



December 2011
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■ ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

General Anthroposophical Section: Christmas Conference 2011

Esoteric -Social Impulse for the Future

A conference at the Goetheanum with the title «Transformation Impulses through Rudolf Steiner and Christian Rosenkreutz» may not be understood by everyone at first glance. Old fashioned? Highly esoteric? Only for older members? Why not a conference with a contemporary contents?

The Christmas Conference at the Goetheanum deals with a very topical subject which up to now has hardly been touched upon within the wider circle of the anthroposophical movement. The conference title could have been «An Esoteric-Social Impulse for the Future». In December of 1911 Rudolf Steiner attempted the founding of a Society for Theosophical Art and Way of Life. The Anthroposophical Society had not been founded yet and Rudolf Steiner's work took place within the framework of the Theosophical Society, although, as we know, Rudolf Steiner always offered Anthroposophy.

Giving a Way of Working

When on 27th October 1911 a branch with the name «Christian Rosenkreutz» was founded in Neuchâtel, Rudolf Steiner took this opportunity to speak about Christian Rosenkreutz in his inaugural speech, true to the principle that esoteric activity has to proceed from questions or from already existing movements.

He begins to make the great individuality Christian Rosenkreutz, the great leader of the fifth post-atlantic epoche (1413–3573 A.D.), accessible to the members of the then German Section of the Theosophical Society. «It gives me great joy to be here for the first time in this newly founded group bearing the great name of «Christian Rosenkreutz», which gives me the opportunity for the first time of speak-

ing about Christian Rosenkreutz at greater length». Already in 1904 Rudolf Steiner had confirmed that Christian Rosenkreutz had lived in the 18th century as the individuality the Count Saint Germain. Therefore we have invited the Phoenix Ensemble to this conference to play the music of the Count Saint Germain.



The «Attempt to Found a Society for Theosophical Art and Way of Life» is a roscrucian impulse out of which Rudolf Steiner attempted to create a community, not founded but

given. But what is it that is being given? A way of working! And who is to take on this way of working? «Those human beings who will find each other accordingly».

Thus we invite you cordially to the Christmas Conference 2011 at the Goetheanum, where questions on this subject can be deepened with lectures relating to the future and in shared work in thematic working groups.

Eurythmy performances, evening concerts, artistic readings and a special exhibition will add to the festive mood of the conference. | Virginia Sease, Margrethe Solstad, Paul Mackay, Goetheanum

Christmas Conference «Transformation Impulses through Rudolf Steiner and Christian Rosenkreutz», 26th to 31st December 2011, Goetheanum.

Info: www.goetheanum.org/4564.html

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers

Anthroposophy Worldwide can appear only thanks to the contributions of our reporters and translators. Douglas Miller and Peggy Elliott have been sharing the burden of translating «Anthroposophy Worldwide» since 2008. Their work is often unnoticed and sometimes criticized. It is not easy, for instance, to bridge the difference between British and U.S. language norms. This issue of «Anthroposophy Worldwide» is the last to fall under the responsibility of Peggy Elliott. She deserves our warm thanks for her uncomplicated and quiet work. | *Sebastian Jüngel*

Corrigendum

Correct E-Mail-Address

In «Anthroposophy Worldwide» No. 11/2011, pages 10ff., about the Centre for Development of Anthroposophy in Korea. Unfortunately an incorrect e-mail-Address was given. Cheong-Hie Lee can be contacted at: charirang123@hanmail.net. | *Ed.*

Anthroposophy Worldwide is published ten times a year. It is distributed by the national Anthroposophical Societies – in some cases augmented by independently edited news and articles. It also appears as a supplement to the weekly publication *Das Goetheanum*. • Publisher: General Anthroposophical Society, represented by Bodo von Plato • Editors: Peggy Elliott (responsible for the English edition), Sebastian Jüngel (content and production), Wolfgang Held, Axel Mannigel, Ursula Remund Fink • Correspondents/ News Agency: Jürgen Vater (Sweden), News Network Anthroposophy (NNA). We expressly wish for active support and collaboration. To receive *Anthroposophy Worldwide*, please apply to the Anthroposophical Society in your country. Alternatively, individual subscriptions are available for CHF 30.– (EUR/US\$ 20.–) per year from the address below. An e-mail version is available to members of the Anthroposophical Society only at: www.goetheanum.org/630.html?L=1. Please send address changes to the address on the envelope! Use this address to contact the editors: *Wochenschrift Das Goetheanum*, Postfach, CH-4143 Dornach 1, Switzerland; fax +41 61 706 44 65; abo@dasgoetheanum.ch

GOETHEANUM

Natural Science Section: Integration of the School of Nature

Brotherhood in Different Approaches

Since November 1st, 2011 the initiative The School of Nature works as part of the Natural Science Section at the Goetheanum. Hans-Christian Zehnter will take on co-ordination of the self-financed initiative with the support of the Section's infrastructure located in the Glashouse.

Learning to appreciate nature in its intrinsic beingness is a central task set by the initiative The School of Nature. The fact that nature is not just a given but something that changes and develops through nurture lies at the core of the initiative's intentions. Thus it fits implicitly into what is one of the Natural Science Section's central concerns. Hans-Christian Zehnter summed it up with the term «Christian Nature Observation».

Qualification Courses

The idea of a School of Nature originated in Norway. In 2002 Hannes Weigert presented the initiative to the Council of the Anthroposophical Society in Norway which took it to the meeting of the General Secretaries' of the General Anthroposophical Society. The School of Nature started its activity with working weeks in Fyresdal complemented by working groups and courses in Canada (Philip Thatcher), South Africa (Michael Grimley) and at the Goetheanum. At the centre of its work are qualification courses set in specific landscapes linked to the vision that art and nature observation are mutually enriching within a generally human interest in knowledge.

For Hans-Christian Zehnter the Whitsun Conference 2009 at the Goetheanum with the Humanities Section («Goetheanum» No. 11/2009) was a highlight because «of its manifest Whitsun mood». 300 participants (and up to 1000 in individual lectures) came together from different streams and with different approaches. The response led to a cycle of seminars with nine courses. In 2011/2012 a further «cycle of nine» is taking place.

In November 2011 The School of Nature moved «home» once more. It will now be co-ordinated by Hans-Christian Zehnter within the framework of the Natural Science Section because his colleagues have left for various reasons. The aims are to continue the offer of qualification courses in line with attentiveness schooling of the

sensible and supersensible as well as to create an international exchange forum within which «different approaches can be accompanied in brotherhood», as Hans-Christian Zehnter explains. In addition publications such as magazine articles and books are planned.

Methodology of Spiritual Experience

The projects announced by Hans-Christian Zehnter are diverse. They reach from cognitive methodical questions to precise intentions. Thus he will work with Wolter Bos (NL) on a bird book in which different bird species will be discussed similar to child observation in Waldorf pedagogy. It is based on many years of teamwork with a broad circle of ornithological interested people.

Together with the physicist Dietrich Rapp, Zehnter will continue to work on the twelve senses and also hopes that a summary of the cycle of the year observations can be produced which have been recorded successfully in form of photos and descriptions by a working group in Dornach for over six years.

Enabled by Basic Income

Hans-Christian Zehnter sees the School of Nature in connection with other initiatives of this kind. It is important for him to build a good network and achieve productive co-operation. Zehnter's work and vision is worth sponsoring to the level of a six months basic income of 2000 Francs. Zehnter hopes that further revenue can be achieved through courses, third party funding for research projects and donations. | *Sebastian Jüngel*

Events: www.schoolofnature.org, Option: «neue Veranstaltungen». **Contact:** Hans-Christian.Zehnter@goetheanum.ch

General Anthroposophical Society

Christmas Appeal



Connecting through undesignated donations: Paul Mackay

Dear Members

The 150th anniversary year of Rudolf Steiner's birthday is drawing to a close and much has happened. I feel that Rudolf Steiner has been re-discovered by a wider public as an important and central figure and that we will see the interest in his work grow.

This will have its consequences for the General Anthroposophical Society and the Goetheanum. What exactly that will be is difficult yet to say, but 2011 saw the Goetheanum receiving much more public attention. This and other developments need a deepening of Anthroposophy as Spiritual Science at the Goetheanum and within the anthroposophical movement. This, of course, requires a firm financial foundation.

Own Research

In 2011, we had to manage on a drastically reduced budget compared with 2010. But thanks to the commitment of our co-workers, this had no major bearing on the activities at the Goetheanum. We were able to take on and complete the tasks we had set for ourselves within the reduced budget. This included three cycles of Rudolf Steiner's Mystery Dramas, a new Eurythmy Group starting in September, several large Section conferences and the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Rudolf Steiner's birth.

The work of the Sections, mainly concerned with research, is an important part of the work at the Goetheanum. We want this to increase in the future. Continuing research in the School of Spiritual Science throughout the world should ideally find its counterpart at the Goetheanum in an active participative role as well as a coordinating one. This has already begun within individual Sections.

Income generated by services and performances at the Goetheanum accounts for about a quarter of our total income. For the rest needed to finance all this activity, we have four important additional sources:

1. Membership Contributions
2. Contributions from Institutions
3. Designated Donations
4. Undesignated Donations

Unfortunately, this year, membership contributions from outside Switzerland resulted in lower income than budgeted due to the strength of the Swiss Franc. We are most grateful for the additional contributions made by many members from different national societies which helped reduce this shortfall. Even so, we are unlikely to achieve the budgeted figure of 4.6 million Francs.

Contributions from institutions were budgeted at 1.9 million Francs. They come from anthroposophical institutions like Weleda or GLS Bank. Designated donations were budgeted at 2.4 million Francs

and come predominantly from anthroposophical charities, institutions and Section co-workers from all over the world. This budget has been met.

Undesignated Donations for our Central Tasks

We hope to reach 2 million Francs of undesignated donations. The Christmas Appeal particularly addresses this. Such donations take a special and important place in the Goetheanum budget as they enable us to undertake central anthroposophical tasks. These include Anthroposophical Studies at the Goetheanum in English and German, the development of the Goetheanum Eurythmy Stage Group and the underpinning of the work of the Sections. Like membership contributions, undesignated donations are a living expression of the connection between individuals and groups throughout the world with the Goetheanum without which it could not exist.

I am especially asking for your help in this difficult financial year. Please consider making a generous donation to The Christmas Appeal so we can raise the amount we need. The General Anthroposophical Society and the Goetheanum can then reach its budgeted income for 2011 and realise its tasks and finish the year with a positive financial result.

In gratitude for your contribution and with best wishes for Advent and Christmas | *Paul Mackay, Executive Council at the Goetheanum*

Donations to the Christmas Appeal can be made to the following accounts:

From within **Switzerland and Countries** without Euro currency: Allgemeine Anthroposophische Gesellschaft, Dornach
IBAN: CH36 8093 9000 0010 0607 1
BIC: RAIFCH22, Raiffeisenbank Dornach
Postkonto der Raiffeisenbank: 40-9606-4

Donations from **Euro countries**: Allgemeine Anthroposophische Gesellschaft, Dornach
IBAN: DE53 4306 0967 0000 9881 00
BIC/Swift: GENODEM1GLS
GLS Gemeinschaftsbank eG, 44708 Bochum, Deutschland

Donations in USD: Allgemeine Anthroposophische Gesellschaft, Dornach
IBAN: CH48 8093 9000 0010 0604 9
BIC: RAIFCH22, Raiffeisenbank Dornach

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BIC: RAIFCH22, Raiffeisenbank Dornach

■ ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

General Secretaries' Conference: Outlook for 2012 and beyond

Worldwide Collaboration

The General Secretaries' Conference from 8 to 11 November at the Goetheanum work on the way forward for the Anthroposophical Society over the coming years. Binding collaboration between Executive Council and General Secretaries, nurture of Rudolf Steiner's work and strengthening of anthroposophical content including at Annual General Meetings.

The format 'Extended Council Meetings' with the members of the Executive Council at the Goetheanum and the General Secretaries Hartwig Schiller (DE), Ron Dunselman (NL) and Marc Desaulles (CH) is taking shape. Basically this type of working has been confirmed by the General Secretaries' Conference and it shows, says Sue Simpson (NZ), that the Executive Council is actively opening 'doors'. Desaulles felt that the General Secretaries are increasingly becoming part of the leadership of the General Anthroposophical Society without, as Helmut Goldmann (AT) emphasised, diminishing the Executive Council's realisation of its responsibilities. The next step now is to decide how non-participating General Secretaries will be kept informed of these discussions, and possibly, be included.

The principle of collaboration should also develop in other areas of the Anthroposophical Society. The Annual General Meetings of the General Anthroposophical Society will in future be organised by the Executive Council in conjunction with the General Secretaries. And a decisive aim is to make the Annual General Meetings more «anthroposophical». What this means? Hartwig Schiller: «Rudolf Steiner emphasised that every members' meeting should be an anthroposophical coming together also in its contents» and pointed to the experiences of the Anthroposophical Society in Germany.

Justus Wittich Nominated as Treasurer

Torin Finser (US) identified the quality of listening as an important condition for a culture of collaboration. The General Secretaries will do everything to understand the situation at the Goetheanum as it is openly presented by the Executive Council and the Section Leaders, and the members of the Executive Council, equally attentive, take note of what the General Secretaries are contributing. On this basis the Executive Council's suggestion to nominate Justus Wittich for affirmation



Nominated as Treasurer in the Executive Council at the Goetheanum: Justus Wittich

as new member of the Executive Council in the capacity of treasurer of the General Anthroposophical Society at the next Annual General meeting, was welcomed and supported.

Controversial Subjects

Controversial subjects too, were discussed at the conference. Members of the Executive Council and Section Leaders reported about their experiences of the work with Friedrich Glasl which looks at varied conceptions of competencies and performance structures at the Goethe-

anum. This has been problematic within the collegium of the School of Spiritual Science over the past years. Hartwig Schiller emphasised that because everyone openly expressed their point of view rather than an uniform picture, trust developed amongst the General Secretaries especially as the votes were rather varied, yet expressed a will to unity.

Equally controversial was the question in one working group regarding the overlap of Executive Council and Section Leadership responsibilities which were set up by Rudolf Steiner during the Founding of the Society and School, but which is no longer practiced today. Is that due to today's complexity of the individual task or does a member of the Executive have to have sole responsibility for his area of work in order to be effective within the Society's remit? Helmut Goldmann (AT): «This, for me, is a decision which has to be made by those who today carry the responsibility». And he further makes clear where an area of conflict arises: «With the founding of the Society and School Rudolf Steiner shared and delegated responsibility. Because he did not give any further instructions prior to his death he made it clear that those who carry responsibility have to decide, according to their era and the conditions they face, what is sensible within the remit of the Society. He certainly did not intend that after 100 years it would still be the same as in his day». Present members of the Executive Council have no firm opinions on this matter.

Forms of Membership for Institutions

The conference discussed in detail how a closer connection could be established between institutions and the Anthroposophical Society. It is within the nature and remit of this Society that only individuals (natural persons) can become members because they make the aims of the Society their own and decide its destiny. On this basis, the conference discussed various models of sponsor membership for corporate bodies which would allow a clear commitment and sustainable support of the Society's aims but without voting rights. A subject which will be discussed further within the conference.

In all this, Hartwig Schiller experienced a morning mood: fresh, still a little cool, but open to what is to come. He is thinking of the Executive Council's initiatives

Bidding Farewell

General Secretaries' Conference
Norma Blackwood (AU), Gudrun Cron (FR), Esther Gerster (CH) and Marie Jones (US).

Collegium of the School of Spiritual Science:
Martina Maria Sam (Humanities Section)
and Elisabeth Wirsching (Youth Section)

Welcomed

Arie van Ameringen (CA), Mario Dahmen (BE) and Marc Desaulles (CH).

First time participation from the Collegium of the School of Spiritual Science: Constanza Kaliks (Youth Section).

SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE

which strengthen the Goetheanum's field of activity. One of those is the Goetheanum-Meditation-Initiative Worldwide which is to be developed and financially strengthened through integration into National Anthroposophical Societies.

Another example is the planned fund for Rudolf Steiner's work. The General Secretaries support the initiative by the Society to actively pursue preservation and development of Rudolf Steiner's written and artistic works. Historically, so far, this has been the sole task of the Rudolf-Steiner-Nachlassverwaltung. For financial reasons, however, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the Rudolf-Steiner-Archive with its three areas of work, archives, publishing and exhibitions.

Thus the initiative also considers the possibility of a closer co-operation between the Rudolf-Steiner-Archive and the Documentation at the Goetheanum. Marc Desaulles describes this plan as a gesture which may be realised by the end of the 150th anniversary year.

Communication Between Cultures

The Anthroposophical Society, of course, also has its place at the conference. This includes «World Communication» with impressions especially of civil and natural disasters in individual countries, but also pragmatic questions on the development of the Society's communication material like the weekly publication «Das Goetheanum» and the Annual Report. The Annual Report is published in six languages at the moment and thus does not reach all members in their native tongue. However, this would be desirable for this annual publication of a World Society, even if it means considerable organisational and financial demands. Torin Finser broadenend this aspect further by pointing to the task of shaping communication between cultures with different languages. «It is about collaboration between people of different countries worldwide which makes the Anthroposophical Society into what it is». Thus there are a number of plans for the coming years and much work. | *Sebastian Jüngel*

General Section: Further Development for Class Readers and International Class Readers' Meeting

Class Readers' Meeting Report

Virginia Sease and Heinz Zimmermann have organised an annual class readers meeting in conjunction with further development for class readers, who have been in that position for less than seven years, since 2007. This year's training took place from 2 to 4 November and 230 participants from 26 countries came to the class readers' meeting which followed from 4 to 6 November.

Following Heinz Zimmermann's death, Seija Zimmermann, member of the Executive Council at the Goetheanum, and Johannes Kühn, Leader of the Natural Sciences Section at the Goetheanum and Class Reader since 1990, were asked by Virginia Sease to become part of this work. At the further development sessions with the title «The Christian Aspects of the Michael School», discussions follow the reflections. One of the subjects was the Universal Christian. Virginia Sease outlined the Christian Mysteries as a thread in Rudolf Steiner's work. Johannes Kühn spoke about the Christian function of the School of Spiritual Science at a time when man has to find his own tasks and when the goals of this quest arise out of working together.

Following the Christmas Conference 1923/24, Rudolf Steiner described the materialism of the future. It is noteworthy that Rudolf Steiner gave a meditation to some professions to strengthen their work.

The Year 1911

The discussions during the class readers' conference were based on «Rosicrucian Motifs and the Present Day of the School of Spiritual Science» from the lectures given in Neuchâtel in 1911 about Christian Rosenkreutz and the attempt by Rudolf Steiner to give a society for Theosophical Art and Way of Life towards the end of the same year. Marc Desaulles and Johannes Kühn spoke about the Rosicrucian Stream, Virginia Sease and Bodo von Plato gave perspectives of the 1911 Foundation and its meaning today. Rudolf Steiner had been very reserved in his remarks about Christian Rosenkreutz and his own relationship to him.

How the Word can Become a Picture

With a reminder of the terrible events this summer on Utøya in Norway, Frode

Barkved spoke about how mankind today faces shocks, anxieties and the abyss, and how out of the ashes new life can arise.

Oliver Conradt made clear in his contribution how a fight for humanity is taking place in the world, and he described the Michaelic motifs of freedom which also live in the School.

Christian Hitsch demonstrated in his contribution how the word can become a picture. | *Leena Westergrén, Class Reader and General Secretary Anthroposophical Society in Finland*

Further Development for Class Readers:
31st October to 2nd November 2012.
International Class Readers' Conference:
2nd November to 14th November 2012.

■ ANTHROPOSOPHY IN THE WORLD

*Japan: After the Tsunami and Fukushima***Faster Development**

On March 11th Japan was first afflicted by a Tsunami and then by a nuclear disaster. The eurythmist Emi Yoshida, born in Ishinomaki, Northern Japan, saw the results of the catastrophe in her homeland in August and is now planting cherry trees locally as a sign of hope. Following some insights.

Japan is moving on», noted volunteer Shingo Horie from Western Japan. He grew up near the largest Shintoist temple in Japan, Ise, and just as this temple is being re-constructed every 20 years as a ritual, the Japanese can rebuild the regions destroyed by the tsunami.

Death and Remembrance

One day after the earthquake and the tsunami which followed on March 11th 2011, people in the affected areas waited calmly in front of the aid vehicles and tents for 2 litres of water and food, sometimes up to six hours. This picture will be remembered in people's hearts all over the world. The earthquake and tsunami devastated 500 kilometres of coastal region in North-Eastern Japan, and moved the Oshika-Peninsula by 5,3 and sea levels by 24 metres. As if to regain order the earth has quaked more than 400 times since. Everyday there are new earthquakes in different locations in Japan.

On August 7th, I landed at Sendai airport which had re-opened ten days earlier. It had been heavily destroyed by the Tsunami but with US-Army aid it was soon re-constructed. Traces of the vast tsunami were still visible from the air. Windbreak forest near the coast had been totally destroyed. The «Rice-Garden», the Sendai-Plain, was brown because salt-water makes it impossible for the plants to grow. Thus a rice crop is not possible this year. Heaps of rubble sorted by waste material (metal, brick, wood, plastic) are visible everywhere.

On August 11th the fifth memorial service took place. In unusually high temperatures for North-Eastern Japan of 35 Degrees Celsius, relatives prayed and brought flowers to the altar. At this point about 19 000 dead had been identified but 4000 people are still missing. Police were searching especially hard prior to the annual time of mourning (14 to 16 August). Some relatives of those missing decided that a funeral should take place

without the corps prior to the festival of the dead, so that the dead can receive a Buddhist name.

Far away in Munich, in Germany, two beneficiary concerts were held in aid of the victims, and from anthroposophical circles came donations. I was able to take these, together with «Solum Oil», Wala, directly to Ookawa-Primary School in Ishinomaki, near my home town. In May the «Friends of Waldorf Education» emergency team had visited the crèche in this school, from which 70 students died during the tsunami. («Anthroposophy Worldwide» No. June 2011). The school was housed in a primary school and on April 21st a new term was started by the school leaders with a new collegium (teachers and trained personnel) and 22 students. On the day I visited, the funerals of two students took place. Class 6 students were able to swim in the pool in the morning, one student asked me whether students in Germany were allowed to swim in the sea. The beautiful coast where she used to swim had been destroyed by the tsunami. Since then the students and their teacher hold a monthly memorial service. This year, fireworks which created sparkling flowers of light in the night sky gave special meaning to the traditional summer fêtes. In this way an attempt is made to build a bridge between heaven and earth in memory of those that have died and to bring courage.

Radio Activity and Protection

The aftermath of radiation is becoming increasingly noticeable. Many people are aware of the readings. Even if the reading is only slightly above the acceptable norm, farmers are not allowed to sell beef. One farmer,

Kenichi Miyazaki, lost his entire livestock in the tsunami and now has no source of income. He wants to send his son to Brazil as international chicken trader. The farmers demand compensa-

*Kesennuma/Miyagi*

tion from the company that runs the reactor, Tepco. The contaminated earth and the loss of cattle, however, cannot be replaced. Those people who love the earth and nature and live on it are directly affected by the disaster. The government decided that people who live near the Fukushima-Daiichi-Reactor are allowed back home after «radiation clearance measures». Because of low measurements people are not directly aware of the danger of radioactivity. Research results have shown that the real affect only becomes clear three to five generations later. People are dealing differently with radiation. Some kindergartens and schools are exchanging sand in the sandpits and on the sports fields so that the children can play outside again. The contaminated soil is being disposed of at a depth of 30 centimetres. In order to lessen radiation, Professor Teruo Higa scattered effective micro organisms (EM) in North Eastern Japan. There was renewed concern over another contaminated rice harvest in August, and some people bought up existing rice. One mother living near Tokyo, had all necessary food stuff delivered from Western and Southern Japan and will move to Western Japan with her family. And on the most northerly Island, Hokkaido, where the name of the pumpkins comes from, a meeting of anthroposophically minded people took place in August. The



Volunteers

future of the island and a new perspective for Japan were discussed.

Reconstruction and Aid

The Miyagi local government, an area heavily affected by the tsunami, came up with a proposal for reconstruction. Provisional accommodation has been put up and people are starting to return to normality from the evacuation camps. The Red Cross donated the necessary electrical goods and the government looked after basic needs for four people. The motorway can be used toll free for a year. A telecommunications company donated mobile phones free of charge for a month. But many people are concerned because they can only claim two months unemployment benefit. The tsunami completely swept away some companies.

The most affected town, Ishinomaki, has been lowered so much that it is being flooded every day anew. This delays re-construction further. Yumiko Sasaki lost his mother in law in the tsunami, her own house, and work. Every day she and her husband looked for mother in law, wading breast deep in water, until she was found two weeks later and who was identified by her stockings. Within a month Yumiko Sasaki renovated an empty house and went back to work following a request by an entrepreneur. Her hobby was making bread and cakes,

and when we met her the second time she brought the first cake she had baked for five months. She hopes that her son will find work abroad as turbine technician.

Freedom and Existential Questions

Some women who were unable to fulfil their dreams and potential under the old traditional customs and rules, are now leaving their families. They are receiving accommodation free of charge for two years. One woman, for example, wants to pay back her husband's debts. She is going to move into town on her own where she will work until the debts are paid. When the infrastructure collapsed, a market organiser learnt that money was no longer of value. People came on foot and brought vegetables, water, clothes and more and gave it away or swapped. This is how they helped each other. Already on the second day following the catastrophe, water tankers came from Kobe which experienced a huge earthquake in 1995. From all over Japan and the whole world money and goods were donated, for example buses, ships, cars and much more. The victims help and cook for each other. New social networks are being created. Every day volunteers are arriving from all over Japan as well as students from Tokyo. Some young people, who are unemployed, are moving to Eastern Japan and help with reconstruction. Following the story of a

woman that the tsunami and the after-shock had destroyed the town of Ishinomaki and with it all mementos, I had the idea to plant cherry trees in the affected areas with the help of the people remaining, as comfort and as symbol of new hope. On August 14th I read an article in the paper about the cherry tree project of a Buddhist monk. During a telephone conversation I noticed that we had been at the same primary school and that we knew each other. Now we are doing this project together. We are planting 23000 cherry trees along the 500 kilometres long coastal region, a figure reflecting the number of dead.

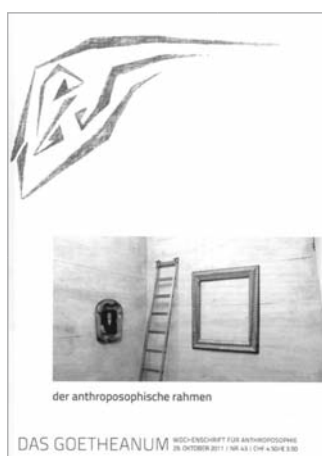
Following the clear up outside, people are beginning to ask after the meaning of life. Who am I? What is my purpose on earth? What do I want? A legal secretary told us that in North-Eastern Japan more people are getting married and separated following the events. During and after the events between life and death, people have experienced what is essential. Now they want to make real what is important to them and what they really want to do. This event has speeded up development of the ego. Therefore the people need direct and indirect help. Anthroposophically minded people can be the companions of this path of ego-development. | *Emi Yoshida,*

To our readers who know
German.

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■ ANTHROPOSOLOGY IN THE WORLD

Europe: Review of the Campaign 150 years Rudolf Steiner

Trained Vision

One of the most remarkable campaigns outside anthroposophical institutions is the work of the project group 150 years Rudolf Steiner. The campaigns with the special train RS 150 Rudolf Steiner Express at the centre, the website and the personal commitment from Vera Koppehel and Stephan Sieber gained much media interest.

After more than 150 hours overtime I am sitting tired and yet wide awake in the ICE from Basel to Cologne. Whilst I ponder over how it all began, my mobile starts to ring every 15 minutes. «We have to load the restaurant carriage but it hasn't arrived!» «Did you know that the train hasn't been cleaned?» «We want to mark the carriages but they are in the wrong order.» «The heating is not working and neither is the intercom ...» Anxiety levels ranging between confidence and nervous breakdown will be tested further over the next 19 hours (again no sleep). But then, the next morning at precisely 9.19 am, shining, numbered and with the passengers' name labels in place it comes around the corner in the right carriage order and perfectly marked «RS 150 Rudolf Steiner Express 2011».

Presents from the Wayside

After one and a half years of preparation the journey passes by in a flash. The outside world only exists at stations where I can take a deep breath of air during the massive campaign; inside the train it resembles a beehive. By now the temperatures in the restaurant carriage are either like Greenland or the tropics, one compartment has been turned into a sick-room, one passenger misses the train at 5 am in the morning, another has no passport at the border and instead of an intercom three of us have to make our way through the carriages and explain the itinerary 199 times, individually. In brief team meetings, hemmed in between luggage and advertising material, «normal» work continues for the project office. The large publishers

(normally rather reserved) are ringing us until we reach Slovakia for picturerights, interviews, press conferences, matinee in the Hofburg... because it is Steiner's birthday weekend. And as we disembark in Vienna the festive buffet is ready! However, technology plays a trick on us despite sound checks.

(Tip: Never allow a TV-team to connect

after the commencement of the event). International media response was unexpected in its quantity and quality with more than 250 newspaper articles, radio programmes and tv contributions. Although also recurrent and latently penetrating as well as stereotypical critical comments were heard, in the main the better quality media responded surprisingly constructively to the anniversary festivities and honoured Steiner's importance sophisticated and comprehensively. The «Süddeutsche Zeitung» for example, carried the headline «Rudolf Steiner – the colourful genius» in its week-end issue on his 150th birthday. «Die Zeit» honoured Steiner as the «only German idealist who has stood the test of time» and called Waldorf Pedagogy the «most successful pedagogical reform initiative of the 20th century». The New York «Times Magazine» reported already in the spring of 2010 on the two largest Steiner-Exhibitions and in the feature pages of the «Neue Zürcher Zeitung» a well informed article on the subject was printed about Steiner as «Stimulus for Contemporary Art». German language radio alone broadcasted a total of 25 hours on Steiner, ending with a three hour long «Long Night about Rudolf Steiner» in the Deutschlandfunk (German Radio). Whether in specific news reports and cultural programmes by Austrian and West German Broadcasting, the Bavarian and Southwestern tv or on 3sat and ATV, all renowned broadcasters took Steiner's 150th birthday as an opportunity to bring an indepth coverage never seen before in relation to Steiner and Anthroposophy.

Support

We tried to be prepared as well as possible for occasional interferences and intentionally defamatory obstacles and to reply appropriately. For example, with anonymous postings to the online editions of various newspapers which were even more defamatory when the discussion of Steiner had been constructive, we felt the most effective reply was to ask the

online editors to keep to their own rules of conduct. This resulted

in the deletion of around 200 discrediting postings.

In Vienna alone two press conferences were held during the Steiner anniversary year which resulted in an impressive media response. Austrian tv as well as radio stations and editors of the Austrian press agency were present. Thanks to the well structured text and photo material which we made available as press kits and digital, many components could be transferred directly and thus strategically included in the media coverage. Taking care and individually looking after press distributors with local responsibility and main subject areas was of course also part of the daily task of the project office which often lasted until 2am. Happily this led to a firm media anchorage.

Groundwork – Preparations

One of the main aims in putting together the anniversary year was to present to the public, through varied events with worldwide combined efforts, how manifold Steiner's ideas live in the world today and what solutions for burning questions of our time and the future can be derived from Steiner's approach. In the implementation of this aim we worked on the assumption that this required as much co-operation as possible from renowned organisations like universities, ministries and museums who would wish to openly demonstrate their interest in Rudolf Steiner and Anthroposophy and that these events and co-operation should be consolidated under a common global 'brand' name.

This on the one hand presupposes optimal networking of our team members which is not something that can be arranged from one day to the next. This demands many years of communicative preparation as well as so called 'confidence building measures', but on the other hand it profits from the manifold support from colleagues in the anthroposophical media meetings. The direct approach of representatives of public institutions and potential co-operative partners from a variety of sectors and disciplines demands the necessary instinct for the right moment, the right set up and an adequate argument.

In relation to market strategic position-

ing of anniversary celebrations of important personalities, the use of our own anniversary website, in conjunction with a distinctive corporate logo, proved to be an effective recipe for success. This also became a major aspect for the Steiner anniversary and was further supported by the multi lingual anniversary seal which was designed to enhance the common aim of the round 150 co-operation partners in connection with worldwide events in the context of the anniversary year.

Allowing the Creativity of the Other

The fact that by 27 February 2011 an international, honourable committee could be found which took on the auspices for the anniversary year, was one of the nicest and most impressive moments of our project office times. This was mainly due to the initiative of my colleague Stephan Siber. The list of 24 personalities from the sciences, art and economy as well as representatives from public life reaches from Jakob von Uexküll (Founder of the Alternative Nobel Prize) and Franz Welser-Möst (General Musical Director of the Vienna State Opera) via Education Minister Claudia Schmied and the Indian Quantum Physicist Vandana Shiva to Olympic Winner Franz Klammer and Christoph Badelt, Chancellor of the Vienna University of Economics.

In the end, however, it is always the love for the deed and personal enthusiasm that invites others to join in what is greater than the individual. It is of utmost importance to involve the other right from the start and to appeal to his/her creativity. Not to talk too much and wanting to persuade. If the other then really joins in it means to really practice trust and to let one's ego go. Within this space wonderful things can happen and herein lies the measure in how far this is artistic and social. | *Vera Koppehel, en route (World)*

This contribution has been slightly edited. Extract from the accompanying conference pamphlet 'öffentlich wirken' 2011.

Info: www.rudolf-steiner-2011.com

Contact:

verissima@gmx.net, www.verakoppehel.eu

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Germany: Class Conference

Dynamic of the Class Lessons

From 21 to 23 October the Class Conference 'Man's Schooling Path on Either Side of the Threshold' took place in the Johanneshaus in Öschelbronn. Following work with the first seven class lessons during 2010, complemented by an overview given by Sergei Prokofieff over all nineteen lessons, the work continued this year with lessons 7 to 11.

The conference began with a public lecture given by Bodo von Plato entitled 'Task and Aim of the School of Spiritual Science'. At the centre stood the question of how we are placed into a world today which will continue to change radically through us and at the same time independently from us. This is our time, we have incarnated at this moment and are asked to participate in it impartially.

Jean-Sébastien Catalan from Ulm (DE) gave a personal overview of the path leading up to the seventh class lesson (the threshold into the spiritual world). Bodo von Plato took this up with an account of the first tasks following the threshold and the metamorphosis of soul forces and Hans Broder von Laue continued with the tasks in the elementary etheric world.

Earthly and Cosmic Life

Bodo von Plato also clearly demonstrated the path from earthly consciousness to that of the spiritual world beyond the threshold. We experience how we cross the threshold with the help of the Guardian and recognise ourselves as spiritual beings. The review of our physical existence shows us the forces which were active and which otherwise remain hidden. With the help of the Guardian man begins to perceive that he is part of the living earth environment that stretches into the sphere of the stars. The recognition of how closely linked thinking and willing are is awe-inspiring and how they complement and enrich each other. Man is earth bound and at the same time a spiritual being amongst the hierarchies.

Normally one is so busy with studying individual lessons and their mantras that it is easy to miss such an overview. We are

grateful to the initiative of the Johannes branch in Öschelbronn, and in particular to Hans Broder von Laue and Elke Elisabeth von Laue, who made this clear overview of the lessons and the presentation of their dynamic possible through these conferences. Elke Elisabeth von Laue also led the eurythmy for participants.

No Fear of Questions

Around 50 people participated in the conference of the School of Spiritual Science. Around half came from further afield, the others from the Johanneshaus. The discussion groups, where one could ask questions and talk without fear, attributed to the success. Bodo von Plato also told us that he, together with Christoph Wiechert, brings the contents of the School (without mantras) to people who work in initiatives founded by Rudolf Steiner. Thus the Goetheanum comes to people in anthroposophical initiatives instead of vice versa.

It is also noteworthy with how much attention and perseverance the fairly aged, up to 100 years old, mostly female residents of the Johanneshaus followed the performances and participated in the conference more or less full time. | *Elke Wiesner-Friedrichsen, Vaihingen (DE)*

Conference: 21 to 23 September 2012 contents of the 11th to 16th Class Lesson; 20 to 22 September 2013 lessons 17 to 19.

Peru: 150 years of Rudolf Steiner in Lima

«Steiner» Refreshed

The 150th anniversary of Rudolf Steiner offered an opportunity to come together to the widely dispersed anthroposophical movement in Peru. 19 Initiatives remembered Rudolf Steiner on October 22nd at the centre of the Anthroposophical Society in Lima and shared their work.

For some months we pondered the question how we could best celebrate 150 years Rudolf Steiner. Then we came up with the following idea. Again and again new initiatives are born in Peru which work on the basis of Anthroposophy. These may be smaller working groups,

kindergartens or mini schools, bio-dynamic agriculture, groups for healthy food and Weleda. It includes the work of Pro Humanus with children and teachers in the mountainous areas and the Sierra. And it is about those who take care of children with cancer in city hospitals, the institute for Waldorf Pedagogy, the Anthroposophical Study Course and much more. We are less familiar with each other and have never before met at a joint event.

On the occasion of marking 150 years of Rudolf Steiner, the Anthroposophical Society in Peru and the Johannes branch (in existence since 1963) invited all to this celebration, together with older initiatives like the curative pedagogical school San Christoforus (it celebrates its 21st birthday this year), the Christian Community (it celebrated the 21st birthday since consecration of its church), the Waldorf School in Lima (in its 30th year), the Waldorf school Cieneguilla (over 20 years old) and Anthroposophical Medicine. 19 initiatives sent representatives (two initiatives were missing). Even the Michael branch from the Andes Highlands was represented.

We invited a string quartet well known in Lima to provide music for the opening ceremony. Then we heard a lecture about Rudolf Steiner, more about his importance than his biography, and the Christian Community gave an excellent speech choir recital with texts by Rudolf Steiner and others.

After a break all institutions and initiatives were asked to give short reports how Rudolf Steiner lives in their work. That was very interesting. The most varied aspects came to the fore (with a total of 100 participants) and one could feel how the relationship to Rudolf Steiner is represented in the most colourful way.

After four hours, a lavish buffet refreshed everyone who had already been «Steiner» refreshed. The organisers of this event knew early on that something like this, maybe in a totally different format, would have to be repeated. | *Roswitha Spittler, Lima (PE)*

MEMBERS WHO HAVE DIED

International:

Meeting of Farming Women 2011

Annual Source of Energy

In 2011 the International Seminary for Farming Women took place in Wilderswil (CH) from 9th to 14th November with the theme 'Social Co-existence'. 38 years ago this meeting of women was founded by Maria Thun on the Oswaldhof (CH) to create space for exchange and development for women from bio-dynamic farms.

What started with only a handful of farming women who met in the middle of November has today grown into a group of 100 women of all ages and from the most varied types of farms arriving from Germany, Switzerland, France, Spain, Italy and the USA. What is special about this conference is that it is completely organised by the women themselves. No 'outside speakers' are invited which has led to great openness and connectedness between the women over the years. The group inviting deals with the organisational itinerary and the participants take care of the theme.

The theme invited many reports of personal experiences and co-existence on farms. Far from theory, the contributions were lively and demonstrated insights and laws of the social sphere. The artistic courses like Eurythmy (Helena Ellenberger), Speech (Agnes Zehnter) and Singing (Sabine Lehmann) took hold of the whole being and gave food for thought for everyday life.

Humorous feedback and the assimilation of experiences during a social evening is always a special event where the creative and artistic ideas of the women make a special impression. Through the women's personal contributions and the work with spiritual contents, a special atmosphere develops at the meeting place. From this the women return to their farms strengthened and with new impulses. For many it is a source of energy for the whole year. | *Christina von Horsten, Handeloh-Wörme (DE)*

Next Conference: 14th to 19th November 2012, Ahlhorn near Oldenburg (DE).

Contact and Information for all colleagues on bio-dynamic farms:
www.demeter-im-norden.de

We have been notified of the deaths of the following members.

Please find their names in memory below.

Membership Secretariat at the Goetheanum

Dorothea Schubert	München (DE)	28.6.2009
Marcelle Lhomme	St André les Vergers (FR)	9.2.2011
Liisa Paunela	Pori (FI)	13.4.2011
Kristina Blomqvist	Vasa (FI)	5.2.2011
Greta Otway	Chatham (GB)	4.6.2011
Günter Steppuhn	Engelsbrand (DE)	6.6.2011
Helen Fromm	Weinheim (DE)	2.7.2011
Tilla Kellner	Kassel (DE)	5.8.2011
Ulrike Wunsch	Freiburg (DE)	5.8.2011
Ingrid Gabriel	Bielefeld (DE)	18.8.2011
Willem Thomas	Haarlem (NL)	22.8.2011
Ruth Hütterott	Hannover (DE)	25.8.2011
Sylvia Eglin	Reinach (CH)	30.8.2011
Gijs de Bont	Andelst (NL)	1.9.2011
Katharine Gibbs	Poole (GB)	1.9.2011
Ruth Meiss	Kassel (DE)	2.9.2011
Eleanor Youngman	Kings Langley (GB)	5.9.2011
Tobias Watermann	Hildesheim (DE)	12.9.2011
Elisabeth Reinhardt	Frankfurt a. M. (DE)	15.9.2011
Hildegard Dittmar	Lotte (DE)	25.9.2011
Elisabeth Junker	Borchen (DE)	26.9.2011
Gerhart Wössner	Gerabronn (DE)	29.9.2011
Theodóra Harnóczy	Budapest (HU)	9.2011
Helmut Kersten	Berlin (DE)	7.10.2011
Erika Bremser	Syke (DE)	9.10.2011
Willy Schell	Neubrandenburg (DE)	12.10.2011
Helga Schubert	Borchen (DE)	12.10.2011
Derek Forman	Mayfield (GB)	14.10.2011
Tonny Bakhoven	Driebergen (NL)	15.10.2011
Irmhild Rabben	Duisburg (DE)	16.10.2011
Yvonne Heim	Schaffhausen (CH)	17.10.2011
Lydia Brander	Basel (CH)	18.10.2011
Friedrich Platzler	Wien (AT)	18.10.2011
Cornelia Jonker	Terschelling Midsland (NL)	19.10.2011
Helene Kühlwetter	Hildesheim (DE)	19.10.2011
Jacques Destailleur	Laboissière en Thelle (FR)	20.10.2011
Else Holzrichter	Borchen (DE)	20.10.2011
Michael Friedjung	Paris (FR)	22.10.2011
Mathilde van Romunde	Amerongen (NL)	24.10.2011
Eiso Bergsma	Dornach (CH)	25.10.2011
Renate Köhler	Dornach (CH)	25.10.2011
Muriel Pipe	Arlesheim (CH)	25.10.2011
Oskar Brekenfeld	Eckernförde (DE)	26.10.2011
Klaus Georg Dönges	Essen (DE)	27.10.2011
Betty Hotz	Zürich (CH)	30.10.2011
Ernst Betz	Bremen (DE)	31.10.2011
Ursula Schmoller	Hannover (DE)	2.11.2011
Miriam Karnow	Spring Valley/NY (US)	3.11.2011
Elisabeth Day	Dornach (CH)	6.11.2011
Roland Link	Dornach (CH)	11.11.2011
Roy Bell	Riverdale/GA (US)	im Jahr 2011
Lyman Jackson	Denver/CO (US)	im Jahr 2011

Last month 94 new members joined the Society;

62 resigned and 52 deceased (as per 14 November 2011).

■ FEATURE

Germany: First Symposium for Communication «public engagement»

«Deciding on Change»

On 4/5 November the first symposium for communication, «public engagement», was held at the Waldorf school in Bochum-Langendreer. It offered an opportunity for nearly 180 participants to connect with the basics of public relations work and colleagues.



A new professional branch: Public Relations Representatives at the symposium «public engagement»

Media work is based on practical ability. Media work requires knowledge of the media business. And media work presupposes a willingness to bring about change. The conference «public engagement» defined the basics for public relations work. It is an initiative of the working group of anthroposophical media representatives within the German speaking regions. Over the past 14 years it has grown from about a dozen participants to now up to 50 which means that a professional branch was formed where co-workers have a great demand for further development. Often they take on public relations work as a sideline or with little reimbursement, without being prepared for the task.

Making Use of Methods of Production

Thus it was not surprising that the conference had a huge response. Together with lecturers and working group chairpersons about 180 people met to work with (mainly practical) questions. How do I make contact with an editorial office? Preferably personally, but not during production periods. How do I compose a media message? Short, direct and objective. The secret of using media is knowing its mechanisms. One of these is that editors are working under deadline pressures, especially when there are few co-workers. Therefore everything that saves work

takes precedence. In an extreme case, says Holger Wilms somewhat exaggerating, the editorial team of a scene magazine could consist of layout personnel only, who choose texts less according to contents than according to length. This also explains why customised texts have a good chance of being printed.

Public Networking

The preparatory committee was able to provide a broad programme due to its contacts. GLS bank, the weekly «Das Goetheanum», the Association for Anthroposophical Curative Pedagogy, Social Therapy and Social Work, Thon-Marketing and Weleda teamed up to include a public view of anthroposophical activities and to get feedback from the professionals in respect of their needs and the reasons behind them.

Participating were Lukas Beckmann, founding member and former managing director of the Green Party «Bündnis 90 / Die Grünen», Bascha Mika, former chief editor of the alternative daily «taz», journalists like Caspar Dohmen and Holger Wilms as well as Christoph Hardt, communications director from Siemens, and Christoph Fasel, head of journalistic teaching establishments and communication advisor, amongst other things. The initial point of public relations is the es-

tablishment's, organisation's or business' desire for change. Public relations means to open up outwardly, to invite encounter and confrontation which produces warmth. Warmth means development, change. Beckmann: «Public Relations are the decision to want to change (internally) and to connect to the outside». And this takes place on a contested field. «The public is saturated, our faculty of perception is exhausted», says Beckmann. Not least therefore the right timing to approach the public is of the essence, as Dohmen emphasised. A good idea can fail if it misses the right moment in time.

Fourfold Courage

Based on a study from 2006, Christoph Fasel made clear that Anthroposophists have a good foundation. They are regarded as harmless, involved and have a positive image, even if little is known about them.

With their high degree of reflectivity they are an exception amongst the average population, they are not understood by everyone and thus form an elite group. Fasel proposed not to «praise, but to narrate», so that the complex connection becomes visible through personal examples. In addition, he brought to attention that the language of the media is laconic (and not pathos or passion as with Rudolf Steiner). Dohmen pointed out that hard facts and figures are important factors of credibility. And more than once the appeal was heard: «Don't explain everything at once. Limit yourself to one core statement. Work out what is your speciality». These appeals were formulated in four exclamations:

Courage of self experiences (Wolfgang Held), courage of failure (Hardt), courage of distinctness, no thinking within mass categories (Mika) and courage to uphold one's own original ideas with self confidence (Dohmen). At the conference fringes further aspects came up, like Benjamin Kolass' question how media work looked like which is not based on the mechanisms of a majority society but on individuality.

Or Jens Heisterkamp's suggestion to pay attention to the productive outcomes of all that which is perceived as odd in Rudolf Steiner and to link to already existing, quotable remarks as for example those of Peter Sloterdijk. | *Sebastian Jüngel*