



Anthroposophy Atlanta Newsletter

January 2015

Dear friends,

This newsletter marks a new beginning in sharing the work of Anthroposophy Atlanta. We had a busy fall following the recognition of our group as a formal branch of the Anthroposophical Society. Performances, studies, presentations, and conversations filled the season. A list of recent activities in our community is included in this issue along with upcoming events. Anthroposophy is growing in our area, and our branch is continuing to find its form as we move into the future.

While the Wednesday evening meeting holds the official study of the branch, a pillar of our work, there are many ways to be involved in Anthroposophy Atlanta. We hope to strengthen our relationship to the festivals, creating times for us all to come together in a meaningful way with the rhythm of the seasons. There are also studies and activities that happen throughout our community to which everyone is invited. Through all of these initiatives, one can find a relationship to the life of our branch. Our [website](#) is updated regularly in an effort to include all local events and initiatives that arise from an anthroposophical impulse.

As this newsletter takes shape, friends are invited to submit articles or reflections to share with the community. Poems or other artistic offerings are also welcome. Ideas can be emailed to anthroposophyatlanta@gmail.com.

Recent Activities:

- January 17, 2015: Michael and the Manichean Path:
Awakening in the Heart of the Other
- January 8, 2015: Finding Your Inner Path
- December 28, 2014: Holy Nights Gathering
- December 19 & 20, 2014: The Shepherds Play
- December 6, 2014: The Christ Impulse in Rudolf Steiner's Life and Work
- December 5, 2014: Advent and the Annunciation to Mary
- November 15, 2014: The Refugees' Tale
- November 12, 2014: Branch Visit from Torin Finser
- November 1, 2014: The Riddle of Destiny
- October 26, 2014: Biodynamics: Secrets of the Soil
- October 18, 2014: Walk for Anthroposophical Prison Outreach
- September 27, 2014: The Time is at Hand!
- September 12-13, 2014: Cosmic Cycles, Earthly Rhythms

Upcoming Events:

- February 2, 2015: The Isenheim Altarpiece
- 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
- 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

Branch Planning Group

A planning group meets regularly to identify and explore the questions arising for us as a newly formed branch. Current members of this group are Linda Brooks-Cooper, Angela Foster, Eva Handschin, Roberta Ricketts, Elizabeth Roosevelt, and Sara Walsh. Participation calls not only for practical organization and planning, but also an inner commitment to carry the work of our branch in deeper way. If you feel called to join this work, please let us know.

From the Branch Study

Over the course of the fall and into the winter, we have studied several books by Sergei Prokofieff, who crossed the threshold in late July: *The Occult Significance of Forgiveness*, *The Esoteric Significance of Spiritual Work in Anthroposophical Groups*, and *The Encounter with Evil*. This week we began Willem Zeylmans van Emmichoven's book, *The Foundation Stone*. We continue to meet every Wednesday evening at 7 pm at Academe of the Oaks. All are welcome.

A New Beginning for the Bridge Group

The Bridge Group reconvened last week with a new afternoon beginning. As we looked at what study we wished to take up, we soon landed on Steiner's [Letters to Members](#), written just after the Christmas Conference re-founding of the Anthroposophical Society. We recognized anthroposophy as our striving and common ground. Truly it had brought us together on that day, so we found it fitting that we should re-begin at its re-beginning and hear the hopes and intentions of Rudolf Steiner.

Before our reading, we found ourselves in contemplation of the burning of the first Goetheanum and this new foundation at the Christmas Conference. Also the beginnings of the first Camphill community in Scotland and the path of its founders made its way to our table. Miraculous and mysterious moments are woven throughout the history of our movement. We voiced our own intentions of coming together in the spirit of New Community with social healing and action at our core.

We read Rudolf Steiner's offering from 13 January 1924. Almost right from the start, he shares: "Kindling the love of humankind, anthroposophy grows creative in moral impulses to action and in the practice of a truly social life." If we were to have a mission statement in our group, it seems it was already written with these words from 1924.

Cheers erupted in the room with the proposal, "A dogmatic approach in any sphere whatsoever does not belong in the Anthroposophical Society." Surely we must stay awake in our communities to live up to these words!

