



The Anthroposophical Society
La Société Anthroposophique Canada



The Michaelmas Daisy

September 2025 Enews

Greetings Dear Members,

This month marks the turn into Fall. In the spiritual calendar of the year we are led to the festival of Michaelmas. After the greeting from General Secretary Catarina Burisch, our first article is an overview of the significance of this festival. Then, Corinna Sons brings us part 2 of her review of the important North American conference - *Space, Time and the Human Heart*.

We have two new features this month. First, anthroposophical inspirations, this month featuring architecture and human consciousness. If you feel particularly inspired by something you have learned in anthroposophy please share it with us for future editions. Second, a monthly profile of one Canadian branch. This month we feature Nova Scotia, unique in our society for its provincial reach across several areas of the province. Fall events in the USA are worth considering given their proximity to the Canadian border.

Some Reminders for Members:

Have you completed the member survey KNOW THYSELF?

If you have not done so, please consider taking a few minutes to complete the ASC survey of members and activity. [HERE](#)

Become More Aware of the Work of all **North American Sections of the School of Spiritual Science**. [HERE](#)

ASC Facebook (currently 58 followers) [HERE](#)

All the editions of the ASC's journal **Perspectives** can be found on our website [HERE](#). These editions can be downloaded and shared with friends.



Video Greeting from General Secretary Catarina Burisch



Michaelmas 2025



(From the Anthroposophical Society in Australia website)

The Age of Michael has dawned. Hearts are beginning to have Thoughts. The springs of spiritual fervor no longer flow from the darkness only of mystical feeling, but from clear soul-brightness—thought-informed and thought-sustained. To understand this, is to receive Michael into the heart. Thoughts which seek today to grasp the Spirit must spring from hearts that throb for Michael, the fiery Thought-King of the Universe.¹

Thoughts for Michaelmas

Light of thinking! Warmth of soul! Hearts with thoughts long to receive Michael, the protector against the darkness. At Michaelmas, when we celebrate Michael's day, we can let these words live within us.

Who is Michael?

Rudolf Steiner calls Michael the guiding spirit of our age, who gives us the courage to fight against the forces of the 'dragon' within – egoism, untruthfulness and selfishness.

The name Michael is derived from the Hebrew name Mikha'el, meaning 'who is as God'. The ancients of the Bible called him the messenger of Jehovah. But in our modern era that Rudolf Steiner calls the age of the **Consciousness Soul**, Michael is now the messenger of Christ Himself, and the leading spirit of our time. Just as Hebrews turned to Michael as the outer revelation of Jahve or Jehovah, so we now are able to turn to Michael to receive from him the spiritual revelations needed for us, for humanity, to withstand the challenges that come to meet us today in these increasing dark times. Light of thinking, warmth of heart, courage in both hearts and minds.

Michaelmas

Michaelmas day, celebrated on 29th September each year, is the day of the archangel Michael. This festival honours him, who is portrayed in the Bible as the protector of humanity and the warrior in spiritual warfare who fought against Satan (more frequently portrayed in art as a dragon) with his sword of meteoric iron.

Traditionally associated with the coming of Autumn, in the Southern Hemisphere, of course, Michaelmas falls in Spring. However, we can still meaningfully celebrate Michaelmas on 29 September because what takes place outwardly the Northern Hemisphere in nature, simultaneously takes place inwardly in the Southern Hemisphere in our souls. And vice versa. Rudolf Steiner states² that we should not, as we do in Spring and Summer, give ourselves over to a nature-consciousness in Autumn, losing ourselves in the melancholy fading of nature's life forces at the approach of Winter. On the contrary, this is the time to strengthen our inner self. As external nature is dying into Winter, we should overcome our natural tendency to this nature-awareness with the forces of self-consciousness.

Then will the 'form of Michael stands before us' (Steiner 5 October 1923, Dornach), majestically overcoming the dragonish forces within. The picture of Michael with the dragon can become a powerful Imagination that summons us to inner activity.

The Michael Mystery is a collection of 29 letters to the members of the Anthroposophical Society. These letters are in addition to the eighteen letters contained in the previous collection, *The Life, Nature and Cultivation of Anthroposophy*.

