



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

APRIL - MAY 2014
VOLUME VII, NUMBER 2

Into the souls of men will I guide
The feeling for the Spirit, that willingly
The Easter Word may waken in their hearts.

And in communion with their Spirit will I think
In warmth of Soul, that strongly they be able
To feel the Risen Christ.

Kindled on Earth, the flame of spiritual knowledge
Irradiates the Phantom Light of Death.
The Self becomes World-eye and Ear.

~ Rudolf Steiner

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

April 2014 Calendar for the Rudolf Steiner Branch (NC)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Articles and calendar items for the next Sophia Sun should be sent to Kathleen Wright at kathleenwright51@gmail.com by May 20, 2014.						
		1	2	3 Reading to the Dead Group-7:30p	4	5
6 Meeting of the First Class-10a, (Review-11a) Clemmons SG-6p	7 Greensboro SG-3:30p	8 NDE meeting 7-9p Biodynamic SG 7p	9 EWS-Eurythmy-8:30a Rose Cross SG-7:30p	10 Asheville SG-7:30p	11 CC Priest Talk- "Love: the fundamental force in the Universe"-7:30p	12 CC-Act of Consecration of Man-9a, all-day Palm Sunday Retreat-follows
13 CC -9:30a Children's story, 10a Children's Service, 10:30a Act of Consecration of Man. Followed by potluck brunch. Clemmons SG-6p	14 Greensboro SG-3:30p Holy Week Study	15	16 EWS-Eurythmy-8:30a Rose Cross SG-7:30p	17 Asheville SG-7:30p Reading to the Dead Group-7:30p	18 GOOD FRIDAY	19 Easter Sat. at Judy Frey's
20 EASTER SUNRISE at 6:30a Clemmons SG-6p	21 Greensboro SG-3:30p	22 Biodynamic SG 7p	23 EWS-Eurythmy-8:30a Rose Cross SG-7:30p	24 Asheville SG-7:30p	25 EWS-6th grade-12th grade Instrumental Concert-6:30p	26 Painting Workshop 1:30- 4:30
27 Clemmons SG-6p	28 Greensboro SG-3:30p	29	30 EWS-Eurythmy-8:30a Rose Cross SG-7:30p			

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18 Clemmons SG-6p	19 Greensboro SG-3:30p	20	21 EWS-Eurythmy-8:30a Rose Cross SG-7:30p	22	23	24
25 Clemmons SG-6p	26 Greensboro SG-3:30p	27	28 EWS-Eurythmy-8:30a Rose Cross SG-7:30p	29 Ascension Thursday Reading to the Dead Group-7:30p	30	31 EWS Auction/Gala-6pm

From The Board

I wish to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as the president of our local branch since 2008. I have learned much about leadership, deepened my understanding of anthroposophy, and felt supported and appreciated while I have served. It hasn't always been easy or smooth, but I when I reflect back on where we were in 2008, I see that our community has grown in many ways. We have moved on from some of the personal and organizational dynamics that hindered our working together. We have a clearer picture of our identity as a branch and I hope that this picture allows us to be more tolerant of our differences. We have regularly sponsored festivals, speakers, and workshops to celebrate and enrich our life together. We have attracted new people to our area who have experience in other anthroposophical communities and have enriched our community life.

On the other hand, some who have been a part of our community for a long time have had to leave due to health issues and career commitments. Many have retired and are busier than ever while others face health challenges that prevent their participation in community activities. We are at another significant transition point in our life together. We are looking for those who will take up anthroposophical work in this area as we age and cross the threshold to the spiritual world. Many of us have 20 years or so before that happens, but we must begin now to support and encourage younger generations to take up life with an awareness of anthroposophical ideas and practices. We cannot dictate the ideas and practices they take up; freedom and love are the cornerstones of anthroposophy and without them, all our efforts will fail. We can share what has brought our lives meaning, though, and perhaps inspire them to find their own meanings and purposes through Rudolf Steiner's work.

I will be finishing up my graduate studies this year and need to be free to find employment wherever I can find it. Because this coincides with the end of my three year term, I have decided to step off the board at this time. Suzanne Mays and Nancy Willson, for reasons of their own, have also decided to leave at this, the end of their terms. I am grateful that others have come forward to take up leadership and service, and trust that you will give them the support and appreciation you so generously gave me. Edward Schuldt, Melanie Maupin, Joanna Carey, and Allen Barenholtz will continue and Phyllis Morris, Will Hicks, and Jon Lyerly have agreed to begin service.

I hope my work with all of you and each of you has strengthened your ability to share what is meaningful to you with others in such a way that our branch flourishes in ways we cannot foresee or control but can love.

Warmly,

Peg Carmody

News from Infinity Farm

We are having our 1st of the year biodynamic preparation stir & spray this weekend ! See the details below. We will have 8 of them during the year between now and October. Last year we had 8 stir and sprays and it went so well that this year we will do the same format.

Basically, we will have them spaced out about once/month and rotate the location each time. (so those of you wanting to host a stir & spray please contact me). I will provide the biodynamic preparations and other supplies. You provide a container. So after the community stir, each participant can take home part of the potentized preparation to spray at your place!

Rudolf Steiner (founder of Biodynamic agriculture) mentioned it was very important that these preparations are applied to as much of the earth as possible so that it may be healed. I am excited to be a part of this effort to help in our corner of the world and I hope you all are as well!

I will send out a partial schedule of stir & sprays soon. Thanks and I hope you can make it!
Blessings,

Jon Lysterly (336-263-7685)

Biodynamic Stir & Spray
Horn Manure Biodynamic Preparation
- Facilitates germination, root formation and nutrient uptake
Sunday April 6
3:00 pm - 4:30pm
Joanna Carey's house
4207 Neal Rd.
Durham, NC 27705

News From Whitted-Bowers Biodynamic Farm

We are so excited that Harold Haven and his wife are coming to town!

Looks like the berries made it through our very tough, very cold, unusual winter. We expect to open the Strawberry U-pick end of April. See us at the Carrboro Farmer's Market Wednesdays and Saturdays.

www.whittedbowersfarm.com

Certified Organic and Certified Biodynamic
 Heirloom Fruit and Specialty Vegetables
 8707 Art Road
 Cedar Grove, NC 27231
[919.732.5132](tel:919.732.5132)



The Christian Community of Chapel Hill-Durham
Palm Sunday Retreat
April 11-13 2014 at Camp New Hope, Chapel Hill
 Rev. Carol Kelly and Rev. Peter Skaller

Breaking the Spell of the Material World

What emerges from the dynamic interactions and relationships between individual “parts” of a whole, or individual human beings, is greater than the sum of its parts and unique unto itself. We are beginning to perceive the “world of living processes” so that no human being, no living thing, in fact nothing is accepted as “static” but is perceived as part of many interweaving relationships and interactions, including our own participation. We can learn to pay attention in a different way to everything which has become “fixed” in our souls. Let us begin with interest, wonder and holy expectation!

Friday April 11: 7:30-9:00 pm

Singing

“Love: the fundamental force of the universe”

Close of Day

Saturday April 12:

9:00 Act of Consecration

10:00 Bagels & Cream Cheese, Fruit, coffee & tea

10:30 Singing

10:45 Nature Study with Peter Skaller

11:30 “Life as Energy” – presentation and conversation

12:30 Lunch and break

2-3:30 Artistic work with Martha Kelder

3:30 Break

4:00 Nature study/ Peter Skaller

Conversation

Dinner out

7:30 Singing

“Christ and the Earth”

Close of Day



Palm Sunday, April 13 (open to all)

9:30 Children’s story

10:00 Children’s Service

10:30 Act of Consecration of Man

Followed by potluck brunch.

Suggested Donation: \$75, includes Saturday breakfast, lunch and snacks

(No one should not attend due to lack of funds.)

If possible, please do make an effort to commit to the entire weekend's program vs. partial participation.

Many thanks!

Artwork: “Inspiration” by Roland Tiller © 2014 Atelier Tille

HOLY WEEK EVENTS IN CHAPEL HILL, NC



From **Monday-Friday** of Holy Week, our community's custom of hosting Holy Week in members' homes will continue this year. As of this writing, the times were not complete, so be looking to the list-serve announcement which will have all the details. So far we know that the schedule will be:

Monday, April 14:	7 pm	Diana Haynes
Tuesday, April 15	TBA	Barbara Cain, 2007 Trotter Ridge, Durham
Wednesday, April 16:	TBA	Tatiana Zybin, 110 Twisted Ct., Hillsborough
Thursday, April 17:	7 pm	Joanna Carey, 4207 Neal Rd, Durham
Friday, April 18:	3 pm	Kathleen Wright, 4615 Greenglen, Durham

The format will be the same as in previous years: the tone of the day performed on the lyre, a Verse, a reading of the day from Emil Bock's *The Three Years* and a discussion on the theme. These meetings are simple and contemplative in mood.

