



The Sophia Sun

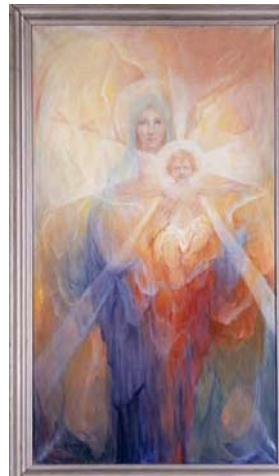
Newsletter of
The Rudolf Steiner Branch (NC) of
The Anthroposophical Society in America
Chapel Hill, NC

DECEMBER 2011
VOLUME IV, NUMBER 7

A Christmas Prayer

Come, Child,
Into our hearts and
Still the storm
Made by our selfish wishes
Wrestling there;
And weave again
The fabric of mankind
Out of Thy Light,
Thy Life,
Thy Loving Fire.

- Adam Bittleston



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Logo above: "Woman Clothed With the Sun" by Baron Arild Rosenkrantz
Painting by the verse; "Madonna and Child", also by Rosenkrantz

Rudolf Steiner Branch Calendar for December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Socially Resilent Child Gp-8:45a Reading to the Dead Group-7p	2 Choral Gatherings- 7:15p	3 EWS Holiday Faire-10a-4p
4 CC Family Gp Study and Potluck-11:30a Advent Study-4:45p Clemmons SG-6p Greensboro SG-7p	5	6 St. Nicholas Day Branch Envisioning Group-7:15p Roscroix Maritime SG 7p	7 Eurythmy Classes 8:30a IRose Cross SG- 7:30p	8 Socially Resilent Child Gp-8:45a CC Steering Committee-4p RSB Festivals Committee-7:30p	9 EWS-Lecture- Torin Finser	10 CC Family Gp- Pizza and Caroling-6p CC Priest Talk- 7:30p
11 CC-Children's Story and Service-9:30a CC Act of Consecration of Man-10:30a Advent Study-4:45p CC Children's Advent Spiral-5:30p Greensboro SG-7p	12 RSB Board Meeting-7:30p	13 SANTA LUCIA DAY IANDS SG-7p Roscroix Maritime SG 7p	14 Eurythmy Classes 8:30a IRose Cross SG- 7:30p	15 Socially Resilent Child Gp-8:45a Reading to the Dead Group-7:15p	16	17 EWS Community Shepard's Play at Farm-2p-3p CC Children's Christmas Play and Potlucuk-5p 7p-RS Branch Christmas Party
18 Meeting of the First Class-10a, (Review- 11a) Advent Study-4:45p Clemmons SG-6p Greensboro SG-7p	19	20 Branch Envisioning Gp- 7:15p Roscroix Maritime SG 7p	21 Eurythmy Classes 8:30a IRose Cross SG- 7:30p	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Holy Night
25 Christmas Holy Night	26 Holy Nights	27 Holy Nights	28 Holy Nights	29 Holy Nights	30 Holy Nights	31 New Year' Eve Holy Nights

Calendar for January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day Holy Night	2 Holy Night	3 Holy Night	4 Holy Night	5 Holy Night	6 Epiphany	7
8 CC Family Gp-11:30a Greensboro SG-7p	9 Branch Envisioning Gp-7p RSB Board Meeting-7:30p	10 Roscroix Maritime SG 7p	11 Eurythmy Classes 8:30a Rose Cross SG- 7:30p	12 Socially Resilent Child Gp-8:45a	13 Talk by George Hastings-7:15p	14
15 Meeting of the First Class-10a, (Review- 11a) CC Family Gp-11:30a Clemmons SG-6p Greensboro SG-7p	16	17 IANDS NDE SG-7p Roscroix Maritime SG 7p Branch Home Group-7p	18 Eurythmy Classes 8:30a Rose Cross SG- 7:30p	19 Socially Resilent Child Gp-8:45a CC Steering Committee-4p Reading to the Dead Group-7p	20	21 CC Priest Talk- 7:30p
22 CC-Children's Story and Service-9:30a CC Act of Consecration of Man- 10:30a Greensboro SG-7p	23 Branch Envisioning Gp-7p	24 Roscroix Maritime SG 7p	25 Eurythmy Classes 8:30a IRose Cross SG- 7:30p	26 Socially Resilent Child Gp-8:45a	27	28
29 CC Family Gp-11:30a Greensboro SG-7p	30	31 Roscroix Maritime SG 7p				

Please have items for our next calendar to Linda Folsom at lfolsom@nc.rr.com
Or to Kathleen Wright : sophiasun@peoplepc.com by January 20, 2012

Calendar Details: December 2011 - January 2012

Rudolf Steiner Branch of the Anthroposophical Society

Dec 4, 11, 18 , 4:45p - **Advent Study** - at the home of Roger Schultz, 5624 Earl Rd, Durham 27712. For directions and questions, call Roger at 475-7180.

Dec 17, 7p - **Christmas Party** - at the home of Judy Frey. 55207 Broughton Rd, Chapel Hill, 27517, 919-928-8749.

Dec 18 and Jan 15, 10a – **The School for Spiritual Science, Meeting of First Class.** Review session follows the main lesson and begins at approximately 11am. For more information please contact Suzanne Mays at 919-929-1073 or suzannemays@gmail.com

Board Meeting – Meeting at the home of Board President Peg Carmody. For dates and more details contact Peg Carmody at 919-537-8142 or mcarmody@nc.rr.com. To contact the Rudolf Steiner Branch by mail: PO B0X 16024, Chapel Hill, NC 27516.

Dec 24 - Jan 6, **Holy Nights** - Detailed schedule in this newsletter. Please print out and try to attend some of the gatherings. The hosts offer us a real gift in helping us honor and celebrate this special time of year.

Jan. 13, 7:30 PM – Lecture by George Hastings on Wagner. See article in this issue for further details.

Christian Community

Dec 10 and 11, 2011 and Jan 21 and 22, 2012: **Priest Visit from Rev Carol Kelly** of the DC community. There will be public talks on Saturday evenings and children's and adult services on Sundays. See flyer in this newsletter for further details.

CC Family Group. - generally meeting weekly at 11:30am at the home of Craig and Lisa Stauffer, 502 W Poplar Ave, F-2, Carrboro, NC. Please do call either Lisa Stauffer (929-9827) or Rebecca Foster (619-9269) for further information and to RSVP.

