



The Sophia Sun

Newsletter of the Anthroposophical Society
in North Carolina

March-April 2010

Volume III, Number 2

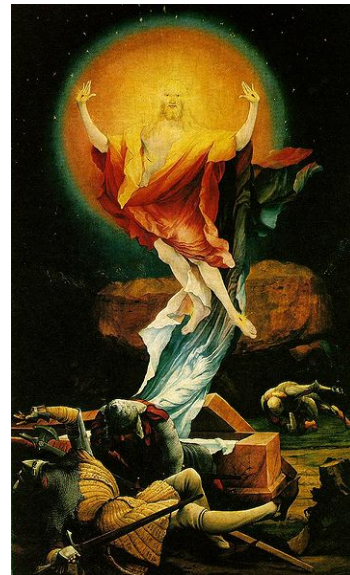
**The Virtue For March (PISCES):
Magnanimity Becomes Love**
**The Virtue for April (ARIES):
Devotion Becomes Force of Sacrifice**

Easter Week from The Calendar of the Soul:

When out of world-wide spaces
The sun speaks to the human mind,
And gladness from the depths of soul
Becomes, in seeing, one with light,
Then rising from the sheath of self,
Thoughts soar to distances of space
And dimly bind
The human being to the spirit's life.

- **Rudolf Steiner**

(translation by Ruth and Hans Pusch)



The Risen Christ from the Isenheim Altar

In This Issue...

Calendars.....	3-4
Study Groups.....	7-8
Parzival Conference.....	8
Easter Schedule.....	9
Christian Community Schedule.....	10
Welcome Nora Minassian.....	11
Passiontide.....	11
Caring for the Dead Meeting.....	12
Whitted-Bowers Farm News.....	13
Watercolor Workshop.....	13
Next Branch Meeting.....	14
Asheville Foundation Studies.....	15
Biodynamic Events in Floyd, VA.....	16-17
Closing of Emerson College.....	18
Camphill Elder Care.....	19
Templar Conference Review.....	20
Two New Books on Empathy.....	24
Two Poems by Ron Milito.....	26

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

The Sophia Sun

From the Editor:

As you may have noticed from the front cover, this issue of the *Sophia Sun* is a double issue. There were a number of reasons for this. First, was a selfish but practical one – I will be away and without computer access for the last week of March, the time when I normally would be putting the April issue together. Secondly, because Easter occurs so early this year (April 4) we would have had to put the announcements about it in the March issue anyway and that left only two happenings in April (a branch meeting and a painting workshop), so we decided to be practical, save time, money and paper by producing a two-month issue. This, however, requires a little extra effort on your part to post all the April events on your calendar now so that you don't forget. There will be list-serve reminders, however.

This issue is a very “cosmopolitan” one – we have lots of news from all over the country, as well as guest writers. Please take note of all of the Easter Week festivities – many thanks to Margareta Bornhorst and Judy Frey who will be hosting them. This issue also welcomes Nora Minassian, the new co-priest of the Christian Community. There are a couple of items of sad news as well – e.g. the closing of Emerson College (however there is hope that it will be purchased by anthroposophists and transformed) and the death of Joy Kwapien's Aunt Ro. We are also delighted to print some satirical poetry by former Kimberton Waldorf teacher, Ron Milito, about the current political situation and how the world needs Steiner to amend things. We are also happy to be able to print a review of the Templar Conference that occurred in England this past August, which so many of us wished we could have attended! We also like to include news from non-anthroposophical endeavors that are Michaelic in nature; thus we have reprinted two small articles on books about Empathy (a theme our community has taken up in the past year) that have been published this year.

Lastly, all at the ASNC Board wish you and your family a blessed Easter season!

Kathleen Wright

Condolences to the Family of Joy Kwapien

We send thoughts of comfort and Light to Joy and Bob Kwapien and Jon Lyerly who lost their Aunt Ro on Tuesday, February 23. We all knew her as “Aunt Ro” but her real name was Roberta Inez Fulton Meadows. She was 91 years old. Ro was the sister of Joy's Mother. Although she was married for 57 years, Ro never had children of her own, but she loved her sister's children and her Grand-nephew Jon as though they were her own. Ro lived all of her life in Birmingham, Alabama until spending her last several years at Infinity Farm and her last few weeks at Brookshire Nursing Home. Ro was mostly a homemaker, but she volunteered her time at the Red Cross and the Daughters of the American Revolution; both organizations honored her with medals. Ro loved flowers and for a while worked as a florist. She taught Joy the art of flower arranging. Although Ro will be greatly missed, Joy can take comfort in that Ro had a beautiful and peaceful death. She announced to Joy about a week before her death that she felt it was time to go, and then she began to slowly fade a little more each day until she was gone. Ro's body flew home on February 26 to her beloved Alabama where she was buried alongside her dear husband who passed away in 1997.

ASNC and Initiatives, March 1 - 31, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>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.</p> <p>Next calendar will be in May 2010. Items for that calendar should be sent by April 20, 2010</p>						
	1 Basic Books SG-7p	2 NDE SG-7p ASNC Festivals Committee Meeting-7:15p	3 Rose Cross SG-1:30p	4 Asheville Steiner SG-7p	5	6 Painting Wkshp 10a
7 <u>The Goethean Conversation SG-3p</u> <u>Asheville Soul- Weaving SG-2p</u> <u>WS Anthroposophical SG-5p</u> <u>W/S-YValley SG-6p</u> <u>Pittsboro SG-6:30p</u> <u>Greensboro SG-7p</u>	8 Basic Books SG-7p	9	10 Rose Cross SG-1:30p EWS-Talk by Peter Snow ASNC Board Mtg 7:30p	11 Asheville Bio- dynamic SG- 10a Study Gp-How to Know Higher Worlds-7p	12 ASNC Parzival and the Grail Question Workshop Sophia Grail Circle-6:30p	13 ASNC Parzival and the Grail Question Workshop
14 Meeting of the First Class-10:45a (Review-9:30a) Choreocosmos Classes-1p <u>The Goethean Conversation SG-3p</u> <u>Asheville Soul- Weaving SG-2p</u> <u>WS Anthroposophical SG-5p</u> <u>W/S-YValley SG-6p</u> <u>Pittsboro SG-6:30p</u> <u>Greensboro SG-7p</u>	15 Basic Books SG-7p	16 Study Gp-How to Know Higher Worlds-6:30p	17 Rose Cross SG-1:30p ASNC Board Mtg-7:30p	18 Asheville Steiner SG-7p CC Steering Committee- 6:30p	19 CC Priest Visit- CC 101	20 CC Priest Talk- 7:30p Haiti Benefit Auction and Dance-7-11p
21 CC Act of Consecration of Man Services and <u>Brunch- 10:30a</u> <u>The Goethean Conversation SG-3p</u> <u>Asheville Soul- Weaving SG-2p</u> <u>WS Anthroposophical SG-5p</u> <u>W/S-YValley SG-6p</u> <u>Pittsboro SG-6:30p</u> <u>Greensboro SG-7p</u>	22 Basic Books SG-7p	23	24 Rose Cross SG-1:30p	25	26 Sophia Grail Circle-6:30p	27
28 <u>The Goethean Conversation SG-3p</u> <u>Asheville Soul- Weaving SG-2p</u> <u>WS Anthroposophical SG-5p</u> <u>W/S-YValley SG-6p</u> <u>Pittsboro SG-6:30p</u> <u>Greensboro SG-7p</u>	29 Basic Books SG-7p	30 Rudolf Steiner's Death Day 1925	31 Rose Cross SG-1:30p			

