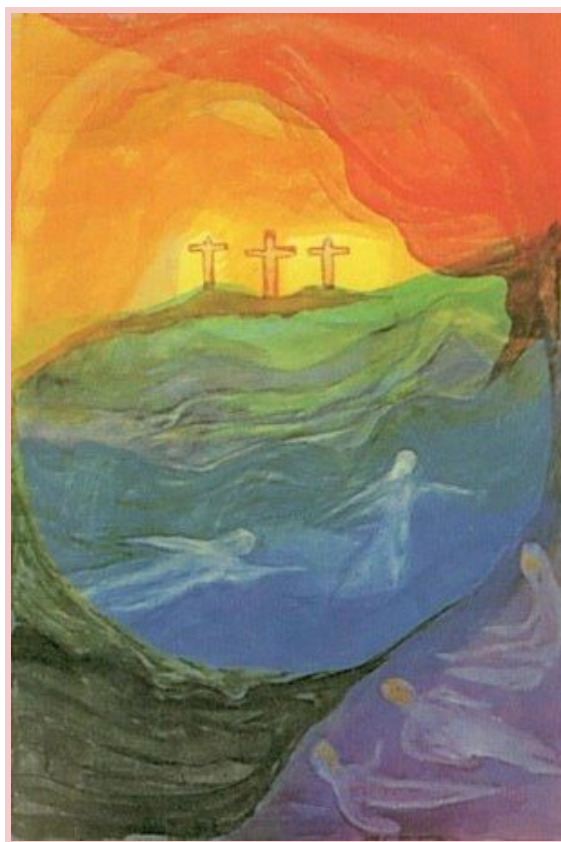


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# Anthroposophy Atlanta

*Branch News, Articles & Events*

## Spring 2018



*Easter (or "Three Crosses") painted by Rudolf Steiner in April 1924*

### In this Issue:

- What Does it Mean to Be a Member of the Anthroposophical Society? (Edward St. Goar)
- Reflections on Christian Community Open Course (Katherine Jenkins)
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- Area Study Groups
- Notes from Branch Planning Group Retreat

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## What Does It Mean to Be a Member of the Anthroposophical Society?



Rudolf Steiner describes the prime motivation for joining the Anthroposophical Society as the *desire to learn more about Anthroposophy* through interaction with other people who have similar interests; to know more about the many aspects of Anthroposophy in a living way and to share this with others. As Anthroposophy grows to become the inner content of our soul more and more (hopefully even influencing one's outer way of living to some extent), then one's reasons for

being a member change.

Some of us became interested in Anthroposophy because it helped us finally to make sense of this world we live in. Other members—to begin with—may have taken a casual attitude toward Anthroposophy but then encountered a painful and difficult life-situation which caused them to look more seriously into Rudolf Steiner's books, thereby making discoveries that were life-changing. Then again some of us read "Knowledge of Higher Worlds and its Attainment" and determined immediately to strive for becoming clairvoyant as quickly as possible! Well we then find out of course that Rudolf Steiner pointed out that a person's destiny must be specially predetermined in order for spiritual vision to be attained without a very long period of preparation.

Therefore, generally speaking, we first need to become acquainted with the spiritual world in the form of *ideas*. This is accomplished through our own reading and study of Spiritual Science both independently and in groups. Eventually as we fully realize the importance of Anthroposophy for humanity's future, then we become more concerned with the well-being of the Anthroposophical Society in our culture at large, and we begin to look for ways to help.

There are a number of reasons one first becomes a member, but the basis for *continuing* consistently to be a serious dues-paying member over the following years will evolve over time or else there is the possibility that a member might falter and drift away. Personally speaking I was fortunate to have had proper guidance through a close family member early on, but such guidance can come to us in different ways as necessary for our unique destinies. Often one can perceive that help did come from the spiritual world early on, though it may be in hindsight.

Regardless of our initial encounter with Anthroposophy, our continuation might be short-lived without the help of anthroposophical friends that feel responsible for one another. They can

provide guidance regarding appropriate books to read early on, or they can suggest activities or regional functions appropriate for a particular person's interests and inclinations. If however care and concern for another individual's needs is lacking, or for example the choice of material in a study group does not take everyone into account, then misunderstandings of various sorts can occur and it can happen that a new individual's initial enthusiasm and commitment begins to languish.

