



Anthroposophy worldwide

What is happening in the Anthroposophical Society

12/19

■ EDITORIAL

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Pause for Thought

2 Climate questions

Anthroposophical Society

1 Participation

2 Rudolf Steiner: Christmas

3 A joyful Christmas and an appeal for support

4 Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting

10 Obituary: Reijo Wilenius

11 Membership News

School of Spiritual Science

General Anthroposophical Section

4 Commitment and openness

4 Class holders

5 The spiritual human being (intentions of the new Section leaders)

6 Youth Section: For earth and humanity

6 Section for Agriculture: From seeds to bananas

6 Natural Science Section: Light, bees and plants

7 Humanities Section: The human being as creator

7 Medical Section

Centenary events

7 Section for Performing Arts: Creative sources

8 Section for Visual Arts:

The centre in the periphery

8 Section for Social Sciences: Strong future images

8 Section for Mathematics and Astronomy: Award for Søren Toft

9 Education Section:

The next hundred years

9 Medical Section and others: Speech therapy

Goetheanum

3 Stage: Faust Parts 1 & 2

9 Stage: Threads of Light (eurythmy)

Anthroposophy worldwide

10 Russia: Art of education

10 Italy: Human dignity

10 Netherlands: Studying anthroposophy at university

Feature

12 Soil Fertility Fund: Preparing the ground for a healthy future



Participation

Greater participation of members worldwide

A society relies on communication among its members – among us; and given that we are active worldwide in the Anthroposophical Society we need tools for this kind of exchange. Anthroposophy Worldwide is one such tool.

At this year's AGM we took up a proposal from the Nordic countries and discussed how members who cannot travel to Dornach can nevertheless participate in the Annual General Meeting and the decisions taken there. Among the suggestions made were voting by letter and regulations for the AGM process. In November the members of the Conference of Country Societies (formerly: country representatives) asked the Executive Council at the Goetheanum to stream parts of the 2020 AGM live in English and German so that members all over the world can at least participate in some of the events. Preparations, too, should be shared, for instance by making it possible for members to send written contributions prior to the AGM. In a trial run, a committee will advise the Executive Council on how to deal with submitted motions. With some experience of such

a procedure one then needs to assess whether it is conducive to strengthening our common awareness of the anthroposophical impulse.

Shared responsibility

A further form of participation will consist in including the general secretaries and country representatives more directly. Following positive feedback from the members at the last Annual Conference and the agreement of the Conference of Country Societies, the Executive Council at the Goetheanum would like to ask at the 2020 AGM that the conference of presently 36 country societies be included in the Statutes as an organ of the General Anthroposophical Society. When the treasurers of the Anthroposophical Societies worldwide met at Rudolf Steiner House in London on 9 and 10 November, it became apparent that, on the strength of – in this case – 80 percent of members represented, a community can take on responsibility and convey incentives if they work together critically as well as trustfully. | *Justus Wittich, Goetheanum*

Image Members' participation in decision-making, Sebastian Jüngel

Rudolf Steiner

Christmas

In the deep ground of our soul
lives, sure to triumph, spirit sun;
true powers of the feeling mind
can sense this in the inward life
of winter; and heart's springing hope
sees sun spirit's victory shine
in the blessed light of Christmas: as
an image of the highest life
in deep winter's darkest night.

Rudolf Steiner for Sophie Stinde,
23 December 1913

Source Rudolf Steiner: Christmas. In Introductory Reader, Forest Row 2012, p. ii, tr. Matthew Barton

Relates to Annual festival and Christmas Appeal on page 3

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31 January 2020

■ PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Climate questions

Speaking from the heart, acting out of courage

In 2010 Stéphane Hessel (FR) demanded in an essay «Indignez-vous» (Rise up!). In 2018 the German politician Sahra Wagenknecht (DE) founded the left-wing coalition movement Get up, and Greta Thunberg (DE) initiated her climate school strikes, now called Fridays for Future. Members of the Youth Section, too, see themselves as part of the new youth movement.

The heartbeat of society seems to undergo a rapid change, one that is by now touching everybody and acts under the name of climate crisis. Pressure is rising, words of fear, accusation but also hope and empowerment are reaching many. Finding both an individual and collective attitude – out of freedom and responsibility – seems to be more and more urgent. How do you, and how do we, relate and respond to the stories that reach us? How do we move from the «story of separation, reductionism and profit» to a new story that unites the individual's strength with a collective force to renew?

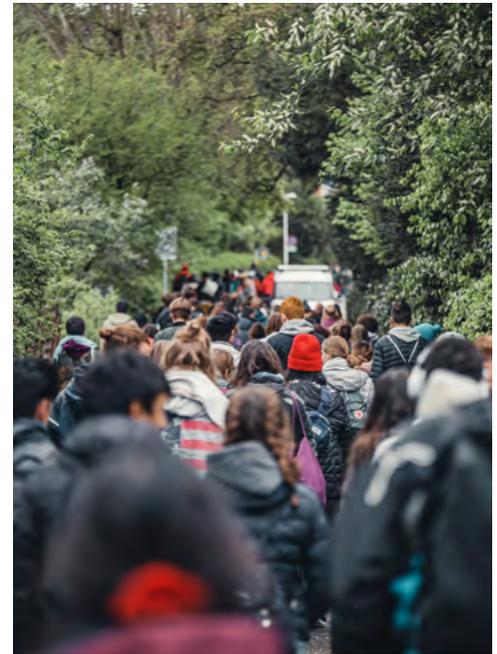
A new youth movement

In the midst of this storm the dawn of a new youth movement is rising. One that speaks from the heart and acts out of courage. Some of them fill the streets – both analogue and digitally – and stand straight. It is not the first time that youth «wander». Over a hundred years ago, the *Wandervogel* movement already expressed resistance against the industrial revolution and mechanization of society. Today, in the general debate most attention is focused on the question of climate crisis and on pressuring policy makers. Therefore, technology tries to save the world in a green way but, if possible, still lets profits rise. The internet is taking over huge amounts of energy consumption and all parameters of production, and consumption and degradation are still rising. A story, a new horizon is urgently needed.

As Youth Section at the Goetheanum and as participants of this new dawn of youth we want to think, understand and reflect on the deeper layers of what is going on, what we can do and exchange about the possibilities of creating new horizons, ways of living and encounter out of freedom, responsibility and commitment. We want to embrace the climate crisis debate and challenge, reaching the sources of its origin.

Social dimensions

Polarizations affect the possibilities of being young and also what it means to be human in



the complexity of a living world, relaying in a yet unknown cosmos. This is something we cannot do alone - we invite all who feel connected to join in. We will try to deepen the understanding of the human being placed within the given ecosystems and created social dimensions.
| Johannes Kronenberg, Goetheanum



Johannes Kronenberg was born in Bosch en Duin (NL) in 1991 and studied sustainability and leadership in Karlskrona (SE). He worked for Green Cross, the Het Institute Amsterdam (NL) and several educational programmes on formal and informal learning. He is a Youth Section co-worker at the Goetheanum and develops perspectives and initiatives in the climate context.