ASNC and Initiatives, April 1 - 30, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>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.</p> <p>Next calendar will be in May 2010. Items for that calendar should be sent by April 20, 2010</p>						
				1 Asheville Steiner SG-7p Holy Thursday Observance	2 Good Friday Observance 2p	3 Easter Saturday
4 ASNC EasterFestival - See article The Goethean Conversation SG-3p Asheville Soul-Weaving SG-2p WS Anthroposophical SG-5p W/S-YValley SG-6p Pittsboro SG-6:30p Greensboro SG-7p	5 Basic Books SG-7p	6 NDE Study Gp-7p ASNC Festivals Committee Meeting-7:15p	7 Rose Cross SG-1:30p	8 Asheville Biodynamic SG-10a	9 Sophia Grail Circle-6:30p	10 ASNC Watercolor and Our Perceptions of the Spiritual World Workshop-10a
11 Meeting of the First Class-10:45a (Review-9:30a) Choreocosmos Classes-1p The Goethean Conversation SG-3p Asheville Soul-Weaving SG-2p WS Anthroposophical SG-5p W/S-YValley SG-6p Pittsboro SG-6:30p Greensboro SG-7p	12 Basic Books SG-7p	13	14 Rose Cross SG-1:30p	15 Asheville Steiner SG-7p	16	17
18 CC Lay Gathering-10:30a The Goethean Conversation SG-3p Asheville Soul-Weaving SG-2p WS Anthroposophical SG-5p W/S-YValley SG-6p Pittsboro SG-6:30p Greensboro SG-7p	19 Basic Books SG-7p	20	21 Rose Cross SG-1:30p ASNC Board Mtg-7:30p	22	23 Sophia Grail Circle-6:30p	24 ASNC Branch Meeting 3 p
25 The Goethean Conversation SG-3p Asheville Soul-Weaving SG-2p WS Anthroposophical SG-5p W/S-YValley SG-6p Pittsboro SG-6:30p Greensboro SG-7p	26 Basic Books SG-7p	27 Talk at EWS By Kathleen Wright 7:30p	28 Rose Cross SG-1:30p	29	30	

Calendar Details: March and April 2010

ASNC

Mar 2, 7:15p – **ASNC Festivals Committee** meets at the home of Marie Nordgen, 3928 Hope Valley Rd., Durham. 919-544-9184. Please join us if you are interested in continuing to bring the Festivals to our community. Contact lfolsom@nc.rr.com for information.

Mar 14 and April 11, 9:30a – **The School for Spiritual Science, Meeting of First Class**. Review of last lesson at 9:30a, 10:30 AM Class Lesson. For more information please contact Suzanne Mays at 919-929-1073 or mays@ieee.org.

Mar 10 and April 21, 7:30pm - **ASNC Board Meeting** – Meeting at the home of Board President Peg Carmody. For more details contact Peg Carmody at 919-537-8142 or mcarmody@nc.rr.com. To contact the ASNC by mail: PO BOX 16024, Chapel Hill, NC 27516.

April 24, 3-6 pm - **ASNC Branch Meeting** and Potluck. All are welcome

Christian Community

Mar 18, 6:30p - Christian Community **Steering Committee meeting** at the home of Mary Beth Mueller.

Mar 19 - 21 - **Christian Community priest Nora Minassian** visiting our area for a weekend of gatherings and services. Please see flyer this newsletter for more details.

EWS

March 10, 7p - we are hosting Peter Snow, renowned Waldorf Teacher directly from Scotland to give a talk entitled, "**Making Changes: The Path through Adolescence**". Held in the Brown wing.

March 20, tba - The P.O. is co-sponsoring with Blue Skies of Mapleview Farm an **Auction/Dance at the Carrboro Century Center**. The proceeds of this will go to help Oxfam America's Haiti Relief fund. There will be a live and silent auction, a live band, appetizers and beer and wine. This will be a wonderful evening for a good cause. Check The Emersonian web site www.emersonwaldorf.org for details about ticket sales and other details soon.

March 9 and April 13, 8a - **Window into Emerson Tour** - see <http://www.emersonwaldorf.org/community/calendar/> for more details.

April 27, 7:30 p – Talk by Kathleen Wright on “The Relationship of Rudolf Steiner and Anthroposophy to Waldorf Education” sponsored by the EWS Parent Organization.

NDE

NDE Study Group - 7p. Our meetings for the remainder of the year will be: March 2, April 6, May 11, and June 8. 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. For more information, please call us at 919-929-1073 or mays@ieee.org.

Choreochosmos:

For questions or more information, call Kelly Calegar, 919-361-0691 or visit www.eastcoastschoolofchoreocosmos.com

NEW STUDY GROUP: “Living into an Experience of How to Know Higher Worlds”

Sandy Bisdee and Margaret Heath would like to invite you to join them in the **reading, discussing, and sharing of Rudolf Steiner’s book, *How to Know Higher Worlds***. Sandy and Margaret have long wanted to do this and as winter moves into spring, this time before Easter seems especially appropriate. Margaret taught this book two years ago in the Foundation Studies course in Chapel Hill, and will be teaching the class again in the Foundation Studies course in Asheville. A number of people expressed a wish to attend, so they are offering this opportunity now. Sandy's deep connection to nature and inner and outer contemplation will be a gift to us. Though Sandy and Margaret are not thinking of this as teaching. The gatherings will be more along the lines of the following from the preface: ..."one should never forget that reading a description of soul development demands more than just knowing the contents of a book ... instead, one must live one's way into such a description"..It is suggested you read the first 2 chapters ahead of time and come to live into what they have stirred in your soul. And if you have no time to read, come anyway, and live into what the gathering together awakens. The intent is to enliven us, not burden one another with more on our 'to do' list! Please RSVP to Margaret or Sandy if you would like to attend. Sessions 1 and 2 were in February. (We will decide on further sessions at a later date). For those who live at a distance, you can join us in a long-distance study via the Internet. One person from China has already joined this way. Just email Margaret at: christosarts@earthlink.net

Session 3: Thurs, March 11, 7-9p (Margaret's House) 102 Creekside Lane, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 Tel: 919-265-7981

Session 4: Tues, Mar 16, 6.30-8.30pm (Sandy's House) 132 Solterra Way, Durham, NC 27705 Tel:919-419-1704

Please Note

Updates on events may be publicized by sending out an email to the ASNC list serve: asnc-list@rtpnet.org. Please go to the ASNC website to learn how to join the list serve so that you will receive up-dates and events:
<http://anthroposophync.org/mailman/listinfo/asnc-list>

Study Groups:

The Basic Books Study Group - Meets weekly on Monday evenings, beginning Feb 1, at 7 pm. at the home of Bruce and Margareta Bornhorst, 5800 Prioress Dr. in North Durham, off Guess Rd. Please call Bruce 225-0825 or Margareta 824-7337 for directions or questions. This group began meeting last fall to present an opportunity to deepen our understanding and relationship to Anthroposophy by reading together Rudolf Steiner's (5) basic books. We have begun with *Occult Science*, and will eventually also read *Theosophy*, *Knowledge of Higher Worlds*, *Philosophy of Freedom*, and *Christianity as Mystical Fact*. Please call first to confirm that we are meeting as planned.

Biodynamic Study Group –The Biodynamic Study Group will have a meeting in March to determine if there are enough people committed to continuing the group. Please write an email to Tatjana Zybin at tzybin@att.net if you wish to be notified when the meeting date is determined.

Child's Needs Study Group – meets 10-12 a.m. one Saturday per month, currently reading *The First Seven Years: Physiology of Childhood* by Edmond Schoorel. Please call Lauren Mills Nyland for further information – 968-7721, or mills.lauren@gmail.com

The Goethean Conversation Study Group - Marjorie Spock, in her book *Group Moral Artistry*, suggested substituting Goethean conversations for the reading or lecturing which many felt to be an outmoded form of Anthroposophical group life. The Goethean Conversation Study Group (formerly *The Fifth Gospel* study group) will begin its exploration of what Goethe considered to be the art of arts by reading Marjorie Spock's book. It will hold its first meeting on Sunday, January 31st from 3-5 PM at the home of Martha and Dirk Kelder in Chapel Hill. Copies of the reading material will be available. For more information please call 919-942-2112.

Greensboro Study Group – currently reading *The Fifth Gospel* by Rudolf Steiner. Sunday nights, 7 pm. 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 meets at the home of Jeff Barney at 760 Millbrook Dr, Pittsboro on Sundays at 6:30p. Contact Jeff for more information at 919-260-0066 or email Jeff at ethicindiv@yahoo.com

Rose Cross Study Group – Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m., at the home of Judy Frey or Judy Granberry. We are just beginning *From Jesus to Christ*. Upon completion of this we will then read *The Karma of Untruthfulness Vol. I and II*. Newcomers are welcome! Please give call Judy Frey at 928-8749 or Judy Granberry at 967-4671 before attending the first time.

St. John's Study Group – an online Study Group in which members read the Gospel of St. John on their own one chapter daily each week. Members then discuss their observations and insights online and do various activities such as journals, artwork, etc. which they can report on via the group's list-serve. The group is led by Judy Frey: 928-8749 or damaris12@nc.rr.com

Wilmington: Although no group is meeting currently, please contact Anna and Tony Bowman if you are interested in starting one. Call (910) 792-0959.

The Winston-Salem Anthroposophical Study Group meets every Sunday evening, from 5-7 at various members' homes. We plan to read and work with the Gospel lectures in the forthcoming year. This new group focuses on awakening and strengthening the Christ and Sophia impulse in the world and deepening its presence in both a personal and universal way. All are welcome. Please contact Beth Bean (336) 924-8068 for further 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, 7719 Whitehorse Dr, Clemmons, NC. The group is studying *Philosophy of Freedom*, Wilson translation. 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.