When one is fortunate enough to encounter committed anthroposophists who feel themselves responsible for helping in these above matters, suggesting appropriate study material etc., and not always pushing one's own preferential bias, then the outlook for new individuals and long-term membership in the Society is much better, even if an individual initially came to Anthroposophy for perhaps naive reasons. Despite such nurturing and caring for one's fellow anthroposophists, some individuals may of course still drift away regardless of one's help, but often our care makes a difference.

Now as Spiritual Science is taken in and we "make Anthroposophy our own as it were and allow it to work on us rightly," than we want to be responsible and take our own spiritual development more seriously. For this Rudolf Steiner created an institution known as the **School of Spiritual Science** (also referred to as "Class Lesson" or "The First Class"). It was intended as a school for esoteric training in self-knowledge and knowledge of the spirit. It represents a Michaelic path of self-development.

Rudolf Steiner invited members of the Anthroposophical Society with at least two years standing to apply for admission this school. Though he reserved the right to admit or not admit applicants, it is believed that Rudolf Steiner ultimately admitted every individual applicant that was earnestly seeking development towards more immediate spiritual experiencing in an unselfish and responsible way. In some cases he did deny membership or advised others to wait. He wanted it understood that admission to the School was not a right which ensued automatically when one's membership passed the two year mark.

It should be said that membership in the School for Spiritual Science is not mandatory in order for one to be "a good Anthroposophist." It is a conscious step which some members wish to take while others wish to defer or even decline. Either choice is an entirely individual matter. No one will ever "try to get you in." The initiative should come from the member him or herself, and admission or non-admission to the School is an equally conscious act on the part of a serving local or regional "class holder" along with those in charge of the work of the School at the Goetheanum in Dornach. It should also be noted that membership in the School is not a matter of prestige or privilege. What the School for Spiritual Science offers is one avenue for an approach to the spirit for those who wish sincerely to unite their destiny with Anthroposophy to the extent of wanting to represent Anthroposophy.

--Edward St. Goar

Edward St Goar is the assigned Class Holder for Tennessee and Georgia and lives in Chattanooga, TN. Additional information regarding the Anthroposophical Society and School of Spiritual Science can be found at [www.rudolfsteiner.org](http://www.rudolfsteiner.org) and at <https://www.goetheanum.org/en/>

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*Model of foundation stone for Goetheanum with intersecting dodecahedrons, as used in presentation by Margaret Shipman. Photo: Angela Foster*

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## Attending an Open Course at the Seminary of the Christian Community

*Katherine Jenkins recently traveled with friends to Spring Valley, NY to attend an “open course” at the Seminary of the Christian Community entitled “Building Christ’s Community”*

This physical and spiritual journey began with an announcement of an open course being offered by the Seminary of the Christian Community in North America, especially for affiliates (like our Atlanta group). First, Barbara Bittles from Nashville and I discussed the possibility of going together. Then, in a phone conversation with Bob Hare, in which I encouraged him to go, Bob offered to drive us to Spring Valley, NY. He then invited Helene Burkart to join us. The four of us set off, after linking together from me in Atlanta, to Bob in Opelika, AL, to Helene in Auburn, to Barbara in Nashville.

The drive was an unparalleled opportunity for us to share all kinds of experiences, as you might well imagine. It took two days, but we so enjoyed the scenery and each other's company, taking turns with driving and navigating.

Once the course week started, we experienced daily, first-thing each of four mornings, the Act of Consecration. The other morning was spent in a Devotional Gathering Service. Breakfast was served at the Seminary, which was a chance to converse with each other, make new friends, and visit with old ones, along with a nourishing start to the physical needs of the day.

It was such a joy to experience lessons from three very different Priests: Rev Bastiaan Baan, the outgoing Seminary Director; Rev Patrick Kennedy, incoming Director; and Oliver Steinrueck, North American Lenker. All of whom, at the same time, conveyed a united message.