February Days Bound to Earth – Freedom, Responsibility and Destiny in times of Climate Crises, 30 January to 2 February 2020. **Benefit concert** Bê Ignacios, Friday 31 January 2020, 8 p.m. at the Goetheanum. **Contact** mail@youthsection.org **Web** www.youthsection.org **Event** of the (Re-)Search group **Web** www.youthsection.org/invitation-research-colloquium-at-the-goetheanum-7-8-december-2019 **Image** Student conference Courage: students on their way to Basel, Jugendsektion am Goetheanum. Photo of Johannes Kronenberg by Roy Straver.

■ ANTROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

General Anthroposophical Society

Wishing you a joyful Christmas – with an appeal for your support

Dornach, November 2019

Dear supporters of the Goetheanum,
Dear members of the General
Anthroposophical Society

Our time asks for initiative and commitment! With this appeal we invite you to participate in supporting the Goetheanum.

While moving events continue to take place around the globe in celebration of Waldorf 100, the anthroposophical movement in France is confronted with horrendous public attacks. In Sweden, the anthroposophical hospital and therapy centre in Järna had to close down. Faced with these events, the Goetheanum as an independent School of Spiritual Science with its different Sections is trying to continue on its inner course and be the heart organ that promotes cooperation in all directions. We hope for new strengthening with the help of the new leadership of the General Anthroposophical Section, consisting of Constanza Kaliks, Claus-Peter Röh and Peter Selg (page 5), who will take up their new duties at Easter 2020.

Basic funding and special challenges

The Goetheanum as a School of Spiritual Science with a large stage continues to rely on your voluntary support for these activities as members who share the responsibility for the anthroposophical impulse. The contributions of each member constitute the basic funding, which it is the duty of the by now 36 country societies on five continents to procure.

However, in order to balance the budget, we need additional donations of one million Swiss Francs every year. If we encounter unexpected expenses – as we did this year, the financial situation can quickly become critical: in 2019 an unbudgeted sum of 580,000 Swiss Francs had to be made available for maintaining the building and the campus; 330,000 of that alone were needed to bring the huge interior wooden doors in the West of the Goetheanum, which close off the stairwell as one fire section, up to date so that they meet current fire protection regulations. A special expert assessment and considerable technical input were required in order to retain the design of these doors. Supporting us here according to your means would be one form of active members' support as we approach Christmas.

A second way of doing this is slightly unusual and has to do with a request concerning your own immediate environment: in July 2020, the Goetheanum Leadership and Stage would like to present to the public four cycles of Goethe's Faust Parts 1 and 2 as a key to the «drama of modern humanity» that we are experiencing today. Postcards advertising this event have been produced and can be distributed now. Tickets will be available from December (see also the column to the right).

Faust: an inner wake-up experience

With Faust as an artistic stage experience we would like to help as many people as possible to achieve an inner awakening, in the sense of Goethe's words to Eckermann on 25 January 1827, «More I did not intend. Let the crowd of spectators take pleasure in the spectacle; the higher import will not escape the initiated.»¹

Come to the premiere or attend one of these weekends and participate in this nine-hour gesamtkunstwerk, or make others, particularly younger people, around you aware of it, so that they can have such a – potentially biographically important – experience in the Goetheanum's Main Auditorium.

Hoping for your active involvement in this sense and wishing you a joyful Advent and Christmas period. | *Justus Wittich, treasurer, on behalf of the Executive Council and Leadership at the Goetheanum*

Please use the following accounts for your donations

(Reference: Goetheanum Christmas Appeal)

From Switzerland and other non-Euro countries General Anthroposophical Society, 4143 Dornach, Switzerland. Raiffeisenbank Dornach, 4143 Dornach, BIC: RAIFCH22, IBAN: CH54 8080 8001 1975 4658 2.

From Germany (with tax-effective donation receipt) and other Euro countries General Anthroposophical Society, 4143 Dornach, Switzerland, GLS-Gemeinschaftsbank, 44708 Bochum, Germany, BIC/Swift: GENODEM1GLS, IBAN: DE53 4306 0967 0000 9881 00.

¹ From: Conversations of Goethe with Johann Peter Eckermann, Boston 1998, p. 162, tr. John Oxenford



Goetheanum Stage:
Faust Parts 1 and 2

Fluid processes

The new production of Goethe's Faust Parts 1 and 2, to be performed at the Goetheanum in 2020, will focus on issues of guilt, responsibility and transformation.

Faust is not a blameless hero. Andrea Pfaehler, the director of the new production of Goethe's Faust Parts 1 and 2 in 2020 at the Goetheanum, sees Faust as close to the audience: «We are all Faust». The performing time may have been reduced to nine hours, but Andrea Pfaehler still aims at telling «the whole story».

This will be achieved by evoking experiences through the way situations are presented, for instance by focusing on transformative processes. We see such a situation when Faust, the scholar, is in his study, close to committing suicide, but an Easter experience brings him back to life, which he grasps hold of as if newly born. He also enters spaces, however, that are carried by fluid processes and mutating beings: a challenge for Eduardo Torres, who is director of eurythmy. The power of the action and the struggle of the human being to retain his humanity result in tragic developments.

We constantly become guilty through our actions,» Andrea Pfaehler points out. «The question is what we do with that.» She traces an arc from human freedom to becoming guilty to being prepared to take on responsibility. «The riddle Goethe leaves us with is that Faust only becomes interesting to God once he is tempted by evil.» | *Sebastian Jüngel*

Premiere Goethe's Faust 1 & 2 in nine hours, 20 and 21 June 2020, Goetheanum Stage **Further performances** (as part of Faust weekends) 3 to 5 July, 10 to 12 July, 17 to 19 July, and 24 to 26 July 2020 **Special offer for students** 17 to 19 June 2020 **Web** www.faust.jetzt **Image** Isabelle Fortagne (assistant director), Eduardo Torres (eurythmy) and Andrea Pfaehler (director) by Lucia Hunziker

Conferences

Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting

The General Anthroposophical Society's Annual Conference and AGM will be held at the Goetheanum from 2 to 5 April 2020.

The motto of next year's annual conference and AGM will be «Uniting with the world willingly and out of love. How can we bring health to humanity and to the earth?» The AGM will be divided into several parts: «On the situation of anthroposophy, the Society and the School of Spiritual Science», with statements by members of the Executive Council and the Goetheanum Leadership (2 April); «Membership consultation on initiatives, motions and concerns» (3 April); and «Financial Statement, discharge, decisions» (4 April). Other agenda items will include the confirmation of Joan Sleigh as a member of the Goetheanum's Executive Council and questions regarding participation.

The Annual Conference from 3 to 5 April will offer esoteric study in the morning, based on Class Lessons (for members of the School of Spiritual Science), meditations on «Raphael and Michael», «the forces of morning and evening» and on the «Representative of Humanity», as well as a study of Rudolf Steiner's Letter to Members of 16 November 1924.

