



# *The Sophia Sun*

Newsletter of  
The Rudolf Steiner Branch (NC) of  
The Anthroposophical Society in America  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Also serving groups and branches of the  
Southeast in Alabama,  
Florida, Georgia, Kentucky  
South Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia

SUMMER 2014  
VOLUME VII, NUMBER 3

## **Whitsun**

Thou Holy fire, making thy home in us,  
When we at peace can see and serve the truth,  
Make strong in us the memory of Christ;  
Bring to our tongues His World-renewing Word.

Thou gracious Light, uniting distant men  
In certainty on paths of active thought,  
Make clear to us the charge of destiny;  
Bring to our heads Thy World-renewing Hope.

Thou healing Breath, who in the body's depths,  
Restorest harmony with heaven's Will,  
Let live in us the order of the stars;  
Bring to our hearts their World-renewing Joy.  
~ Adam Bittleston



## ***In This Issue...***

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Farewell from the Editor

**Logo above "Woman Clothed With the Sun" by Baron Arild Rosenkrantz**

# Rudolf Steiner Branch Calendar June 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Greensboro SG- 3:30p	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Rose Cross SG- 7:30p	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> WHITSUN 3-5P Clemmons SG-6p	<b>9</b> Greensboro SG- 3:30p	<b>10</b> LANDS Group- 7p	<b>11</b> Rose Cross SG- 7:30p	<b>12</b> Reading to the Dead Group-7:30p	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Clemmons SG-6p	<b>16</b> Greensboro SG- 3:30p	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Rose Cross SG- 7:30p	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> St John's Celebration at Infinity Farm- 5:30p
<b>22</b> Clemmons SG-6p	<b>23</b> Greensboro SG- 3:30p	<b>24</b> St. John's Day	<b>25</b> Events Committee- 2:30p  Rose Cross SG- 7:30p	<b>26</b> Reading to the Dead Group-7:30p	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Clemmons SG-6p	<b>30</b> Greensboro SG- 3:30p					

## *From the Board*



As Peg Carmody wrote in her final "From the Board" as president of the Branch, we are going through a time of transition. Peg, Suzanne Mays, and Nancy Willson all departed after a combined board service of about 25 years. They have enhanced the life of the Branch and leave big shoes to fill. Will Hicks, Jon Lyerly, and Phyllis Morris have joined the board, bringing their invaluable energy and enthusiasm. Allen Barenholtz, Joanna Carey, Melanie Maupin, and Edward Schuldt are continuing their Board work.

The board has laid out for itself a challenging agenda for 2014 and beyond. The major points of that agenda are:

- **Enlivening the Branch work for its members.** This will begin with conversations that the Board will have with each Branch member. We are also hoping to speak with many friends and former Branch members. Contacting and speaking with each Branch member will take a considerable period of time; please know that you are on our list. If you would like to speak with us sooner rather than later, please contact Joanna Carey by email: joannapcarey (at) gmail (dot) com.
- **Creating stronger connections** between the Branch and the other parts of the anthroposophical community in our area.
- **Heightening the public profile** of the Branch. This includes examining in what way our website, newsletter, festivals, and events serve not only the membership but as outreach opportunities. We are particularly concerned, in addressing the public, with bringing Anthroposophy to the attention of people who are looking for it and have not yet found it.
- **Networking with other organizations** sharing our aims. We will expand the conversation with people in the wider community who are striving to meet the same social challenges that concern the Anthroposophical Society. Eve Olive has pursued such networking for decades. The work of Robert and Suzanne Mays with IANDS is a good example of this conversation.
- **Contacting other branches and groups** outside our area to understand their experience of working with Anthroposophy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and sharing our own.

We are looking for Branch members and friends to help with each aspect of this work. Please feel free to contact Edward Schuldt at edward.schuldt (at) gmail (dot) com if you would like to lend your strength and energy.

The officers for 2014-15 are:

**Edward Schuldt, President and Treasurer**  
**Will Hicks, Vice President**

**Phyllis Morris, Secretary**

Finally, we would like to thank Kathleen Wright for six years of unflagging service, not only on the Board and the Eastern Regional Council, but as Editor of the *Sophia Sun* as well. Her invaluable contributions have enriched our lives.

***Edward Schuldt***

## **Bon Voyage , Peg Carmody!**

Not only will Peg Carmody be stepping down from the Rudolf Steiner Branch's Board,



Peg will be moving away from the area as well. As most of you know, for the past few years Peg has been working on her PhD at UNC-Chapel Hill in hopes of becoming a College Professor. Now that her studies are completed, Peg needs to complete her dissertation. She realized that the most economical way to accomplish that is to move in with her sister and brother-in-law in Albany, NY. In addition to writing her thesis, Peg will be applying to colleges around the country and of course visiting her son Sean, his wife and the little Grandbaby, who just happen to live in Albany as well.

Peg has been in our community since 1984. She moved here back then to become the second kindergarten teacher at the Emerson Waldorf School. Accompanying her were her son Sean and the Mays family. Peg taught Kindergarten for many years and then switched to Middle School grades. After that she became a Social Worker, working first in Durham and then in Orange County.

We wish Peg the best of luck and fulfillment in all her future endeavors. She did much to improve the life of the branch here with her work as Board President for the past 6 years. She has also been very active in Festivals and Event Planning for many years and is a member of the School of Spiritual Science. She will be sorely missed.

Peg hopes that you will keep in touch with her. Her email address will stay the same: [mcarmody@nc.rr.com](mailto:mcarmody@nc.rr.com) . If she does change it, we promise to update you on the list-serve.

*~ Kathleen Wright*

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**SAVE THE DATE!!!!**

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN AMERICA  
WILL TAKE PLACE OCTOBER 10-12  
AT RUDOLF STEINER COLLEGE  
IN FAIR OAKS, CALIFORNIA**

## *All Are Invited to Share in the Observance of Whitsun*

**Sunday June 8, 2014**

**3-5 PM**

**At the Dogwood Lodge at  
Camp New Hope  
Chapel Hill, NC**

### *Program:*

**Music**

**Presentation by Edward Schuldt:  
“Parzival’s Whitsun Experience”**

**Experiential Discussion led by Lynn  
Jericho**

**Light Refreshments**



### *About the Presentation:*

#### **“Brother, Who are You?”**



This is the question Parzival is asked on Whitsunday after he has broken his sword in battle with an unknown knight and is about to die. But instead of killing him, Parzival’s opponent lays down his own sword and asks: “Who are you?” This knight, has, by the grace of God, given Parzival continued life and turns out to be Parzival’s own brother, Feirefiz.

What in Parzival’s life and Karma has led him to this Whitsun event? What happens inwardly on Parzival’s Path of Initiation in that moment? How does Feirefiz’s question make it possible for Parzival to then be called to the Grail Castle as its King; and what makes Parzival’s own question so potent that it heals the wounded Amfortas?

And most importantly for the social life of our time, how can we participate in the event of Feirefiz’s question in our own path of development?

Edward Schuldt will tell the story of what leads Parzival to the events that take place that Whitsunday. We will have a chance to discuss what happens to Parzival and his meeting with Feirefiz. In the second half of the afternoon, Lynn Jericho will lead us in activities through which we can participate in the experience that Parzival and Feirefiz shared, opening a window on the social dimensions of the individual esoteric path.

The Festival of Whitsun calls our souls to put forth effort and seek the highest expression of love through the experience of the Self and the Other. Please join us.



Please join us for the annual

## St John's Festival

Come out to Infinity Farm where the  
air is clean and clear

1600 McDade Store Rd, Cedar Grove,  
NC 27231

Hosts Joy and Bob Kwapien

Jon Lyerly

Phone: 919-732-1840

St John's is a joyful festival, a celebration of the Earth's breathing out into the cosmos. Our community has gathered annually at Infinity Farm to observe this occasion. Joy and Bob Kwapien have generously hosted year after year.

Treat yourself to a special evening and join us on June 21st. The whole family is welcome. **Please bring a potluck dish to share** and try to get there on time - it is a very full evening!

Music is an important part of any St John's celebration. If you play an instrument, bring it and we can sing-a-long.