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.

The Anthroposophical Society in North Carolina presents:

Parzival and the Grail Question



A Workshop with Edward Schuldt

March 12-13, 2010

Emerson Waldorf High School
Brown Room
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Lectures Include:

- “The Gift of the Question: How We Wrestle With our Angels”
- “Parzival and Gawain’s Encounters With Lucifer and Ahriman”
- “Christ as the Balance: Parzival’s Meeting With the Greater Guardian of the Threshold”
- “Questions as Seeds of Earthly Lives: the Spiritual Biography of Trevrizent”

Artistic Presentations:

- Eurythmy with Eve Olive
- Scenes from Russell Pooler’s *Parsifal: A Play in 12 Scenes* performed by ASNC members and friends; directed by Margaretta and Bruce Bornhorst

Full Conference Fees (includes Saturday Lunch):

\$65 members* \$75 nonmembers

7:30 pm Friday lecture only \$10. members \$15. nonmembers

*Members must have paid their 2010 dues prior to registering for the conference in order to received the members’ discounted rate.

A limited number of work scholarships are available for those experiencing financial hardship. Please contact Peg Carmody for more information at 919-537-8142 or email at mcarmody@nc.rr.com

EASTER WEEK



Holy Thursday- 5 PM at the Bornhorsts, 5800 Prioress Dr., Durham, NC; Phone: 919-824-7337
A Silent Potluck Supper followed by readings from the Gospel of St. John and a Washing of the Feet Ritual led by Joanna Carey.

Good Friday – 2 PM at the Bornhorsts (see info above)

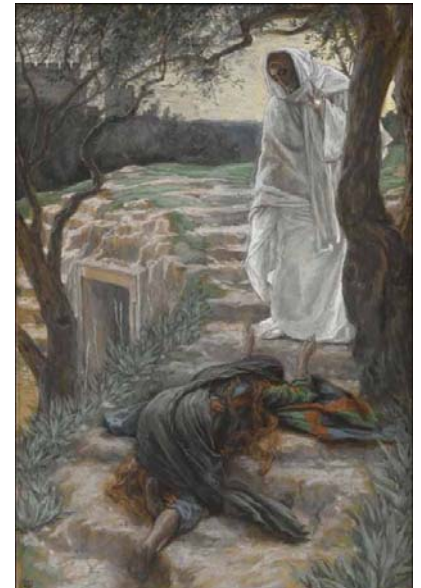
The Stations of the Cross and Sacred Music

Holy Saturday – 7:45 PM at the home of Judy and Doug Frey, 55207 Broughton in Governor's Club, Chapel Hill; 919-928-8749; Dinner of Soup and Salad, Music from Suzanne Mays and Joanna Carey, readings and discussion;

Easter Sunday – 6 :58 AM – at the home of Judy Frey - Sunrise Observance, followed by Singing and Breakfast

Dear Friends,

Once again you are all invited to celebrate Easter Saturday and Sunday at the home of Doug and Judy Frey. We will gather together at **7:45pm on Saturday evening**. There is not yet a program planned, but perhaps there will be music and discussion. Afterwards there will be soup and bread. We will return **early Sunday morning** to joyfully welcome the arrival of the Easter Sun/Son with togetherness and good will followed by breakfast. The celebration of our Lord's sacrifice to the sheaths of the earth and the human body is especially anticipated this year after the suffering in Haiti, the worldwide economic tensions, religious anxieties, the long, cold winter and the general unrest. When we take deeper looks at each of these things, we cannot help but find signs of Him even there, comforting, lifting, laughing and suffering along with us. Let us all gather to take comfort that He is with us always as He promised. You are invited to spend Saturday night if you wish. Please arrive early on Sunday morning, as the Sun will not wait for latecomers, even though the Son will. Please call **928-8749** to reserve a room or floor space. I Hope you will come. There is no need to bring anything to either of these two gatherings except yourselves and your good will. Blessings!



Tissot's "Touch Me Not"

Judy and the Festivals Committee



Rev. Nora Minassian will be giving
a Talk on

“The Path of the Cross”

How can we understand and
experience pain and suffering in our
modern times in the footsteps of the
One carrying the Cross?

Saturday March 20, 7:30p
New Hope Camp Fleming Building

Please help us welcome Nora Minassian to North Carolina and join us for some of the Christian Community NC Triangle Affiliate events during the weekend of March 19 - 21.

**WEEKEND SCHEDULE FOR The Christian Community
Friday 3/19/10 – Sun 3/21/10:**

Friday 3/19 and Saturday 3/20 (all day as scheduled in advance):

Sacramental Consultation or other private conversations

Private conversations with Nora. Consultations will be at the home of Margit Gratzl, 519 Wheeling Circle in Durham. NOTE: Margit is scheduling the consultations. Please call her at 493-2925 or email at mgratzl@nc.rr.com as far in advance as possible to reserve your time with Nora.

Friday evening, 3/19, 7:30pm:

Conversation led by Nora, **“Christian Community 101”**. Nora will introduce herself, answer our questions about The Christian Community, and give us news of the wider movement. It is a wonderful evening of learning and sharing, and we strongly encourage you to attend. This evening will be hosted by Linda Folsom, 3118 Dixon Dr. Durham, 919-493-8323 or email lfolsom@nc.rr.com. Please note: You do not need to bring anything. A dessert and beverages will be served.

Saturday, 3/20, at 7:30p: Priest Talk: “The Path of the Cross”: How can we understand and experience pain and suffering in our modern times in the footsteps of the One carrying the Cross?

A Talk by Nora Minassian. All are welcome. Held in the **Fleming Building** at New Hope Camp, 4805 Highway 86, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Sunday, 3/21: in the Fleming Building at New Hope Camp

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 Child Care 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 years old).

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 meet Nora and all the members of the community. Brunch will be in the **Oak Building**.

Note: Please do not park in the Church parking lot at new Hope. There is parking further down the road by the campsite. For map and directions: www.newhopeccc.org

Welcome, Reverend Nora Minassian - Our New Co-Priest From the Washington D.C. Christian Community

This month the Christian Community will be welcoming a new priest to our community. She is Rev. Nora Minassian. She is not taking the place of Rev. Patrick Kennedy, but will be sharing duties with Patrick on an alternating basis. Nora arrives on March 19. Her complete schedule is on page 10.

Nora has quite a fascinating biography. She was born in Syria to an Armenian family. She discovered Anthroposophy while attending the Armenian Apostolic Church. Nora promises to give more details about how she found Anthroposophy and the Christian Community at Friday night's conversation. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and Engineering and a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology. For 12 years she worked in Silicon Valley in technical and managerial roles in Software Quality Engineering. She then went for Waldorf Teacher training. After that, she decided to become a Christian Community priest and studied at the seminaries in Chicago and Germany. She fulfilled her practical year in the Kwa Zulu, in the Natal community in South Africa. Nora was ordained the weekend of the Ascension (May 23-24) 2009 in Berlin. Nora's favorite pastimes include: reading, hiking, playing chess, "watching snowflakes fall (rather a new pastime for me)", playing ping pong, visiting friends, BBQ-ing, swimming, camp-fire conversations and singing. Nora is enjoying living in Washington D.C. and found the recent snow (30 Inches!) "extra special". She finds the community in Washington to be "warm and welcoming, inspiring and courageous". We hear that the feeling is quite mutual. Let us roll out the red carpet for Nora. She is truly a woman of great knowledge, experience, talent and strong heart forces. We are so fortunate to have not one, but two such excellent priests serving our community!



Reflections on Passiontide

Many of us are familiar with the Christian season of Lent. In the Christian Community, this time is known as Passiontide—the four weeks preceding Easter. The colors of the altar and vestments are black. When we next celebrate the Act of Consecration of Man on March 21, we will be in the midst of Passiontide. Below is a homily for the season by Rev. Cynthia Hindes.
– **Linda Finigian**

A Homily for 4th Passiontide Sunday, Palm Sunday

The reading of the Gospel: Matthew 21: 1-11

This mysterious picture – Christ Jesus asks for a donkey and its foal to be brought to Him. Upon them He will ride into Jerusalem, the city of peace. Why donkeys? Why two?

Francis of Assisi famously called his body Brother Donkey. The donkeys of our bodies are the earthly means of conveyance for our souls and spirits. By nature, the donkey is stubborn and willful. For most of us, if the body decides to go somewhere, say, into illness, it is about all we can do to hang on for the ride.

