



# The Sophia Sun

Newsletter of the Anthroposophical Society  
in North Carolina

June 2010 Volume III, Number 4

## The Virtue For June (GEMINI):

### Perseverance Becomes Faithfulness

Opposites: Infidelity, Being Incapacitated

#### St. John's Tide from *The Calendar of the Soul*:

The radiant beauty of the world  
Compels my inmost soul to free  
God-given powers of my nature  
That they may soar into the cosmos,  
To take wing from myself  
And trustingly to seek myself  
In Cosmic Light and Cosmic Warmth.

- Rudolf Steiner

(translation by Ruth and Hans Pusch)



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

## *From the Editor:*

So here we are at the end of another academic year. It has been quite a busy one for our community and one with more than the usual number of trials and tribulations. We are all in need of a long summer respite.

As I write, the catastrophic BP Oil spill, which began on April 20, is still going on - destroying the ocean, sea life and human lives. This is the worst cataclysm I can recall in my entire life (far worse than 9/11, Exxon-Valdese, Chernobyl, the many volcanic eruptions, etc.) and it is not over – no seems to know what to do. In contemplating this disaster, it brought back pictures of Atlantis. It feels like this is the recapitulation of that long ago time when the inhabitants of Atlantis brought their own ruin upon themselves by misuse of forces, and here we are again, this time drowning in oil instead of water. People again and again choose greed and ease over the right thing to do, even when it is killing us and our planet. Many deny that there is even a problem with carbon dioxide buildup in the atmosphere. So many think that “Science” is going to solve all our problems – but where is “science” now? They haven’t a clue what to do to stop the flow of deadly oil. Why must humanity always have to undergo such hard lessons before they wake up? It is difficult not to become despondent over this situation. What can we do really?

Perhaps we can find comfort in the Michaelic Prayer, that all is happening as it should, guided by a world of direction and will, and realize that this terrible deed was necessary to awaken the conscience of people about the horrors and insanity of using a substance so toxic as oil for the majority of our energy needs. Here we feel the workings of Uriel, that Archangel of admonishment who awakens humanity’s conscience and brings to light what has been hidden. This is his season we are entering. All we can do is pray, limit our consumption of oil as much as possible, and write to our congressmen about the urgency to develop safe, alternative energies.

We are being called upon more and more to develop equanimity and positivity, because earthly disasters are on the increase and as most of us in our community are aging, death and suffering are all around us.

The Anthroposophic movement has many wonderful solutions for the problems of today, such as Biodynamics; unfortunately these are not well-known. And some, such as the Theefold Social Order are not likely to be accepted until a lot more suffering has ensued, because the majority of people are still too selfish. Too many believe (or have been brainwashed to believe) that capitalism is a good thing, when in fact, it is the most demonic system ever devised. It is merely a sophisticated form of slavery, as well the worship of money over our fellow human beings. Someone once said that capitalism treats human beings like animals; animals like plants and plants like minerals; and minerals they pursue like there is no tomorrow.

Now more than ever we need to get our ideas out to the public. It is very encouraging to see that in Europe, there is a renewed interest in Steiner in the general population that has resulted in two exhibitions of his achievements and their influence on today’s culture. (See articles on page 21.) Similar events need to occur here in the United States. Back in the late 1920’s an English anthroposophist named Daniel Dunlop organized what he called a World Anthroposophic Conference. It was not meant for members, but for the world-at-large. He invited the leaders of many countries to attend and over 2,000 did. The conference presented all the ideas and accomplishments of Anthroposophy. Even though it was quite successful, nothing like it has been attempted since. We seem to only have activities for ourselves. We need to reach out more if we are going to save the planet. Our Anthroposophical Society only numbers 50,000, while our planet has around 7 billion people. We have a lot of work to do in the area of public relations. The time is ripe now. People are disillusioned and disgusted with the government. They are seeking new solutions and answers for the world’s problems and questions.

In our meditations this summer, let us try to address how this can be accomplished.

Enjoy the summer, relax as much as you can so that you may charge your inner batteries and be ready for Michaelic deeds in the Fall!

*Kathleen Wright*

## ASNC and Initiatives, June 1 - 30, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Rose Cross SG-7:30p  ASNC Board Mtg-7:30p	<b>3</b> Asheville Steiner SG-7p  Reading to the Dead-7p	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> EWS 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
<b>6</b> The Goethean <u>Conversation SG-3p</u> Asheville Soul- <u>Weaving SG-2p</u> WS Anthroposophical <u>SG-5p</u> <u>Pittsboro SG-6:30p</u> Greensboro SG-7p  EWS Anniversary Picnic	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> NDE Study Gp- 7p	<b>9</b> Rose Cross SG-7:30p	<b>10</b>  Asheville Bio-  dynamic SG- 10a  Reading to the Dead-7p	<b>11</b> Sophia Grail Circle-6:30p	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> The Goethean <u>Conversation SG-3p</u> Asheville Soul- <u>Weaving SG-2p</u> WS Anthroposophical <u>SG-5p</u> <u>Pittsboro SG-6:30p</u> Greensboro SG-7p	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Rose Cross SG-7:30p	<b>17</b>  Asheville Steiner SG-7p  Reading to the Dead-7p	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  ASNC Watercolor and Our Perceptions of the Spiritual World Workshop- 10a
<b>20</b> CC Lay <u>Gathering-</u> <u>10:30a</u> The Goethean <u>Conversation SG-3p</u> Asheville Soul- <u>Weaving SG-2p</u> WS Anthroposophical <u>SG-5p</u> <u>Pittsboro SG-6:30p</u> Greensboro SG-7p	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Rose Cross SG-7:30p	<b>24</b> Reading to the Dead-7p	<b>25</b> Sophia Grail Circle-6:30p	<b>26</b>  ASNC St John's Festival at Infinity Farm- 6p
<b>27</b> The Goethean <u>Conversation SG-3p</u> Asheville Soul- <u>Weaving SG-2p</u> WS Anthroposophical <u>SG-5p</u> <u>Pittsboro SG-6:30p</u> Greensboro SG-7p	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Rose Cross SG-7:30p			

## Calendar Details: March and April, 2010

### ASNC

**ASNC Festivals Committee** meets monthly, summer dates and times tba. Please join us if you are interested in continuing to bring the Festivals to our community. Contact Peg Carmody at [mcarmody@nc.rr.com](mailto:mcarmody@nc.rr.com) for more information.

June 2, 7:30pm - **ASNC Board Meeting** – Meeting at the home of Board President Peg Carmody. For more details contact Peg Carmody at 919-537-8142 or [mcarmody@nc.rr.com](mailto:mcarmody@nc.rr.com). To contact the ASNC by mail: PO B0X 16024, Chapel Hill, NC 27516.

June 26, 6pm - **St John's Festival Celebration at Infinity Farm**. Please see flyer in this newsletter for more details or contact Linda Folsom at [lfolsom@nc.rr.com](mailto:lfolsom@nc.rr.com)

### Christian Community

tba - Christian Community **Steering Committee meeting** at the home of Mary Beth Mueller. Mary Beth Mueller, [marybeth@bitesizephysics.com](mailto:marybeth@bitesizephysics.com), 919-929-9791

June 20, 10:30a - **Christian Community Lay Gathering and Potluck**. At the home of Linda Folsom, 3118 Dixon Rd, Durham, NC 27707, 919-493-8323, [lfolsom@nc.rr.com](mailto:lfolsom@nc.rr.com). This is an informal gathering that includes reading and discussion of the gospel, recitation of the Creed, community prayer and song. Please join us for a potluck brunch afterwards.

### EWS

For all events, see the Emerson Waldorf website at [www.emersonwaldorf.org](http://www.emersonwaldorf.org) or consult their online calendar at <http://www.emersonwaldorf.org/community/calendar/> for more details.