### Order of the Evening, Saturday, June 21, 2014:

5:30pm: Potluck, making of sailboats

7pm: Program

7:30 Gather and walk down to pond

7:30p: Lighting of Bonfire

Setting off sailboats with the fleet for a magical sail

Music and Singing

Please bring flashlights, your preferred insect repellent, and a blanket or folding chairs for seating. Children are welcome and encouraged to come to the St John's Festival - it's for the whole family!

In the event of rain: use your judgement to decide whether to come out to Infinity Farm. We do not have shelter, so anything more than a light sprinkling will cancel the gathering. If you are in doubt, you may call Peg Carmody on her cell at 919-667-7324. Peg will make the final call about cancellation in the event of inclement weather.

## *In Memoriam:*

**Paul W. Scharff MD**

**August 5, 1930 - April 29, 2014**



Paul Scharff's death came as a shock to me, not because I was unaware that he had lymphoma since 2000, but because he was such a Giant of Will Forces, that I thought he should live to be at least 100! As just about every Anthroposophist in America knows, Paul is best known for being the founder of the amazing Fellowship Community in Chestnut Ridge, NY. I happened to be a co-worker there for three years many years ago, and Paul was my "sponsor" for joining the Anthroposophical Society (a practice that is no longer required) exactly 30 years ago, so I hope you will forgive the personal nature of this Obituary. I could have simply printed the dry facts from some other obituary, but I feel that articles written from the heart are best.

When I first met Dr. Scharff, I was very touched by how he managed to find the time to try to get to know new co-workers and to help them adjust to life at the Fellowship, which was by no means easy. To the outside world, it may have looked like "The Best Place on earth to live and die" as one NY newspaper characterized it, but living in community can, at times, be the "worst" place to live as well. Paul once told me that the average co-worker lasted just 18 months. One time shortly after I arrived, I had gone to him in tears because I had heard that someone had said some disparaging about me. He cheered me up by saying, "If you think it's bad what they are saying about you, look what they are saying about me!" I had to laugh because it was true what he said of himself. Whenever a person of his charismatic stature is known, they seem to acquire as many critics as admirers. (Look at how the members tortured dear Ita Wegman!)

Paul shared with me many spiritual conversations that I have never forgotten. One time he asked me if I knew the difference between the Individuality and the Personality, after I had complained about the abominable behavior of a very prominent anthroposophist. He told me that the Individuality is one's Ego, that lasts from life to life, but that the Personality is what manifests on the outside due to the hereditary forces. It evidences in one's temperament, and is chosen by the Individuality so that he/she may fulfill his/her destiny. Often one needs characteristics that the world may perceive as harsh in order to accomplish great deeds. He gave as an example Ehrenfried Pfeiffer, who had great difficulty in personal relationships and was despised by many; yet, Paul said, this man spoke to the angels; he accomplished incredible deeds. Rudolf Steiner had such faith in

Pfeiffer that when Pfeiffer was a very young man he gave him a long list of things he must do every day. When Pfeiffer replied that there aren't enough hours in a day to do all that Steiner asked of him, Steiner told him he needed to learn to do without sleep and he actually gave him exercises to help him accomplish that. Later on it occurred to me that what Paul said of Pfeiffer could also be applied to himself, for Paul Scharff was indeed a mighty Individuality, while his personality could be experienced by some as difficult. Though he never said it, I felt that the motto of his personality was: "No rest for the weary" and "Whatever doesn't kill you strengthens you!" In his defense, however, I must say he never asked of the co-workers what he hadn't been doing his whole life long – for in spite of terrible physical suffering (including ulcers, pernicious anemia and eventually lymphoma) and frequent inner turmoil and constant outer conflicts, Paul accomplished amazing deeds, and that is a gift for the Angels and a boon for one's Soul development.

What was it that formed Paul's Personality? For that information, I owe a wonderful conversation I had with his dear gentle Viennese Father, Fritz Scharff, who was a patient (known as a "member") at the Fellowship and passed away while I was there. I had asked Fritz how he came to Anthroposophy and if he had ever met Steiner. Although he had never met Steiner, he had the privilege of serving under Walter Johannes Stein during WW II in the German Army. Stein asked Fritz to read *Occult Science* and report back in a week about what he thought of it. Fritz replied: "I am sorry Sir, but it goes against everything I have been taught and believe". So Stein said: 'Read it again!' This same ritual occurred three times and finally Scharff said, "It's starting to make sense. Do you have any more books by this Steiner?" And so began a life time of devotion to Anthroposophy for Fritz, which he passed on to his son Paul.

Fritz also told me of how he met his wife, Georgiana, a midwestern American woman who was a medical doctor (a rarity for women in those days). They met on a ship bound for the US – he to emigrate there and she had just completed some medical training in Europe. One evening on board the ship, Fritz heard a woman shouting and he ran to see what was the matter. Georgianna was yelling at the ship's Captain for how dreadfully the animals on board were being treated. Fritz was impressed with the Spirit in this woman and so he began a conversation with her that basically, never ended.

Their first child was a boy named Karl who had severe epilepsy all his life. ( Like Fritz, Karl was a patient at the Fellowship when I arrived, and he passed away shortly before I left. He was 56 years old.) Paul was the second child born to Fritz and Georgiana. At age 13, Paul asked his parents if he could have a brother who wasn't sick all the time, and so they adopted a third son.

Paul described his Mother to me as a 'strict disciplinarian' but one who was incredibly devoted to her many patients whom she went to visit on horseback. Paul often accompanied his Mother on visits to her patients and from this came his love of medicine and helping people. Paul grew up on a farm and learned all manner of skills on it. From his Mother Paul received his incredible energy and drive to perfection, his stubbornness



, his tenacity and his veritable Mission in life. While Paul had many reasons for founding the Fellowship Community including his friendship with Dr. Linder, the first Anthroposophical physician in America, whose dream it had been to found the place, it was a combination of Paul's Mother's contracting polio and his brother's crippling epilepsy that eventually led Paul to realize it was his destiny. Georgiana and Karl were among the first members at the Fellowship.

Paul also mentioned that he felt that care of the elderly would be the greatest problem at the turn of the century when the "baby boomers" would be getting old. That is why he was so passionate about the need for founding communities for the elderly. He felt that insurance programs wouldn't be able to handle the expense of so many elderly and the care of them would degrade terribly, as it certainly has. Paul also felt strongly committed to the realization of the Threefold Social Order, and wished to govern the Fellowship Community according to its principles.

The Fellowship Community opened in 1966 (although the Scharffs arrived in Spring Valley – now called Chestnut Ridge – in 1959). Today there are approximately 70 elderly members and 60 co-workers and their children who reside there. It has grown immensely over the years, adding land, animals, buildings and tasks. There are a number of cottage industries there including a Printing House, a candlemaking shop, a weavery, a dairy, a wood shop and an education program for mentally and emotionally handicapped children known as the Otto Specht School; there is a small store called Hand and Hoe that sells their products. Virtually all of these were the brainchildren of Paul.

Dr. Scharff insisted from the very beginning that every co-worker should have a variety of work experience. No one should have to spend all day indoors in the hospital wing nor all day outdoors in the fields. Artistic work should also be part of one's work experience. One recalls Paul's own childhood – violin, voice and piano lessons, farm work, gardening, household chores, school, going with his Mother to see patients. Paul was a true Renaissance man and he wanted others to experience such a life as well. The Fellowship also held delightful Festivals for its members and children and there were innumerable Study Groups one could join.

In addition to the Fellowship Community, Paul had quite a resumé of service to Anthroposophy and to the world-at-large: He had a medical practice open to the public (and many of his patients, to my amazement, were Hasidic Jews!); He had training in Psychiatry, as well as Internal Medicine; he had worked previously as a doctor in a Women's Penitentiary; he formed the Fellowship of Physicians; he started ANTHA (The Anthroposophic Therapy and Hygiene Association; he was active in the Medical Section work of the Goetheanum; he wrote and published many articles and pamphlets; he trained co-workers in all aspects of care; he was a Class Holder of the School of Spiritual Science; he helped to establish the Collegium; Paul spent his life battling the dragons of the modern legal system and the dehumanizing of modern medicine. He helped to form "Patients Have Rights", a political action group; he worked to pass three

laws in NY to permit variances in the law to support care in a community (Paul had an ongoing battle with the state's regulations, most of which he won). He worked to promote two laws for freedom in health care (regarding complementary and alternative medicine)

Paul leaves behind his wife, right arm and Twin Soul, Ann, as well as their four children: Michael, Christopher, Katherine and John, plus innumerable grandchildren of whom I know very little.