Upcoming Priest Visits - please mark your calendars:

Jan 21 and 22
March 31 and April 1
June 2 and 3

EWS

Dec 3, 10a-4p - **Holiday Faire**

Dec 9, 7:15p - **Talk by Torin Finser**, "Initiative - Anthroposophy as a Living Resource", in the Brown Wing

Dec 17, 2p-3p - **Community Shepherd's Play** at Farm-2p-3p

For information about EWS events, see the detailed school calendar at:

<http://www.calendarwiz.com/calendars/calendar.php?crd=emersonwaldorf&op=cal&month=10&year=2011>

Other Activities of Interest

- **Choral Gatherings** - usually the 1st Friday of each month, 7:30p - 9:30p. At the home of Joanna Carey, 112 Solterra Way in Durham. Bring a potluck snack if you desire. We welcome all ranges, especially altos. After some healthy warm ups, we will begin to work on some beautiful pieces from many traditions. Some will be rounds and some are part pieces. No previous singing experience is necessary, just a desire to sing with others. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Joanna Carey at 919-403-7060 or call for more information.

Dec 3, 1:30p - **Raleigh-Durham IANDS NDE support group** will feature a video of Raymond Moody's talk from the 2011 Conference: "Shared Death Experiences: New horizons of rational study of the afterlife". This lecture presents a phenomenology of shared death experiences (SDEs) in which persons present at the death of a loved one experience leaving their own body, viewing the life review of their loved one and traveling part-way toward the Light. The SDE demonstrates an uninterrupted continuum with near-death experiences. The identity in content between NDEs and SDEs poses a major difficulty for popular neurophysiological explanations. Raymond also introduces an aspect of his work probably unknown to most people -- his deep insights derived from ancient Greek philosophy -- and describes an entirely new means of rational investigation that accesses the transcendent aspect of experiences related to death and dying. This is a presentation well worth seeing! Location: In Cary on Saturday afternoon, December 3, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the West Regional Library Meeting Room, 4000 Louis Stephens Drive (near the airport). We are hoping this meeting will be more convenient for some people to attend on a Saturday during the day.

Directions to the Cary meeting: at the West Regional Library Meeting Room, 4000 Louis Stephens Drive, Cary, NC, near the intersection of NC 55 and Morrisville Parkway. If you need more information or directions, please call us at 919-929-1073 or mays@ieee.org. "This program is not sponsored by the Wake County Public Libraries."

January Meeting in Chapel Hill - Jan 17

Please Note

Updates on events may be publicized by sending out an email to the asnc list serve: asnc-list@rtpnet.org. You must be a member of the list-serve in order to send out messages on it.

Please go to the Rudolf Steiner Branch website to learn how to join the list serve so that you will receive up-dates and events:
<http://anthroposophync.org/mailman/listinfo/asnc-list>

ADVENT SUNDAYS HAVE BEGUN



Roger Schultz has once again opened his home for the annual four-week observance of Advent. Participants are asked to arrive between 4:30 and 4:45 PM. The lighting of the candles and Verse for the week will be read promptly at 5:00 PM. A discussion on the theme of the week will take place. Afterwards, all are invited to stay for supper, which Roger will provide. Donations are appreciated if you can. Roger's address is 5624 Earl Rd. in north Durham. It is best to check in with him so he knows how many will be staying for supper. Please call: 475-7180.

The first Advent Sunday occurred on November 27. Twelve people attended. Suzanne Mays played the lyre for us. The next three Advent sessions are December 4, 11th and 18th.

In previous years, Roger provided readings from the Advent chapters from Sergei Prokofieff's *Cycle of the Year as a Path of Initiation* and from Steiner's "*The Four Pre-Earthly Deeds of Christ*" as well as Verses for the four weeks and "Advent Considerations" which he wrote himself based on Prokofieff's ideas. After working with those for a few years, it has been felt that the community is now familiar with the themes and moods of the four weeks and therefore, it would be best to go right into discussion as to how the themes relate to our lives, our community, and the world at the current time. One may also bring along poetry, stories or music that one feels fit in with the theme of the week to enliven the discussion. If all this is new to you, please join us anyway – you can listen or join in when you feel ready.

Below is a brief summary of the different aspects of the four weeks:

Week	Evil approaches:	We lose connection to:	We must overcome:	Trial by:
First	Our physical body	The Archai (our Own times)	Illusions brought by inner and outer perceptions; world weary despair	FIRE
Second	Our etheric body	The Archangels (our spiritual community)	One-sided tendencies; immoderate desires; self-love	WATER
Third	Our astral body	Our Angels Our true, reincarnating self)	Passions(will), fears (feeling); anxieties (thinking); lack of unity in soul life; inability to face oneself honestly	AIR
Fourth	Our Ego	Everything (the abyss looms)	Illusions of Self (as in materialism – I am my physical body – and its polar opposite – mysticism)	EARTH

The challenges and virtues of the four weeks of Advent:

WEEK	CHALLENGE	VIRTUE
FIRST	Uprightness; to see the spiritual foundations of all life	Justice; world justice; karma, acceptance of one's destiny and of world events
SECOND	Self-control; to prove that one can move with certainty and freedom in both higher and lower worlds; to serve Divine Power	Temperance and Prudence; maintenance of inner balance
THIRD	To listen instantly to the spirit in all things	Presence of mind; courage
FOURTH	To rise from the earthbound lower self and personal memory to the Higher Self and world (Cosmic); memory draughts of forgetfulness and remembrance	Wisdom (of the Higher Self)

CELEBRATING ADVENT WITH CHILDREN

By Kathleen Wright

A few years ago, I developed a little Advent ritual for my Grandchildren, that is very similar to what is practiced in Waldorf classrooms. Perhaps you have a child or Grandchild with whom you might like to share it.

Each Sunday evening in December, the family gathers around the Advent wreath; one child is chosen to light the wreath (one candle the first week, two the second, three the third, etc.) as all sing:

Advent, Advent
A candle burns.
First one, then two, then three, then four.
Then stands the Christ Child at the door.

Then we say the line for the appropriate week:

FIRST WEEK: "The mineral world waited with longing for the Christ Child". Then each child places one or more objects from the mineral world around the wreath. These might include: rocks, minerals, crystals and shells.

SECOND WEEK: "The Plant World waited with longing for the Christ Child". We then each place different plants and flowers around the wreath – holly, poinsettias, mistletoe, pine cones, acorns, etc.

THIRD WEEK: "The animal Kingdom waited with longing for the Christ Child". We then each place little animals of fleece, wood or stuffed cotton around the wreath.

FOURTH WEEK: "All of humanity waited with longing for the Christ Child". We then place around the wreath shepherds and the three kings. On Christmas Day we add Mary, Joseph and the Christ Child to the center of the wreath.

After placing the objects, the children listen to either their Mother or Father read a story from an Advent book. (Suggestions include: **Advent Storybook** by Antonie Schneider; **The Light in the Lantern: Stories for an Advent Calendar** by George Dreissig; and **Christmas Roses: Legends for Advent**.) After the story is finished, the children open a door in their Advent Calendars and then one snuffs the candle(s) as we close with the Advent song again. If children are over nine years old, they may prefer to sing "People Look East" or "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" which are also Advent songs.

*ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17
7 PM AT JUDY FREY'S*



All are welcome to attend the annual holiday party for our Rudolf Steiner Branch. It will be at the home of Judy and Doug Frey at 55207 Broughton in Chapel Hill on Saturday, December 17 at 7 PM. There will be dinner, caroling and all sorts of merriment. Judy will be preparing fish, salad and a dessert. Please bring a Potluck dish

to share. If you have any suggestions for games, please call Judy at **928-8749**. If you would like to revive the old custom of White Elephant gifts, let Judy know. There will be a more detailed announcement on our list-serve as the party date approaches.

Hope to see you there!

EPIPHANY

May the revelation of Christ
Shine out to the world,
Understanding
As clear as Gold.

May the love of Christ
Stream froth to souls,
Kindling in the heart
Prayer
As rising Incense.

May the deeds of Christ
Be known by men's spirits,
Teaching in the hands
Devotion
As healing Myrrh.

- Adam Bittleston



Adoration of the Magi by Andrea Mantegna c. 1500

COME TO EWS LECTURE BY TORIN FINSER ON “Initiative: Anthroposophy as a Living Resource”

The current Foundation Studies class and Dr. Torin Finser invite you to a public lecture on **Friday, December 9, 2011 at 7:15 pm** in the **Brown Wing of the Emerson Waldorf High School**.

Dr. Torin Finser’s work is both enlightening and offers opportunities for practical application. While Finser calls attention to the wonders and problems of the world around us, he doesn't stop there. Torin provides guidance on how to use anthroposophical principles to develop our unique capacities for taking initiative in the world. By striving to develop ourselves, Finser suggests, we can work toward an inner freedom that will allow us to be more effective socially and spiritually. From there, we can begin to change our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and the world.



Torin Finser is a lifelong educator and current Chair of the Education Department at Antioch University. He is also a founding member of the New Hampshire-based Center for Anthroposophy and General Secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in America. His numerous books include *In Search of Ethical Leadership*; *Organizational Integrity: How to Apply the Wisdom of the Body to Develop Healthy Organizations*; *School Renewal: A Spiritual Journey for Change*; *School as a Journey*; and *Silence is*

Complicity.

Announcing a New Book by Alicia Ros Marroquín:

Wine to Water: The Quest to Consciousness is a book of spiritually based commentary about wisdom, the future and the world as it is today. Paintings by the author introduce each chapter. The author invites us to seek wisdom knowledge, a knowledge that demands a journey of self reflection of what is truly of value in each of our lives and our world.

Price \$28

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Artist, Writer, Esotericist
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& School of Sophiology
tel. usa 910.874.7200 or
910.363.4311**

**or email:
rosenhart@bluepearlarts.com**





	Time		Host and Location
Saturday December 24 Christmas Eve	4p - 8p	Come one! Come All! Sing Christmas carols to the cows and goats and sheep and learn about the significance of this tradition. Afterwards everyone has mulled cider, hot soup and bread. Please bring the whole family!	Joy and Bob Kwapien Jon Lyerly Infinity Farm 1600 McDade Store Road, Cedar Grove, NC 27231 732-1840
Sunday December 25 Christmas Day	7:15p	A reading from <i>The Christ Legend</i> By Selma Lagerlof Potluck snacks or desserts appreciated Hostess will provide drinks	Joanna Carey 112 Solterra Way Durham, NC 27705 919-403-7060
Monday December 26	7:15p	Evening of Special Music Reading from Steiner and/or Werbeck on the spiritual nature of music; conversation and singing Potluck snacks or desserts appreciated Hostess will provide drinks	Joanna Carey Address and phone on 12/25 event
Tuesday December 27	7:15p	Reading from Eve's new book, <i>Cosmic Child: Poems and Other Writings from the Threshold of Birth</i> followed by discussion on the topic. Potluck snacks or desserts appreciated	Eve Olive 919-489-2564 at the home of Joanna Carey
Wednesday December 28	7:15p	Madonna Sequence with music and verses Potluck snacks or desserts appreciated Hostess will provide drinks	Joanna Carey Address and phone on 12/25 event
Thursday December 29	7:30p	Christmas Tree Symbols Construct a beautiful set of symbols for your own tree while Judy gives a talk about their meaning	Judy Frey 55027 Broughton Rd Chapel Hill, NC 27517, 928-8749
Friday December 30	7:15	A reading of Emil Bock's lecture: "The Christmas Festivals of Rudolf Steiner" followed by a discussion of how Steiner has enlivened the meaning of Christmas and how we can create a new Christmas Festival based on his indications.	Kathleen Wright 4615 Greenglen Dr. Durham, NC 309-9622 or 672-0149
Saturday December 31 New Year's Eve	2-5p	Candle dipping Please join us and make your own beeswax candles! Marie will lead us in the art of dipping. Fun for the whole family.	Marie Nordgren 3928 Hope Valley Rd Durham, NC 27707, 824-8748
	9p - 12:30a	Making of the Three Kings Prep Stargaze around a fire while mixing the THREE KINGS PREP (gold, frankincense and myrrh) and discussing Prokofieff's <i>The Cycle of the Year As a Path of Initiation</i> Please bring light hors d'oeuvres.	Joy and Bob Kwapien, Jon Lyerly Address and phone number on 12/24 farm event

Sunday January 1 New Year's Day	3p -5p	"The Dream Song of Olaf Ásteson" Bruce will lead us in a group experience of choral speaking	Margaretta and Bruce Bornhorst 824-7337 The Brown Room, EWS High School
Monday January 2	7:30p	Esoteric program including singing a Kyrie Eleison song and composing a group poem	Kelly Caleger 18 Haycox Court Durham, NC 27713, 361-0691
Tuesday January 3	7:30p	The Christmas Rose Story	Peg Carmody at the home of Joanna Carey Address and phone on 12/25 event
Wednesday January 4	6pm	Invisible Guardians - Stories by Jakob Streit about real life accounts of spirit intervention, interspersed with excerpts by Rudolf Steiner on Karma and Destiny, lyre music, conversation about becoming aware of the ever present help of the spiritual world in these unsettling times plus sharing of our own stories of the invisible world guiding us. Ends with lighting of Christmas tree. Refreshments at 6p, program begins at 7p.	Suzanne and Robert Mays 5622 Brisbane Dr Chapel Hill, 27514 929-1073
Thursday January 5	7:30p - 9p	Eurythmy workshop and performance "Mother Earth - Sovereign Earth"	Brigida Baldzun Eurythmy Room Emerson Waldorf School
Friday January 6 Epiphany	2p - 4p	Spraying of Three King's Prep We will meet at the barn. Please wear good walking shoes. Depending on how many come, it will take about 2 hours or less.	Joy and Bob Kwapien, Jon Lyerly Address and phone number on 12/24 farm event

In the tradition of the 12 days of Christmas, our community has celebrated these special days in a variety of ways over the years. Over the past five years, we have concentrated on the Gospel works of Rudolf Steiner and met at various people's homes to read and dialog together.