HOLY SATURDAY – 6 PM



As in year's past, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday will take place at the home of Judy Frey, 55207 Broughton, in Chapel Hill. This year, Edward Schuldt will be leading the gathering at Judy's. He will be telling the story of Parzival with special emphasis on the events Parzival experienced from Good Friday to Whitsun, when he becomes King of the Grail Castle. This will be followed by a discussion and a group activity arising from the inner changes Parzival went through.

Following this there will be a light supper of soup and bread. Those who wish to stay may spend the night in order to be up on time for the Easter sunrise, but please let Judy know in advance to make sure there is room. Her phone number is **919-928-8749**.

EASTER SUNRISE

"Through anthroposophical knowledge we can transplant ourselves again into the time when Christ Jesus walked in Palestine and underwent His earthly destiny. We can gaze into the hearts and minds of the Disciples and

Apostles, who knew, according to their instinctive way of knowledge: 'The Being who formerly inhabited the Sun has now descended to the Earth and has walked among us. What was formerly only to be found upon the Sun has walked among us as Christ Jesus.' Every Easter Sunday, men and women can say with them, "Thanks be to the Christ Being from whom we should otherwise have been severed upon Earth—thanks be to Him that He came down from the spiritual worlds to us on Earth." **Rudolf Steiner**



outside, or inside if it is raining. You may wish to bring a lap blanket and dress warmly, for as we have lately experienced, Mother Nature has frequently changed her mind. The Sunrise/Son-rise observance will be followed by breakfast and music.

All are invited to take part in this thankful celebration on Easter morning. Please come to the home of Doug and Judy Frey for an Easter Sunrise Observance on Sunday, April 20th, 6:00AM (Sunrise is at 6:37AM).

The sun/Son will break the horizon at exactly 6:37AM. However, the earth and sky begin to reflect the sun's light 30 minutes before the official sunrise. If you wish to meditate in the darkness, please come at 6:00AM or earlier. Chairs will be

AMAZING CELESTIAL EVENTS TO OCCUR AROUND EASTER : A Report from Mary Stewart Adams

As we wrote in the last *Sophia Sun*, such amazing planetary aspects will be occurring this year that astrophysicist Mary Stewart Adams has offered to host phone conferences online to tell members about the events. Mary calls these phone sessions "Speaking with the Stars Project" The first of these webinars occurred in February. The next will occur on April 9 at 8:15 PM. EST. If you wish to participate, please call the following number shortly before the designated time: 1-619-550-0003, then give access code: 961-777-653. Please try to not have more than one person from your community join the call as it may get too crowded. We asked Mary to share with us some of the insights she shared at the last phone conference. This is what she wrote: ~Editor



"Starting with the Total Lunar Eclipse of April 15, 2014 (Tuesday of the Holy Week), we will experience a series of four Total Lunar Eclipses in a row. Their dates are April 15 and October 8, 2014, and April 4 and September 28 2015. A series of four Total Lunar Eclipses in a row, uninterrupted by a partial eclipse, is known as a Lunar Tetrad and is a rare event that will occur only eight times in the 21st century. Both the April 15, 2014 and September 28, 2015 eclipses will be fully visible from our region of the US, while the October 8, 2014 and April 4, 2015 will show the eclipse occurring as the Moon sets. Here is a good website for getting eclipse details and maps of the visibility path: <http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/LEdecade/LEdecade2011.html>

In addition to these four Total Lunar Eclipses, this period of time also includes:

Mars' once-every-two-years opposition to the Sun on April 8, 2014

Mars' closest approach to Earth April 14, 2014

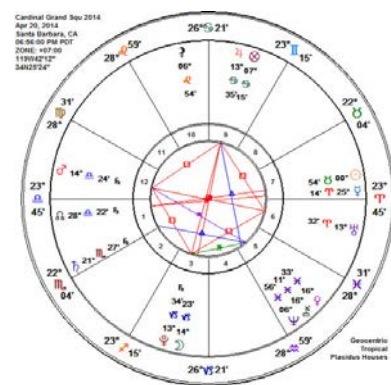
The Mystery of Easter April 20, 2014

A Grand Cross between the three planets Uranus, Jupiter, Mars and the 'dwarf' planet Pluto April 23, 2014

and, in 2015, a Total Solar Eclipse at Spring Equinox, March 20, 2015

This certainly seems like a charged situation, and what's important is to build a foundation of experience and self discovery so as to not give way to sensationalism. A little context building may help, and this only with regard to the Grand Cross coming our way this April 23rd (there will be further notes and opportunities to engage the other experiences later).

In the Tropical Zodiac the **Grand Cross of April 23** occurs in the Cardinal Signs Aries, Cancer, Libra, and Capricorn. The word 'cardinal' stems from the Latin meaning *hinge*, and these signs are 'cardinal' because they are the signs into which the Sun appears to move as it completes one season and passes on to the next (when Sun moves into the sign of Aries, we say it is first day of Spring, also known as Vernal Equinox; when Sun moves into Cancer, we say it is first day of summer, also known as Summer Solstice, and so on). On January 25, 1910, there was a similar Cardinal Grand Cross, though not involving the same planets. This date is significant because it is the date when Rudolf Steiner began to first publicly speak about the True Nature of the Second Coming, also now referred to as the Reappearance of the Christ in the Etheric Realm (see here: http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA118/English/APC1961/TruNat_index.html).



In describing celestial events as they are related to the mystery of human becoming, Hazel Straker, colleague to Willi Sucher in developing astrophysics, described the situation this way, that when mighty deeds occur on the Earth for the guidance of mankind, they are as though scripted into the celestial environment in a way that can be imagined as though a mighty lyre were built around the Earth. Then, as the planetary bodies continue in their paths about the Sun, when they revisit these positions through history, it is as though they sound out a note from this mighty cosmic lyre, and it is our task to *hear it*. So, when we think of this revelation by Rudolf Steiner regarding what he referred to as "the greatest mystery of our time", we can imagine this deed as the further building of this lyre. So, this 'lyre' is as though placed in the region of the Cardinal Signs Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn. And now, just after Easter 2014, we have a similar Cross occurring, so we can well imagine that this is the sounding out of the 'note' related to this great Mystery of our time.

Further, if we look into the degrees of the tropical zodiac that the planets occupy, we find more (let me make note that in the sidereal zodiac, the degrees and signs are different, so this is offered here as just one perspective on coming events). The planet Uranus will be at 13 degrees of Aries; Jupiter will be 13 degrees of Cancer; Mars will be retrograde at 13 degrees of Libra; with Pluto, also retrograde, at 13 degrees of Capricorn. It is the number 13 that is remarkable in this celestial imagination, because it points to the Apostle Paul. After the betrayal by Judas, there are but 11 Apostles who endure the Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension. After ten days they recall that their task is to replace Judas, and in choosing Matthias to complete the circle of 12, they achieve the Pentecost. Matthias is chosen from among those who witnessed the Christ while He was incarnate in the body of Jesus of Nazareth. But with Paul, who is also later chosen to be an Apostle (Acts of the Apostles 9:15 *He is a vessel chosen unto me*) we come to a different experience. Unlike Matthias who is chosen later but had witnessed the Christ in the period before Ascension, Paul is chosen having not witnessed, nor even believed, that the Christ had incarnated through the physical body of Jesus of Nazareth, and this is the critical point, for, according to Rudolf Steiner, Paul becomes the first member of humanity to witness the Christ from the spiritual world without having known Him from the physical, which makes of him the first to encounter this Mighty Being as the rest of humanity will. Paul is the 13th member of the circle of Apostles, later known as the Apostle of the Gentiles, and it is his journey that RS points to in order to describe the way contemporary humanity will also encounter this great mystery. He spoke about this on the Feast of Paul, January 25, 1910, as a cardinal grand cross occurred overhead, and now, just past Easter 2014, we have another Cardinal Grand Cross, and this at 13 degrees in the tropical zodiac. If nothing else, we can say that a mighty note is sounding forth on the cosmic lyre that embraces the Earth and is built out of the mighty deeds that would lead humanity.

If we imagine the number 13 in its component parts, we see that it is made up of the number '1' and the number '3'. Three is the first whole number, so we can further imagine that at '13' the individual ('1' or 'I') achieves relationship to the whole ('3'). It is the mystery of the Individual in Community.

With the eclipses we stand as though in the challenge of *becoming* and *casting off*, and with the Total Solar Eclipse at Equinox 2015 followed two weeks later by the Total Lunar Eclipse April 4, it is as though we are given the opportunity to demonstrate quite specifically, and of necessity, our own true light.

The foregoing is not meant as a prediction about what is to come, but a taking note and building context for thinking within the current cosmic gesture. Review of one's life, specifically with regard to the current lunar rhythm, may help to bring to light the areas of life where these energies seek expression. Study of Rudolf Steiner's lectures regarding the Mystery of the Second Coming may also strengthen our capacity for meeting the challenge of our times.

If you want to go further into this, I recommend the series of lectures "Wrong and Right Uses of Esoteric Knowledge" from 1917, esp lecture 3.