One cannot help admire Paul's creative genius and the incredible vision that he was able to implement into reality. He was a profound scholar, a dedicated meditator, a warrior against the ahrimanization of medicine; an amazing intuitive; the corniest joker ever; he was Teacher and Father figure to all who worked with him and sometimes, like his Mother, he was a perfectionist, who seemed to demand the same of others, as well, and few could measure up. A great leader and activist is gone from us. May those who follow in his footsteps have the strength and will forces to carry on Paul's great Mission!

*~ Kathleen Wright*

**We are not granted**

**A rest on any step;**

**The active man must live and strive**

**From life to life,**

**As plants renew themselves**

**From Spring to Spring.**

**So must man rise**

**Through error to Truth,**

**From fetters into Freedom**

**Through sickness and through death**

**To beauty, health and life**

**~ Rudolf Steiner**

## Meet the New Development Director of the Anthroposophical Society in America



Deb Abrahams-Dematte has recently joined the Anthroposophical Society in America as Director of Development. Her task is to increase the visibility and success of fundraising and community building in support of the development, communication and practice of anthroposophy across the country.

She has been a consultant to Waldorf schools and non-profit organizations, and most recently served as Associate Director of Admissions at High Mowing School, the Waldorf high school for boarding and day students in Wilton, NH. For 10 years, Deb served as Director of Development, then Director of Outreach and Enrollment at Pine Hill Waldorf School, also in Wilton. She holds a BA in Political Science and Women's Studies from SUNY Buffalo, and recently was awarded an MS in non-profit

leadership from Marlboro College in Brattleboro, VT.

Deb first encountered Anthroposophy as a Waldorf parent in the 1990s, and from the earliest reading and study opportunities she encountered, found a rich and inspiring body of work from which to draw educational, self-development, and parenting guidance. Deb is excited to combine her interest in Anthroposophy with her skills and experience in fundraising and non-profit leadership in service to the growth and positive impact of Anthroposophy in our country.

Relationship building is at the heart of successful development work, and this is a passion of Deb's. Her professional work over the past many years has been focused on building community, facilitating effective organizational forms and generating positive social change. Over these past few months, she has been actively engaged in conversations and visits with members around the country, to learn more about what inspires us and to understand how the society can best serve the needs and intentions of our work together.

Gifts and membership to the society provide essential support for community building, research, study, and action. Current and future development efforts for the society will focus broadly on increasing this support so that the society will be successful and sustainable into the future. Working together on a national level, we can bring the fruits of anthroposophy more fully into our time.

Deb was raised in New York and has lived in New England for the past 25 years. She has two grown daughters who attended Meadowbrook Waldorf School in Rhode Island, and then Pine Hill Waldorf School and High Mowing School (classes of '08 and '11) in New Hampshire. She loves being in nature, yoga, gardening, reading, cross-country skiing, music, cooking, and spending time with friends and family. She and her husband continue to reside in Wilton, NH. Deb can be reached at [deb@anthroposophy.org](mailto:deb@anthroposophy.org).

# Steiner Library Needs Volunteers:

June 16th - 20th

Rudolf Steiner Library, Philmont, NY

The Rudolf Steiner Library is currently undertaking the momentous task of cleaning and repairing all its books in order to maintain and extend the life of this historic collection. For this, we need volunteers! Spend a week with us and gain valuable book repair and restoration skills, dive deep into conversations regarding the nature of books, and explore the Hawthorne Valley community... all while supporting the library! The conversation theme - "Tombs or Seeds?" - will provide a framework for deepening our relationship to the bound, written word and seeing how we can resurrect it within and between us. The average cost of housing and meals for the week is estimated at \$100, but we are working with a free culture ("give what you're able") model - suggested donations are therefore from \$0 - \$200. This work week is fast approaching so [register today!](#) Questions? Contact Lisa Damian at: [sunsongfarm@gmail.com](mailto:sunsongfarm@gmail.com).



*(And feel free to bring along a book of your own that you'd like to repair!)*

## News From Tennessee:

The Nashville Rudolf Steiner Group will join the Michael Study Group of Nashville for a Whitsun Festival June 8<sup>th</sup>.



On June 10<sup>th</sup> we will hold a special meeting for the passing of our friend and founding member Les Phillips. We will have a group circle.

The following meeting we will conclude the book *The Heavenly Sophia and the Being Anthroposophia*. We will follow up this reading with two lectures by Adriana Koulias: "The Earthly Eve, Heavenly Eve - Their connection to the Mystery of Isis- Mary -Sophia and the being Anthroposophia".

We will then take a break and return to meetings September 2 for the beginning of the book *Esoteric Christianity and the Mission of Christian Rosenkreutz*. The group meets ever other Tuesday 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church on Woodmont Blvd. For more information contact Cathy Green: [cgreen@grasslandaquatics.com](mailto:cgreen@grasslandaquatics.com)

## *News From Tammy Hughes in China*

A kindergarten community builds through many experiences, both happy and sad. Recently, our accountant's brother-in-law was killed in a car accident while on holiday. Our accountant is a very graceful and professional woman. It was not easy for my



Chinese colleagues to know how to help. It seemed that we could not do something to remind her of the loss. Then I thought, I could invite her for a meal. It seems a simple thing to do, but it is out of the ordinary pattern of our relationship. In this way, the lunch at this restaurant I call "The Castle" because of the fancy chairs and chandeliers was just right to acknowledge her loss and give her support in a way she could accept.

**Mrs. Zhao, the accountant; Shen Shan, my assistant and me (Tammy) at lunch.**

### **Biodynamic CSA Begins in China**

In April, I began to receive vegetables from a The Green Fields CSA who are working with biodynamic methods. In the beginning, 2 kilos were delivered Monday and Thursday to the kindergarten gate. The Chinese teachers and the guard at the gate were very curious about my ordering vegetables and it made for a great many conversations. For example, did I know how to cook Chinese food, or how could I eat so many vegetables and was I saving money. The food became a bit like weather conversations, I found a way to relate to more people than I previously had. Ordering the vegetables gave me an opportunity to let people know what I believed in as well. All these conversations were very beneficial to my Chinese and to my understanding of the Chinese people and hopefully helped the Chinese people to understand me. In addition, I came to understand myself better. The rhythm of receiving the seasonal vegetables with sandy dirt twice a week has been a blessing. I really had no idea about the soil in Hui Zhou, a couple hours away where my vegetables are grown. It really is some pressure to eat so many vegetables a week, so I regularly give away the vegetables I have not learned how to cook and the hot peppers. Now and again, I cook for the teachers, as my vegetables, I am sure, have more nutrition and love connected with them than those the teachers regularly eat. I have been told that the other CSA probably has cleaner land. I chose this CSA in order to support a Waldorf teacher's husband who started the farm. In this way, I really feel that the money I give is not connected to the vegetables. The money is to care for the farmers. This relationship has made it a very different experience when receiving the bag or box. It is easy to be grateful and easy to give to others. Now the great news is that so many people order from the farm that it can no longer be delivered to the tea shop. I have been given an opportunity for new conversations again.

I want to continue on with the theme of eating but in relationship to education. Are we chewing our food? Are we digesting our food? In China, it seems we are just rushing to take more and more in without having even begun to digest what we have taken in. There are so many workshops and trainings and many lectures and articles available to the Chinese people on wee chat. Google translate has made it possible for me to keep up on the language part, but on the soul level and practical level, I can't keep up. I can't digest so much. If I take so much content, even if it is meaningful content, there is still a limit to the inner reflection that I can give to the content. More importantly, I wonder: does such a flurry of educational news replace a "good solid meal" such as *Study of Man* or *Theosophy*?