From the time of the **Foundation Meeting of the Anthroposophical Society** (Dornach, Christmas to New Year, 1923–24) until his death shortly before Easter, 1925, Rudolf Steiner wrote a letter week by week, addressed to the members of the Society. In his Christmas letter to the members that forms part of the Michael Mystery letters, Rudolf Steiner in 1924 emphasized in a single compressed paragraph the task of humanity, especially in the middle period of the age of the Consciousness Soul in which we are now living. He said:

In its essential nature the Spiritual Soul (Consciousness Soul) is not cold. It seems to be so only at the commencement of its unfolding, because at that stage it can only reveal the light-element in its nature, and not as yet the cosmic warmth in which it has indeed its origin.³

Footnotes

¹Rudolf Steiner, **At the Dawn of the Michael Age**, The Michael Mystery, CW 26

² Rudolf Steiner, **The Cycle of the Year as a Breathing Process of the Earth**, CW223,

³ Rudolf Steiner, **'Introduction'**, Michaelmas and the Soul-Forces of Man CW223

The Threshold to the Class

Part 2 of Recollections of the Conference Space, Time, and the Human Heart in Spring Valley, NY

Some time has passed now since the conference. Life has become busy, and it takes a conscious effort to turn my heart back to those days in August.



In the first part of my recollections, I spoke about anthroposophy being present throughout the conference in the ways we worked together, spoke and listened to one another. One word that came up often – too often, some people even said – was “threshold”. Most often, this word is used when we speak about the physical and the spiritual world. But there are many thresholds in our biography, and one of them is the decision to join the School for Spiritual Science, to become a Class Member.

I wonder if there are people who can say that they knew exactly when the time had come for them to engage in working with the Class Lessons. I hope so. For me personally, there was a time of feeling somewhere in between “not ready” and “overdue” to join the School; a tension between looking at my own, still emerging spiritual practice, and seeing the raised eyebrows of others: “Oh, you’re not a Class member yet...”, or “You should join the First Class!” All this given that one doesn’t know what *the School* really is, until one joins it, and even then, it’s a long journey of exploration, and self-examination.

The demand of “being a representative of anthroposophy in all aspects of one’s life” makes me feel uneasy up to this day; it can also lead to the misunderstanding that when I hold a certain position in the anthroposophical movement, for example having a leadership role in a Waldorf school, leading a study group, or being a member of the national Council, I am already in some way representing anthroposophy, ergo I should be a Class member. Is that so?

In his presentation – in the mood of the Class lesson – on the second night of the conference, Jon McAlice offered a different approach, coming from his extensive experience with nature observation. He noticed that as he cultivated his capacities of patient observing, wondering, and questioning, not only did the sense world begin to speak to him, but he himself developed a new, deeply caring relationship with it. This can be called: allowing the world to become our teacher; the world in its entirety, not only nature, but everything that surrounds us: our work, our relationships, world events... And when we have forged this relationship with the sense world, when we have turned fully towards it, when we are IN IT, and it IN US, then it can tell us: “And now go and find out who YOU are!” – “Oh Human being, know yourself.”

Who speaks these words in the First Tablet? Here is what Jon said to this: “It is the sense world, sending me forth into the darkness, to find out the nature of the being I am. And if I accept this call, this is the moment when I join the First Class. There I am greeted with these same words, but this time sounding from the other side of the abyss, spoken by the Guardian of the Threshold.”

Listening to this presentation had a profound impact on me; it was as if my whole understanding of what the Class is was turned inside out. All the outer requirements and attributes – the 2-year membership in the Anthroposophical Society, the formal application, the Blue Card – were suddenly picked up by a whirlwind and swept out of my mind, leaving a void in which questions could emerge: Where am I in my inner biography? Where am I in relation to this turning point that Jon described?

I am sharing this to point out that I could develop these questions only through my presence at this conference. The event was created in a way that one was neither “outside the School”, where the door is closed, and what happens inside remains a mystery; nor “inside the School”, where things happen in a certain way, tending to define, or in some cases even limit our understanding of what the School is.