We met seminarians and affiliate representatives from all over the world, comparing experiences, while becoming acquainted; and learning new ways of thinking, feeling, and willing in community. In the course of the week, we also got to know wives and staff, along with congregates of Spring Valley.

Our lessons were taken from the letters of Paul with his instructions to the newly founded Christian communities, in the first century after the events of Christ's death and resurrection. We saw Christ as the Head and the communities as His Body. What an image for us to consider for ourselves, today.

We looked at the structure of the New Testament; and then at the Bible - from Creation to the New Heaven and Earth. We examined Paul's Damascus event, with its implications for us. "Experience is the Beginning." Take that thought and mull it over for an indication of how thinking, feeling, and willing play into our lives.

We spent time going around the circle, answering the question, "What brings you here?" Isn't that a great way to meet the other with interest?

We worked with "How can I connect my light to the light raying towards me?"

All of this in day one!!

Day two, we considered Christ as the "I AM", and creating a vessel for his coming into individuals and communities. We looked at "the washing of feet" as a "leadership" model. In the evening, we participated in a cafe-style activity of taking the two parts of our name - "The Christian Community", and "Movement for Religious Renewal", talking about what each phrase meant to us, changing tables in between, then reconfiguring for a third time to contemplate what we had just experienced. This culminated in post-it notes being categorized on the wall for a "picture" of what flowed through this exercise. It was another community building activity that was very enlightening.

Day three, we branched into fellowship, as well as leadership, including the Church as a Spiritual Being - the place of Christ, the Angels of all ranks, and creating the organs of the Body of the Congregation, in selflessness. The image of the place of the soul in what we experience was discussed at length. We touched on the role of our individual and collective astral bodies in bringing religion back from the Spiritual realm to the physical. Then, in the reverse, transubstantiation changing the material substance into Spiritual, again, in our physical body.

Considering the role of leadership, we recognized how if one part of the Body suffers, the whole Body suffers; if one part is honored, the entire body rejoices.

Now, we begin day four with the picture of the difference between the closeness to the altar and being very distant from it, using the examples of the relationship of Christ, the Priest, the Congregation, and friends outside. At all times, whether difficulties have arisen, or not, our attitude should be one of prayerfulness - including daily prayer, with our Priest in mind.

So, who then, in the congregation has responsibility for decision making? The Priest has Spiritual responsibility - Pastoral care, Religious instruction - those things in the realm of the soul. Financial decisions are farther from the Altar, but essential in its connection to the Priest, who is dependent on the financing.



We looked at the structure of responsibility in regard to the organization of the whole Christian Community - the world-wide institution.

We received, what I found to be, a very moving explanation of the Sacrament of Consultation, emphasizing the Sacred and the Human walking together.

Time was spent on Financial and Legal issues. Additionally, there was time set aside for discussing Children's activities and programs.

On day five, we concluded with the family relationship of Mary and Martha, and how it exemplifies and amplifies the roles needed in a congregation. Individual hearts join to become a community heart, which can be a vessel for receiving the Christ, thus supporting and nurturing the infant (Baptism), the growing child (Story Time and Children's Services), the burgeoning adolescent (Confirmation), young adults (Marriage), the adult (Act of Consecration, and Sacrament of Consultation), and the elder (The Last Anointing), through practical activities, as well as sacred services.

As we journeyed home, of course we were filled to the brim and overflowing. Then there was that feeling of the air going out of the balloon, relaxing into the blessings that carry us onward, looking forward to our future work in building Christ's Community.

--Katherine Jenkins



*Katherine Jenkins is a member of the Anthroposophical Society and the Branch Planning Group as well as the Carrying Group for the Christian Community, Atlanta Affiliate.*

*The next OPEN COURSE, Working out of the Future – Developing Apocalyptic Vision will take place April 23 at 8:00 am - April 27 at 1:00 pm. Seminary. More information at*