This year, we would like to offer a series of artistic events along with some pertinent readings, for this special time. Singing, music, readings from Steiner and Werbeck about music, making the Christmas Tree Symbols, poetry, Eurythmy, viewing the Madonna Series, candle dipping, speech to the poem *The Dream Song of Olaf Astesen*, and stories from Selma Lagerlof are what members of the community have offered to do, plus there will be our traditional activities at Infinity Farm on Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve and Three Kings Day. It promises to be a rich and generous series of events, which will inspire and hopefully strengthen us throughout the coming year. We hope you will join us. All are welcome!



Peg Carmody, for the Festivals Committee

RICHARD WAGNER
AND THE EVOLUTION OF CONSCIOUSNESS:
A LECTURE BY GEORGE HASTINGS
FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2012
7:30 PM
AT OAK LODGE AT CAMP NEW HOPE
DONATIONS APPRECIATED



Richard Wagner, who considered himself a philosopher first and a composer second, struggled with his thinking (left brain) squelched his feelings for love (right brain). In his quest to solve this dilemma and find a higher level of love, Wagner had affairs and would-be affairs, studied philosophy from materialism to Buddhism, and discovered esoteric Christianity. His struggles and solutions are expressed in his libretti and music. But – is Wagner’s answer adequate for the twenty-first century?

ABOUT GEORGE HASTINGS: About twenty years ago George Hastings discovered Richard Wagner’s operas were filled with secret allegories concerning the evolution of consciousness. From then on, he was obsessed with learning more. His research expanded to include Homer’s epic poems, Mozart’s “The Magic Flute” and Michelangelo’s story on the Sistine Chapel ceiling, all of which contain related esoteric insights.

In Mexico, while researching the Mayan culture, George realized the timetables which led up to the Mayan predictions for 2012 were related to the same astronomical periods as were Wagner’s Ring Cycle and the Parzival opera, and that, like Wagner’s operas, they were concerned with the evolution of consciousness. George’s talk includes science, mythology, history, philosophy and the evolution of consciousness.

George has been a businessman in various aspects of the construction industry for nearly all of his career. In 2007 he and his wife bought a sailboat and after exploring the Pacific Northwest for two years, embarked on a two-year journey which eventually brought them to Mexico’s Sea of Cortez. They now live in Orizaba, Mexico. George has written a book called ***Richard Wagner, Rudolf Steiner and the Allegories of the Ring***, which will be available for purchase at this lecture. He also has a blog at: www.allegoriesofthering.wordpress.com and a website at www.allegoriesofthering.com



On January 18, 2012, George will be addressing the National Wagner Society in Washington D.C.

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THE RUDOLF STEINER BRANCH (NC)
OF THE ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN AMERICA

For more information, please contact Kathleen Wright at 919-309-9622
 Or email her at: kathleenwright51@peoplepc.com

Christian Community News for December

Dear Friends and Community,

We are very excited to announce that our children's and family group is growing. There is now a Family Group meeting weekly to focus on supporting each other in gaining greater insight into the festivals and Christianity. They are creating meaningful celebrations for families at home and also for children in the context of the greater community. Most Sundays the Family Group meets at 11:30am in the home of Lisa Stauffer, and activities vary. They are reading from the books, *The Christian Year*, by Evelyn Francis Capel and *All Year Round* by Druitt, Fynes-Clinton, and Rowling. **Please call either Lisa Stauffer(929-9827) Or Rebecca Foster (619-9269) for further details, to confirm location and RSVP for Family Group activities.**

For Christmas the children are putting on a short Christmas play, and will have an evening of Christmas carol singing. You are welcome to join us in any or all of the upcoming events. We look forward to sharing with you the shining light of these winter festivals!

Schedule of Events - Please note that there **will be a potluck** following the service on 12/17

Dec 4, Sunday - 11:30am - Family Group Gathering at Craig and Lisa Stauffer's home:
book study and discussion for parents and practice for the children's Christmas play

Dec 9 - 11 - Priest Visit

Dec 9, Friday and Dec 10, Saturday – Consultations with Rev. Carol Kelly at Margit Gratzl's home, 519 Wheeling Cir., Durham, NC. Please make your appointment by calling Margit at 919-484-2764

Dec 10, Saturday:

6:00pm - Pizza and carol singing (at the Oak Building, Camp New Hope):with Christian Community priest, Carol Kelly.

7:30pm – Talk by Carol Kelly: (Fleming Building) “Advent: Discovering the Divine Feminine Within Every Human Being: May there be strength in our peacefulness, purpose in our every step, purity in our devotion” (Childcare provided during the priest's evening presentation)

Dec 11, Sunday: at the Fleming Building, Camp New Hope:

9:30am - Story for Children of All Ages

10a - Children's Service

10:30a - Act of Consecration of Man Please come early to practice songs (child care will be provided for children during adult service)

Potluck following the service at noon in the Oak Room.

Dec 11, Sunday -

5:30pm - Advent Garden at Craig & Lisa Stauffer's home

Dec 17, Saturday

5:00 pm, Craig & Lisa Stauffer's home

Christmas caroling and potluck at Lisa Stauffer's home. The children will perform the **Christmas Play**

Jan 20 - 22 - Priest Visit

Details on events will be posted via Christian Community email list and list serve. Please contact us if you would like to be on our email list: <christiancommunity.nc@earthlink.net>

The Christian Community has updated their national website - check it out:
<http://www.thechristiancommunity.org/>



TAMMY HUGHES VISITS NC SHARES NEWS ABOUT CHINA



On Sunday, October 16 a group of 12 people from our branch met with Tammy Hughes, Waldorf consultant in China and former member of our community, who had been on vacation in the US for the last few weeks. We met at the Brookshire Nursing Home so that our dear disabled friend Renate Wend could join in the conversation.

Tammy seemed happier than she has ever been and laughed that she might like to spend “forever” in China. She told us that she first visited China 23 years ago and has been renewing her VISA ever since. She is fluent in Chinese.

Things are going remarkably well for the Waldorf movement there. Last year there were about 60 Kindergarten initiatives in China and that grew to nearly 150 by the end of this summer! There is just one grade school (Chengdhu). There are also Waldorf teacher trainings in Beijing and Guangzhou. Waldorf kindergartens are very popular in China, which may seem surprising to us Americans; however the Chinese people recognize the need for imaginative play in childhood and they love the art, beauty, rhythm and simplicity of the Waldorf way. Unfortunately, the educational system for the grades is another story. The Chinese curriculum is very regimented and schools are required to use one of just three kinds of textbooks. It would be very hard for a Waldorf grade school to pass a Chinese inspection because of this. Yet, by the grace of God, the education officials in Chengdhu like what they see at the Waldorf School there. The school at Chengdhu goes up to 8th grade. Students are required to take a state exam in 8th grade and the Waldorf students have been doing quite well. Some Chinese parents have chosen to send their children to American Waldorf schools

Some other interesting things she share: Chinese parents send along five outfits of clothing and 5 handkerchiefs to school with their children each day of school. Most of the parents in China have Buddhist leanings.