For me – and hopefully for many others – this opened a space where the essence of the School could become visible, tangible, approachable, encouraging us to consciously explore our relationship with it.

I hope there will be more such opportunities in the future.

A Message from Arie van Ameringen

Dear member,

I am writing to ask for your financial support to bring two important anthroposophical books: one in English and the other in French.

The title of the English book will be **How Matter Received Mind: The Evolution of the I-Consciousness** (460 pages). It is written by Dr. Arie Bos, an anthroposophical physician with a deep understanding of chemistry, biology, and neuroscience. The book was originally published in Dutch in 2009 and has been reprinted several times. The book is important because Dr. Bos is able to create a bridge from current scientific thinking, with its limited materialist view, to the richer anthroposophical understanding of life and consciousness. The book has been very successful in Europe. It has reached scientists who are not anthroposophical, and it has started new conversations and research questions. It was selected as a finalist for a well-known award in scientific literature.

Arie Bos wrote also **Thinking Outside the Brainbox: Why Humans are not Biological Computers** (Floris Books). We will prepare a French translation of this valuable book.

I'm working to raise \$20,000 to pay for the translation, layout, and publication costs of the two books.

Please think about donating. You will receive a receipt for tax purposes.

To donate, please go to:

Anthroposophical Society in Canada i (<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-anthroposophical-society-in-canada-inc/>).

In the box that entitled "Apply your donation to a fund set up by this charity," select from the drop-down menu:

Perceval Books Translation "How Matter Received Mind: The Evolution of the I-Consciousness"

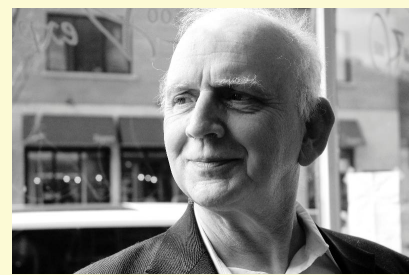
I greatly appreciate your support with this project.

Arie van Ameringen

Perceval Books/Les Éditions Perceval

Phone number: 514-279-7000.

Email address: arieva.perceval@gmail.com.



Anthroposophical Inspirations...

Share your especially inspiring discoveries from anthroposophy in the Enews. Send to communications@anthroposophy.ca



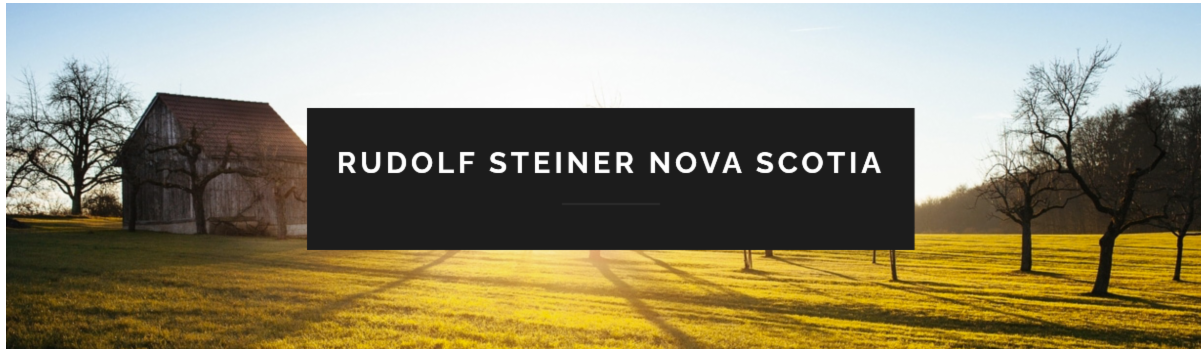
At a given time an architectural style is created, born out of the great ideas of initiates. Human souls take up the force of these forms. Centuries go by. What the soul has absorbed through its contemplation of building forms appears in the mood of his soul. Ardent souls will then come into existence, souls who look up to the heights. Even when the course was not always quite as I have described it, still like effects showed themselves often in human development.

