

Chanticleer

NEWSLETTER OF THE BERKSHIRE-TACONIC BRANCH OF THE ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 1, SEPTEMBER 2018

SONNET TO ORPHEUS

BY

RAINER MARIA RILKE*

This is the non-existent beast. They did not know that it did not exist and so they loved it anyway—gait, posture, crest—down to the very gaze of its still eyes.

True, it did *not* exist, but since they loved it, a pure beast came to be. They always gave it space, and in that clear, bright space they saved for it, it raised its head a little, scarcely needing to be. They did not nourish it with grain—just with the possibility of being. And that endowed the beast with such great strength it grew a frontal horn. A uni-corn. When, in its whiteness, it approached a virgin, it was, became, within the mirror, within her.

English: Christiane Marks

O dieses ist das Tier, das es nicht gibt. Sie wusstens nicht und habens jeden Falls —sein Wandeln, seine Haltung, seinen Hals , bis in des stillen Blickes Licht—geliebt.

Zwar *war* es nicht. Doch weil sie's liebten, ward ein reines Tier. Sie liessen immer Raum. Und in dem Raume, klar und ausgespart, erhob es leicht sein Haupt und brauchte kaum zu sein. Sie nährten es mit keinem Korn, nur immer mit der Möglichkeit, es sei. Und die gab solche Stärke an das Tier, dass es aus sich ein Stirnhorn trieb. Ein Horn. Zu einer Jungfrau kam es weiss herbei— und war im Silber-Spiegel und in ihr.

* This is one of Rilke's fifty-five "Sonnets to Orpheus," written down in a storm of inspiration in February of 1922, together with the "Duino Elegies"—they are his two best-known works. The poem speaks of *loving* a mythical being—and perhaps, by extension, anything or any being—into reality. The last two lines refer to the traditional belief that a unicorn gains complete reality on seeing itself reflected in a mirror held up to it by a pure young girl. *C.M.*

JOEL MORROW
AUGUST 16, 1944–AUGUST 14, 2018

MANY friends will want to know that Joel Morrow crossed the threshold of death on August 14, 2018 at 7:30 pm. He had a slowly progressing form of liver cancer which responded to medical treatments that allowed him to continue to be active until very recently. Joel met anthroposophy in college and came to Beaver Run in September 1966 as one of the first American co-workers. He later worked in Copake, and then put his considerable energy and talent as a gardener, baker, and writer and producer of plays at the service of Kimberton Hills in its pioneering years.

He and his family moved to the area near Copake, where Joel edited the journal of the Biodynamic Association

for many years and started a successful landscaping business. Some of his projects included work in Copake, and he continued to be a valued friend to many members of the community. His mother, who lived to be 100, spent her later years happily integrated in Camphill Ghent.

Joel wrote an excellent book on Vegetable Gardening, and during the last year he wrote an autobiography of his invisible life of powerful inner experiences, which began when he was nine years old and continued throughout his life. He hoped that this unedited manuscript would be able to be published.

—Sherry Wildfeuer

THIRD ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL GATHERING:
“TOWARD A DEEPENING OF THE CHRISTMAS FOUNDATION IMPULSE”

Dear Member of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the Anthroposophical Society,

ON BEHALF of the Threefold Branch and the Threefold Educational Center, we would like to invite you to the Third Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Gathering from October 26-28, 2018. The previous two gatherings were held in Kimberton, PA. We are thankful for the opportunity to host the next gathering.

As we are nearing the 100th anniversary of the Christmas Foundation Meeting let us take this opportunity to prepare ourselves in making steps toward that lofty ideal that was planted on that day. The ideal that can be summed up best in Rudolf Steiner's words from the 13th of January 1924:

The soil in which the Stone was laid could be no other than the hearts and souls of those united in the Society. And the Foundation Stone itself must be the attitude of mind which grows when Anthroposophy gives shape to life. This attitude in life, as it is required by the signs of the present time, lies in the will to find—by deepening the human soul—the path to an awakened vision of the Spirit and to a life proceeding from the Spirit.

