Suong teased me that I'd be staying with the ancestors. As she loves to joke, I thought maybe she was just calling her current family members "ancestors". However, I was in fact, going to stay in the younger sister's room, which doubled as the family altar room, where they worship their ancestors. We entered the house, parked the motorbikes in what looked to be a white-tiled living room, then we climbed up to the third floor, greeting two sisters, and her son, daughter-in-law, and grand-daughter on the way. Suong then introduced to me to the ancestors, whose photographs were present and who were obviously honored for with great care through offerings of incense, flowers and fruits. The room had a very calm atmosphere. It was a pleasure to stay there, as the younger sister who is a devoted Buddhist, cares for the room as a temple. Ancestor worship is still a very lively and important practice. The anniversary dates of the dead, the new moon, and full moon are all observed with great care. There are small and large temples scattered throughout the cities. Many businesses and homes have small shrines which one can see as one walks down the street

The trip to Vietnam was like attending a live history class. As I met various people and they told me their stories, I would listen and try to remember all I could, as taking notes didn't seem particularly polite. Afterwards, I would look up different things on the Internet to get more information such as : French occupation, Vietnam war time line, boat people, Agent Orange, dioxin, Me Kong Delta, My Tho, fall of Saigon, etc.

On the first morning, Suong took me to a vegetarian stall in a market to eat breakfast. The food was simple and delicious, all for about 75 cents. The cook chatted away with Suong, as she wondered where I was from and asked if I could help find a relative that had gone missing, trying to escape by boat in the mid 70's. They had not

had any luck through the Red Cross. This led to another conversation: Suong told me that her sister's husband had left by boat with another relative. They never received word by official means of the two men's deaths. The sister hoped for word via a dream about her husband, but that didn't come as it had for the other relative. The pain of not knowing was further accentuated for the next thirty some years as in Vietnamese prayers are said one way for the living and one way for the dead. As I write this I realize in my family, we had an element of not knowing as my mother wore two Missing in Action bracelets to support awareness of soldiers in Vietnam. See www.miafacts.org/bracelets.htm Checking the list was the morning ritual for years to see if the soldier returned home or the body found. In fact, one soldier was never found.

On the second day, Sophie, a volunteer from Germany, and I were invited by Yi Co, (Yi Co had studied Waldorf Education in Melbourne, Australia), a director of a system of kindergartens and schools, to go to My Tho to their family home. We went to My Tho to the family land, where some siblings of the father had already reconstructed houses. There was a table set up in front of the new foundation of Yi Co's mother and father 's house so that the house and ancestors could be blessed. The small card table was filled with salads, fruit, roasted pig, flowers, and incense. Then we took incense to the graves. There were several uncles killed by Americans. Then Yi Co told us that her grand mother had died while holding her. (It must have been from Agent Orange poisoning.) As the day went on, the story and history of their family slowly unravelled. Due to language and our unsuredness of cultural norms, we were not sure what we could ask. In the end, I pieced together with the help of Suong, and looking up some things on the Internet, that the family had been a very important family in the communist party. Their land was an important strategic place on the Me Kong. The land had been used by the US as a base for the war. All the information and experiences there were quite overwhelming. We walked through the land which was strangely silent; we wondered why there were not any birds. The family was so very kind and prepared a huge meal, and furthermore prepared special vegetarian dishes for me. The women worked in the kitchen all morning. Children collected herbs and wild greens from outside. The meal was served in an interesting style: a table for the children, a table for the young women, an older women's table, and a table for men.

In Vietnam, there are different kinds of legal kindergartens/schools. e.g. a kindergarten in an orphanage requires no government intervention or approval, while government kindergartens and schools are regulated by the government with different expenses and fees due according to the particular area and clientele; private kindergartens and schools do require government approval, but are allowed 40% freedom from the requirements of the government. In private schools, the 40% freedom seems to be a way to include Waldorf Education, Montessori or English language programs. It is not clear, however, what would happen if the 40% curriculum were in conflict with the government 60%. On Monday, I had the opportunity to go to a "May 19 Kindergarten" (named after Ho Chi Minh's birthday) . This is a prestigious public kindergarten. Public kindergartens have different grades and have different costs The parents share the costs of the kindergarten: furniture, renovations, salaries, etc. Most parents with adequate finances want to send their child to such "May 19 Kindergartens". It is not easy to attend this kind of kindergarten. Suong spoke about needing to have your name in a "golden book", which seems to be connected with who you are, who you know, and the gifts you bestow on those of importance. We were able to visit the kindergarten as it was an observation day for those who were completing their principal training course. We were guided into classes where small children had obviously rehearsed with their teachers for some weeks in order to present a perfect lesson to us. The children were delightfully cute and the teachers were self-conscious.

The style of the education is to teach a lesson. We watched, teaching care/love with the two year olds, red and green lights with the 3 /4 year olds and motorcycle safety with the 5 year olds. The children were left no room for creativity, or their own ideas. Unfortunately, even in one of the carefully constructed lessons of the highest educational quality, a very serious health issue was missed. During the motorcycle safety session, one teacher then a child played the police man with a whistle. The whistle was passed from teacher to child to blow. Given the fear, outbreak, and seriousness of hand, foot and mouth disease in Asia, this was a very serious oversight of possible disease transmission. I felt embarrassed to say something as I was a foreign guest to the head principal, but I felt responsible. Suong later whispered in Vietnamese to the principal, who chose to tell the other teachers simply that I found a problem with the whistle. She obviously did not want to mention disease. Later after the lecture, teachers flocked to ask Suong to ask what was wrong with the whistle. We tried to peek around at what they chose not to show us. It was interesting to see how brightly colored everything was. As well, there was a shop in the school for all kinds of candy, treats, and plastic toys. The shop really seemed to have absolutely nothing suitable and of quality or related to the education that we had seen inside. It was certainly a place that children would beg to go and beg to get something.