Now let us follow these people some millennia further. Those who absorbed the forces of the forms of these buildings into their souls show the expression of their inner soul configurations in their countenances. The entire human shape forms itself through such impressions. What was built thousands of years ago, appears to us in human countenances thousands of years later.

Thus, one recognizes why such arts were practiced. Initiates look out into the far future and see how human beings are meant to become. Hence it is that at a definite time, they form external building styles, outer art forms, on a large scale. So it is that the germ of future human epochs is laid.

Source: [Rudolf Steiner – GA 101 – Occult Signs and Symbols: Lecture II – Stuttgart, 14th September 1907](#)

Branch Profiles: Nova Scotia



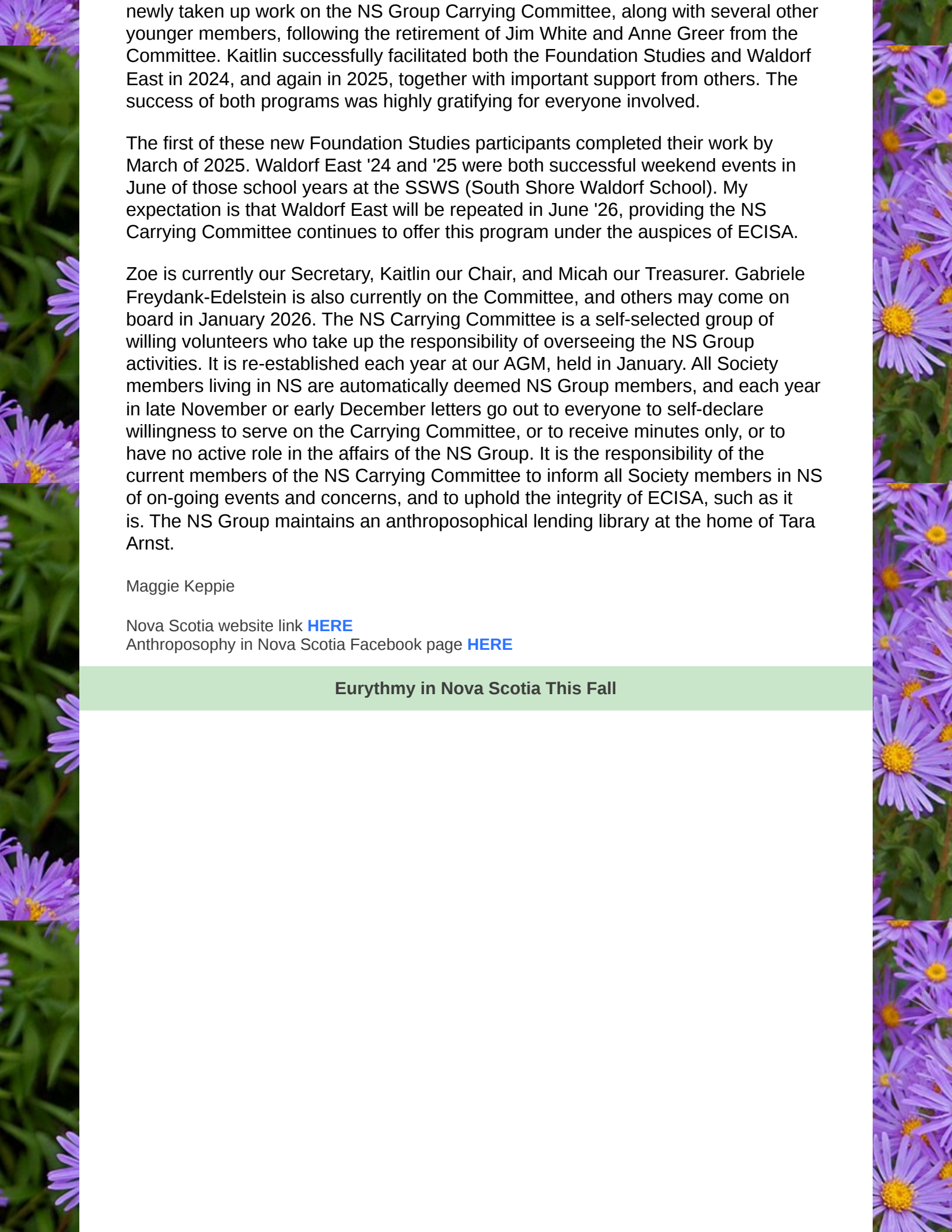
This month we feature a close-up look at anthroposophical activity in the beautiful province of Nova Scotia. Member Maggie Keppie offers the following overview of the last few years of activity:

