

The Michael Messenger

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

MAY 2016
Vol. I No. 7



Calendar of Events



- Sunday, May 1** – School of Spiritual Science- Lesson 19 10:00 AM Brown Wing
- Monday, May 2** - Astrosophy Talk with Kelly Calegar 7:30 see page 4
The Five Wishes Workshop with Jenny Binham 3-5 Pm page 4
- Thursday May 5** ASCENSION DAY
Little Prince Performance 6 PM at EWS page 5
Sophia Grail Circle 7:30 see page 6
- Friday May 6** MAY DAY FESTIVAL AT EWS
Showing of "Screenagers" at the Varsity Theater see page 7
- Saturday, May 7** Painting Workshop with Martha Kelder see page 8
- Monday, May 9** Mindy Kash's birthday celebration at Eve Olive's 5:30 page 9
- Friday, May 13** "The Art of Sacred Conversation" with Lynn Jericho page 10
- Sunday May 15** WHITSUN
Christian Community Lay Service 10:30 AM page 2
Whitsun Observance at Judy Frey;s page 2
- Tuesday May 17** "The Healing Art of Storytelling" 6 pm see page 10



BRANCH WHITSUN OBSERVANCE AT JUDY FREY'S 3 PM MAY 15

All are welcome to join in a celebration of Whitsun. We will gather at the home of Judy Frey at 3 PM for an afternoon of very inspiring, esoteric readings about the first Whitsun taken from Prokofieff's "The Mystery of the Resurrection in the Light of anthroposophy" and from Judith von Halle's account of the first Pentecost taken from her book "And If He Hath Not Been Raised". Following a discussion, Judy and Kathleen will provide refreshments.

It is customary to wear white on Whitsun. There are a number of reasons for this. In the days of the early Church, new converts, called Catechumens would wear white robes as they were baptized on Whitsun. Also, the Holy Spirit has been always depicted as a white Dove.

Our dear late sister, Linda Folsom, always felt a close relationship with the Holy Spirit and we will welcome her presence to enlighten our community during this Festival that is known as the Festival of the Community and the Individual.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY LAY SERVICE TO OBSERVE WHITSUN MAY 15 AT 10:30 A.M.



A Christian Community Lay Service will take place on Sunday, May 15 at the home of Buddy and Sarah Smiley at **228 Forest Hill Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514**. We begin the service with the lighting of a candle, then read a short prayer and sing a simple song. We read the Gospel for that Sunday and have a contemplative conversation on the subject. This Sunday, there will be an additional presentation on the Descent of the Holy Spirit and what that means in our lives today, presented by Diana Haynes. Afterwards we will have a pot luck lunch for all who would like to stay. Depending on how long the pot luck lasts, we should be done by around 2 pm

POETRY WORKSHOP WITH EVE OLIVE: "Poetry and Destiny": "All the World's a Stage"

This course will look at our "one wild and precious life" as possibly one in a series of related lives. For each life we are "costumed" appropriately in a physical body, differently endowed with intellect, artistry and practical gifts, equipped for our part in the "play".

We will hear poems and write poems. There will be writing prompts and no requirements for rhyme or recognized form. We will take images from the life we have been living, discover the gestures inherent in this destiny and in broad sweeps paint word pictures of our journey. This course is open to all – those who write and those who have never written a poem before.



Eve Olive is a eurythmist, architect and poet. Her book ***Cosmic Child: Inspired Writings from the Threshold of Birth*** will be used in the course. Other books of interest are ***Unbornness*** by Peter Selg; ***Children's Past Lives*** by Carol Bowman; ***Babies Remember Birth*** by David Chamberlain, PhD; ***Life Before Life*** by Jim B. Tucker.

Time: Tuesdays 1:30-3:00 PM April 19-May 24

Place: The home of Eve Olive, 5815 Mt. Sinai Rd., Durham, NC 27705

Cost: \$60 for entire course; \$10. Per class; (or sliding scale if needed); contact Eve

It does not matter that the course has already started. You may enroll now.

For more information about the course, contact Eve Olive at :
[919-489-2564](tel:919-489-2564) or email her at eveolive1@gmail.com

Dr. Mark Turns 63; Currently In Hospital

Mark Eisen celebrated his 63rd birthday at home with several of his friends: Kathleen Wright, Roger Schultz. Judy Frey and Peg Carmody are pictured on the right with Mark. Other friends came later that day.

Mark is now in UNC-Hospital. Please keep Dr. Mark in your prayers. He is going through a difficult time.



Second Introductory Talk on Astrosophy May 2 from 7:30-9:00 PM Given by Kelly Calegar At the home of Jon Lyerly

You are warmly invited to the second introductory evening talk on Astrosophy given by astrophysicist Kelly Calegar. If you like history and love the stars, this will be an enjoyable evening for you. But beware! Your zodiacal sign might not be what you think it is. (Or at least you may need to view yourself from a few different perspectives. Jon Lyerly will be the host for this event. His address is 127 West Union St. in downtown Hillsborough. This is a free offering. For more information call **Jon at 336-263-7685** or **Kelly at 919-361-0691**



Have You Signed your “Five Wishes” Forms Yet? A “Must Do” Workshop for Everyone May 2!

There will be a meeting at Jenny Bingham’s house to discuss making conscious choices for our “end of life” choices and also to make arrangements for funerals and memorials after death. It will be on Monday, May 2nd from 3 to 5 pm. Jenny will give a short presentation and answer all questions. Jenny is a Notary and can be the witness for all your forms.

Diana Haynes writes: “Personally, I must say that Linda having done this class with Jenny gave her family enormous help and clarity in dealing with multiple questions at a time when everyone is overwhelmed by grief. Having the document with her wishes detailed made all the difference.”

Call to register for this workshop; **919-241-4304** or email Jenny at: **jennybingham7@gmail.com**.

**Jenny Bingham
208 Murray Street
Hillsborough, NC 27278**

**Matthew Dexter to Present
 “The Little Prince”
 Thursday, May 5th, 2016
 6 pm - 7:15 pm
 Brown Room of EWHS**



“I should have liked to begin this story like a fairy-tale: ‘Once upon a time there was a little prince, who lived on a planet that was scarcely bigger than himself, and who had need of a sheep . . .’ To those who understand life, that would have given a much greater air of truth to my story.”

In this beautiful, gentle story, a little prince sets out from his tiny planet to discover the wider universe. He meets quaint and quirky characters and creatures on various other planets, and finally on the Earth, where he meets the pilot, the writer of the story. De Saint-Exupéry’s fairy tale, with its mysterious undercurrent of truth, appeals equally to children and adults.

Matthew Dexter presents *The Little Prince* as dramatized storytelling, acting out the characters as they appear in the story, presenting just enough to spark the imaginations of young and old alike.

Matthew Dexter trained at the Chrysalis Theatre Acting School in London and at the London School of Speech Formation. He is an active performer and teacher of acting and speech workshops. Matthew, who is British born, played Capesius in the 4 Mystery Dramas of 2015 in America and was widely acclaimed for his remarkable performances. Last year, he created a one man show of the Christmas Carol and took it on tour - this year he is offering *The Little Prince*, which is both suitable for young audiences, as well as their parents and friends.

It will be an evening of great fun, pure enjoyment and an opportunity to share with non-Anthroposophical friends, some of the flavor of what we appreciate so much in the development of the arts by Rudolf Steiner.

Donations to cover the travel expenses of the artist will be gratefully received. Suggested donation of \$25 for those who can, and sliding scale down to \$15, for students, children and seniors.