How does this “path to and an awakened vision of the Spirit” relate to the Anthroposophical Movement, the Anthroposophical Society, and the School of Spiritual Science? And how can the Anthroposophical Society assist in this deepening of the human soul? Does the School of Spiritual Science have a role to play in the life of the Anthroposophical Society? These are some of the questions and ideas that can fill our souls when we meet in October.

During our regional sharing we would like to listen to what takes place in the Anthroposophical Movement, which daughter movements are active; how the work in the Anthroposophical Society is taken place, what steps are being taken to further the life of the soul; what activities are taken place at the School of Spiritual Science, which of the sections are active in our region?

We will be reaching out to our regional branches to help prepare for this event. Of the approximate 700 members in our region we hope to welcome many of you and we look forward to your participation! A program is being prepared and details will follow. Everything will take place in the Auditorium, 260 Hungry Hollow Rd, Chestnut Ridge, NY.

—Gino Ver Eecke, Threefold Branch
845-356-1380; gfbver@gmail.com

STEINER'S THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE: THE FOUNDATION OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE (AN INVITATION TO A CONFERENCE OF THE NATURAL SCIENCE SECTION, NOV. 7-11)

FEW WHO ENCOUNTER any of the extraordinary, far-flung results of Rudolf Steiner's research realize that the foundation—the bedrock—upon which its scientific validity rests is the theory of knowledge that he developed as a young man in connection with Goethe's scientific works.

In its essence, this theory is very simple: All knowledge comes to us from two sources—from perception on the one hand, and through thinking on the other. Perception, whether sense perception or soul-spiritual perception, is given to us. Thinking occurs through our own activity—an activity that brings forth a concept. The percept gives us the outer aspect of what we are coming to know; the concept gives us its inner essence or lawfulness. These are two sides of one and the same reality.

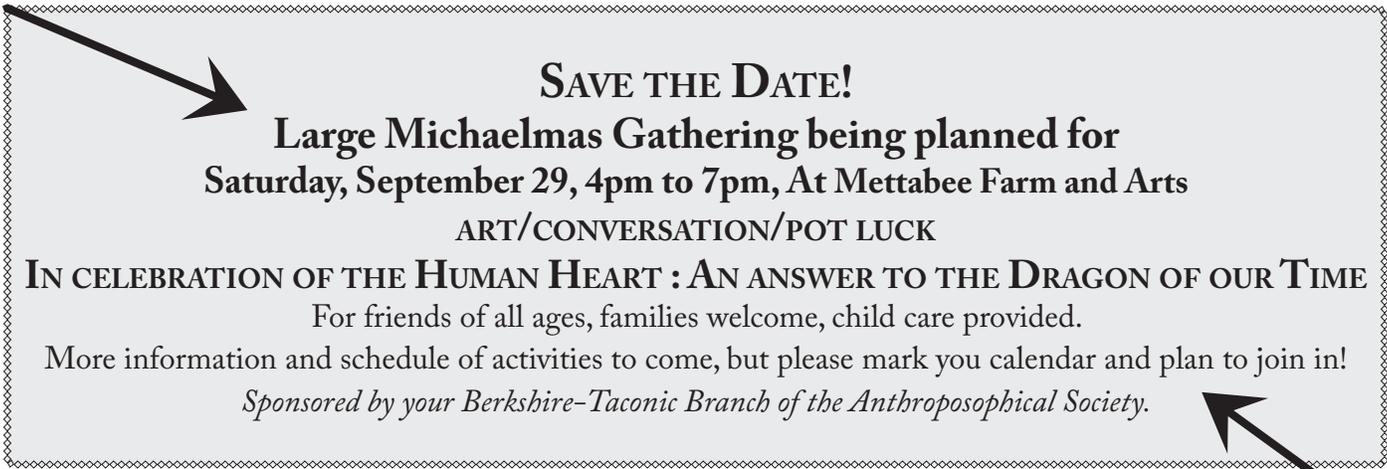
Thus our insight into the nature of oak trees, for example, is the greater, the more comprehensive and vivid our percepts, the deeper and more illuminating our concept, and the more we come to see the various percepts as the expression of the unifying concept. We then begin to realize that the concept is not just some information about oak trees that we have in our mind but an inner beholding of the otherwise un-perceptible creative activity that brings forth oak trees. In other words: truly adequate, living concepts are cognitive perceptions of spiritual realities.