<http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA178/English/RSP1966/19171125p02.html> ~ Mary Stewart Adams

Editor's Note: If you would like more perspectives on this Grand Cross that is sandwiched between eclipses, simply do a Google search on "Grand Cross April 23, 2014". There are innumerable articles, some inspiring; some downright scary. For more on the February phone conference Mary had with the Central Region members, go to www.anthroposophy.org/groups/central-region and here is a link to a talk that Mary gave at the Ann Arbor Library: [www.aadl.org/aadl_events Beyond The Telescope](http://www.aadl.org/aadl_events/Beyond%20The%20Telescope)

The next and final issue of the *Sophia Sun* will be the June issue. Please have all articles, announcements and ads to the Editor by May 20. Send by email to kathleenwright51@gmail.com or call Kathleen at 919-309-9622

LANDS NEWS

- **Tuesday evening, April 8, 7:00 to 9:00 PM** -- The Research Triangle IANDS Group, led by NDE researchers [Robert and Suzanne Mays](#).

At this meeting, NDE researchers [Carlos Alvarado and Nancy Zingrone](#) will give a brief **presentation on Shared-Death Experiences (SDEs)**. A Shared-Death Experience is a profound psychological experience that may occur when a person is present when another person dies. Carlos and Nancy will present **several examples of SDEs**, the **typical elements of an SDE**, and a **description of their on-going research on SDEs**. We will then have a discussion about SDEs and related phenomena. **If you have had an SDE, please consider sharing it with the group.**

NOTE our new location: at the [Rhine Center, 2741 Campus Walk Ave, Bldg 500 in Durham](#) is located in a **lighted area with good parking, just off 15-501 and Morreene Rd**, and should be more convenient to everyone. This is also where the IANDS office is located. It is across the street from the Millennium Hotel. Because we are renting the space, we are asking for a **voluntary suggested donation of \$5**. The donation is voluntary: we want you to come regardless whether you can make a donation.

- **NEW EVENT: Friday evening, April 11, 7:00 to 9:00 PM** -- [The Rhine Center is presenting an evening on NDEs!](#) This will be a great introduction to NDEs and an opportunity to hear 3 NDErs' stories -- **members of our NDE Group!**

The Near Death Experience: Personal Accounts and Research: This panel includes [Robert Mays](#) who has spent over 30 years looking carefully at the significance and meaning of NDEs, and three NDErs who will share their own account of this profound experience: [Yvonne Sneed](#), [Maddy Parascandola](#) and [Martina Straub](#). Moderated by [Nancy Zingrone](#).

At the **Stedman Auditorium** on the **Duke Center for Living Campus, 3475 Erwin Rd, Durham**. Admission \$20, Rhine Center members \$16, Students \$10.

Other items of interest:

- **Deathbed Visions, and After-Death Communication in Grief and Grief Counseling** lecture by NDE researcher [Dr. Jan Holden](#) (62 min). **Excellent lecture and presentation of NDEs, DBVs and ADCs.** Research on these three transpersonal experiences surrounding death indicates that they are **virtually always a source of comfort, reassurance, and hope to the bereaved**. In the talk, Jan defines and provides examples of each type of experience, presents research results that indicate the overwhelmingly beneficial effects of these experiences for the bereaved, and **explains how counselors and other health professionals can interact with the bereaved** about these experiences in ways that best promote the progression of the grieving process and the general well-being of the bereaved.
- **Is this proof near-death experiences ARE real?** Extraordinary new book by intensive care nurse reveals dramatic evidence she says should banish our fear of dying. This is Part 1 of a serialization in The Daily Mail newspaper in the UK of [NDE researcher Penny Sartori's](#) new book, *The Wisdom of Near-Death Experiences*.
- **Man recovers from brain death after accident** (11 min): Very interesting story which should **give us all pause regarding declaring someone "brain dead"**. Zack Dunlap was severely injured in an accident and was declared dead -- brain dead -- but **recovered nearly completely**. Dunlap said he **did not remember the accident, but he does remember the doctor declaring him dead.** "I

heard it and it just made me mad inside," he said. **Comment:** the doctor declared Zack "dead" on the basis of physiological indications, but at the time Zack was still around and could "hear" him.

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- **Heaven is For Real** (original trailer, 3 min): movie will be released on April 16. This is the re-enactment of the NDE of **3-year-old Colton Burpo** who "died" and **had an experience of heaven** during abdominal surgery from a burst appendix. Based on the book [Heaven is For Real](#). Colton had **several veridical perceptions and received veridical information**. We have seen a pre-release version of the movie and it is **excellent -- very inspiring** and not at all "preachy". Additional trailers: [Heart of the movie](#) (2 min) and [Answers vignette](#) (3 min). [News story about Colton](#) (7 min).
- **More to dying than meets the eye: Martha Atkins at TEDx** (12 min): Those who work with the dying are familiar with **patients seeing long-deceased loved ones, angelic beings, even hearing music and comforting voices as the patient nears death**. Deathbed phenomena have been documented in the days, weeks, and months before death since the 1500s. Often confused with hallucinations, deathbed phenomena can **bring comfort to patients and caregivers** if those involved know what they are experiencing. This talk will explain deathbed phenomena and present on-going research about the topic. Accounts from the dying and bedside witnesses will be shared.
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- **For fun/inspiration:**
 - **The Silence** (5 min) -- About six miles from Maastricht, in the Netherlands, lie buried **8,301 American soldiers who died** in [Operation Market Garden](#) in the battles to liberate Holland in the fall and winter of 1944-45. Every one of the men buried in the cemetery, as well as those in the Canadian and British military cemeteries, has been **adopted by a Dutch family who mind the grave, decorate it, and keep alive the memory of the soldier they have adopted**. It is even the custom to keep a portrait of "their" American soldier in a place of honor in their home. Annually, on [Liberation Day](#), memorial services are held for "the men who died to liberate Holland." The day concludes with a concert. **The final piece is always "Il Silenzio"**, a memorial piece commissioned by the Dutch and first played in 1965 on the 20th anniversary of Holland's liberation. It has been the concluding piece of the memorial concert ever since. This beautiful concert piece is based upon the original version of taps and was composed by Italian composer [Nini Rosso](#). This year the soloist was a 13-year-old Dutch girl, Melissa Venema, backed by [André Rieu](#) and his orchestra.
 - **People come to the rescue** (4 min) [Also here](#) (4 min)-- touching acts of kindness and courage.

Upcoming NDE meetings:

- **Research Triangle IANDS Group** (at the [Rhine Center](#)): May 13 and June 10.
- **Raleigh IANDS Group** (at [Artisan at Brightleaf apts](#), 2015 Copper Leaf Way, Durham): April 27, May 25, June 29.

Please plan to come to the IANDS NDE meeting next Tuesday, April 8, 7 PM and the panel on NDEs at the Stedman, Friday, April 11, 7 PM: all are welcome!

If you need more information or directions, please call us at [919-929-1073](tel:919-929-1073) or mays@ieee.org.

We hope to see you at one or both of the meetings!

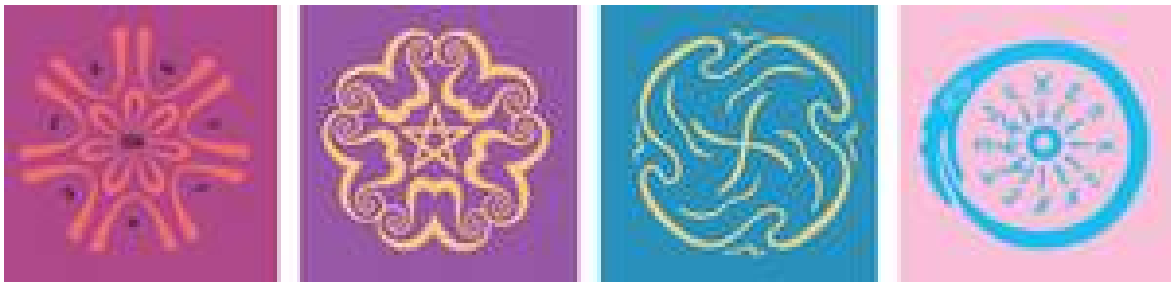
Warmly,
Robert and Suzanne Mays

FINAL “CIRCLE OF THE SEASONS” PAINTING WORKSHOP ON APRIL 26, 2014

Artist Martha Kelder will be presenting a Painting Workshop with the theme of “The Spirit of Summer” in the last of her four-series workshops on the four seasons. The workshop will be held on April 26, from 1:30-4:30 PM in the Richards Room at the Emerson Waldorf High School at 6211 New Jericho Rd. in Chapel Hill, NC.

The cost for the workshop is is \$30. (\$25. For the workshop and \$5.00 for the supplies)
Martha Kelder studied Art at Emerson College in England, as well as the Tobias School of Art. She also has certification from the Anthroposophical Nurturing Arts Training, a 4-year program based in Sebastopol, CA, which she completed in 2010. Martha lives in Chapel Hill with her husband Dirk.

