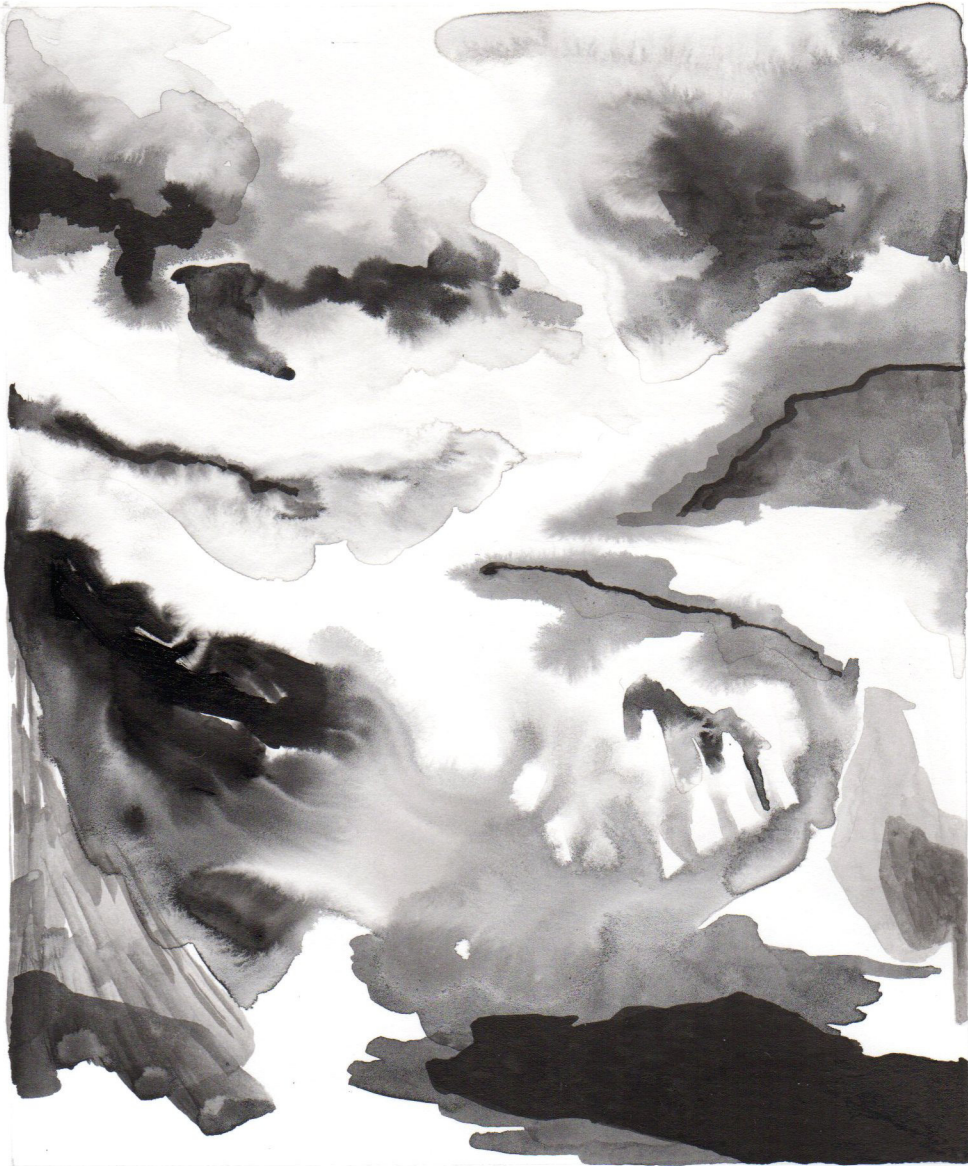


Chanticleer

NEWSLETTER OF THE BERKSHIRE-TACONIC BRANCH OF THE ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 3, NOVEMBER 2016



Song on the Abyss*—Ella Lapointe

“ I am called to look at everything without illusion; I must be neither pessimistic nor optimistic, so that impulses awoken in my soul which give me the power to aid the free development of the human being and to contribute to human progress in the place and situation where I am. Even if the faults and tragedies of the age are very visible to Spiritual Science, this should not be an incitement to pessimism or optimism, but rather a call for an inner awakening, so that independent work and the cultivation of accurate thinking may result. ”