Further discount for families with multiple children. Please arrive early to settle into seats so we can begin on time..

Refreshments will be available afterwards for a small contribution to the Cultural Fund.

**Sophia Grail Circle:
A Celebration of the Beatitudes
Ascension Thursday, May 5
7:30-9:00
at the Murphy School
3717 Murphy School Rd.
Durham, NC 27705**



This Ascension Grail Circle will be a celebration of the Beatitudes, which are the teachings of blessedness through the activity of the Holy Spirit working in us. Mikhail Krishtal, pianist and composer will accompany our Sacred Dance.

As Christian Rosenkreutz taught, it is in brother/sisterhood that true communities flourish. And as Rudolf Steiner taught, the astral body is not at all social; therefore, we need to come together to unite on the level of the etheric if true brotherly/sisterly love is to arise among us.

The music of the spheres lifts the soul into higher realms, helping one to learn objectivity with interest, and allowing Sophia to weave us together into a tapestry of Grace and Love, filled with the colors of our being.

We are changing our world one good deed at a time.

In love and Wisdom of Christ and Sophia,

Kelly Calegar



**The Emerson Waldorf School Invites You to
A Special Screening of “Screenagers”
Friday, May 6, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Varsity Theatre - 123 E. Franklin St, Chapel Hill, NC**



Are you watching kids scroll through life, with their rapid-fire thumbs and a six-second attention span? Physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston saw that happening with her own kids and began a quest to uncover how it might impact their development. As with her other two award-winning documentaries on mental health, Ruston takes a deeply personal approach as she probes into the vulnerable corners of family life, including her own, to explore struggles over social media, video games, academics, and internet addiction. Through poignant and unexpectedly funny stories, along with surprising insights from authors, psychologists, and brain scientists, SCREENAGERS reveals how tech time impacts kids' development and also offers solutions on how adults can empower their kids to best navigate the digital world to find balance.

As seen on **Good Morning America**; Watch the Movie Trailer at www.screenagersmovie.com

The Color Circle of Wholeness:



Painting a Rainbow Garden!

Come join us in a creative arts workshop - for ages 16 and up - where we will work with Goethe's color circle in pastels, developing it further with water colors into a colorful rainbow garden!

Saturday, May 7, 2016

1:30 - 4pm

with

Martha Kelder

Artist & Arts Facilitator

Fee: \$35.

Limited spaces: Pre-registration necessary.

To register, for location or questions, please contact

Martha Kelder at martha.kelder@yahoo.com or 919-942-2112



Christina Beck, Eurythmist available for workshops, performances, demonstrations. Ongoing eurythmy classes.

for more info: cbeck.river@gmail.com. or [919 643 2066](tel:9196432066)

The Mysteries of Sacred Conversation: Building a Pentecostal Imagination. Friday Evening, May 13 at 7-9PM Location TBA

At Pentecost, there were many sacred conversations occurring. Each was a miracle of utter harmony and understanding. Can we even imagine this level of intercourse? Are there ways to approach and reach for this pinnacle of communication? How has sacred conversation evolved over the last two thousand years?

There are three elements to Sacred Conversation: the speaker, the listener, and the dynamic field. In tonight's presentation, I will offer insights into each element and a few surprising perspectives on the dynamic field.



Within the dynamic field we will look for the presence and influence of spiritual beings, elementals, the dead and unborn, and the counterforces.

We will engage in a few research conversations in pairs and as a group. We will ask questions and see what the mood of Pentecost will bring to each of us.

I've been working with the role of conversation in healing, transcending and evolving consciousness. In my practice as an anthroposophical counselor I have had several thousand conversations. Some of them have had a different, even amazing, quality to them. Wondering about the grace and meaning of these conversations has inspired my research into Pentecost and sacred conversations.

All Invited to Mindy Kash's 65th Birthday Celebration

Thanks to the initiative of Martha Kelder to have every branch member honored on their birthday, the next birthday observance will be Mindy Kash's 65th birthday on May 9 at the home of Eve Olive. All are invited. It will be a Pot Luck Dinner. Please keep in mind that Mindy cannot eat gluten and prefers not to eat things with sugar or hydrogenated fats. Eve's address is 5815 Mt. Sinai Rd. please let Eve know if you will be coming. Her phone number is 919-489-2564. Hope to see you there!



The Healing Art of Storytelling: An evening with Nancy Mellon May 17th and 18th 2016 6:00-9:00 PM in the Brown Wing at EWH Potluck Dinner 5:00 PM



Nancy Mellon is an exuberant storyteller who is in touch with an immense storehouse of creativity and wisdom. Here is a unique opportunity to explore healing and re-balancing from a multitude of ills through a combination of Western and Eastern medical wisdom, stories, and clinical anecdotes. Participants will gain knowledge of powerful inner resources as we explore plot lines, characters, and voices that heal. Whether an experienced or novice storyteller or simply curious, all are welcome. Nancy Mellon is a psychotherapist, author and storyteller whose workshops and courses brim with creativity. Nancy inspires in adults a deep sense of mission

and commitment to their own creativity. Her book *Body Eloquence: The Power of Myth and Story to Awaken the Body's Energies* won the US Book News Best Books award of 2008 in the field of Alternative Medicine. For more information go to her website at www.healingstory.com

The cost of both workshops is \$90 in advance (\$60. For teachers in advance); \$100. At the door. For just one session - \$60. In advance; \$65 at door; students \$25. Pre-registration is recommended. Please contact Bruce Kirchoff at kirchoffbruce@gmail.com; for more information about the workshop contact Nancy Mellon at nancy@healingstory.com



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN NORTH CAROLINA RUDOLF STEINER BRANCH

APRIL 23, 2016

Eurythmy Performance by Eurythmist Christina Beck, pianist Beth Shirey and Speech artist Robert Mays

“In the Light Air of Spiritland” by Rudolf Steiner and “Adagio from Sonata number 2” by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Present: Robert Mays, Board President; Eve Olive, Edward Schuldt, Dee Anne Lamb, Ron Evans, Board member; Kathleen Wright, Board member; Viorica Comaniciu, Kelly Calegar, Diana Haynes, Board Secretary; Tatiana Zybin, Board Member; Peg Carmody, Ben Bingham, Martha Kelder, Mindy Kash, Robin Haynes, Board member; Roger Schultz, Suzanne Mays, Nancy Willson

Welcome by Robert Mays

Opening Verse: The American Verse by Rudolf Steiner

Circle: A check in was done with all present

Remembrance of community members who have died in the past year: Linda Folsom, Else Wierbiecki; previous year: Renate Wend, Jean Young,; also mentioned Miriam Hegge, Speech Artist at the Goetheanum who died on Easter Sunday.

Remembrance of those in our community in need: Mark Eisen in hospital; Mindy Kash and Olga Wierbiecki, both of whom have cancer’ . Margaretta and Bruce Bornhorst., health and housing concerns.

President’s Address:

Robert Mays gave a report on the accomplishments of the Branch in the past year. The new Board took office in May 2015 with a challenge to restore confidence in the Branch. The task was several-fold – to improve communications and sharing among our members, to encourage, sponsor and support Branch festivals and events, to provide more openness and transparency in Branch governance and to restore order and clarity to the Branch’s finances. We accomplished much of this through the following:

- Offering an excellent new monthly/bimonthly Branch newsletter, *The Michael Messenger*.
- Developing a new web site, including an on-line interactive calendar, secure on-line payments of dues and donations, and more information about the Branch and Branch governance. The website is more modern (e.g., support mobile devices), easier to navigate, has more useful functions, is easier to maintain and expand, and is more attractive than our previous website.