In his book *Anthroposophy and Science*, Peter Heusser, Professor of Integrative Medicine at the University of Witten in Germany, shows in detail how, in the light of

Rudolf Steiner's theory of knowledge, today's super-exact scientific knowledge of the physical world can be seen as the manifestation of spiritual realities. Hydrogen and oxygen, for example, obey their own laws, which can be grasped only through thinking and must therefore be understood as spiritual laws. But when hydrogen and oxygen combine to form water, they are sublimated in such a way that they obey a new and very different law: that of water. Similarly, life arises in lifeless matter when the latter has been so sublimated that it ceases to obey its own laws and becomes the vehicle for a higher principle: the dynamic lawfulness of life. Thus a hierarchical view of nature arises in which all things are spiritual in essence, and higher levels manifest within the levels below them. Summarizing several clearly articulated chapters full of up-to-date scientific information, Heusser concludes: "The spatial phenomena of the physical prove to be constituted from their laws, the temporal processes of the living realm prove to be determined by theirs, psychological phenomena follow psychological laws, and the purely spiritual phenomena which are reached by thinking, the actual content of the laws, follow purely logical laws, i.e. are of a logical nature (p. 170)."

Anyone interested is invited to the Natural Science Section's conference with Peter Heusser in Spring Valley, NY, from November 7-11. For more information, go to <https://www.naturalsciencesection.org/> or call me at 518-325-1113.

—John Barnes



SAVE THE DATE!

**Large Michaelmas Gathering being planned for
Saturday, September 29, 4pm to 7pm, At Mettabee Farm and Arts**

ART/CONVERSATION/POT LUCK

IN CELEBRATION OF THE HUMAN HEART : AN ANSWER TO THE DRAGON OF OUR TIME

For friends of all ages, families welcome, child care provided.

More information and schedule of activities to come, but please mark you calendar and plan to join in!

Sponsored by your Berkshire-Taconic Branch of the Anthroposophical Society.

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Branch Initiative Meeting

Fridays, September 7 & 21, 3pm

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 each meeting with a verse before engaging in brief study of a letter from *The Life, Nature, and Cultivation of Anthroposophy*. Contact the editor or anyone listed as a participant in the group on the mailer page of this newsletter. At Windy Hill.

Staying Connected Study Group

Tuesday, September 11, 7:30pm

The Staying Connected Study Group will continue discussions of lectures in the collection *Life Beyond Death*, a selection of lectures given by Rudolf Steiner. On this evening we will discuss Lecture 12, "Concerning the Affinity of the Living and the Dead," given in Berlin, February 5, 1918. We meet at the home of Gloria Kemp and Margaret Rosenthaler, 518-672-4844 or 4253.

Theme of the Year Branch Study Group

Friday, September 14, 7:30 pm

Everyone is welcome! All are invited to participate in the study of the 2018-2019 Theme of the Year. Please prepare ahead for the meeting by studying the following text: The Christmas Day 1923 address by Steiner, "The Laying of the Foundation Stone of the Anthroposophical Society," also with emphasis on the address of Saturday the 29th and the rhythm for that day. Call Nick at 518.392.1014.

Anthroposophic Meditation Workshop

Friday, September 14, 7pm to Sunday, September 16, 1:30pm

How do I come into a meditative deepening that connects me to my own spiritual source? In meditation you find a place of inner quiet. You become centered and enlivened. In the course we explore many facets of anthroposophic meditation, always followed by a sharing of our experiences. On Saturday afternoon we will go out into nature and practice perceiving the nature spirits at work there. *Agnes Hardorp* and *Thomas Mayer* have been teaching courses in anthroposophic meditation in Europe for the past 14 years.