The White Rabbit Kindergarten

One afternoon, I took Suong out to a coffee shop for coffee and cake. I hoped to learn about her background and what led her to Waldorf education. The first afternoon we talked mostly about Tho Trang, the White Rabbit Kindergarten, which she ran for four years in the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh. She explained that she saw the White Rabbit as a messenger and her kindergarten was a messenger for people as well. She feels that Waldorf education is very much needed in Vietnam. Now, after not being able to keep up and meet the local district's pressure for kindergarten standards, she has moved her kindergarten closer to the center. The countryside understanding of alternative education was limited. Her kindergarten was under scrutiny for having dirt, hills, and wooden blocks. (The close observation was due to a child having died at a kindergarten in the same district). When I arrived, Suong was in the process of licensing her kindergarten, which lasted the entire month I was there. While in the coffee shop, I had time for another history lesson. On the tables were ads for "drink a coffee and the shop would give money to children suffering from dioxin poisoning so that they could have a happy mid-autumn festival". I would say that the study of the dioxins, the agent orange, and the looking at people with deformities were quite a sad part of the trip. The way a war can continue to harm people for generations is quite horrible.

A few other days, I went to Dieu Giac, which is the Buddhist temple which has an orphanage with 130 children and a Waldorf Kindergarten. The thirty kindergarten children are from the orphanage and the neighborhood. The kindergarten is simple, and beautifully cared for with the limited resources that they have. The teachers, who are former orphans in their early 20's from Dieu Giac take care of the children with great love and respect. The lead teacher is new, as the former teacher has gone to study in Australia. The lead teacher, Ms Trinh, led the children in morning circle. It was a great joy to see the children so very attentive and happy to do morning circle, even given that there were visitors. The rest of the morning was smooth as well. The children were very kind and interested in helping me and the other guests. We happily cleaned up with them. The children loved to fold cloths with us, and helped us to know what to do. We were welcomed to eat yogurt with the children, which the children ate with great patience, as it's not easy to eat the liquidy home made yogurt with a tiny spoon. The kindergarten is very limited for outside play space as is quite common in Ho Chi Minh. The area is tiled, which is a common practice due to the government and parents' view

of dirt. The children don't seem to mind and gratefully use whatever is available. Ms. Trinh told a story which the children listened to very attentively and found very interesting. Lunch was simple and served early, about 11. Then the children laid down for nap, without question and very peacefully. The teachers then had a chance to rest and we talked together. I had the feeling that they thought I had come to inspect. They were a bit shy. However, I was really quite impressed that in a few short months the new young teacher was able to bring a group together with such calmness, order and offer a nice curriculum.

There is another kindergarten outside Ho Chi Minh, Thanh Lan, which I was unable to visit. This kindergarten opened in 2003, (a year after Dieu Giac). I have read reports that all is developing well. Unfortunately, this kindergarten had a child who attended the kindergarten who later died of hand, foot and mouth disease in the hospital after five days. As always, the local area government is very watchful if anything happens in its local area. Due to this condition, as a foreigner I was not able to visit the kindergarten. In some areas due to H1N1, foreigners are not welcome to visit.



I spent the largest part of my time at The White Rabbit Kindergarten, Tho Trang since this is where the greatest need was at the time of my visit. It was a great experience to get to see the process of what it takes to obtain a license in Vietnam. Suong had an incredible amount of courage to keep going. The license process required that she go to get advice from a very successful kindergarten (700 child kindergarten). It is important to know all the delicate in and outs of the system. There are guidelines that are published and guidelines which are not published. Suong ran back and forth meeting the demands for the entire month. Just yesterday, the Monday after my month's visit, she was able to pick up the license. It was a great victory.

As this article is already quite lengthy, I would like to continue next month to tell you more about Tho Trang and Suong.

I would like to thank the many friends from The ASNC who supported me as I suddenly was needed outside of China. I have smoothly returned to Beijing, where I will be looking at where I will continue consulting and supporting Waldorf Education in China.

The kindergartens in Vietnam have all been helped greatly by Thanh Cherry, an Australian Waldorf Teacher trainer, who is originally from Vietnam. She has set up a Vietnam Children's Project, which can be contacted through Friends of Waldorf Education: freunde-waldorf.de: [Projects in need](#) –

(You may contact me directly as well if you wish to help or know more – hughestammylynne@gmail.com)

(Editor's Note: In addition to the foregoing article and two pictures, Tammy emailed me a large color brochure from the White Rabbit Kindergarten. It was too big to put in the newsletter; however, if you would like to see it, please email me and I will send it to you. Kathleenwright51@peoplepc.com)

**Christian Community Priest to Visit
Chapel Hill Nov 20 - 22, 2009
At Camp New Hope's Fleming Building
(next to the Dining Hall)
Please mark your calendars and plan to join us**

For directions, go to: <http://www.newhopeccc.org/conference.htm>

WEEKEND SCHEDULE:

Friday 11/20 and Saturday 11/21 (all day as scheduled in advance):

Sacramental Consultation or other private conversations

Private conversations with Patrick. Consultations will be at the home of Margit Gratzl, 519 Wheeling Circle in Durham. NOTE: *Margit Gratzl is scheduling the consultations* – please call her at (919) 484-2764, or email at mgratzl@nc.rr.com as far in advance as possible to reserve your time with Patrick.