From Rudolf Steiner's lecture, "Social and Anti-Social Forces in the Human Being," Bern, December 12, 1918 (GA 186)

** Lately I have found it hard to contemplate the changing seasons without also being distracted by my fear around impending shifts in outer politics. The prospect of what is happening behind the scenes is perhaps even more worrisome. This painting emerged from the experience of looking into an uncertain future while also striving to hold on to what can collectively lift us up. ~E.L*

Another step on the Branch's journey was taken on the 21st of October. That step was taken by those in the Branch who feel responsible for its manifestation, and it's an effort to reach out to the different centers of anthroposophical striving in this region by going to them in person. On October 21st it was Camphill Ghent's turn to be visited.

Camphill Ghent hosted the 4 hour event in its community room. Some of the Camphill Ghent members and friends of the Branch who live here were on hand to greet the Branch coordinators. We began the evening by taking part in the coordinator's regular meeting. The Branch coordinators meet twice a month on Fridays and shape Branch-sponsored festivals, set budgets, organize extraordinary events, and publish *Chanticleer* among other things.

What was the message coming down in that meeting? Jordan Walker said that the Branch coordinators really and truly welcome any regional member to join them in order to better shape the life of the Branch. It's an OPEN meeting! And that's why we of Camphill Ghent got to participate in the meeting, which in this particular case focused on preparing the **All Souls' Festival** (see elsewhere in this publication). Also, we explored briefly where the next Branch visit would be. The coordinators set the tone for their meetings with an ongoing study of the aphoristic *Michael Letters*.

After an enjoyable potluck "next door," those remaining were joined by some new friends for an Open Conversation, consisting largely of listening to people speak about initiatives that they are undertaking out of anthroposophy as well as hearing impressions of some recent venues of significance that had been attended by some of us. What was satisfying to me was that listening and openness were present in that room, but also warmth, interest, creativity, and humility. It was stimulating and thought-provoking to hear about what the different people were working on. In the room were members who are working on a Branch festival chorus, the Statue of Equality (now that's a story unto itself!), and a practical training in Goethean science, to name some. Other initiatives from far and near were spotlighted. Impressive.

To any constellation of anthroposophical work out there in the Berkshire Taconic region, we urge you to take a turn and invite the Branch over to your location if at all possible. We at Camphill say to the Branch, "Thanks for coming, and come again."

—Nicholas Franceschelli

REFLECTING ON FESTIVALS

In the course of the earth's rotation around the sun the invitations to participate in the living year come to us from all directions. The natural world invites our participation, the legacy of human history invites our recognition, our own inner longing for meaning and connection invites us to follow it. Festivals can be seen as our collective social response to these invitations.

It's hard today to gauge the true importance of the holidays that fill our calendar. From one perspective they may be viewed as the provider of cherished childhood memories and a rhythmical way of maintaining connections to family and friends. From an increasingly cynical perspective, holidays have become merely kiddie play. Only suckers take them as more than themes for the billboards and display windows of our consumer marketplace, creations by the greeting card industry, or antiquated hold overs from religious superstition of the past. Viewed through a child's eyes though, it's hard to overstate the importance that the common social customs of our festival life plays in shaping a sense of belonging and cultural cohesion. Throughout history this has been how we have built our civic, national, cultural and/or religious identity. Festivals are an important way that we learn our place in the human community.

Perhaps no festival provides a more post-modern, strange brew of earnest fantasy and ironic kitsch than the costumed pageantry that plays itself out across the United States every October 31st.

The word "Halloween" is actually the slurring together of 3 words: "All Hallows' Eve." It is the first evening of a 3-part festival. "To hallow" means "to make holy." On the eve of a new November, what is it that people wanted to make holy? In the unconscious/subconscious reenactments of our social traditions, what mood fills homes and neighborhoods across America as we nurse our sugar hangover and clean smashed pumpkins and fake cobwebs from our front porches?