Yesterday I made the effort to take the train to the next city to have brunch with colleagues. It was a great event as we are all busy, but we chose to make time for each other. A very unexpected conversation evolved during the day, which is a real spiritual nourishment for our work in Waldorf education. The sharing unfolded more and more as we talked about the film *Home Coming*. I believe the depth of the conversation evolved because the challenges we face in China are very real and present. Waldorf education is developing fast in a country where the events of The Cultural Revolution and Tiananmen are not so distant events, especially as we approach the twenty-fifth anniversary. In our conversations, we talked about the spiritual beings behind our schools. It was a refreshing and open conversation. My colleagues had faced great difficulties with the threat of the not yet licensed grade school being closed. The school had made numerous efforts to appease the government with gifts of red envelopes of money, but to no avail. Upon hearing this, a foreign mentor suggested to my colleagues that they consider the spiritual being who guides the school. From this point a colleague took up a meditative practice and within three months, the school received an education department head that did not need a red envelope, who applauded the school's work and declared its value. This department head vowed to keep the school open and find a way to help the school obtain a license.

The conversation gave me great courage for deepening my own work. It has left me with the question: how do we find our true colleagues with whom we can deepen our work.

*Tammy Hughes*

Shenzhen, Guang Dong , ( Southern China)

## *The School of Spiritual Psychology*

**Presents:**

### *The Angel of Memory: The Presence of the Heart Community of the Living and the Dead/*

**A Soul Retreat  
September 18-21, 2014  
Assisi Institute Retreat Center  
Rochester, New York**



Remembrance has always characterized a truly human way of maintaining connection with those who have died. It seems, though, to be an 'one-way' connection - they are gone, we remember them, it is all centered here.

This sense of memory is but one half, the earth-half, of a truly spiritual capacity. The other half is the livingness of memoria. Memoria is a spiritual capacity, but also the presence of the 'angel of memory'. This presence forms the more vivid sense of memory in its mythic, imaginal, and reverie dimensions, and invites us into the heart community of the living and those who have died. Through memoria we can easily be in living connection with our beloveds who have died, individually, but even more importantly, we will be in connection with the beloveds of all who come together in this retreat as a community of hope.

This Soul Retreat explores, through spiritualizing memory, the persons, places, dreams, the moments, when we have all experienced the breakdown of the illusory boundary between worlds. Through our very embodied and also spiritual explorations, we open the portal of the true import of this community - that it is for the spiritual furtherance of both the living and the dead, it is for the purpose of living as spiritual beings with the spiritual earth.

Through very simple practices of opening to the Divine Sensorium – the embodied, sensory, felt presence of the spiritual worlds as 'here' all the time, we will be in communion with our beloveds who have died, now in the context of the true Community of the Living and those who are within the Greater Life.

The location of this soul retreat is truly amazing. Rochester lies at the center of what has been termed the "Psychic Highway". The Fox sisters, for example, established Spiritualism in this region, which became a distinctly American cultural/spiritual movement. Other great spiritual researchers and practitioners such as Andrew Jackson Davis, lived and worked in this region. Frederick Douglas, the great abolitionist, fighter for freedom, is buried in Rochester. He is counted among the transcendentalists. Several churches of the spiritual movement still exist in Rochester, and a village of psychic practitioners is located near Rochester. We want to explore what it is about this region that opens so readily to the community of the living and those who have died.

Rochester itself is a living dedication to those who have died. We will do contemplative practices at the sites of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, The Victims Rights Memorial, The Aids Remembrance Garden, and the Remember Garden.

Here, in these communities of the dead, we will find our individual connections with those who have died will vivify in remarkable ways, as they invite us into the larger communion that is simply waiting to be noticed and waiting to be in helpful and healing relationship with us individually and also with our culture.

### The Facilitators

**Robert Sardello, Ph.D.**, is co-founder and co-director of The School of Spiritual Psychology, which began in 1992, and co-editor of Goldenstone Press. He is the author of nine books. He is a Founding Fellow of the Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture and a Master Teacher at the Center of Action and Contemplation.

**Cheryl Sanders-Sardello, Ph.D.**, is co-founder and co-director of The School of Spiritual Psychology, and a Fellow of the Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture. She is a teacher in the School and also administrative director. Her areas of writing and research are the development of the spiritual senses, a spiritual understanding of the primary illness of our time, such as Alzheimer's disease, and an understanding and methods of being with the 'so-called dead'.

**Paul Kuhl, LCSW**, lives in Rochester, NY where he worked for many years as a Youth and Family Therapist and studied and practiced Zen Buddhism. He has been deeply involved with the School of Spiritual Psychology since 2001 and is certified through the school as a Master Teacher of the Contemplative Living with Earth course."

### Registration

Fees: Retreat Fee - \$350

Room and Board - \$350 single room (7 available), \$300 per person, double room (2 double rooms available), \$275 triple room (1 available).

Additional rooms are available at a reasonably priced hotel nearby.

Commuters pay a commuter facilities fee - \$175, which includes lunches and dinners.

All meals are vegetarian and catered. We make our own breakfast.

The retreat begins at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 28. A light dinner is provided on the opening evening. The retreat concludes at 3 p.m., Sunday, September 30.

Directions to the Assisi Institute Retreat Center given upon registration and completing payment.

Inquiries: [soulschool@embarqmail.com](mailto:soulschool@embarqmail.com) [mail to: soulschool@embarqmail.com](mailto:soulschool@embarqmail.com)>

; phone: 919-207-0526



**The Alcyon Center  
in Seal Cove, Maine  
Presents  
“The Earth as ‘Divine Sensorium’”  
With Robert and Cheryl Sardello  
July 10-13, 2014**

“Just as in the body, eye and ear develop as organs of perception, as senses for bodily processes, so does a man develop in himself soul and spiritual organs of perception through which the soul and spiritual worlds are opened to him.” – **Rudolf Steiner**

with Robert and Cheryl Sardello July 10-13, 2014 (Thurs. 7 pm – Sun. noon) Cost: \$250  
Double room/board \$270

For more information got to: [www.alcyoncenter.org](http://www.alcyoncenter.org)



*Dear Friends,*

The Nature Institute is offering two courses this summer which may be of interest to you or others you know.



There are tuition-reduction scholarships available for this course. In addition, there is a special scholarship fund for Waldorf educators for both courses. Since funds are limited, please apply early.

**Reading in the Book of Nature: Enlivening Observation and thinking Through Plant Study - June 29 to July 5**

Practicing flexible thinking, plant study, and clay modeling with Craig Holdrege, Henrike Holdrege, and Patrick Stolfo

**Dynamic Embryology and Morphology: Exploring the Wisdom of the Developing Human Body - July 31 to August 3**

Exploring the wisdom of the developing human body with Jaap van der Wal, PhD, MD, a retired teacher of anatomy and Embryology from the University of Maastricht in Holland. He will explore how the shaping of the human body expresses essential attributes of development as a being of Spirit and matter, of body and mind.

**For more information, including scholarships, schedule, teaching staff, and registration: Visit [www.natureinstitute.org/educ/summer/index.htm](http://www.natureinstitute.org/educ/summer/index.htm) or email [info@natureinstitute.org](mailto:info@natureinstitute.org)**

**Rediscovering Nature ▪ Enlivening Scientific Practice ▪ Cultivating Responsible Technologies**

**The Nature Institute  
20 May Hill Road, Ghent NY 12075 ▪ 518-672-0116 ▪ [www.natureinstitute.org](http://www.natureinstitute.org)**

Sincerely,

*Craig Holdrege* for The Nature Institute



## This Year's Volunteer Days!

Come to the Honeybee Sanctuary; experience the bees, the beautiful landscape and serenity in the Blue Ridge Mountains. We are happy to offer these days for anyone interested in getting to know the sanctuary and/or spending some hours with us working on the flowerbeds and on landscaping tasks. We are grateful for any helping hands.