As you can no doubt easily imagine, the Covid years disrupted our ECISA activity here in NS. We are only slowly finding our feet again. We were never highly formalized, having no actual office or administrator, and relying instead on the NS Group Carrying Committee to oversee any projects undertaken by ECISA (East Coast Institute for Studies in Anthroposophy).

Our two main ECISA undertakings from the beginning were the Foundation Studies program initiated in 2012 by Judy King and myself, and the Waldorf East initiative begun by Anne Greer around the same time. A third initiative in Early Childhood Studies followed soon after under the leadership of Carol Nasr, Margaret Osmond, and myself. By 2016 Margaret and Arthur Osmond initiated a special summer event, Eurythmy by the Sea, and further eurythmy workshops were scheduled along with guest artistic offerings, and a series of Earth Workshops led by Duncan and myself at Our Celtic Hearth. By 2020 all these initiatives fell dormant due to Covid, however.

There were major changes during this time at the South Shore Waldorf School as well, and a major new undertaking arose to support home-schoolers in the area. Shifting membership in the NS Carrying Committee contributed to a shifting anthroposophical landscape. A growing interest in the Christian community has taken root in NS as well. And Tilo continues to reach out in support of biodynamic agriculture. By 2022 the NS Group was co-sponsoring regular multiple fall and spring eurythmy workshops at Our Celtic Hearth, led by Margaret Osmond. By 2023 these were linked with afternoon speech and drama workshops, led by Paul Goodyear. While never specifically identified as ECISA projects, they did keep the spirit of anthroposophical studies alive. For several years the NS Group supported attendees at biodynamic agriculture workshops offered by Tilo and Saskia of Bear River Farms, until their workshops became fully self-supporting.

In 2024 the original Foundation Studies and Waldorf East programs were picked up again and re-activated under the competent guidance of Kaitlin Brown, who had also



newly taken up work on the NS Group Carrying Committee, along with several other younger members, following the retirement of Jim White and Anne Greer from the Committee. Kaitlin successfully facilitated both the Foundation Studies and Waldorf East in 2024, and again in 2025, together with important support from others. The success of both programs was highly gratifying for everyone involved.

The first of these new Foundation Studies participants completed their work by March of 2025. Waldorf East '24 and '25 were both successful weekend events in June of those school years at the SSWS (South Shore Waldorf School). My expectation is that Waldorf East will be repeated in June '26, providing the NS Carrying Committee continues to offer this program under the auspices of ECISA.

Zoe is currently our Secretary, Kaitlin our Chair, and Micah our Treasurer. Gabriele Freydank-Edelstein is also currently on the Committee, and others may come on board in January 2026. The NS Carrying Committee is a self-selected group of willing volunteers who take up the responsibility of overseeing the NS Group activities. It is re-established each year at our AGM, held in January. All Society members living in NS are automatically deemed NS Group members, and each year in late November or early December letters go out to everyone to self-declare willingness to serve on the Carrying Committee, or to receive minutes only, or to have no active role in the affairs of the NS Group. It is the responsibility of the current members of the NS Carrying Committee to inform all Society members in NS of on-going events and concerns, and to uphold the integrity of ECISA, such as it is. The NS Group maintains an anthroposophical lending library at the home of Tara Arnst.

Maggie Keppie

Nova Scotia website link [HERE](#)

Anthroposophy in Nova Scotia Facebook page [HERE](#)

Eurythmy in Nova Scotia This Fall



Fall 2025 EURYTHMY at Our Celtic Hearth

2367 Ridge Road, Hortonville, at Exit 10 Hwy. 101 near Wolfville

4 Saturdays: October 18 and 25, November 29, and December 6

Please RSVP to this email if you plan to come. Thanks!