Friday evening, 11/20, 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 held at the home of 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, 11/21, at 7:30p: Priest Talk:

A talk by Patrick Kennedy, free and open to the public. **Topic to be announced.** Held in the Fleming Building at New Hope Camp, 4805 Highway 86, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Sunday, 11/22: (*Children's story and service in the Oak Building across the lawn from the Fleming Building*)

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

10a: Children's Service, for children ages 7 – 14 (please take younger children to childcare during this short service. 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 y/o).

(*Adult service in the Fleming Building*):

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.

12:15 pm: 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.

We have a new website: www.thechristiancommunitync.org Check us out!

For more information, send us an email: christiancommunity.nc@earthlink.net
Or contact Linda Folsom 493-8323/lfolsom@nc.rr.com

From the Board:

After the August branch meeting, the Board met and focused on the conversation of our branch name and status. A letter was sent on the list-serve and to members we could identify as not being on the list-serve to inform all of the discussion, conclusions and next step in the process. Essentially, we have determined that a branch named the Central North Carolina Rudolf Steiner Branch was recognized by the national society sometime between 1990-1993, and that this organization incorporated as a 501(c)3 legal corporation as The Anthroposophical Society in North Carolina in 1997. Concerns were expressed by many that our letter of recognition as a branch cannot be found, and that the name "Central North Carolina Rudolf Steiner Branch" is very long and not easy to remember, that no one clearly remembers the decision to use that as the name of our branch and few remember its usage before ASNC became common, that we are no longer the only branch in North Carolina, and the lack of the name of a being in the acronym ASNC or our 'goes by' name, The Anthroposophical Society in North Carolina.

There are concerns that we would even consider a name change, and that choosing a new name will stir up divisions and controversy. The Board feels that continued discussion on this theme can strengthen our identity as a community and that such discussion should happen at branch meetings. At the November 14 meeting, we would like to continue building a picture of our history as people remember and have experienced it. From there, we will move into a description of the qualities we each experience in our community. This will give us something to carry with us through the Holy Nights, and when we meet again, we may have a clearer picture of the Spiritual Being(s) working with us to bring our study of anthroposophy into our hearts and deeds in a meaningful way as we move forward together.

Hope to see you on the 14th!

Warmly,

Peg Carmody

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**Branch Meeting Agenda
November 14, 2009
11 Bolin Hts, Chapel Hill, NC 27514**

You are welcome to arrive at 2:30 to chat and get comfortable. The meeting will begin at 3 pm sharp.

Opening Verses, Welcome

Go around the circle to check in with people about how they are doing, and to share a quality of our community that they have experienced.

Recap Branch History discussion from August meeting and continue an oral reconstruction of our history to the present.


Important Dates:

First Class, Sun. 11/15: 9:30 review, 10:30 for Class Lesson, EWS
Spring Conference Planning Mtg.: Sun. 11/15, noon, EWS
ASNC Board Mtg.: Wed., 11/18, 7:15 at Peg's

Announcements

Pot Luck

SIMPLICITY PARENTING

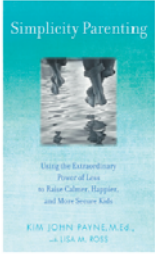


A public lecture by Kim John Payne Family Counselor and Educator

Wednesday November 4, 2009, 7 pm
Brown Room, Emerson Waldorf School

**Too much stuff.
Too many choices.
Too little time.
Learn about the
extraordinary
power of LESS!**

EMERSON WALDORF SCHOOL



*Based on his new bestselling book, **Simplicity Parenting**, published in August 2009, Kim John Payne's talk will offer inspiration to parents who want to slow down their children's lives.*

EmersonWaldorf.org
6211 New Jericho Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27516 919.967.1858

DR. MARK PRESENTS TALK ON THE FLU

Every once in a while an event happens in our community to educate us all about current issues and provide insight about what to do. On the evening of Thursday October 22 Dr. Mark Eisen gave a presentation on just such a relevant issue having to do with the spread of the flu virus. It was sponsored by the Parent Organization of the Emerson Waldorf School. His talk and demonstration of some home health practices had been well advertised in advance to the Waldorf school parents, Anthroposophical Branch and his patients. It was puzzling to see that the room was not packed with people eager to learn from a deeper and wider perspective what the real issues are about the so called flu epidemic and what are some of the commonsense hygienic measures we can all follow to keep ourselves well. Even more surprising was that Dr. Eisen was the only male representative in the room! Is care and nurturing strictly relegated to the female gender?

Dr. Eisen's assistant, Kenyetta, beautifully set up a table with a wide assortment of health care books, remedies, and oils for sale, samples of lavender and rosemary oils to try and free fact sheets about the flu for people to take home. The P.O. provided coffee, tea and light refreshments. Those of us present felt very welcomed and comfortable before the official beginning of Dr. Eisen's talk. He opened up his presentation by putting into his own words something Rudolf Steiner talked about in the first anthroposophical medical course in 1920: "There is no group that wields as much influence on masses of human beings as medical practitioners plying their own opinions about the nature of human illness. They bring about massive shifts in behaviour, hygiene and lifestyles unfounded in any true understanding of the soul and spiritual nature of the human being." For those who wish to explore in more depth how Dr. Steiner and Dr. Eisen could make such a statement, a little booklet entitled Health Care As A Social Issue can be purchased in the Jubilee Bookstore at Dr. Eisen's medical practice or access is available at www.rsarchive.org, under the title of Hygiene – A Social Problem GA 314.