For more information or to register for the workshop, please contact **Peg Carmody at 919-537-8142** or email her at mcarmody@nc.rr.com.



Tickets are **on sale now** for the Festival of Rudolf Steiner's four mystery dramas in English. Co-sponsored by the Anthroposophical Society in America, next August 8-17 the Threefold Mystery Drama Group will perform all four dramas in a nine-day festival and conference in Chestnut Ridge, NY. There will be no separate tickets for performances only. Reportedly, half the festival tickets had been sold in the first few days since tickets went on sale February 24th. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity so don't miss it! For more information go to the Society's webpage:

www.anthroposophy.org



HEALTH & HARMONY

FOR THE HUMAN BEING AND THE EARTH

APRIL 11 & 12

EURYTHMY AND BIODYNAMICS

With Cynthia Hoven and Harald Hoven of Rudolf Steiner College, Fair Oaks, CA

EMERSON WALDORF HIGH SCHOOL
6211 NEW JERICO RD, CHAPEL HILL, NC
emersonwaldorf.org/events 919-967-1858



The true sources of health for both people and the planet come from finding and cultivating the right relationship to all of the dimensions of life that we live in, including both what we know as the physical and the spiritual world. Join us to explore two fields that can enrich your life: the twin practices of Eurythmy and Biodynamic Agriculture.

Eurythmy is a movement art that awakens and integrates body, soul, and spirit, drawing upon deep understanding of how the human being is related to both the earth and the universe, the personal and the spiritual.

Biodynamic Agriculture is the most comprehensively holistic method of farming on the planet, drawing upon all four kingdoms of nature to create a unified field for your farm or garden and offering food of unsurpassed nutritious value and flavors.

FRI, APRIL 11, 6:30 - 9:30 pm
Brown Wing, \$20

Finding health and harmony through cultivating the right relationship of spirit and matter: lecture, conversation, and Eurythmy.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE ON SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 9:00 am - 6:30 pm, \$50. YOU CHOOSE!
(Participants from Friday pm lecture may attend for \$30 only.)

EURYTHMY TRACK **(Brown Wing)**

Explore your creative, spiritual power through a new movement practice. Discover how to use this life-giving movement art to enrich your own sense of well-being, health, and harmony, and help you feel what it means to be an awakened human being!

BIODYNAMICS TRACK **(Richards Room)**

Compost, Biodynamic Preparations, and the Agricultural Individuality. Detailed instructions in biodynamic technique, including compost-building and the preparing and applying of the Horn Manure Spray Preparation.

BOTH TRACKS (EWS Biodynamic Farm) - Complete the day by giving back to the land by participating with the biodynamic group in preparing and applying the Horn Manure Spray Preparation.

Cynthia Hoven draws from decades of experience as a Eurythmy performer, teacher, and therapist, and lectures widely about the spiritual insights of anthroposophy.

Harald Hoven is a renowned international lecturer and founder and director of Raphael Garden at Rudolf Steiner College, a leading center for Biodynamic Education in the United States.

Cynthia's and Harald's joint commitment to cultivating the forces of health for the human being and the planet will make this a powerful weekend for everyone.



Biodynamic Gardening Week of Events in Asheville, NC

by:

Elizabeth M. Gilbert

In addition to the eurythmy events this month with Cynthia Hoven, there will also be a series of Biodynamic events with her husband Harald Hoven, director of the BD gardens at Steiner College. Read below for details and contact info for the events.

A Week Full of Biodynamic Gardening and Farming Events

Harald Hoven is a renowned international lecturer and founder and director of Raphael Gardens at the Rudolf Steiner College in Fair Oaks, CA. The Gardens are a teaching site and have been certified Biodynamic by Demeter since 2004. Harald's special interest is Agricultural Individuality...a holistic approach whereby a farmer or gardener tries to supply all their gardening and farming needs internally.

Tuesday, April 15: Introduction to Biodynamic Gardening

3:00 pm - 6:00 pm at Treska's Porch, Highland Lake Cove, 215 Rhett Drive, Flat Rock, NC. Cost: \$20 for the workshop. This experiential workshop is designed for people unfamiliar with biodynamics, but interested in learning more. All are welcome. Come prepared to walk and work in the garden and learn about composting!

A dinner, hosted by Pat Hart and Kerry Lindsey follows at 6PM. Donations of money for the dinner are appreciated. Please RSVP for the workshop and dinner by April 12:

Pat Hart (hartx049@umn.edu or 952-334-4510). Payment due at the event.

Wednesday, April 16: One-on-one conversations or site visits

8:00 am - 4:00 pm. If you are interested in having some one-on-one time with Harald Hoven at your farm or garden or an agreed on meeting place, please call Jim Smith to schedule it. Contact Jim at 864-313-5106 or jimsmith1945@gmail.com. Price will be determined depending on location of visit and length of time of the visit.

Wednesday, April 16: The Fundamentals of Biodynamics

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm. This evening session is being arranged by Asheville and will take place in Asheville. Details to be announced later.

Friday, April 18: Biodynamic Farming Principles and Applications

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center, 455 Research Drive, Mills River, NC. This workshop is focused for farmers and gardeners who have some knowledge of Biodynamics but is open to all who want to attend. Topics to be covered include transitioning from organic to biodynamic, how to handle not having animals on the farm, making compost, biodynamic preparation, and the relationship of the soil to human health and well-being. Interaction with the audience is encouraged and expected. Weather permitting, an outside compost demonstration will be included. Please pre-register on EventBrite (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/biodynamic-farming-principles-and-applications-tickets->

1119995035). Cost: \$10. Contact Alison Dressler for more information at Alison_Dressler@ncsu.edu or 828-684-3562.

Saturday, April 19: Visit a Farm Transitioning from Organic to Biodynamic

10:00 am – 1:00 pm. New Moon Farm, address, Fairview, NC. Gregg Adams is transitioning his long-term organic farm to biodynamics and is currently gathering materials for making a Biodynamic compost. There will be a walk-about and discussion about the transition. To carpool over to the farm, please meet at 9:30 am in the Food Lion parking lot on Hwy 74 (1350 Charlotte Hwy, Fairview, NC), across the street from Fairview Elementary School. RSVP to Jim Smith 864-313-5106 or jimsmith1945@gmail.com.

The organizing committee for these events: Jim Smith (Earth & Spirit Design), Pat Hart (Highland Lake Cove), Jeanine Davis (North Carolina State University), and Harald Hoven (Rudolf Steiner College).



Dying and Becoming: Easter in Our Time

A Lecture by Eugene Schwartz

WALDORF SCHOOL OF PRINCETON

1062 CHERRY HILL ROAD

Princeton, NJ 08540

Sunday April 6, 2014 at 7:30 PM

The Transfiguration, the final work of the painter Raphael, and Goethe's poem **Trance and Transfiguration** will serve as the contemplative center of this talk. In the course of our evening together we will ponder the relationship of the Easter festival to the archangels Raphael and Michael and to the issues of health, illness and mortality in our time. We will conclude with an exploration of two of the very last themes addressed by Rudolf Steiner: education for special needs and the healing of the earth.

Eugene Schwartz is the author of *Millennial Child: Transforming Education in the Twenty-First Century*. He is well known in Waldorf and Anthroposophical communities for his work as a lecturer and consultant. He played a major role in the Hagens Recording Studio production of the

recent documentary film *Considering Waldorf: Changing Perspectives in Education*.

News from the Southeast:

Georgia

Barbara Renold's workshop on Rudolf Steiner's Mystery Dramas, April 11 & 12, is taking place in **Cartersville, GA**. (See our last Sophia Sun for a complete write-up. Go to www.anthroposophyNC.org; click on Sophia Sun and then on February-March 2014.)

There will be a Visit from our Christian Community Movement for Religious Renewal Priest, Rev. Patrick Kennedy, April 25-27. The Act of Consecration of Man will be on Sunday morning at the **Waldorf School of Atlanta**.

ALABAMA

The Auburn group will be reading from *The Cycle of the New year* to celebrate the Easter Season; Rev. Patrick Kennedy will be visiting the community the week after Easter.

TENNESEE

Demystifying Technology with Frederick Amrine May 10 in Nashville

Noted scholar Frederick Amrine will present two talks on the role of science and technology in Nashville, Tennessee on Saturday, May 10, 2014. Admission is free of charge.

The talks include "Demystifying Technology and the Claims of Science" from 9:45-10:45 a.m. and "Science as Intellectual Beauty and Discovery" 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and will be held in the Chapel of Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3201 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37215. Childcare is available for Linden Waldorf School students during these talks.



Saturday afternoon, Amrine will present a talk for members of the Anthroposophical Society and their invited guests on Rudolf Steiner's last address and the karma lectures from 3-5 p.m. at same location.

