

e-Correspondence

from the Central Regional Council
of the Anthroposophical Society in America

March, 2014



Communication Support:

If you are receiving this email as the contact person in your area, **please forward it on** to all the members in your group, branch or initiative. We want to ensure that all our members in the region remain connected. If you prefer that another member of your group be responsible for receiving and passing this on, please let us know. **We need your help and thank you.**

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Speaking with the Stars Project



Speaking to the Stars
Pastel on paper, 11 x 15 inches
© 2014 Daisy Hu

An image for our project has been chosen and we hope it speaks to you as much as it does to us. We are delighted that this pastel drawing has been created by someone within our region specifically out of this project. Her inspiration and a bit about the artist follow.

My first encounter with Steiner's verse 'The Stars Once Spoke to Man' was through a Eurythmy exercise in the summer of 2013. When Hazel Archer Ginsberg, the facilitator of our Festivals Study Group, shared her vision of a human figure with the Beehive Cluster expanding from the heart space, I immediately connected it with the verse.

The final drawing integrates Steiner's verse, Hazel's vision, my (novice) Eurythmy experience, personal meditation, and the intuitive freehand use of chalk pastels on paper. I am honored that my work has been enthusiastically received by the Central Regional Council for the Anthroposophical Society.

The collaborative process was highly rewarding!

~ Daisy Hu

Daisy Hu is a teaching artist based in Evanston, Illinois. As an active Waldorf parent, she also brings cultural and art activities, including Chinese New Year celebrations, ink-brush calligraphy, and glass mosaic tiling, to grade school classrooms.

How you may participate in the Speaking with the Stars project:

Regional Conference Calls – The Regional Council will be hosting a series of conference calls to share new thoughts, insights and inspirations about our Speaking with the Stars project with members and friends. Scribed notes and resources mentioned during our calls will be posted onto our Central Region webpage.
<http://www.anthroposophy.org/groups/central-region.html>

Regional conference call

April 9, 2014 – 7:15 – 8:15 pm CST (8:15-9:15 EST)

TOPIC: Speaking with the Stars Project

This will be a “GO TO MEETING” CALL

Dial +1 (619) 550-0003

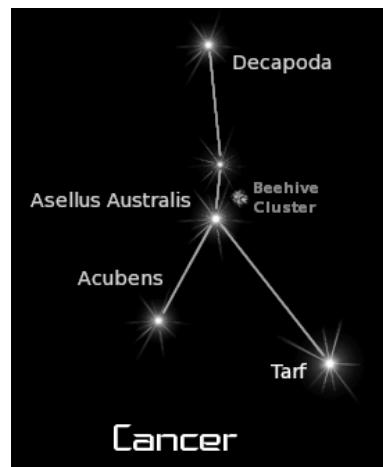
Access Code: 961-777-653

Event Carrier Planning Meeting – June 1-4 in Mackinaw City, MI

Emmet County Headlands International Dark Sky Park

Beehive Clusters* will participate in a planning meeting facilitated in June by the Central Regional Council. Together we will deepen our study with current recommended readings and connect to both earth and sky through walks and observation exercises. This will be an opportunity to co-create more fully with those members who will be coming forward to represent groups wishing to host events in coordination with others throughout our region in the spring of 2015.

***Beehive Cluster:** comes from an image shared during our January 22nd call. There is a connection between our local groups to the cluster of stars to be found in the center point of the Cancer constellation which can be viewed as the pre-formation of the heart-forces.



Self-Education and Research

- ⊕ **Keep A Journal** ~ Consider building your relationship to the cosmos through an awareness of the moon's phases, contemplating your own biography in relationship to the new and full moon.
- ⊕ Explore and **understand the terminology** used for phenomenological events in the night sky.
- ⊕ **Study the resource** articles mentioned.
- ⊕ Be actively **aware of events occurring in the world** and how they relate to what is occurring in the heavens.
- ⊕ Notes from the call and many of the resources mentioned during our conversation have been sent out and are posted on the Central Region webpage on the Anthroposophical Society's website.