One person in the audience volunteered to receive a lemon foot bath. Dr. Eisen showed everyone what kind of basin to use, how to slice the lemon in the heated water and then most importantly how to wrap up in warm blankets the entire body, even the head and all around the neck. This therapy is very effective for relief of head congestion and headache, two symptoms that can manifest with flu and make us feel so sick. After this demonstration Dr. Eisen outlined in as simple and organized a way as possible what comprises the physical, soul and spiritual organization of the human being and how they interface with each other. Then he went on to explain how to look at illness from the four elements of earth, water, air and warmth and of what practical measures to use for promoting health in each aspect. As an example, how many of us would think to open windows and doors once a day to replace and refresh what is breathed in the house, even when the weather is cold? We are actually safer from acquiring flu virus by being outdoors and breathing that air than by quarantining ourselves inside breathing old, stale air.

People were free to ask questions throughout Dr. Eisen's talk. The public is subjected to such a degree of conflicting information coming from the media, from the governmental CDC, medical professionals that it is so very difficult to know what is true and what action to take. The main message of the evening talk by Dr. Eisen is for us all to think more clearly, do our own investigation and decide for ourselves as individuals, not out of fear or undue reliance on outside authority. His presentation was a special offering to our community for which I am grateful and only wish more people could have benefited from. -- Suzanne Mays

STEPHEN USHER PRESENTS WORKSHOP ON THE SPIRITUAL CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY

The Traveling Speakers' program in conjunction with the ASNC Board sponsored a weekend workshop with Stephen Usher October 9-11. On the evening of Friday, October 9, workshop participants gathered for a reading of "The Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric", which Stephen had suggested as preparation for his talks.

On Saturday morning, the workshop officially opened with a welcome, introductions and announcements by Peg Carmody in the Richards Room at EWS, which was filled with 31 participants. Carol Ann Williams then led us in Eurythmy to Steiner's Verse:

Ecce Homo

In the Heart
The loom of Feeling;
In the Head
The Light of Thinking;
In the Limbs
The Strength of Will.
Weaving of radiant Light,
Strength of the Weaving,
Light of the surging Strength.
Lo, this is Man!.

Stephen's first talk was entitled: "Christ in the Etheric and the Physical incarnation of Ahriman". He began by saying that there were a few precursors for Christ's appearance in the Etheric realm. These included the experience of Saul on the way to Damascus when he meets Christ in a blinding light and the experience of Christian Rosenkreutz in the 14th Century when he became the first human being to experience Christ in the Etheric. Coincidentally, the event happened when he was in Damascus while traveling all over Europe. Christian Rosenkreutz was able to experience this because of his own special etheric body, which does not dissolve at death like all other humans', but grows ever stronger. This special body was prepared in his 13th century incarnation when a special initiatory rite was performed during which he became infused with the wisdom of the 12 most highly evolved teachers of humanity. The Rosicrucian movement was founded to prepare human beings for meeting Christ in the Etheric, Christ lives in the etheric substance around the earth.

From the time of the 16th to the 19th centuries, mankind had become so materialistic in his thinking that Christ suffered an extinction of consciousness and this caused a second Mystery of Golgotha. This led, however, to the possibility for the Resurrection of Christ in the souls of human beings in the 20th Century. In 1913 Steiner gave a lecture on "Christ in the 20th Century" which elaborates on this.

In another lecture given on Dec. 26, 1909 (GA 117) Steiner tells how the Masters of Wisdom and Harmony of Feelings gave the impulse to human evolution to find the Christ through Anthroposophy. Shortly after this lecture, Steiner began his Gospel lecture series. On Feb. 6, 1917 (GA 175) Steiner told that by 1907-09 an initiate could already see Christ taking on the Form he would have in the Etheric. He also warned that this event must not pass by humanity! On June 1 1907 Steiner revealed in his *Esoteric*

Lessons that the Western section of the Masters of Wisdom and Harmony of Feeling, which had previously been a subsection of the group, had an amicable separation. The Western section, which was led by Christian Rosenkretz and the Master Jesus (aka Zarathustra), had to prepare for the New; while the Eastern section, which was led by the Masters Kuthumi and EL Morya, had to assist in the dying of the Old. Christian Rosenkretz's followers lived in the aura of the special etheric body of their Master. Thus his work could be carried on exoterically. The Christ Event is deeply connected with Christian Rosenkretz's etheric body. Anthroposophy must create a conceptual form of this event to present to the world. In 1910, Rudolf Steiner began to do this when he gave the first lecture about the "Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric" on January 25, 1910 in Karlsruhe. (He apparently also gave an earlier lecture on the topic, but it was not recorded.) In this lecture Steiner mentions that the years 1933, 35 and 37 will be especially significant. Stephen mentioned that in the Mystery Drama's first scene, Theodora speaks of the event. Steiner also warns that there will be great opposition to Christ's reappearance, that there are spiritual beings who intend to interfere with man's becoming conscious of the Event. Steiner says that these western brotherhoods know of Christ's coming "as well as I do." These black magicians form lodges and think materialistically. When they die, they cannot escape the Moon sphere and they become the "clientele" of the lodge (implying that they are like ghosts) – they speak through the living members. They have an ahrimanic angel who guides them. When he appears to people, he tells them that he is the Christ. Stephen recalls how interesting it was that George W. Bush claimed he talked with "Jesus". If he only knew the Truth!