Amrine is a professor at the University of Michigan, where he teaches literature and philosophy. In addition to his academic scholarship, he has published essays in the anthroposophical journal *Being Human*, including "Discovering a Genius: Rudolf Steiner at 150," "Music as a Threshold Experience" and "The Sin of Literalism." A life-long anthroposophist, he is deeply involved in translating Steiner, most recently Steiner's *Anthroposophy in the Light of Goethe's Faust*. Amrine's visit to Nashville is co-sponsored by Linden Waldorf School and Anthroposophy Nashville. For more information, go to anthroposophynashville.org, call Barbara Bittles at (615) 373-5173 or email blbittles@comcast.net or call Anne Nicholson at 615-426-3395 or write annenich@gmail.com

Imprisoned Light
by Helen Chamberlain

Food, Spirituality and Social Change: a presentation and conversation on Biodynamic Agriculture and the future of the food movement, with Robert Karp, Executive director and Thea Maria Carlson, Program Director of the Biodynamic Association (www.biodynamics.com), on April 17, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Center for Spiritual Living, 6705 Charlotte Pike, Nashville, TN 37209, Free of charge – donations appreciated; for more information, please contact karendavisbrown@yahoo.com

In Memoriam:
 Gwyneth Moss Bragdon
 born: September 28th, 1970
 died: March 9, 2014

Memorial Service for Gwyneth Moss Bragdon

On Sunday, March 9th, 2014 Gwyneth crossed the threshold into the spiritual world in the company of her family after a mighty battle with cancer for eight years.

A service will be held at Holy Comforter Church in Atlanta, Georgia on Saturday, **March 15th at 3:00pm**. Please join her family in celebrating her life and spirit.

Gwyneth was an instrumental and inspirational force in helping to start the work of the Christian Community in the Atlanta area in the last four years and has touched so many people with her intense, authentic and original search for meaning and beauty.



She is survived by her four children, Leaf, Gillian, Cyrus, and Anais.

Our prayers and love are with Gwyneth and her family during this powerful time of death - and birth, a birth into her journey beyond her body into the realms of soul and spirit.

In support of her further journey we will also be celebrating the Eucharist service for one who has died known as "The Act of Consecration of Man for the Dead" at **8 am** at our chapel in College Park, Maryland.

The following is a poem written in Gwyneth's honor by Gabriela Muresan, Sara Angier Michelson, and Lisa Mojos members of our community:

Colorful,
 Intense,
 Deep presence.

Surging ahead, seeking;
 Creating deeply purposeful actions;
 Gracefully enveloping peace.

May you work in us, stream yourself into us,
 May your heart dance with courage,
 May you be filled with peace, and

Find what you are seeking.

News from Florida

Natural Beginnings Homeschool is a licensed Family Home Day Care inspired by Waldorf education for children ages 2-4 years old. Located in Miami, FL. Contact Barby Jimenez at [305-301-4894](tel:305-301-4894) or naturalbeginningshomeschool@yahoo.com.

From The Northeast:

The Center for Biography & Social Art and The Threshold Circle presents

THRESHOLDS IN LIVING AND DYING

with LINDA BERGH

APRIL 11-13, 2014

Friday 7pm-9pm

Saturday 9am-4pm

Sunday 9am-12:30pm

Hartsbrook Waldorf School Hadley, MA

Workshop Fee: \$190

LINDA BERGH has been teaching Biography Life Cycles for decades, and through life experiences entered Conscious Death and Dying Work. Linda's professional background includes: Assistant Professor of Education, Psychologist Emeritus, and Waldorf teacher and trainer, nationally and internationally. She is the publisher of ***She Would Draw Flowers*** by Kirsten Bergh, her late daughter.

There are moments in our lives when we glimpse our purpose and mission.! These moments often come after we face a life-threatening experience or meet a loss that feels like a death.! Join us, whether you are a hospice worker, teacher of adults or children, or someone who wishes to reflect on your own life journey.! We use reflection, imagination, artwork, discussion, and information sharing to: "!!

Explore the meeting places of life and death in our own lives;! "!" Discover how thresholds reveal our purpose in life and strengthen us; "!!Participate in rituals of remembrance to honor loved ones and open to our own death.! !

For registration, contact Kathleen @ 413 320 1723 or center4biography@gmail.com Center for Biography and Social Art: <http://www.biographysocialart.org>

See the “Challenge of Rudolf Steiner” online!

Presently, the recent excellent film

The Challenge of Rudolf Steiner (Part 1 & 2)

is available on Youtube at least for a short while.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVS1jEirll0>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3R5rfzafMc>

2014 and the Coming of the Kalki Avatar

Robert Powell, PhD

This is a shortened version of the article “2014 and the Coming of the Kalki Avatar” that was first published in the *Journal for Star Wisdom 2014* (Great Barrington, MA: SteinerBooks, 2013). A greatly expanded version of the original article appears as chapter one of Robert Powell’s new book, co-authored with Estelle Isaacson, entitled *Gautama Buddha’s Successor: A Force for Good in Our Time* (Great Barrington, MA: SteinerBooks, 2013).

As described in the article and in the book, a new six-hundred-year cultural rhythm is due to begin in the year 2014, and this coincides with the prophesied date of the coming of a great leader of humanity, the Kalki Avatar.¹ Kalki is awaited in Hinduism as the coming Avatar. In the Hindu tradition Kalki is the name of the tenth and final Avatar of Vishnu, the Maintainer, the second Person of the Hindu *Trimurti*, corresponding to the Son in the Holy Trinity. The prophecy quoted below indicates that Kalki will come at the end of *Kali Yuga*. The name Kalki denotes the *Annihilator of Ignorance*. He is said to be the ruler of the realm of Shambhala, the lost paradise at the heart of Mother Earth.² As Kalki, Vishnu will descend to annihilate ignorance and restore the golden age of virtue, *Satya Yuga*. It is imagined that he will come on a white horse, wielding a flaming sword with which to destroy wickedness and restore righteousness to the earth. His is a two-edged sword—for the good, and against evil. He is the same as the Maitreya Buddha (*Maitreya*, “bearer of goodness”), the successor of Gautama Buddha, who is awaited in the Buddhist tradition.³

The source for this prophecy is the *S’rîmad Bhâgavatam*, which is one of the most important sacred books of India. It stresses the prime importance of the *maintaining* aspect of God personified by the transcendental form of *Vishnu*.

Given that one possible date forecast for the emergence of the Kalki Avatar as the bearer of a new and mighty impulse for the evolution of the earth and humanity is July 27, 2014—see below—this coincides, within twenty months, with the date of the end of the Maya calendar on December 21, 2012. On this account, bearing in mind the elucidation in Chapter 6 of my book *Christ & the Maya Calendar* concerning the dating of *Kali Yuga* in relation to the Maya Calendar,⁴ where the beginning of the transition—from a “modified Hindu perspective”—of the *Kali Yuga* (“Dark Age”) to the New Age of *Satya Yuga* (“Age of Light”) is equated with December 21, 2012, it

¹ Robert Powell, “Subnature & the Second Coming,” *The Inner Life of the Earth* (ed. Paul V. O’Leary; Great Barrington/MA: SteinerBooks, 2008), pp. 116-118. The emergence of the true Kalki Avatar in 2014 is being preempted from various quarters—one example being Sri Kalki Bhagavan, the self-styled “Living Avatar”.

² Concerning Shambhala, see Robert Powell, *Cultivating Inner Radiance and the Body of Immortality* (Great Barrington, MA: SteinerBooks, 2012), pp.26-27, 146-148, 167.

³ Anonymous, *Meditations on the Tarot* (translated by Robert Powell; New York, Tarcher/Putnam, 2002), p. 614: “Since it is a question of the work of the fusion of revelation and knowledge, of spirituality and intellectuality, it is a matter throughout of the fusion of the Avatar principle with the Buddha principle. In other words, the Kalki Avatar awaited by the Hindus and the Maitreya Buddha awaited by the Buddhists will manifest in a single personality. On the historical plane the Maitreya Buddha and the Kalki Avatar will be one.”

⁴ Robert Powell & Kevin Dann, *Christ & the Maya Calendar: 2012 and the Coming of the Antichrist* (Great Barrington, MA: SteinerBooks, 2009), Chapter 6.

seems fitting to look at the prophecy concerning the coming of the Kalki Avatar. For the Kalki Avatar, like Christ, is a bearer of the Mystery of Love.

When the Supreme Lord has appeared on earth as Kalki, the maintainer of religion, *Satya Yuga* will begin, and human society will bring forth progeny in the mode of goodness...When the Moon, the Sun, and Brhaspati (Jupiter) are together in the constellation Karkata (Cancer), and all three enter simultaneously into the lunar mansion Pushya – at that exact moment the age of *Satya*, or *Krita*, will begin. (*S'rîmad Bhâgavatam* 12.2.22, 24)

Thus, when the Sun, Moon, and Jupiter are in conjunction in the Hindu lunar *nakshatra* Pushya (4° – 17° Cancer in the sidereal zodiac), the emergence of the Kalki Avatar, the “bearer of goodness,” is expected. It is in this lunar mansion that the beautiful star cluster known as the Beehive (Greek: *Praesepe*), Jupiter’s place of exaltation, is to be found.⁵ Evidently the Hindu sages attributed something special to Jupiter’s location in this part of the zodiac: a special impulse of the Good comes to expression here.