June 5, 7p - 11p - **25th Anniversary Auction** at Depot at Hillsboro Station, 246 S. Nash Street, Hillsborough, NC

June 6, 4p - **25th Anniversary Picnic** at the EWS Farm

June 7, 10a - **EWS Golf Tournament** at Chapel Hill Country Club

June 12, 4p - **12th Grade Graduation** at Union Grove United Methodist Church, 6407 Union Grove Church Rd, Hillsborough, NC

### Other Activities of Interest

#### NDE

**NDE Study Group** - 7p. Our The last scheduled meeting prior to summer break will be June 8. At the home of Robert and Suzanne Mays, 5622 Brisbane Dr, a few miles north of Chapel Hill, just north of I-40, off Mount Sinai Road. For more information, please call us at 919-929-1073 or [mays@ieee.org](mailto:mays@ieee.org).

#### Choreochosmos and Sophia Grail Circle:

For questions or more information, call Kelly Calegar, 919-361-0691 or visit [www.eastcoastschoolofchoreocosmos.com](http://www.eastcoastschoolofchoreocosmos.com)

## STUDY GROUPS

### *Please Note*

*Most Study Groups modify their meeting times over the summer and often take breaks. Please call the group in advance to assure that they are meeting if you plan to attend during the summer months.*

Updates on events may be publicized by sending out an email to the ASNC list-serve: [asnc-list@rtpnet.org](mailto:asnc-list@rtpnet.org).

Please go to the ASNC website to learn how to join the list-serve so that you will receive up-dates on events:

<http://anthroposophync.org/mailman/listinfo/asnc-list>

**The Basic Books Study Group** - The Basic Books study group which meets Monday nights at the Bornhorst's will be taking a vacation over the summer. Please watch announcements for September for details about when we will be resuming our studies.

**Child's Needs Study Group** - Please call Lauren Mills Nyland for further information – 968-7721, or [mills.lauren@gmail.com](mailto:mills.lauren@gmail.com)

**Companions of St John Study Group** - an online study group in which members read the Gospel of St. John on their own one chapter daily each week. Members then discuss their observations and insights online and do various activities such as journals, artwork, etc. which they can report on via the group's list serve. The group is lead by Judy Frey: 919-928-8749 or [damaris12@nc.rr.com](mailto:damaris12@nc.rr.com)

**The Goethean Conversation Study Group** - Marjorie Spock, in her book "Group Moral Artistry", suggested substituting Goethean conversation for the reading or lecturing which many felt to be an outmoded form of Anthroposophical group life. The Goethean Conversation Study Group (formerly The Fifth Gospel study group) will begin its exploration of what Goethe considered to be the art of arts by reading Marjorie Spock's book. It meets at the home of Martha and Dirk Kelder in Chapel Hill. For more information please call 919-942-2112.

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

**Pittsboro Study Group** - Focuses on the social question. We will be reading *Spiritual Science as Foundation for Social Forms*. The group meets at the home of Jeff Barney at 760 Millbrook Dr, Pittsboro on Sundays at 6:30p. Contact Jeff for more information at 919-260-0066 or email Jeff at [ethicindiv@yahoo.com](mailto:ethicindiv@yahoo.com)

**Renewing the Culture of Death** - Please contact Jenny Bingham if you are interested in this group. Meeting monthly, times still being established. The first half of the meeting will be discussion, and the second half of the meeting will be around practical issues of creating a group who will be available to assist those in the community who

want to care for their loved ones at home after death. Jenny Bingham : 208 Murray St., Hillsborough, NC 27278. Email: [jennybingham@yahoo.com](mailto:jennybingham@yahoo.com) Phone: 919-241-4304

**Rose Cross Study Group** – Wednesdays, 7:30p, at the home of Judy Frey, Currently reading *From Jesus to Christ*. Newcomers are welcome! Please give call Judy at 928-8749 before attending the first time.

**The Threshold Group** - Meeting at 7p each Thursday night for a few weeks until we establish a monthly Thursday beginning in September. We are reading *At the Moment of Death and Life Between Death and a New Birth*. Please come to my house if you are so moved. I am at 1205 North Greensboro Street in Carrboro. 240-7291 Peace, Joanna Carey

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

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

**Winston-Salem-Yadkin Valley Study Group** – The Winston-Salem-Yadkin Valley Study Group meets September through May, Sundays from 6-8 at the home of Sarah Putnam, 7719 Whitehorse Dr, Clemmons, NC. Veil painting workshop in August; date to be announced. Everyone welcome. Call 336-972-8243.

### **Asheville Study Groups:**

**Steiner Study Group** – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 7-9pm. We are reading *Theosophy*. Contact Marie Davis at 828-273-5647

**Soul-Weaving Study Group** for parents - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, 2-4pm.

**Biodynamic reading group** - 2nd Thursday, reading group and 4th Saturday 10-12am hands-on in the garden.

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### **WERBECK SINGING LESSONS**

I am offering voice lessons out of the guidance of the Werbeck work. There are both therapeutic and artistic exercises, which can bring much benefit for many situations. Sliding scale. Call me if you have questions. 919-240-7291 Joanna Carey

## REPORT FROM THE COMPANIONS OF JOHN ON-LINE STUDY GROUP:

*Dear Fellow Anthroposophists and Friends,*

Sixteen weeks ago an on-line study group was born. It had its origins in a remark made by Dr. Rudolf Steiner to the effect that if someone somewhere in the world were not reading the Gospel of St. John every day, then evolution could not continue in an upward direction. Twenty-one folks plus myself dedicated ourselves to reading a portion of this Gospel account every day. As suggested by Dr. Steiner, we work for one week on the same chapter and then move on to the next. This exercise takes only as long as it takes my computer to warm up, but of course we spend time making pictures of the chapter's events in our own souls and adding our thoughts to these pictures. We communicate on-line only if we feel moved to share some of our thoughts or feelings. Our group counts as members folks from as far away as Italy and China and as close as the neighborhood. The distance does not separate us, as we feel a certain unity in knowing that we are all working on the same chapter on the same day. We are also endeavoring to put some of our feelings into artistic expressions for each chapter. For me, this has proved much more difficult and time consuming than the reading. I have fallen way behind and have recently decided to simplify my projects. We work freely, without expecting insight, great soul growth, or special visions, but knowing only that we are accomplishing a free deed which we love, i.e.: doing something that will help spiritual beings in their connection with the ideals human beings have set for themselves. We do not know how this will help, but we trust firmly that it will.

Although we do not seek initiation into spiritual secrets and spiritual powers, reading the Gospel of St. John with a dedication of soul is certainly a path of preparation for us. In his final lecture on this Gospel, Dr. Steiner, in speaking about the evolution of the human soul remarked, "There had to be something which possesses the power to transform the human astral body into a Virgin Sophia (a wisdom-filled Spirit Individuality). What is this power? It consists in the fact of Christ Jesus entrusting to the Disciple whom He loved—in other words to the writer of the Gospel of St. John—the mission of describing truly and faithfully through his own illumination the events of Palestine in order that men might be affected by them. If men permit what is written in the Gospel of St. John to work sufficiently upon them, their astral body is in the process of becoming a Virgin Sophia and it will become receptive to the Holy Spirit. Gradually, through the strength of the impulse which emanates from this Gospel, it will become susceptible of feeling the true spirit and later of perceiving it."