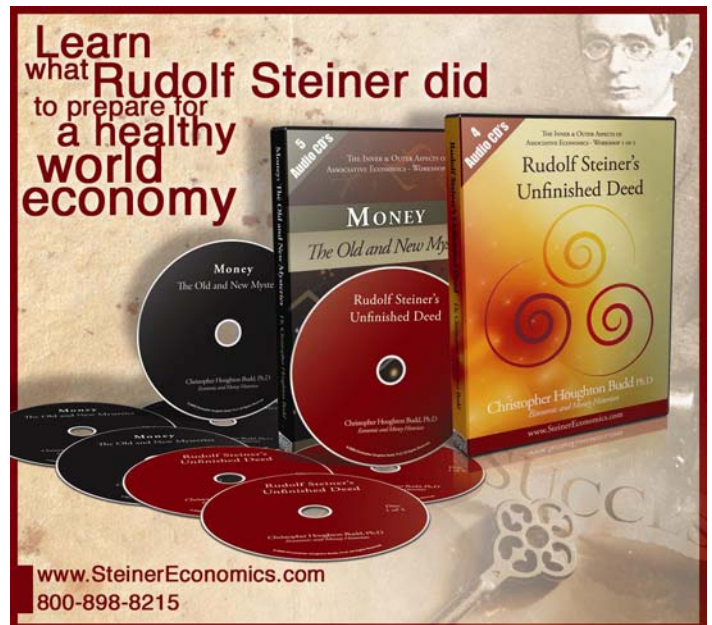
On September 20, 1924 Steiner gave his Apocalypse lectures to the Christian Community priests. It speaks of a comet that was supposed to crash in 1933. Steiner tells that in the Apocalypse, demons symbolize comets and angels symbolize planets.

Comets, he says can strengthen our astral bodies, but they can also bring "bestial" forces. Steiner predicted that mankind would have to encounter the Beast in 1933 (and of course this happened in the person of Adolf Hitler.)

In 1910-11 Steiner spoke of the "Etherization of the Blood" and how the new natural clairvoyance is beginning to appear. During Atlantean times, all people were clairvoyant, but this ability gradually died out. With the new clairvoyance, people will be able to keep their sense of individuality.

Christ will bestow this gift. Some examples he gave of how it will manifest: a person may have a premonition of something that they are about to do and then they see the karmic consequences of such an action, or visions would occur in which a person would have a sense of the etheric in their environment.

How will people experience Christ in the Etheric? Steiner told that a person in a very difficult situation would suddenly be visited by someone who would help them and console them. Then the person would disappear. It would be an actual *physical* person. Christ is the only spiritual being who can take on a physical body and be in thousands of places at the same time. Stephen mentioned that there is a German book that recounts many incidents in which people have had this kind of experience of



the Christ. Stephen also told us about one specific event that was recounted by Hans Heldoffen in a Copenhagen newspaper. Hans, who was in a Gestapo prison camp during the war told how he was in a musty cellar with about 500 other prisoners when the overseer began to beat to death a Russian soldier inmate. All of the other prisoners began feeling the blows that the Russian was receiving and they all began to yell "Enough!" "Enough!" All at once a man entered the room and they all recognized him as Jesus. Above them they perceived the colors of red and blue and a feeling of peace came over them. Jesus gazed lovingly on the dead man and bent down and kissed him. The man opened his eyes and he lit up with joy. Jesus stretched out his hand and the man took it. Everyone smiled. Then the man left with Jesus. Even the overseer witnessed this.

The Incarnation of Ahriman

Stephen mentioned that there is considerable debate as to when exactly Ahriman is to incarnate. It is definitely in the third millennium, but whether it is in the beginning (now) or much later is up to speculation. On October 27, 1919 Steiner gave a lecture in Bern known as "The Ahrimanic Deception", in which he tells how in the third millennium before Christ Lucifer incarnated as a Chinese emperor and that in the third millennium after Christ, Ahriman will likewise appear on the earth in the West. On November 1 1919 Steiner stated that "before only a part of the third millennium has past, an incarnation of Ahriman will occur". This implies that it is sooner than what he said in the previous lecture. Terry Boardman and Peter Tradowsky both have written that they feel the time is *now*. On November 4, 1919, Steiner says that "in the not too distant future" we will begin to see signs of Ahriman's impending arrival. There will be increased numbers of catastrophes, inventions, and that people will have to become more clever to survive. On November 15, 1919 Steiner spoke of the great occult school of Ahriman, where pupils could attain clairvoyance without effort; however everyone would experience something different and this will cause conflict because everyone will see something different. Ahriman will have immense intellectual power and he will control financial affairs or businesses (*Wirtschaften*) . We must oppose him with full consciousness, said Steiner. We must prepare for his incarnation and not sleep through his arrival.

Further clues about Ahriman: he will appear to be a solid citizen, will work to further abstract thinking. He will have a narrow conception of the Gospels. Many believe he will incarnate in America and Stephen said that it is likely he will come from the Western part of America because the earth's magnetic forces are strongest along the Rockies; this favors the ahrimanic Double.

Stephen told about a rather disturbing article that appeared in the Wall St. Journal on December 12, 2008. Benjamin Crème took out a huge ad in the paper that told about a bright star in the sky, which he believed to be foretelling the coming of the Maitreya Buddha. (Ed. Note: Benjamin Crème of Great Britain, a former disciple of Alice Bailey, has been "foretelling" the impending appearance of the Maitreya Buddha for many years now. He is a medium who claims to channel the being of the Maitreya. He leads an organization known as Share International or The Emergence.org. He has gone so far as to saying in his newsletter that Rudolf Steiner is wrong in asserting that the Maitreya will not incarnate until the 6th epoch. His time is now according to Crème. This so-called Maitreya of Crème's, whom he claims will solve all the world's problems, could very well be the Incarnation of Ahriman.)