Today, for most of the country, the preparation has become

the party, and what was being prepared for, the main event, has faded almost completely from our cultural memory. The average child trick or treating today is taking part in a strangely derivative ritual with a murky social message about the meaning of life. Sketched crudely: for one night we enact the mythic choosing of our identity from a small pool of movie super heroes or shallow cultural cliches and dutifully present ourselves for commercial exchanges surrounded by the horror of death (mostly by murder). A tacit message presented and reinforced from every corner of a child's world: It is the personal acquisition and hoarding of "treats" and their sweet consumption that give life its meaning.

How does an "anthroposophical" approach to festivals differ from the secularized, monetized, commercialized festival of our suburban strip malls?

From one perspective, the festivals of a Waldorf School or the local Anthroposophical Branch serve the same function that any holidays do. Learning songs together, making costumes, experiencing a magical lantern parade through the evening forest: these moments form a common culture and build a sense of shared meaning. And it's shared meaning that has the potential to form harmonious community. With our unique customs and unique systems of meaning, is it inevitable that anthroposophical initiatives form small islands within the wider sea of our "mainstream" culture? Or, if all festivals are, by their nature, pedagogical, what might we be invited to learn? Is there the potential for a healthful, more wakeful, approach to festival life that can be applied to any particular content?

A truly contemporary festival must be more than any festival was asked of in the past. The festivals of a Waldorf school are teaching us not how to behave as a citizen of X country, or a believer in X religion, but how to be festival creators. And not just the children, but all who participate.

A truly contemporary festival should leave its participants free, even as it invites shared meaning and a sense of wide and

A RESPONSE TO “SLOW THINKING”

John Scott,

I enjoyed Jon McAlice’s short essay on “Slow Thinking” [October]. I published a piece by Jon on “Reading Steiner” [*being human*, spring 2016] which was quite enlightening for me, both for reading Steiner and for the experience that many have when Steiner’s work and thought is treated academically.

In reading this current piece it occurred to me that we talk about Platonists and Aristotelians a lot, but we often end up denying the “others” subtly. I know I’ve done so from the other side from which Jon is writing. He says, “The notion that anthroposophists should be out in the world networking and doing spiritual good work is only valid if we disregard the non-linear, individual nature of the path that lies at the heart of anthroposophy. Then where would we be?”

To be exact, this needs another word, either “all” before anthroposophists or “only” after should. The “notion” Jon posits that others are making is only invalid when it is stated exclusively. It would indeed be quite damaging if all anthroposophists were always out in the world. It would also be quite damaging if all anthroposophists were always pondering inwardly; as Steiner observed, the time for the life of monasticism, where slow thinking surely had a place, has passed—as an exclusive commitment.

Strader in the Mystery Dramas finds himself alienated from Felix, Johannes, Capesius; he finds the spirit awakens for him only in action. At the end of his “abyss” scene (*The Souls Awakening*, Scene 3) Maria advises him:

STRADER

*So here at the abyss I have to listen
to words which I considered only foolish
when Hilary’s adviser uttered them! —*

MARIA

*While Felix tempers for himself the weapons
which shield him against danger,—one who walks
your paths of soul must use another kind.*

*The sword Capesius forges for himself
and bravely wields in battle with his foes
must change for Strader to a shadow-sword
were he to start with it that spirit war
which powers of destiny ordain for souls
who mightily must turn the spirit-being,
matured for deeds, to earth activity.*

*You cannot use their weapons for yourself;
but you must know them so that you can forge
your own from out soul-substance thoughtfully.*

I’m also reminded of the understanding I have gained through Barfield of the deep insight of Coleridge, who never, perhaps, stated it clearly. And that is that the gods must create fields of experience for us out of polarities of contraries, the best-known being light and dark. When only one is present, the field of experience collapses. All light? All dark? No sight. If we extend this to anthroposophical work: all meditative inwardness, or likewise all outward activity, must starve the movement of its experiential validity.

John H. Beck

HARTMUT VON JEETZE, 1928–2016

Hartmut von Jeetze, 88, of Chatham, NY, passed away peacefully at home on the morning of Monday, October 17th.

Born on February 13th, 1928, in Pilgramshain, Germany, Hartmut was the son of the late Joachim and Dorothea (nee Vierhaus) von Jeetze. Hartmut dedicated his life to establishing the work of Camphill Village communities for persons with disabilities, and to biodynamic and sustainable agriculture in the United States. He is pre-deceased by his wife

Gerda (nee Babendererde), his brother Eckart von Jeetze, his sister Christine von Jeetze, and his sister Sophia Kunz.