- Replacing the listservs for RSB-NC-List and RSB-NC-Members with a faster web provider and more secure management of the lists.
- Sponsoring and supporting Branch festivals, with very successful celebrations of St. Johnstide, Michaelmas, All Soul's Day, Advent Sundays, the Holy Nights, Passion Week and Easter. We also actively encouraged workshops and similar offerings from Branch members.
- Sponsoring and supporting Branch events, including the John Billing concert, Glen Williamson's December presentations, and three Branch meetings (a Conversation about the Society with Marian Leon and Elizabeth Roosevelt, a Report on the Anthroposophical Society AGM, and a celebration of Rudolf Steiner's birthday).
- Bringing order to the Branch's finances by transferring accounting for the Branch to Quickbooks, adjusting bank accounts to reflect the specific restricted fund balances, and providing additional support for the Branch through free-will donations from each Board member.
- Providing community outreach by volunteering at the Emerson Waldorf School Holiday Faire.

Another major challenge was to address issues and concerns among a number of members that resulted from events occurring prior to and at the 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM). The new Board held four meetings open to the community, and, while the proceedings were not perfect, they did allow the major issues to be heard to the best of our ability. We trust that these matters have ended as a public concern, and we have encouraged those who feel they have not been sufficiently heard or their viewpoint has not been honored, to talk with that person directly and strive to understand the other person's good intentions.

We also addressed another area of concern, about the Board's role in the Branch and in the cultural and spiritual sphere. We held conversations with several individuals about this question and concluded that the Board has a central role in all of the cultural activities of the Branch and so has a central role in the cultural life of the Branch. Discussions will, no doubt, continue.

Financial Report -

The Rudolf Steiner Branch-NC had a successful year financially, with net income of \$1300. Robin Haynes served as Treasurer for most of the year, until very recently, when he had to step back due to increased work responsibilities.

During the past year, the Board took steps to bring more order to the Branch's finances by (1) transferring accounting for the Branch to QuickBooks, (2) adjusting our savings accounts to reflect the specific restricted fund balances, and (3) providing additional support for the Branch through free-will donations from each Board member. In addition, Robin added secure on-line payments of dues and donations to the Branch's new web site, including the option of recurring monthly donations.

In 2015, the Branch received about \$3,200 in dues and unrestricted donations, plus an additional \$600 in restricted donations. We had two major events -- the John Billing concert and the Glen Williamson plays -- where the revenue from ticket sales covered most of the cost of the

events. The \$1,100 operation costs for the Branch included an annual fee of \$500 for liability insurance and a \$300 one-time cost for software to set up the new Branch web site. Two grants were awarded for a total of \$500 for a Branch member to attend respectively a conference on the First Class and the national Society's Annual General Meeting, and to give a report back to the Branch members.

Newsletter Report

Kathleen Wright spoke about the Michael Messenger, the new newsletter for our Branch which had its first issue in September of this past year. It has been coming out every month except for January. The next issue will be out on May 1 and there will be a June issue. Kathleen continues to struggle with health issues that make working on the newsletter difficult in spite of how much she enjoys putting it together. She hopes to find a way of making it bi-monthly next year so it won't be so stressful for her.

Website and List-serves Report–

Diana Haynes has been updating the calendar on the website; there are two list-serves, one is members only; the other is for anyone interested in the branch. There are currently 228 people on the general list-serve. Robin has been posting the Board's Minutes on the members only page

Reports from Initiatives:

Planning Group - Diana Haynes presented the report from the Planning Group. 9see attachment at end of Minutes

New Logo – Martha Kelder presented a Logo she has developed for our branch with explanations of the symbolism in it She also passed out flyers from The Ecozoic Society which is being co-sponsored by our branch. Kelly Calegar and Joanna Carey will be presenting at the event.

Study Groups

Ron Evans spoke on behalf of the **Rose Cross Wednesday night Study Group**. He stated that it is the oldest of all the Study Groups in the community and that he has hopes that it will take up the Karma lectures again since we are all so much older and wiser now. The group is currently studying ***The Book of Revelation*** by Steiner.

Reading for the Dead Group - report by Eve Olive. The group meets twice a month and has about 6 members.

Christian Community Group – report by Kathleen Wright. The group began meeting last year at Shannon O'Connor's home. She was unable to host this year so Kathleen volunteered her home. About 8 women are on the list of members, but we average about 4-5 people per session. Meeting on Sundays has been a challenge as there have been so many community events at the same time, plus the members have had family obligations. The Group is discussing meeting on a different day next year. Or else meeting once a month instead of every week. The group has been reading ***The Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric***.

Other Initiatives:

The School of Spiritual Science – Suzanne read her report. (see attachment at end of minutes)

Emerson Waldorf School – Viorica Comaniciu gave the report from the school. (See attachment at end of Minutes.)

Home Nursery Groups – no report given

Healthcare Initiatives – no report given

Artistic and Educational Workshops: Martha Kelder gave the following report on her painting workshops:

This year, I offered two creative art workshops in the fall centering around the ***Calendar of the Soul***. This spring, inspired by Linda's report of a course taken at the Christian Community Seminary, I am offering workshops relating to perceiving the Etheric Christ, in the plant world and in the realm of the rainbow. All of the workshops have been generously held at the Smiley's home, a wonderful space for which i am deeply grateful.

Kelly Calegar gave a report on her Sophia School of Movement (see attachment at end of Minutes)

Christian Community - Diana Haynes read her report – see attachment at end of Minutes

Biodynamic Initiatives – no report given

3:00 PM **Election of Board members.** Two vacancies needed to be filled. The nominees were Kelly Calegar and Diana Haynes. Both were elected. Diana will continue as Secretary and Kelly will be the new Treasurer.

Closing Verse: "I Bear Within Me Peace"; Adjournment and Refreshments
Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Wright

ATTACHED REPORTS:

The School of Spiritual Science

The First Class of the School of Spiritual Science was established in Chapel Hill in 1988, some 28 years ago! Where has time gone? This seems so long ago. The 19 class lessons take two years to complete and thus 14 complete cycles have been gone through. Seven is supposedly a perfect number. Does the fact that seven divides evenly with 28 and 14 have any special bearing on where the work of the First Class has arrived at today? This is a real question. Judy Frey and Suzanne Mays either freely render or read the class lessons as Rudolf Steiner gave them. Members of the class are aging and no new members have joined this past year. Some members are too ill to attend class lessons any longer and one long-time member passed away last week. An average of 16 members attend the monthly meetings. Most of the members stay after the lesson. They sit in a circle to form a conversation centered on the lesson just heard. This is a very special time for the members to share their insights and experience of the meditation verses given with the lessons. All members of the First Class are members of the

General Section of the School of Spiritual Science. Some of our local members are also members of different professional sections of the School of Spiritual Science such as the pedagogical section, medical section, social science section, performing arts section that includes eurythmy, speech, music, puppetry.