We are working on-line only for a limited time, through the entire 21 chapters of the Gospel of St. John. This is truly a work that falls under the good will of Rudolf Steiner, Christian Rosenkreutz and the Archangel Michael. I say this in all humility and with a sincere feeling for the privilege that we were led to engage in this activity as well as the responsibility it puts on all 22 of us. If you would like to join us, you may begin by reading the Gospel of St. John from Chapter 1 all the way through to the chapter we have reached by the time you read this article. On Sunday, May 30 we will start Chapter 17, so it will be easy enough for you to place where we are. You may want to send me your name and email address so that you can follow or contribute to our on-line conversations. My email is [damaris12@nc.rr.com](mailto:damaris12@nc.rr.com). Many blessings,

*Judy Frey*





**Please join us for a Fun Event:  
The ASNC ANNUAL  
St. John's Festival  
Saturday June 26, 2010  
5:45 PM  
Come to Infinity Farm where  
the air is clean  
1600 McDade Store Rd.  
Cedar Grove, NC 27231  
Hosts: Joy and Bob Kwapien  
Phone: 732-1840**

### **Schedule of the Evening:**

#### **5:45pm - Potluck**

Bring a dish to share, insect spray, a flashlight and a chair or blanket for sitting. Drinks (iced tea, water, lemonade) and flatware will be provided. At your table you will find craft materials to make small sailboats - decorate them as your heart desires!

#### **7:15p - Torch Procession to the pond,**

Follow the torches down to the pond. Bring your boat. A flotilla will be set off from the dock, and sometimes a little competition sneaks in here.

#### **7:45pm - Traditional St John's festival play**

Will the Elementals show up? Or will it be the Farmer again this year? The play is very short and appropriate for children. Bring a blanket or portable seating.

#### **8:05p - Why do we have a St John's Festival?**

Short talk by Peg Carmody, President of the ASNC

#### **8:30p - Lighting of Bonfire and Singing**

Community - we need help with music! If you play, please bring your instrument. St John's is a festival of music.

**Children are welcome and encouraged to come to the St John's Festival - it's for the whole family.**

#### **Driving directions to 1600 McDade Store Rd, Cedar Grove, NC 27231:**

From Emerson Waldorf School - Take NC 86N all the way through Hillsborough. Pass the juncture of US-70, continue on 86N another 10.3 miles to flashing light. This is the intersection of McDade Store Rd. Turn Left here, and go 2.2 miles. Infinity Farm is on the left side of the road, marked by a sign. Address is 1600 McDade Store Rd. Park down toward farmhouse in the field by the barn. **From EWS to Infinity Farm is about 20 miles, takes about 30 min.**

**New Option this year - van transport from Emerson Waldorf School to Infinity Farm** -Leave your car at the EWS and let us drive. **Must call in advance for reservations** - Linda Folsom, [lfolsom@nc.rr.com](mailto:lfolsom@nc.rr.com), or 919-493-8323. Call or email by Thursday, 6/24/10 to book your van transport.



## Celebrating the Festivals in the Cycle of the Year: Approaching St. John's Tide By Margaretta Bornhorst

“We should not underestimate the significance it [St. John's Day] once held for humankind to focus the whole attention during the year on a festival time.....There were times when people united their consciousness with the course of the year; when, let us say, at the beginning of the year, they felt themselves standing within the course of time in such a way that they .....experienced along with Nature the gradual changes and metamorphoses she went through. But they shared this experience with Nature in such a way—when their consciousness was united with the natural phenomena—that they oriented this consciousness toward a specific festival. Then human souls were filled with feelings that found expression in the way they related themselves to what the festivals meant to them.....They experienced the course of the year as an organic life process....the ruling and weaving of the spiritual in the successive changes of outer nature, in growth and decline, or in a waxing followed by a waning.”

“...it is not a breathing of air of which we speak, but the in-and-out-breathing of *forces*, of which we can get a partial idea if we notice the plant-growth during the course of the year.” (Rudolf Steiner, The Cycle of the Year)

But friends, this is not the way in which we experience the cycles of the year, or our festivals (if we inwardly experience them at all). So, what must we do so that these festivals, which we have been told by Rudolf Steiner' are so important to the further evolution and growth of humanity, once again become significant to human beings?

Our community celebrated an Easter sunrise gathering followed by a brunch; 40 days after this we celebrated Ascension with a visit from Rev. Patrick Kennedy of the Christian Community DC/Baltimore congregation (and also our own local affiliate Christian Community congregation) and a workshop entitled “Transfiguring Earthly Being with Heavenly Being: What is a Truly Christian Relationship to the Environment?” “How the Spirit of Christ Works to Lift up and Transform the Elements of the Earth.” Ten days after Ascension follows Whitsun; The Festivals Committee of ASNC held an observance of Whitsun at the Brookshire Nursing Center. Fifteen people attended, including our friend Renate, who is currently a resident at Brookshire. About a month from now, the Festivals Committee will again sponsor an important, little understood, but favorite midsummer festival, St. John's Tide.

There are some questions which present themselves when thinking about St. John's Tide. Following Each question will be some quotes, from Rudolf Steiner, Sergei Prokofieff, Emil Bock and Evelyn Capel of the Christian Community.

1. What is St. John's Tide, and what connection does it have to midsummer?

“Human beings were born out of the Light into darkness, and the longing lies in them like a seed to seek the Light again.” “Modern times find us in this respect in a darkened period. Walls of dogma enclose us, as the dogmas of science are added to the dogmas of religion. Yet dissatisfaction, a never fully suppressed longing really to know stirs many....” (RS: The Cycle of the Year)

“At this season the soul of the earth rises in longing towards the heights, seeking communion with the universe, with the light and warmth of the sun and his companions, the stars. At midsummer her long outbreathing is completed and her whole soul has gone forth in devotion....a great streaming of life and force surges upwards from the depths.” (Many visible changes in nature) “The forces of form impregnating all matter that have crystallized into shape, stream upwards. Matter urges spiritward in every part of creation. The counterpart has come to the sacred interval of the Holy Nights at Christmas. Then Spirit yearned towards matter raining down the inspiration for the fresh growth of Nature. Now all the earth's creatures yearn towards the Heavens. Matter seeks Spirit, returning to its origin in expansion towards the world-heights.”.....“What happens to the soul of human beings? They are uplifted in unison with the soul of the earth.....we live, not down on the earth, but absorbed into the light-filled atmosphere above its surface....feelings rise with sprouting plants...thoughts expand into the

world.....From the hearts of all human beings the moral forces stream out towards the Heavens at this season....human soul reveal the moral impulse within their will...moral life of Man mingle with the world outside himself...in the time of midsummer....good and evil are the fruits of human life that no other creature has to offer. The harvest of the human heart is gathered in the Heavens by the angels. The good is transformed and woven into the light of the universe...quality of the human heart...is the conscience.” (Evelyn Francis Capel, The Christian Year)

Baptism of Christ by Francisco Trevisani



2. What about John the Baptist? “In the centre of the Christian festival at this season stands the figure of John the Baptist. In the whole cycle of the Christian festivals only this one is under the sign of a human figure. It is essentially the festival of Man.” (gift of the Father in the Heavens when at Whitsuntide the Holy Spirit descended to Mankind) “The figure of John, guardian of this festival...the dignity of Man to which we aspire? ...word ‘humanity’...word for the highest calling and dignity of Man...” “Man, become what thou art.”...reverence the highest ideal in the word “humanity”. “Human beings reject, each in its turn, everything that they are not to be. What then is the import of modern nature-knowledge? You behold in what nature-knowledge shows you that which you need to exclude from knowledge of humankind..It implies that human beings must study natural science. Why? When they look into a microscope they know what is not spirit....what is not spirit is revealed to them.” “John—the herald of Christ’s coming...waited for His coming with a heart filled with devotion and lit by enthusiasm...spoke of

himself as the friend of the bridegroom.....He became the first in the company of human souls who wish to acknowledge Christ and follow Him.....Heavens opened and God the Father spoke in the heights...In that hour the veil between earth and Heaven was parted and the work of God was done by the hands of a man.” “The human figure of John is the sign of the festival, which reminds us that the Christian destiny of Man is to become the Son of God.” (Capel, The Christian Year)

“John the Baptist showed in his being and character the grace of soul and spirit that lowered within human nature before the coming of Christ. He was therefore able to walk with God....in the ancient fashion.” “John....makes room for and paves the way for the new that has to come. In John the Baptist, the superhuman decides to become human; he renounces cosmic greatness in order to condense into the humble human form. The summer solstice is the birthday of John the Baptist who says: ‘I must decrease.’ The winter solstice is the birthday of Jesus, of whom John says: ‘He must increase.’ The man of antiquity hands the rudder over to a new principle.” “...the perspective that the Christian St. John’s festival suggests, ....that greatness once again moves into the human being. But this is not the greatness of antiquity, the greatness of the Father. The Son enters into the son-man.