We will work from 1pm to 5pm with a short break (drinks will be provided). All volunteer days will take place on a Friday (unless noted), so why not stay for the whole weekend and experience the wonders of Floyd! Take a drive along the Blue Ridge Parkway, put on your dancing shoes and enjoy the Friday night Jamboree at the Floyd Country Store, visit the Farmer's Market Saturday morning. There are many B&B's to choose from or stay right in downtown at

the Hotel Floyd.

Volunteer days will focus on preparing beds, planting perennials and farm maintenance, unless otherwise noted. All volunteer days include a tour of the sanctuary, a visit to the bees and a conversation about our work.

**June 14** (Saturday): Come early and listen to Gunther speak at 11am, as part of the [Floyd Artisan Trail Tour](#).

**July 11**

**August 1**

**August 29**

**October 17**

Please register, by sending an email to [info@spikenardfarm.org](mailto:info@spikenardfarm.org), if you plan to attend so we know how many people to expect.

## GOETHEANUM TO HOST CONFERENCE

ON THE 19 CLASS LESSONS

For members of The School of  
Spiritual Science

July 27-August2, 2014

Email: [TICKETS@GOETHEANUM.CH](mailto:TICKETS@GOETHEANUM.CH)

[WWW.GOETHEANUM.ORG](http://WWW.GOETHEANUM.ORG)



## RUDOLF STEINER'S FOUR MYSTERY DRAMAS:

### A FESTIVAL WITH PERFORMANCES

August 8-17 2014 in Chestnut  
Ridge, NY

This is the first time every that the four dramas have been performed together in English. The performance is sold out, but there is a waiting list, which you can ask to be put on. Simply email [mysterydrama@threefold.org](mailto:mysterydrama@threefold.org) and write 'Wait-List' in the subject of your email. For more information about the conference, go to:

[www.threefold.org/md2014](http://www.threefold.org/md2014)



**Week 1:**June 22<sup>nd</sup> to June 27<sup>th</sup>

**After More than a Hundred Years:**  
Christ, Sophia, and Anthroposophy  
"after Auschwitz"  
With Christopher Bamford

**The Riddle of Destiny:**  
A Study of the Biographies of Key  
Characters in Rudolf Steiner's  
Mystery Dramas  
With Marke Levene

**The Joy in Teaching:**  
Managing Time, Managing the  
Classroom  
With Christof Wiechert

**Getting off on the Right Foot:**  
Teaching Grades 1 & 2  
With Christopher Sblendorio

**Finding our Feet—the Earth is our Home!**  
Teaching Grades 3 & 4  
With Elizabeth Auer

**The Turning Point of Childhood:**  
Teaching Grades 5 & 6  
With Patrice Maynard

**Discovery and Enlightenment:**  
Teaching Grades 7 & 8  
With David Gable

**Social Inclusion and  
Restorative Discipline:**  
Exclusion, Teasing, and Difficult  
Behavior in Children and Adolescents  
With Kim John Payne

**Wet-Method Painting through the  
Eight Grades of the Waldorf  
Curriculum:**  
Find the Artist within You  
With Ted Mahle

**Working With Adults in Organizations,  
Schools, Businesses, and Non-Profits:**  
Introduction to Eurythmy in  
the Workplace  
With Leonore Russell

**Liane Collot d'Herbois - Out of  
Darkness into Light:**  
Chalk Pastel and Veilpainting Exercises  
With Charles Andrade and Iris Sullivan

**Encountering the Self:**  
Foreign Languages in Grades 6, 7, and 8  
With Kati Manning and Lorey Johnson

**Welcome to Renewal 2014!**

For Waldorf teachers and administrators - along with parents,  
trustees, artists, and thinkers seeking to deepen  
their lives through Anthroposophy



Painting by Karine Munk Finser

Register online at:

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

Renewal Courses sponsored by Center for Anthroposophy  
Wilton, New Hampshire  
Karine Munk Finser, Coordinator  
603-654-2566 • [info@centerforanthroposophy.org](mailto:info@centerforanthroposophy.org)

**Week 2:**June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>

**The Incarnating Child:**  
Medical and Pedagogical Support in  
the First Seven Years. An inaugural  
training module for Medical Doctors,  
Health Professionals, Healing  
Educators and Practitioners,  
Therapeutically Engaged Teachers  
and Parents  
With Michaela Gloeckler, MD

**Crossing the Threshold:**  
Are We There Yet?  
With Eugene Schwartz

**Space is Alive!**  
With Jaimen McMillan and Katie  
Moran

**Art History:**  
The Evolution of Consciousness  
through the Visual Arts  
With Ted Mahle

**Projective Geometry**  
With Jamie York

**Self-Education through Intuitive  
Thinking and Artistic Perception:**  
With Signe Motter, Elizabeth Auer,  
Douglas Gerwin, and Hugh Renwick

**Personal and Organizational  
Renewal:**  
From Survival to Success  
With Leonore Russell and Torin  
Finser

**Inspiring and Rejuvenating our Lives:**  
Goethe's Italian Journey, the Italian  
Renaissance, and Rudolf Steiner's Art  
History Lectures  
With David Lowe

Visit us online for details of our part-time  
**Foundation Studies in Anthroposophy and the Arts**  
Barbara Richardson, Coordinator  
Clusters available on demand around the U.S.  
[www.centerforanthroposophy.org](http://www.centerforanthroposophy.org)

June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 26<sup>th</sup>  
**Waldorf High School Teacher Education Program**  
Douglas Gerwin, Director  
Three-summer program specializing in  
Arts/Art History • Biology • English • History  
Math • Physics & Chemistry • Pedagogical Eurythmy

## SUMMER WORKSHOPS WITH ROBERT POWELL IN NORTH CAROLINA

### July 21-25, 2014 "Journey of the Soul into Incarnation"

A 5-day workshop with Robert Powell.

#### **Choreocosmos and Star Mysteries – "As above, so below"**

Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Musical accompaniment with pianist and composer Marcia Burchard.

Contact: Kelly Calegar, 18 Haycox Court, Durham, NC 27713

Tel: 919-361-0691 Email: [kcalegar@earthlink.net](mailto:kcalegar@earthlink.net)

### Friday, July 25th, 2014

Public Lecture with Dr. Robert Powell

#### *A New Cultural Wave: The Merging of East and West in 2014*

7:30 PM – 9:00 PM at The Emerson Waldorf School

6211 New Jericho RD, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

### July 26-29, 2014 "2014 and the Coming of the Kalki Avatar."

A 3 day beach retreat with Robert Powell. **The central focus of this retreat will be the epic work *Meditations on the Tarot* and the renewed activity of the author in our time.**

Corolla, North Carolina (Outer Banks). Starts at 6:00 p.m. on July 26 and ends at 12:30 p.m. on July 29.

Contact: Kelly Calegar, 18 Haycox Court, Durham, NC 27713 Tel: [919-361-0691](tel:919-361-0691)

Email: [kcalegar@earthlink.net](mailto:kcalegar@earthlink.net)

### July 29, 2014 "Grail Knight Training."

This half-day training will follow the beach retreat and will be at the same location as the beach retreat. Starts at 2:00 p.m. on July 29th and ends at 10:00 p.m. the same night. Departure Wednesday morning July 30.

Contact: Kelly Calegar, 18 Haycox Court, Durham, NC 27713 Tel: [919-361-0691](tel:919-361-0691)

Email: [kcalegar@earthlink.net](mailto:kcalegar@earthlink.net)

## *OUR MICHAELMAS TASK FOR 2014:*

### **SAVE THE BEES!**

As we reported last year, The Swiss Anthroposophical made a proposal for a 10-year semi-annual program to prepare for the 2023 Culmination of the re-founding of the Anthroposophical Society of 1923 that entails two parts: every Spring for the next 10 years, the Swiss Society will take up a theme from the Christmas Conference that deals with Steiner's intentions for the Anthroposophical Society and have discussions on how well the intentions have been carried out and how to improve them. Every Fall, the Swiss Society will turn to world crisis issues for which the Anthroposophical Society has solutions. These should be presented at large conferences designed for the public, not just members.



