

E-Correspondence

from the Central Regional Council
of the Anthroposophical Society in America



September, 2013

Communication Support:

If you are receiving this email as a leader 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.

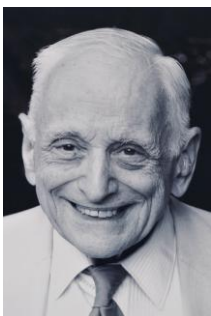
*Sun soaked surging seas weaving shining sands of spiraling shells
The rhythmic breath of her shores sinks and swells
Flowing fiery streams igniting death and rebirth
From mountainous wells of glowing molten earth
Flaming earth joining steaming sea
Converging together within me
Forming the foundation of future lands
Lovingly shaped within divine hands*

*Ask only what
you seek to
give*

*May man be unsatisfied to live an earthly life dedicated to the pursuit of comforts
wrought from ghostly images of past precepts
May we have the courage to pull aside the curtain of illusion,
seeing beyond this palace of selfish pleasures
to the light of grace and truth shining from the living world
What once appeared as wide palace is revealed in the light
as the lonely spartan cell of the lower self*

*With love,
David Howerton, member of the Anthroposophical Circle of St. Louis*

A Birthday Memorial: Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Ernst Katz



On July 23, 2013, there was a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ernst Katz (1913 - 2009, founding member of the Anthroposophical Society in the Netherlands, member of the Anthroposophical Society in America since 1953, Class Holder for America since 1970, professor of physics at the University of Michigan from 1947 through 1979, initiator of anthroposophical activity in the greater Ann Arbor area). The celebration was organized by Quentin McMullen M.D. and Molly McMullen-Laird M.D. and held at the Rudolf Steiner Health Center in Ann Arbor. Approximately 25 people gathered at the Health Center to share memories of Ernst and Ernst's wife Katherine who also lived for 96 years before crossing on St. John's Day in 1999.

At the celebration, it was recalled that Ernst and Katherine came to Ann Arbor after World War II. They thought they were the only anthroposophists in Michigan, but "coincidence" brought them in contact with one other anthroposophist in the Detroit area. Ernst and Katherine invited friends and acquaintances into their home for study groups. Eventually, Ernst received permission from the University to teach a course on Rudolf Steiner. Ernst and other like minded people formed the Rudolf Steiner Institute of the Great Lakes, a non-profit corporation that purchased an old fraternity house and turned it into the Rudolf Steiner House. In 1997, the Institute donated the Rudolf Steiner House to the Anthroposophical Society, and the House currently serves as the Society's headquarters and administrative offices. Ernst and Katherine were instrumental in the founding of the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor, a Waldorf school that is thriving today with students in grades K through 12. Ernst and Katherine were also important factors in bringing Doctors Quentin and Molly to Ann Arbor to create the Rudolf Steiner Health Center and a practice of Community Supported Anthroposophical Medicine.

Participants at the celebration told of how Dr. Katz touched their lives by introducing them to Rudolf Steiner or by facilitating their understanding of difficult anthroposophical concepts. There were stories told of his selfless kindness (spending 6 hours repairing a friend's leaky plumbing), of his physical stamina (at age 90 plus, shoveling snow at the Steiner House in the middle of a nighttime blizzard), and of his strong will (climbing ladders at the Steiner House to change light bulbs and clean electrical fixtures).

At the close of the celebration, Quentin McMullen read from Ernst's 2004 essay (*The Mission of Rudolf Steiner*, an essay derived from an address given by Ernst Katz on the stage of the Detroit Waldorf School at the American Anthroposophical Society's Annual General Meeting, November, 2004) in which Ernst paints a picture of the mission of Rudolf Steiner, as follows: "So what was and is the mission of Rudolf Steiner? I want to answer this question by means of a picture that I ask

So what was and is the mission of Rudolf Steiner?

Rudolf Steiner, the Ambassador of St. Michael, who is the Ambassador of Christ, brings to mankind, in a form appropriate for our consciousness, the inspiration of cosmic light-permeated divine love.