“The last herald and bearer of ecstatic sun-greatness was John the Baptist. Not only through his birth, but through his whole being, he was the man of the summer solstice, the very embodiment of superhuman cosmic rapture. His flaming soul, ablaze far and wide over the land, flared up to the heights of the sun just as Christ departed from these heights and made ready to tread earthly paths together with men. John was allowed to accompany the genius of the sun from the heights to the depths by carrying out the baptism of Jesus of Nazareth. He understood the mighty transition and change in the spiritual universe and selflessly reconciled himself to it. This induced him to utter the solstice-words: ‘He must increase, I must decrease’ (John 3:30)”

“The festival of St John’s Day at the midsummer’s solstice will in future be more than a festival of remembrance of the Baptist as the last bearer of ancient cosmic greatness who was ready to

'decrease.' It will be a special festival of Christ's increase. Christ.....has moved into the breath of the earth.....The summer solstice brings about the union and harmony between inner and cosmic ascension. ...He teaches us a new *sursum corda*, the heart's sense of ascent." (Emil Bock, The Rhythm of the Christian Year)

3. A Festival of the Future? "Not much can be said about this festival in the present epoch of human evolution, as in its deepest foundations it is a festival that points towards the future evolution of humanity; it is one which human beings will be able to celebrate in a full and conscious way only in the very distant future. ....The whole inner being of the Earth at this time of year is immersed in a deep sleep, the outward expression of which is all the beauty and diversity of its plant life...The Earth's soul now lies fully outside its physical planetary body. It ascends to the far reaches of the cosmos, to the sphere of the fixed stars, and abides there in the circle of the higher Hierarchies.....nature's condition ...described...by the word 'bliss'...—no more than a dream...the soul of the Earth...cannot fully awaken to a *conscious experience* of that 'divine bliss' the bliss of being in the lap of the higher Hierarchies, in which it now abides. The same applies also to man. ....at St John's tide not only the Soul of the Earth, but also the new Spirit of the Earth, Christ, in a certain sense takes leave of the planetary body and dwells out in the macrocosm, uniting there with His eternal Kingdom in the spheres of the Sun and the stars."

" If a man has entered upon the modern Path of Christian-Rosicrucian Initiation, which leads him to a conscious union with the Christ-Being, Who—alone of all the divine Beings of the cosmos—is able to uplift and sustain man's individual ego-consciousness at *all* levels of world-existence." (Prokofieff, The Christian Year as a Path of Initiation)

"the Summer Festival of St John is, esoterically speaking, an indication of the most distant future in the evolution of mankind, of that future which in our time a man can make an inner reality only once he has reached the seventh and final stage of the modern Christian-Rosicrucian Path of Initiation."(Prokofieff)

Join us as we begin this journey together towards this Path of Initiation. Our community's St John's Festival is described on page 7 of this newsletter. Let's move into the future celebrating according to the information and indications given to us by Rudolf Steiner. According to Prokofieff, "...we have been able to distinguish in particular *seven* Christian festivals, which introduce the seven-fold rhythm of the inner development of the human soul into the twelve-fold rhythm of the year. *In the rhythm of seven*, in the rhythm of Initiation, there lives in man his spirit, his true ego; Christ Himself lives in him. (These festivals are: Michaelmas, Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Ascension, Whitsun and St. John 's Day.)

... "the Christian festival of St John's Day must yet be born." (Bock) This 'birthing' will be held on Sat. June 26 at Infinity Farm. We will be accompanied by a Full Moon.

## **WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP IN AUGUST IN WINSTON-SALEM YADKIN VALLEY**

The Winston-Salem-Yadkin-Valley Anthroposophical Study Group will host a watercolor veil painting workshop, taught by Carol Brick, on August 14, from 9-1, in Clemmons, NC. Call Sarah Putnam at 336-972-8243 to register or to obtain information.

## FIFTEEN ATTEND WHITSUN CELEBRATION AT BROOKSHIRE NURSING HOME MAY 23

By Kathleen Wright

Rudolf Steiner referred to Whitsun, as the Community of the Individual, as well as of the Community. Keeping this theme in mind, our ASNC community celebrated Whitsun in a unique manner. Instead of having it at the Waldorf School or a member's home, we decided to bring the festival to the Brookshire Nursing Home, where one of our members, Renate Wend is staying. The original plan was to have the celebration outdoors in the lovely park on a hill on the grounds of the nursing home; however, just as the original Whitsun was preceded by stormy weather, rain and high winds roared last night and this morning, leaving the ground too wet for an outdoor event. And so, just as the disciples of long ago were sequestered in a room on that fateful day, 15 of us gathered in the Activities Room at Brookshire. The Room was beautified with flowers of every kind and white Whitsun doves, which Marie Nordgren had made for us.



The simple celebration consisted of readings from the Bible, Steiner and Friedrich Benesch, a song, a Whitsun verse and the Calendar of the Soul. Discussions took place between the readings.

Renate was delighted to have so many friends join her on this special day. Much of the discussion centered on the dichotomy of the idea that this festival is a celebration of both the individual and the community and how this is not a contradiction, but that a truly awake community is cognizant of the Ego of all its individualities. Many beautiful and intimate thoughts were shared. The lofty ideals of Steiner's concepts were brought down –to-earth as we applied them to the situation at hand right there in the nursing home:

(picture to left: Margareta Bornhorst with the Whitsun doves) One member pointed out that while we were speaking and reading, the bells at the nursing station were

ringing constantly – indicating that there were people in need and their needs were not being answered. This was an example of what a community should *not* be – in a true community we should heed the needs of our members. Renate has often spoken about the heartlessness she perceives at the nursing home. She recalled how one time she was wandering around the home in her wheelchair and a nurse asked her what she was doing. Renate replied, "I am prospecting for kindness." One member remarked that it is disgraceful how America worships youth and takes such poor care of its elderly. It is something that the Anthroposophical Movement needs to do more for as well. The question was asked – What can we do about it? If we don't initiate good solutions now, there will be nothing for us either when we arrive at old age.



Renate was very grateful that so many came out to celebrate with her. The Spirit of Whitsun was very much alive and many remarked what a good idea it was to take our Whitsun celebration out into the world at large, and that we had created a spiritual oasis in the nursing home that hopefully would have some spiritually rippling effects.

### More Whitsun Photos:



Ron Evans, Roger Schultz and Linda Folsom



Linda (foreground); Mindy (background)

Below: Kathleen Wright and Renate Wend



Seated: Joy Kwapien, Mary-Beth Mueller, Joanna Carey

## Transfiguring Earthly Being with Heavenly Being: Christian Community Ascension Weekend Workshop

**(A brief overview of the May 14-16 workshop with Rev. Patrick Kennedy, summarized by Linda Finigan)**



What really happened at Ascension? Did Christ leave the earthly realm or by “ascending” did He unite His forces even more powerfully with those of the earth? A weekend workshop sponsored by the NC Affiliate of The Christian Community took up this and many other aspects related to the question: What is a truly Christ-filled relationship to the environment?