Hartmut is survived by his sister Gabriele von Jeetze of Germany, his daughters Johanna Steinrueck of Minneapolis, Renate Varriale of Kinderhook, Barbara Paulsen of Denmark, Bridget von Jeetze of Chatham, Thea Garvie of Ghent, and Frances Kane of Minneapolis, as well as 16 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

“Festivals,” continued

open community. A contemporary festival should heighten our connection to the natural world. It should strive to tune our feelings to the wisdom and wonder and beauty of our inner life and teach us the archetypes that show up in festivals across cultures and throughout time. Creating contemporary festivals is a very high ideal.

Anthroposophy is filled with high ideals. Luckily, it is also filled with the means of achieving practical results. Here are three practical ways for us, as individuals, as families, and as a global community, bringing new life to our festivals.

The first is to trust in what is most intimate and immediate to our senses. A transformation is occurring in the natural world, and an opportunity arises to mark the corresponding inner shift inside of us. It is, in fact, these changes which signal the need for the festival in the first place. At this time of year more of the moon and sky are exposed through increasingly bare branches. Autumn’s vividly warm colors already carry

with them the premonition of Winter’s cold starkness. The smell of leaves fills the air, beginning their inevitable decay into the dark soil necessary for new life. Like a rainbow, the colored leaves are even more awe-inspiring against the bitter-sweet knowledge that they will soon pass away. The Fall transitions from Summer’s proliferation of lush life to Winter’s crystalline inwardness. People get colds and the sick and elderly often pass away. This phenomenon provides the concrete foundation upon which to build a true festival.

A second technique for reconnecting to the deeper reality of festivals is to create and experience Art firsthand. Creative practice sensitizes one’s feelings to subtle realities missed in the hustle bustle of busy lives. But here, for this purpose, Art can be expanded to paying deep attention to all culture. How wonderful it is to be able, through a young child’s eyes, to experience the festivals of childhood again as if for the first time! How refreshing to drink in the less well known festivals of

NOVEMBER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Branch All-Souls Festival

Tuesday, November 1, 7pm You are warmly invited to our annual All-Souls Festival, a solemn and respectful moment of the year where we may consciously come together as a community on both sides of the threshold, with offerings of music, verse, and a talk by Hugh Thornton. Please send the names of those who have passed-on this past year to Gloria Kemp to be read aloud: 672-4844. *At Windy Hill.*

First Class Study

Wednesday, November 2, 7pm

At Windy Hill. Call Hanna, 325-3648, or John, 325-1113.

Resources in your own backyard

Thursday, November 3, 6:30pm

Introductions to the work of Camphill Ghent, Community Hospice and other services. Please call 518-392-2760 if you have an interest to attend. At Camphill Ghent.

First Class

Thursday, November 3, 7:45 pm

At Camphill Village, Copake. Call Anke Smeele, 329-7973.

Branch “Initiative” Group

Friday, November 4, 4pm All are invited who wish to take an active part in the life of our Branch of the Anthroposophical Society, or just learn more about it. We begin with a short study from Steiner’s *Anthroposophical Leading Thoughts*. Contact the editor or anyone listed as a participant in the group on the mailer page of this newsletter. *At Windy Hill.*

Retreat with Arthur Zajonc for Members of the School of Spiritual Science, First Class

Friday, November 4, 7:15pm: “Getting to the Threshold”

Saturday, November 5, 8:30am: *Third Class Lesson*

10:20am to 12:30pm: “The Way Through the First Three Class Lessons” - introduced and led by Arthur Zajonc, with eurythmy and conversation. Suggested preparatory reading for the retreat: 1.) Chapter 8 of *The Threshold of the Spiritual World* 2.) Chapter 4 of *A Way of Self-Knowledge*.

All activities will be in the Cultural Hall in Camphill Ghent. If you wish to attend please contact Anna Rée at 518-721-8508 or <abree71@hotmail.com>.