The Spring Conference was held as planned and a wonderful write-up of it can be viewed in *Deepening Anthroposophy* Issue 3.2, May 20, 2014. The title of the article is "The Social Form of the Christmas Conference: On the Conference of the Anthroposophical Society in Switzerland". We are disappointed that the General Anthroposophical Society has not taken up the call as well. We wish to propose that the Society in America take up at least the Michaelmas proposal. Even if it doesn't one's branch or even individual members can still do a lot to support the initiative.

The first world crisis that the Swiss Society has chosen for the first year's them is the Dying of the Bees. The two greatest thinkers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Rudolf Steiner and Albert Einstein both predicted this problem, and Einstein foretold that if the bees become extinct, humanity and the animal kingdom will follow soon after. Steiner gave 9 lectures on bees, which if you haven't already, you really should read. Hopefully you have either seen the marvelous film "Queen of the sun" or read the book of that same title, which tells of the plight of the bees today. Rather than do the obvious, natural things that are required to save the bees, both America and China have already begun foolish methods of "coping" with the crisis – America spends million buying bees from Australia, one of the few places where bee populations are still healthy (due to their banning of pesticides, no doubt.) while China has millions of workers doing the tedious task of pollinating with instruments. Both of these methods are unsustainable.

What can you do to participate in this great endeavor of ‘saving the bees’? Plenty.

Anthroposophical Groups can take up a study of Steiner’s Lectures to prepare themselves spiritually for the many tasks that can be done:

Holding conferences for the public that offer films, books, lectures, resource material. Invite biodynamic farmers who are raising bees to talk about the crisis and encourage the America public to stand up against our government’s policies toward pesticides and GMO’s.

Purchase as many copies of the DVD ***Queen of the Sun*** as you can (even one copy is great) and loan or donate them to agricultural colleges, local theaters, high school and college environmental science teachers. Arrange for showings at these places as well if you can.



Plant pollinator gardens, but please make sure that the seeds or flowers are organic. Places like Home Depot and Lowe’s sell flowers that have been treated with the worst pesticides, ones that are known for killing bees. Encourage your neighbors to plant flowers as well. Perhaps you could even start a community garden.

You could even start raising bees yourself, but make sure your neighborhood is “bee-friendly” first.

Check out Gunther Hauck’s web-site [www.spikenardfarm.org](http://www.spikenardfarm.org) which is full of great suggestions. You might even go to his Bee Sanctuary and volunteer for a few days. Another great site, which is more activist oriented is [www.BeeAction.org](http://www.BeeAction.org)

And lastly, one can write letters to Congress, local officials, your local newspaper, the EPA, stores that sell pesticides, etc. and let them know how strongly you feel about the plight of the bees and what needs to be done about it.

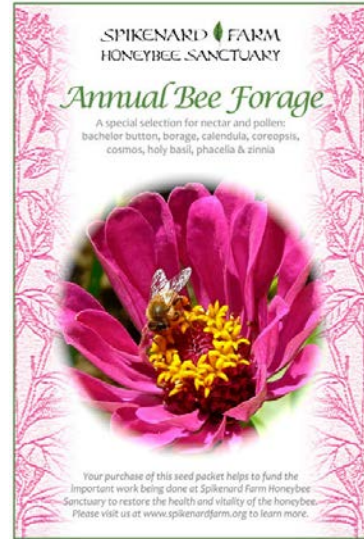
The future of the Earth is up to you! Thank you for all you will do!

*Kathleen Wright, Editor*

## There is still time to plant an Annual Garden!

Every garden needs pollinators and bees are among the best. Patches of foraging habitat can be created in many different locations and does not take much effort. Even a small area planted with good flowers will be *beneficial for local bees*, because each patch will add to the mosaic of habitat available to bees and other pollinators.

Our Annual Bee Forage seed packet is made from a special selection of flowers for nectar and pollen and they are **ON SALE NOW!** Sow into loose soil, in a sunny location and watch as Bachelor Button, Borage, Cosmos, Holy Basil and others grow and blossom - bringing beauty and delight to you and the bees. At **\$2.00 per packet** you can grow several garden beds in your yard, neighborhood and town! Purchase at [www.spikenardfarm.org](http://www.spikenardfarm.org)



### St. John the Baptist



Thou Herald Spirit, by the Father's grace  
 Abiding witness to the Light of men,  
 Look on our seeking,  
 All we have done on earth has left its trace,  
 And all we say sounds on for spirit ears.  
 Help at our judging.  
 Baptizer of the waking soul, lead out  
 Our lives from barren conflict in the dark  
 Into Christ's presence.  
 Let sound the music of thy faithful heart,  
 Prophet of days to come, for brother men,  
 Unto Christ's glory.

~Adam Bittleston



## *Farewell From the Editor*

It's hard to believe that this is our last issue. There's so much more I wanted to include but there just wasn't time. Perhaps I should start a blog!

As was mentioned in last month's issue, I will be sending out announcements about events and important information on the list-serve and mailing lists whenever I get word, there just won't be any more newsletters with all the graphics.

It has come to my attention that a number of our readers did not read my "From the Editor" last month in which I told why I will no longer going to be editing the *Sophia Sun*. In a nutshell, growing health concerns, questions of its efficacy and my 7-year itch (I have just turned 63) to do something new have all prompted this decision. I have this feeling of "promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep" and I need to make time to accomplish them.

The effects of the Grand Cross we wrote of in our last issue have certainly been making an impact everywhere. Just about everyone I know has been in some major transition. I have never seen so many deaths, births, people changing jobs, resigning from positions, taking on new positions, moving, renovating, all happening at the same time as there have been the past two months. One even sees evidence of this in this issue – the death of Paul Scharff, the great changes in our Board, the new development director in Ann Arbor to name a few. Amazing shifts are happening all around us. Let us hope humanity is awakening before it is too late!

This issue contains many ads for summer workshops, as well as Festival announcements. We hope that you will be able to attend at least one of them. There are also lots of good books that you might want to read. I would like to recommend a book by a Michaelic soul who is not an anthroposophist, but is full of anthroposophical ideas. The Book is called *The Hope: A Guide to Sacred Activism* by Andrew Harvey. Harvey is a Michaelic soul who weaves together the teachings of all religions showing that they are the same in the most important ways – love, compassion, care of the earth, the importance of charitable works, etc. He talks a great deal about the coming crisis and cataclysms that are now inevitable. He says we must guard against fear and hatred toward those who have caused the destruction of the earth and the economy. Harvey advises that because there are so many problems, we must all become "sacred activists" – decide on the issue that concerns you the most and then devote several hours a week to doing something about it. He comes up with a plan – that involves meditation, protecting oneself from evil – he is aware of the two kinds of evil and describes them well, never mentioning the names of Ahriman and Lucifer but he obviously knows them well; and then there are the ways one can take action to help save the earth and our fellow man. Harvey writes about the Sophia, the Double and so many other issues that are familiar to us. As far as Anthroposophical books, I would highly recommend just about anything by Peter Selg. I just finished reading his *The Last Three Years*, about Ita Wegman's last years on earth. It was very good. His book on Selflessness is a must if you are feeling the need for inspiration.

Have a wonderful, relaxing and renewing summer!