**(Photo by Eleanor Amidon)**

Patrick Kennedy began Friday evening’s talk by turning our attention to the current state of the environment. Consciousness of the planet is a new concept for humanity. As the world’s concern focuses on the BP oil spill and the suffering being caused, we can ask the question: why did this happen? One answer is: *Because I drive a car*. Being conscious of our co-responsibility is a means to have a moral experience of what is happening on the earth.

Ancient cultures still experienced the earth as mother; they had a consciousness of an actual being connected with the earth. In modern times, the earth has become a resource, something to be used up. The crassest level of materialist consciousness sees the ruin of the earth but looks to technology to provide the means to colonize another planet that we can begin consuming anew. Even the sustainability movement carries with it the materialist thought of living with the earth in protective harmony, but in order to insure its survival for our own needs.

We discussed the ways in which Christ united himself with the earth while he was alive and also in death—his physical body literally swallowed by the earth. We looked at the human body as being identical to earth substances: sand (silica), carbon, water, warmth.

We examined the question: what is transformation? How does the resurrection body, for example, differ from Christ’s human form in Jesus? The example of the butterfly was discussed: its transformation from larva through caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly, a radical transformation of being, while remaining still the same organism. With Christ’s death and resurrection, his transformation, a new spiritualized form arises. This, too, will be the story of the destruction, death and resurrection of the earth.

Objects are changed through our relationship to them. The example discussed in Saturday morning’s workshop was a piece of clothing, a jean jacket, belonging to a dead loved one. The identical item of clothing obtained from a store is not the same, does not have the associations, the essence of the jean jacket that belonged to the person we loved. This, too, is a metaphor for transformation.

Not only are we using up the earth, poisoning the planet, but the earth itself is decaying. What can be done?

Does gratitude matter? Does prayer for the earth matter? What lives in the human soul will one day become our future world. What lives in our souls will enable the transformation of the earth, beginning with the transformation of our souls.

We are aided in this by the transformative power of love, the deed of love: Christ's coming into the earth. The transformative power of Christ is love, His power in us.

We examined the relationship of the four elements, earth, water, air and fire to the sacraments, to the Act of Consecration, to the four bodies of the human being as well as to the festivals and looked at warmth as a transformative power capable of changing elements into different phases of existence.

After the Saturday morning break, Kate Kennedy led a verbal exercise based on the work of Paul Matthews, (author of *Sing Me the Creation*). In lively pairs, we examined the nature of sentences (statement, question, command, exclamation) as they relate to the four elements (earth, water, air, fire):

<b>Earth</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Air</b>	<b>Fire</b>
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Offering</b>	<b>Transubstantiation</b>	<b>Communion</b>
<b>Physical</b>	<b>Etheric</b>	<b>Soul</b>	<b>Spirit</b>
<b>Passion/The Cross</b>	<b>Resurrection</b>	<b>Ascension</b>	<b>Whitsun</b>
<b>Statement</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Exclamation</b>	<b>Command</b>

Following lunch, we began with the question what's new about religious renewal? From salvation of one's soul to redemption of the universe, we play an active role. In the words of Paul: All of creation waits in eager longing for the Sons of God to be revealed.

Christ did not leave the earth at Ascension. The ten days between Ascension and Whitsun are an expansion into the realm of the Father. Through this expansion, this permeating of the earthly sphere, Christ insures that the fire can live in us, the fire of the Holy spirit. The act of Communion itself, as first lived in the Last Supper, was also a uniting with the earth, the bread that became His body, the fruit of the plant kingdom that became His blood.

How does the right attitude of soul, the act of prayer, the power of gratitude make a difference to the earth? How is that an ideal, the enthusiasm of an ideal, being "fired up" as it were can transform ourselves and our world? The fire of enthusiasm actually changes one's physical warmth. Every time we take in a moral thought that becomes part of us, an ideal, this affects the very core of our being, down to our bones and organs. Moral uprightness is a source of this transformative power of warmth.

What is the mustard seed placed in the field? When we take up spiritual thoughts, thoughts that fire us, we are planting actual seeds into the bodies we bear, seeds that will unfold when we die. These seeds will in turn become the new earth.

The new earth, the New Jerusalem will be formed through the work of those human beings who are capable of moral thoughts.

Our impulse in the face of environmental destruction is to either close off to the pain or feel anger for the bad guys who have wrecked the planet.

It is essential to acknowledge our own responsibility and then to continually work on transforming our own plot of land— the heart.

After a day indoors, we found a clearing where we could observe the clouds of Ascension in their patterns of light and dark, substance and dissolution in their ever-changing transit across the sky. A photo from our observation accompanies this article.

Saturday evening concluded with a circle of sacred conversation: our childhood memories of nature, the extent of her current suffering, our heartfelt prayers for the earth followed by a brief but powerful evening close of day service at the candlelit altar.



## **Last Watercolor Painting Workshop June 19!**

The last painting workshop in this series for spring/summer 2010 will be held **Saturday June 19 at Camp New Hope** in the **Oak Lodge**. We will start at **10am** and finish by **4 pm**.

Cost of the workshop is \$35. A \$4 supply fee is requested for paint and paper. Brushes and easels will be provided.

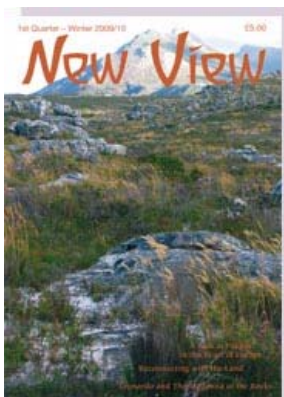
We will be working with Goethe's theory of color, and painting exercises developed by Gerhard Wagner over his lifetime, using Rudolf Steiner's color indications and their effect on the soul development of the human being.

Most of all, we will have fun. In a stressful world, come join us for a day of creative soul expression and camaraderie. Non-threatening painting instruction and anthroposophical understanding will be provided by our instructor, Carol Brick. (Some of us have really liked our painting results, and have even framed them.)

Please do call one of us to 'register' so that we have sufficient supplies on hand for you. You may pay at the door. Please bring a bag lunch and drink(s). There is a microwave and a fridge at Oak Lodge for your use.

**Margaretta 919-824-7337**

**Carol 336-694-5493**



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

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

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

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## Lazure Workshop Culminates In Lazuring of the Eurythmy Room

By Kathleen Wright

The Emerson Waldorf School's Parent Organization presented the school with a magnificent gift the weekend of May 21-23: A Lazure Workshop with world-renowned Lazure artist, Robert Logsdon. Logsdon's presentation covered the history of the Lazure technique, an introduction to Goethe's Color Theory, presentation on the technique, and ended with the actual application of all that was learned in the painting of the Eurythmy Room.



Robert Logsdon was first introduced to the Lazure technique back in the early 1970's. By 1974 he began lecturing about it in the US. Logsdon is actually the one who coined the word "Lazure" for English speaking countries. Steiner had used the word "Lasur" which is related to the word "Glaser" or glazing, which is a somewhat similar technique to lazuring. Robert felt that the German word "lasur" (pronounced lah-soor) might be mispronounced by Americans as "laser", which is so totally opposite to what lazuring is, so he was determined to find a new word. He did some research and was inspired by the word "azure" of the blue sky, which is very much like lazure paintings. The word lazure also relates to lapis, from the blue stone. Logsdon consulted with German lasur artists and they very much approved the new word – Lazure - for English speakers.