Last August Suzanne Mays attended a 3-day conference for North American First Class Holders. Virginia Sease from the Goetheanum was present and led discussions about the practical work of giving class lessons. Suzanne wrote a lengthy report about the conference for the Branch newsletter last autumn. One part of that report bears repeating: "Virginia Sease spoke quite earnestly about the relevance and value of the Anthroposophical Society in this 21st century, particularly in regard to an event that could go by unrecognized unless there is a group awake to it. Rudolf Steiner in 1909-1910 publicly spoke about the etheric sphere of the Cosmic Christ and stated that from the year 1933 on more and more people would have the experience of meeting the Christ in the etheric realm. Virginia Sease impressed on the class holders that every single person incarnated since that time has the birthright to have this experience of the etheric reappearance of the Christ and this experience needs to be accompanied by knowledge of what that event is. No other individuality except Rudolf Steiner has been able to transmit knowledge and instructions about this event. The 'I AM' of the human being is synonymous with the true 'I AM' of Christ. The 'True I' of each person does not incarnate at birth but waits to rejoin the human being in spirit after death. The 'True I' is the Christ Being. Its accessibility is connected with Micha-el. Rudolf Steiner gave direct indications of how to work with Micha-el both in the Karma Relationships lectures during 1924 about the Supersensible School of Micha-el that culminated in the early 1800's, as well as within the class lessons that Rudolf Steiner gave in the earthly esoteric School of Micha-el that commenced in January 1924."

All members of the Anthroposophical Society should be receiving the free monthly publication called GENERAL ANTHROPOSOPIHICAL SOCIETY: ANTHROPOSOPIH WORLDWIDE. If you are not getting it, you can by contacting the national office in Ann Arbor. In each issue of ANTHROPOSOPIH WORLDWIDE are reports from The School of Spiritual Science that details the wide-ranging practical work that the different professional sections are doing around the world as well as reports from the Anthroposophical Society, Goetheanum and events all over the globe. Though our group of First Class members is small and may give the appearance of being inconsequential because we do not have active meetings of the professional sections but represent the General Anthroposophical Section, the meditative work with the class lessons really cannot be underestimated. Even if only one person takes up sincere and daily work with the mantra, the surrounding environment of the local community is positively affected and changed. submitted by Suzanne Mays, Class Holder 4/23/2016

Emerson Waldorf School

Report for RSB-NC Annual General Meeting

Developments in the 2015-2016 School Year:

- ☐ Many new teachers and staff joined the school
 - o Clancy Brown, high school science
 - o Amy Kortus, high school humanities
 - o Ted Hall, movement teacher / athletic director
 - o Christina Wise, director of administration
- ☐ Added eurythmy blocks to the 7th – 12th grades
- ☐ Enrollment has remained steady

- ☐ School has successfully met its budget for the year
- ☐ Philanthropic support has been strong. Annual fund donations are \$10,000 higher this year than last, overall donations considerably higher
- ☐ Professional development throughout the year – Michael D'Aleo & Douglas Gerwin
- ☐ Our farm continues to be developed and the program grows
- ☐ Significant effort toward our diversity initiatives
- o Regional AWSNA conference
- o Film series
- ☐ Formed a High School Advisory Group to develop a strategic plan for the high school
- ☐ Continued to carry a beautiful, rhythmical seasonal festival life

Looking forward to the 2016-2017 School Year:

- ☐ We have hired a part-time college guidance counselor and a development director to join the administrative team
- ☐ We will be looking to add teachers – 3rd grade, educational support, part-time German
- ☐ We will be physically expanding our high school campus with the addition of a new building which will include a main lesson classroom, a multi-purpose room / student lounge and additional office space
- ☐ We will complete the strategic plan for the high school and start incorporating those suggestions, which will include a community service program, an expanded student health program, a student community space, additional lab equipment and more!
- ☐ We are making changes to the early childhood program to meet the needs of more parents, nursery will have a 5-day per week class and we will offer extended day care (till 5:30pm) for the entire early childhood

Planning Group

From the very beginning of this community, our lifeblood has run in our gathering together. We gather to celebrate the festivals, to study the works of Rudolf Steiner, to be inspired by creative thinkers, new forms of art, or simply to celebrate each other by honoring birthdays. When we gather, we have opportunities to stimulate and nurture each other. Sometimes gathering can occur spontaneously, but most of the time, it takes planning.

Historically, members of the board and members of the branch work together on Festival Committees, Event Committees and Outreach Committees. A few years back these committees merged into the Cultural Coordinating Committee, which last year, became the Cultural Group. But whatever it is called, we will always need people dedicated to Anthroposophy, willing to create events with lots of inspiration and no \$.

Quite honestly, to bring a professional speaker here, we are typically looking at a fee of \$400 plus airfare of \$4-600 plus meals & room, or close to \$1,000. Our average donations received for an event or performance of some kind is around \$200 – so you can see that we simply don't generate the money needed to bring top speakers, workshops or performance troupes to our community. Our dues barely cover the costs of our most basic operations and we haven't had a budget for festivals or events for many years.

So, we have to get extremely creative and find local or nearly local talent. We are blessed to have many individuals in our community who are willing to share their talent, time and inspiration, such as Edward Schuldt, Lynn Jericho, Margaret Heath, Ben Bingham, Jon Lyerly, Kelly Calegar, Karen Rivers, Eve Olive, Allen Barenholtz, Michael Judge and recently Carol St John from DC. We also have both Rev. Carol Kelly and Rev. Richard Dancey who will be

coming monthly and providing a lecture every time they come. It is a great help to have such gifted people to call upon.

But we do need to focus on how to engage younger folks (less than 50) and this is possible with ingenious outreach. This is what was discussed at our last branch meeting and we came up with some great ideas of how to reach across the aisle to compatible organizations like the Ecozoic people, Organic gardeners, Edgar Cayce folks, New Age groups, Astrologers, Meditators, Alternative healing people – the list goes on. Steiner addressed almost every aspect of society and culture and he is still profoundly relevant. It's our job to make the connections to those who have yet to discover his body of work.

We also need to strengthen our connection with our own Waldorf School and Foundation Studies programs. There are lots of things we can do, but we need more people to get involved and ideally, take a task on and own it. This can take place independently or within our Planning group.

Regarding our Festival Celebrations, I wonder if it's not time to consider asking for rotating volunteers to oversee each Festival. This is the time for each of us to develop our leadership skills and it's not up to just one of us, or even a few of us, but **all of us** to see that the lifeblood of this community continues to flow.

I have personally been working to organize and support a variety of Cultural events. There is an Anthroposophical Speakers Program that will pay for a speaker to come to a community to help it attract people - 3 times over 3 years. We have someone named Julian Roberts who is scheduled to come here in Sept to talk about Overcoming Evil – the theme of the year from Dornach.

I'm also speaking with Hazel Archer Ginsberg who is willing to come and lead a Festival or teach on Astrosophy or some other aspect of Steiner's work. She would come without a fee, but her travel expenses from Chicago would need to be covered – approx. \$4-500.

- I was able to arrange to bring Matthew Dexter here on May 5th to perform the Little Prince for just the cost of what the house can bring in donations.

- I've been in discussion with Bastiaan Bann, a CC priest who has authored 4 Anthroposophical books and he will be coming this August to lecture on our choice of subjects:

OLD AND NEW FORMS OF INITIATION

HOW TO KNOW, CONFRONT AND WORK WITH EVIL

THE FUTURE OF OUR EARTH: WHAT CAN WE DO?

LORD OF THE ELEMENTS

There are other possible presenters but most may be financially out of our reach. They include: Thomas Meyer on tour being organized by Paul O'Leary Fall of 2017-

Robert McDermott - organized by Marian Leon. Winter/Spring 2017/18

Abraham Entin – currently doing a presentation on Spirit and Revolution now in Ann Arbor – he is available.

Laurie Portocarrero – available in Fall of 2016 \$400 per performance plus her travel costs and food and lodging. Can do 2 or 3 performances in one visit.