This arts program is supported by the NS Group of the ASC (*Anthroposophical Society in Canada*).
Donations are appreciated for Studio Rental. Everyone is welcome. No prior experience is necessary.

**Each Saturday: Options available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All welcome.
Morning suggested donation is \$20 pp. Afternoon \$15. Full day \$30.**

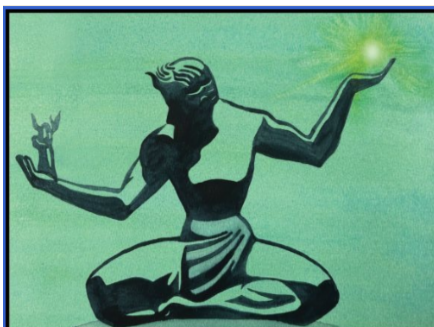
10 - 11:15 a.m. - Group Eurythmy with Margaret Osmond. Margaret shares her love of eurythmy at OCH, following long experience teaching eurythmy in Waldorf Schools. in England. Eurythmy is a movement art for health, using form, color, movement, pattern, and gesture.

11:15 - 12:30 - Organic, GF refreshments and conversation, with individual art options to try, if interested (Form Drawing, and Pencil&Ruler Will Exercises). During this time Margaret will continue in the Loft Studeio offering a few individual therapeutic eurythmy sessions as part of her on-going training, while the rest of us move to the Main Studio.

12:45 - 1:45 - Organic Soup provided, accompanied by potluck finger foods.
Please bring something simple to share if you plan to participate in this.

1:45 - 3:00 - Speech and dramatic arts connected with Rudolf Steiner's Mystery Play: Portal of Initiation, based on Goethe's Fairy Tale of the Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily. Paul Goodyear will facilitate. Paul brings his love and former acting experience in Steiner's Mystery Dramas at the Goetheanum in Switzerland.

Fall Events



DESTINY • REINCARNATION • COMMUNITY
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE
Anthroposophical Society in America
OCTOBER 10~12 • 2025
At the Detroit Waldorf School

Destiny, Reincarnation, Community

The Annual Conference of the Anthroposophical Society in
America

October 10-12, 2025 ~ Detroit Waldorf School

Registration is Now Open at this link!

Each year our annual conference provides an essential opportunity to meet in person to take up earnest dialog around various current activities in a context of themes ~ articulated through keynote talks, ceremonial and festive activity, and through conversation and workshops ~ to invigorate anthroposophical striving in the United States and in the world at this moment in time.

This year we are in pursuit of greater understanding of how destiny forces work in an individual's life, the mysteries of reincarnation as described through the insights of Rudolf Steiner, and how these forces and mysteries weave into community.

North American Youth Section Conference Immediately after the ASA Conference

Beyond Woke & Anti-Woke

Detroit,
Michigan
October 12th -
14th

what does anthroposophy have to offer?

email adelineroselyons@gmail.com for the registration link



**join us in transforming the polarized ideologies of our time
in an effort to create genuine social change
rooted in our 21st century conversation**

From the conference organizers:

Are you interested in

- Moving beyond the clichés of Woke and Anti-Woke to enter into a vital, living conversation about the social justice issues of our time?
- Having a constructive, honest conversation about the role of DEI in Waldorf education, Camphill, and other anthroposophical daughter movement institutions?
- Exploring how anthroposophy can help us stop othering and start meeting each other as human beings across the various cultural, social, and economic divides that would keep us apart?

If the answer is yes, we would like to warmly invite you to this intergenerational event, hosted by the Youth Section of the Anthroposophical Society in cooperation with the Anthroposophy and Social Justice Project.

Please note that we have decided to make this an intergenerational, rather than a primarily youth focused event, **so people of all ages are now invited to register**. Also, note that we are seeking individuals interested in collaborating with us to foster a culture of genuine speaking and listening. These are sensitive topics, and we will have to be willing to develop new social capacities and sensitivities to make this event work. Are you up for the challenge? Please join us!