Rudolf Steiner began talking about Goethe's color theory in 1910 when he introduced the concept that light is transparent and that color is created by the interplay between light and matter. As early as 1907 Steiner spoke to members of the Theosophical Society about the importance of one's environment and the colors with which we surround ourselves. This idea was incorporated into the first Waldorf School in the choice of colors for the walls of the various grades.

In Lazure painting, colors are painted in layers of light, transparent colors. These are expressed as soul forces, Robert explained. A lazure painted wall gives one the feeling that one can move in and out. It has an etheric or life quality about it. In a slide presentation, he demonstrated how nature's "Lazure" can be seen in sunrises and sunsets, in a pool of water with its many layers of reflections, and in a beautiful 3-dimensional Alpine scene with layers of mountains and clouds in the background. One can also see this quality in a rainbow.

He used slides of prisms to demonstrate Goethe's Color theory. In a prism, we see a "broken" rainbow – the warm colors align on one side of the prism and the cool colors on the other. He showed how this manifests no matter what the geometric shape of the prism. Both Newton and Goethe did experiments with colors. Steiner often spoke of the importance of Magenta – the color created by the convergence of the two darkest colors, one cool and one warm (purple and red). The principles of this color theory have been incorporated in various healing techniques, those developed by Steiner's students and in





many other alternative healing therapies. In anthroposophical medicine, one can receive colored light treatments, and painting therapy, for example.

The warm colors (red, orange and yellow) have a more destructive or catabolic effect. They cause the production of carbonic acid in the body, which in turn causes more blood activity. This can give one a feeling of

agitation, raise the blood pressure and is a hardening force. Paradoxically, these colors are good for young children. The cool colors (blue, green and violet) lead to more normal processes. Logsdon said that people tend to be attracted to the color of their temperament.

To demonstrate how one's etheric body reacts to the space (and color) around one, participants were given after-image exercises. One stared at a circle of color for a few minutes then looked at the white wall next to it and "saw" the opposite color there.

Another concept that Logsdon introduced that was new to many was that colors evolve. In ancient times, man could not see the array of colors we see today. Violet is the latest color to become visible. At the time of Homer, green did not have the many differentiations that we see now. Green is the color of balance, the turning point from cool to warm. It is the perfect color for the "nine-year change" and is therefore the color of choice for a fourth grade classroom.

Logsdon also explained that the primary colors we learned in school (red, yellow and blue) are true only for pigments. In reality, the primary colors for light are red, green and blue; the primary colors for printing are magenta, cyan and yellow.



### The Technique

Robert then explained the very complicated process of creating a Lazure wall. One begins with two kinds of brushes – a radial brush that is used to apply and mix the colors, and a special Lazure brush that is very thick and has long very soft synthetic hairs. The painter makes large, lemniscate strokes with the Lazure brush. After one layer is dried, another is applied. The lazure brush is imported from Italy and no stores in the U.S. carry it, so one must purchase it from Robert. The cost is \$20.

One uses Stockmar water colors that are fixed with acrylic matte medium, which is a binder. To this, one adds some Floetrol, which slows down the drying and conditions the paint. Before one begins on the walls, Robert says to make a "sample board", on a matt board that has been painted with acrylic white paint. This is to test how your colors are going to look. It is good to plan before hand the theme and the colors you wish to use. One should make a diagram of the walls and the shape the colors will take. Robert recommended Benjamin Moore's new Natura line, which is low in VOC's

For the Eurythmy Room's colors and theme, Robert asked Eve Olive what her preference was. Eve chose pink and yellow with just a touch of blue at the end to create a little violet, and said that she wanted them very delicate, because in some Eurythmy exercises, one might need to visualize other colors and so she did not want the walls to be overpowering. They needed to leave something for the imagination.

After practicing on the sample boards, the group was ready to begin! The most unique thing about Lazure is that it should never be done by just one person. It is meant to be a community project and is too complex for one person anyway. Teams work together at different levels on the walls (see pictures which demonstrate this) Everyone had a great time and such a community bond was formed that the participants decided to exchange phone numbers and all will help each other in doing Lazure walls at each other's houses!

Many thanks to those who participated in this workshop. They gave a most beautiful gift to the school – a brand new lazured Eurythmy Room! It looks awesome. Be sure to see it.

Those who helped with the painting are: Will Hicks, the PO President who organized the event, Karen Durovich and her three children: Keegan, Colyer and Graeme; Corey and Katya (sorry I wasn't able to catch their last names) Kat Pratt, Cathy Linskens, who came all the way from Fayetteville to help; Therisa Pienaar, Mary Leonardhi, Linda Folsom and teachers, Vioricke Comaniciu and Kathleen Stone-Michael. And many thanks to Robert Logsdon for a wonderful conference and all the exhausting work he did on those beautiful walls!

## *News from Tammy Hughes in China*

*Dear Friends,*

I am currently in Shenzhen working with five Waldorf classes inside a larger kindergarten. This situation allows our Waldorf classes to operate legally. In total, there are three floors with classrooms and offices. We have about 340 children in the school: 90 in the kindergartens and 60 in the parent/child classes. The waiting list is very long for the Waldorf classes.

I don't know if you have kept up with the current tragic situation in China. In the last two months there have been quite some incidents of knife attacks at various schools. The situation has put all kindergartens and schools on alert for safety. The police presence at our gate and in our community is far from comforting.

At this time, I feel Waldorf education has much to offer to educational communities as we face these unusual and sad situations. As other schools start self defense classes, we are working out what are healthy approaches to the situation.

I'll be back in North Carolina this summer. I look forward to giving a talk about China's educational development and the growth of Waldorf education.

Warmest regards to all,

*Tammy*

## What Our Community Members Will Be Up to this Summer...

**Deborah Pearson-Moyers** and her daughters, Sara and Sonja, will be holding six weeks of horsemanship camp for children and teenagers at Blue Skies of Maplevue! The day includes artistic exercises including pastels, paints, and crafts and lots of hands on horse experience.

**Marie Nordgren** will be making visits to see her three daughters, hosting summer camps at The Children's Garden nursery school and attending Robert Powell's Choreocosmos workshop "Sophia and the Spiritual Hierarchies". In August she will be welcoming her Texas nephew to Durham to attend Duke University.

**Roger Schultz** became the proud Grandpa to Sawyer Evan Schultz, who was born on May 2 weighing 7 pounds 10 ounces in Portland, Oregon. Roger's son Osha is the Papa. Roger will be going camping from Tennessee to Alabama, possibly to the Gulf and the Ozarks. He will also visit his family.

**Bruce Bornhorst** says he is going to "get his Christmas decorations off the porch" and go fishing.

**Margaretta Bornhorst** says that cleaning up the Christmas decorations is not on her agenda. She will be traveling to California to help her sister-in-law who is in ill health and then to Virginia to help her daughters with a big fundraiser for their Therapeutic Riding Camp.

**Nancy Willson** hopes to go to the beach with a friend. She will have a guest from Ohio and they may go to Asheville and Knoxville together.

**Peg Carmody** will be going to her nephew's wedding at Myrtle Beach, but then has no plans until her son gets married in Albany in October.

**Mindy Kash** will be looking for a new home and preparing for her Mother's moving in with her. Daughter Melody is in Cuba at the moment and will return June 7.

**Allen Barenholtz** will be mostly at home, but will be heading up to Toronto for Joseph Kubik's wedding in August.

**Joanna Carey** will be teaching at Durham Tech's summer session and when it is over, she will head out to northern California to visit her son who is a forest ranger. He loves his job guarding the redwoods by the sea.

**Linda Folsom** will be going with the Bornhorsts to the Horse Show and fund raiser in Virginia. She will also be attending her niece's wedding in a car museum in St. Louis and will then spend a couple of weeks with her sister in Erie, PA.