The Brain is a Boundary: with Alexander Dreier

Saturday, November 5, 4pm

Presented by SteinerBooks | Lindisfarne Books: Join us as we celebrate the publication of *The Brain is a Boundary: A journey in poems to the borderlines of Lewy body dementia* by Alexander Dreier (Lindisfarne Books, 2016), with readings from both Alexander (poetry) and Arthur Zajonc (from his introduction). *At the Hawthorne Valley Waldorf School.* Contact: friends@steinerbooks.org.

Storytelling with Paul Haygood

Saturday, Nov. 5, 6:30pm *At Camphill Ghent.* Paul will share stories from Grimms’, Japan and the USA. 518-721-8243

Rudolf Steiner’s 6 Essential Exercises—*a practice group*
Sunday, November 6, 5:30-6:45pm

At 84 Main Street in Philmont; call 518-672-7302 for more.

When Knowing Becomes Love: A talk by Arthur Zajonc

Sunday, November 6, 4pm At Camphill Ghent, Cultural Hall. Questions please contact Anna Rée at <abree71@hotmail.com> or by phone 518-721-8508.

Restoring Hope: Rudolf Steiner’s Social Vision of a Threefold Commonwealth with Martin Large

Sunday, November 6, 7-9 pm Martin Large, a British social entrepreneur and co-founder of the Stroud Commonwealth Ltd., will share his experiences of working practically with Rudolf Steiner’s social ideas. His interests and activities include: education funding, capital and commons trusteeship, free cultural life, founding a theater company, and organizing supply chain associations and cooperative business centers. He is the author of *Common Wealth: For a free, equal, mutual and sustainable society* (2010) and other books. Hawthorne Valley School Music Room. Sliding scale admission: \$5-\$15. Sponsored by the Hawthorne Valley Center for Social Research. Contact 518-672-4465, ext. 223.

Staying Connected Study Group

Tuesday, November 8, 7:30pm Discussion of *Karmic Relationships IV*, Lecture 9 at the home of Gloria Kemp and Margaret Rosenthaler. On December 13 we will take up the final lecture in this volume; in January we will begin a study of the lectures in *Life Beyond Death*. Contact: 672-4844.

Bee Study Group

Wednesday, November 9, 7pm

We will continue studying Chapter 2 of Gunther Hauk’s book *Toward Saving the HoneyBee* at the home of Charlie Doheny, 78 Summit Street, Philmont. We usually meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. This is the beginning of a new study on bees and anyone who is interested in saving the bees is invited. For information or directions call Charlie, 518 672 5270 or Dr. Basil Williams, 518 672 4332.

First Class

Thursday, November 10, 3:45 for 4pm

Conversation re: Lesson 3—in the residence of Anna and Brian Rée, Camphill Ghent. Contact: 518-721-8508.

First Class

Thursday, November 10, 7:45 pm

At Camphill Village, Copake. Call Anke Smeele, 329-7973

Josie Janssen Art Opening

Friday, November 11, 6-8 pm Camphill Ghent presents Josie Janssen’s art work in the Joan Allen Art Gallery. A short presentation by the artist at 6:30pm followed by light refreshments. Josie has been painting watercolor landscapes, flowers and people since 1986. 518-721-8243

Branch Study Group

Friday, November 11, 7:30 pm

Everyone is welcome! There will be a presentation and conversation on the first chapter of *How to Know Higher Worlds* (GA 10). There will also be a presentation of Karl Koenig's work on the Soul Calendar, with emphasis on the week's verse. At Camphill Ghent, in the MAGNOLIA HOUSE (second building on the service road). Call 392-1014 for comments or questions about the meeting.

ARTEUM NOVEMBER PAINTING WEEKEND

November Mood: *The days of waning color, warmth and light*

Friday, Nov. 11, 7 pm–Sunday Nov. 13, 2:30 pm

Painting with Hans Schumm; Eurythmy with Victoria Sander

For both beginning and experienced painters. Sliding scale.

For more information and/or registration: Call: 518-672-5746

Curative Education Study Group

Friday November 11th at 7:00pm

We will continue studying *The Modern Art of Education* by Rudolf Steiner, Lecture 1. This group meets on the first Friday of each month at the home of Christiana and Dr. Basil Williams of 83-7 May Hill Rd near Harlemlville, but was changed this month to November the 11th because of other important events. Everyone who is interested in Curative Education or Waldorf Education is invited to participate. For directions or information call 518 672-4332.