Margarete Eigenholtz, an 83 year old Waldorf teacher is currently volunteering in China. Margarete wrote a book called *It's a New Day*. Tammy joined her in Beijing last month. Beijing, currently has about 20 Waldorf kindergartens.

Tammy is living in the southern part of China and has a very lovely apartment in “the most luxurious” place she has ever lived. The apartment complex has a very lovely swimming pool.

Tammy's son Linden is now 22 and works in Australia. He was planning a November visit to the States.

It was great seeing Tammy. She is much missed by our community, but we are also so proud of the work she is doing in Asia.

- *Kathleen Wright*



WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY: LYNN JERICHO

By Kathleen Wright



Lynn Jericho moved with her daughter's family to Chapel Hill this past July after spending 6 months in Forest Row, England. They had been living in New Jersey for many years. Back in the 1980's Lynn was one of the founding parents of the Princeton Waldorf School, which her two children attended. Today her son Luc Schloss is the counselor at the Portland Waldorf School and her daughter Thea Kokoshi, the Mother of Lynn's only Grandson, is an assistant at the Emerson Waldorf School Nursery.

Lynn has given many lectures and workshops over the years. She was on the AWSNA Development Committee, the Sunbridge Campaign Fund and she was on the Council of the New York Branch.

I have had the pleasure of having lunch with Lynn on two occasions and find her to be a fascinating woman with a very impressive resumé. When asked why she chose to move to the Triangle area, Lynn said that it was important for her to move to an area that had a strong Waldorf School so that her Grandson could attend when he gets older. She also has a close friend in Raleigh. But very importantly as well, Lynn gave a lecture here about 12 years ago and was very impressed with the area and our community. So far she and her family have been very happy with their decision. "It already feels like home", she said. Lynn has enrolled in Eve Olives' Eurythmy Classes and she participated in our Michaelmas Celebration.

Lynn is a person of great initiative and creativity. She does not do her anthroposophical studies in a passive way at all, but ever asks how she can enliven what she has learned. Lynn is probably best known for her work known as "Inner Christmas". Check it out at her website www.innerchristmas.com, which she began in 2004 and has since accumulated close to 7,000 followers from 70 countries! What is it? It is a Holy Nights spiritual practice that Lynn has developed that includes a theme for the year, meditations, journaling, and questions to ask oneself. Last year the theme of Inner Christmas was "The 12 growing capacities of our soul". You can check out the messages from the 2010 Holy Nights on the website mentioned. (Editors Note: The website www.Innerchristmas.com has been under reconstruction and is due to relaunch on Dec.2.) Lynn is the author of a book called ***The Six Ways to Celebrate Christmas and You.***

In 2009 Lynn began offering programs called "Inner Year" which follow the path of the Christian Festivals and the yearly cycle of the Sun: Inner Lent, Inner Pentecost, Inner Advent, etc., all via webinars and teleseminars. These form the curriculum of a program she has created called "Being Human" and "Becoming I". The former addresses universal aspects of the human being such as the Temperaments and the 12 senses, meeting evil and engaging actively with spiritual beings. The latter course is concerned with Self-knowledge: Inner Winter looks at your personal destiny, Inner Spring on your meaningful relationships, Inner Summer on how you stand in the world and Inner Autumn on reviewing your inner development during the year.

In 2010 Lynn added a series of webinars called Inner Life, which guides the participant through Biographical reflections. Lynn completed the anthroposophical Biography training and has done extensive Biography work with her clients. She has been doing anthroposophical counseling since the 1990's. She plans to do Biography work with the teachers at EWS and would love it if our RSB community would take up the work as well.

Lynn's dream is to start a radio program that she would like to call "Inner Sunday". I have no doubt that this woman of great determination and inspiration will accomplish whatever she sets out to do. I look forward to listening in. Be sure to make Lynn feel welcome. She has a lot to offer our community!

Rembrandt and The Sophia at the North Carolina Museum of Art

by Lynn Jericho

From Rudolf Steiner, *The History of Art*, Lecture 5:

"Considering Rembrandt comprehensively, we must say that here at last we have the painter of the beginning of the Fifth Post-Atlantean epoch in the fullest sense of the word. For as you know, we describe the basic character of this epoch when we say that the Spiritual Soul, above all, is now wrestling its way into existence. What does this signify for Art? It signifies that the artist must stand over against his object from without. He lets the world work on him objectively, yet in such a way that there is still a universal spirit in his contemplation, for otherwise he would be creating merely out of human egoism. The very fact that he confronts the world, and even man himself, as an outer object, gives him the possibility of seeing infinitely much that could not be seen in former ages.



What, after all, would be the meaning of Art if it were only to produce the reality as human beings see it in ordinary life? It is the very purpose of art to reproduce what is not seen in the everyday life.

Now it is natural in the epoch of development of the conscious Spiritual Soul that man should turn his attention, above all, to man himself and to all that is expressible through man. The artist of the Fourth post-Atlantean age, as I have so often told you, created more out of an inner feeling of himself - out of an inward experience of his own being. The artist of the Fifth Post-Atlantean age - and this is true in the highest degree of Rembrandt - creates from outward, contemplative vision. But this signifies for man an artistic process of self-knowledge. And I think we are pointing to no matter of chance when we recall the fact that Rembrandt painted so many portraits of himself. I think there is a deep and significant meaning in the fact that he had to seek again and again for self-knowledge as an artist. His own form was not merely the most convenient model at his disposal - certainly it was not the most beautiful, for Rembrandt was not a handsome man. No - for him the important thing was to become progressively aware of the harmony between what lives within and what can be observed from without - to become aware of this harmony at that very place where it can best be studied - in the self-portrait.

Undoubtedly there is a deeper meaning in the fact that the first great painter of the Fifth Post-Atlantean age painted so many portraits of himself."

First, the Rembrandt portraits and self-portraits are a profound experience and should not be missed. I urge you to plan on visiting twice. Once, to experience the exhibit and once to re-experience after reflecting on the first experience. This is the only time in your life that you will ever see these Rembrandts gathered together. Invite your friends, especially your anthroposophical friends, to visit you before mid-January when the exhibit closes.

Second, I would urge you to ignore the curatorial comments posted beside each painting. They are deadening.

Each Rembrandt is worth meditating on in light of Steiner's comment concerning the consciousness soul, but I would like to bring your attention to three particular paintings hanging so close to each other in the room of History Paintings. Minerva, Flora and Lucretia. Each of these paintings portray an aspect of the Sophia.