Friday 7pm–10pm;

Saturday 9:30am–6:30pm;

Sunday 9:30am–1:30 pm

At Mettabee Farm, 551 Harlemville Road, Hillsdale, NY. For more information: www.anthroposophical-meditation.info

Course fee: \$150, for Friday night only \$30; To register send an email to: agneshardorp@gmail.com

The Prophetic Times Are Now:

Rudolf Steiner's Perspectives on Technology and Human Evolution, Presentation by Gary Lamb

Friday, September 14, 7:30 pm

Gary, along with Virginia Hermann and Martin Miller, are working on a compendium of Rudolf Steiner's indications on technology, and he will share some key findings in this presentation. Steiner's perspectives, which are intimately connected to human and earth evolution, will be presented in the context of modern-day

and future technology. An openness to, or a familiarity with, the basic principles of Spiritual Science and Christianity will be helpful for appreciating this presentation. Suggested donation: \$5.00 to \$20.00. Proceeds from this event will go to the support of the Christian Community Church and the Hawthorne Valley Center for Social Research and its Ethical Technology Initiative (www.csr.hawthornevalley.org). At the Christian Community Church, 10 Green River Lane, Hillsdale, NY If you plan to attend, please RSVP Gary by Thursday, September 13, at glamb@thecenterforsocialresearch.org, or 518-672-4465, ext. 223.

Hawthorne Valley Community Festival Chorus will start up rehearsals again on **Sunday, September 16, at 4:00 pm** in the Music Room of Hawthorne Valley School. All voices are welcome. For details call Diane Barnes at 518-325-1113.

Nature Spirits Study Group

Wednesday, September 19, 7:00pm

We will continue/review lecture eight and begin lecture nine of *Nature Spirits: Selected Lectures* by Rudolf Steiner at the home of Christiana Williams 83-7 May Hill Rd. near Harlemville. For information and directions call 518 672 4332.

CELEBRATING THE NATURE INSTITUTE'S FIRST TWO DECADES!

Friday, Sept. 21, 7:30pm: Where Does an Animal End? The American Bison, talk by Craig Holdrege

Saturday, Sept 22, 9am to 4pm: Learning to See the Animal, with Craig and Henrike Holdrege

In September 1998, our community of friends attended the founding celebration of The Nature Institute. This year, we invite you to celebrate with us the first two decades of our work. At The Nature Institute, on Friday evening, after an introduction by Henrike Holdrege, Craig Holdrege will give a talk with slides on "Where Does an Animal End? The American Bison". On Saturday, Craig and Henrike will offer a Michaelmas workshop on "Learning to See the Animal." All workshop participants are asked to also attend the talk by Craig.

The workshop is free. We will have a potluck lunch Saturday noon. Please bring a dish to share. Please register for the workshop by September 17. The Nature Institute, 20 May Hill Road, Ghent, NY; 518-672-0116

Poem, Tale or Fairy Tale? A Beginning exploration of Goethe and Novalis: Saturday, September 22, at 10:00 in the morning!

(NOTE: This month only, session to be held on fourth Saturday, not the third Saturday.) Continuation of a gathering of those interested in exploring the offerings of Goethe and Novalis. (We will concentrate on Chapter 4 of Novalis novel.) At the home of Christiana Williams, 83-7 May Hill Road; 518-672-4332.

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

Saturday, September 22, 4:30–6pm, Pot Luck Supper begins at 6pm

We in our community will gather together to prepare healing substances for the good Earth, celebrate the festival, and recognize the Elemental Beings and the Spiritual Beings behind the

creation of nature. Each festival is unique when we share thoughts about the festival, songs, poetry, music, eurythmy, or other artistic offerings. Children and adults alike are invited to participate. At the home of Christiana Williams, near Harlemlville. Call 518 672 4332 .

The Festival Study Group

Friday, September 28, 7:30pm

The Festival Study Group will begin the season with a study of a lecture given by Rudolf Steiner in Dornach on November 28, 1919. We have this lecture in the volume *The Archangel Michael: His Mission and Ours*, where it is Lecture 4 of Part 2. It also may be found in *The Mission of the Archangel Michael: Revelation of Essential Secrets of the Human Being*. At the home of Margaret Rosenthaler and Gloria Kemp (518) 672-4253 or 4844.

Branch Michaelmas Gathering: AN ANSWER TO THE DRAGON OF OUR TIME

Saturday, September 29, 4pm-7pm

At Mettabee Farm and Arts. See page 3. .

