



## **Anthroposophy Atlanta Newsletter**

**February 2015**

Dear friends,

This week brings us to the 154<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rudolf Steiner's birth on February 25. It is amazing to consider the significance and contributions of this individual, as well as the quality of his being. Describing his first meeting with Rudolf Steiner, Albert Steffen wrote, "I immediately recognized a leader of mankind; wisdom on the brow, love in the eye, conscience in the word. Each gesture was an expression of harmony, formed in freedom, artistic" (Meetings with Rudolf Steiner).

Also incredible is the community of human beings who have come together with a relationship to the work of Rudolf Steiner as a common thread. Indeed, anthroposophy and its fruits in the world have forged the paths by which we have found our way to one another, each on his or her own unique journey. It seems that, week by week, these fruits continue to grow in Atlanta.

Through our shared strivings and creative deeds, we extend the work of anthroposophy both inwardly and outwardly. Let us not rest content with old thoughts, no matter how beautiful. As we build community, we have the task of considering what can come forward from this particular soil. What role does Atlanta have to play in the anthroposophical movement? What gift do we have to offer and what responsibility do we bear?

This newsletter seeks to offer a picture of the activity and voices of anthroposophy in Atlanta. It will continue to unfold as our community evolves.

## Upcoming Events

- February 27, 2015:      120 Years of the Philosophy of Freedom
- February 28, 2015:      *Destiny Paths: Honoring the Work of Sergei Prokofieff and Maria St. Goar*
- Wednesdays  
in March:                      Community Eurythmy Series
- March 6, 2015:              *Goethe's Spirituality as Revealed in the Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily*
- March 7, 2015:              *American Spirituality: Eurythmy and the History of Dance*
- March 13-14, 2015:        *Regional AWSNA Conference- The Engaged Classroom: Towards a New Culture of Learning*

## Groups and Current Studies

- Branch Study Group        *The Foundation Stone, Willem Zeylmans Van Emmichoven*
- The Bridge Group            *Letters to Members, Rudolf Steiner*
- The Christian Mystery      *The Christian Mystery, Rudolf Steiner*
- Isis-Sophia Study Group    *Isis Mary Sophia, Rudolf Steiner*
- Working with the Virtues   *The Power of the Soul: Living the Twelve Virtues, Robert Sardello*

## A Note from the Sophia Group

We are off to a great start, having met twice together. We meet every other Tuesday from 3:30-4:30 and are reading Rudolf Steiner's *Mary Isis Sophia*. We started with the introduction written by Christopher Bamford and are finding it replete with powerful thoughts and images. We are savoring each sentence, only halfway through reading the introduction together. If you'd like to join in, now's a great time since we are not even to the first lecture yet! Email Angela Foster at [afoster@thirdbody.net](mailto:afoster@thirdbody.net) for more info.

## News from the Eastern Region

On the weekend of January 31 – February 1, 2015 there was a meeting in Spring Valley of representatives from groups and branches in the Eastern Region of the Society. Atlanta is no longer the newest branch, with a branch in Rhode Island having formed just prior to the meeting! Linda Brooks-Cooper, Katherine Jenkins, and Elizabeth Roosevelt attended from our area

We reviewed the history of regionalization as a national Society, which goes back 33 years. The Eastern Regional Council is currently without members, which has offered an opportunity for us to step back and consider how to best move forward, while strengthening the relationships between groups and branches.

In the coming months, further meetings and conversations will take place throughout the region, especially in areas that were not represented in Spring Valley. We also hope to have a local discussion to gather input that can be shared with the holding group. A broader conversation will then take place at the AGM for the Society in October, with a proposal coming from the Eastern Region about our form and leadership for the future. A formal, more detailed report from the meeting in Spring Valley is forthcoming.

## Social Sciences Section News

The Section for the Social Sciences of the School of Spiritual Science recently launched an English edition monthly newsletter, which can be viewed [here](#). They are currently working on reorganizing the way in which the Section interacts with the public. More about the newsletter with links to subscribe can be found [here](#), and more about the Section is on their [website](#).

## Youth Section News

Recent news from the Youth Section is online [here](#). Young people working out of anthroposophy in North America pose the questions: What would you like to create with the Youth Section next year? What can you contribute and what can we offer you? There is a desire for intergenerational collaboration and conversation.

An additional report and creative documentation of last year's youth conference, InPower, can be found [here](#). Calls for courage, authenticity, and vulnerability are resounding from the youth.