*Kathleen Wright*

## Directory of Anthroposophical Initiatives in North Carolina

### Branches

#### The Rudolf Steiner Branch (NC) of the Anthroposophical Society in America

Serving Chapel Hill, Durham, Hillsborough, Pittsboro, Cedar Grove, Mebane and Raleigh

P.O. 16024

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

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

#### RSBNC Board:

President and Treasurer: Edward Schuldt, [edward.schuldt \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:edward.schuldt@gmail.com)

Vice President: Will Hicks, [emailwillhicks \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:emailwillhicks@gmail.com)

Secretary: Phyllis Morris, [phyllismorris \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:phyllismorris@gmail.com)

Directors-at-Large:

Allen Barenholtz

Joanna Carey

Jon Lyerly

Melanie Maupin

#### First Class of the School for Spiritual Science

Class holders: Eve Olive, Suzanne Mays, Judy Frey

#### Other Groups in NC:

**Asheville:** Marie Davis - [marieoliviadavis@gmail.com](mailto:marieoliviadavis@gmail.com) or Ricey Clapp at: 828-505-1018;

email: [ricey.clapp@gmail.com](mailto:ricey.clapp@gmail.com)

Website: [www.azaleamountain.org](http://www.azaleamountain.org)

**Clemmons (near Winston-Salem)** - Sarah Putnam- 336-972-8243;

[sputnam01@att.net](mailto:sputnam01@att.net)

**Greensboro:** Sandy LaGrega – 336-292-7947; [sunsan52@aol.com](mailto:sunsan52@aol.com)

### Education

#### Emerson Waldorf School (N-K-12)

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

6211 New Jericho Rd.

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Main Office: 919-967-1858

#### Home Nursery School Association

(serving Durham, Chapel Hill and Hillsborough)

(There are currently 6 home nursery programs that are Waldorf-inspired)

Contact: Marie Nordgren 919-544-

### **School of Spiritual Psychology**

Benson, NC

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

Robert Sardello and Cheryl Sanders-Sardello, Director

email: [spiritualheart@embarqmail.com](mailto:spiritualheart@embarqmail.com)

### **Azalea Mountain School (K-5, a Waldorf-inspired school)**

587 Haywood Rd.

Asheville, NC 28806

(828) – 575-2557

Contact: Kate Reese or Maria Allen 828-505-1350; [www.azaleamountain.org](http://www.azaleamountain.org);

### **Biodynamic Farms**

**Whitted-Bowers Farm** - Demeter certified – specializing in fruits and vegetables; 8707 Art Rd., Cedar Grove, NC 27231; 919-732-5132; email: [whittedbowersfarm@mac.com](mailto:whittedbowersfarm@mac.com) website: [www.whittedbowersfarm.com](http://www.whittedbowersfarm.com) Rob and Cheri Bowers, owners

**Infinity Farm** – uses biodynamic methods; organic goat milk, grass fed meats; organic eggs; vegetables. Jon Lyerly, director 336-263-7685; [jelyerly2@gmail.com](mailto:jelyerly2@gmail.com); 1600 McDade Store Rd., Cedar Grove, NC

### **The Arts**

**Eurythmy** - Eve Olive - 919-489-2564; [eveolive@frontier.com](mailto:eveolive@frontier.com)  
Christina Beck

**Werbeck Singing** - Joanna Carey – 919-885-7569

**Lyre Music**- Joanna Carey – 919-885-7569  
Suzanne Mays – 919-929-1073

### **The Sophia School of Movement, Sophia Grail Circles**

Kelly Calegar - [www.sophiaschoolofmovement.org](http://www.sophiaschoolofmovement.org); 919-824-9948

Marlene Joyce – [mjoyce126@bellsouth.net](mailto:mjoyce126@bellsouth.net)

### **Christian Community**

A Christian Community priest visits our Congregation bi-monthly. Currently, Rev. Carol Kelly is the priest we share with the Washington D.C. congregation. **Contact:** 493-8323. [lfolsom@nc.rr.com](mailto:lfolsom@nc.rr.com); Website: [www.christiancommunitync.org](http://www.christiancommunitync.org)

### **Anthroposophical Lending Library**

The Phoenix Library, Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
Contact: Judy Frey 919-928-8749; [damaris12@nc.rr.com](mailto:damaris12@nc.rr.com)

## NC Anthroposophical Study Groups and Initiatives:

### Rudolf Steiner Branch (Chapel Hill, NC):

**Biodynamic Study Group** - meets every other Tuesday evening at 7:30 PM at the home of Jon Lyerly, 127 West Union St., Hillsborough, NC; reading *The Agriculture Course* by Rudolf Steiner, Please call Jon Lyerly for more details at 336-263-7685

**Child's Needs Study Group** – One Saturday a month 10 am-12 pm; reading *Man on the Threshold* by Bernard Lievegoed. Please call Lauren Mills Nyland for further information –919-968-7721, or [mills.lauren@gmail.com](mailto:mills.lauren@gmail.com)

**Eurythmy Classes for Adults taught by Eve Olive** – Wednesday mornings 8:30 - 10:00 am in the Eurythmy Room at the Emerson Waldorf School; dates: Cost: \$10 per class. For more information, please contact: Eve Olive at 919-489-2564.

**IANDS (International Association for Near Death Studies)** Group meets once a month on Tuesdays at 7:00PM at the home of Robert and Suzanne Mays, 5622 Brisbane Dr., Chapel Hill, NC; research and discussion in the fields of consciousness, neuroscience and near-death experiences; **Our next meeting will be:** June 17. call **919-929-1073** for more information.

**Readings for the Dead Group** – every other Thursday, 7:30-9:00 pm. We are reading *Staying Connected* Edited by Christopher Bamford. Dates Music, verses, reading and conversation. We meet at the home of Joanna Carey at: 4207 Neal Rd., Durham 27705. Any questions can be directed to Joanna Carey: 919-885-7569. Please RSVP if you will be attending.

**Rose Cross Study Group** – Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, at the home of Judy Frey, Currently reading *What is Necessary in these Urgent Times* by Rudolf Steiner. Newcomers are welcome! Please give call Judy at 919-928-8749 before attending the first time.

**Threshold Care Group**– a conversation group that meets **one Monday each month** from 7-9 pm to share experiences and concerns, ask questions and become active in our community in our relationship to death and dying; meets at the home of Jenny Bingham, 208 Murray St., Hillsborough; contact Jenny at [jennybingham@yahoo.com](mailto:jennybingham@yahoo.com) for exact time or call 214-4304.

### Elsewhere in North Carolina:

**Asheville Study Group** – Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Marie Davis reading *The Archangel Michael and his Mission* on alternating Thursdays; on the other two Thursdays is Mandala Making Group; **Contact Marie at** [marieoliviadavis@gmail.com](mailto:marieoliviadavis@gmail.com)

**Clemmons Study Group – every Sunday from 6-8 pm.** This Study Group meets September through May, currently finishing up *Esoteric Science*; will begin *Macrocosm and Microcosm* soon; at the home of Sarah Putnam, 7719 Whitehorse Dr., Clemmons, NC. Call 336-972-8243 for information. (Note: The closest large city to Clemmons is Winston-Salem)

**The Greensboro Anthroposophical Study Group** is a small but steadfast group meeting on Mondays 2:30 to 4:30 at the home of Sandy LaGrega. Each meeting begins with the recitation of "The Foundation Stone" and meditation on the Virtue of the Month. The current book of study is *The Bhagavad Gita and the West*, The Collected Works of Rudolf Steiner. The next book will be *Citizens of the Cosmos, Life's Unfolding from Conception through Death to Rebirth* by Beredene Jocelyn. Please call Sandy at [336 908-4664](tel:3369084664) if you plan to attend. All are welcome.

**The Sophia Center for Life Studies** (Greensboro, NC) continues to meet monthly. *Crossings: Caring for Our Own at Death* is the main initiative at this time. The group is involved in consultation and education in the area of natural-at-home after death care. Please call Sandy LaGrega at [336 908-4664](tel:3369084664) for more information.

## Study Groups in the Southeastern States

### Alabama:

**Auburn, AL Study Group** – meets on Thursdays; currently studying *An Outline of Esoteric Science* contact Helene Burkart at [hburkart@att.net](mailto:hburkart@att.net) or Bob and Betty Hare at 336-253-6431 or [bobandbettyhare@gmail.com](mailto:bobandbettyhare@gmail.com); A Christian Community is active in this area as well.

**Birmingham-** The Alabama Waldorf School at 1220 50<sup>th</sup> St. S., Birmingham, AL 35222; phone : 205-592-0542 but as far as we know there are no anthroposophical study groups in Birmingham.

### Florida:

**Michael Group of Miami meets in Cutler Bay**, currently reading *How to Know Higher Worlds* on Thursdays, 4:00-5:00 PM for more information, please contact **Annabelle Cooper at 305-278-2285** ( Miami currently has five study groups and a Waldorf School with grades K-6);

**Clearwater, Florida** (close to Tampa Bay) - **Steiner Circumstudies**; group leader is Dr. Steven Salamone; contact Barbara Bedingfield at: [bedingfield2000@yahoo.com](mailto:bedingfield2000@yahoo.com) or call 727-581-6195.