Christ chooses donkeys as His means of conveyance to picture the final phase of His incarnation. He is choosing the human body as the instrument of His final battleground. His triumphal entry into Jerusalem foretells His full entry into the body of Jesus. He rides the donkey of the physical nature, both the old body, and the new immortal one he will inhabit at His resurrection. The people sense this; but their jubilation is premature. These two 'donkeys' are carrying Him where He wants to go – deeper into the body, into the suffering, even into the death that the body offers. Rejoicing will be appropriate days later when the body has been transformed at the Last Supper into a new form; when His suffering has borne fruit; when death has been overthrown because He has wrested human immortality from the death of matter.

His body has become transformed. At the Last Supper and its iterations, He wields the power to make bread and wine into His body and blood, so that He can feed us His own immortality. With His help, we too can make our sufferings fruitful. Through our connection with Him, bit by bit, we can build the new body that is not subject to death, the Christ-body that comes to life in us, through us, in our offering.

* * * * *

All Welcome to A Meeting on “Renewing the Culture of Death” March 17, 2010 7- 9 PM at Jenny Bingham’s

Renewing the culture of death is crucially important in our time. Indigenous cultures have never abandoned practices of honoring death with as much ritual as birth. It is only in our youth-addicted culture that we have allowed death and the caring for our dead to be minimalized. I am proposing an initial gathering and conversation to transform our understanding of the event of death in hopes that this can lead us to a renewal of the practical ways we work with the dying. The goal is to build up a culture that can contribute to a deep sense of healing and closure with those who have crossed the Threshold.

It is my hope to connect with others who are drawn to this work. I have just relocated from Pennsylvania where I have arranged workshops and started groups helping families care for their own at death, as well as working for hospice and bereavement groups. Please come to the following meeting if you are interested:

March 17th 7-9 pm

Jenny Bingham 208 Murray St, Hillsborough 27278

contact email: jennybingham@yahoo.com

home phone: 919 241 4304

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE AND BODYWORK



My name is Paula Coughlin. I am a Licensed Massage and Bodywork Therapist and a new ASNC member. My mission is to help people find balance in their lives. I have been serving the Triangle community since 1993 and have worked with thousands of clients including people with disabilities, those going through cancer treatment, to others managing Parkinson's, Arthritis or MS. My treatments (Therapeutic Massage, Fascial Conduction, Craniosacral and Energy Work) are deeply rooted in science yet delivered artfully and with grace. 90 minute sessions cost \$90.00 or a sliding scale may apply. I would like to offer the community a special discount of \$50.00 for the first session. Please call 919-384-1434 or paulacoughlin@aol.com.

BIODYNAMIC PRODUCE AVAILABLE LOCALLY

Hopefully many of you got to hear Rob Bowers talk about Biodynamic Agriculture at the Emerson Waldorf School on February 23. He and his wife Cheri are truly dedicated to this healing of the earth and to growing the most healthy food possible.

Rob and Cheri Bowers own Whitted-Bowers Farm, a certified biodynamic fruit farm in Cedar Grove. They are excited about the upcoming season. This year, based on feedback from customers at markets, Rob and Cheri have decided to offer more specialty vegetables throughout the season. They will be at the **Carrboro Farmers' Market on Wednesdays** and **Saturdays** and at the **Eno River Market in downtown Hillsborough on Saturdays**. While everything is weather dependent, the Bowers expect to be at the markets beginning in mid-April with asparagus, specialty greens, cabbages, sugar snap peas and radishes.

Sometime around late April, the strawberries will be in through early June and the pick-your-own will be open! During the summer, the farm will feature heirloom tomatoes, heirloom melons, blackberries, seedless table grapes, blueberries, and figs.

As the fall approaches, the farm will feature specialty storage crops like heirloom winter squash, salsify, scorzonera, parsnips and different varieties of sweet potatoes.

Whitted Bowers Farm will be one of the featured farms on the annual Carolina Farm Stewardship Tour April 24-25. Be sure to check it out!

Keep track of what is happening at the farm by visiting their website www.whittedbowersfarm.com.



Rob Bowers at the Hillsborough Farmers Market

WATERCOLOR WORKSHOPS WITH CAROL BRICK CONTINUE MARCH 6 AT CAMP NEW HOPE



Fifteen people gathered on February 13 for the first water color workshop in a series of five at Oak Lodge in Camp New Hope. The workshops are sponsored by the ASNC Arts Council and Carol Brick is the instructor. We began exploring the world of color through the indications given by Goethe and Rudolf Steiner. Luster colors were the starting point for this exploration.

We found the room to be a wonderful light-filled space for painting and working with prisms as a start to Goethe's color experiments.

The next workshop will be **March 6** at Oak Lodge in Camp New Hope. Each workshop will be a unique experience and can be attended whether or not one attends any of the others, which will be held **April 10, May 8, and June 19**. No previous experience is necessary to attend this workshop. It is very helpful if you register in advance so that we can have the necessary materials ready for you.

Register by calling the class instructor Carol Brick at **336-694-5493** or Margaretta Bornhorst at **919-824-7337**

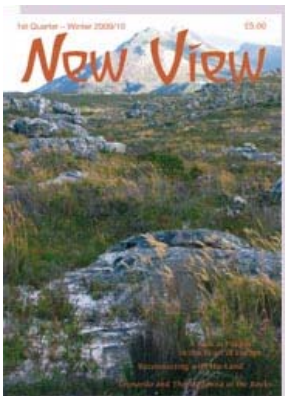
Cost for one workshop is **\$35.00 plus \$4.00** supply fee. Please **make checks payable to ASNC** and pay at the door.

**ALL ARE INVITED
TO THE NEXT ASNC BRANCH MEETING AND POTLUCK
SATURDAY APRIL 24
3-6 PM
AT THE HOME OF PEG CARMODY
11 Bolin Heights Rd.
Chapel Hill, NC
Discussion will continue about the Being of our Branch**

.....

**HAITI BENEFIT AUCTION
SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2010
CARRBORO CENTURY CENTER
CARRBORO, NC
7-11 PM**

Music by local band the LIDS and EWS Jazz Club
All proceeds will be sent to Oxfam America Haiti Relief Fund. If you cannot attend, consider making a donation. It should be sent to:
Oxfam America
C/o Sara Pearson-Moyers
3609 Pasture Rd.
Hillsborough, NC 27278
For more information, contact sarapearsonmoyers@gmail.com



New View is one of the most beautiful, if not *the* most beautiful Anthroposophical magazine ever published. It would have made Rudolf Steiner very proud to see this magnificent tribute to Anthroposophy. Yet, like most businesses today, it is struggling economically to keep afloat.

To ensure that this wonderful magazine will continue, it needs more subscribers. We hope that you will consider subscribing to *New View* and maybe even giving it as a gift subscription to someone you know appreciates beautiful art and spiritually progressive ideas.

New View is published four times per year and costs 30 pounds or about \$45.

To subscribe, go to www.newview.org.uk or write to:

**Tom Raines, Editor
New View Publications Ltd.
39b Tanza Rd.
London
NW3 2UA**

NEW FOUNDATION STUDIES PROGRAM BEGINS IN ASHEVILLE ANTHROPOSOPHICAL COMMUNITY

The anthroposophical group in Asheville welcomed 34 participants to its new Foundations Studies program, which began on January 23, 2010. The day opened with a talk by Rick Spaulding on "Ralph Waldo Emerson, the Bridge to Anthroposophy for Americans: His Masterwork, *The Natural History of the Intellect* as the Forerunner of *How to Know Higher Worlds*".

The Foundation Studies program is sponsored by the Center for Anthroposophy which is led by Barbara Richardson. The local program in Asheville is coordinated by Marie Davis.

The Foundations Studies lessons are held on Saturdays from 10 am to 6 pm at the Buckeye Cove Community Center in Swannanoa. Each session includes Eurythmy led by Elizabeth Gilbert, followed by Form Drawing. Classes for the first semester include:

February 20	<i>How to Know Higher Worlds</i> and story telling with Carol Triggiano
March 20	<i>How to Know Higher Worlds</i> with Margaret Heath
April 17	<i>How to Know Higher Worlds</i> with Margaret Heath
May 15	<i>Anthroposophy in Everyday Life</i> with Douglas Gerwin

If you are interested in learning more about this program, contact Marie Davis at:

marieoliviadavis@gmail.com or 828-273-5647

or contact Barbara Richardson at brichardson@centerforanthroposophy.org or 207-865-6482

ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY RECOGNIZES NEW GROUP IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Congratulations to "Anthroposophy Atlanta" on becoming an officially recognized group of the Anthroposophical Society in America! The group began meeting in October of 2006 and consists of up to 20 attendees at its Wednesday evening Study group. They meet at the Academe of the Oaks High School, which is the sister school of the Waldorf School of Atlanta. In September of 2006, this group co-sponsored a conference on the Michaelmas Impulse with the Traveling Speaker's Bureau and over 150 people attended! In 2008, they again co-sponsored a conference with the TSB on "The Consciousness Soul" that drew over 100 attendees. They also had a conference with Marko Pogacnik on his Sacred Geometry. The contact person for the group is Eva Handschin.