A Core Group of this Section, also known as the Section for the Spiritual Striving of Youth, meets monthly through conference call with a focus on and inner work and moral development, as well as future initiatives and event planning.

A current initiative that the Youth Section is supporting is the [Connect Conference](#), an international gathering of high school seniors taking place in Belgium this April. The Section would like to raise \$6,000 to support ten participants to attend. You can support this event by clicking [here](#).

Each call of the Youth Section Core Group concludes with the verse offered below:

The things enacted here on earth  
In love, friendship, and the intimate  
Understanding of one another—  
These are building stones of temples  
Being erected in the Spirit.  
For those who recognize this fact,  
It is an uplifting feeling to know  
That the ties binding soul to soul  
Are the basis for eternal being.

A Salute to Jackie Robinson  
Linda Brooks-Cooper

As a salute to Black History Month, I salute Jackie R. Robinson's *The Noble Experiment*.

This is a love story, a love story between an individual and the world.

I began this new year by reading Robert Sardello's book, *The Twelve Virtues and their Meaning*. Sardello states at the beginning: "Virtues are the glimmerings within the soul of the spiritual urging to bring our life into harmony with the rhythms of the cosmos."

So I began January with the virtue of Courage, "no beginning without courage," and progressed into February with the virtue of Silence/Reticence.

I was struck by these powerful virtues as being strongly displayed in the life of Jackie Roosevelt Robinson, who faced trials of racial hatred, abuse both physical and verbal, mistreatment on and off the playing field, and, of course, loneliness.

Jackie Robinson was the first black baseball player to play for a Major League team since the 1880s when the color barrier was erected. Did he set out to become an American pillar for the Civil Rights Movement? I don't think so! A man obsessed with winning the World Series? I don't think so! A competitive man who wanted to be first in everything? I don't think so! Robinson didn't start out thinking that he could accomplish any of these feats, but became a man for all of these.

Before Rosa Parks, before Dr. Martin Luther King, before the Civil Rights Movement, Jackie Robinson appeared on the national scene, creating a tremendous cultural impact on our nation and the world.

This is the story of a man whose courage took him into reticence. "Reticence is the force by which the soul grasps and experiences itself as being longing not to the world of the senses, but to that of the spirit" (Sardello).

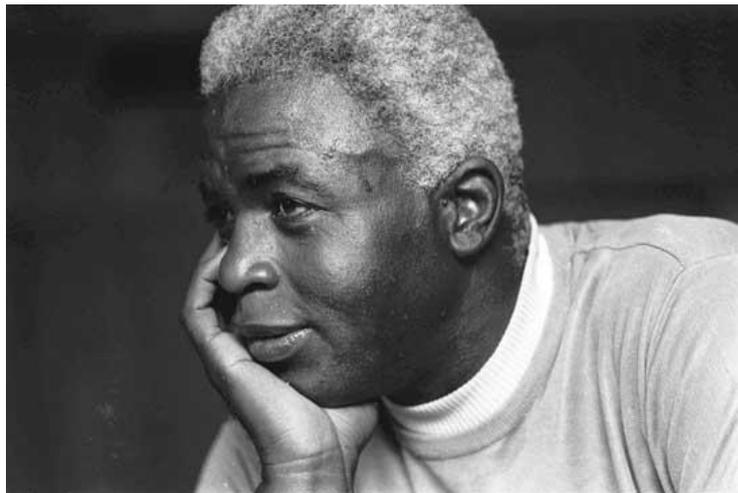
One of Robinson's commitments to becoming the first Black Major League baseball player was that he would not physically fight back, would not stoop to name calling, or engage in any other retaliatory behavior. This commitment would be a tremendous burden for any man, but a black man who was giving his all would feel this as a double burden, especially a black man who had a temper which now had to be controlled. This commitment and burden was what was being asked of Robinson. The same is being asked of human beings in general. What is being asked of humanity is to live into the future and to do so with courage and with acceptance of the unjust that may come with it: a Michaelic trait. Robinson used his courage to put himself forward as an exemplary athlete.

Jackie Robinson's inner being manifested in a truly human character—a beautiful, loving, consistent character. A character strong in learning love. Love, that thing that is strange, a thing yet to be understood by most, a thing most of us grasp at, yet never quite reach. An understanding, a forgiving, a compassion, an affinity with eternity. But love is a “relentless drive towards complete self-giving” (*Love is Stronger than Death*, Cynthia Bourgeault).

