



Anthroposophy Atlanta Newsletter

May 2015

Dear friends,

Greetings on this Whitsunday! Rudolf Steiner referred to Whitsun as the Festival of united Soul-Endeavor as well as the festival of the Free Individuality. 50 days after Easter, Whitsun, or Pentecost, marks the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles in tongues of flame:

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4)

Sergei Prokofieff described this event as one in which the heavenly flames penetrated through the heads of the apostles and into their hearts. In that way, they were able to speak a special language understandable to every human being, the original language of the heart spoken from soul to soul. Through the spiritual fire in their hearts, the apostles recognized themselves as united in a new community. (*The Whitsun Impulse*)

There are many lectures and resources available on the subject of Whitsun. A selection is online [here](#). Perhaps in this theme you will find inspiration for the new community that we ourselves are founding.

Greetings from the Auburn, AL Study Group and a brief history

We started the group in 1979 when my husband and I moved from Chicago to Auburn. At that time we were five members. This group lasted only for not quite two years. One member died and the others moved out of town. For many years I was by myself, but I had connection with Maria St. Goar in Chattanooga.

One day I received a call. The lady was interested in reading Rudolf Steiner and especially the *Philosophy of Spiritual Activity*. After a year another lady found our group and that was very good. But in 2004 Dr. Pfeil moved to Canada, so Dorothea and I were left behind.

At the end of 2008 a big change took place. Bob and Betty Hare, members of the Society, moved to Auburn. An old friend of my husband became interested in Rudolf Steiner, and he brought a friend. Suddenly we were six.

In January 2009 we started with *Theosophy*. We worked for over three years on this book. In 2012 we started with *An Outline of Esoteric Science*. We will finish by the end of summer.

We meet each Thursday at 2 pm till 4 pm. The meeting is opened and closed with a verse by Rudolf Steiner. If one of you travels south, please stop in Auburn. It is always so refreshing to have visitors. We meet in my house. By now we are together nine members and friends.

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Update from the Branch Study Group

To enhance our study group night and to make us more aware of ourselves and our world, we have begun a practice of biographical sharing in the Wednesday night group. We have begun with a focus on the physical: Where were you born? How might the topography of one's childhood influence our adult lives? We are strengthening our relationships as we come to know one another better. Many thanks to Linda Brooks Cooper, who is guiding this activity. Following this exercise, we are continuing our study of Rudolf Steiner's *The Gospel of St. John*.

Theme of the Year

Each year the General Anthroposophical Society selects an annual theme, aiming to provide a stimulating focus for the work of those members who wish to engage in a process of common consciousness with the Goetheanum Leadership.



The current Theme of the Year will be presented in several contributions by different authors over the course of the year. To read more, see [here](#).

Spring Appeal

A century ago, Friedrich Rittelmeyer asked Rudolf Steiner, "Do you really think that anthroposophy will succeed in becoming more than a strong impulse in our civilization? Do you think it can really strike through as new culture?"

This month, the Anthroposophical Society in America offered this question with the response, "We believe the answer is yes! The time is now. And we need your help!"

The Society has launched a comprehensive **Campaign for Anthroposophy in America**, and it would be amazing to see strong support from friends in Atlanta!

Goals of the campaign are as follows:

- Secure essential **resources**, including the Rudolf Steiner Library, the world's largest English-language collection relevant to our movement, increase access, and prepare them for wider service
- Extend **communications** work with a movement-wide identity initiative, to clarify the intentions, scope and value of our work and to prepare us for broader engagement
- Further step up the Society's **program** activity, identifying your interests and providing opportunities for learning and connecting with one another both near and far
- Build our **membership** program by reaching out and creating new opportunities for engagement and service
- Forge new and closer **relationships**: within the Anthroposophical Society, with our partner institutions in the movement, and with other national societies

[Click here to make a gift to the Spring Appeal](#)

[Click here to read the Spring Appeal letter.](#)

Annual General Meeting

Each autumn the Anthroposophical Society in America hosts a meeting and conference in a different location around the country. The save-the-date announcements for this year's events will be out with more details within the month, but this year's gathering will be in St. Louis in October. It is sure to be an exciting time, as we learn about many new anthroposophical initiatives that are at work today. St. Louis is just a short flight or an eight-hour drive from Atlanta!

Groups and Current Studies

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> , Robert Sardello

A Fairy Tale

Blue-Green Courage

2011 Marian Shearer

Early morning at a little friendly meadow, new tender sunrays were shining on Mother Earth. Lilies of the valley seemed to be growing everywhere right by the edge of the friendly forest. It was a beautiful display of white baby clusters in the shape of tiny bells.

Around these little flowers the undine fairies were busy with their work. Gray fluffy clouds came across the sky, announcing an early spring shower for everyone to enjoy.

The little fairies helped guide each drop of rain as they fell. When the shower was over they all went back to work. The spring of the year is a very busy time for fairies. Their job is to help every plant in nature and nurse them until they are grown, or at least until they can wear their new leaves, or make flowers and seeds of their own.



[Read more...](#)

Verse

Rudolf Steiner:

Whitsun Verse

There first
 Where sense can know no more,
 Stands the portal, which discloses
 Life-reality
 To Soul-being;
 This portal's key the Soul may
 fashion
 If she herself grow strong within the
 strife
 By World-Powers waged on their
 own ground
 With human forces;
 If of her own accord she puts to flight
 The sleep, which at the frontier of
 her senses
 Cloaks the forces of knowledge
 In spirit-night.

Translated by Owen Barfield

Rudolf Steiner to Ita Wegman,
 December 24, 1920:

We are a bridge
 between our past
 and future existence;
 The present a moment,
 the moment as bridge.

Spirit grown soul
 in matter's enveloping sheath
 comes from the past;
 soul growing to spirit
 in germinal spheres
 is our future path.

Take hold of the future
 through the past,
 hope for what's coming
 through what became.

So grasp existence
 through growth;
 so grasp what's growing
 in what exists

*Translated by Matthew Barton
 shared in the Theme of the Year*

Looking Ahead

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. More about our branch can be found on our [website](#).

In service,
 Elizabeth Roosevelt, for Anthroposophy Atlanta