The three new leaders of the General Anthroposophical Section will speak: Constanza Kaliks, Claus-Peter Röh and Peter Selg (2 April). Additionally, three spheres of life have been chosen to present their central themes: the Section for Agriculture will address the question of «Our responsibility for the earth and its climate» (3 April); the Medical Section will use the centenary of Anthroposophic Medicine to focus on the «will to heal» (4 April); and the Executive Council at the Goetheanum will look generally at «spiritual impulses for social co-existence» (5 April).

The Annual Conference will moreover include short presentations from the Anthroposophical Society's worldwide activities (3 April) and a space for conversation initiated by the young members with the motto «How can we bring health to future humanity and to the earth?» (4 April). The new programme of the Goetheanum's Eurythmy Ensemble and the commemoration of the dead will conclude the day on 3 and 4 April respectively. The Annual Conference will conclude on 5 April with a look at «Perspectives and impulses» and a performance of the Foundation Stone Meditation. | *Sebastian Jüngel*

Web www.anthroposophie.org/en/news/general-meeting

SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE



General Anthroposophical Section

Commitment and openness

The General Anthroposophical Section explores our spirit-soul existence and provides foundations for our spiritual health.

Whether it is the First Class of the School of Spiritual Science, the Goetheanum Studies, meditative practice, for instance in the Worldwide Goetheanum Meditation Initiative, or biographical work – in all these ways of working it is the individual's relationship with anthroposophy that constitutes the starting point for gaining knowledge and practical experience.

The General Anthroposophical Section looks back on a hundred years of experience with relating anthroposophical «knowledge» to contemporary questions. In this process, the timeless essence of what has become needs to be honoured while openness is required at the same time for what seeks to evolve and potentially newly emerge out of an unforeseeable future. This requires us to be aware and ready for transformation.

All of this can be found in the Goetheanum Studies, for instance, where presently 27 people from 16 countries come together, asking themselves, the Goetheanum and each other questions about the meaning of life – in an immediate, concrete and personal way. As lecturers we need to present anthroposophy – not in the traditional sense as learning content, but by studying and sharing views on topical texts, staying close to life.

The Class Holders Conference, too, (see column right) was about confirming agreements that have emerged in the stream of developments in the First Class, whilst remaining open to individual searching and experiences of spiritual presence in the contents of the mantras. The theme of «reality as a confluence of essence and appearance» seemed more relevant than ever in the conversations! | *Joan Sleigh, Goetheanum*

Image Anthroposophy close to life: Goetheanum Studies, Edda Nehmiz

General Anthroposophical Section

Class Holders

Around 240 School of Spiritual Science class holders met from 1 to 3 November for professional development and a conference on essence and appearance.

When, on 13 November 1908, Rudolf Steiner spoke of Friedrich Hegel's system of conceptualization (GA 108), he pointed to the connection between concept and reality. The creative activity involved in getting to know the world that Steiner already mentioned in his Philosophy of Freedom is expressed in the merging of essence and appearance as an acquired experience of reality. This motif was worked on at the Class Holders' Conference, in connection with preparing the Class Lessons, the involvement of the whole human being in the reality of the School of Spiritual Science, the School's situation and tasks in the world, and the deepening of the sixteenth Class Lesson.

The conference's central experience was the astonishing openness and diversity of questions that came together from all over the world, focusing mostly on accessibility, openness and the School of Spiritual Science's forms of working. Four directions determined the overall picture: responsibility towards the inside, openness towards the outside, searching for what is appropriate to the times and searching for appropriate ways of working spiritually. Participants also expressed a need for the continued forming of substance as we approach the completion of three times 33 1/3 years at Christmas 2023/2024.

Ongoing stream of renewal

In this context we looked at the founding of the School of Spiritual Science as an esoteric impulse that is to infuse the Anthroposophical Society with an ongoing stream of renewal. Rudolf Steiner made it his task to establish the School of Spiritual Science but he had to leave it incomplete. He had taken on its leadership but had left open the question of succession.

The extraordinary openness of the meeting may have signaled a departure towards a new understanding of leadership, where members who wish to be active are included in the community of responsibility and of knowledge- and will-based initiative, and an answer can be found to what has been so painfully missed. | *Hartwig Schiller, Stuttgart (DE)*



General Anthroposophical Section

The spiritual human being

In the spring of 2020 Constanza Kaliks, Claus-Peter Röh and Peter Selg will take on the leadership of the General Anthroposophical Section at the Goetheanum. Their concerns include the human being's spiritual aspect, anthroposophy as a principle of civilization and making publications on general anthroposophy more visible.

As the new leadership team we are looking forward to starting our cooperation in April 2020. Within the round of Sections, it is anthroposophy itself that forms the central theme of this particular department of the School of Spiritual Science. In this Section, our human essence becomes question and content, for instance in our search for awareness of ourselves as spiritual beings in relation to the world, to destiny, to our spirituality, to our connection with others, or in taking hold of our freedom and responsibility in relation to the spirit of our time.

From the wide range of questions and themes that belong to this Section, we will focus on three particular ones that arise from our spheres of work. Wherever possible, we invite people to join us in this work. There will initially be three main aspects for which the Section leaders will take individual responsibility:

The nineteen Class Lessons and the tasks and questions associated with them (Claus-Peter Röh)

As a spiritual-earthly institution, the School of Spiritual Science is connected with and gives impulses to all the Sections. At the same time it asks about and realizes anthroposophy itself. One essential aspect of this realization of anthroposophy is apparent in the diversity of approaches that have emerged in recent years from Class holders and Class members working together. Where it has been made possible to experience the spiritual levels of the Class Lessons in conjunction with deepening artistic activities,

targeted questions and Class conversations, an attitude to knowledge can arise that is based on multiple perspectives. It is this development of diverse forms of working and research projects within the School of Spiritual Science that we would like to increasingly promote.

In addition to the inner work on the Class lessons, the publication, in 1992, of the Class texts and mantras by the Leadership of the School of Spiritual Science has given rise to the question as to how this should be dealt with. One of our goals is to create more open spaces of encounter in the future, where we can have conversations with individuals and groups who are interested in the work of the School of Spiritual Science.

Anthroposophy in a multicultural world and the study of anthroposophy (Constanza Kaliks)

Our main focus will be on creating and promoting possibilities for accessing and studying Rudolf Steiner's work, for practising independent approaches to it (as in the Goetheanum Studies, for instance), and on the exchange and cooperation with other people and institutions for whom this is a central concern. A question arising increasingly today is how anthroposophy can be explored in dialogue with questions that live in individuals and in society, while considering cultural and social diversities.

One of our projects for the next years is a study into Rudolf Steiner's Anthroposophical Leading Thoughts and Michael Letters (GA 26), including the provision of a commentary on

references within Steiner's work, annotations regarding authors and facts, a documentation of the historical and cultural context as well as esoteric deepening. Work on this will be done in the form of colloquia and, if possible, lead to the publication of a study edition.