**Robert and Suzanne Mays** will be visiting their son Zephyr and his pregnant wife in Pensacola, Florida; and then they will be heading for Boulder, CO in July to do research with a woman who has phantom limbs. In August they will fly to Denver for a conference on Near-Death Studies.

(continued on next page)

**Tammy Hughes** will be visiting NC in July. She will be flying from China to Florida, where she will visit her Mother, and then her son Linden will drive her here. Soon after that, Linden will be moving to Australia to work with his Father. He has been working at the Whole Foods in Chapel Hill and Durham. Tammy will return to China in August.

**Margaret Heath** will be housesitting for Margit Gratzl until the end of August. She will also be visiting her friend Eve Hanf-Enos in July.

**James Hoesch** will be getting a visit from his son who lives in New Zealand.

**Kathleen Wright** will be visiting her grandchildren in Saratoga Springs, NY in June, and in July they will stay with her for a few days here in NC. Kathleen and hubby Bob will also do some sightseeing in Washington D.C. in August. She also hopes to organize her Annex so that we can have branch meetings there.

**Dr. Mark Eisen** says he is going to breathe in and out and in and out. He also asks: does anyone want a cat? Call him ASAP if you do.

**What will you be doing this summer? If you need ideas, check out last month's issue of the *Sophia Sun*, which you can read online at [www.anthroposophyNC.org](http://www.anthroposophyNC.org) or go to the national website at [www.anthroposophy.org](http://www.anthroposophy.org) for a long list of conferences, workshops and summer classes.**

**If you love science, check out the Nature Institute's Offerings at: [www.natureinstitute.org](http://www.natureinstitute.org)**

**If you love music, check out [www.WaldorfMusic.org](http://www.WaldorfMusic.org) where you can learn about Waldorf Music Conferences in Illinois and San Diego.**

**If you are interested in the Sophia, there will be a conference, "Sophia and World Pentecost" in San Rafael, CA June 18-20. For more info go to: [www.sophiafoundation.org](http://www.sophiafoundation.org) . For the Sophia conference here in Chapel Hill, see our last issue of the *Sophia Sun*.**

**The Center for Anthroposophy in Wilton, NH has some excellent courses. Check them out at: [www.centerforanthroposophy.org](http://www.centerforanthroposophy.org) and of course check out Sunbridge College's offerings at [www.sunbridge.edu](http://www.sunbridge.edu)**

## **NEXT ASNC BRANCH MEETING: AUGUST 28**

We have spent the year in discussions about who we are as a branch: our history, our activities, our spiritual devotions and interests. On August 28, we will gather and ask the question: are we done with this question? Is it time to vote on what our name should be, or continue as it is. We also need to decide what direction the Branch meetings will take in the future. Some ideas might be: to discuss the theme of the year; to do Biography work with Empathy techniques developed by Baruch Urieli; take up a discussion about finding a branch home, or what else is on your mind? Please bring your thoughts to the Branch meeting in August.



## RUDOLF STEINER'S LEGACY HONORED AT TWO ART EXHIBITIONS IN GERMANY

An exhibition entitled "Rudolf Steiner and Contemporary Art" will be running from May 13, 2010 until October 3, 2010 at the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg in Germany and another exhibition "Rudolf Steiner: Alchemy of the Everyday" will be at the Vitra Design Museum. What is most amazing about it, its that it was organized by non-anthroposophists.

An announcement we received from the Wolfsburg Museum writes:

"Never before has the 'Steiner Cosmos' been as comprehensively portrayed as in the two parallel exhibitions "Rudolf Steiner and Contemporary Art" and "Rudolf Steiner: The Alchemy of the Everyday". This large-scale, two-part project takes up a phenomenon that has only attracted little attention in the past, but which is among the most exciting chapters in modern art and intellectual history. Major artists ranging from Wassily Kandinsky and Piet Mondrian to Joseph Beuys regularly occupied themselves with Rudolf Steiner's universal world of ideas and drew valuable impulses from them for their work. With the start of the twenty-first century, this link has received a new brisance resulting from the increasing interest contemporary artists have been showing in Steiner. Against the backdrop of the lively debates regarding ecological responsibility, the religious research for meaning, and an economic system that has spun out of control, the integral world view such as Steiner's is simultaneously experiencing growing attention.

The part of the exhibition entitled "The Alchemy of the Everyday" assembled by the Vitra Design Museum, examines the impact of this central twentieth century reformer in the fields of architecture, art and society. It is the world's first comprehensive retrospective dealing with Steiner outside an anthroposophical context..

The exhibition "Rudolf Steiner and Contemporary Art" organized by the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg in collaboration with the Kunstmuseum Stuttgart attempts to unlock Steiner's universalist world of ideas based on the works of 15 present-day artists."

## GERMAN MAGAZINE DER SPEIGEL FEATURES ARTICLE ABOUT STEINER'S CONTRIBUTIONS

A huge and very favorable article about Rudolf Steiner (with the exception of the introductory paragraph which describes Steiner as "eccentric" and anthroposophy as a "wacky Christian splinter group"), based on the art exhibitions mentioned above, was written by a former Waldorf student named Tobias Rapp and printed in the world-renown German magazine Der Spiegel in its May 21, 2010 issue. We would have loved to reprint the article in the *Sophia Sun*, but the magazine required contacting them for reprint permission and it seemed too involved for this issue; however, the article is online in English and you are urged to read it. It is fascinating and so refreshing to see how Steiner is finally being recognized by the world –at-large for his ingenious ideas and contributions to humanity. The Spiegel Online website also features many beautiful pictures from the exhibition.

To find this article, follow this link:

[www.spiegel.de/international/zeitgeist/0,1518,696140,00.html](http://www.spiegel.de/international/zeitgeist/0,1518,696140,00.html)

If you have any difficulty finding it, please write to me at [sophiasun@peoplepc.com](mailto:sophiasun@peoplepc.com) and I will send you an attachment of the article.

Other links that you will enjoy in connection with this is their Photo Gallery: The Legacy of Rudolf Steiner which is at: [www.spiegel.de/fotostrecke-55101.html](http://www.spiegel.de/fotostrecke-55101.html)



## **Celebrating Women Through Song:** *The Goddess Suite*

**What:** An Evening of Celebrating Women, including a performance of *The Goddess Suite*, an original choral work by singer-songwriter and environmental educator Cynthia Rylander Crossen. There will be four performances. Suggested donation of \$7 (children under 12 free) to benefit local, regional, and global charities.

**Who:** Cynthia Crossen and Hope Wilder (Cynthia's daughter-in-law), of the Community Music Project, have assembled instrumentalists and a chorus of women 40-strong, to perform *The Goddess Suite*, with singer-songwriter and musical educator Sheila Fleming as conductor. Other acts in the program will include music, storytelling, and original dance to enhance the theme of celebrating women.

### **When and Where:**

**Saturday, June 19 and Sunday June 27, 7 pm**, at the Forest Theater in Chapel Hill.

**Sunday, June 20, 7 pm**, at the Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Durham.

**Saturday, June 26, 7 pm**, at Northwood High School Auditorium in Pittsboro (pending approval; or another Pittsboro venue).

**Why:** We have come together to experience and share the joy of celebrating womanhood through song, spoken word, and dance. To honor each of the seven goddesses of whom we sing, 100% of the proceeds from our performances will go to support local, regional, and global charities that embody attributes of these Greek goddesses (see details below).

**For More Information:** Visit *The Goddess Suite* page of the Community Music Project, or contact Cynthia Crossen, [crossen@mindspring.com](mailto:crossen@mindspring.com), 919-967-2500 (office), 919-542-3827 (home). About the Charities These Performances Will Benefit--Embodying Goddesses in the World:

**For Artemis**, goddess of nature, protector of wild places, who helps girls grow to women, we have selected the Haw River Assembly (regional), which promotes environmental education, conservation and pollution prevention; speaks as a voice for the river in the public arena; and teaches people to be effective guardians of the river.

