



# **Anthroposophy Atlanta Newsletter**

**April 2015**

Dear friends,

In this brief newsletter, we take a look at events and initiatives here in Atlanta and in other communities. The anthroposophical impulse continues to grow in our area, and it is exciting to see what is emerging and to draw inspiration from friends farther away.

This newsletter seeks to offer a picture of the activity and voices of anthroposophy in Atlanta. To contribute to future issues, contact [anthroposophyatlanta@gmail.com](mailto:anthroposophyatlanta@gmail.com).

## Foundation Studies Class Graduation

Last weekend was an exciting time for the students in the Foundation Studies class. We had our final class in the two-year series, followed by a celebration for the graduates. It was a beautiful Saturday with presentations from several students, a musical offering, and extemporaneous reflections. This particular Foundation Studies course was organized through [The Center for Anthroposophy](#) and supported by the Waldorf School of Atlanta. Over the course of two years, graduates each complete 128 hours of study in the foundations of anthroposophy and the arts.

Year One was spent studying Rudolf Steiner's *How to Know Higher Worlds* and *Theosophy*, along with *Anthroposophy in Everyday Life*. The bulk of Year Two was spent studying Biography, followed by workshops in the *Philosophy of Freedom*, the Christ Impulse, and the Mystery Dramas. We culminated with three sessions exploring the Dr. Steiner's lectures compiled in *Metamorphoses of the Soul*. Besides taking up the written word, a strong emphasis was placed on providing an introduction to several arts. Each time we met, we did some form of artistic activity; these included Eurythmy, singing, watercolor painting, form drawing, chalk drawing and clay work. Over those many Saturdays of study and play—encountering new ideas, exploring our own biographies and cosmic thoughts, and sharing many meals together—the group has grown incredibly close. What started for many as a simple step toward Waldorf teacher training, turned out to be a soul transforming experience that went far beyond expectations. I believe the work that this group has embarked upon will continue to reverberate, both within the individual souls and throughout our larger community.

The FS students would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to the teachers from our local community who held the majority of our classes: Randy Evans, Laira Covert, Jim McClurkin, Francisco Moreno, and Eleanor Winship. We are grateful, as well, for our teachers who traveled to Atlanta to spend time with us. We were blessed to study with Douglas Gerwin, Rick Spaulding, Marke Levene, Patrick Kennedy, and Nathaniel Williams. Each teacher brought something unique from their field of research; every one of them brought a *living* connection with the spirit of anthroposophy. The collective impact of these ambassadors of the Spirit sharing their work with the receptive souls in the FS class is mighty powerful and worthy of further contemplation.

I personally feel called to continue the work in the fundamentals of anthroposophy and the exploration of Human Biography. I sense that no matter how long one has been in relationship with anthroposophy, a study of the “basic books” can be a tool for self development and community enrichment. Whether you are new to anthroposophy or would just like to study with new eyes and ears, I welcome a conversation about what the next Foundation Studies group will look like in Atlanta. The tools are readily available; the form is up to us! Please

contact me if you have suggestions, questions, or would like to be informed about future Foundation Studies classes/work in our community.

In service,  
Angela Foster at [foster@thirdbody.net](mailto:foster@thirdbody.net)



## Calendar of the Soul

Given that there are not always exactly 52 weeks between one Easter and the next, one has to make adjustments when working with the Calendar of the Soul. Last fall when Mary Stewart Adams spoke in Atlanta, she offered the encouragement for each individual to find his her own relationship to this work. The pathway through the year is not set in stone, and we can strengthen our relationship to the cosmic rhythms by considering how we navigate this movable calendar.

Sometimes, however, some guidance can feel helpful. Herbert Hagens has offered a suggestion for the 51 weeks that fall between this year's Easter and next, saying, "It becomes an exercise in self-renewal, a kind of yearly tune-up.

These mini-mantras become spiritual sign posts along the ever changing path of personal initiation." You can find his suggested sequence at this [link](#).

## Free Columbia

Over 260 people have contributed the campaign to help [Free Columbia](#) become Pay-It-Forward. Based in Philmont, NY, this art school is based on an understanding of the importance of creating independent and accessible educational and artistic opportunities. For the last five years, the program has been funded 100% by gifts with no set tuitions or materials costs. Organizers are currently fundraising \$25,000 to ensure that next year's costs are covered in advance, allowing new students to receive the course as a gift. This initiative offers an amazing picture of what is possible in community built upon free culture. The current campaign closes Friday at midnight. To contribute or learn more, click [here](#).

## The Carver Research Institute

It is inspiring to find new initiatives arising out of anthroposophy all over the country. The DC area's Carver Research Institute holds the mission of "pursuing the understanding, practice and publication of spiritual science as articulated by Rudolf Steiner and practiced in exemplary fashion by the biochemist, herbalist, painter-musician and former American slave, George Washington Carver." The [website](#) is worth a look.

"Anything will give up its secrets if you love it enough. Not only have I found that when I talk to the little flower or to the little peanut they will give up their secrets, but I have found that when I silently commune with people they give up their secrets also – if you love them enough." ~ George Washington Carver

## Membership in the Anthroposophical Society

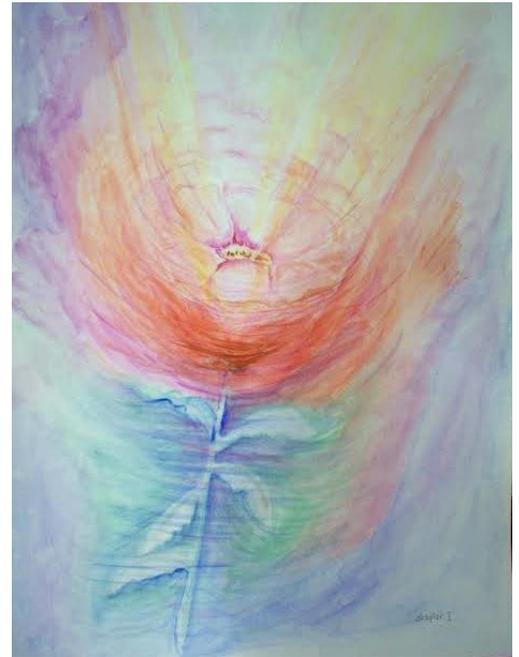
The only requirement of membership in the Anthroposophical Society is that one acknowledges the value of Rudolf Steiner's work in the world. To learn more about the process of joining, click [here](#). Sergei Prokofieff offered a small booklet on this topic: [Why Become a Member of the Anthroposophical Society?](#)

## Verse and Visual Art

### Man's Gift

In Golgotha, we stand in spirit and in mind.  
 Feeling the Earth tremble, becoming body of Light,  
 At the time His side was pierced,  
 And the world stood very still,  
 His blood ran down-under, with His Spirit True-Divine  
 Gifting man forever, bonding us, with Christ!

~ Marian Shearer



Marian Shearer

## Groups and Current Studies

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|--------------------------|--|
| Branch Study Group       | <i>The Gospel of St. John</i> , Rudolf Steiner                               |
| The Bridge Group         | <i>Letters to Members</i> , Rudolf Steiner                                   |
| The Christian Mystery    | <i>The Christian Mystery</i> , Rudolf Steiner                                |
| Isis-Sophia Study Group  | <i>Isis Mary Sophia</i> , Rudolf Steiner                                     |
| Working with the Virtues | <i>The Power of the Soul: Living the Twelve Virtues</i> ,<br>Robert Sardello |

## Looking Ahead

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