Lucretia, a painting of great verticality, reveals the sacrificing grief of the Sophia. Eve, Isis, Mary all suffer grief. How does the Sophia grief stab your heart? Lucretia has been raped. She reclaims her wholeness and transforms the political realm in taking her own life. This is a gesture of the Sophia, who embraces death as transformative and powerful. Even in her realm of Nature, this is evident.

Flora is a lovely representation of Sophia, the being Natura. In this painting, Rembrandt delights with the horizontal gesture. Her hat, her profile, the string of pearls, her arms. With this Sophia, the golden reflection of the Sun, lives in her skirt and the flowers she holds in its fold. Flora is generous and gentle, warm and vibrant.

Minerva, is the Roman warrior goddess of wisdom. Where Lucretia and Flora evoke feelings, Minerva evokes thought and intelligence. The pose, the costume, and the light and dark draw our eye to crossing points at the heart, larynx and third eye chakras.

I am so grateful and filled with awe that these three paintings have come together in this exhibit to awaken our perception of the complexity of the Sophia. Please spend some time with them.

I will be revisiting the exhibit on Saturday, January 7th at 2PM. If you would like to join me, please let me know (**919-636-0430 or lynnjericho@gmail.com**). If there are more than ten of us, we can purchase the tickets at the group rate of \$15 each (regular admission is \$18). After seeing the exhibit we can gather for tea and conversation in the museum cafe.

If you can't make it on the 7th, please send me your impressions and perceptions and we will print them in the next issue of **The Sophia Sun**.

Related News: We are not the only ones enjoying Rembrandt's works:

Rembrandt & the Face of Jesus: An exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 11/20/2011 to 2/12/2012



On November 20 this exhibit of seventy works, including fifty "small, intimate paintings, prints and drawings by Rembrandt and his students," opens at the [Detroit Institute of Arts](#). It closes February 12, 2012. The exhibit's first stop was in Paris at the Louvre. From August 3 through October 30, 2011, it was at the [Philadelphia Museum of Art](#).

Also related news: Rev. Gisela Wielki gave a talk on "Apostles of the Living Light: Paul- Mani- Rembrandt" at a Priest Retreat in Spring Valley Oct. 17-21.

FROM THE EDITOR:

Clarifications from the October-November issue;

We received the following clarifications and corrections to our article on "Southeastern Summer Conference –Part II: Anthroposophy: What? How? Why? Who?" from speaker Michael Ronall: Instead of "The form of the book (POF) is divided into 3 sections of 7, 7 and 3 chapters with 14 paragraphs in each chapter", it would be better to say it is "divided into two parts of seven chapters each, plus a third part of four paragraphs. This is all framed by a six-paragraph Preface to the Second edition and a 14-paragraph 'second Appendix', which had been the introduction to the First edition of the book. The number of parts, chapters, paragraphs and even sentences may be significant for the 'dry, mathematical style' (Autobiography, Chapter 33): in which Steiner wrote."

Also in the sentence "In Michael's POF Study group, one *paragraph* per week is read.", it should read. "One *sentence* is read".

In the stages of Post-Atlantean epochs, "the Slovakian (6th) should be changed to "the Slavic" and the 7th can be called "the Neo-American". Thank you Michael for sending us these corrections.

From the Editor: Brigida Baldszun, Eurythmist from Spring Valley has been doing a Eurythmy Block at the Emerson Waldorf School this Fall and will be here until February 17, 2012. She has also given a number of talks about her travels in Russia and Siberia this past September, where she performed Eurythmy and visited a number of Anthroposophical initiatives. Below are two reports that she wrote about her trip:

Eurythmy in Russia

During my 4 week visit to Russia in September 2011 on behalf of ISIS (an international organization) 4 people from North America visited 11 educational institutions and heard reports about three more initiatives. There was no poster announcing our workshops, but teachers and parents from these initiatives came to attend. We met about 140 people during the scheduled events.

The conversation with a Russian man during break time was thought-provoking for me. We talked about masks in daily life and what can live inside of it. Eurythmy becomes alive when a person is willing to drop that mask he is wearing in public life.

When the Russian friends started a session in eurythmy, it was noticeable that they were not familiar with the flowing and sustained movements. However, the more they were able to overcome the character of clear and crafty work-motions the more their faces became radiant, happy and smiling. In one place, where time was very limited, we moved for 30 min. silently to develop the continuous flow of movements. Then we did one movement for a vowel and one for a consonant. Thus the question "What does this movement say?" bore a deep meaning. When the participants had found out and performed these movements to a sequence of words a quivering, bubbling, joyful mood arose. They were eager to learn more sound gestures. After we had done the story of the Turnip with eurythmy gestures in the Russian language, the participants were deeply satisfied. Although they knew the story by heart they expressed that the eurythmy movements evoked totally new images and feelings in them. I was glad that they had experienced this power of the eurythmy gestures.

When I directed the group in watercolor painting, I noticed with how much excitement everyone approached the colors, like in an intensive conversation.

Between the lectures by Arie van Ameringen and Mary-Lee Plumb-Mentjes and the artistic workshops, a good balance came about which was but weakened when participants stayed only ½ day.

When we visited the site of an institution we were always met with great care and hospitality. We listened to their concern as they described their work. - Brigida Baldszun

My Visit to Talisman in Siberia

What is a 'Talisman'? Somebody or something that helps you when in need. I think one helped me indeed when I set out to meet three anthroposophists from Canada and from Alaska in Irkutsk, Siberia. We delivered a two-day workshop and had the dearest women in the audience. Some days later, we visited them at their work places, which included:

1. a home for handicapped children "Otradny Sad" in Talovka (a station on the trans-siberian railway)
2. the Waldorf Kindergarten in Irkutsk
3. "Talisman" the school for handicapped children in Irkutsk.
4. the initiative "Istok" was not available for our visit.

The activities for "Talisman" started 22 years ago, when 4 mothers heard 2 different statements about their child: the doctor said that the child was uneducable, but curative educators from Finland said that it could learn indeed. After a trip to schools for curative education in Finland and Sweden, these parents started to help each other. They worked in each others home teaching their children.

The initiative grew. For some time they worked with 40 families in a building from a public school and they were offered governmental support if they would change their teaching method which had been the Waldorf method. Their decision was the way of freedom, which would allow the further application of Waldorf education.

Thereupon the parent body dwindled down to 6 families and grew slowly up to 22 families. The school owns an old wooden house with a vegetable garden and rents an apartment in a stone building next door. Presently the initiative is in something like a grid lock: more families are applying, the rooms are very small, and there is no hope to rent other rooms in the apartment building. The salaries of the teachers are considerably lower than those of the Waldorf teachers and there is no support from the city

or any public institution. Whenever the school brings a request to the authorities it is met with a hostile attitude. (continued on next page)

However 4 paintings done by the children are exhibited in the local bank on the most exclusive shopping street of Irkutsk and draw the attention of the passengers.

