

IN THIS SECTION:

Initiatives small and large dot the sprawling landscape of America's second largest city.

Marke Levene and friends have successfully shared a new mystery drama in "Readers Theater" format; their plans for international performance go ahead.

Starting ninety years ago as a farm to provide food for New York City's anthroposophical restaurant, Threefold is a rich and mature community.

Forty years ago the first eurythmists trained on North American soil received their diplomas.

San Francisco's CIIS is exploring the possibility of a Waldorf-based integral teacher training with advanced degrees.

Elizabeth Beavan's description of an "integrated approach to teaching" sounds like a step toward Rudolf Steiner's dream of shifting the educational expectations of all schools.



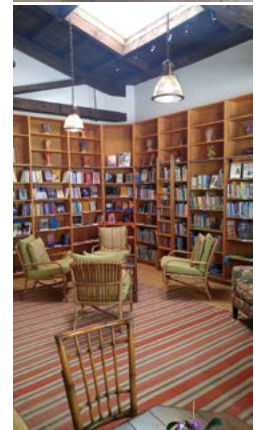
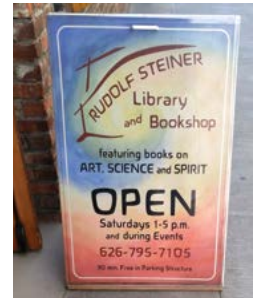
by John Beck

Seizing a chance to spend two winter-spring months in Los Angeles, I was able to enjoy the second largest US metropolis, experience its quite adequate public transit, and touch base with some anthroposophical initiatives. Finally I saw the **Rudolf Steiner Community Center**, beautiful home of the **Los Angeles Branch of the Anthroposophical Society** in downtown Pasadena, for two house-filling lectures: Rev. Bastiaan Baan on "The Origins of Evil" and Dr. Peter Selg on "Rudolf Steiner and Christian Rosenkreutz." A Shakespeare workshop with associate editor Fred Dennehy was coming, and the Center's 25th anniversary was celebrated in June.

On my two visits I greeted retiring branch president Jane Hipolito and husband Terry (two stalwarts of the Literary Arts and Humanities Section), Linda Connell of the Western Regional Council and its former General Council representative, author-translator Philip Mees, Margaret Shipman of the GEMS national study group and Traveling Speakers Program, former General Secretary MariJo Rogers visiting from Sacramento, and educational consultant Joan Jaekel, now working on the startup ShadeTree School in Watts. The Branch has a large meeting room and stage, plus a library and seminar space, and a bookstore and reading room. Branch and related activities—study groups, arts classes, therapies—are listed at www.anthroposophyla.org.

Pasadena is a town north and east of LA city in Los Angeles county. In Altadena, between Pasadena and imposing mountains to the north, I called on **Truus Geraets**, therapeutic eurythmist and social activist on three continents. Her site at www.healingartofliving.com says, "Truus' life included many endeavors, as she discovered how she could best serve 'the future.'"

Elderberries Threefold Café (four stars on Yelp, 253 reviews; elderberriescafe.org) is right on Sunset Boulevard in the middle of



The LA Branch: at the door, reading room, meeting hall.



Above, Have Seeds Threefold House; below, Elderberries crew at the counter



Hollywood. Dottie Zold and friends' visionary vegan hang-out "strives to nourish the human being as a whole. We see our work starting with providing healing, nourishing food and drink, and ending with the creation of a world where every individual is allowed a dignified life truly worthy of the human being! We feel that we must start right now, right here, creating the world we want to see!"

Elderberries' story is actively unfolding, rhizome-like. First offshoot is **Have Seeds Threefold House**, "a five-bedroom wayfarers' inn and co-learning hub in the heart of LA, where wanderers, seekers, and students of life find home."

You can become a patron at [patreon.com](https://www.patreon.com). When I dropped

by, Emerson activist Stuart Weeks was talking with householders and Elizabeth Roosevelt, now ASA Interim Director of Programs, on the front porch. The next offshoot? Atlanta, which may extend as a "grailway" back to Nancy Poer's ranch in Northern California. This whole millennial story unfolds best on Facebook!

At Elderberries I spoke for a few minutes with Caleb Buchbinder, who spoke at the fall conference in St. Louis last year about "Classroom Alive" which had organized a walking/learning trip from Sweden to Greece. Another walk took place in Los Angeles in January (map below). The journey comes to life in a video at Vimeo [vimeo.com/156753068]. A sample day, early on:

"Sergei Prokofieff lectured on the Christmas Conference at the 2002 year-end conference at the Goetheanum. He contrasted the new mysteries with the old mysteries. The mysteries were the places in ancient times where spiritual wisdom was taught to selected pupils. In these mysteries pupils were given responsibilities as they progressed along their path of development. Their teacher observed their progress and gave them tasks and responsibilities suitable to their level of development. Anthroposophy belongs to the new mysteries. They are mysteries of the will. They are based entirely on freedom. We see what needs to be done, what needs to be supported. Then we take on these responsibilities ourselves to the extent we are able. No one assigns us responsibilities. We take them up freely."

— From Linda Connell's essay on the mission page of the Los Angeles Branch of the Anthroposophical Society.

"Day 3. This morning we develop our capacity for taking joy in scraping the spilled pot of oats from the ground into hungry morning mouths. The day begins and with the first steps we have left the womb of the canyon and hit the hard pavement. Laughter is close on our heels, and as we flop down for lunch a flurry of free tacos rain down upon us. Already it is

striking how at home we can be, getting water in the fire station, singing for the strangers we pass, making a lunch table in an unassuming patch of green. All around us the imposing structures of wealth rise up; walking on roads with no sidewalks in the wealthiest zip-code in the world we wonder at the lives lived here. Arriving at our destination for the night we are welcomed with pure generosity into a small retreat center in Beverly Hills. We spend the night hearing stories of our hosts' work in creating the Earth to Paris campaign for COP21."



Finally there's who I *didn't* see this time. The City of Angels sprawls over 500+ square miles between ocean and mountains. By natural gift it would be a small city; it blossomed thanks to the gift of imported water. And

as the Hollywood "dream factory," it is center of a century-long and global inundation of popular culture. Matre Matt Sawaya [[facebook.com/matre.mattsawaya](https://www.facebook.com/matre.mattsawaya)] is here, rapping and making videos about demilitarizing the LA schools. Filmmaker Matthew Temple ("The Girls of Summer") of the former WeStrive.org is here, and Orland Bishop and ShadeTree Multicultural Foundation [www.facebook.com/shadetreefoundation]. Schools, teacher training, therapies, artists, students. A large, deep, quiet ferment. One must come back.

John Beck is editor of being human.