<http://www.christiancommunityseminary.org/open-courses/>

## Calendar Spring 2018

Anthroposophy Atlanta Calendar Spring 2018		
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
<b>April 2018</b>		
Monday - Saturday April 23-27	<b>Open Course, Working out of the Future – Developing Apocalyptic Vision.</b> Christian Community Movement for Religious Renewal <a href="http://www.christiancommunityseminary.org">http://www.christiancommunityseminary.org</a> .	Chestnut Ridge, New York
<b>May 2018</b>		
Thursday-Saturday, May 3-5	Rev. Patrick Kennedy and Rev. Emma Heirman visit Atlanta, including the fourth public talk in Our Humanity series: <b>“The Light of Our Humanity”</b> (Friday evening) as well as a weekend workshop (Saturday). Christian Community Movement for Religious Renewal, Atlanta Affiliate. <a href="mailto:katjenks@negia.net">katjenks@negia.net</a>	Hospitality Room, Waldorf School of Atlanta (WSA)
Wednesday, May 9th 7-8:30pm	<b>Siblings - How birth order influences who your child will be (or who you are).</b> Based on Karl Konig's book <i>Brothers and Sisters</i> , a threefold approach to understand how birth order can influence, and sometimes shape, personalities. Lecture and open conversation with Jolie Luba. Suggested donation: \$5. RSVP recommended <a href="mailto:.johaluba@yahoo.com">.johaluba@yahoo.com</a>	Hospitality Room, WSA
Saturday, May 19th 10 am-12:30pm	Whitsun Celebration	Hazelwood Hall, WSA
<b>June 2018</b>		
Sunday, June 24th 9:30-10:30 am	St. John's Day and First Sunday of St. John's Tide Festival Celebration Christian Community Movement for Religious Renewal, Atlanta Affiliate	ARC, 761 Scott Cir., Decatur, GA

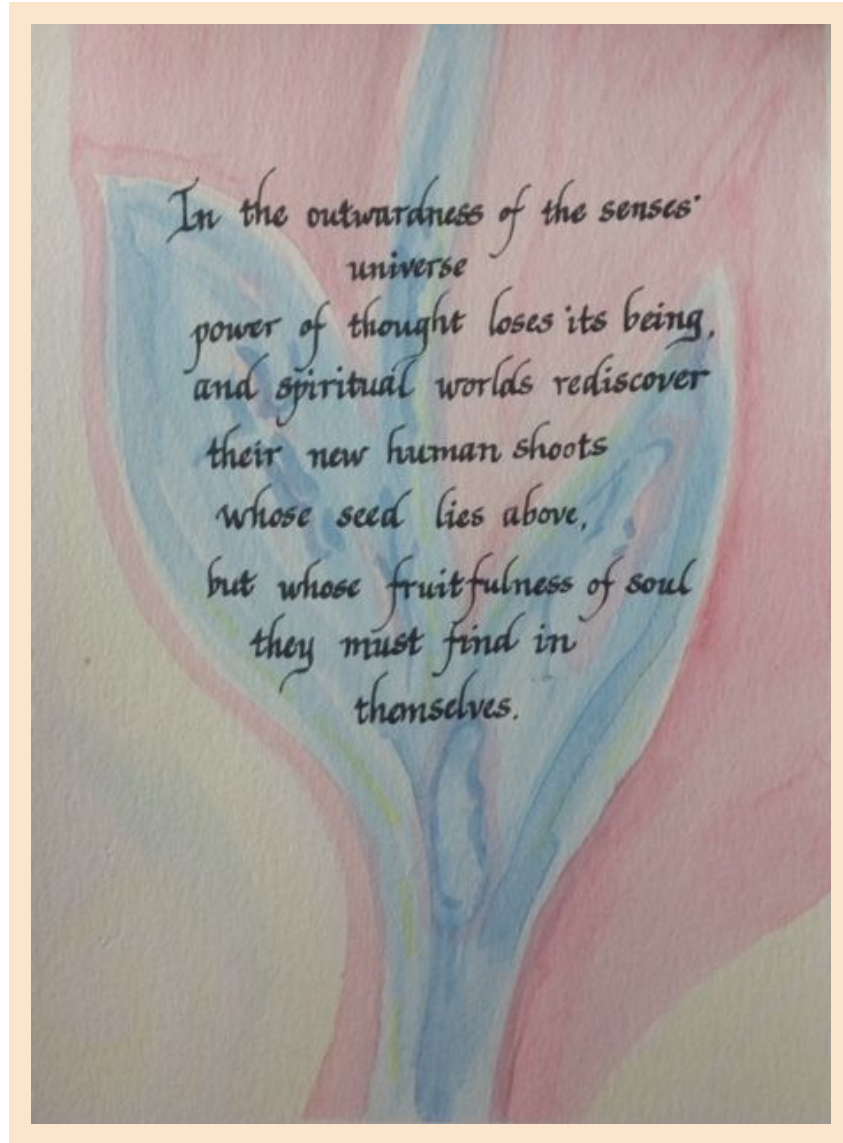
### Other Upcoming Events:

2018 Anthroposophical Society in America Fall Meeting and Conference

October 5-6-7, New Orleans



We are interested in your ideas for speakers, events and workshops. Let us know what you are interested in and let's work together! Email us at [anthroposophyatlanta@gmail.com](mailto:anthroposophyatlanta@gmail.com)



Verse from *Calendar of the Soul* (R. Steiner). Artwork and lettering: Angela Foster

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*Anthroposophy Atlanta Presents*

*A Whitsun Festival*

*May 19, 2018*

*10am-12:30*

*WSA*



Fifty days after Easter (thus the alternate name “Pentecost”) is a festival event which has ceased to be familiar to people. Yet it has particular significance in the Circle of the Christian Year and to our time. Rudolf Steiner spoke often about the importance of this Festival, referring to it in various lectures as a **“Festival of Karma, of Community and of the Future.”**

In response to his encouragement to create our own festivals, Roberta Ricketts, Catalina de Luna, Laira Covert and Gabriela Muresan invite you join us for a presentation of some of Rudolf Steiner’s insights expressed through **imaginings, eurythmy and speech activities** based on the Foundation Stone Meditation with the participants, and a special performance of the 4<sup>th</sup> Panel, created by eurythmist Laira Covert.

*Conversation and a light lunch will complete the observance.*

**Saturday, May 19th, 10 am - 12:30 pm**

**Location: Waldorf School of Atlanta, Hazelwood Hall**

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## Atlanta Area Study Groups

Group or Text	When	Meeting Time	Location/Contact
<b>Reading the Pictures of the Apocalypse</b>	First Monday of the month	1-2:30pm 'Bring your own' lunch at noon	1384 Fairview RD NE, Atlanta 30306 Melissa Grable <a href="mailto:midwaymel8@gmail.com">midwaymel8@gmail.com</a>
<b>The Human Life (Biography in light of Anthroposophy)</b>	Mondays	8-10 pm	Melissa Grable <a href="mailto:midwaymel8@gmail.com">midwaymel8@gmail.com</a>
<b>Esoteric Christianity Study Group</b>	Tuesdays	10-11:30am	Druid Hills, Atlanta Roberta Rickets <a href="mailto:roarnana@aol.com">roarnana@aol.com</a>
<b>Mystery Dramas</b>	Quarterly, beginning Fall 2018	TBA	ARC Angela Foster <a href="mailto:afoster@thirdbody.net">afoster@thirdbody.net</a>
<b>How to Know Higher Worlds</b>	Tuesdays	5:30-7pm	Midway Woods Enid York <a href="mailto:enidyork@yahoo.com">enidyork@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Branch/Academe Study Group</b>  The World of the Senses and the World of the Spirit	Wednesdays	7-8:30pm	Academe of the Oaks Eva Handschin <a href="mailto:eva@academeatlanta.org">eva@academeatlanta.org</a> Jeff Powell <a href="mailto:katn8p@hotmail.com">katn8p@hotmail.com</a>

*If you would like more information on any of the groups listed, please contact the person(s) above or email us at [anthroposophyatlanta@gmail.com](mailto:anthroposophyatlanta@gmail.com)*

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## Mystery Drama Study Group Milestone

Our Mystery Drama reading group in Atlanta crossed a threshold on Valentine's Day 2018 - we finished our first reading through of all four plays! We started with Goethe's *Tale* and then launched into the *Portal* in August of 2016. We completed the last two scenes of *the Soul's Awakening*, under grey and misty skies in Atlanta. We mourned for Dr. Strader and rejoiced at Ahriman's fleeing! What an amazing journey—and a cliffhanger!