Indigo Dyeing on Silk—taught by Susannah White

Saturday, November 12, 9am-12 noon

Uncover with us the mysteries of an ancient plant dyeing technique, bringing a beautiful sky blue to the community center. Learn the history of indigo, the chemistry behind the process, help create an indigo vat, and discover early fabric patterning techniques. A silk scarf will be provided for each participant for dyeing, but all are welcome to bring additional fabric to put into the pot. At the Philmont Community Center, Lake View Drive, Philmont. Suggested Donation \$0-15 per workshop. For more information and to register call Susannah White 716-464-0931 <carapacefarm@gmail.com>.

The Concerts at Camphill Ghent: “The Supernatural, the Sacred and the Self”

Saturday, November 12, 3pm

Piano Trios by Mendelssohn (C minor) and Beethoven (The Ghost), as well as Capriccio by Bolcom and Brahms Scherzo in C minor from the F.A.E Sonata performed by 3 wonderful musicians from the Williams College faculty: Ronald Feldman (Cello), Doris Stevenson (Piano) and Joanna Kurkowicz (Violin). Early reservations are strongly recommended. Please call 518-392-2760 or order on line at www.camphillghent.org. [*The next concert is Dec. 3 with music for violin, viola and piano—Joana Genova (violin), Ari Rudiakov (viola) and Gili Melamed-Lev (piano).*]

Poetry Reading with Richard Steel

Sunday, November 13, 4pm Richard Steel will speak about his just published poetry volume, *Blossoming Starlight: 45 Poems for Kaspar Hauser and other friends* before reading and hopefully getting into conversation with many friends. At the Culture Hall at Camphill Ghent.

Annual Craft Sale at The Christian Community

Sunday, November 13, noon to 3 pm

An opportunity to find handmade gifts, fine art, linens, jewelry, toys, cards, and gently used clothing. A soup and sandwich luncheon will be available for a \$5 donation. A silent auction of local vendor services and artwork will begin and run for one week, with awards to be made on the following Sunday 11/20, at noon. You may call and arrange to visit the parish house during the week to bid on items or to purchase unsold crafts. Contact: Gail Mullen, 413 229 8326 or Kathleen Williams, 518 325 3070. 10 Green River Lane, Hillsdale.

Nature Spirits Study Group

Wednesday, November 16, 7pm

We will be studying Lecture 6 of Rudolf Steiner's *Spiritual Beings in the Heavenly Bodies & in the Kingdoms of Nature* at the home of Christiana and Dr. Basil Williams of 83-7 May Hill Rd. For information and directions call 672 4332.

First Class

Thursday, November 17, 7:45 pm

At Camphill Village, Copake. Call Anke Smeele, 329-7973

Mandala/Rose Windows—taught by Lisa Damian-

Saturday, November 19, 9am – noon

Add some color to our bleak winter landscape with Mandala suncatchers—tissue paper and cardboard creations that hang in windows and catch the light. They can be simple or complex depending upon age and scissor ability, and are suitable for children age 8 and up. If possible participants should bring a pair of nail cutting scissors. There will be some scissors available. At the Philmont Community Center, Lake View Drive, Philmont. Suggested Donation \$0-15 per workshop. For more information and to register call Susannah White 716-464-0931 <carapacefarm@gmail.com>.

Rudolf Steiner's 6 Essential Exercises—a practice group

Sunday, November 19, 10:30-11:45am

At 84 Main Street in Philmont; call 518-672-7302 for more.

A Talk on Buddhism

Saturday, November 19, 4pm

Lawrence Hunt, a long time co-worker at Camphill Village Copake and co-founder of Camphill Hudson will speak on the topic of “Buddhism” at Camphill Ghent. 518-721-8423

First Class

Saturday, November 19, 7pm

Sunday, November 20, 9am

At Windy Hill. Call Hanna, 325-3648, or John, 325-1113.