We are especially pleased to see how Anthroposophy is growing in the South. There are now several members in Alabama and there are at least two Study groups in South Carolina. The weekend of March 19-21 there will be a large conference of Florida anthroposophists, which ERC member Kathleen Wright will attend.

- Kathleen Wright

FIVE BIODYNAMIC WORKSHOPS AT THE FLOYD COUNTRY STORE:

“Biodynamics Today: Revelations and Realities”



Presenters:

**Hugh Courtney of the Josephine Porter
Institute**

**Gunther Hauk of Spikenard Honeybee
Sanctuary**

Jeff Poppen of Long Hungry Creek Farm

February 27: “Let’s Talk Gardening” - Jeff
Poppen

April 10: “Composting...Doesn’t Just Happen!” -
Courtney and Hauk

June 12: “Rarely Used Tools” – Gunther Hauk

September 25: “Making the Autumn BD Preps”

- Courtney and Hauk

November 13: “Food Does Matter!” - Gunther Hauk

Participants are invited to arrive on Friday and enjoy the Friday Night Jamboree at the Floyd Country Store: (www.floydcountrystore.com)

Saturday Schedule:

8:00 am - Registration

9:00 am -12:30 pm – topic of the day

12:30-1:30 pm - lunch on your own

1:30- 5:00 pm - practical activity on the topic of the day

Cost: one workshop: \$65; \$45. for students and apprentices

Complete course: \$190; \$140. for students and apprentices

Meals: there are several restaurants within walking distance

Snacks, coffee and tea will be served at breaks.

Lodging: Information at : www.visitfloyd.org

Floyd’s green hotel: Hotel Floyd: www.hotelfloyd.com

Directions: The Floyd Country Store
206 South Locust St., Floyd, VA 24091

Tel.: 540-745-4563; www.floydcountrystore.com

More Events at the Floyd Country Store Sponsored by Spikenard Farm:

**“The Plight of the Honeybee”
Colony Collapse Disorder,
a blessing in disguise
A Talk by Gunther Hauk**

**March 9, 2010
7 PM
at the Floyd Country Store
206 S. Locust St.
Floyd, VA 24091**



April 17-18 Informational Meeting : Learn about the Little River Valley Initiative in Floyd
April 23-24 Beekeeping Workshop: “Toward Saving the Honeybee”
May 22 Beekeeping Workshop: “Expanding the Apiary Naturally”
August 21 Beekeeping Workshop: “Honey Harvest, Mite Treatments, Winter Preparation

For more information, check out the website at www.spikenardfarm.org



The Beekeeping workshops above are given by Gunther Hauk who has been a teacher, gardener, lecturer, biodynamic gardener and beekeeper for 35 years. In 1996 he co-founded the Pfeiffer Center in Chestnut Ride, NY and in 2006 he and his wife Vivian Struve-Hauk founded Spikenard Farm, Inc. The Spikenard Honeybee sanctuary is in Floyd, VA. Gunther has written a book *Toward Saving the Honeybee* (2002) in which he calls for radical change in beekeeping methods. It is available from Steiner Books.

Check out also the documentary by Taggart Siegel “Queen of the Sun”, which features Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary at www.queenofthesun.com or www.collectiveeye.org

Also of interest: a sustainable community is forming in Floyd, VA on 200 acres with about 20 housing sites. Check out: www.floydcommunity.com
Meeting March 13-14 for those interested.

*The following letter was sent out by the Trustees of Emerson College to announce its closing. Following this sad news, however, many people have stepped to the fore and offered solutions for revitalizing and transforming the campus and its college. Let us hope that these new ideas will bear fruit, for it would be a tragic loss for the world if the college were to completely dissolve and be sold to developers. We will keep you posted about further developments. - **Editor***

DECISION BY EMERSON COLLEGE'S TRUSTEES TO CLOSE EMERSON COLLEGE

12 February 2010

Founded in the 1960s, Emerson College had a flourishing start and enjoyed great success in providing anthroposophically inspired adult education to students from all over the world. As such, the college has had a key influence in many people's lives. So often we have heard of stories that Emerson College was, or is, the impulse that transformed lives.

In recent years, the college has not been able to attract the numbers of students that it needs to run profitably. This has eroded its once sound financial base to such an extent, that we as Trustees, who were appointed in this position between September 2009 and January 2010, now need to focus on our legal responsibility to protect the creditors of the college which include the staff, the pensioners, the bank and other lenders and creditors.

Therefore, the Trustees of Emerson College Trust Limited have decided in their meeting on 12 February 2010 to close Emerson College in as orderly a manner as possible, to sell the assets of the college and repay the creditors. We have taken this decision to protect the creditors of the college which include staff and pensioners.

We do not see the student numbers rising quickly enough or with enough certainty to continue trading. With losses of about £80,000 a month we would continue to erode the position of Emerson's creditors which we are not prepared to do. Our balance sheet allows us to continue trading to the end of the academic year in June 2010 and we hope that this is what will **happen**. However, our liquidity position only allows us to continue trading for two more weeks without getting more cash in from asset sales. We hope to sell 8 Posthorn Lane within ten days which should allow us to continue trading until the middle of April 2010. So, if we want to keep the college open until June 2010, we need to sell more assets quickly or agree with the bank to lend us more to continue trading until June 2010.

We have also decided that it would not be correct to ask the Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain (ASGB) for financial support as (1) the original plan of ASGB buying the campus is not possible because it would result in negative own funds immediately and (2) we cannot with enough confidence say that with ASGB's money we will succeed to turn the college to profit.



For inquiries contact:
 Marc ter Kuile, Chairman of Trustees
 Phone: +44 (0)7590 673 598
 Email: marcterkuile@gmail.co

The following article was printed in Hudson NY's Register-Star newspaper. We thought it would be of interest to our readers, many of whom are getting close to retirement age, or have parents with increasing care needs. - Editor

Camphill elder care initiative picking up pace

By Bob Green

Saturday, January 30, 2010 2:14 AM EST

With an application now in the hands of the Ghent Planning Board, the pace is picking up for Camphill Ghent's Elder Care Initiative, a planned community for senior citizens to be located on 109 acres off Route 66. The project aims to provide a "continuum of care" to elders of all abilities and income levels, who frequently lack alternatives to a nursing home, even when they could be at least partially self-sufficient.

The developers are associated with Camphill Village USA, an innovative community in Copake where more than 100 disabled adults live and work in an integrated setting that also includes non-disabled residents and their families. All share in household and community responsibilities. But as residents of the village have aged, they face the same limited options as everyone else.

Now the village is drawing on its principles and experience to create a new aging-in-place alternative, both for its own and for other Columbia County residents, especially those of low and moderate income.

"We've been struggling with questions of aging for 20 years" said Jeff Sexton, a member of the Camphill Ghent Executive Committee, composed mostly of officials of Camphill Copake. They intend to "extend the social-therapeutic model" from Camphill Copake in order to "address the needs of the frail" in an "integrated mutually supportive" setting, he said.

Three housing options are described in the documents submitted to the town last month. "Adult Care" includes a mix of assisted living and adult home units. "Co-housing" is collaborative housing in which residents "operate their own neighborhoods" and provide support services to each other. There will also be "independent cottages", as well as a community center and medical offices that will be accessible to the wider community.

While both programs share the Camphill mission to "enhance the lives of people in need of services and supports for daily living", there will be a number of differences between the existing site for disabled adults in Copake and that which is now planned in Ghent for senior citizens.

In Copake, much care is provided by what are known as coworkers, individuals who volunteer for varying stints, including 58 long-term volunteers, some veterans of 20 years or more, and 34 short-term volunteers, who may come through Americorps, or from countries like Germany where mandated national service can be fulfilled by volunteering abroad. Twenty-seven employees in Copake make up around one quarter of staff, but in Ghent, more like two thirds of the staff will be hired from the surrounding community, Sexton said.