Michael Burton – returning in 2017 with Shakespeare tour

Currently, Judy, Kathleen, Eve and myself are working with Martha Kelder on a new logo that we intend to use on various publications for our Outreach projects. I'd like to hand this over to Martha to talk about her design. – **Diana Haynes**

Christian Community of Chapel Hill

The Christian Community is an international movement for the renewal of religion, founded in 1922 in Switzerland by a renowned Lutheran theologian - Friedrich Rittlemeyer, with guidance and inspiration from Rudolf Steiner. The Christian Community helps us cultivate reverence, morality and attunement to the spiritual world through the renewal of the seven sacraments. Our worship service is called "The Act of Consecration of Man".

There has been a small group of people in this area who have requested the services of a CC priest for about 25 years. The number of visits from a priest has slowly risen to 5 services a year. This rhythm has made it hard to engage families or to provide on-going religious education for children or even to build community. Beginning this September 2016, the CC will be providing monthly services in CH throughout the school year! This is a very big step for us and we are hopeful that the new rhythm will bring greater richness to the religious life of this community.

In 2015-16 year, the CC of CH held five Acts of Consecration, five Lay services and one funeral for Linda Folsom just a week ago today. Linda was a founding member of the Carrying Group, who worked hard to facilitate the priest visits, and it was very important to her to be given a CC memorial. Our priests also provide counseling and consultation services, making weekly phone calls and home visits to those in need. Reverend Richard Dancey, who had been one of the first priests to come to our community, is now working in DC, and he has been very active in supporting those members of this community suffering from crises of health or soul. Beginning in Sept, we will have alternating visits from Richard Dancey and our regular priest, Carol Kelly, an ex Waldorf teacher and wonderful singer.

We also sent one member to represent us at the Annual Delegates meeting of the CC churches in North America. This year, Martha Kelder attended this event in Toronto, Canada. Many of our members have also attended open courses at the CC seminary in NY; including Buddy Smiley, Margit Gratzl, Linda Folsom and myself. Our CC priest also gives public lectures every time they come to our area. If you have never heard either Rev. Carol Kelly or Richard Dancey speak, I'd like to encourage you to come to our lecture on June 4th for a taste of Anthroposophically inspired Christian.

Diana Haynes

The Sophia School of Movement

This past year I have done the following:

- ☐ Managed the 11th consecutive event of ***Choreocosmos Workshops with Robert Powell***, founder of the *Choreocosmos School of Cosmic and Sacred Dance*.
- ☐ Offered classes on ***Astrosophy***, and on ***the Foundation Stone Meditation*** in the context of the hermetic axiom: 'As above, so below'.
- ☐ ***Taught Choreocosmos workshops*** as a 'speaking to the stars' through moving Steiner's planetary forms and gestures, and Steiner's zodiacal gestures, in the unique way of circle dances, and accompanied by classical music from the great composers.
- ☐ ***Facilitated Sophia Grail*** Circles for the practice of the double discipline of lifting up spiritual thoughts to the spiritual world, and receiving their responses. Again a 'speaking to the stars', but also a listening to the stars to receive true inspirations, thus creating a bridge between worlds that shall ever widen and deepen!

- ☐ Offered sessions for the practice of ***Cultivating Inner Radiance*** through aligning the *Words of Christ* with the chakras, accompanied by eurythmy gestures.
- ☐ Facilitated ***gatherings for Christian Hermeticism*** through the magnum opus *Meditations on the Tarot, A Journey into Christian Hermeticism*. This great work offers training of the heart-word-mind for the development of the moral ether.
- ☐ Offered ***choreocosmos workshops*** in Virginia and Chicago.
- ☐ Attended the monthly sessions of the ***First Class*** of the School for Spiritual Science.
- ☐ ***Joined the Board*** of the NC Anthroosophical Society.
- ☐ ***Tended to my precious family, and gardens, and friends, and our world through prayer and good deeds.***

With deepest gratitude,
Michael-Sophia in nomine Christi
Kelly

O Holy Spirit!
At last I have found you,
Have heard your voice
In the silence around you.
Have caught your gaze
Through the thorns that have crowned you.
Have supped from the cup
Of the death which surrounds you,
As the night cups the light
Of the morning star.

You who are
The font and the form,
The immaculate hue
And utterance of heaven's sight,
Unleashing, through wounds of freedom's light,
The Cosmic well-springs of the true
Beloved Creator and tender
Of the eternally new,
Who wakes on the breast of the One
Whose heart is the Sun.

Arvia MacKaye Ege



STUDY GROUPS AND WORKING GROUPS

Christian Community Study Group, reading *The Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric*; Sundays 4-5:30 pm at the home of Kathleen Wright, 4615 Greenglen Drive, Durham, NC; call 919-309-9622

IANDS (International Association of Near Death Experiences)

Dates for meetings for the rest of 2016 are: May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18 September 15, October 20, November 17 and December 15; meetings are at 7 PM at the Rhine Center, 2741 Campus Walk Ave., Building 500, Durham, NC 27705. We will be having guest speakers present their experiences and insights from their NDEs. Contact Robert Mays for more information at 919-929-1073 or email at mays@ieee.org

- Thursday, May 19, 7-9 PM at the Millennium Hotel in Durham. Guest Speaker: Stanley Peele. Visit [Meetup for Durham-Res. Triangle IANDS](#)
- Saturday, May 28, 2-4:30 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3313 Wade Avenue, Raleigh, NC. Visit [Meetup for Raleigh IANDS NDE](#)

Reading For the Dead Group- reading: *The Inner Nature of Man and the Life Between Death and Rebirth* (Vienna April 9th-14th, 1914) by Rudolf Steiner; meets on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at the home of Joanna Carey 4207 Neal Road, Durham, NC from 7 PM- 9 PM; joannapcarey@gmail.com

Rose Cross Study Group meets Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 PM; reading; *The Book of Revelation and the Work of the Priest*; at Judy Frey's, 55207 Broughton, Chapel Hill; RSVP 919-928-8749 or email: damaris12@nc.rr.com

Threshold Care Group at the home of Jenny Bingham; call Jenny for more information at 919-241-4304 or email her at jennybingham7@gmail.com

Triangle Biodynamic Network- one Saturday a month, 2-4 PM at Turtle Creek Farm in Cedar Grove, NC; contact Mary Leonhardi for directions and any other details at mleonhardi@hotmail.com

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Other Groups in North Carolina

Asheville has two study groups:

Second and fourth **Thursday nights** from 7-8:30 PM. Reading: *The Christ Impulse and the Development of Consciousness*. This is a committed group with lively discussions on how Steiner books are applicable to our lives today. Reading in advance is preferred. Contact: Marie Davis [\(828\) 273-5647](tel:8282735647)
Email: md79397@yahoo.com

First Sunday of the month Study Group (Asheville). Meets 3-6pm. Focus is on the Threefold Social Order. Currently reading *Spiritual Science as a Foundation of Social Forms*; First hour: reading; Second hour: discussion; third hour: a Pot luck dinner. contact: Marie Davis (see above)

Clemmons (near Winston-Salem) has four Steiner/Anthroposophy Study Groups led by Sarah Putnam; contact Sarah for more information at 336-972-8243 or email her at sputnam01@att.net

Greensboro –Study group meets on Mondays 2:30-4:30 pm; reading *According to Luke: The Gospel of Compassion and Love Revealed by Rudolf Steiner*. All are welcome;

The Sophia Center for Life Studies/Crossings Care also meets to promote natural death care work; contact Sandy LaGrega for more information at 336-908-4664 or email; sandraclagrega@gmail.com

In Loving Memory of Else Wierbicki November 12, 1924 – April 4, 2016



We were saddened to hear of the passing of Else Wierbicki, a sweet and gentle woman who is best known in our community for being the woman who named the Chapel Hill Waldorf School “Emerson”.