We started out with about 8 people in August 2016, and made it to the end with 4 of us. Here we are pictured below: **Angela Foster, Gabriela Muresan, Roberta Ricketts and Katherine Jenkins** (from left). **Melissa Grable** (not pictured) made it a long way with us, too. **Margaret Shipman** was visiting us on the last day and was able to read a scene with us (and snap the photo).



We are grateful to our friend at the Threefold Branch in New York, **Gino Ver Eecke**, who sent us a blessing that we read at our very first meeting. Gino played the part of Benedictus in the 2014 Mystery Drama Festival in Spring Valley, and has been a string support for us.

We were thrilled to host **Barbara Renold** in Atlanta recently, when she hosted a day-long workshop focusing on *the Portal of Initiation*. Barbara has been a student of the Mystery Dramas since she met them as an 18-year-old at the Goetheanum. She directed the 2014 Festival, which was the first time that all four plays had been portrayed in the english language. Meeting with Barbara, we were blessed with startling insights into the first scenes, and whole new vistas of study began to open up for us. As one often finds in studying Anthroposophy, it is an increasingly rich experience to meet a text over and over again! New thoughts and ideas reveal themselves in ways that were not possible in the first reading.

We are considering our next steps, and wondering if others want to join us. We are discussing moving from a weekly- weekday format to a quarterly meeting that attempts to make it through an entire play in a Saturday and/or Sunday. **If you are interested, please let us know-** we will happily try to accommodate everyone's schedules.

-Angela Foster



## 2018 SUMMER TRAINING SESSIONS at the Waldorf School of Atlanta

Roberta Ricketts\*, Master Teacher with over 30 years in Waldorf Schools, will offer summer sessions for Class 1 and 2 Teachers from July 10-18, 2018 at the Waldorf School of Atlanta in Decatur, Georgia. She will meet with teachers of each grade level from 9 AM to 5 PM over a four-day period, with one overlapping day devoted to work common to both grades.



The material covered will be based on Rudolf Steiner's Anthroposophical view of human development (*See An Outline of Esoteric Science*) and understanding of child development described in *Study of Man (The Foundations of Human Experience)*, but will focus on practical and artistic activities and cover the grades 1 and 2 curriculums.

It is suggested that participants provide their own materials (main lesson books, painting brushes and flutes available for work in their respective schools) but can be provided for a small extra fee. The registration page is found at [waldorfatlanta.org](http://waldorfatlanta.org).

### Grade 1 Intensive

Tuesday, July 10- Saturday, July 14

9 am – 5 pm each day

\$495 (with min. of 4 participants)

#### Topics to include:

1<sup>st</sup> grade readiness  
Form Drawing  
Fairy Tales and Letters  
Numbers  
Circles  
Painting and clay  
Assessment

#### Overlap day (Saturday) will include:

Pentatonic Flute  
Festivals  
Logistics and Discipline

Pedagogical, Nature and Native American Stories

Working with the parents

### Grade 2 Intensive

Saturday, July 14- Wednesday, July 18

9 am – 5 pm each day

\$495 (with minimum of 4 participants)

#### Topics to include:

The 2nd grade child  
Beasts and Saints  
Math  
Reading and Language Arts  
Painting and clay work  
Form Drawing  
Circle Work  
Assessment



# From the Anthroposophy Atlanta Branch Planning Group Spring Retreat



On Saturday March 3rd, seven of the eight members of the Anthroposophy Atlanta Branch Planning Group met at the ARC to reflect on our Branch work. There was a wonderful mood of earnestness and striving. Angela and Roberta brought artistic/creative activities.

We thought about our connections to the Anthroposophical Society in Switzerland, the United States, and around the world, as well as all of the groups and initiatives in the Atlanta area.

We worked on developing Guidelines for our group, to guide our work together, which included a commitment to use consensus decision making for certain major decisions, including change to the Guidelines and membership in the Branch Planning Group.

We continue to learn the art of group work as we seek to to meet our mission as a Branch.