[For more details and to register, click HERE](#)

Imagining a Threefold Society ::: Webinar Series :::

Exploring the Basic Idea of Social Threefolding

with T. Michael Cox and Christopher Hahn

Sundays – **October 26 through November 23**

This free webinar series will consist of five weekly one-hour zoom sessions, in which we will explore and attempt to imagine, as concretely as possible, what a future threefold society might be like.

No prior knowledge is required – only your interest!

**THE MICHAELIC BATTLE IN THE SPHERE OF HUMAN
AND COSMIC INTELLIGENCE IN THE AGE OF AI**

**BY FLORIAN SYDOW
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2025**

**SPONSORED BY THE THREE-FOLD MANKIND,
CHICAGO PROGRAM INITIATIVE**



THE HUMAN BEING BETWEEN THE MICHAELIC & RAPHAELIC FORCES BY WALTER ROGGENKAMP

*The Michaelic Battle In The Sphere of Human
And Cosmic Intelligence
In The Age Of AI*

*12pm PT 3pm ET
Sunday September 28*

The lecture is free,

***but a \$15 suggested donation per presentation will help to support this program and provide for a
speaker honorarium.***

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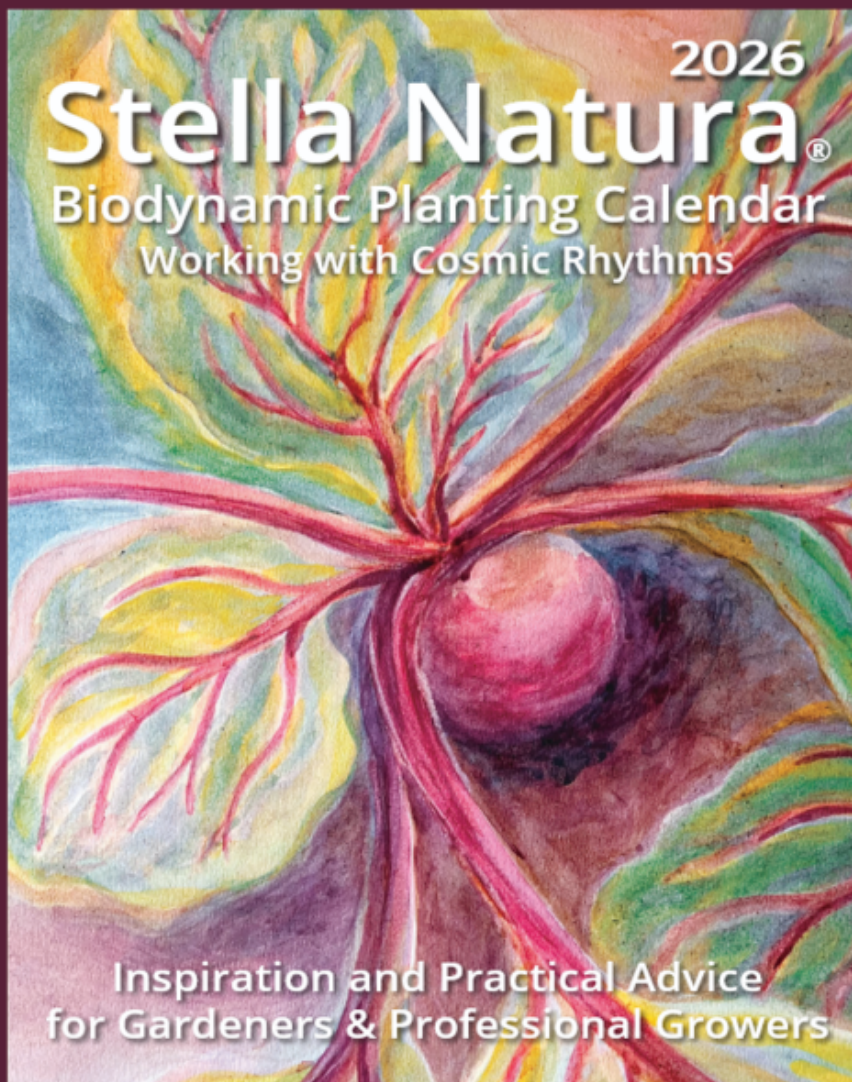
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