Else Gertrud Mombauer was born over 91 years ago in a small medieval village in Germany called Ahrweiler. Else and her younger sister Marianne both attended a prestigious Catholic School there called the Privat Gymnasium der Ursulinen Carlvarienberg. Their classmates were mostly of noble families. Her family sacrificed to send their girls to this excellent school because they believed strongly in the value of a good education.

Else loved the wonderful seasonal and religious festivals, medieval re-enactments and processions that Ahrweiler was known for.

Unfortunately, the festivities ceased and the bombs began to fall when Hitler rose to power and brought war to the country. During the war, Else had to work as a student laborer on a farm. Later in the war, she worked as a nurse's aide tending to the wounded soldiers. Else's father, Heinrich Mombauer refused to join the Nazi Party. He helped rescue people whose homes had been bombed during the war and afterward he helped rebuild Ahrweiler to its former medieval splendor.

Else recalled being in the midst of bombing raids on a number of occasions. Fortunately she survived and after the war, through the encouragement of her younger sister Marianne, she began attending classes in Anthroposophy at the home of a man named Ernst Karl Plachner, who was a renowned poet and musician and lived in their hometown. Else had been raised Catholic and even considered becoming a nun, but she felt that Catholicism was too rigid and she also felt called to be a Mother, so it was a great joy for her to discover the work of Rudolf Steiner. She was a student of the spirit all her life.

One fateful day a few years after the war ended, Else was on a train bound for Munich. On board was a young man named Eugen Wierbicki. He was originally from Belarus and was in Germany as a refugee. He and a friend were riding in the front car of the train, but he began to feel restless and decided to walk through the cars in search of a spot that felt more comfortable. He walked through all the cars until he came to the last



one and there he found an empty bunk across from a young woman. They both began reading quietly – she with a book by Novalis and he with a book on milk production (he was working on a doctorate in Agriculture at the time). After it became too dark to read, they began speaking to each other and the rest is history. Else and Eugen married in Munich, Germany, on April 26, 1949.

That same year, the newlyweds were granted asylum in the USA through a Refugee Act that was inspired by Eleanor Roosevelt. A family in New Jersey sponsored the penniless couple. They worked in a furniture upholstery factory, as the USA would not recognize Eugen's doctorate. Soon after (1950) however, he won a scholarship to Ohio State University and the couple moved to Columbus. There Eugen earned a doctorate in Biochemistry and became well-known for his research on irradiated meat. In 1952, their first child, Olga, was born and a little over a year later, their son Alex was born. In 1955 Else and Eugen became US citizens.

Else was a full-time homemaker when her children were little and she was a kind and loving Mother, as well as a gifted handwork artist. She knitted, crocheted and made gorgeous hooked rugs that were 'meditation pieces' for her. One of these rugs, which she called 'The Cosmic Christ' hangs in the home of the Mayses. She worked on these rugs during the 1960's and created about 50 in all.



After spending 6 years in Ohio, the family moved to Iowa where Eugen became Manager of the Meat Research Division for Rath Packing Company in Waterloo, Iowa. (1956-1961) Then in 1962, when daughter Olga was in fifth grade, the Wierbickis moved to Holliston, MA and then Framingham, MA, near the Boston anthroposophical community, so that Eugen could work for the US Army Laboratories in Natick, MA. Else was delighted to finally live near an anthroposophical community. Prior to this, she had had to study on her own. Else became the treasurer of the

Rudolf Steiner Library for the Blind; she was Speech artist for many Eurythmy performances, and was active in many branch activities. The couple moved once again in 1981 to Philadelphia, PA, where Eugen worked for the US Department of Agriculture. He died there in 1986 at the age of 64.

Her daughter Olga describes Else as being a "positive, supportive person who never had a bad thing to say about anybody: ...she believed in the innate goodness of everyone. Toward the end of her life she would say that we are all one in the spirit. She was an inspiration to me all of her life and my best friend. It was an honor to live with her the last 21 years of her life and to be her caretaker for the last few years."

One day while in high school, Olga was feeling bored and she happened to suddenly get curious about her Mother's bookcase full of books by Rudolf Steiner. She took one off the shelf and began to read. Now the world of Anthroposophy was open to Olga as well. She eventually went to Sunbridge College and there in 1975 she met Eve Olive who was teaching Eurythmy

there. Eve told her about the then very tiny community in Chapel Hill/ Durham and their hopes of starting a Waldorf School.

That summer, Olga was feeling like it was time to move to a new place. She took out a map of the US, closed her eyes and let her finger fall where it would – It landed near Greensboro, NC, which happens to be pretty close to where Eve Olive lived. Olga decided to stay in Detroit for another year and take the Waldorf Teacher Training. When she was finished, though, she moved to Durham. She stayed with the Olives at first, and finally ended up living in the house that was next door to Eve's. This was in 1978. Olga helped Eve and others bring their dream of having a Waldorf school in the Durham/Chapel Hill area into being.

Else came to visit Olga in NC and one day, Olga happened to mention to her Mother that the Waldorf School, which was now in the planning stages, needed a name. Without hesitation, Else replied, "Of course it's going to be the Emerson Waldorf School." When the other founders heard this, the consensus was that yes, the name "Emerson" did feel right and so it has been called "Emerson" ever since. After her husband's death in 1986, Else came to live in NC.

Else became active in the community, especially in her support of the school. Else and her son Alex loaned large sums of money to the school. Alex was one of the four partners who purchased the original land for the school, together with the Olives and the Mayes. A few years later, Else and Alex were the primary purchasers of the early childhood building together with the Hawthorne-Johnsons. They made it possible for the school to take a physical form. The Wierbickis helped carry the school until it was established enough to buy out the original partners. The Wierbickis were not wealthy. They lived very modestly and gave generously to their ideals. This calls to mind Rudolf Steiner's saying that the 'Waldorf Schools need to be built on sacrifice', and certainly without the sacrifice of this family and several others, the school would not have gotten the excellent start that it had.



Else came to all the festivals. During the 1987 Michaelmas celebration which was called "Michaelmas and the Arts", I remember that Else brought one of her 50 beautiful hook rugs, which was of Michael and she spoke about it.



In 1993 Olga, after serving for 11 years on the Board of the Emerson Waldorf School, ten as president, and after teaching German for several years at the school, moved to Tennessee. Else followed shortly after in 1995. The Mother and daughter had a very special bond. They lived together in Sevierville, TN, for the last 21 years of Else's life.

In the last decade, Else had a number of health issues such as congestive heart failure and an arthritic hip that caused her to be confined to a wheelchair for the past three years. Fortunately, Else's mind was sharp to the very end and that is the greatest blessing an elderly person can have. A very painful bout of pancreatitis and gall stones landed Else in the hospital and on April 3 she suffered a cardiac arrest. The doctors got her heart to start beating again, but she did not regain consciousness, so the

life supports were removed and Else peacefully crossed the threshold on April 4. Else's own Mother had crossed on April 3 many years earlier also at the age of 91. April 3 is also supposed to be the actual date of the Crucifixion, which would certainly be a propitious date to incarnate due to her devotion to the Christ.

I remember Else very well. She had such a loving, kind and patient aura about her. She was especially kind to me when I came here to teach at the Waldorf School back in 1986. I recall her loaning me a book and giving me Steiner's Verse of Protection which she had hand-written herself and how she told me how important it was to write down sacred verses, and not type them. I feel like we now have another Angel guiding our community.