Stephen added that more and more humans are becoming possessed by ahrimanic spirits. All one has to do is think in abstractions to invite them in; also a diminution of consciousness allows them in. He says that Steiner attributed the start of World War I to the fact that the leaders became possessed by ahrimanic beings. In the

future, more and more bodies will become possessed by Ahriman. Nietzsche was possessed in his later years, according to Steiner. Ahriman will also write books. Stewart Easton wrote a history textbook in which he talks about a man named Dondello who was supposedly the first man to become possessed by Ahriman. He had no scruples or conscience. Dondello was the blind Doge of Venice who called for the Third Crusade. He ordered the knights to loot cities, including Jerusalem. Brooks Adams (the grandson of John Quincy Adams) wrote a book called the *Law of Civilization and Decay* in which he claims that Dondello is his hero. This book is an example of a book written by Ahriman.

Stephen mentioned that he had recently been to a meeting of the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and witnessed their spokesperson Roger Brenner admit he had lied to the public about the swine flu.

Steiner also made an interesting remark that Michael will make use of Lucifer to combat Ahriman.

A question and answer period followed.

Participants in the workshop then enjoyed an afternoon of Form Drawing with Carol Brick or Bothmer Gymnastics with Alan Barenholtz.

SECOND LECTURE: "The Double and the Guardian"

Stephen began Saturday evening's talk by discussing the "Double in World Literature". He cited such examples as Oscar Wilde's *"Picture of Dorian Grey"*, *Zanoni* by Bulwer-Lytton, and *The Double* by Dostoevsky. Stephen suggested that we google "Doppelganger" and we will find many other examples. The idea of a double has been known from time immemorial. In the past, he said, one could conjure the Double or the Guardian through magic, but this is no longer appropriate. The Encounter with the Double or Lesser Guardian is nevertheless a very important milestone on the Path of Knowledge.

In GA 54 given on March 8 1906, Steiner said that all Initiates must grow beyond their ego and become citizens of the Spiritual World. In so doing, each must first encounter his own Double and leave it behind. The Double contains all of one's lower nature, i.e. the passions, desires, and all faults not overcome yet. One must learn to regard the Double as a detached being. To meet the Double is a "trip to hell". This Being is also called the Lesser Guardian of the Threshold. The definition of an Initiate is one who has learned to step past the Double and crossed the Threshold. In a lecture of June 1, 1906 Steiner talks about how the Soul Forces of thinking, feeling and willing split in two stages on the Path to Knowledge: first, at the soul level and second, in the brain at death. In a healthy student, the three parts can be reunited in a second; however if one cannot reunite the parts a "tear" occurs and a disease of the nervous system results. (*Ed. Note: This calls to mind that Steiner has referred to schizophrenia as a "failed initiation"; perhaps this is what he is referring to.*) The Greater Guardian causes the split to occur. Details of this phenomenon are found in *Knowledge of the Higher Worlds*. In the second Mystery Drama, Johannes meets his Double who tells him of his lust for Maria. In the third Mystery Drama the Greater Guardian is dressed in gold carrying a sword. Johannes tried to storm the Threshold because he is enchanted by Lucifer.

In the last chapter of *Knowledge of the Higher Worlds*, one learns about the encounter with the Greater Guardian. He gives the student a choice: to go back and help others, or to stay there and have all one's desires fulfilled. The choice is obvious. Stephen also spoke of the feeling of shame that one feels when meeting the Lesser Guardian and how it can close the Threshold to us. Another thing that we must learn is that in the spiritual world, percept and concepts are fused and this can cause confusion. One needs to learn to discern.

Stephen then went into the three stages of Initiation: Imagination, Inspiration and Intuition and how Steiner's *Road to Self Knowledge* elaborates on the stages: first, the physical body is in the sense world; next the etheric body is in the astral world where it learns the power of transformation (one learns to turn into things to get where you want to go; sympathies and antipathies of others enter you like a palette of colors.; then the astral body enters the spiritual worlds where beings are thoughts. One's Higher Self lives here as Thought. Thoughts are deeds. Here one leaves behind time and sense perceptions. All one has is memories. These memories communicate with the beings there. Here you meet objectified thinking, feeling and willing. You need to recognize and lead them; Lastly, one's True Ego or Higher Self comes to the Super Spiritual World where we meet our own true ego without a veil. One has to first dive into an abyss and blot out one's memories. Then one sees one's own Higher Self coming toward one. The student feels himself outside of himself. The second ego can be trained to see into the spiritual worlds.

Lucifer and Ahriman can take pieces of our attachments, phobias, or anything that we are not in control of and shape them into beings. In the Mystery Dramas, Johannes broods over his past and Lucifer turns that into a Being of his youth. Lucifer enchants that being into falling in love with Theodora.

Stephen then talked about the battle between the Higher Self and the Double. One reaches a stage where you have reached the heights of knowledge and yet you feel imprisoned. Once you master this step of illusion, you become an initiate. Then your thought life is in harmony with the Cosmic Intelligence. The Greater Guardian is the Christ. One who leaves the path becomes a black magician.

Another aspect of the double is the Geographic Double which enters at birth and leaves one just before death. It lives in one's sympathetic nervous system. Everything electrical in your body is owned by this being. Electromagnetic radiation works in it. There are elemental beings in us who will become human on Jupiter.

Stephen reminded us that Steiner said that the first condition for entering the Path to Knowledge is to take care of one's physical health.

He also told us that most great initiates work behind the scenes. They must do this because otherwise there would be constant astral attacks on them. He also said that what you take credit for on earth weakens your work in the spiritual world. That is why the designers of the medieval cathedrals chose to remain anonymous and not take credit for their great work.

Humanity as a whole is crossing the Threshold. This makes us all conscious of the potential catastrophes around us. Because of this, Stephen suggested that when you do your Rückschau, remind yourself of what *didn't* happen. You may have been saved.

