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The Central Regional Council began to explore what was coming toward us from the future during our May 2013 gathering in Viroqua, WI. Albert Linderman joined us to provide an overview of Theory U in conjunction with our theme of 'Social Imagination: Weaving Past and Future through Presencing'. In imagining what was next; we wondered: Is there perhaps another form for our gatherings that we may want to consider?

The Grand Sextile of July 29th 2013 caught the imagination of many of us. From that CRC member Marianne Fieber asked the question: What other important celestial events can we expect? Of course the stars always have something to say. The question became how can we be part of the conversation?

Mary Adams, herself a rising star with roots here in the Central Region knew there was a buzz about a rare lunar tetrad. We began looking at Rudolf Steiner's 'Stars Verse'* with the idea that humanity must now develop a conscious conversation with the cosmos - and the **'Speaking with the Stars'** initiative began.

From this process, a two-year project began to emerge in response to cosmic events. We started to work with Steiner's lectures "Human Questions and Cosmic Answers". Folks from the Central Region were invited to join in our spiritual research, taking the work into the Holy Nights of 2013-14. Our intention: Cultivate throughout the coming year a cosmic connection, culminating in a region-wide response, especially around Easter 2015.

We dedicated our work for 2014 as a research and tutorial year to introduce ourselves to the stars and gather our collective voice for our speaking. Taking a clue from the cosmos, those willing to be collaborators in their local areas, were dubbed 'Beehive Clusters', which came from an image shared during our January 2014 call, of the Cancer constellation which can be viewed as the pre-formation of the heart-forces.

In February 2014 the CRC started envisioning how the 'Beehive Clusters' could be welcomed to participate in a planning meeting meant to empower them as leaders to hold gatherings in their area.

In March 2014 the 'Star Speaker' logo inspired by the 'Stars Verse'* created by Daisy Hu from the Chicago Festivals Group, appeared for the 1st time in the March e-correspondence. By then, many of us had begun to participate in viewing sunrise and sunset and attending to the new & full moon phases.

April 2014 was chock full of celestial events. We tuned into the Mars opposition making its closest approach to Earth. And on Holy Tuesday April 15th 2014 many of us had gatherings to hold the light as Michaelites during the total Lunar Eclipse on the Vernal Full Moon. (which determines the date of Easter) This was the 1st in

the tetrad, a series of 4 consecutive Lunar eclipses. On April 22 we experienced the Cardinal Grand Cross, a rare astrological alignment of four planets in exact 90 degree aspect to one another in the cardinal signs, of Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn. The April 2014 e-correspondence has many great descriptions of local gatherings around these cosmic happenings.

We held the Event Carrier Planning Meeting in Mackinaw City, MI at the Headlands International Dark Sky Park, June 1-4, 2014. We were guided in our journey by program director Mary Adams who reminded us that we were at the beginning of an auspicious cosmic activity. As a group we grappled with the question: "How can a community of individuals informed by anthroposophy engage in activity that is both informed by the current celestial gesture and by their shared ideas with one another?" The 'Beehive Clusters' worked to deepen the study and connect to both earth and sky through walks and observation exercises. Mary stressed the relational nature of our contemplative action. The stars are eternally creative, evolving beings, so in a Goethean sense, the conscious direction of our will forces toward communion with the stars opens a portal for a process of co-becoming with them. Out of our nebulaic activity several initiatives were birthed to take back to our respective communities. We were left with a deep appreciation of our responsibility for engaging with the stars.

The New Moon of June 27th 2014, being 9 months before the Solar Eclipse on March 20th 2015, and the Full Moon of July 12th, also 9 months ahead of the Vernal Eclipse of April 4, 2015, signaled the analogy to a human gestation described by Karl Koenig - the idea that we participate in the 'conception' of the New Year at the season of St John's. This analogy allowed us to divide the time to the Spring Eclipses into three 'trimesters', during which conference calls were hosted that would foster the development of ideas about how to approach these eclipse events.

The Full Moon of Oct 8th 2014 was the 2nd in the Lunar eclipse tetrad, occurring during the Draconid meteor shower. In the Michaelmas edition of the

e-correspondence the trimesters were detailed by Mary Adams in relation to Steiner's 'Stars' verse*:

'The Stars Once Spoke' - Astrology

1st trimester; major organs develop

'World Destiny' - Astronomy

2nd trimester; transition from embryonic to fetal stage

'What Man Speaks to the Stars' - Astrosophia

3rd trimester; individual destiny works into form; we begin to speak to the stars.

Our work throughout the Holy Nights of 2014-15 was deepened by our Speaking. On our February 2015 call the analogy of the 'Blessing Way' was elaborated; making ready for the birth of the New Sun at Easter - a labor of love and a 'birthing' opportunity for each of us individually, and in our Anthroposophical community collectively. Mary Adams also spoke about 'Finding the Divine Feminine in the Mystery of Easter.'

The New Moon of March 20th 2015 is a Solar Eclipse occurring at 5:45 pm CDT. Maximum eclipse is just ahead of the actual Spring Equinox moment.

The Full Moon on April 4th 2015 is the 3rd total Lunar Eclipse in the tetrad, occurring on Holy Saturday of Easter Week, heightening the mystery of Christ's descent into the depths of the earth.

Here is a list from our Feb. 24th conference call of our 'Speaking with the Stars' events being hosted by the various 'Beehive Clusters' throughout the Central Region around Easter-Tide:

Ann Arbor Michigan

West Michigan

Northwest Michigan

Chicago, IL.

Viroqua, WI.

New Orleans

St. Louis
Iowa
Twin Cities
Northwest Minnesota
Fargo, ND

The final eclipses in the tetrad series begins with the Solar eclipse at New Moon Sept. 13th 2015, and ends with the Lunar eclipse right around Michaelmas on the Harvest Full Moon of Sept. 27-28th 2015. The CRC plans to hold a retreat honoring the work of the 'Beehive Clusters' October 7-9, 2015 preceding the AGM that weekend, as a final closing to this stellar initiative. For more details go to the CRC web page. <http://www.anthroposophy.org/groups/central-region/>

~Hazel Archer Ginsberg, member of the Central Regional Council.

***"The Stars once spoke to Man
It is World destiny that they are silent now.
To be aware of the silence
Can become pain for earthly Man.**

**But in the deepening silence
There grows and ripens
What Man speaks to the Stars**

**To be aware of the speaking
Can be strength for Spirit-Man"**

Give to Marie Steiner by Rudolf Steiner on Christmas day 1922