~ **Kathleen Wright**

We selected the following poem in honor of Else:

Now that you are free
Of earth's infirmity,
How active, yonder you must be! How eager, awed, absorbed intent –
All your fervent Being bent
On offering the glowing fruits you've grown,
The heart-ripe harvest of all you've done and known
In ardent toll upon the treasure soil of years,
To the star-eyed beings whom you meet,
Those far-eyed guardians you so gladly greet
In the streaming life of the encircling spheres.

Holding there deep converse
With angelic hosts on high,
Listening to music welling
From the vast bosom of the sky,
Learning those fine hymnic laws
That underlie the cosmic scores
Used in this orchestral school,
Whereby to forge and ply
The fair creation of the new -

The mighty transformations
Of world-storm-clouds into dew
The secrets of the crown of thorns
And of the roses' crimson hue -
The grammar, source and inmost glory
Of man's eternal, archetypal story
Uttered in the molten language of the true.

Oh, on this wonder pathway
May
The Holy Trinity light through and shelter you.

Arvia MacKaye Ege

In Loving Memory of *Linda Lou Cloyd Folsom* **March 10, 1947-April 11, 2016**



Linda Folsom loved a good party. She didn't hesitate to say that we Anthroposophists don't have enough fun in our lives. Well, our community and her family gave her the biggest and best send-off party this community has ever seen on April 16 at 3 PM in the Brown Wing at EWS, exactly as she had wanted. There were huge flower arrangements, three large posterboards with pictures from her life, a lavish display of foods from Mediterranean Deli, colorful Memorial programs, and the room was filled with around 60 friends and family members. The only thing missing were the funny hats Linda loved people to put on at the parties she threw. She was given a three-day Vigil and a several gatherings of friends who shared stories of her life, a beautiful eulogy by Reverend Carol Kelly, as well as a Christian Community Funeral service complete with lyre music and choir singing and an Act of Consecration of Man in her honor. Following the funeral service, friends and family shared stories about their encounters with Linda. These ranged from the hilarious to the heartwarming to the heartbreaking. Below is a summary of this very special woman's life and the stories that were shared, plus some new information you may not have heard.

Linda Lou Cloyd was born on March 10, 1947 in Erie, PA. She was the second girl born to a family that would eventually consist of three girls and three boys. Her sister Sallie reports that as a youngster Linda was the same kind of fun-loving person we knew. The girls would love to torment their younger brothers by doing such things as dragging them around by their feet! Linda had that same teasing spirit for men all her life. Friends recalled how she loved to playfully give waiters a hard time, but then reward them with a big tip for being such good sports.



It was truly a credit to Linda that she had such a great earthy sense of humor and a bubbly, fun-loving spirit because there were a number of tragedies in her life that deeply affected her and could easily have made another person bitter and withdrawn. First, both of her parents were alcoholics. Linda once shared that she felt that the 6 children had to "raise themselves" and that her old sister Sallie was more of a Mother to her than her own Mother. Then around age 5, Linda was stricken with polio and had to be put in an iron lung. This was torture for a little girl who so loved to be active. In her late 20's, Linda's youngest brother Eddie, then 17, committed suicide. Her family never ceased mourning this tragedy and another brother became a lifelong drug addict and alcoholic because of it.



Linda was a "drop-dead gorgeous" young woman as you can see from her pictures and young men were always vying for her attention, but Linda was mostly unimpressed. It was as if she were looking for something more. After high school, Linda's compassionate heart and selfless spirit led her to a career in nursing. It was the time of the Vietnam War and in March 1970, Lt. CLOYD (soon after to be Captain) was shipped to Vietnam. There, Linda learned the meaning of "war is hell". Yes, she saw everything you'd expect – blown off-limbs,

maggots in wounds, death every day; she was shot at and lived in fear for her life, but nothing compared to the horror of Triage. The nightmares of this procedure caused Linda to have nightmares or PTSD, for the rest of her life. She became an alcoholic and smoker to cover her pain and drown the memories. Now most of you may know “triage” simply as what you have probably experienced in the Emergency Room at your local hospital, where patients are not served on a “first come, first served” basis, but rather, the most seriously injured or ill are served first. In wartime, it is in a way the complete reverse:

The nurse in charge had to determine who the “least likely” to survive were. These men were put behind a curtain and had to be ignored by the medical team, while the other wounded were tended to. It was excruciatingly painful for empathetic Linda to hear the cries of the dying men behind the curtain, and she was once reprimanded for daring to bring a glass of water to one of the dying men who begged for a drink. She was accused of “prolonging” his inevitable death and depriving the men who could be saved of her time. As if this wasn’t horrible enough, the day came when Linda was assigned the task of determining the triage order. A soldier cannot decline orders unless they want to be accused of treason and executed. Linda had to “play God” every day and it tore her soul apart. For the rest of her life, she thought every day about those soldiers she was forced to declare “hopeless”. She wondered what her Kama Loka experience would be like when she met them in the Afterlife. Lest you think we are sharing information that is too personal, Linda was actually planning to write a book about her Vietnam experiences and had written a couple of chapters while visiting her brother this past Fall. Linda felt the world should know what went on. She also had hopes of traveling back to Vietnam with a group of veterans in hope of finding healing.



This was not the only suffering Linda endured in Vietnam. Shortly after arriving there, a dashing handsome officer caught her eye and asked her out. Linda instantly asked him if he was married. He assured her that he was not. And so began the wildest, most passionate love affair of her life. It was her escape from the horrors of the war to be in Brian’s arms. He was a thrill seeker who stole a helicopter to fly her off to Saigon for the weekend and who made love to her on the beach. It was the kind of romance you see on the big screen, but then one day Brian was gone without so much as a good-bye. His fellow officers apologized to Linda for his deceit – Brian had finished his tour of duty and had flown home to be with his wife and children. Linda was devastated and it took a long time for her to feel she could trust a man again.

In March of 1971, Captain Linda Lou Cloyd returned to the states a changed woman. She left the army and became a civilian nurse. A number of her nurse friends attended her funeral and one spoke of what a great nurse Linda was and how they loved working with Linda because of the inspiration Linda was to all others. Linda had an attitude that she just couldn’t do enough for her patients. She gave them love and care far above the line of duty. It was as if she spent the rest of her life trying to atone for the triage in Vietnam. She was the same with friends and strangers – if she saw a need, she had to help. Linda spent a fortune of her own money helping others and buying presents for those in need. At her last hospital stay, she met a woman named Donna who had schizophrenia and breast cancer. The woman was living on a tiny Social Security stipend and had no friends or family save a brother who despised her. Linda invited the woman to live with her, paid all her expenses, drove her to chemo sessions and doctor’s appointments and stayed with her the whole time. This woman stayed with Linda until the day before Linda passed away.

In 1984 at the age of 37, Linda was having dinner in a restaurant when an older gentleman approached her table and told her he was going to marry her. At first she wouldn't even give him her phone number, but after much persistence and the encouragement of her female friends, Linda agreed to go out with Charlie Folsom, who soon became the love of her life. They had several very happy years together as husband and wife, went on some exciting trips including a honeymoon in Vegas, but there were some rough spots – both Linda and Charlie were alcoholics and Linda had decided she wanted to quit, but she couldn't do it without Charlie's cooperation. Charlie said he couldn't do it, so Linda had just about come to the conclusion that she would have to leave Charlie, when Divine Intervention took place. Charlie suffered a stroke that eventually led to paralysis and the need to be in a wheelchair. There were no more drinks for Charlie or Linda from that day forward.