LOOKING AHEAD & FURTHER AFIELD

THE SEMINARY OF THE CHRISTIAN

COMMUNITY IN NORTH AMERICA OPEN COURSE

SACRAMENTALISM AND ALCHEMY; SEPTEMBER 24-28;

With Rev. Bastiaan Baan and Rev. Jonah Evans. All forms of sacramentalism work in order to eventually transform the earth. This is also the intention of alchemy. In this Open Course we will research the connections between alchemy and sacramentalism – and begin to recognize, how in daily life and in celebrating the sacraments we can help to realize this future task. Open Course Suggested Contribution: \$300 per person. If you have financial questions, please visit our web site. For more information visit www.christiancommunityseminary.org. Register on-line or by email info@christiancommunityseminary.org or call (845) 356-0972 Location: Seminary of The Christian Community, 7 Carmen Court, Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977

ARTEUM PAINTING COURSE:

AUTUMN COLORS-FLAMING ENTHUSIASM!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 6:30PM-SUNDAY, 2:30PM

Painting with Hans Schumm; Eurythmy with Karen Derreumaux. In this course we will immerse ourselves into the color mood of this special season. The earth is in the midst of its inbreathing process. Celestial forces of warmth are increasingly nearing and dominating the climate in our region and are gradually penetrating the earth's interior. Much of this process is expressed by the splendid colors in our natural surroundings, which we humans experience each year as "victory of the spirit over matter - a true Michaelic mood! Inspired by this, to the best of our ability, we will try to create such a painterly mood. No talent is needed. Open to all. Sliding scale fee: \$175-\$250, includes supplies and wholesome snacks. **Application deadline: September 15.** For further details call: (518)-672-5746.

THE HOLY BIRTH, THE HOLY DEATH AND THE SEVEN MIRACLES IN JOHN'S GOSPEL AS THE RESCUE OF THE INCORRUPTIBLE BODY WITH ENZO NASTATI OCTOBER 26, 27, 28

At Mettabee Farm and Arts. Sponsored by SteinerBooks. Contact Gene Gollogly: gene@steinerbooks.org.

THE CONCERTS AT CAMPHILL GHENT, 2018-19 SEASON

Camphill Ghent's concert series is now in its seventh season. Artistic Director and pianist Gili Melamed-Lev brings together world-class artists to perform chamber music in an intimate setting. Please reserve your tickets in advance. Season subscription: six concerts for the price of five; Single tickets (Adults-\$30, Seniors - \$25, Students - Free) are available at concerts@camphillghent.org or by calling 518-392-2760

October 13, 2018 3pm: Horn of Plenty, Plenty of Horn

Michael Slatkin - French horn and The Lev-Evans Duo; Mark Evans and Gili Melamed-Lev - piano 4 hands; Brahms, Mozart, Faure, Straus, Poulenc and Bizet

November 10, 2018 3pm: Beethoven Unbound

Aaron Boyd - Violin, Gili Melamed-Lev - Piano; Beethoven The Spring and The Kreutzer sonatas

December 8, 2018 3pm: Young Masters, Old and New

Benjamin Hochman - Piano; Bach, Chopin, Gilad Cohen, Mozart and Brault

February 16, 2019 3pm: "The Long Nineteenth Century (Started with Mozart)"

Eugene Drucker - Violin, William Frampton - Viola; Roberta Cooper - Cello, Gili Melamed-Lev - Piano; Mozart, Beethoven, Grieg and Brahms

March 9, 2019 3pm: The Keyboard Astride the Centuries

Simone Dinnerstein - Piano; Schumann, Couperin, Satie and Glass

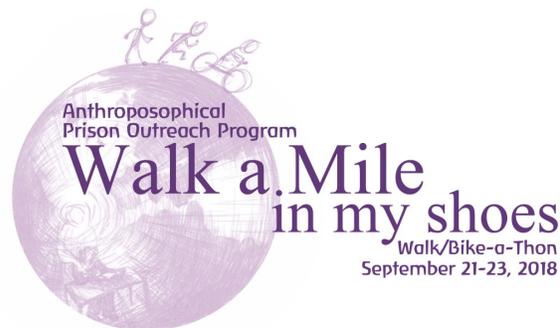
April 6, 2019 3pm: Brahms away!