As a visitor, I sensed foremost the loving care for the children. Every corner and every wall is clean although the nearby construction site and the wood burning stoves create much dust. I hope that the "Talisman" will help this initiative that grew out of loving concern.

- *Brigida Baldszun*

From the Editor:

We could not end this issue without a mention of the growing Occupy Wall Street Movement. **Waldorf Today** printed what may be called the Mission Statement (see below: Declaration of the Occupation of New York City), which was adopted on Michaelmas Day, 2011 (the first demonstration took place on Sept. 17, but it actually became a movement on Michaelmas Day.) How fitting that this cosmopolitan movement, which is cropping up all over the world, (and actually began with the Arab Spring movement) that speaks of freedom, awakening consciousness and conscience, equality and brotherhood, was begun on that special day!

This is such a contrast to the infamous Patriot Act, which took away most of our constitutional rights and was also signed on a famous day - on October 13 – one of the most dreaded days in world history when the Templars were arrested in 1307 by Philip the Fair and began their tortuous end.

Do read this and keep it on hand in case you run into a FOX brainwashee who claims that the Occupy Movement has “no goals or purpose”; that they are just “angry”. Tell them, this is what it’s all about. And if you get discouraged by the deaf ears of the government and the brutality of the police, keep in mind these facts about all Social movements in history: First they ignore you; then they laugh at you; then they persecute you; then you win.

Declaration of the Occupation of New York City

This document was accepted by the NYC General Assembly on September 29, 2011.

As we gather together in solidarity to express a feeling of mass injustice, we must not lose sight of what brought us together. We write so that all people who feel wronged by the corporate forces of the world can know that we are your allies.

As one people, united, we acknowledge the reality: that the future of the human race requires the cooperation of its members; that our system must protect our rights, and upon corruption of that system, it is up to the individuals to protect their own rights, and those of their neighbors; that a democratic government derives its just power from the people, but corporations do not seek consent to extract wealth from the people and the Earth; and that no true democracy is attainable when the process is determined by economic power. We come to you at a time when corporations, which place profit over people, self-interest over justice, and oppression over equality, run our governments. We have peaceably assembled here, as is our right, to let these facts be known:

- They have taken our houses through an illegal foreclosure process, despite not having the original mortgage. ·

- They have taken bailouts from taxpayers with impunity, and continue to give Executives exorbitant bonuses. ·

- They have perpetuated inequality and discrimination in the workplace based on age, the color of one's skin, sex, gender identity and sexual orientation. ·
 - They have poisoned the food supply through negligence, and undermined the farming system through monopolization. ·
 - They have profited off of the torture, confinement, and cruel treatment of countless animals, and actively hide these practices. ·
 - They have continuously sought to strip employees of the right to negotiate for better pay and safer working conditions. ·
 - They have held students hostage with tens of thousands of dollars of debt on education, which is itself a human right. ·
 - They have consistently outsourced labor and used that outsourcing as leverage to cut workers' healthcare and pay. ·
 - They have influenced the courts to achieve the same rights as people, with none of the culpability or responsibility. ·
 - They have spent millions of dollars on legal teams that look for ways to get them out of contracts in regards to health insurance. ·
 - They have sold our privacy as a commodity. ·
 - They have used the military and police force to prevent freedom of the press. ·
 - They have deliberately declined to recall faulty products endangering lives in pursuit of profit. ·
 - They determine economic policy, despite the catastrophic failures their policies have produced and continue to produce. ·
- They have donated large sums of money to politicians, who are responsible for regulating them. ·
 - They continue to block alternate forms of energy to keep us dependent on oil. ·
 - They continue to block generic forms of medicine that could save people's lives or provide relief in order to protect investments that have already turned a substantial profit. ·
 - They have purposely covered up oil spills, accidents, faulty bookkeeping, and inactive ingredients in pursuit of profit. ·
 - They purposefully keep people misinformed and fearful through their control of the media. ·
 - They have accepted private contracts to murder prisoners even when presented with serious doubts about their guilt. ·
 - They have perpetuated colonialism at home and abroad. ·
 - They have participated in the torture and murder of innocent civilians overseas. ·
 - They continue to create weapons of mass destruction in order to receive government contracts.*

To the people of the world:

We, the New York City General Assembly occupying Wall Street in Liberty Square, urge you to assert your power. Exercise your right to peaceably assemble; occupy public space; create a process to address the problems we face, and generate solutions accessible to everyone. To all communities that take action and form groups in the spirit of direct democracy, we offer support, documentation, and all of the resources at our disposal. Join us and make your voices heard!

*These grievances are not all-inclusive.

Directory of Anthroposophical Initiatives in North Carolina

Branches

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

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

P.O. 16024

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

www.anthroposophync.org

RSBNC Board:

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

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

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

Correspondence Secretary: Joanna Carey 919-403-7060 joannapcarey@gmail.com

Acting Treasurer: Peg Carmody

Board members-at-large:

Allen Barenholtz

Margaretta Bornhorst

Will Hicks

Suzanne Mays

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

Other Groups in NC

Asheville: Todd Crowe 828-216-3226; oddwitha_t@hotmail.com

Website: www.azaleamountain.org

Clemmons - Sarah Putnam - 336-972-8243; sputnam01@att.net

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

Wilmington: Anna Bowman - 910-338-0833; 919 792-0959

Alicia Marroquin - 910-874-7200; rosenhardt@bluepearlarts.com

Education

Emerson Waldorf School (N-K-12)

www.emersonwaldorf.org

6211 New Jericho Rd.

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Main Office: 919-967-1858

High School Office: 919-932-1195

Early Childhood office: 919-967-3362

Foundation Year Studies at the Emerson Waldorf School

(sponsored by the Center for Anthroposophy in NH)

Contact: Claire Viadro 919-967-8215; Viadro@mindspring.com

Home Nursery School Association (serving Durham, Chapel Hill and Hillsborough)

(There are currently 6 home nursery programs that utilize Waldorf principles)

Contact: Marie Nordgren 919-544-8748; amnordgren@aol.com

School of Spiritual Psychology

Benson, NC

www.spiritualschool.org

Robert Sardello and Cheryl Sanders-Sardello, Directors

Azalea Mountain Morning Garden (serving Asheville)

Contact: Kate Reese or Maria Allen 828-505-1350; www.azaleamountain.org;
Azalea Mountain School K-4, a Waldorf-inspired school

Medical

Mark Eisen, M.D., anthroposophical family medical practice

(Dr. Eisen has temporarily closed his practice for medical reasons. An announcement will be made when it resumes.); mjepractic@aol.com

Margaretta Bornhorst, R.N. anthroposophical nurse; Rhythmical massage practitioner, 919-824-7337; healingrhythms@gmail.com