Sean Vernon and friends in Concert

Sunday, November 20, 7pm Sean has been writing songs and performing them all over New England for more than 30 years. He has recorded several albums, some of which feature his original musical settings of poems by celebrated poets. The program will contain several of his own songs as well as his settings of poems by Robert Burns, William Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson, and William Butler Yeats. Sean currently resides at Camphill Ghent. 518-721-8423

ADVANCE NOTICE—DECEMBER

The University between the State and Civil Society

Friday, December 2, 6 pm Heinz-Dieter Meyer will talk about his new book, *The Design of the University: German, American, and "World Class"*, field questions and speak about his research. Meyer is a native of Germany who has taught in Europe and in the USA. The book is a study of the relationship between civil society, the state and higher education and follows the emergence of the university in the US back through England and Germany, and especially to the thinker Wilhelm von Humboldt. Humboldt developed the view that quality in educational undertakings required autonomy from the state—an idea appreciated by Rudolf Steiner. These ideas are of immediate significance around the country and the world. Rudolf Steiner Library 351 Fairview Ave #610 Hudson, NY 12534 Suggested contribution \$15. Proceeds will benefit the Rudolf Steiner Library. *Presented by the Rudolf Steiner Library Circle of Friends.*

Kissing Balls and Stars-taught by Susannah White

Saturday, December 3, 9-12 noon

Complex 3-D geometric shapes become the ornaments of the season using colorful cardstock or old treasured holiday cards. Amazingly simple, yet intriguingly complex, you must be able to use scissors with precision, and be a patient soul. The results are worth it. At the Philmont Community Center, Lake View Dr, Philmont. Suggested Donation \$0-15 per workshop. Call Susannah White 716-464-0931 carapacefarm@gmail.com

Save the Date: ARTEUM ADVENT PAINTING WEEKEND

Friday Dec.9—Sunday Dec.11. At Windy Hill

Herbal Gifts-taught by Amelia McIsaac

Saturday, December 10, 9-12 noon

Come make bath salts, sugar scrubs, lip balm, and more for those you love. They make perfect winter gifts. We will use the ancient wisdoms of herbs and essential oils to create beautiful, healthy, great smelling products. If possible, bring small clean glass jars with lids, and a mixing bowl. Suitable for all ages. At the Philmont Community Center. Suggested Donation \$0-15 per workshop. Call Susannah White (see above).

Holiday Wreaths and Centerpieces

Saturday, December 17, 9-12 noon Bring the outdoors in during the holiday season with centerpieces and wreaths that you have made yourself. We will have plenty of evergreens, baskets, ribbons, candles and ornaments. Start a new tradition or relive an old one. Suitable for all ages. At the Philmont Community Center. Suggested Donation \$0-15 per workshop. Call Susannah White (see above).

Celebration of the Christmas Festival and Honoring the Spiritual Beings in Nature

Saturday, December 17, 4:30-6pm,

Pot Luck Supper begins at 6:00pm. We will gather together to prepare healing substances for the good Earth, celebrate the Christmas Festival, and recognize the Elemental and Spiritual Beings behind the creation of Nature. All who attend, who wish to, can contribute thoughts about the Christmas Festival. Songs, poetry, a recitation of the Foundation Stone meditation, music, eurythmy, and spacial dynamics will be enjoyed by all. Special Christmas preparations will be made and together we will spread the healing substances on the good Earth. Children and adults alike are invited. At the home of Christiana and Dr. Basil Williams. 672 4332.

"Festivals," continued

another culture! With openness to learning something new about yourself and the world, we can participate as fully as possible in a festival experience and then reflect upon what elements speak to your life of emotions and feelings. What moved you, even if you don't intellectually understand how or why? *Dia de Muertos*—Mexico's Day of the Dead festival—is increasingly popular in cultures outside of its own. Perhaps for the reason that a mixture of indigenous traditions with Catholic traditions still hold a power often missing from our secular holidays. It, like Halloween, begins with a preparatory celebration: skeleton costumes, parades, sugar. But a strong sacred tradition still reminds the festival goers that there is a greater mystery at work. There is a palpable understanding that the deeper purpose behind the festivities is to remember those that have, like the Autumn leaves, passed between the worlds of the living and the dead. Beautiful shrines line the sidewalks; candles, pictures of the so-called-dead, the favorite treats of remembered loved ones. Personal grieving and loss find a public space for integration, and death is celebrated as part of life. The scene is fun and festive but it is also full of authentic human feeling!