**Boca Raton Group**; contact Karen Maestrales at [kmaestrales@gmail.com](mailto:kmaestrales@gmail.com) or 561-716-0416; Karen organizes the annual Florida Anthroposophical Conference. Nearby is the **Sea Star Initiative**, a Waldorf-inspired school (grade N-K-6); see their website at: [www.seastarinitiative.org](http://www.seastarinitiative.org)

**Jacksonville Beach - Persephone Healing Arts Center**, an anthroposophical medical center; Director: Dr A. Schaeffer-Pautz, board certified in Internal and Holistic

Medicines;. Contact: HowardPautz@gmail.com; clinic phone: 904-246-3583; website: www.Dr.Pautz.com; hosts talks about Steiner; Eurythmy classes, Dr. Hauschka products.in addition to the medical practice.

**Jacksonville, FL** has a Pre-K and K Waldorf initiative.

**Palm Harbor** - Suncoast Waldorf School (K-8) ; contact Barbara Bedingfield at 727-766-8311 or email her at bedingfield2000@yahoo.com; website: www.suncoastwaldorf.org

**Sarasota, FL** - Study group with Anne and Joe Savage has been meeting for over 10 years;, currently reading *The Nature Spirits*; meets every Monday at 7 PM at the Savages: 4753 Riverwood Circle, Sarasota, FL 34231; the group has 8-10 members; contact Joe or Anne at 941-926-8591 or email joe.savage@verizon.net

**Sarasota** has a “Waldorf Sarasota School” with grades K-4;

## **Georgia Anthroposophical Study Groups and Initiatives:**

**Anthroposophy Atlanta** – meets Wednesday evenings at the Academe of the Oaks (a Waldorf High School); contact Eva Handschin at 678-576-3241 or email her at: [evah@academeatlanta.org](mailto:evah@academeatlanta.org)

**The Epiphany Group of Comer and Marietta, GA**; contact **Katherine Jenkins** at 706-540-5871 or email at [katjenks@negia.net](mailto:katjenks@negia.net)

**GEMS Group** ( a long distance online group) that meets on **Sat. mornings** led by Margaret Shipman) , **Forsyth, GA**; contact Marian Shearer at 478-492-3877 or email: octavia1810@hotmail.com; To find out more about GEMS contact Margaret Shipman at her email address: shipman2005@sbcglobal.net

**Lavonia: Northeast Georgia Study group** – currently reading *The Apocalypse of St. John* by Rudolf Steiner; contact Betty Jones at [cprepsb@windstream.net](mailto:cprepsb@windstream.net)

## **Kentucky**

**Louisville** Study Group, led by Janey Newton at the Waldorf School of Louisville (www.waldorflouisville.com) meets at 9 AM on Thursdays during the school year. and is currently reading *The Gospel of St. Luke*. For more information contact Gwendolyn Moss at gwendolynmoss@gmail.com

There are two biodynamic farms in Kentucky:

Foxhollow Farm in Crestwood, which has 1300 acres and is owned by Janey Newton. For more infomration, check out the website: www.foxhollow.com or call 502-241-9674 or write: info@foxhollow.com

The second farm is located 50 miles northeast of Nashville and is run by Mary Ann Skillman

## South Carolina Anthroposophical Study groups:

**Charleston vicinity:** meets **Monday mornings at 11:00 a.m.**; contact **Gabrielle Heatherdale** at 843-688-4816 or email [heatherdale@gmail.com](mailto:heatherdale@gmail.com) or **Peggy Pearl** at 843-554-7166 or email at [peggy.pearl@yahoo.com](mailto:peggy.pearl@yahoo.com); reading *The Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric*; new website at: [www.anthroposophysc.org](http://www.anthroposophysc.org)

**A Steiner "Hangout"** (a Google online virtual meeting) is reading *At The Gates of Spiritual Science*; Anyone is welcome to join. Call Susan Mohler for more information at 843-388-5259 or email at: [susanmohler2012@yahoo.com](mailto:susanmohler2012@yahoo.com)

## Tennessee Anthroposophical Study Groups and Initiatives:

**Johnson City Group** meets twice a month on Thursdays, currently reading *Steiner's Philosophy of Body, Mind and Spirit*, has 12 members. Contact Sylvia Lagergren for more information at: [sylvia174@yahoo.com](mailto:sylvia174@yahoo.com)

**Knoxville Group** has been meeting for over 25 years, meets on Sunday mornings; currently reading *Intuitive Thinking*, although the group is most interested in Christology; this group of six core members, celebrates festivals together and also has a monthly Esoteric Conversations group that is based on their studies of the Class Lessons with the School of Spiritual Science, which they attend in Chattanooga; for more information, contact Charlotte Brakebill at: [charlotte.brakebill@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.brakebill@gmail.com) or call her at: 865-414-1959.

**The Michael Study Group of Nashville, TN** ; meets every other Tuesday afternoon at the Linden Waldorf School and is reading *Life Beyond Death*, collected lectures by Rudolf Steiner contact Barbara Bittles at [blbittles@comcast.net](mailto:blbittles@comcast.net) or **Anne Nicholson** at [annenich@gmail.com](mailto:annenich@gmail.com), 615-426-3395 Nashville has its own website: [www.anthroposophynashville.org](http://www.anthroposophynashville.org)

**The Rudolf Steiner Group of Nashville** meets every other Tuesday evening at the Unitarian Church on Woodmont Blvd. in Nashville and is reading *The Being of Anthroposophia*. Contact Cathy Green [cgreen@grasslandaquatics.com](mailto:cgreen@grasslandaquatics.com)

**Linden Waldorf School Steiner Study Group, Nashville** – will be taking the summer off and will resume study in September For more information, contact: Anne Nicholson at [annenich@gmail.com](mailto:annenich@gmail.com) or 615-426-3395

**Nashville Biodynamic Study Group** – meets monthly and is studying *The Agriculture Course with the Enzo Nastati commentary*; contact: Karen Davis-Brown at [karendavisbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:karendavisbrown@yahoo.com)

**Southeastern Regional Group of Chattanooga.** led by Maria St. Goar; contact: [mstgoar@comcast.net](mailto:mstgoar@comcast.net) or call 423-266-6204

**Class lessons of the School of Spiritual Science** are held monthly in **Chattanooga**; persons from Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and western North Carolina attend there; Edward St. Goar is the Class Holder; contact Edward at: [estgoar@yahoo.com](mailto:estgoar@yahoo.com) or call 423-265-3260

**Editor's Note;** Many Study groups take the summers off, so be sure to contact the group leader if you plan to attend to make sure the group is in fact meeting that day.



**The Rudolf Steiner Branch (NC)  
Of the Anthroposophical Society in America**

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**The Sophia Sun**

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**Anthroposophy**, which means “the wisdom of the Human Being”, 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 is a Christ-centered view of world evolution. Steiner founded the School of Spiritual Science, as well as the General Anthroposophical Society, which he described as “a union of people who desire to further the life of the soul – both in the individual and in human society – on the basis of true knowledge of the spiritual world”. In addition to giving over 6,000 lectures, most of which have been made into books, he helped to found many initiatives that are still thriving today including: the Waldorf School movement, anthroposophical medicine, biodynamic farming, and Eurythmy. Based on his indications, hundreds of initiatives have developed such as: the Curative education movement, the Camp Hill Villages for the handicapped, Weleda remedies, Dr. Hauschka cosmetics, WALA, True Botanica, Astrosophy, Rhythmical Massage, the Alliance for Childhood, The Christian Community, Anthroposophic Prison Outreach, Lazure painting, Demeter, advancements in architecture, science, social and economic reform (The Threefold Social Order, community banks), mathematics and painting. In addition, there are many publishing houses and libraries dedicated to his works throughout the world. For more information, check the national website at [www.anthroposophy.org](http://www.anthroposophy.org) or our local website at [www.anthroposophyNC.org](http://www.anthroposophyNC.org)