Research into Rudolf Steiner's work; anthroposophy in relation to today's cultural developments and challenges (Peter Selg)

From the spring of 2020 onwards, the activities of the Ita Wegman Institute Arlesheim (CH) will form an integral part of the General Anthroposophical Section. These activities will continue to focus on research into Rudolf Steiner's work and the application of anthroposophical spiritual science to all aspects of modern life and to the challenges of our time. Peter Selg will continue with his research, publication, lecturing and teaching activities, for instance at Witten Herdecke University and Alanus University (both DE). In addition, he intends to represent aspects of general anthroposophy in Section conferences and in the spiritual annual cycle of the Goetheanum, and to present, at events and in journals, any new editions of Rudolf Steiner's lecture cycles (by the Rudolf Steiner Archives or Rudolf Steiner Verlag) as well as important new publications on general anthroposophy.

Section office

The General Anthroposophical Section will have an office that, in addition to questions of Class membership and responsibilities, will deal with the organization of the Section events and conferences that will take place regularly once a year, starting in 2021. Plans so far include conferences on human dignity and its endangerment, on the Leading Thoughts and Michael Letters, and on the idea of destiny in anthroposophy. We are aware that we will not be able to do full justice to the multiple demands, expectations and hopes associated with this Section, but it is our will and endeavour to take concrete steps and we hope to make a positive contribution to the Goetheanum and its School of Spiritual Science. | *Constanza Kaliks, Peter Selg, Claus-Peter Röh, Goetheanum*

Web www.goetheanum.co/en/school/general-anthroposophical-section

Image New heads of Section from the spring of 2020: Peter Selg, Claus-Peter Röh and Constanza Kaliks, by Sebastian Jüngel

■ SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE



Youth Section

For earth and humanity

In the Youth Section, too, young people all over the world have expressed their existential concern for the environment and for society and have made this concern the theme of their events.

The international student conference «Courage», which took place at the beginning of the year, was about the active participation of each individual in our time and the effects this participation has on the environment and on the social sphere. The reports presented by initiatives from all over the world at the Youth Section's international meeting also speak of the courageous and active facing of the challenges of our time, and of the will to bring about change and create new spaces for cooperation.

The first completed report on the «(Re-)Search» project also reveals that young people give others space to say what moves them and what they hope for. They described what they will do today so that what lives in them can become reality in a not too distant future. The young researchers presented their results, among other places, in Great Britain, Canada and the USA.

The 2020 February Days (page 2) will focus on our relationship with the earth. That this relationship is the quintessence of humanity – as Hannah Arendt said – is felt by many young people today who champion ways of living that can do justice to nature, society and human beings.

As a way of making all this – and more – possible, we have extended our contacts to foundations and other organizations that work with young people. This exchange results in positive encounters, is inspiring and, by facilitating greater understanding of the young people and their concerns, promotes the realization of their intentions. | *Constanza Kaliks, Goetheanum*

Web www.youthsection.org, www.youthsection.org/research

Image International youth meeting in 2019, Macarena Barreiro

Section for Agriculture

From seeds to bananas

The Section's activities focus on developing the quality of biodynamic agriculture, making it more visible and on training the younger generation.

The UN is predicting that in 60 years' time soils will have become depleted and useless for farming purposes. For more than ninety years, biodynamic agriculture has been looking for ways of bringing life to farming and to its social aspects, which requires the ongoing study of the basics, of ways of working and of concrete activities. Extending the Section team to nine co-workers (the equivalent to 6 full-time positions) allows us to work on a broader basis. The following is a selection of themes we are addressing:

- The sensitive question of «biodynamic farming and hybrid varieties» will be worked on and discussed with everyone involved at a specialist conference.
- Demeter has developed and introduced a peer-to-peer accreditation process for biodynamic consultants
- The *Living Farms* research project uses short videos, publications and events to explore the potential of biodynamic places and inspire a future-viable agriculture through practical examples.
- After viticulture, there is now a growing demand for Demeter bananas, a development that makes it necessary to establish criteria for a biodynamic plantation culture.
- Work has started on a new edition of Rudolf Steiner's Agriculture Course (GA 327) for its hundredth anniversary in 2024.
- Nutritional scientists and practitioners are developing criteria for a quality diet based on conscious awareness of the processes involved in bringing the food from the field to the table.

The spirit as the all-uniting source

Strengthening our activities towards the outside requires a relationship to the spirit as the source that unites the different approaches – which is one of the reasons why the 2020 Agriculture Conference will be devoted to the question of «Finding the Spirit in Agriculture». | *Sebastian Jüngel*

Web www.sektion-landwirtschaft.org/en/

Natural Science Section

Light, bees and plants

The work of the Natural Science Section is done both by groups working globally and at the Goetheanum's Research Institute.

In Brazil, it has mainly been a group of teachers who have worked for some time on scientific questions, for instance with Manfred von Mackensen and other European colleagues, but also independently. This formerly rather loose connection has now been transformed into a group that is «officially» linked to the Natural Science Section. A loose connection also exists to a group of scientists and interested people in Scandinavia.

Dissertation project: a garden for biology teaching

Following the major colour exhibition in Great Britain, the Research Institute has two new projects now: one is done in collaboration with the Kwalis Research Institute in Fulda (DE) where a procedure has been developed for measuring the very subtle fluorescence emitted by organisms and foods in the dark after exposure to light and that reacts very sensitively to quality differences. Matthias Rang will continue work on developing this optical procedure in the next three years.

The other project is the dissertation of João Felipe Toni on establishing a garden for biology teaching in Waldorf Schools based on Goethe's garden in Weimar (DE). This project is conducted in collaboration with the Rudolf Steiner School in Wetzikon (CH) and Jena University (DE).

Our journals *Elemente der Naturwissenschaft* (elements of natural science) and *Jahrbuch für Goetheanismus* (Goetheanism Annual) will soon be available online. The Annual will be published in future by the Natural Science Section in collaboration with the teacher training seminar *Freie Hochschule Stuttgart* (DE).

The Institute will continue its other teaching and research projects, on bees, medicinal plants and quantum physics. A publication on brain research and free will is approaching completion. A first article on «What is an electron?» has appeared in our journal (*Elemente der Naturwissenschaft*), a second article will follow shortly. | *Johannes Kühn, Goetheanum*

Web www.science.goetheanum.org/en/

*Humanities Section***The human being as creator**

The Humanities Section's areas of research range from the basic works of anthroposophy to the study of contemporary phenomena such as transhumanism.

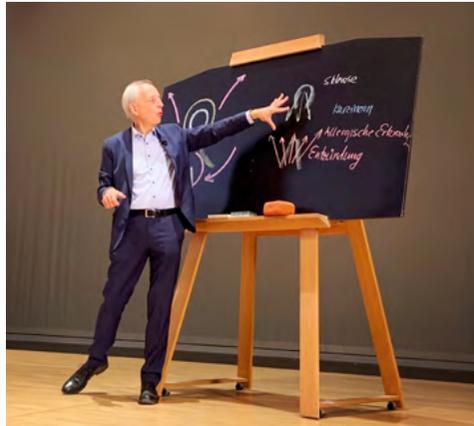
Christiane Haid's maxim as head of the Humanities Section at the Goetheanum is that art is an essential formative influence, for the forces in us that are addressed by the arts sustain our existence and allow us to build a bridge between cosmos and earth and to be «citizens of both worlds».

Founts of health

The study of existential questions of humanity finds a positive echo in events centred on Rudolf Steiner's basic works, such as *Anthroposophy – a Fragment* (GA 45) or *Esoteric Science* (GA 13). People who attend these events describe entering into their contents as «refreshing» and as «founts of health», including, and especially, in relation to the times. This year, the annual conferences on Rudolf Steiner's gospel lectures have found expression in a book, edited by Christiane Haid and Jaap Sijmons, on the apocalypse of St John (*Apokalypse im Ich. Anthroposophische Perspektiven auf die Apokalypse des Johannes*). These conferences provide opportunities for achieving a deeper understanding of the unfolding of Rudolf Steiner's Christology in his work.

The research on the humanizing effect of literature has led Ariane Eichenberg and Christiane Haid both to classics like Wolfram von Eschenbach's *Parzifal*, Goethe's *Faust* and Adalbert Stifter's *Colourful Stones* and to contemporary works by authors such as Peter Handke, Patrick Roth and Marica Bodrožić. Humanity is caught in a field of tension of creativity and intelligence. Digital technologies are fascinating, combining patterns of what already exists. The real creative act is reserved to humans, however, particularly in their interaction with their fellow humans. The second transhumanism conference, which built a bridge between art, academic science and anthroposophy, also demanded of us that we develop our own judgement. A new field of research has emerged that will require studying Rudolf Steiner's statements on technology and the questions arising from transhumanism. | *Sebastian Jüngel*

Web ssw.goetheanum.org

*Medical Section***Centenary events**

Many events and a new edition of Rudolf Steiner's first course for physicians (GA 312) are planned as ways of celebrating the centenary of anthroposophic medicine.

Rudolf Steiner gave his first course on anthroposophic medicine in Dornach in March and April 1920. We can therefore look forward to celebrating the hundredth anniversary of anthroposophic medicine with everyone who is connected with the Medical Section around the globe in a variety of events, conferences and meetings.

In addition to a research congress on Steiner's first medical course, the new publication of that course and a Faust weekend that will focus on the medical impulse, the international conference Crossing Bridges – Being Human! will constitute the climax of this festival year. Introduced by a one-day integrative-medical congress at Basel University (CH), the idea and practice of anthroposophic medicine will be conveyed and discussed from 12 to 20 September at the Goetheanum in more than 30 lectures and over 120 specialist workshops.

How can we, on the basis of the anthroposophical understanding of human nature, do justice to the patients' needs and sensitivities in today's technologized world? What therapeutic possibilities have been developed since the founding of anthroposophic medicine by Ita Wegman and Rudolf Steiner? And what are the perspectives for the next hundred years?

We look forward to an inspiring conference and invite all those who are active in the field of medicine and therapy to join us in celebrating this extraordinary anniversary! | *Ariane Totzke, Goetheanum*

Web www.medsektion-goetheanum.org/en/anthroposophic-medicine

Image Matthias Girke at the Medical Section's Annual Conference, by Ariane Totzke

*Section for the Performing Arts***Creative sources**

The strengthening of our own creative forces, contemplation of our real environment and the ongoing development of training have informed this working year.

Art has to do with skill but it can best develop when it is actively practised. 2019 has seen a multitude of productions presented under the aegis of the Performing Arts Section, including Henrik Ibsen's play *Brand*, the performance of Rudolf Steiner's *Mystery Dramas*, Hermann Grimm's *Demetrius*, the evenings shaped by the Play Space initiative and the programmes of the Goetheanum Eurythmy Ensemble. In the music department, the «Archive Concerts» with works by anthroposophical composers have gained momentum, as the head of the Section, Stefan Hasler points out, and plans are afoot to make the musical scores available on the Section homepage.

The skill aspect brings us to the question of training. In eurythmy we have worked on criteria for equivalent part- and full-time training programmes, with consideration being given to life experience and the ability to work independently. In artistic speech we continue to encourage individual approaches and quality promotion.

And lastly, art takes place in a concrete environment. In response to the omnipresence of digital technology, the puppet players have explored the question as to how the etheric as a life force can be strengthened. The speech therapists, too, have been focusing on actual life situations (page 9).

A new German edition of the *Tone Eurythmy Course* (GA 279) is expected towards the end of the year, with a special feature: not only the final result but also the origin of Rudolf Steiner's blackboard drawings will be documented. | *Sebastian Jüngel*

Web www.srmk.goetheanum.org/en/

Image Foundations of the performing arts: musical score, Katrin Oesteroth

■ SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE

Visual Arts Section

The centre in the periphery

The exhibition of works by Georgian artists and the history of the development of the Goetheanum campus were two essential aspects of the work of the Visual Arts Section this year.

In January, my Georgian colleague Sopo Kolkhi-dashvili asked me whether it was possible to exhibit works of her artist friends from Tbilisi (GE) at the Goetheanum. I happily agreed because the influence of Medieval Christian painting in Georgia has continued through 20th century painting to the present time. In February, we travelled to Georgia and visited twelve anthroposophically inspired artists in their studios in Tbilisi. Eight months later, at Michaelmas, we were able to open the exhibition following an extended period of preparations and another trip to Tbilisi (Anthroposophy Worldwide 11/2019, page 6).

The research project on the historical development of the Goetheanum campus, which I am working on with the biologist and cultural scientist Stephan Stockmar, is another major field of work. I will continue with this work after my retirement as head of the Visual Arts Section at the end of 2019, because there are plans to publish the results of my research at Christmas 2020 in a book entitled «Experiencing the centre in the periphery: Rudolf Steiner's design of the Goetheanum Campus».

Places of refuge and consolidation

As a landscape architect I have studied Rudolf Steiner's landscape design in the southwest of the Goetheanum Park for over twenty years. Unfortunately, no photos exist of the building work of the First Goetheanum, nor are there any precise records of the construction periods and of Rudolf Steiner's statements on the landscaping.

After studying 163 folders in the archives of the Johannes building association we were able to work out the construction periods of special features such as the *Felsliweg* (rock path), the *Drachenschwänzli* (dragon's tail), the *Felsli* (rock) etc. Further scrutiny of the planning archives and notebooks provided more information on these features.

These structures designed by Rudolf Steiner are more than architectural works of art; they are places of refuge for the work on the hill; places of consolidation; places that invite us to bring earth and spirit together. | *Marianne Schubert, Goetheanum*

Web www.sbk.goetheanum.org/en/



Social Science Section

Strong future images

The global network of the Social Science Section is meeting the fears of our time with positive, encouraging and strengthening images of our common future.

Fear determines our public culture and bears us down: fear of climate change and the loss of species, of terror and war, of brutalized politics and the decline of democracy, of decadence and poverty – fear of the future. The Social Science Section seeks to counterpose this fear with a vision of the future, with concrete ideas and starting points for a necessary and comprehensive transformation.

In 2019, for instance, we used the major milestones of Waldorf 100 and a hundred years of Social Threefolding as opportunities to speak publicly about steps towards a renewal of the cultural, political and economic life. In many countries, in branches and schools, in public places, auditoriums and concert halls we did what we could to make the idea of threefoldness a topic of public discourse, in the sense and in the language of our time: as a way of experiencing and understanding the deeper developmental forces that are at work in the social sphere and of shaping a modern, dignified society together, out of these forces.

The preconditions for this were created by the research and networking, the events and colloquia of the previous years. This work, which was carried out at the Goetheanum and elsewhere, is now bearing fruit. During our congress in Stuttgart, for example, in the birth place of social threefolding, we presented over a hundred initiatives in a «marketplace of possibilities». Out of the anthroposophical social impulse, these initiatives presented relevant and practicable ways towards a free, just and brotherly/sisterly society. For: the future we want can only arise in us and only through us can it arrive in the world. | *Gerald Häfner, Goetheanum*

Web sozial.goetheanum.org **Image** Speaking the language of our time: Gerald Häfner in Stuttgart, Judit Stott



Section for Mathematics and Astronomy

Award for Søren Toft

The Section for Mathematics and Astronomy as a place of research includes the Kepler Observatory at the Goetheanum. It is from there that Søren Toft observes the star R Coronae Borealis.

The astronomer Søren Toft has been observing and photographing the star R Coronae Borealis at regular intervals since 2015, using the telescope of the Goetheanum's observatory. This star is displaying major unpredictable fluctuations in brightness. At times it was possible to see it with the naked eye in good conditions, and then again there were times when it was «hiding», as its brightness faded by a factor of 400. It is this feature in particular that renders this star, which is on average the eighth brightest in the Corona Borealis constellation, so very interesting.

Søren Toft was born in Denmark in 1950. He studied astronomy at Copenhagen University and was a teacher at Virum Secondary School near Copenhagen from 1982 to 2015. He joined the Section for Mathematics and Astronomy in 2015, using the Goetheanum's Kepler Observatory for his observations.

AAVSO Observer Award for Søren Toft

Søren Toft has presented the results of his investigations in the colloquia of the Mathematics and Astronomy Section and also added them to the database of the American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO). In late 2018, at the Association's 107th annual meeting, he was granted the AAVSO Observer Award for over 500 high-class observations. This year, the AAVSO appointed Søren Toft «Proud Parent of Variable Star R CrB». From the Mathematics and Astronomy Section, we congratulate him warmly on this achievement! | *Oliver Conradt, Goetheanum*

Web www.mas.goetheanum.org **Image** Observer of fluctuating brightness: Søren Toft, © Søren Toft



Education Section

The next hundred years

The Section's activities focused on the Waldorf 100 celebrations: perceiving, giving impulses, sharing experiences – and taking Rudolf Steiner's anthropology into the next generation.

The international diversity and integrative power of this school movement were strongly apparent at the conference on the First Teachers' Course at the Goetheanum and during the Waldorf 100 events in the autumn: in the interplay of individual initiative and a strong social orientation, in the alternation of artistic creativity with scientific and intellectual reflection, and, encompassing all of these, the loving interest in the development of young people.

From the transformative stream of this vibrant mixture emerged the serious future tasks of the Education Section: given the current generational change that many schools are experiencing, the teaching faculties need to find new, flexible methods of working with Rudolf Steiner's First Teachers' Course.

Challenging topics of our time such as the harmonious development of body, soul, and spirit demand new steps in interdisciplinary cooperation: for instance at the Early Childhood Congress in 2020 or at the second meeting of educators and school doctors. Then new perspectives and approaches can be gained from working together on the metamorphoses and transitions of child development.

In the colloquia that we share with the Social Science Section we are studying the question of today's family culture. The international initiative for questions of professional training is focusing on the growing need for teachers in our school movement – aiming at inspiring new impulses of cooperation and exchange among the training centres. | *Claus-Peter Röh, Florian Osswald, Goetheanum*

Web www.goetheanum-paedagogik.ch **Image**
Doing the splits: Berlin 2019, Charlotte Fischer



Medical Section and others

Speech therapy

«New listening and authentic speaking» in connection with earth maturity were the topics of the speech therapy conference from 23 to 27 October at the Goetheanum.

A hundred years of Waldorf Education also means a hundred years of artistic speech for the teachers. Where are we today? How can artistic speech be used to help children and adolescents to incarnate, particularly in Waldorf Schools? A hundred people came together to dwell on these questions. In what way are our speech and conversation endangered today by the temptations of the media? Rainer Patzlaff spoke of the necessity of perceiving each other, of a new listening, a «speech pregnancy» and the forming of a new organ, «speech is the most spiritual aspect of our everyday life».

All the contributions by speech artists demonstrated in detail how this can be achieved, for instance with a comprehensive Waldorf speech curriculum, from Xandor Koesen-York for the class teacher period to Jutta Noethiger for the upper school.

Throughout the conference it became apparent, down to the individual case studies, how important it is to give space to the other person. It also became clear that dramatic declamation is a thing of the past, because our speech needs to be authentic for the essence of the sound to be able to come to expression. Looking towards the future in this way made us aware of the need to establish a new connection between Waldorf Education and artistic speech. | *Ute Basfeld, Karlsruhe (DE)*

Next conference on Education and Speech: Das Ich spricht. Entwicklungsumbrüche durch Sprechkunst begleiten, 28 February to 1 March 2020, Wuppertal (DE)

Image Listening to each other and taking stock, courtesy of

Goetheanum Stage:
Threads of Light

The space between

On 28 December the Goetheanum Eurythmy Ensemble will present its new programme, Threads of Light.

It is part of our attitude to life today that we are on our way without knowing where our path will lead us. «This being on one's ways is connected with the experience that everything that exists keeps changing, in politics, ecology, economy and in our own soul life,» says Stefan Hasler, one of the Ensemble's directors. There are no maps or navigation devices for this journey, because the direction emerges in the space between myself and the other – and is therefore always new.

In its new programme, Threads of Light, the Eurythmy Ensemble creates transitions and in-between spaces from various perspectives. In music, it honours Ludwig van Beethoven on his 250th birthday with Opus 132, one of his late string quartets, with the slow movement «sacred thanksgiving to God by one who has recovered from illness, in the Lydian mode». As a contrast to this, there will be two pieces from *Je sens un deuxième coeur* by Kaija Saariaho, for viola, cello and piano.

In the spoken texts, too, intimacy and drama meet: in the extracts from Marica Bodrožić's *The Water of our Dreams* we experience the sensitively described inner life of a coma patient; the dramatically sculpted scenes from *El cántaro roto* by Octavio Paz touch on the cosmological-human experience of incarnation and despair in meeting earthly life, the insight that one can act differently and, finally, the affirmation of life. | *Sebastian Jüngel*

Premiere Threads of Life, 28 December 2020, 8 p.m., during the Christmas Conference Follow This Good Star, 27 – 30 December 2019 **Web** www.goetheanum.org/folget-diesem-guten-stern
Image Eurythmy forms for Threads of Light, Katrin Oesteroth

■ ANTHROPOSOLOGY WORLDWIDE



Russia

The art of education

On 20 and 21 September the St Petersburg Centre for the Art of Education celebrated its 25th anniversary with prominent guests.

The Waldorf movement in Russia began in the 1990s, when teachers from European Waldorf institutions came to share their experiences in various cities. Today, the Waldorf movement in Russia boasts twenty schools and over twenty smaller school initiatives. This means that out of the 100 years of Waldorf Education we have been actively involved for 25!

We started with fifteen pupils in our centre for the art of education. From this original class 1 a full school has grown with 160 students attending classes 1 to 11 – with an optional class 12. In addition, we now have a kindergarten and a parent-and-child group, and we offer training programmes, lectures for parents, workshops for children and adults, guest seminars for eurythmy therapy and eurythmy, and occasional teacher training seminars.

One of the special guests at our celebration was Gerhard Schröder, the former German Chancellor, who said that his children attended a Waldorf School. Other visitors included graduates, teachers and educators, lecturers of the Waldorf Teacher Seminar in the 1990s and Marion Fischbach, our founder and former mentor, who represented the Hanns Voiht Foundation that provided funding for our school building. We were particularly pleased to see former students and their children and parents.

A special gift was presented by all the pupils from class 2 upwards who, under the direction of their eurythmy teacher Olga Gerassimova, performed the Russian folktale *The Magic Swan Geese*. | *Irina Hanukova, St Petersburg, (RU)*

Web www.ziwsppb.ru
Image 25 Years Centre for the Art of Education in St Petersburg, courtesy of

Italy

Human dignity

From 25 to 27 October a conference on human dignity took place at Milan University, offering experts in the field the possibility to share their insights in lectures and round-table discussions.

There were three outer occasions for this conference on human dignity: Waldorf 100, the 500th anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's death and 100 years of Social Threefolding. Stefano Gasperi, general secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in Italy, saw a special quality in the approach of this gathering. «How and to what extent the dignity of the human being has been violated in the twentieth century has already been much discussed. Here, I experienced that we spoke of how human dignity can be lived, concretely.» The event was made possible by the Anthroposophical Society in Italy, Milan's three Waldorf Schools, the Fondazione Antroposofica Milanese and other partners, including the Adriano Olivetti Foundation.

Encouragement to form alliances

The conference aimed at developing perspectives for a more humane education and medicine and a more humane social life. The lecturers included Constanza Kaliks from the Goetheanum (CH), Manfred Spitzer, a neuroscientist from Ulm (DE) who spoke on the topic of media, Marc Desaules, entrepreneur and general secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in Switzerland, who spoke about threefolding, and Giovanni Maio, professor of bioethics and medical ethics in Freiburg (DE). The musician Franco Mussida, who is very popular in Italy, contributed his experiences with music in prisons. Stefano Gasperi was impressed that the guest speakers stayed on to listen to the other lectures. «They were grateful for having learned something new. One could also learn something about anthroposophists. The anthropologist Nadia Breda described her research project on the anthroposophical movement, including its weaknesses, and she encouraged the anthroposophists to form alliances in order to increase and improve their cooperation with other organizations.»

During the conference a manifesto for human dignity was composed which can be signed on the conference website. Online documentation of the event will be provided shortly. | *Sebastian Jüngel*

Web www.dignitauomo.it
Source Stefano Gasperi
Image The importance of art: Aban Bana, Avid Learning



Netherlands

Minor in anthroposophy

In September, Leiden University of Applied Sciences introduced the possibility of a semester of studying anthroposophy in theory and practice.

Bachelor students in the Netherlands have to choose a minor subject as part of their degree courses. This means that, for half a year, they study something that complements their major course at another university in the Netherlands or abroad. For this they receive 30 credit points, which is half of what they need to get in a year.

At the request of young people, lecturers at Leiden Hogeschool have developed a minor course in anthroposophy. In September the first eleven students (arts, social sciences, sports, education, law, theology, film and photography) embarked on this course in order to find out what anthroposophy can contribute to their studies and their life. Anthroposophy is new to most of them, but some know it from having attended a Waldorf School.

Guided by various lecturers they study Rudolf Steiner's basic works as well as anthroposophical art and aspects of anthroposophical inner development (knowledge and practice). In addition they visit Waldorf Schools, the biodynamic training, the Anthroposophical Society in the Netherlands, anthroposophical healthcare institutions etc. The students even spent a week at the Goetheanum.

The minor course in anthroposophy includes individual pilot projects, in which the students work on aspects of anthroposophy that can make a practical and relevant contribution to what humanity and the world need in our time. | *Rik ten Cate, Amersfoort (NL)*

Web www.hogeschoolleiden.nl
Image Visiting the Goetheanum: students from Leiden, Koen van Driel

22 April 1930 • 26 October 2019

Reijo Wilenius

Reijo Wilenius was born in Helsinki (FI) on 22 April 1930. From his early childhood he remembered the warmth and care of his mother and his father's attitude that we have to stand up to the trials of life. At school he was intrigued by philosophy, the thoughts of Arthur Schopenhauer and Friedrich Nietzsche, for instance, or the depths of the poems by Rainer Maria Rilke and T.S. Eliot, the work of Thomas Mann and the images of Egon Friedell.

Independent thinking

Reijo Wilenius read history and philosophy at Helsinki University, starting in 1949. The lectures by Erik Ahlmann would strongly influence his later thinking. The young student was captivated by Jean Paul Sartre's idea of freedom and by Søren Kierkegaard's request for independent instead of systematic thinking, as well as by Rudolf Steiner's philosophy.

After graduating he began to teach cultural history in the university's department for theatre studies, whilst he continued working on his doctoral dissertation, which was on The Social and Political Theory of Francisco Suarez. From 1962 until 1973 he was assistant professor of social sciences in the faculty for education at Jyväskylä University and lecturer for practical philosophy at Helsinki University.

Reijo Wilenius co-founded the first Waldorf School in Helsinki (Rudolf-Steiner-koulu) and, between 1961 and 1976, he was first a class teacher and then a subject teacher for Finnish, history and philosophy. He had acquired the foundations of Waldorf Education at the Goetheanum teachers' seminar which he attended with his wife Aijami in the 1950s.

Social commitment

Reijo Wilenius founded a school for critical thinking in Helsinki as a forum for the free exchange on cultural questions, because he had



found as a student that it was not always easy to express thoughts that diverged from mainstream scientific views. Reijo and Aijami Wilenius were instrumental in preparing the founding of Snellman University College in Helsinki which opened in 1980. Reijo Wilenius was also president of the European Forum for Freedom in Education; from 1966 to 1996 he was chairman, and from 1966 until 2000 general secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in Finland.

Reijo Wilenius cultivated a lively exchange with Bernard Lievegoed on new ways in adult education which led to the foundation, in 1974, of an adult education seminar. His thoughts on self-development, inspired by Georg Wilhelm Hegel, Johan Vilhelm Snellman and Rudolf Steiner, were also at the heart of his publications, which were aimed at a broad readership, and of his international lecturing activity.

His final work, an autobiography, will be published posthumously. | *From an article by Raija Skinnari, compiled and translated from Finnish to German by Seija Zimmermann*

Image Archive of the Goetheanum

Membership News

We have been informed that the following 42 members have crossed the threshold of death. In their remembrance we are providing this information for their friends. | Membership Office at the Goetheanum

Ingrid Schörner Pfaffenweiler (DE) 12 January 2019
Marie-Elisabeth Frister Sauldorf (DE) 13 January 2019
Gisela Schaller Schwäbisch Hall (DE) 25 January 2019
Ian Fisher Roslin (GB) 19 February 2019
Maria Lang Satteldorf (DE) 8 March 2019
Judith Hart Whitecourt (CA) 15 April 2019
Wolfgang Stert Ehrenkirchen (DE) 30 May 2019
Elisabeth Lamercy Walkringen (CH) 12 June 2019
Gisela Junge Pforzheim (DE) 12 June 2019
Mária Gál Szombathely (HU) 30 June 2019
Helena Zehnder Hombrechtikon (CH) 17 July 2019
Tuulikki Ahonen Vaasa (FI) 12 August 2019
Reinhard Gerwin Stuttgart (DE) 16 August 2019
Taeke van Popta Gouda (NL) 20 August 2019
Reinhold Trenkel Göppingen (DE) 22 August 2019
Reglinde Pentzek Ostfildern (DE) 24 August 2019
Aart van den Oever Burgh-Haamstede (NL) 26 August 2019
Harmanus Jansen Alkmaar (NL) 30 August 2019
Heike Dabelstein Grossheide-Berumerfehn (DE) 14 September 2019
Christiane Oelssner Berlin (DE) 20 September 2019
Andres Schuler Wetzikon (CH) 25 September 2019
Maria Buss Klagenfurt (AT) 8 October 2019
Maria Himstedt Pforzheim (DE) 9 October 2019
Klara Mezei Budapest (HU) 9 October 2019
Tamás Vekerdy Dunakeszi (HU) 9 October 2019
Alla Isaakjan Moscow (RU) 11 October 2019
Siegfried Traub Winterbach (DE) 11 October 2019
Anneliese Lange Stuttgart (DE) 12 October 2019
Györgyné Székely Budapest (HU) 14 October 2019
Ardie Thieme Buckfastleigh (GB) 17 October 2019
Christel Stierle Stuttgart (DE) 18 October 2019
Erwin Haas Stuttgart (DE) 19 October 2019
Anneliese Häberle Bad Liebenzell (DE) 19 October 2019
Klaus Mitzenheim Überlingen (DE) 19 October 2019
Bernhard Probst Pratteln (CH) 19 October 2019
Monika Dinner Stuttgart (DE) 23 October 2019
Dorette Schwabe Ringwood (GB) 26 October 2019
Reijo Wilenius Helsinki (FI) 26 October 2019
Gisela Brandt Frankfurt (DE) 29 October 2019
Wolfgang Will Bamberg (DE) 30 October 2019
Ute Krappmann Heidenheim (DE) 2 November 2019
Hildegard Salomon Nuremberg (DE) 2 November 2019

The Membership Office registered 63 new members in October 2019. 29 left the Society between 12 October and 8 November 2019.

Æ T H E R

ANTHROPOSOPHIE EN FRANÇAIS

www.aether.news

■ FEATURE

*Soil Fertility Fund*

Preparing the ground for a healthy future

The Bio Foundation Switzerland champions soil fertility. It supports farms in the area around Lake Constance (DE) that put the necessary measures into practice and agree to being scientifically monitored. In October, the foundation presented the film *Unser Erbe* (our heritage) which shows Marc Uhlig accompanying the Demeter farmer Achim Heitmann through the year.

Fertile soil while being fundamental to life is not appreciated enough. While issues such as climate change, the loss of biodiversity, air pollution and the shortage of drinking water are widely discussed, the gradual loss of healthy, fertile soil is rarely mentioned, and if at all, then only among experts. Very little is done actively. The Soil Fertility Fund of the Bio-Foundation in Switzerland is determined to change this.

Every person in Central Europe needs around a quarter of a hectare (2500 square meters) of cultivated land on average to provide their food. In other words, we would be lost without Mother Earth which constitutes the ground on which everything can thrive, from invisible micro-organisms to creatures that live in the soil to the colourful diversity of the plant world – and our food. In short: we need this living organism, and we need it to be healthy, for only then will human existence on earth be secure in the long term and across generations.

Loss of humus content

Something that only few people know is that valuable and healthy land is lost every day due to unsuitable cultivation methods and urban-

ization. One of the main problems is the use of heavy machinery that makes the soil dense which in turn prevents root growth; and as the soil deteriorates, the quality of water, air and food deteriorate too.

In Europe, soil compaction and soil sealing have already resulted in the loss of – in some areas – fifty percent of humus content. How tragic this is becomes clear if we realize that it takes 750 years of intensive farming work to create a five-centimetre thick humus layer.

Our Heritage

The film *Unser Erbe* (our heritage) explains and raises awareness of this problem. Its producer Marc Uhlig spent a year with Demeter farmer Achim Heitmann on his farm near Lake Constance (DE). Heitmann speaks with refreshing openness about his relationship with the soil and about his concerns regarding soil health. There are interviews with other people, too, who also care about our heritage from their diverse professional points of view: scientists, economists, and entrepreneurs. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, environmental scientist and ambassador of the Soil Fertility Foundation, illustrates for instance

how crucial it is today to understand that concepts which were once developed for an «empty» world are destructive in today's «full» world. New ways of thinking are therefore essential. On 23 October 2019 the Bio Foundation Switzerland organized the Swiss premiere of the film at KultKino Basel (CH) with a discussion afterwards. The Foundation has contributed much to the production of the film in terms of funding, ideas and content. The film will screen in Germany towards the end of the year and a DVD will be released in the spring of 2020.

The Bio-Foundation Switzerland's Soil Fertility Fund

The Soil Foundation Fund relies most of all on the support of around 30 farms in the Lake Constant Region and on growing public awareness. The methods of organic and biodynamic farming protect, maintain and promote soil health. This requires sensible crop rotation, the reduced use of heavy machines, healthy instincts and a profound understanding of the needs of nature. All this takes time and needs money. This is why the Soil Fertility Fund offers both financial as well as expert help. «The farmers must be given space so that they can consider the complex interaction of soil, living creatures and soil fertility more carefully and so that they have to make fewer compromises in order to survive,» says Mathias Forster, the Foundation's CEO. The Soil Fertility Fund of the Bio-Foundation Switzerland brings together scientists and researchers, organic farmers, consumers, entrepreneurs, associations and foundations who, together, raise public awareness, take responsibility and promote soil sustainability. Anyone, enterprises included, can support this network and help prepare the ground for a healthy future. | *Verena Maasdorp, Arlesheim (CH)*

Contact Bio-Foundation Switzerland / Soil Fertility Fund, info@bio-stiftung.ch

Web www.bio-stiftung.ch, www.bodenfruchtbarkeit.bio

Film «Unser Erbe» www.unser-erbe.de

Screenings 14 December 2019, Karlsruhe (DE), Kinemathek, Kaiserpassage 6, 7 p.m.; 12 January 2020, Überlingen (DE), Cinegreth, Landungsplatz 14, 6 p.m. More screenings are planned.

Image Healthy soil: invisible organisms and visible creatures, Anna Krygier / Bio-Stiftung Schweiz