Students of the Graduate Vocal Arts Program of the Bard College Conservatory of Music; Dawn Upshaw artistic director, with instrumental students from The Bard College Conservatory directed by Robert Martin and Kayo Iwama and Gili Melamed-Lev - piano 4 hands; Brahms clarinet quintet and songs by Bernstein, Brahms and Faure

A PRIOR DYSFUNCTION

“... It is of course a fine thing to be a pacifist, isn't it, although one must be clear that since pacifism has arisen we have witnessed the greatest and bloodiest wars the world has ever seen—a fact I emphasized a decade ago in my *Architektenhaus* lectures. But I wanted to point out something that is easily comprehensible. I said this to them: Does it not seem to you that all these circumstances, not just the warfare itself but the coming to light of such terrible deceitfulness as we can witness in the conflicting voices of nations, is an extreme, absurd form of everything that so-called culture has developed hitherto—that it is just the same things taken to absurdity? ‘Yes,’ said one of the gentlemen, ‘this is certainly a sickness that must be healed.’ Naturally we can agree with him. Well and good; it is a sickness. To speak trivially, the man was pleased as punch that he had formulated the right thought: that all this was sickness. But he had no inkling that this ‘right thought’ led nowhere, and that it is not a matter of hammering home one’s correct thought, but to see the whole context in which it belongs. For example, it did not occur to this gentleman that while it might certainly be correct to say we are plagued by sickness in society, we also have to ask what kind of sickness it is and what has caused it. The cause is a prior dysfunction! Illness, after all, is nature’s resistance to dysfunction in order to make us healthy again, and unnatural circumstances always precede an illness. Sickness is an attempt to bring unhealthy conditions to light.... So when the gentleman states that current conditions are an illness, he shows that the illness was necessary because of unnatural circumstances, which we can sum up as being, in the most encompassing sense, the prevalent and ubiquitous materialism of our era. Naturally I mean materialism in its broadest sense, everything that leads to an impotent power of thinking, to the crushing and oppression of competent people who wish to act practically but who are trampled under the weight of those who say they know what is really practical. Of course they know this, but in what sense?”

—*Rudolf Steiner*, lecture of 7 March 1916,
in *The Human Spirit: Past and Present—Occult
Fraternalities and the Mystery of Golgotha*
(Rudolf Steiner Press, 2015)



What is this event?

This is the sixth annual walk-a-thon in support of the Anthroposophical Prison Outreach program. Our walk-a-thon is nationwide so you can participate wherever you are, however far you want to go, walking or biking! You can go it alone, or bring friends and family along with you, while others across the country do the same.

What is Anthroposophical Prison Outreach?

Based on the work of Rudolf Steiner, APO provides free library books, newsletters, correspondence courses, and other materials to individuals in almost 600 prisons across the United States. This work encourages self-awareness, reflection, study, and meditation, and encourages our participants to tailor their path to fit their individual needs and situations. Those who have studied through our program have reported fewer disciplinary issues, better conflict resolution, and improved relationships with family, friends, and fellow prisoners.

Want to know more?

for more on this event and to donate online, visit:

www.rudolfsteiner.org/apowalkathon

for more information on APO, visit:

anthroposophyforprisoners.org

September 2018

(Please see the Events Section for details)

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 BRANCH INITIATIVE MEETING	8
9	10	11 Staying Connected	12	13	14 BRANCH STUDY Meditation Workshop Tech & Human Evolution/G. Lamb	15 Meditation Workshop
16 Meditation Workshop HV Community Chorus	17	18	19 Nature Spirits Study	20	21 BRANCH INITIATIVE MEETING NI: Bison/Holdrege	22 Poem, Tale, Fairy Tale Michaelmas Festival at Williams' NI: Seeing the Animal workshop
23	24	25	26	27	28 Festival Study Group	29 Branch Michaelmas at Mettabee
30	1	2	3	4	5	6



CHANTICLEER is published monthly, September through June, and is paid for by contributions from those who receive it.

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.

Editor: John Scott Legg, 392-0214

Treasurer: Caroline Gordon

Other Initiative Group participants:

Diane Barnes, John Barnes, Franz Eilers, Patrick Doyle, Leland Lehrman, Robert Oelhaf, Hans Schumm, Bill Trusiewicz, Jordan Walker

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

Chanticleer
c/o Windy Hill
1030 Rte. 21
Ghent, New York 12075

SEPTEMBER • 2018