The new facility will also benefit from a more diverse funding stream. Less than half of Camphill Copake's revenue comes from the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD), according to Sexton. The rest must come from grants and private fundraising. But the new facility, by serving a wider population, can integrate funding from the different agencies that fund different populations.

"It's a joint conversation with both departments, we are trying to interconnect what are usually separate silos," he said, referring to OMRDD's role in funding the disabled, while the Department of Health (DOH) funds nursing home and assisted living programs.

In addition, funding will also come from Medicare, Medicaid, and "Private Pay" residents. This model can "create efficiencies for the state and deliver a high quality of care" at the same time, according to Sexton.

The construction will be financed by a Health Care Efficiency and Affordability grant of \$9,624,788 from DOH, from a "capital campaign", and from borrowing, now estimated at \$4.8 million for 30 years at 6 percent, according to the project narrative.

With the cost of phase one estimated at around \$20 million in the Autumn 2009 edition of the village newsletter, that leaves \$5 million to be raised for the Ghent initiative. The same newsletter said that Camphill Copake had raised \$1.5 million of its \$1.75 million goal for the fiscal year.

Sexton says this approach to elder care could result in “wider cultural change”. Along with its programmatic and financial innovations, the project will employ “environmentally sustainable construction and green technologies, producing much of its own organic food supply and serving as responsible stewards of the land”, according to documents.

As a Planned Residential District, in which clusters of homes are surrounded by offsetting open space, the application first required review by the Town Board, which last month voted to refer it to the Planning Board, where it will be discussed at several upcoming meetings. Sexton says the overall density is around 7 percent, which he said is “low”.

Michael K. Sullivan PE of Crawford Associates is handling the application for Camphill, and he is already working with the Planning Board. “They asked for elevations to get a better idea of what the buildings looked like”, he said, and he thinks they will like what they see. “Our landscape architects have been very sensitive,” he said. If this application is successful, then a site plan review by the town will follow. Like the Price Chopper project currently under discussion in Chatham and Ghent, water and sewer could both be issues.

The developers have numerous organizational partners including health care and housing consulting firm Chi Partners, architectural and design firm Perkins Eastman, legal advisors Manatt, Phelps and Phillips, and design consultants Camphill Architects. General contractor Lecesse Construction is based near Rochester, and landscape architects Dirtworks have offices in New York City.

The picturesque agricultural site is behind the former Borden milk factory off Route 66 in Buckleyville, and includes an enormous old red dairy barn. Pub-goers in Chatham Village on a recent afternoon expressed hopes it could be saved, but no one was giving odds.



**“CONFRONTING THE FUTURE:
Templar Influences in the 21st Century”
KNIGHT’S TEMPLAR CONFERENCE
AT EMERSON COLLEGE, SUSSEX UK
AUGUST 16 – 22, 2009**

Recollections by Brenda Agar Hollweger

During the conference, I stayed at Emerson College, a beautiful setting in the heart of the English Sussex countryside, arriving late Sunday afternoon by train from London. The conference was organized around the theme of seeing/feeling/furthering in modern times, certain resonances or reflections of the contributions the Knights Templars made to humanity back in medieval times. The days were divided into morning/evening lectures, morning workshops, lunch and artistic workshops in the afternoons. Prior to each talk, one singer or a small group would present some of the ancient troubadour music, such as “Song to the Virgin Mary.” We also had opportunities for forums, and informal discussions. Wednesday afternoon was an optional visit to the Templar site of Shipley, West Sussex, and we were blessed with plenty of sunshine! Some of the evenings were given to further talks, informal discussions and music or other performances. Prior to the conference, some participants had already been on a

separate trip to Argyll to visit Templar sites, which apparently had been a little cold and wet!

I was awakened by the birds in the trees outside my window each morning and soothed to sleep by the day's events and the peaceful night air outside.

We had presenters from Europe, the US and the Southern Hemisphere, and students from all corners of the globe. Although only about 200+ people attended, it was richly cultural, and I even met up with a few old friends from the UK, US and Canada.

I opted to attend a morning workshop by **Christine Gruwez** – “Modernity, the Consciousness Soul and the Initiation into the Mystery of Evil” (The connection of the Templar Knights with the stream of Manichaeism and the spiritual significance of this for today) – an extremely popular course. This was extraordinary, as we delved deeply into the problem of evil. The most significant and comforting observation for me was “Through the inner experience of Evil, Christ is able to manifest in the Etheric”.

My afternoon artistic workshop was “Storytelling” with **Peter Snow**, who knows Rosslyn Chapel like the back of his hand, who led us in creating stories inspired by the tales of the chapel. Fun and often very deep for some, as we sat in a circle in a lovely classroom in a small separate building among the trees.

The talks were all rich in their separate ways:

Alfred Kon (UK) lead the charge on Sunday evening, with a wonderful talk on “Knighthood’s contribution to Future Spirituality” (from the Round Table to the Foundation Stone and Celtic Christianity’s contribution to Anthroposophy) He talked of the esoteric and exoteric (often falsified) histories, challenging us to be our own Parzival, and also to take our own histories, and history as we have been taught it into sleep...in other words to work on our karma and uncover the truths that have not been taught us. In this way, he said, we can, as the Knights attempted to do, create a truer and purer future.

Next day, we heard **Horst Biehl (GERMANY&UK)** who talked of “The Knights Templar in Britain”, who took us on a beautifully illustrated tour into the esoteric and exoteric history of the British Templars. There is evidence of them in such diverse places as London, Oxfordshire, Sussex and Edinburgh. They also acquired property in the Southeast, Northeast and the Midlands too, enriching the land, by draining and clearing areas for sheep farming, etc. They were given predominantly less-valued land, from which they garnered huge profits by their diligence in building and upgrading, and giving work to many. We heard mainly the exoteric history here with some references to the esoteric and the evil of Philip the Fair and his Pope Clements.

Tuesday morning was our emcee’s turn – **Richard Ramsbotham (UK)**(author of “Who Wrote Bacon?” Richard is an actor, scholar and writer); “The Reappearance of the Templars in British Cultural Life” (The metamorphosis of the inspiration of the Knights Templar within British culture.). He had come across the Templars during research for his book, where he contends that James I was the spiritual inspiration behind Shakespeare (the artist) and Bacon (the scientist) and that James himself strongly reflected Knight’s Templar values, and was able to bring them forward through these two men.

Sylvia Franke (UK) : (Tuesday evening) presented “The Knights Templar and the Mission of Albion”. She spoke on the activities of the Templars in Shipley connecting us with an impulse still waiting to find fulfillment in these islands (GB). This was a preparation in part, for our trip on Wednesday afternoon. Shipley was a major seat of the Knights Templar and paved the way for Freemasonry today. She also feels there is a connection to Shakespeare, Byron and the cabalistic eight-sided Elizabethan Globe theater and that here, there is a huge cultural heritage waiting to be worked with.

Rolf Speckner (GERMANY): (Thursday morning) spoke on “The Meaning for Today of the Destruction of the Knights Templar” (the metamorphosis of exotericism of the Templars into the 21st Century) The talk was concerned with Solomon’s Temple and its comparison with the human being as a temple of light and wisdom...a very thoughtful and rich talk. Philip the Fair in trying to destroy the “I”, tortured the Knights Templar, a reflection of this being seen in Hitler, waterboarding etc. in the current centuries. We have much to deeply ponder here and learn from the final actions of some of the Templars in recanting what was said under torture, and speaking truth to evil.

David Lenker (USA): (Thursday evening) presented a talk entitled “Templar Courage Comes of Age” (Inner armor and the Michaelic renewal of the Temple, economy and community life) David talked of the history of the US and William Penn’s influence, through to the modern “threefold-style” business of Milton Hershey of chocolate fame: a great story of goodness in business life...building a village and community resources for his workers etc. David proposed that Hershey was a reincarnated Templar Grand Master.

Jaap van der Haar (HOLLAND): (Friday morning) offered :“Finding Inspiration for the 21st Century from the Knowledge of the Templars” (Crisis and possibility in today’s cultural, political and financial situations) Jaap is an entrepreneur (renting out land to farmers at a reasonable price), a businessman (operates several non-profits, and sells real estate to well-intentioned people), and Treasurer for the Green Party in The Netherlands. He is also involved in providing aid to Africa and India, etc. He sees all these as an impulse of the Templars. He sees the Templars who were relatively small in number as having a certain kind of deep power and knowledge, in order to influence so many for so long. He felt it was probably inherent in the families or groups of families who held this impulse that they had some esoteric knowledge of Christ’s initiation, brought forward through many generations...a karmic evolution; that there was a special hierarchy, where the top echelon was very esoteric and hidden. Also he feels the need for humans to be inspired again in this 21st century, through Christ’s words “All these things I do, you can do and more.”, and through Steiner’s subsidiary exercises (“They work!”) but yet we must seek to develop our own. He noted Isadora Duncan’s dancing, which he felt was inspired by eurhythm. “If Steiner were alive today, he would be into electronics, etc. as he was a thoroughly modern man.” Develop ourselves, find our own temple and we will be healed. It’s the Templar impulse, and it means working with others. In finance, our central task right now is to remember that Philip the Fair destroyed the Templars for their gold (evil), whereas the Templars had inner enrichment (good). We are in that very place of balance between good and evil. We need to look to the truth by way of our own karma.”