Biodynamic Farms

Whitted-Bowers Farm - Demeter certified – specializing in fruits and vegetables; 8707 Art Rd., Cedar Grove, NC 27231; 919-732-5132; Rob and Cheri Bowers, owners

Infinity Farm – uses biodynamic methods; CSA, organic goat milk, grass fed meats; organic eggs; vegetables. Jon Lyerly, director 919-357-7453; jlyerly2@gmail.com; 1600 McDade Store Rd., Cedar Grove, NC

The Arts

Eurythmy - Eve Olive - 919-489-2564; eveolive@frontier.com
 Ann Calloway – 919-403-8678 callaway.lonaann@gmail.com

Werbeck Singing - Joanna Carey – 919-403-7060

Lyre Music- Joanna Carey – 919-403-7060
 Suzanne Mays – 919-929-1073

School of Choreocosmos, Sophia Grail Circles

Kelly Calegar - www.eastcoastschoolofchoreocosmos.com
 Marlene Joyce – mjoyce126@bellsouth.net

Christian Community

A Christian Community priest visits our Congregation bi-monthly. Currently, Rev. Carol Kelly and Rev. Patrick Kennedy are the priests we share with the Washington D.C. parish. **Contact:** Linda Folsom, Steering Committee member, 493-8323. lfolsom@nc.rr.com; Website: www.christiancommunitync.org

Anthroposophical Lending Library

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

Study Groups and Working Groups:

Branch Home Envisioning Group: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month (Dec. 6th and 20th this month) at the home of Joanna Carey and Allen Barenholtz, 112 Solterra Way in Durham, NC. Call 403-7060 for more information

Child's Needs Study Group – One Saturday a month 10 am-12 pm.; reading *Loving the Stranger: Studies in Adolescence, Empathy and the Human Heart*, compiled by Michael Luxford Please call Lauren Mills Nyland for further information – 968-7721, or mills.lauren@gmail.com

Christian Community Study Group: Sundays at 11:30am A group focused around meeting the needs of parents and caregivers of children who wish to support each other and gain greater insight into the festivals and Christianity. We will be reading from the books, *The Christian Year* by Evelyn Francis Capel, and *All Year Round* by Druitt, Fynes-Clinton, and Rowling. The group meets at the home of Craig and Lisa Stauffer, 502 W Poplar Ave, F-2, Carrboro, NC. Please call either Lisa Stauffer (929-9827) or Rebecca Foster (619-9269) for further details, to confirm location and RSVP.

Clemmons Study Group – first and third Sundays of the month from 6-8 pm. This Study Group meets September through May, at the home of Sarah Putnam, 7719 Whitehorse Dr, Clemmons, NC. The group is reading Meditations on the Tarot. Call 336-972-8243 for information.

Death, Dying and Dessert – a conversation group that meets the third Monday of the month from 7-9 pm to share experiences and concerns, ask questions and become active in our community in our relationship to death and dying; meets at the home of Jenny Bingham, 208 Murray St., Hillsborough; contact Jenny at jennybingham@yahoo.com or call 214-4304.

Greensboro Study Group – Mondays 3:30-5:00 pm. Currently reading *Isis-Mary-Sophia* by Rudolf Steiner. Contact Sandy LaGrega at (336) 292-7947 or Judy Boyd (336) 454-2451. Please call before attending.

Reading to the Dead Group – first and third Thursdays of the month, 7:30-9:00 pm. December 1st and 15th this month We are reading *Death as Metamorphosis* by Rudolf Steiner. We meet at the home of Joanna Carey at 112 Solterra Way in Durham. Any questions can be directed to Joanna Carey: 919-403-7060. Please RSVP that you will be attending.

Rose Cross Study Group – Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, at the home of Judy Frey, Currently reading *Karma of Untruthfulness Vol. I*. Newcomers are welcome! Please give call Judy at 928-8749 before attending the first time.

The Socially Resilient Child Study Group – Thursdays 8:45-9:45 a.m. in the second classroom in the Nursery School Building at EWS; to discuss “How can we support our children in social situations?” Contact Lauren Nyland at 968-7721 or mills.Lauren@gmail.com

Werbeck Singing Group: first Fridays of the month at 7:15 PM (Dec. 2nd this month) at Joanna Carey's. Call 403-7060 for more information.

Wilmington: Roscroix Stream Study group, Tuesdays 6:30-8:00 pm: at the home of Alicia Marroquin Southport, NC. Book: *Isis, Mary, Sophia: Her Mission and Ours* by Rudolf Steiner. For more information call Alicia at 910-363-4311 or email: rosenhart@bluepearlarts.com

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



The Rudolf Steiner Branch (NC)

Of the Anthroposophical Society in America

P.O. Box 16024

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

www.anthroposophyNC.org

The Sophia Sun

Editor.....Kathleen Wright

Calendar.....Linda Folsom

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Submitting articles, letters, announcements and ads:

Please send UNFORMATTED text as a Microsoft Word document to sophiasun@peoplepc.com. Articles should not exceed 3 pages in length, and preferably should be 1-2 pages long.

Ads for goods and services: Dues-paying members of the Rudolf Steiner Branch are entitled to one free ad per year (quarter of a page). Please contact the editor for rates if you are not a member and wish to place an ad.

If you have any questions, please contact: **Kathleen Wright, at 919-309-9622 or 919-672-0149 or email her at sophiasun@peoplepc.com**



Anthroposophy, which means “the wisdom of man”, is a spiritual philosophy and path to self-knowledge, which “leads the spiritual in the human being to the spiritual in the universe”, according to its teacher, Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925). **Rudolf Steiner** was a brilliant “Renaissance man” from Austria who was a philosopher, scientist, artist, playwright, architect, social activist, teacher and meditator, who had a direct perception of the spiritual worlds. Anthroposophy, which is also known as Spiritual Science, teaches, among other things, the laws of reincarnation and Karma. It has a Christ-centered view of world evolution. Steiner founded the School of Spiritual Science, as well as the General Anthroposophical Society, which he described as “a union of people who desire to further the life of the soul – both in the individual and in human society – on the basis of true knowledge of the spiritual world”. In addition to giving over 6,000 lectures, most of which have been made into books, he helped to found many initiatives that are still thriving today including: the Waldorf School movement, anthroposophical medicine,

biodynamic farming, and Eurythmy. Based on his indications, hundreds of initiatives have developed such as: the Curative education movement, the Camp Hill Villages for the handicapped, Weleda remedies, Dr. Hauschka cosmetics, WALA, True Botanica, Astrosophy, Rhythmical Massage, the Alliance for Childhood, The Christian Community, Anthroposophic Prison Outreach, Lazure painting, Demeter, advancements in architecture, science, social and economic reform (The Threefold Social Order, community banks), mathematics and painting. In addition, there are many publishing houses and libraries dedicated to his works throughout the world. For more information, check the national website at www.anthroposophy.org or our local website at www.anthroposophyNC.org