Linda quit work (although she returned part-time for a while) so that she could be Charlie's caretaker. She was the most patient, kind, loving caretaker you can imagine for the ten years until his death. Charlie's son from a previous marriage praised Linda's TLC and expressed how glad he was that his Father had such a wonderful woman to care for him.



Linda discovered anthroposophy 33 years ago through a patient of hers who happened to have a Steiner book on her bedside table. The title "Knowledge of the Higher Worlds" intrigued her and she asked the patient what it was about. The woman connected Linda with Eve Olive and a whole new world opened up for Linda. Linda's earliest memory of our community was of being asked to help with a Fall Fundraiser for the Waldorf School. Linda had to help in the making of straw stars. She remembers soaking the straw and ironing it. She also remembered the Wednesday night Study group of 1984-86 with all of the fighting that went on between a few members. This upset her and for a few years Linda absented herself from the community. She could never understand how spiritual people could act like this. It was so easy for her to see the Higher Self in every human being. When conflicts erupted last year in our

community, Linda said that she wanted to "kidnap" the people involved and put them in a room until they worked it out. Linda was one of those rare human beings who never seemed to have a problem with anyone. She "judged not" and expected others to not do so as well.

After her return to the Branch, Linda was very active in the Festivals committee for almost 20 years. She also played an active role in the Christian Community and was its biggest financial supporter. She also loved the Waldorf School and supported it as well. Linda was a long-time member of the First Class and a member of many Study Groups over the years. Although Linda never sought an office in the community, she was one of the best "worker bees" we had. She was always there for clean up and set up and if you asked her to bring a snack, she'd bring five. This was of course, when she was well.



In Linda's mid-thirties, she suffered her first bi-polar psychotic episode. She recalls being in a Church service when the priest began to speak of the Holy Spirit. As he spoke the words, she felt as though the Holy Spirit entered her. She felt an amazing surge of energy and the feeling that she had a very special mission. Since she had no idea what that mission was, she decided that the best person to help her would be the Pope. (This was a very strange conclusion since Linda was not Catholic!) She realized that she didn't know how to contact the pope, so she headed to the nearest rectory and sought out the Monsignor in charge. When she told him that she had been filled with the Holy Spirit and needed to contact the pope so that he could tell her what to do, the priest suggested she head for the nearest hospital. Surprisingly, Linda complied. As Linda soon learned, each bout of mania was followed by a bout of depression. She had a long period of equanimity for many years after that first episode until about the last 6 years when things began to spiral out of control.

Was it just coincidence that six years ago Linda decided to go for therapy to try and heal from the Vietnam horrors she had been stifling for so long? Or that two and a half years ago Brian (from Vietnam) suddenly re-appeared in her life after no contact in 44 years. Linda accepted his apologies and hoped that they would re-kindle what they once had, in spite of the fact that he had married five times and had 8 children. They chatted on the phone for several months and planned a Spring rendez-vous, but unfortunately when he finally arrived, Linda discovered that Brian was a bi-polar alcoholic in the midst of a very dark downward spiral. She was devastated once more. One can imagine how hopeless she must have felt to have her hopes so high and then be shot down again.

During her manic episodes, Linda would usually at first have a spiritual experience and want to take on grand enterprises, such as one time when she wanted our community to purchase a large 2 million dollar property on Erwin Rd. for a Branch Home. She wrote a long manifesto on how it could work, but of course it was all quite delusional. During her depressions, nothing could console Linda. She refused the company of others, ate hardly anything, and spent her days in bed watching television. She felt ashamed and didn't want anyone to know about her condition. She would say that there were so many people with worse problems who weren't acting like she was. Linda was so tolerant of others' flaws, yet she could not forgive her own.

In desperation, Linda went for ECT therapy (electro-convulsive) this past summer for 6 weeks. This treatment wreaked havoc on her memory; plus the few memories she did have of the hospital were very negative; tales of all manner of neglect and abuse. When she returned home, the manic and depressive cycles began to alternate rapidly. Thank goodness, there were periods of equanimity as well. We recall fondly the Thanksgiving gathering at her home where she provided funny hats to all present. She also was present at Martha Kelder's birthday party and she basked in the love that was radiating that day. It truly impressed her and she told me that she wanted a big celebration for her own birthday at Panciuto's (an upscale restaurant in Hillsborough). By the time her birthday came around, however, she was in a deep depression and didn't want to see anyone. A month and a day later she was gone. Diana Haynes, who had been checking in on Linda, found her dead on the floor in her bathroom on the evening of April 11. Linda had just turned 69, the beginning of her 70th year on earth, the traditional age for the end of life, yet it felt too soon for us who loved her so much. Our community members felt devastated that they hadn't been given a chance to say good-bye or to comfort Linda during her final agony.



As we visited her home after her death, there were messages on whiteboards around her home that felt like messages from the grave: One said simply, **"Love one another"**.

Another message read: **“The Earth is our school. We come to Earth to learn to love, to learn selflessness. How are we doing? Remember to ask your Guardian Angel for help - she has been there waiting for thousands of years,” “Not I, but Christ in me.”** After reading these things, it became clear that Linda has graduated with flying colors for the love and selflessness she demonstrated in this life time. She is with her angel and will hopefully guide our community to find a way to realize her fondest dream of building a branch home. Linda’s ashes will be buried beside her husband Charlie in Arlington National Cemetery.

Some pictures from Linda’s Memorial Service:



Linda's sister Sallie , her husband and Carol Kelly



The Christian Community altar



The buffet line



one of the displays of pictures from Linda's life

Editor's Note: We did not have enough time and space to include all the sharings from Linda's memorial service in the above article and will include some more in our next newsletter because there is so much more that needs to be said about this remarkable loving lady. . If you would like to share a memory or some words about Linda, please send them to the editor at: **kathleenwright51@gmail.com**

“The human being celebrates Whitsun when he is ready to relate to the Mystery of Golgotha in the spirit of Christ. *He himself* must be active for Whitsun to happen, The disciples had to develop the longing for the transformation of their souls themselves, so that the Spirit could enter into them. After Christ’s Deed, the disciples wanted to bestow on their transformed and living physical and etheric bodies an appropriately transformed and living inner being.

By means of the Feast of Whitsun the human being therefore comes on the one hand to an understanding of the most sublime selfhood. But at the same time he gives himself freely and selflessly - in other words, in selfhood, not in egoism – to the brotherhood of man; he strives in freedom towards a community of all souls. Also we can recognize that whoever experiences the power of the Cosmic Spirit needs no earthly language. He realizes his unity with every human soul, even when it belongs to a different culture and speaks so strangely. The Holy Spirit from Whitsun enables all individuals to understand one another. This is the reason for the image of the disciples speaking in all the languages of the Earth.”

Rudolf Steiner



The Michael Messenger is the monthly newsletter of the Rudolf Steiner Branch (NC), located in Chapel Hill, NC. The RSB-NC is a branch of the Anthroposophical Society whose national headquarters are in Ann Arbor, Michigan and its international headquarters are in Dornach, Switzerland.
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Website: www.anthroposophync.org on the website you can find links for our calendar, application for membership to our branch, application to join our email list-serve and much more. Check it out!

Submitting articles, announcements and reviews: Please send Word documents or jpgs. (no pdfs. please) or graphics to the Editor: Kathleen Wright at: kathleenwright51@gmail.com Or call her at 919-309-9622

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