Judith von Halle: (Wednesday morning) spoke on “Occult Rites and Impulses of the Templars”, independent spiritual research into the esoteric background and rites of the Templars and the significance of their demise.

This was the highlight of the whole week for most of the participants. A young woman, not yet out of her thirties, she apparently has experienced the Stigmata and has written several books on her spiritual research into the events surrounding Golgotha. Here she turns her attention to the inner rituals of the Templars. She spoke in her native German, with an English translator by her side, which made it easier to take notes as she stopped after each thought/idea was presented. Her explanation was that it was much easier for her to relate what she was seeing (in the present) to us in her own language.

She began with “The Spiritual Origins of the Templars”_ the rituals and historical impulses of the Brotherhood of The Holy Grail. This Brotherhood was not limited merely to Arthurian streams, but was a Cosmic Christianity through the ages. She told of the history going back to Golgotha, Joseph of Arimathea’s collecting of Christ’s blood and

taking it to Europe- the esoteric significance of that. This uniquely transformed the European soil, such that the ground was hallowed and human beings born there later were of a different consciousness. This was the GRAIL IMPULSE_– to bring Life Eternal, the Blood (Birth of the “I”) to work on our immortality. This early Christian teaching was of John and Cosmic Christianity, and manifested on an island, Laronne off the south coast of France, as a kind of Manichean approach. Sadly, this was later supplanted by the Roman Church, through those who had not witnessed the events of Golgotha, and thus the Cosmic nature of Christ. The Christianity of St. John therefore went underground to awaken later in human consciousness, such as the Knights Templar.

Then Judith went on to describe by word and diagrams on two chalkboards, (she is an accomplished architect) the inner sanctums of the Knight’s Templar and their hidden rituals as she was apparently seeing them as she spoke, and how they saved the teachings even at the end before the final tortures of the top echelon by the Catholic Church. It was an incredible story, which this brief recollection cannot capture in its depth and breadth. Suffice it to say, Judith believes through her own research, and backed by Steiner’s Spiritual Science that at the end, the last Grand Master called all his top preceptors together and they performed their final esoteric rites for the day, as a Reverse Ritual, thus sending their teachings back into the spiritual worlds and sealing them there for a future time when humanity was more developed and able to properly receive them. This would include their vast knowledge of money flow, the managing of lands and property, right employment of people, etc. Perhaps soon, will be that time. Let us pray that this is so!

(Brenda Holkweger is a student of Steiner’s who was born in the UK, but now resides in Chesapeake Bay in Maryland with her husband David. She and her husband both have an interest in the Templars. David and Brenda wrote an article about their trip to Greece which was led by Glen Williamson that appeared in the Fall-Winter 2009 issue of Evolving News for Members and Friends)

Coming this Summer....

Robert Powell Will Offer Two Workshops at the Emerson Waldorf School in Chapel Hill, NC:

“Sophia and the Spiritual Hierarchies”: a **Weekend Workshop** with Robert Powell, **July 23-25 2010**. Cost: \$200. Program Includes: Cosmic Dances of the Planets in Honor of Sophia and the Spiritual Hierarchies, “Approaching Sophia on Different Levels: Body, Soul and Spirit”, “Sophia and the Spiritual Hierarchies”, Sophia Grail Circle, “Sophia and Humanity, the Tenth Hierarchy”.

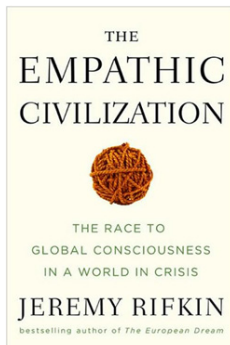
Friday, July 23, there will be an **evening lecture** at 7:30 PM at EWS for \$10. It is entitled “Sophia and the Spiritual Hierarchies: Wisdom for our Time”

“Cosmic Dance: A Path of Initiation”, A Weeklong Workshop with Robert Powell **July 26-30 2010**: Learn 21 of the 84 Cosmic Dances of the cosmic alphabet.

For information, contact Kelly Calegar at 919-824-9948 or kcalegar@earthlink.net

TWO NEW BOOKS HAVE THEME OF EMPATHY

The theme of Empathy that our community has been working on for over a year is turning up everywhere we turn lately. The following article by Arianna Huffington was posted on her website (The Huffington Post) for the month of February 2010. It is about a book on Empathy by the Social justice leader, Jeremy Rifkin. It feels like humanity as a whole is going through an initiation together as our consciousness is increasing no matter what spiritual path we are on, so long as it is a path of world good will. As we have written previously, the concept of empathy and the coinage of the word for it only came about in the year 1912 and now it is on everyone's minds. It is the force that we need to heal our ailing earth. - Editor



"For this month's HuffPost Book Club, I have chosen a big book -- both figuratively and literally. Jeremy Rifkin's *The Empathic Civilization* clocks in at close to 700 pages and sets out to present nothing less than -- as Rifkin puts it -- "a new rendering of human history and the meaning of human existence." This alternative history focuses not on the conflicts, antagonisms, and power struggles that have marked human progress, but on "the empathic evolution of the human race and the profound ways it has shaped our development and will likely decide our fate as a species." Empathy, Rifkin tells us -- and backs up with new scientific data -- is not a quaint behavior trotted out during intermittent visits to a food bank or during the Haiti telethon. Instead, it lies at the very core of human existence.

This is something I've long believed. Indeed, I dedicated a whole book to exploring what I called *The Fourth Instinct* -- that part of the human character that compels us to go beyond our impulses for survival, sex, and power, and drives us to expand the boundaries of our caring to include our communities and the world around us. And, in the 15 years since then -- and especially since the economic meltdown -- the role empathy plays in our lives has only grown more important. In fact, in this time of economic hardship, political instability, and rapid technological change, empathy is the one quality we most need if we're going to survive and flourish in the 21st century. It's important to keep in mind what empathy is -- and what it's not. It's different than sympathy, which is passive. "Empathy," explains Rifkin, "conjures up active engagement -- the willingness of an observer to become part of another's experience, to share the feeling of that experience."

But empathy is not just about feeling for another's suffering. As Rifkin points out: "One can also empathize with another's joy." Indeed, according to Rifkin, "empathic moments are the most intensely alive experiences we ever have. We empathize with each other's struggles against death and for life. One acknowledges the whiff of death in another's frailties and vulnerabilities. No one ever empathizes with a perfect being."

As he does in all of his work, Rifkin really swings for the fences in *The Empathic Civilization*, challenging us all to rise above the clutter of our daily lives, and explore life's larger questions. He is that rare breed, one whose disappearance is often and rightly bemoaned: a public intellectual. Or, as the *New York Times* once called him: "a social and ethical prophet." Aside from authoring 17 bestselling books, he's the president of the [Foundation on Economic Trends](#), an advisor to the European Union, and a senior lecturer at Wharton's Executive Education Program.

I chose *The Empathic Civilization* as this month's selection because, besides being a brilliant read and offering a vitally important perspective, it is the perfect companion piece to [last month's selection](#), Janine Wedel's *Shadow Elite: How the World's New Power Brokers Undermine Democracy, Government, and the Free Market*. While *Shadow Elite* lays out precisely who and what currently have a stranglehold on our political system, *The Empathic Civilization* shows us the way to decisively break that hold.

Rifkin divides the book into three parts. The first takes a look at the new scientific discoveries that lead to the conclusion that rather than being naturally aggressive, acquisitive, and self-involved, humans are "a fundamentally empathic species" -- what Rifkin calls *Homo empathicus*. The

second part charts the development of human empathy, "from the rise of the great theological civilizations to the ideological age that dominated the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the psychological era that characterized much of the twentieth century," and the emerging trends of the 21st century. In the third part of the book, Rifkin focuses on the nascent Third Industrial Revolution and the rise of The Age of Empathy. According to Rifkin, the progress of civilization has been a constant struggle between empathy -- increased human connection -- and entropy, the deterioration of the health of the planet. It is, quite literally, a race against time. "We are on the cusp of an epic shift," he writes. "The Age of Reason is being eclipsed by the Age of Empathy."