Follow the link: <http://www.anthroposophy.org/groups/central-region/>

*Of what I feel is known to me
I do not know in its entirety
Devotedly like a child I must be*

*Wind and fire know the liar
residing within fantasies towering spire.
Earth and wave churn and pave
the forgotten grave of the material slave.
But one is known to have conquered bone,
offering eternal life from his own.*

*In her his healing light does stir and awaken
what before had seemed to be forsaken.
Her colorful crown of growing flowers
reveals the mysterious effects of cosmic powers.
When her brilliant colors fade and fall to ground
Michael's strength and courage can be found.
Mother dorns her sparkling robe of white
and celebrates the rebirth of his light.*

*Offered with love by David Howerton
member of The Anthroposophical Circle of St. Louis*

From Human Questions Cosmic Answers – Rudolf Steiner June 25, 1922 (GA213)
Lecture I: Sunlight and Moonlight, Solar and Lunar Eclipses and their Relation to Man's Life of Soul.

... We must win back for ourselves once more a knowledge and an understanding that will enable us to call up in our souls a feeling akin to religion whenever we are confronted by great cosmic events. We must be able to say, with the men of old:

O Sun, thou sendest towards me the rays of thy light. These rays form a pathway to me upon earth – and along this pathway, but moving in the other direction the souls of human beings, the souls of the dead stream out into cosmic space.

O Moon, thou shinest down with gentle radiance upon the earth from thy place in the heavens and borne on the waves of thy gentle light from far cosmic spaces, are those souls who are on their way once more into earthly existence.

As human beings we must find the power to illuminate our realm of thinking and to experience it as illumined, even when our thinking no longer seeks its support in the sensory world that deadens it.

Out of this experience of an autonomous realm of pure thinking, illumined by its very autonomy, will arise the feeling of communion with the extraterrestrial Cosmos.

Anthroposophical Leading Thoughts #170 (Jan 1925)
Rudolf Steiner

... In Like A Lion... by Hazel Archer Ginsberg

March is abundant with 'Holy Days', finding voice through many cultural expressions.



For instance this year Purim, which is celebrated on the eve of the Full Moon, March 15, is a joyful spring holiday that features a festive meal, gift-giving, costumes, and noisemakers. The word "Purim" means "lots," and refers to Haman's casting of lots in the story of Esther. It is customary to hold carnival-like celebrations. Americans sometimes refer to Purim as the Jewish Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday is March 4th this year) Ash Wednesday follows beginning the season of Lent.

The 15th is the famous Ides of March; which we all know is the day Julius Caesar was warned by the soothsayers to beware - the day he was assassinated. But did you know that according to the ancient Roman calendar, the Ides of March was considered New Year's Day, and marked the 1st day of Spring?

The 20th also happens to be the Iranian New Year celebration, Norooz, or 'New Day'.

In 622 AD, Mohammed led his followers from Mecca to Medina to escape assassination. According to the story, when his pursuers reached the cave where Mohammed and his followers had taken shelter for the night, they found a dove nesting in front of it and the entrance covered by a spider's web. So the pursuers passed on, leaving them in peace. Mohammed continued on to Medina, where he and his followers were able to worship freely. Muslims consider this flight -- or Hijrah -- to be the beginning of their calendar year. People worship quietly on this day, which begins with the 1st sighting of the crescent moon, and in keeping with the rebirth of nature is also considered the 1st day of Spring.

Here on this side of the globe we call it the Spring or Vernal Equinox, also known as: Alban Eilir, Eostar, the Feast of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Lady Day, Festival of Trees, NawRuz, Ostara, and the Rites of Spring - when the Sun enters the 1st sign of fiery Aries, as opposed to the lunar cycle used by the ancients.

Day and night are equal, poised and balanced, but about to tip over to the side of light. It is sacred to the twilight time of dawn, youth, the morning star and the east. The Saxon goddess, Eostre (from whose name we get the direction East and the holiday Easter) is a dawn goddess, like Aurora and Eos. Just as the dawn is the time of new light, so the vernal equinox is the time of new life.

The Equinox is all about harmony and balance - that brief yet eternal time of equilibrium, when day and night are of equal length. In the fall, the darkness holds sway, but now for the spring season the light is triumphant.

What a perfect opportunity to tap into this celestial energy as it intersects our earthly ecliptic, a perfect opportunity to bring balance into our lives, harmony into our bodies.



We all have a mixture of yin and yang, darkness and light, female and male energies within us. Do they both have equal say? Or is one force overshadowing the other? Perhaps we are consciously putting more

emphasis on one, to help develop that side, or maybe we just feel unbalanced and we don't know why? Are we thinking too much, are we too sensitive, too busy doing, to just be? Is your left side tighter or looser than your right? Which side do you part your hair? Ah ha...! These are questions only you can answer for your Self.

Now vernal means green, right, so it's not too far fetched to see a connection with St. Patrick's Day on the 17th, with its emphasis on the shamrock and the wearing of the green.

Two other holidays also get mixed up in this ancient symbolism of Spring's fertility. March 25th is called the 'Annunciation of Mary,' the day that the Angel Gabriel announced that Mary, the Christian version of The Sophia, was pregnant with the son of god, who is born 9 months later, on Dec. 25th.

It is also fitting that March is International Women's month, since this is the time of the rebirth of nature. It's a gentle reminder that we give birth to the future. The future is in our hands, the hands of the midwife, the lap of the mother, and the hands of the Peacemaker.

So let's honor our emerging selves and thank the powers of love and light, knowing that, March may come in like a lion, but it goes out like a lamb - as we conceive of ourselves in alignment with the powers of The Spirit Triumphant.

Peace and Blessed Bee...

Hazel Archer Ginsberg

NATIONAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS – POSTING HOW TO:

The Anthroposophical Society in America has a national calendar of events which is available to groups and branches. Anyone with an event may post their event and an image, if you have one, on the website as another avenue for notifying interested members and friends of your activities and events.

The following is a step-by-step guide to posting your event on the website:

Go to the calendar page: www.anthroposophy.org/calendar

In the right-hand column you will see boxes of text – the top one includes a prompt to **Add Calendar Event**.

If this is your first time adding an event, you will need to **register to use the Calendar**.

Click on the box to register: **type in a password, your first and last name and email address as requested**.

You will receive an email asking you to confirm your registration – click on it and you are ready to go.

When you wish to add an event – **go to the Calendar page and login** – the button will be found below the information about registering.

Enter the information you submitted when you registered and you will be taken to an **ADD CALENDAR EVENT screen**.

From this screen, follow the prompts and add your event. **BE SURE TO IDENTIFY the region of your event**. This will include the event in the regional calendar listing as well as the national chronological listing.

John Beck, as editor will be reviewing all submissions and then allow the event listing to go “live”.

This may not happen immediately so please be patient if you don’t see your event listed right away. If after a day or two you don’t see it, contact John at editor@anthroposophy.org.

This is a great way to let the wider Society know about some of our regional events and activities.

What's happening in our Region?

RUDOLF STEINER'S LIFE STORY – two talks by Sherry Wildfeuer

March 11-15th ~ Camphill Village Minnesota

Through his life story, we can follow Rudolf Steiner's own path of development and gain a feeling for his humanity as well as his accomplishments. These talks will be suitable for newcomers to the work of Steiner as well as long-time anthroposophists.

Sherry Wildfeuer is an adult educator and an active member of the Anthroposophical Society and its Agriculture Section. She is the editor of the *Stella Natura* biodynamic planting calendar and is a long-term co-worker in Camphill Village (an intentional community that especially includes adults with developmental disabilities) in Kimberton, PA.