For **Hera**, queen of Heaven, goddess of marriage and mothering, whose breast milk mythically created the Milky Way, we have selected La Leche League (local and international) for its mission of helping mothers to bond with and nurture their babies, promoting breastfeeding locally and around the world.

For **Demeter**, goddess of fertility, nurturing young children, and motherhood, we have chosen Chatham County Together (local), which encourages "at risk" youth to become healthy, self-sufficient adults by fostering positive mentoring relationships, encouraging academic success, teaching valuable skills, and offering family advocacy and support.

To celebrate **Athena**, goddess of wisdom and justice, we are benefiting FINCA (global), which provides micro-loans for women entrepreneurs, empowering new businesses and leading to prosperity.

## Pauli Murray and the “New American” By Eve Olive

*Friends and countrymen  
I speak for my race and my people –  
The human race, and just people.*



These are the opening words of Pauli Murray’s book of poems – *Dark Testament*. Who was Pauli Murray and why is she important?

Pauli Murray was a person of mixed race. Her autobiography, published posthumously, *Pauli Murray – The Autobiography of a Black Activist, Feminist, Lawyer, Priest and Poet*, was originally published with the title: *Song in a Weary Throat: An American Pilgrimage*.

Pauli grew up in Durham, NC. She was born in 1910 and died in 1985. This year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth. The Episcopal Church plans to have her honored in *Lesser Feasts and Fasts* (which is being renamed *Holy Men and Holy Women*). A Service of Remembrance will be created here locally, which will be recognized by the Diocese of North Carolina and then be presented to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

To quote from the back cover of her Autobiography, published by the University of Tennessee Press:

“Raised in Durham, North Carolina, Pauli Murray was the granddaughter of a slave and the great-granddaughter of a slave owner. She identified strongly with her grandfather whose faith in education and role as a freedom fighter during the Civil War inspired her own civil rights activities. As early as 1943, while a law student at Howard University (the only female in her class), she helped organize the first non-violent sit-in demonstration that successfully desegregated two Washington D.C. restaurants. AS a lawyer, teacher, poet, feminist and Episcopalian minister, Murray dedicated her life to the struggle against injustice in American society.

Eloquent, dramatic, rich in historical detail, this book heralds the rediscovery of a truly remarkable woman, of a life dedicated to the battle against social injustice. Murray’s memory constitutes a vital chapter in American history.”

Gradually over this past year, I have become aware of this remarkable woman, read her book *Proud Shoes*, then started on her autobiography and began to seek out the murals of her appearing on buildings all over Durham, attended events publicized by the Pauli Murray Project through Duke University and the Episcopal Church. I wanted to know more about her poetry so I borrowed *Dark Testament* from the library at Duke. It was her poem “Prophecy” which really caught my attention. It captures so succinctly who she was. I introduced this poem to my Adult Eurythmy Class last Fall and... something which has never happened before...we have worked on it the whole year! I thought maybe it was too challenging or the students would tire of it, but no, they elected to keep going with it. Here it is (see next page) :

## *Prophecy*

I sing of a new American  
 Separate from all others,  
 Yet enlarged and diminished by all others.  
 I am the child of kings and serfs, freemen and slaves.  
 Having neither superiors nor inferiors,  
 Progeny of all colors, all cultures, all systems, all beliefs.  
 I have been enslaved, yet my spirit is unbound.  
 I have been cast aside, but I sparkle in the darkness.  
 I have been slain, but live on in the rivers of history.  
 I seek no conquest, no wealth, no power, no revenge;  
 I seek only discovery  
 Of the illimitable heights and depths of my own being.  
 (Cambridge 1969)

Is this not a Michaelic voice? Is this not someone worth celebrating? Her recognition of what it is to be truly human shines through. The dictate "know thyself" was at the center for her journey.

One can reflect on what it is to be a "new American", perhaps a "true" American. America does not have a Folk Spirit in the way other nations do. German, Greek, French, Scandinavian, English, Italian, each have their own Folk Spirit, but when they become American, this connection is loosened and the possibility of something new comes into being.

So who is the Folk Spirit of America? Do we have one? Are we in the process of acquiring one? Is a new spiritual being forming? Or, dare one think, is our Folk Spirit in fact, the Time Spirit of this age? Is it Michael himself who seeks to inspire and guide the grand experiment that is this country?

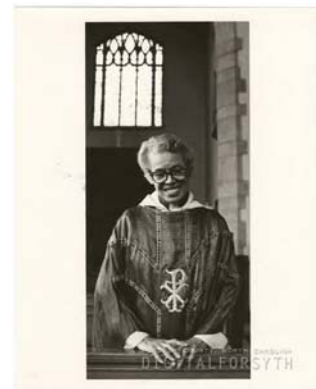
With these words, Pauli Murray's friend, Caroline F. Ware brings to a close the Epilogue to her autobiography:

"For Pauli, differences of culture, appearance, nationality, religion, or any other human circumstances were sources of enrichment, not barriers to human intercourse. She was proud of her mixed ancestry – African, Irish, American Indian, Carolina planter – and she claimed each element fully as part of her rightful heritage. To be treated as a human being and to regard all others as members of the same human family were at the core of Pauli's outlook and effort. As she prefaced her book of poems, *Dark Testament*:

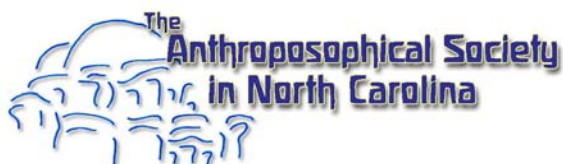
I speak for my race and my people –  
 The human race and just people.

This is her legacy. A Legacy for all of us who would become "new Americans", "true" Americans.

I hope that these reflections on the life of Pauli Murray can inspire a dialogue in the *Sophia Sun*. Perhaps some of you can write your reflections on this theme and on the importance to the spiritual world and to our progress here on earth, of the quality of patience, which people of mixed race have had to develop.



**Pauli Murray, age 67 at her ordination**



# The Sophia Sun

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**Anthroposophy**, which means “the wisdom of man”, is a spiritual philosophy and path to self-knowledge, which “leads the spiritual in the human being to the spiritual in the universe”, according to its teacher, Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925). Rudolf Steiner was a brilliant “Renaissance man” from Austria who was a philosopher, scientist, artist, playwright, architect, social activist, teacher and meditator, who had a direct perception of the spiritual worlds. Anthroposophy, which is also known as Spiritual Science, teaches, among other things, the laws of reincarnation and Karma. It has a Christ-centered view of world evolution. Steiner founded the School of Spiritual Science, as well as the General Anthroposophical Society, which he described as “a union of people who desire to further the life of the soul – both in the individual and in human society – on the basis of true knowledge of the spiritual world”. In addition to giving over 6,000 lectures, most of which have been made into books, he helped to found many initiatives that are still thriving today including: the Waldorf School movement, anthroposophical medicine, biodynamic farming, and Eurythmy. Based on his indications, hundreds of initiatives have developed such as: the Curative education movement, the Camp Hill Villages for the handicapped, Weleda remedies, Dr. Hauschka cosmetics, WALA, True Botanica, Astrosophy, Rhythmical Massage, the Alliance for Childhood, The Christian Community, Anthroposophic Prison Outreach, Lazure painting, Demeter, advancements in architecture, science, social and economic reform (The Threefold Social Order, community banks), mathematics and painting. In addition, there are many publishing houses and libraries dedicated to his works throughout the world. For more information, check the national website at [www.anthroposophy.org](http://www.anthroposophy.org) or our local website at [www.anthroposophyNC.org](http://www.anthroposophyNC.org)