A third way to step into the role of festival co-creators is to trace the history of a particular festival to the original mystery that gave birth to it. Here the work of Rudolf Steiner can be immensely helpful. His many lectures on the festivals provide a glimpse into how the course of the calendar year is woven into one evolving whole. Historically, November 1st and 2nd are "All Saints" and "All Souls' Day" respectively. This is a time of memorial for those who have died before us, those great human beings whom we wish to emulate, and those loved ones who still remain living in our memories and prayers. A study of the deep roots of this time of year brings us to the Mystery of the relationship of the living to the dead. This is a vital part of the human experience that cultures throughout time have felt it was important to transmit to their children. This is one of the core themes that has built cultural identity, from ancient Egyptian to Greek to the Post-industrial civilization of today. Instead of belonging, as Materialistic Science would have us believe, to the mystical world of what is impossible to know, the biggest questions of human life can be lived, and with grace, and over time, wisdom filled answers can come to be known. It is science of a different scope and scale than what is commonly understood today. But all cultures recognize it. And what are we hoping to equip our children with except for the tools to make meaning from the greatest mysteries of human life?

It may be interesting this year to take stock of the handed down traditions. What changes when we listen directly to the voice speaking to us from the vibrant colors and cooler temperatures? It will certainly make an impression on our children to feel us reflecting on the wisdom behind the "Holy Days" of our holidays. We may be touched by the traditions of another culture, or reminded of a more innocent time when we were carried by our own folk culture. Or, filled with a mood of gratitude and reverence for the exciting times in which we live, we may set out together to found new true traditions of our own. —Jordan Walker

November 2016

(Please see the Events Section for details)

SU	M	Tu	W	TH	F	SA
		1 BRANCH ALL-SOULS FESTIVAL	2 First Class Study	3 First Class Resources in your backyard	4 Branch Initiative Group First Class Retreat begins	5 ALEXANDER DREIER BOOK EVENT Storytelling
6 Talk by Arthur Zajonc Talk by Martin Large 6 Exercises	7	8 Staying Connected	9 BEES	10 First Class	11 Art Opening BRANCH STUDY Arteum Painting Weekend Curative Ed	12 Silk Dyeing Camphill Ghent Concert
13 Craft Sale Steel Poetry Reading	14	15	16 Nature Spirits	17 First Class	18	19 FIRST CLASS 6 Exercises Mandala windows Buddhism
20 FIRST CLASS Sean Vernon & friends	21	22	23	24 [Giving Thanks!]	25	26
27 [First Sunday of Advent]	28	29	30			

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The suggested annual contribution in support of the activities of the Branch, including Chanticleer, is \$50.

Checks may be written payable to **THE BERKSHIRE-TACONIC BRANCH** and mailed to the same at:

1030 Rte. 21 Ghent, NY 12075.

<berkshiretaconicbranch@gmail.com>

CHANTICLEER is the newsletter of the BERKSHIRE-TACONIC BRANCH OF THE ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, and aims to be a listening ear and a public voice for the Anthroposophical striving in our region, through the publication of articles, announcements, and a calendar of events.

ANTHROPOSOPHY was once described by its founder, Rudolf Steiner, as follows:

It is a path of knowledge, to guide the Spiritual in the human being to the Spiritual in the universe.

It arises in human beings as a need of the heart, of the life of feeling; and it can be justified only inasmuch as it can satisfy this inner need.

We WELCOME original articles, poetry, reports, commentary, and images that have a relationship to the Anthroposophical work in our region.

Deadline for submissions, including Calendar items, is the 15th of the month prior to the next month of publication.

SUBMISSIONS (including CALENDAR ITEMS) and SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS should be sent via email to:

<berkshiretaconicbranch [at] gmail [dot] com>.

No email? Call the editor.

Items selected for publication may be edited for style, content, and/or length.

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INITIATIVE GROUP MEETINGS ARE LISTED IN THE CALENDAR AND ANYONE INTERESTED IN THE LIFE OF OUR BRANCH OR IN FINDING OUT MORE IS WARMLY INVITED TO ATTEND.

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