One historical possibility of this conjunction, the prophesied conjunction of the Sun, Moon, and Jupiter in Pushya, will take place on July 27, 2014. Against this background, the conjunction on July 27, 2014 may signify the emergence of the Kalki Avatar to inaugurate a new spiritual era when something of the impulse of goodness, connected with the work of the Kalki Avatar, might be expected to begin to stream in as a counterbalance to the evil of the Antichrist – the incarnated Ahriman (prophesied by Rudolf Steiner). For the Kalki Avatar is the teacher of morality (goodness) and is the chosen vessel for the second Person of the Godhead (Vishnu in the Hindu tradition; Christ in the Christian tradition) to spearhead the overcoming of the evil of the Antichrist. The Kalki Avatar’s possible emergence in 2014 could manifest in a new spiritual impulse along the lines of strengthening moral consciousness:

In this light, let us consider the following words by way of attunement to the prophecy of the activity of the Kalki Avatar in our time as the transmitter of the power of goodness that our modern world is in need of now, more than ever before:

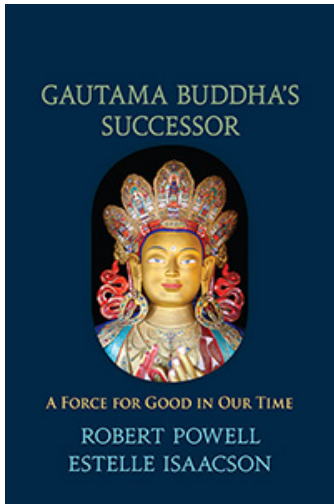
By the time the age of *Kali* ends...religious principles will be ruined...so-called religion will be mostly atheistic...the occupations of men will be stealing, lying and needless violence, and all the social classes will be reduced to the lowest level...Family ties will extend no further than the immediate bonds of marriage...homes will be devoid of piety, and all human beings will have become like asses. At that time, the Supreme personality of the Godhead will appear on the earth. Acting with the power of pure spiritual goodness, he will rescue eternal religion...Lord Kalki will appear in...the great soul of *Vishnuyasha*⁶...When the Supreme Lord has appeared on earth as Kalki, the maintainer of religion, *Satya Yuga* will begin, and human society will bring forth progeny in the mode of goodness. (*S'rîmad Bhâgavatam* 12; 2; 16-23)

In his 2014 lectures and workshops, Robert Powell will deepen into this theme of the coming of Kalki, awaited in Hinduism, who is the same as the Bodhisattva awaited in Buddhism, the

⁵ The exact location of Praesepe, which denotes the place of exaltation of Jupiter in the zodiac, is 12°39' Cancer—see Robert Powell & David Bowden, *Astrogeographia: Correspondences between the Stars and Earthly Locations* (Great Barrington, MA: SteinerBooks, 2012), pp. 35-41.

⁶ *Vishnuyasha* is the Hindu name in the *S'rîmad Bhâgavatam* for the human being who will be the bearer of the Kalki Avatar, and for the Kalki Avatar to emerge in the year 2014, it follows that *Vishnuyasha* must already be in incarnation.

Bodhisattva who will become the Maitreya Buddha in about 2,500 years time: the "bearer of the Good" (Maitreya).



If you would like more information about the incarnation of the Kalki Buddha, you might want to get a copy of Robert's latest book, *Gautama Buddha's Successor: A Force for Good in our Time*, available in paperback from Steiner Books for \$18.00.

Or, you might like to attend Robert's upcoming lectures and conferences in Chapel Hill, NC and Holden Beach, NC this summer. The details are as follows:

July 21-25, 2014

The Journey of the Soul into Incarnation. A 5-day workshop to be held in the Brown Wing at the Emerson Waldorf School. As usual, Marcia Burchard will be playing highly inspiring music for this workshop. We are so blessed that the two of them will be coming to Chapel Hill for the 10th consecutive year. For those of you who are unable to attend the full workshop, ***you can participate in a partial workshop opportunity:*** For \$65 you can attend the 5 afternoon lectures which will begin at 4:15 pm every day. Then you can join various spontaneous dinner engagements and if you wish, return on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for the Sophia Grail Circle celebrations. As always, the Tuesday and Thursday evening Sophia Grail Circle celebrations are open to all.

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 "Meditations on the Tarot"

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

Holden Beach, North Carolina. The retreat starts at 5 pm on July 26th and ends at 12:30pm on July 29th.

July 29th, 2014 "Grail Knight's Training"

This half day training will follow the Holden Beach Retreat and will be at the same location as the Holden Beach Retreat.

The training starts at 2pm on July 29th and ends at 10pm the same night. Departure Wednesday morning July 30th.

For information on all of the above, contact: Kelly Calegar, 18 Haycox Court, Durham, NC 27713
Tel: 919-361-0691 Email: kcalegar@earthlink.net or visit: sophiaschoolofmovement.org



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



**A Public Lecture
with Dr. Robert Powell**

Friday, July 25th, 2014

7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

**The Emerson Waldorf School
6211 New Jericho RD, Chapel Hill, NC 27516**

The Year 2014 denotes the beginning of a new 600-year cultural wave in history as indicated in the teaching of Rudolf Steiner. The research of Robert Powell reveals the astronomical reality *and* significance of this 600-year rhythm.

An ancient Hindu prophecy concerning the emergence of the tenth Avatar, Lord Kalki, also points to this very same year, 2014. The astrological indication of this ancient prophecy refers to Kalki coming when the Sun, Moon, and Jupiter will be in conjunction in Pushya (Cancer), which will be an astronomical reality on July 27, 2014.

In this lecture, all of the above will be brought into correspondence with the twenty-first century incarnation of the Bodhisattva who will become the future Maitreya Buddha, the successor to Gautama Buddha. Moreover, we will explore Rudolf Steiner's indications concerning the Maitreya Buddha and the Kalki Avatar and also Valentin Tomberg's description concerning the coming Buddha-Avatar, Maitreya-Kalki.

Maitreya means "Bearer of the Good." The Hindu Kalki is known as the "Maintainer of Religion," also the "Destroyer of Ignorance." This future Buddha-Avatar is a central focus for the instreaming inspiration of the Etheric Christ and is emerging as a remarkable force for good in our time—a force that one can experience within. Through this teaching, we can endeavor to prepare for the coming cultural wave and also to open our hearts and minds to the reality of Divine Sophia, the Inspirer of all true wisdom traditions who is now, as the new breath of heaven, streaming in Her Light for the seeding of a new culture based on love and wisdom—the Rose of the World.

\$10 at the door

please arrive by 7:15 to allow time for parking (this lecture will be held in the EWS High School Building, upper campus)

There will also be a 5-day Choreocosmos workshop with Robert Powell in Chapel Hill
at the Emerson Waldorf School the week prior to this lecture.

No previous experience is necessary. All are welcome! (See separate flyer)

COLLOQUIUM ON THE WORK OF THOMAS BERRY

DEVELOPMENT, DIFFERENCE, IMPORTANCE, APPLICATIONS

**Co-Sponsored by the Center for Ecozoic Societies and
Carolina Seminars of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
May 28-30, 2014**

Location: FedEx Global Education Center, UNC

This should be a very interesting event. It is free but registration is required. Please see Registration Form. The number of spaces is limited

I have recently become interested in the writings of Thomas Berry and have read or perused some of his books – *The Great Work* and *The Dream of the Earth*. It is possible that I will give a presentation linking the work of Berry and Steiner. I would be grateful for some colleagueship in this venture and hope that some of you will be inspired to read some of Berry's work so that we could discuss what I see as a connection with anthropology.



This colloquium celebrates the 100th year of Berry's birth and the fifth year of his death. Berry was born in Greensboro and lived there the last ten years of his life. He was a cultural historian, an academic and a monk of the Passionist Order. He was deeply concerned about the ecological situation of the earth. His statement:

"We will not protect or save that which we do not regard as sacred." is what caught my attention. There are many environmental groups out there doing wonderful work but I don't know of any working consciously out of a sense of the sacred. The interesting thing is that there is nothing overtly religious or preachy about his writing. An atheist could not be offended by *The Great Work*.

Berry felt that the age we are in now where humans have such power over the environment and are causing massive extinctions called for a new name. He was hoping that our present industrial/technological age would change to an ecological/cultural age. He called this the "ecozoic."

Following are a few key principles or determining features of the Ecozoic Era as delineated by Thomas Berry:

1. Earth is a communion of subjects., not a collection of objects.
2. Earth exists and can survive only in its integral functioning.
3. Earth is a one time endowment. It is subject to irreversible damage in the major patterns of its functioning.
4. The human is derivative, Earth is primary. Earth must be the primary concern of every human institution, profession, program and activity.
5. The entire pattern of functioning of Earth is altered in the transition from the Cenozoic to the Ecozoic Era.
6. Progress to be valid, must include the entire Earth in all its component aspects. To designate human plundering of the planet as progress is an unbearable distortion.