In this same offering, we read about the festivity of the laying of the Foundation Stone on December 25: "It could only be a question of laying a foundation stone

in an ideal and spiritual sense. The soil in which the stone was laid could be no other than the hearts and souls of those united in the Society. And the Foundation Stone itself must be the attitude of mind which arises when anthroposophy shapes one's life." One in our group shared that the Foundation Stone must be like the blood of Christ within us. The Foundation Stone can be to oneself what Christ is to the earth and humanity. And we ourselves must fructify it.

Indeed, our heart's blood must beat for it!

At the end of our time together, we held the space for biographical sharing as we learned to know each other's journeys. A harmony of hearts we hope to cultivate. We will continue to gather on Saturday afternoons, exploring these letters and building community. The doors are open for all who wish to join.

A View of the Future: The Tasks of Sergei Prokofieff

In the final year of his life, Sergei Prokofieff offered a reflection* on his 33 years of activity as an anthroposophical author as well as a proposal for the future of the Goetheanum. He called for a deepened resolve for taking up five core themes that belong to the true tasks of the Goetheanum:

- Cultivating our relationship with Rudolf Steiner
- Deepening our understanding of anthroposophical content, especially anthroposophical Christology
- Working toward an ever-deeper understanding of the Christmas Conference of 1923/1924 as the foundation for the New Mysteries
- Developing our understanding of the esoteric nature of the Anthroposophical Society (often mistaken for the esoteric nature of the First Class), for the foundation of the General Anthroposophical Society was an esoteric act of the highest order. At the Christmas Conference, Rudolf Steiner created a special organ for cultivating this unique esoteric nature of the Society and the mutual exchange among its members: *What Is Happening in the Anthroposophical Society? News for Members*
- Strengthening the effectiveness of the First Class of the School for Spiritual Science through working toward knowledge, and further developing the General Anthroposophical Section as a place of spiritual research

Prokofieff shared his continued conviction that "only the realization of this five-fold task belonging to the Anthroposophical Society, the School for Spiritual

Science, and the Goetheanum as their centerpoint, can help them to become what the spiritual world, in the sense of the Time-Spirit, awaits from them.”

As a branch inspired by the work of Sergei Prokofieff, the questions arise: What can we do as a community to further the work outlined for us here? Can the tasks we take up be seen as a contribution to the ongoing development of anthroposophy? How can we best form a vessel for the being Anthroposophia?

As our Wednesday evening study group made the recent transition from one text to another, we held these five themes in the center. It is with hopes of deepening our understanding of anthroposophy and strengthening our relationships to each other and to the work that we move forward. May we find joy in our work together and earnestness in our striving!

*From the Introduction to the brochure *Die Bücher von Sergej O. Prokofieff. 33 Jahre Tätigkeit als anthroposophischer Schriftsteller, 1980–2013. Ein Überblick.* [The Books of Sergei O. Prokofieff: Thirty-three-year Activity as an Anthroposophical Author, 1980–2013. An Overview.] Dornach 2014.

Destiny Paths:

Honoring the Work of Sergei Prokofieff and Maria St. Goar

The Anthroposophical Society has initiated a new program to give recognition and thanks to those individuals who have given a lifetime of service to anthroposophy. Sergei Prokofieff and Maria St. Goar will be honored in Chattanooga, TN on February 28. Maria is a treasure and an inspiration, not only for our region, but anthroposophy as a whole. She has dedicated years of work as a translator, all of which she has given freely from her heart. For more information, please contact Katherine Jenkins at katjenks@negia.net.

Looking Ahead

In future issues, we hope to share more on the history of our branch and the process of branch membership along with the major questions facing us in our work. We also hope to share a report from a meeting of groups and branches of the Eastern Region taking place this weekend in Spring Valley. This gathering is being held to assess our current situation and to explore ways of building a more cohesive region.

Any questions, considerations, or inspirations can be sent to anthroposophyatlanta@gmail.com.

In service,
Elizabeth Roosevelt, for Anthroposophy Atlanta