-Francis Wolf, for the Branch Planning Group



*Left: Artwork from the Planning Group Retreat. Below right: Linda Brooks-Cooper among the Michaelmas daffodils*

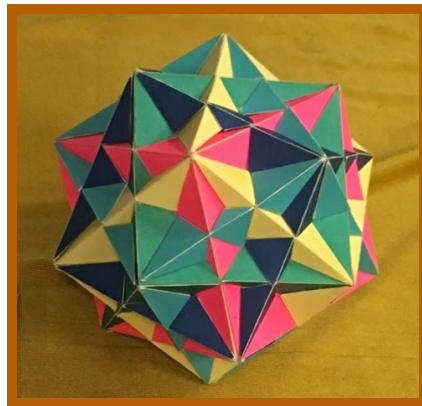


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## Anthroposophical Lending Library

**The Anthroposophical Lending Library of Atlanta (ALLA)** is located at the ARC, 761 Scott Circle, Decatur 30033. The two large bookshelves in the front room are stocked with over 300 titles, more than 100 by Steiner. **The library is open before ARC meetings with other times by appointment.** There is a check-out form for on the desk between the shelves.

Books and other printed materials **donations** are always welcome, and can be left in the donation basket near the bookshelves. If you would like recognition, please leave a note in the book with your name. We can always use a helping hand with cataloguing, labeling, and shelving. To check availability, volunteer, or reserve a book, please send an email to the ALLA email address: [anthrolendinglibraryatl@gmail.com](mailto:anthrolendinglibraryatl@gmail.com) **A list of current holdings** is available on our website: <https://anthroposophyatlanta.org/library/catalogue/>



*Paper dodecahedron from intersecting cubes (courtesy Margaret Shipman) Photo: Angela Foster*

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## Community Contributions

*Do you have an artistic creation, poem, article, event or anything else you would like to share?  
Please send it to [anthroposophyatlanta@gmail.com](mailto:anthroposophyatlanta@gmail.com). We welcome contributions!*

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## About the Anthroposophical Society in America and Anthroposophy Atlanta

**The Anthroposophical Society in America** is a non-sectarian, non-political “association of people who would foster the life of the soul, both in the individual and in human society, on the basis of a true knowledge of the spiritual world.”

The Anthroposophical Society in America supports the development, communication, and practice of anthroposophy in the United States. Anthroposophy is a discipline of research as well as a path of knowledge, service, personal growth, and social engagement. Introduced and developed by Rudolf Steiner, it is concerned with all aspects of human life, spirit, and humanity’s future evolution and well-being.

As a branch of the Society, **Anthroposophy Atlanta seeks to nurture the life of anthroposophy in the Atlanta area and in the Southeast. Our branch supports the individual path of self-development and community path of social health and renewal in the light of anthroposophy.**

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*Views expressed in the newsletter are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Anthroposophical Society or the Anthroposophy Atlanta Branch. Activities and events are listed for informational purposes and listing does not necessarily represent an endorsement.*



<https://anthroposophyatlanta.org/>

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# Anthroposophy Atlanta

*As a branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America, Anthroposophy Atlanta seeks to nurture the life of anthroposophy in the Atlanta area and in the Southeast. Our branch supports the individual path of self-development and community path of social health and renewal in the light of anthroposophy.*

## ☐ Yes, I would like to be connected with Anthroposophy Atlanta

Please add/keep me on the mailing lists for Anthroposophy Atlanta so I can know about speakers, events, study groups, and other activities in the area

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I am: ☐ A member the Anthroposophical Society in America

☐ Not a member of the Society but interested in Branch activities

☐ I am able to support the activities of the Anthroposophy Atlanta with a donation:

☐ \$80

☐ \$40 (suggested)

☐ \$5

☐ I can provide time or materials during the year

Donations can be made by mail, checks payable to **Anthroposophy Atlanta**. Mail c/o 225 E Hancock Street, Decatur, GA 30030

### Areas of Interest:

☐ Education

☐ Music, Eurythmy, Drama, Speech

☐ Medicine

☐ Inner Development

☐ Visual Arts

☐ Youth Initiatives

☐ Agriculture

☐ Math and Astronomy

☐ Literary Arts, Humanities

☐ Natural Sciences

☐ Social Sciences

☐ Other:

Suggestions for Branch activities: