



ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN AMERICA

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Dear member and friend,

2011 has been an exciting year! I am writing to share some highlights and to ask for your financial support for the work ahead. An outpouring of events has produced a new level of public interest and a growing recognition of the breadth and depth of Rudolf Steiner's vision and initiatives for the healthy development of the whole human being.

In planning this celebratory year, the General Council decided to support many local celebrations for the 150th anniversary of Rudolf Steiner's birth rather than putting resources into one large event. We envisioned a person-to-person outreach to the public, which would affirm the continuing impact and challenge of Steiner's work from a century ago.

- In January we hosted conference calls with group and branch leaders to help focus our celebrations on Steiner's vision for the future of humanity rather than his past legacy.
- Our newsletter evolved a step further as *being human*, stepping with that new title into the larger public debate with anthroposophical perspectives on contemporary issues.
- For the first issue we commissioned a paper on Rudolf Steiner's relevance today, and Fred Amrine's *Discovering a Genius: Rudolf Steiner at 150* makes a powerful, readable case, which is now being reprinted separately.
- These pieces beautifully complement an extraordinary traveling exhibit designed by Douglas Miller. The exhibit struck a chord, gracing programs in more than 40 communities so far! With AWSNA hosting them at their annual conference, many Waldorf schools are asking to have the panels for their school events.
- The 150th celebrations also received a "birthday gift" from two amazing members. In February, Sherry Wildfeuer gave a three-week speaking tour to Waldorf schools in Oregon and northern California. And Daniel Bittleston just completed a two month tour of New Mexico, Arizona and California, meeting with Waldorf parents and community members throughout the region.
- The summer's remarkable events, many sponsored by the School for Spiritual Science and its sections, included: the Nineteen Lessons Conference of the First Class, in Fair

- Oaks, CA; *Redeeming the Realm of Rights*, in Harlemville, NY, from the Section for the Social Sciences, Think OutWord and others; *Discovering the Intrinsic Nature of Water* in Blue Hill, Maine, from the Water Research Institute and the Natural Science Section; and *Image Arts from the Perspective of Spiritual Reality*, in Harlemville, NY, from the Art Section; and *The Soul's Probation*, a mystery drama conference, directed by Barbara Renold at Threefold Auditorium in Chestnut Ridge, NY.

How can we put these good experiences to work in 2012? First, we encourage everyone to continue to reach out into your local communities. An extremely positive front-page article on Waldorf education and technology in the Sunday, October 23rd *New York Times* shows a new climate of understanding for sensitive, sober, social initiatives that center, as anthroposophy does, on the human being. Many people are looking for Rudolf Steiner's work and all that has grown out of it. Feel free to request the traveling exhibit and copies of *being human* and Fred Amrine's essay for your local events!

Second, to build on this momentum, at the Society we have been working on our capacity to provide resources and means of collaboration to members and friends, groups and initiatives. In early 2012, we will implement a new relationships database, with features that members have been requesting for several years. It will be a lynch-pin to integrate communications, member services, and the Rudolf Steiner Library, and will help members with common interests find each other, share resources, and form special interest groups. We're also scheduling more teleseminars and will work to overcome the isolation many of you experience. The database will also be linked to our website, www.anthroposophy.org, so that you can expand and update your contact information, check dues status, make contributions, and access members-only materials.

Third, mark your calendars for August 8–12, 2012! The Society will host a three-part event here in Ann Arbor on the University of Michigan campus entitled *From Association to Collaboration*. This event, offered for members of the Society, will consist of five days of active engagement.

- The first two days will be a *leadership colloquium*, bringing together group and branch leaders; members from the general and regional councils, Collegium, Sections, and CAO; and other leaders from the initiatives and throughout the movement. It will explore how we are working together in a more collaborative way to further the mission and impact of anthroposophy in North America.
- Thursday evening will begin a members-only conference entitled *That Good May Become: Opportunities to Meet our Individual and Shared Spiritual Destinies in America*. Woven between presentations and artistic offerings will be dialogue looking at what it means to be an “unassuming leader” and how that concept might manifest in the culture of the Anthroposophical Society.

- The conference will conclude on Sunday with the Society's *Annual General Meeting*. This expanded meeting will include reports from the two day colloquium. All five members of the Executive Council from the Goetheanum will participate in the three-part event, and Sunday will give an opportunity to speak with them about concerns and developments within the General Anthroposophical Society.

Connecting, deepening, serving—every one of us carries on these activities through life, and they underlie all our goals for 2012 and beyond in the Anthroposophical Society in America.

This letter is a snap-shot of the efforts being carried, by staff and members and friends of the Society in the US. Your continued support through membership dues and donations supports this striving, both to empower members and to join in evolving the culture of our larger social communities. We had many new projects in 2011, and your donation today will help cover:

- The payment we make to the Goetheanum for *every* U.S. member including those experiencing financial hardship where we temporarily forego dues payment.
- Shipping the panel exhibit to schools and communities across the country as we continue to build relationships around the practical manifestations of anthroposophy.
- Travel expenses for the Goetheanum executive council to participate in next summer's conference, thereby strengthening our global connections and deepening our understanding of anthroposophy's unique challenges in North America.
- Extra distribution of *being human* in order to connect with future members and friends.
- Implementation of new systems to support interactions with and among members.

We on the staff and on the General Council are grateful for all your support—financial, social, moral, and spiritual. And we wish you peace and joy both in the special mood of the Holy Nights, and in the exciting year ahead.

With warm regards,

Marian León

Director of Administration and Member Services