If you have any questions, please email Lois Smith: ljsmith@wisper-wireless.com

The Wildest Dramas Ever Written - Rudolf Steiner's Mystery Plays

March 14-15, 2014 - Rudolf Steiner Branch, Chicago, IL ~ An evening talk and Saturday workshop with Barbara Renold. For more information: hazel@shedrums.com



Project Zero Circle –beginnings

PREMIER Performance

Saturday, March 29, 8pm

Austin Waldorf School PAC Theater

8700 South View Road, Austin, TX 78737

Please contact us for further information: info@austineurythmy.org

Encountering Easter as Mystery of the Center

Discover the current cosmic gestures in the light of Astroosophy, including the ‘Grand Cross’

April 11-12, 2014 - Rudolf Steiner Branch, Chicago, IL ~Workshop with Mary Stewart Adams

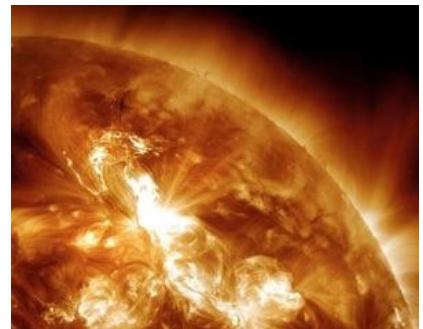
Create a Mandala informed by the Holy Week and the Rhythms of the 8-fold path. Celebrate the Mystery of Rebirth in a Festival of Social Astronomy... Contact hazel@shedrums.com

The Human Heart - Its Physiology in the Context of Reincarnation and Karma

May 16 – 18, 2014 - Weekend Workshop at Camphill Village MN, Sauk Centre, MN Dr. Armin Husemann, will present an understanding of the heart spanning from physiology to soul life and destiny. His four lectures will consider the following:

- 1) Is the Heart a Pump?
- 2) Life and Soul in the Movement of the Blood
- 3) The Upright Human - An Awakening for the Heart
- 4) The Heart as Organ of Karma.

Eurythmist Lynn Stull, founder of Arts2Thrive <http://arts2thrive.com/> will bring artistic understanding and expression to the concepts of the heart. More workshop details and registration information will be sent out in early March. In the meantime, we hope you will consider joining us and save these dates on your calendar. If you have questions now, please e-mail Carol Nichol (cawa12@charter.net).



Biodynamic Film Series ~ Viroqua, WI

Every other Tuesday night beginning March 25th through May 20th.

Films in this series will include keynote talks from the 2012 Sacred Agriculture Biodynamic Conference held in Madison WI. Speakers include Dennis Klocek and Charles Eisenstein as well as a panel of practicing biodynamic farmers. The film series will be in room 202 of the Landmark Center in Viroqua, WI. For a complete schedule call: Sarah Caldwell at 608-637-8766.



If you have any suggestions or contributions for upcoming issues, please send them to Marianne Fieber at marianne.fieber@yahoo.com. In the subject line, indicate that they are for the e-correspondence. We hope this format will help us reach members in a timely way with information that is of interest.

Some simple guidelines for submissions:

- * Deadline: 3rd Saturday of the month
- * Electronic submissions only to marianne.fieber@yahoo.com
- * Poetry or thoughts coming out of your work with anthroposophical ideas
- * Activities taking place within the Central Region
- * Reports and photos from anthroposophical events offered by Groups, Branches or Initiatives
- * Activities which are led and/or developed by members living within the Central Region

Note: We reserve the right to edit contributions as needed.

The Central Regional Council is:

Dennis Dietzel, Roseville, MN
Marianne Fieber, Viroqua, WI
Mary Louise Hershberger, Fargo, ND
Alberto Loya, Ann Arbor, MI

With Hazel Archer-Ginsberg, Chicago, IL