~ Dr. Ernst Katz

you to imagine I hope that the picture will tell more than a thousand words can tell. With this picture I try to summarize the various aspects of the mission of Rudolf Steiner. It is my picture. Do not try to paint it. Rather keep it fluid in imagination. I could present it especially well because I spoke from the stage of the Detroit Waldorf School. It is a large stage, brightly illumined, backed by a white wall on which is painted a great mural of St. Michael subduing the dragon. Imagine in the front of this stage stands Rudolf Steiner, in his black suit as we know him from many pictures. About, five feet behind him stand two figures, one somewhat to the right, the other somewhat to the left. The one on the right appears in red regalia. It is Christian Rosenkreutz, who renewed the Mysteries for the Western World in such ways that his students could remain engaged in worldly pursuits. The one on the left appears almost transparent, of a bluish hue. It is the Initiate who is most closely associated with the Christ Mystery, the "Master Jesus." About fifteen feet behind these two, on a slight elevation, stands St. Michael, and on a somewhat higher elevation about fifteen feet behind St. Michael stands the radiant figure of Christ, surrounded behind Him by a semicircle of angelic beings of the various hierarchies. From Christ streams forward a rose-pink stream of divine love towards the smaller hill where St. Michael, the Ambassador of Christ, stands. He adds brilliant cosmic light to the stream of divine love. Now this stream of light-permeated divine love streams further forward, spreading slightly, reaching the two Great Initiates of the Western World. They focus the stream onto Rudolf Steiner in front of them. As Rudolf Steiner receives this stream from the spiritual world behind him, he transforms it so that it becomes a power that fills the entire space in front of him — the Ambassador of

*Happy Birthday
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe!
August 28, 1749*

*In the contemplation of nature you must
Regard the One as All;
Nothing is within, nothing is without.
Grasp thus without delay
A holy open secret.*

"Epirrhema" – Goethe

St. Michael, with a living three-dimensional mosaic of constantly moving little luminous cells of the most variegated colors and brightness, a spectacle that tells, in a secret language of light and love, how the human being can find who he or she really is, and what the mission of each one is, in being active, always true to oneself. Thus Rudolf Steiner, the Ambassador of St. Michael, who is the Ambassador of Christ, brings to mankind, in a form appropriate for our consciousness, the inspiration of cosmic light-permeated divine love. That is (as well as I can say it) the mission of Rudolf Steiner which he accepted and carried out."

For many of us, Ernst's imagination of the mission of Rudolf Steiner could be transformed into an imagination of the mission of Ernst Katz. It would be the same picture that Ernst painted in his lecture and essay, but Ernst would be standing at the front of the stage as the ambassador of Rudolf Steiner.

Text by Dwight Ebaugh, Photograph by Douglas Miller, Ann Arbor, MI

Member Reports: Some Spoke to the Stars!

Last month Mary Stewart Adams prepared us for a remarkable event occurring in the heavens on July 29th. We invited members to let us know what they may have done to mark the event and we are delighted to share the following reports.

Sandy Mercury Seal from Long Island – Atlantic Ocean
created by Patricia (Mary Adam's sister)



From Chicago

The cosmic alignments of July 29, 2013, were carried with joy and reverence here in the Heart-land, as over a 100 souls gathered at the great inland sea of Chicago to tune in & celebrate our connection to the stars.

I had heard about the 'Grand Sextile' in early May and mentioned it to the 12 people in my Festivals Study Group, and even though we take a hiatus during the summer, we decided to explore this celestial event together.

I began doing research into the Last Quarter Moon of July 29th, a powerful lunation in trine with Venus completing a grand sextile with Saturn, Neptune, Jupiter and Pluto. This inscribed Hexagram, a six-pointed star within the circle of the Zodiac, is a pattern also known as a Star of David. It is rare and magical, consisting of two interlocking grand trines, in Earth (Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn) and in Water (Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces). These graceful aspects hold great promise for peaceful healing energy, forming a potent imagery of the role of free will in allowing future opportunities to fulfill themselves.

Then on July 22nd at my 'We Tribe' drum circle for the Full Thunder Moon, many people from the larger community were interested in being part of the Grand Sextile gathering. I was a bit concerned because over the 12 years I have been doing these circles they have taken on a circus-like atmosphere, with fire spinners

and hula-hoop dancers and lots of spectators. Dealing with a larger group changed our plans quite a bit, but we felt it was important to serve the community.

As the sun set at “the Magic Hedge”, a bird sanctuary on Montrose beach on Chicago’s north side, a group of teenagers planted crystals corresponding to the various planetary energies in the shape of a giant Star of David around our circle, with a large bon-fire representing the sun in the center and the drummers on the edges, holding the energy of the planet earth, three dancers formed the lower tetrahedron reaching out to the heavens, and three dancers responded as the upper tetrahedron, the cosmic Sophia, answering in a “call and response”. Everyone took turns moving through the space, tuning into each planet, singing to the stars, dancing the zodiac, drumming in the heart of mother earth, interacting and connecting to each alignment. In the vocal windows I spoke of the attributes of the Grand Sextile and at the very end, with the sound of didgeridoos as background, four members of our study group delivered the Foundation Stone Meditation, striking tuning forks tuned to A at 432Hz. The crowd spontaneously made a chant of the last lines, which went on for a long while:

“Warm our hearts
Enlighten our heads
That good may become”

~Hazel Archer Ginsberg, a member of the Branch Council in Chicago

Grand Sextile at the Turning Place, Viroqua, WI Anthroposophical Group

On Monday late afternoon, to mark the cosmic event, a group of four members gathered together in our meeting space. A space was cleared on the floor so we could lay out the zodiac symbols from The Sun-Zodiac Experience by Margot Rossler. These cards, created as representatives of a series of beautiful, richly colored glass etchings provided our zodiac circle.

Planet cards were made using water-colored paper and the planets were placed in their rightful place for the event. Silk scarves of red, yellow and orange were used to build up the “earth” trine and blue, purple, green scarves created the “water” trine.

The four of us, standing in east, south, west and north turned our attention to our task and opened with a verse by Rudolf Steiner:

*My head bears the being of the resting stars
My breast harbors the movement of the wandering stars
My body lives and moves amid the elements*

This am I



Then we re-created the hexagram moving the scarves one by one from planet to planet within the zodiac. Into this we each spoke a panel of the Foundation Stone Meditation.

Our simple ceremony concluded with the song entitled *Epitaph* with words by Novalis.

*Though my soul may set in darkness, it will rise in perfect light;
I have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night, fearful of the night.*

~ Marianne Fieber, Viroqua, WI

What's going on in our Region?



SAVE THE DATES for the
Anthroposophical Society in America
Annual Conference
October 11-13, 2013 – Monadnock
Waldorf School, Keene, NH

“In anthroposophy, it is a question of the truths that can be brought to light by it. In the anthroposophical society, it is a question of the life in it.”

– Rudolf Steiner

<http://www.anthroposophy.org/conference-2013.html>

Cosmic Cycles, Earthly Rhythms ~ Our Speaking to the Stars

November 15-16, 2013

a stellar weekend event in preparation for the Holy Nights in Viroqua, WI –
with **Mary Stewart Adams** and **Eurythmy** with **Lynn Stull**
sponsored by The Turning Place – Viroqua's Anthroposophical Group



Friday evening lecture ~ **What Man Speaks to the Stars?** 7:00 pm

Saturday Holy Night Journal-making workshop ~ 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Saturday evening **The Art of Social Astronomy Festival** ~ 7:00–8:30 pm

Weekend fee ~ \$60-- Friday and Saturday evenings only ~ \$20

Workshop space will be limited – For a complete brochure, contact Marianne Fieber – marianne.fieber@yahoo.com

YOU'RE INVITED! To join the members of your CRC on phone calls in October.

Our next regional call is scheduled for

October 28th 7:15 - 8:15 pm CST

TOPIC: Follow-up from our Presencing AGM with a Peek into the Future. We have been working with a number of the images coming out of our work together last May and we want to bring more voices into the conversation.

We will be using the Anthroposophical Society in America's go-to-meeting system and will be sending out invites in advance of the calls. We would love for you to respond to those invites, letting us know who will be joining us.

We will post the agenda and any questions/thoughts to ponder on our Central Region webpage prior to our conversation.

We look forward to speaking with you.

(Notes from our August 26th call will be posted soon to the CRC webpage)



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