7. The Ecozoic can come into existence only through an appreciation of the feminine dimension of Earth, through a liberation of women from the oppreSsions and the constraints that they have endured in the past, and through the shared responsibility of both women and men for establishing an integral earth community.

8. A new role exists for both science and technology in the Ecozoic period... our human technologies must become more coherent with the technologies of the natural world.

9. New ethical principles must emerge which recognize the absolute evils of biocide and geocide as well as the other evils concerned more directly with the human.

10. New religious sensitivities are needed that will recognize the sacred dimension of Earth and that will accept the natural world as the primary manifestation of the divine.

11. A new language, an Ecozoic language, is needed. Our language is radically inadequate.

12. Psychologically all the archetypes of the collective unconscious attain a new validity and a new pattern of functioning, especially in our understanding of the symbols of the Tree of Life, the heroic journey, death and rebirth, the mandala and the Great Mother.

13. New developments can be expected in ritual, in all the arts , and in literature. In drama especially, extraordinary opportunities exist in the monumental issues that are being worked out in these times. The conflicts that until now have been situated simply within the human drama are magnified considerably through the larger contours of conflict as these emerge in this stupendous transition from the terminal Cenozoic to the emerging Ecozoic. What we are dealing with is in **epic** dimensions beyond anything thus far expressed under this term.

14. Mitigation of the present ruinous situation, the recycling of materials, the diminishment of consumption, the healing of damaged ecosystems – all this will be in vain if we do these things to make the present industrial systems acceptable. They must all be done, but in order to **build a new order of things**.

A Note from Eve Olive about the above article:

I find it really interesting that not only do the members of the Center for Ecozoic Societies have a sense of the sacred they also have a feeling for, and belief in, the validity of the arts. Their name also implies that they may be open to new possibilities with regard to the social order. It seems to me that we, as Anthroposophists, should be able to find a few friends here!

The possibility of a new Mystery Drama is beginning to form itself in my imagination.

Eve Olive

919-489-2564 eveolive1@gmail.com

**COLLOQUIUM ON THOMAS BERRY'S WORK: DEVELOPMENT,
DIFFERENCE, IMPORTANCE, APPLICATIONS**
Co-Sponsored by Center for Ecozoic Societies and
Carolina Seminars of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
May 28-30, 2014, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Please register as soon as possible. Final Registration date is
May 21st. There are a limited number of spaces available for this event.

Please complete and send by mail or email to reserve your space:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Dietary restrictions or allergies: _____

Will you be making a presentation: Yes ____ No ____

If yes, briefly describe your presentation and separately
submit abstract in accordance with the Colloquium
Guidelines (presentation proposals due by April 15, 2014):

There is no charge for the Colloquium sessions.

If you are a participant only and you wish to purchase the
conference meals (all vegetarian), please pay as set forth
below:

Conference Lunches (3): \$30 Yes ____

Conference Banquet (1): \$20 Yes ____

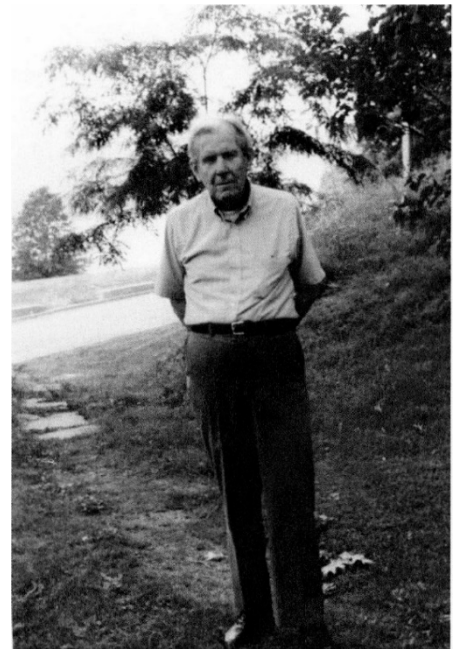
Would you like assistance with transportation from the
airport? Yes ____

Would you prefer lodging in a home? Yes ____

*Voluntary contribution to help cover the Colloquium costs and to provide travel expense
assistance for those who have requested it: \$ _____*

TOTAL INCLUDED: \$ _____ I wish to pay by credit card ____ by PayPal ____ (we will invoice you)

**Please email completed registration to: Center for Ecozoic Societies, 2516 Winningham Road,
Chapel Hill, NC 27516, or email to ecozoicsocieties@gmail.com. Questions? Call 919-942-4358**



"The I knows itself"

Theme for the Year: "The I Knows Itself" – in the Light of Michaelic World Affirmation

The arc from Society to individual is continued with the theme for the year: "The I Knows Itself" – in the Light of Michaelic World Affirmation. Like the Society, the individual confronts the same challenges as other contemporaries and must also find a connection to the world—as a basis for self-knowledge.

From the question of the Anthroposophical Society's identity to the foundation stone laying for the first Goetheanum, an event focused on the I in its development—this describes the path we have tried to follow over the past two years. In our time each aspect is affected by two perspectives that represent important questions and context for the Anthroposophical Society.

Between Abyss and Renewal

One is the question about the I in contention with the world as it stands amid the events of our time: the peril for the I, the challenge of life in changing, complex times—fateful for many—and a growing opportunity to understand humanity in a new way and make it real. That we are contemporaries is more than just something we all share; it is the point where mighty abysses and immense possibilities for renewal begin.

On the other hand, for the Anthroposophical Society these themes exist in the context of 100th anniversaries—in a historical as well as a contemplative light from which fresh and renewing impulses for the great questions and challenges of our time can arise.

Both perspectives raise questions for us as contemporaries. Where does a self-knowledge connected with world events begin? The motto: "The I knows itself" is a lens of knowledge for the consciousness soul, the start of a turn toward the spirit in the human being and the world born out of the human being's deep entanglement in matter and out of a thinking that has united itself with the conditions of material phenomena in the world while also creating them.

Understanding for Life

We are still at the beginning of the Michael age that dawned at the end of the 19th century. The path to spirit knowledge and a cosmopolitan existence in the world is being traveled under conditions that are often oppressive, conditions into which we have placed ourselves as humanity and in which new capacities can nonetheless be found. Many people are taken hold of by a deep concern: we know and feel that we increasingly share a deeprooted bond.

The human being possesses capacities for a knowledge that serves life and must do justice to it. Concepts and ideas cited as natural scientific law prove inadequate for understanding the element of life. This understanding arises in an active turn toward the other person. It is no longer a picture of the world, but a compassionate existence in the world, a thinking that brings us into relationship, into connection and an experience of interrelationship. The quality of interrelationship is the human quality. Rudolf Steiner indicates that we belong to the earth only when our relationship to other people is felt, that our connection with the earth is contingent on our connection with the human being.¹ The humanity of the human being—so often doubted today!—arises in his connection with the world: “Man grows ever more Man, as he grows to be an expression of the World. He finds himself, not by seeking himself, but by uniting himself to the World with Will in Love.”² This sensitivity makes great possibilities apparent, but great thresholds also appear: The will to make a decision, to act, often becomes a challenge. There is reluctance to make decisions and carry them out because we sense the unpredictable results of acting.

Hope and Expectation

“Uniting oneself to the World with Will in Love” requires affirmation of our world. This affirmation is not just needed; it is done in a knowledge that wills to include the fullness of reality—its spiritual dimension—as well. Rudolf Steiner contrasts the Michaelic mood of affirmation to Ahriman’s mood of world negation condensed entirely into Ahriman’s own being: “One of the Imaginations of Michael is as follows:—He reigns through the course of Time, bearing the light of the Cosmos as living being of his being, fashioning the warmth of the Cosmos as revelation of his own being. He wends as one Being like a World—affirming himself inasmuch only as he affirms the World—as though from all stations of the universe guiding forces to the earth below.”³ Of course, we can experience world affirmation in different ways. The human quality of birth, the fact the human being decides to be born, the fact the will to live on the earth is so powerful that the human being unites with the physical and creates a body—that is perhaps our greatest expression of affirmation. In his address to youth in Breslau 90 years ago, Rudolf Steiner spoke of a Michael festival—the future rings forth from a shared experience of hope and expectation: “We really need to reach the point where the sprouting life of the future we can feel in its embryonic form finds expression in festivals of hope, in festivals of expectation....There should not merely be a vague exaltation through the Michael idea; there should be the consciousness that a new world of soul must be founded among human beings. The Michael principle is actually what leads us. A shared experience is part of working toward a Michael festival in which the spirit of hope, the spirit of expectation, can live.”⁴

Affirmation Based on Spirit Knowledge

Hope and expectation as an expression of world affirmation—we would like to place the theme for the year into this context: The I that unites with the world in knowledge, an esoteric life that can serve the human being and world affirmation. Spirit knowledge as the basis for affirmation of a world that has forgotten the spirit but wills to be known in its spiritual element—we wish you a good year of working with this theme!
| Constanza Kaliks, Goetheanum Leadership

Notes

1.