Rifkin believes this age will be defined by how well we navigate the massive changes in both information and energy technologies. He explains that every great leap forward in civilization has involved a combination of a communications revolution along with an energy revolution. For instance, the advent of the printing press provided the "means to organize and manage the technologies, organizations, and infrastructure of the coal, steam, and rail revolution." And each one of these leaps expands the circle of empathy -- from tribes, to nation-states, to continents and, if we're lucky, to the entire world.

We are currently going through a communications revolution like no other in human history. But, Rifkin warns, we must guard against universal connectivity becoming an end unto itself. "We talk breathlessly," he writes, "about access and inclusion in a global communications network but speak little of exactly why we want to communicate with one another on such a planetary scale. What's sorely missing is an overarching reason for why billions of human beings should be increasingly connected. Toward what end?... Seven billion individual connections, absent any overall unifying purpose, seem a colossal waste of human energy."

The *Empathic Civilization* is a fascinating book that boldly challenges the conventional view of human nature embedded in our educational systems, business practices, and political culture -- a view that sees human nature as detached, rational, and objective, and sees individuals as autonomous agents in pursuit primarily of material self-interest. And it seeks to replace that view with a counter-narrative that allows humanity to see itself as an extended family living in a shared and interconnected world."

Also, in connection with Empathy, another book came out in January, which I thank John Beck, Editor of Evolving News for Members and Friends for sending - Editor:

TEMPLETON BOOK FORUM

On January 6th, the Foundation hosted a Templeton Book Forum conversation between the eminent primatologist Frans de Waal and the science writer Carl Zimmer. In his new book, *The Age of Empathy: Nature's Lessons for a Kinder Society*, de Waal examines how empathy comes naturally to a great variety of animals, including humans.

Video clips from their exchange at the Harvard Club in New York City are now available on the Foundation's YouTube channel, which you can [find here](#). The discussion ranged widely, from the sense of fairness demonstrated by monkeys given [mere cucumbers when others receive grapes](#) to the ways in which [empathy can be put to dark purposes](#), as in the case of torturers and apparent psychopaths like Bernie Madoff.

Communications Department

John Templeton Foundation

The two poems below are printed with permission from the author, Ronald Milito, D. Ed. Biophysics. Dr. Milito is a student of Anthroposophy with a special interest in Steiner's threefolding philosophy. He has taught middle school, high school (both Waldorf and public), college and university courses in Biology, Mathematics, Health Science and Human Anatomy and Physiology. Currently he is writing a book on threefold patterns in anatomy. He has a website, www.mathsciencehelp.com which has articles he has written on homework, testing and grading, as well as poems of his. Ron resides in Phoenixville, PA. In our next issue, we will include two more poems of Ron's. - Editor

A Plea for Social Threefolding

inspired by Naomi Klein, Ellen Brown, and John Perkins
by **Ronald Milito, copyright 2010**

From invisible hand to Ayn Rand,
 Trumped up by the Friedman band,
 Reagan pushed it throughout the land.
 But not content to rule at home,
 The gospel was sent out to roam.
 Ensnare the world in hopeless debt,
 Wall Street had much more to get.
 "Free markets! Free markets" the gospel went
 "We'll bring you freedom with the money lent.
 We know our conditions will at first be painful,
 But in the end every so gainful."
 So populace after populace was brought to its knees,
 While lenders and leaders disregarded their pleas.
 "Just wait! Just wait! And you will see,
 How good in the end, things will be."
 And so the story goes on today,
 With the threat of force if you won't play.
 Did you think that they would just go away?
 And the only solution we can see,
 Is to take Rudolf Steiner quite seriously.
 The threefolding of society should enter our thought,
 And the battle of ideas should be bravely fought.
 Exposing injustices makes for rather useless starts,
 If we can't think the primal social thoughts
 deep within our hearts.

Hey Mister Corporation-Person

by Ronald Milito, copyright 2010

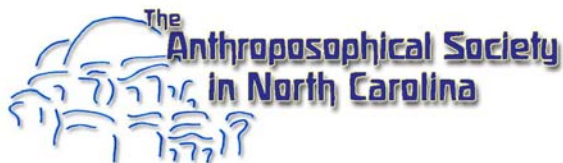
Hey Mister Corporation-Person, you think it's really grand,
 The way you gained a legal body all across the land.
 We see your rights expanding now to those of a real man,
 And becoming safe to do to us whatever it is you can.
 Do you thank God for the Supreme Court of these United States?
 And the Fourteenth Amendment that protects you from our berates?
 If you go to sleep at night do you breathe a sigh of relief?
 Because it's hard to oppose you with a legal brief?
 We see the mass of money readily at your hand,
 A single human being has little chance against your band.
 There are many times we sit and hold our heads in wonder,
 How our vaunted free democracy could make such a blunder.
 What kind of person are you enjoying im - mor - tal - i - ty?
 It's very hard to fight you even through posterity.
 You are a veritable Hydra growing back each cut-off head,
 And from the assassin's bullet you have nought to dread.
 No disease can kill you or bring you to your knees,
 Famines, earthquakes, and wars you survive with ease.
 But how this came about should really get one's goat,
 Thom Hartmann showed us how it sprang from a clerk's headnote.
 Such notes are not decisions and have no legal force,
 So how could later courts take a note as a matter of course?
 A legal soph - o - more could see this fal - la - cy,
 But not the Supreme Justices of a great democracy?
 On the horns of a shameful dilemma the Justices they must toss,
 Either they are corrupt or dunces at a loss.
 Their spouting mumbo - jumbo is used to intimidate,
 And to justify injustice as something really great.
 But the heartfelt sense of justice lives in every man,
 It's a sense that can't exist within the corporate band.
 Heartless, remote, and ruthless they can screw you from afar,
 And call it globalization, Yes! The world's their little jar.

They send their agents to Washington to regulate the law,
 Who cycle back to moneyed jobs through the revolving door.
 And so we see democracy is managed to the core.
 Republican or Democrat it seems a surface sham,
 As we see how a two party system soon becomes a scam.
 And now the very latest from five Supreme Court addled brains,
 Corporate campaign finance can be used to maximize gains.
 Even foreign corporate-persons can fund candidates of their choice,
 Have the Supremes provided foreigners with an electoral voice?
 But a darling corporate-person must have its personal right,
 While all we little humans must look on in fright.
 Our shining city on a hill is surely in a plight,
 And plunging rather quickly into the darkness of the night.

The Supremes' Reprisal

Oh you lowly peasants, you don't grasp free speech.
 Would you keep such rights, out of the corporate-person's reach?
 Oh you dastardly little tyrants, from YOU we must protect,
 Our poor abused corporate-persons who you would reject.
 We'll fight and fight forever to protect the corporate-person's rights,
 And work as hard to protect them from their piteous financial plights.
 Don't you understand their dire need to plunder?
 And take all that they want and tear you all asunder?
 Oh shame on you, oh shame! You ego-centric masses,
 Oh would you have us oppress these poor corporate classes?
 Don't hang your head sweet Liberty, fret not for such as these,
 We'll protect these corporate-persons and give them what they please.
 So let's hear it from you peons and give us your applause,
 As we mighty Supremes misinterpret another clause,
 To dismantle whatever protection is still within our laws.
 We'll never understand why YOU can't grateful be,
 For all our sweat and toil to make the corporate-person free.

<p>The Annual General Meeting of the Anthroposophical Society in North Carolina took place on February 27, 2010. There was not time to put a report in this issue. There will be a full report in our next issue, which will be out on May 1.</p>
--



The Sophia Sun

P.O. Box 16024
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
www.anthroposophyNC.org

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

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 and joining our list-serve at www.anthroposophyNC.org. **Note: On line, the newsletter is in color; mailed copies are in black and white, except for the cover.**

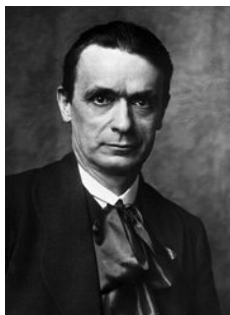
Submitting articles, letters and ads:

Please send UNFORMATTED text in Microsoft Word to kathleenwright51@peoplepc.com.
All calendar items and Study group information 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**

ASNC BOARD

President	Peg Carmody
Vice President	Nancy Willson
Secretary	Kathleen Wright
Treasurer	Peg Carmody
Members-at-large	Margaretta Bornhorst, Will Hicks
	Suzanne Mays, Edward Schuldt



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