In 1944, Jackie Roosevelt Robinson was court-martialed for refusing to move to the back of a military bus, which was supposed to be unsegregated. His refusal to move to the back of the bus cost Robinson his military career. He was, however, honorably discharged in 1944. In the ensuing years, Robinson coached at Sam Houston College, played for the Kansas City Monarch (a team in the Negro Baseball League) and participated in the farce “tryouts” of the Boston Red Sox. Finally in 1945, Branch Rickey recruited Robinson for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Jackie Roosevelt Robinson, born in Cairo, GA, was the youngest of five children. The family left Georgia for California, where Jackie attended elementary, high school, and junior college. He was encouraged to play sports by his older brother, Mack, himself an accomplished athlete. Born in January under the virtue of Courage, he was a fine example of this virtue.

Despite all things Robinson endured, he maintained the courage to stand up and to put himself forward as an excellent sportsman. He learned to not permit himself to react to the disparaging threats, disharmony, and mean spiritedness. He was silent when met with in-your-face adversity. He was often called the loneliest man in baseball—he who learned to know the imperishable nature of his own true being by trusting in the sentiment, “Destiny becomes reticent.”



## Verse and Visual Art

### **I Thank You, Lord**

Bernard Dadie, The Negritude Poets

I thank you, Lord, for having made me Black,  
 For having made me  
 The sum of all griefs,  
 For having put upon my head  
 The World.  
 I wear the livery of the Centaur.  
 And I have carried the world since the first morning.  
 White and black the colors of day.  
 Black and white the colors of night.  
 And I have carried the World since the first evening.  
 I am content  
 With the shape of my head  
 made to carry the World,  
 Satisfied  
 With the shape of my nose,  
 Made to inhale the four winds of the World.  
 Pleased  
 with the shape of my legs,  
 ready to run to the end of the Earth.  
 I thank you, Lord, for having made me Black,  
 for having made me the sum of all pain.  
 A thousand swords have pierced my heart.  
 A thousand brands have burned me.  
 And my blood has reddened the snow of all the cavalries,  
 And my blood at each dawn has reddened all horizons.  
 Yet I am content  
 To carry the world.  
 Happy with my short arms  
 With my long arms  
 With my thick lips  
 I thank you, Lord, for having made me Black.  
 I have carried the World since the dawn of time  
 And in the night my laughter at the World  
 Creates the day.

(submitted by Linda Brooks-Cooper)

**From Rudolf Steiner's Mystery Dramas, Portal of Initiation, Scene 7:**

You will face sense existence  
with fresh, strong forces  
and, with the spirit  
unlocked to you,  
you can serve human progress.  
You have been joined by destiny  
together to unfold the powers  
which are to serve the good in active  
work.  
And while you journey on the path of  
soul,  
wisdom itself will teach you  
the highest goals can be achieved  
when souls will give each other spirit  
certainty,  
will join themselves in faithfulness  
for healing of the world.  
The spirit's guidance has united you  
in knowledge;  
so now unite yourselves for spirit  
work.  
The rulers of this realm bestow on  
you,  
through me, these words of strength:

*Light's weaving essence radiates  
from one to another  
to fill the world with truth.  
Love's blessing gives its warmth  
to souls through souls  
to work and weave the bliss of all the  
worlds.  
And messengers of spirit join  
human works of blessing  
with purpose of worlds.  
And when those souls who find  
themselves,  
one in the other,  
can join these both together,  
the light of spirit radiates through  
warmth of soul.*

(submitted by Jeff Powell)

**Precious Words Fly**  
Marian Shearer

Around and around, precious words fly.  
In the intimate hour, they always come by.  
They visit my mind and are quick to spy.  
If my heart is open, they simply imply  
To pick up the pencil or let them die!



*Portrait of a little girl*  
~ Marian Shearer

## Looking Ahead

Our branch history is still in the works. Look for it in a future issue. We would also like to share offerings from local study groups and other initiatives. What inspirations are living among you? Articles, creative writing, and visual art are also welcome.

Any questions, considerations, or contributions can be sent to [anthroposophyatlanta@gmail.com](mailto:anthroposophyatlanta@gmail.com). More about our branch can be found on our [website](#).

In service,  
Elizabeth Roosevelt, for Anthroposophy Atlanta