“Christ descended for all human beings and only through our feeling related to everyone else do we belong to the earth. The deeper understanding of the Christ derives from our effort to attain a full and complete connection with them.” (Rudolf Steiner, *The Karma of Vocation* [GA 172], lecture, November 27, 1916, Spring Valley, 1984, pp. 201–202).

2.

Rudolf Steiner: *The Michael Mystery*, “World-Thoughts in Michael, and World-Thoughts in Ahriman”, November 16, 1924, London, 1956, p. 56

3.

Ibid. p. 55. The continuation reads: “And, in contrast, an Imagination of Ahriman: Ahriman, in his course, from Time would wring Space. Around him is darkness, into which he projects the rays of his own light. The more he achieves his ends, the keener grows the frost around him. He moves like a world contracted into one single being—his own; affirming himself only by negating the world; he moves as though he brought with him uncanny forces from the dark caverns of the earth.”

4.

Rudolf Steiner, lecture, June 9, 1924, in *Die Erkenntnis-Aufgabe der Jugend* (GA 217a)

Library Move, Town Halls

The Society's Rudolf Steiner Library is in the midst of transformations, and we have a [blog](#) up where reports from the Town Hall are being posted to help everyone stay in touch. It's at library.anthroposophy.org. And there is a rather wonderful video documenting the move from Fern Hill to Philmont, NY. Give it a look! You can view it at the Society's website: www.anthroposophy.org

From the Editor,

Dear Friends and Faithful Readers,

With heavy heart, I must announce that I will be stepping down as Editor of the *Sophia Sun* in June. There will be just one more issue after this one. While I have loved every aspect of the task, there are other factors making me realize that it is time to give it up:

First, there is my declining health. I have severe arthritis in my neck, back and fingers that not only make computer work very painful, but my clumsy stiff fingers make innumerable typos. Adding to this are the cataracts in my eyes, too small yet for the surgeon's scalpel, yet large enough to render the screen blurry as can be. Not good qualities for an editor!

As a result of my frailties, the task of doing the newsletter takes much longer than it should and as a result, my house and other obligations suffer, not to mention how I neglect my health problems because I put everything else first.

Secondly, I am about to begin my life's final seven-year cycle – I will turn 63 on Easter Sunday, April 20. As with all my previous seven year changes, there have been profound and dramatic changes in my life at these transitions, so much so that I now welcome and expect the changes. For almost a year now, I have been feeling that urge to cast off everything old and begin new activities, a feeling of dying and rebirth wanting to manifest. There is a questioning of the value of everything I have been doing – is the effort worth the output? Are there things that I could be doing that are of more value to Anthroposophy, for my health, for the world? In regard to the newsletter, I know that many of you have enjoyed reading it due to the many appreciative letters you have sent, for which I am so grateful. However, I am also aware that there are an equal number of people who rarely, if ever read it. A few have expressed the idea that they would prefer to get an email as events occur, because a lengthy newsletter is just too much to read in their busy lives. I can well understand this, and I intend to do just that – as I hear news, I will post it on our list-serve and email lists. I had also hoped that because the *Sophia Sun* is posted online, we would hear from strangers inquiring about Anthroposophy and perhaps find some new and younger members for the Society. While I have gotten emails from all over the world asking to be on our mailing list, every single request was from people who were already anthroposophists. Hopefully, some newcomers to Steiner will still find our back issues when they do searches on spiritual topics, as our website will continue.

This is not to say that I feel my efforts were fruitless. I was very happy to put the southeastern anthroposophical groups and branches “on the map” so to speak. Communication is so important. However, I have devoted most of my life to group and branch work, yet now I keep hearing that Steiner gave equal, if not more importance to spreading Anthroposophy into the world-at-large. This is something I feel that our Society and our groups, plus myself, have neglected and we need to find ways of helping with that. Also with old age, we should be slowing down our outer activities and giving more time to the spiritual world in our meditative life. It is also time to write up that “bucket list” of things we always wanted to do, but have kept on the back burner because of other obligations. I have a long list that needs to get started!

Last, but not least I want to thank the many who have helped with the newsletter – I could not have done it without you – thank you Linda Folsom for doing the calendars for each issue; thank you Robert Mays for posting the newsletter on our website and for your technical support when needed. Thank you all the many writers and contributors from all over the country who have made our newsletter a true community endeavor. And last but not least, thank you to the readers who have enjoyed and been inspired by what they found in it.

Blessings to all of you during this most Holy of Seasons!

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

RSBNC Board:

President; Peg Carmody 919-537-8142; mcarmody@nc.rr.com

Vice President: Nancy Willson 919-493-1091; nancywillson@myfrontiermail.com

Recording Secretary: Melanie Maupin 919-384-7338 melmaup@gmail.com

Correspondence Secretary: Joanna Carey 919-885-7569 joannapcarey@gmail.com

Acting Treasurer: Peg Carmody

Board members-at-large:

Allen Barenholtz

Edward Schuldt

Suzanne Mays

Newsletter: *The Sophia Sun* sophiasun@peoplepc.com

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 or Ricey Clapp at: 828-505-1018;

email: ricey.clapp@gmail.com

Website: www.azaleamountain.org

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

sputnam01@att.net

Greensboro: Sandy LaGrega – 336-292-7947; sunsan52@aol.com

Education

Emerson Waldorf School (N-K-12)

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

Robert Sardello and Cheryl Sanders-Sardello, Director

email: 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;

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 website: **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; 1600 McDade Store Rd., Cedar Grove, NC

The Arts

Eurythmy - Eve Olive - 919-489-2564; 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; 919-824-9948

Marlene Joyce – 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; Website: www.christiancommunitync.org

Anthroposophical Lending Library

The Phoenix Library, Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Contact: Judy Frey 919-928-8749; 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 7:00 PM at the home of Mary Leonardi, 6803 Compton Rd., Cedar Grove, NC 27231; 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

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 meetings will be: February 11, March 11, April 8, May 6 and June 10.** 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 *Spiritual Beings in the Heavenly Bodies and in the Kingdoms of Nature*. 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 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

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 or Bob and Betty Hare at 336-253-6431 or bobandbettyhare@gmail.com; A Christian Community is active in this area as well.

Birmingham- The Alabama Waldorf School at 1220 50th 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 or call 727-581-6195.

Boca Raton Group; contact Karen Maestrales at 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

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

The Epiphany Group of Comer and Marietta, GA; contact Katherine Jenkins at 706-540-5871 or email at 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

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 information, 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 or Peggy Pearl at 843-554-7166 or email at peggy.pearl@yahoo.com; reading *The Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric*; new website at: 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

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

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 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 or Anne Nicholson at annenich@gmail.com, 615-426-3395

Nashville has its own website: 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

Linden Waldorf School Steiner Study Group, Nashville - meets on Monday mornings 8:30-10:30 at 3201 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37215 and is currently studying ***Theosophy*** by Rudolf Steiner For more information, contact: Anne Nicholson at 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: Anne Nicholson at annenich@gmail.com or call 615-426-3395.

Southeastern Regional Group of Chattanooga. led by Maria St. Goar; contact: 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 or call 423-265-3260

Editor's Note; Please keep the information about your Study Group Current. Email Kathleen Wright at kathleenwright51@gmail.com to update your information. If you have a Study group that is not listed above or if you know of any more, please let me know. We are happy to list any Anthroposophical groups and initiatives in the Southeast.



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

P.O. Box 16024

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

www.anthroposophyNC.org

The Sophia Sun

Editor.....Kathleen Wright

Calendar.....Linda Folsom

Web Manager.....Robert Mays

The Sophia Sun is the newsletter of the Rudolf Steiner Branch (NC) of the Anthroposophical Society in America, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. It is published bi-monthly (6 issues per year; no issues July and Aug.). Members are encouraged to view the newsletter electronically by visiting our website www.anthroposophyNC.org. If you wish to receive the newsletter free-of-charge by email, please write to the editor at: kathleenwright51@gmail.com **Note:** On line, the newsletter is in color; mailed copies are in black and white. To receive the newsletter by Postal service, please contact the editor. **Cost is \$20. a year for members and \$30 for nonmembers.**

Submitting articles, letters, announcements and ads:

Please send UNFORMATTED text as a Microsoft Word document (no pdfs if possible) to kathleenwright51@gmail.com. Articles should not exceed 3 pages in length, and preferably should be 1-2 pages long.

Ads for goods and services: Dues-paying members of the Rudolf Steiner Branch are entitled to one free ad per year (quarter of a page). Please contact the editor for rates if you are not a member and wish to place an ad. If you have any questions, please contact: **Kathleen Wright, at 919-309-9622 or email: kathleenwright51@gmail.com**

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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 or our local website at www.anthroposophyNC.org