THIRD LECTURE: The Threefold Social Organism

Stephen Usher's final lecture concerned the esoteric and exoteric aspects of the Threefold Social Order. He began by stating the the outline he would be following was first, to look at Steiner's discussion of the Cain and Abel story and what it tells about the selfishness of the astral body; second to look at the current economic model and the model that superseded it. And lastly, to explore the Threefold ideal and see how the Cain-Abel problem is solved by the Threefold Social Order.

Stephen recommended reading Steiner's *Effects of Spiritual Development on the Sheaths of Man* (March 27, 1913), in which Steiner discusses the Paradise Imagination. The human body itself was a Paradise. The human being had senses like an eagle, a rhythmic system like a Lion and a metabolism like a bull. Since the Fall, our bodies are a "shriveled up image expelled through the senses". One feels ever on the verge of

erring; one also feels powerful attractions, and emotions. One has to work very hard to overcome selfish interests and jealousies. He then presented an experience on the Path of Knowledge: If one can make the world's interests one's own, then the astral body expands and one experiences the following: You see another being and you have the feeling that your astral body is raying upward and the other being is raying downward to the world. You realize that the other being is superior. If one progresses and want to offer oneself to the Superior being, then the picture changes and we become the being raying downward and the other being comes to earth. We become jealous of the other being and think of killing him. This brings us to the Cain and Abel story. Our astral body wants to expand and suffocate all other astral bodies. The physical and etheric bodies tone down this force in the astral body. This desire to destroy the other manifests in our wish to insert our own ideas into everyone. [No wonder so many of us find proselytizers so offensive – we subconsciously realize they really want to kill us!]

Economists say that we are all selfish and self-serving. They believe that an invisible hand creates the best possible world using this principle. Pareto optimality states that: No one's welfare can be improved without taking from someone else. They say that you cannot take from the rich and give to the poor. This is a dog-eat-dog model. It is Darwin's survival of the fittest. He also spoke of Adam Smith's "great wheel of circulation" and about John Stewart Mill who believed in competition, "each for himself against all the rest" – everyone must struggle, push others or be pushed. In contrast Rudolf Steiner says that economics must be based on the *full* nature of the human being; modern economics only considers the *lower* human being.

In recent times, a small circle of the super rich have taken over the globe, creating a financial oligarchy. Adam Smith's view has been superseded. A book tells about this group. It is *The Super Class* by Roth Kopf and it claims that there are approximately 6,000 super-rich people who rule the world and make all the major decisions. *Rolling Stone* wrote an article about this fact. These are probably members of the Brotherhoods of the West that Steiner spoke about.

A member from the audience asked if there is any evidence of the brotherhoods and Stephen gave the example of the Georgia Guidestones (also known as "America's Stonehenge"), huge granite stones that contain 10 principles in many translations, both ancient and modern. One of its principles is that the population should be kept at 500 million for a sustainable earth. The tablets are signed RC and many believe it is a reference to Christian Rosenkreutz. Whether these tablets were written by good or bad brotherhoods is unclear. Stephen also mentioned the Methuselah Society whose goal is to create physical immortality for the elite.

Stephen told us how he sat in the gallery in the nation's Capitol last year when the bailout was voted on. He said that it was clearly welfare for the elite. Hank Paulsen, the Secretary of the Treasury under Bush, was a Chairman of Goldman Sachs. He convinced Congress that this bailout was necessary. He created an hysteria that had no basis in fact and caused Congress to vote in haste without taking time to even read the bailout document or think about alternatives and consequences. Stephen watched in horror as the Congressmen were told to ignore the opposition of 90% of their constituents and to "do the right thing" and of course we know the rest of the story.

In polar opposition to this economics of selfishness, the Threefold Social Order of Rudolf Steiner motivates people to work for the common good. The Law of True price is functioning. Stephen defined the law of true price as follows; when a person receives in payment for his work enough to provide for himself and his dependents until he can reproduce another product.

In ancient Egypt, the priest-king dictated the laws for all. In the Roman Empire an independent life of rights developed, e.g. the concept of citizens taking part in making

laws, the ideas of last will and testaments, labor rights. During the Scientific Revolution, technology developed and with it, division of labor and an independent economic sphere. People no longer provided for themselves – Millions cooperate to create things.

Steiner taught that economic life needs an altruistic mentality to function properly. The way people are motivated today is totally selfish. Our economic system has remained feudal. We work for a *living*. We need money *to live*.

In the Threefold System, we see reflected the Rosicrucian ideals of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity of the French Revolution. In the Cultural sphere, there should be *freedom* so that the spiritual capacities can function without government regulations and there should be cooperative, free association of people not forced into institutional molds. Waldorf Schools are supposed to bring this about. They should inspire a vision for the Social Order. In The Rights/Political Sphere there should be *Equality*. People would learn in a new way to appreciate their fellow man. We would agree on the laws under which we live. There would be equal say. All would have a voice. In America today, the Rights process has been distorted by the economic sphere. A threefolded Rights sphere would motivate all to work for the common good. Lastly, in the Economics Sphere, we would have *Brotherhood*. The latter is clearly stated in Steiner's Fundamental Social Law, which he wrote about in *Spiritual Science and the Social Question* in 1906. It states that each should work to meet the needs of others and others should work to meet your needs.

Steiner wrote about the Law of True Price in *Toward Social Renewal* (1919). He also elaborated on it in his *World Economy*. An anthroposophical bank was started in 1979 that tried to operate on this principle. Stephen wrote about it at the time. The Bank is no longer in existence, unfortunately. The way this bank operated was that all 20 employees of the bank took their monthly paychecks and deposited them into a joint account. The money was then distributed equally to the 20. People would then give away what they didn't need to those who had needs. The head of this bank said that it required a "sense of humor" to work. Three of the members of this bank went on to become Vorstand members of the Anthroposophical Society. Steiner has stated that your Karma doesn't work if you work for money.

