



Greetings! On February 17, 2022, we had our Eastern Regional Video Newsletter. After some initial uncertainty trying to figure how to record, as none of us were able to host, we had to abandon that effort, and therefore we offer the following report. After Dave Mansur welcomed everyone, I opened with the Threefold Verse for America.

We briefly introduced ourselves, Angela Foster, Cathy Green, Dave Mansur and myself, Gino Ver Eecke. We opened the evening by thanking and saying goodbye to Sheena Ifkovitch, who has worked with us from the beginning and whose presence and work ethic has inspired us, but who is now more needed in her community. We presented her with a gift of a round 12" beeswax imprint of the Angelus painting by J.F. Millet

We shared our mission statement:

*The Eastern Region Holding Group consists of individuals from the three areas (Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Southeast areas) who see it as their mission:*

*To support, further and share the meaningful work of Rudolf Steiner and the whole of Anthroposophy in the eastern region through exchange of ideas, research and art generated within local groups and members.*

*To provide opportunities for human beings longing for the spirit to meet each other soul to soul, through conversation platforms.*

*To promote larger exchange of information and collaboration between branches and groups and radiate out the healing effects of Anthroposophical spiritual endeavors in the Eastern Region.*

*To create a bridge between the national organization and the groups, branches and members of the Eastern Region.*

I then reiterated the questions that were mailed to the Groups and Branches:

- How do you work and how do you involve the School of Spiritual Science and the wider anthroposophical movement in your work?
- How do you foster a relationship with the national office?
- What role does your Branch fulfill in your community?
- How is Anthroposophy fostered in your Branch?
- What are your future plans?

Our first presenter was **Kathleen Wright from the Rudolf Steiner Branch in Chapel Hill, NC**, representing the Southeast area. Kathleen shared with us the history of the branch, how at one time there were over 100 members, and now currently around 30. Most of the members are of an aging population and the question was asked how to attract younger people. The community faced many challenges due to Covid, although the Waldorf school survived the pandemic well. How blessed they are to have four eurythmists! The School of Spiritual Science is active and has three class holders. And they are looking forward to hosting the MysTech Conference and the Mystery Drama workshop with Barbara Renold.

Then we opened it up for some questions. Yonas Ketsela, from Alexandria, VA, remarked that so few young teachers at the Waldorf school are interested in anthroposophy, but that, remarkably, Waldorf parents are interested. He suggested offering a study group for beginners.

Then we welcomed **Martha Grib and Carol L. Rearick from the Albert Steffen Group in Pittsburgh, PA**, representing the Mid-Atlantic Area.

Martha told how the group started in the 1930's by a group of engineers that came over from Stuttgart, Germany, to teach at the local university. In the early years they had about 60 people attending the meetings, with regular well-known anthroposophists visiting from Europe. Martha, as a 17 year-old, would accompany her father to the meetings. How fondly she recalls those rich and fulfilling meetings of yesteryear. Currently she is holding the torch and there are about four people meeting regularly on Friday evenings. Martha was granted to work with the content of the lessons of the School of Spiritual Science from Ernst Katz, which is held once a month. There is a local Waldorf school.

**Barbara Richardson, Marke Levene and Pat Chanterelle presented for the Penmaenmawr Group from Freeport, Maine**, representing the Northeast Area.

Barbara opened with a brief history of the group. The group was named after the place Rudolf Steiner visited in Wales, Great Britain in August 1923. She spoke of the challenges of the geographic location in Maine; with no street lighting, white lines on roads corroding due to salt, and long distances, which makes meeting in person challenging. The Group has resorted to online meetings and it is welcomed especially by some members who have left the community.

The opportunity to meet online allows a greater number of people to join the work and the spirit is felt to be alive at those moments. A great number of people are longing to come together. New forms of meeting are emerging. Barbara also shared her rich history working for the Anthroposophical Society, how she currently continues that work in her community together with Marke. Both are eurythmists. Barbara also provides Eurythmy in the Workplace.

Pat Chanterelle shared with us the work of the Christian Community. A group was formed and they approached Rev. Susan Lowndes from the Boston Congregation. A conversation followed, as Rev. Lowndes outlined the path toward becoming a Christian Community Congregation, comparing it to giving birth and to being a parent for life! All four members of the group said yes enthusiastically and are currently receiving the Sacraments three times a year around the festivals.

Marke shared the history of the Art Studio, their plans for expansion, their challenges with the restaurant below them and the need to let go of the space, to find a new place at a church. He shared his enthusiasm (as we know from Marke) to start an initiative to bring eurythmy to families. How this is an untapped potential for deepening connections within a family. Recently he was invited to do eurythmy at the Waldorf school.

The Group is organizing a large St. Johns Festival on June 24-25 with ten speakers.

We opened it up for more questions and Jean Yeager shared some of his work with the prisoners. Anthroposophical Prison Outreach is always looking for more volunteers. He notes that the inmates are eager to take up anthroposophy, and begin the path of self-transformation. Contact program director Kathy Serafin at [kathys@anthroposophy.org](mailto:kathys@anthroposophy.org) or follow this link to learn more. <https://www.anthroposophyforprisoners.org>

[Here is a link to the saved chat from our meeting.](#) Thank you to all for your contributions!

### Upcoming Events

There will be a **Northeast Area Gathering in Ipswich, MA, April 8 and 9**. Please stay tuned for more details or contact Dave Mansur for more information.

The Anthroposophical Society in America presents ***Sophia Rising: Unveiling the Wisdom of Being Human in Santa Fe, New Mexico, April 21-24***. Registration is open now and spaces are filling up fast! Visit [www.anthroposophy.org/sophiarising](http://www.anthroposophy.org/sophiarising) for more info and to register.

For other events and to share with each other, please visit... [the Eastern Region Events bulletin board](#) and

Please feel free to contact us if we can be of service. Our contact information is listed on the web site at [www.rudolfsteiner.org/easternregion.We](http://www.rudolfsteiner.org/easternregion.We) welcome any feedback!

All in all, this was a wonderful evening, with warmth, connecting, and sparking renewed enthusiasm for the tasks ahead.

Thank you all!

Gino Ver Eecke  
Eastern Region Representative to the General Council (NY)

**Eastern Region Holding Group:**

Angela Foster (GA), Cathy Green (TN), Dave Mansur (MD), Gino Ver Eecke (NY)