Today there are massive efforts to manipulate our desires into "needs". That makes it difficult for a threefold economics sphere to operate if people have been manipulated into thinking they must have certain things. It breeds selfishness. Stephen recommended that we see the video *The Century of the Self*. It is 4-5 hours long, but is worth it. It tells how years ago people saved their money and didn't buy anything unless they really needed it.

How can we keep a price "true"? Steiner said that we must have economics associations who would assemble data and analyze the supply and demand. If a price were too low, some workers would be sent out to retrain at another trade. A picture of the economic scenario would be made and someone would read the picture and see how it wants "to become". Economic initiates would be trained in this. The Third Class of the School of Spiritual Science was supposed to have provided the training for this task. Steiner said that the people should decide what is an appropriate amount of hours to work. There would be leisure-work tradeoffs. It is do-able to take care of everyone's needs

Stephen said that we need to find a large place to threefold to make an example for the world to see. Back in 1923 the *New York Times* printed a large article about the Threefold Social Order. Steiner was quite famous at that time. Steiner said that the impulse would first be manifest in the Waldorf Schools. Globalization is a cosmopolitan impulse of Michael, but it has been perverted by the elite. Stephen gave examples of these: the SPP that wants to unite the currency of Canada, Mexico and the US. The deal

was signed by Bush at Waco. Few of us know about that. A Bilderberger meeting made the decision. Names of ahrimanic global leaders of the past included: William Stead, Milner and Rhodes. In contrast to their policies, Steiner said that economic policy analysts should have “motherly love” for Society.

Stephen also told us the rather curious story of Russell Davenport, the first editor of *Fortune* magazine, who was a member of the Skull and Bones Society, but became an anthroposophist and wrote a book called *The Dignity of Man* which talks about the Threefold Social Order. Davenport is best known as the campaign manager for Wendell Wilkie, who lost to Truman.

When the Soviet Union fell, the land known as Georgia had an election. 95% of the vote went to an Anthroposophist who promised a Threefold government. He was promptly assassinated. When the Berlin wall fell, the Greens and the Threefolders wanted to have East Germany remain separated and to institute a Threefold government, but the West had its way.

Currently Nicanor Perlas, a well-known anthroposophist, who was a former classmate of Stephen's, is running for President of the Philippines. He wants to institute a threefold government there. Unfortunately, the Phillipine government is so corrupt, that Stephen thinks Nicanor doesn't stand a chance.

For more information about the secret brotherhoods of today, Stephen recommends reading *In the Name of the New World Order* by Reuveni, *The Anglo-American Establishment* (1949) by Carroll Quigley, which talks about Rhodes, Stead and Milner. Bill Clinton was a student of Carroll Quigley who got him the Rhodes scholarship to study in England. Some others who are involved in the “New World Order Conspiracy” include: the Council on Foreign Relations (Ed. Note: Obama is a member of the CFR), the Bilderbergers, the Skull and Bones Society, certain Masonic Lodges. To learn more about America's plan to become world police and to revert our economy back to feudalism, read *The Grand Chessboard* by Brezinski.

Stephen talked about his visit to the Masonic Lodge in Washington D.C. which is known as the Scottish Rite Masonic Lodge. It has 300,000 books in its library. Stephen was given a tour of it and told many things. Herbert Hoover was a member. There are 32 degrees that its members go through; to get to the 33rd, you must be “chosen”. Some Masonic Lodges have as many as 96 degrees. Most are just social clubs, empty of the former occult reality. Many in England and the US are used for political machinations. Stephen said that 98% of them are probably clueless, but the others *know*. Stephen reminded us that Steiner has said that there is a Brotherhood in the West that is preparing for the incarnation of Ahriman.

Our community was very enthused by this conference and there were many conversations that arose from it.

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From the Editor:

October was an overwhelmingly active month, so much so that I did not have time to write up the most important event of the month for me – the Annual General Meeting in Spring Valley with its conference on Christian Rosenkreutz. I took 67 pages of notes while at the conference. It was truly awesome and inspiring . It was great seeing so many old friends, as well as finally meeting administrators from the General Society whom I have heard about but never met previously. Since this issue is so large already, it is probably just as well. I always worry that if there is too much copy, people won't want to read. I promise a full report next month, when there will be less news to report than this issue.

Speaking of the next issue, it will be a bit late, probably will come out around December 5. I will be away for the entire last week of November and will have no access to a computer so it will be impossible to get the issue out on time. I will extend the deadline for the issue as a result. While I still recommend that you aim for November 20, I will be accepting articles until December 1.

This month promises to be another very active one in our community. We especially would like to encourage people who don't ordinarily attend events to try something new in our community this month, whether it be a Study group, a festival, or a social.

If you would like an extra special artistic treat this month, go to the John McCutcheon concert at the Arts Center in Carrboro on November 21.(It starts at 8 PM but get there early if you want a decent seat. Tickets go very fast. You might even want to purchase your ticket early) John is without a doubt the most talented, versatile and most socially conscious folksinger of all time. I try never to miss a concert of his. He writes most of his own material and it is based on current events. John plays many instruments and tells great stories as well. I know some of you who are already fans of his, but if you have never heard him sing, do your self a favor and be there. See ya!

Lastly, in spite of all the difficulties in the world, we still have a lot to be grateful for, especially for the gift of Anthroposophy. Where would we be without it today? Let us remember that as we enter this season of Thankfulness.

Wishing you all a healthful, relaxing and fruitful holiday with your Loved Ones!

Kathleen Wright

Editor

The Sophia Sun

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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.

All calendar items should be sent to: 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**



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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 or our local website at www.anthroposophyNC.org