

# Events @ Rudolf Steiner House

For details on these events or updates on these or any additional events, please visit our notice board at Rudolf Steiner House or contact Annet at [annet.vankesteren@gmail.com](mailto:annet.vankesteren@gmail.com)

“It is these two fundamental impulses, to begin with, that can establish a truly moral life: First, the faith in the divine at the foundation of every human soul, and second, the boundless love of humanity that springs from this faith.”

Rudolf Steiner – The spiritual foundation of morality 1912 –  
CW155

Rudolf Steiner House  
307 Sussex Street  
Sydney

## Tuesday lectures

7pm | Suggested donation: \$8/\$6 conc. (Sydney Branch financial members free)

2<sup>nd</sup> February: David Wansbrough – **Seeing**. We are surrounded by visual stimuli. Facebook and electronic games encourage immediate responses, but just as when we check the meaning of an unfamiliar word, we then find it again and again, so too when we begin to practice Active Perception, we see more of what was always there. What happens when we turn our perception on ourselves? Why is 'seeing' more necessary for morality than laws? Simple experiments will be presented for testing. David Wansbrough has been a Visiting Professor in Russia where he has had 10 museum or State Library art exhibitions. He has 11 books in the Russian language and guides etheric perception of gesture exercises for anthroposophical doctors.

9<sup>th</sup> February: **A panel discussion** – to contemplate and share a recent news items that has been topical in the last few weeks. A panel will look at some specific questions regarding this news item, providing various points of view, after which the whole group can share insights and questions.

16<sup>th</sup> February: Hal Ginges – **I and Thou: Rudolf Steiner and Martin Buber on meeting the other**. At its essence any relationship or engagement in the social sphere is a meeting of one “I” with the separate “I” of another. Rudolf Steiner and his contemporary, the renowned Jewish philosopher Martin Buber – who were known to each other - have provided us with overlapping insights into the dynamics of the meeting between I and Thou. Dr Hal Ginges is a lawyer and independent philosopher with a special interest in Rudolf Steiner as a philosopher and his place within modern Western thought.

23<sup>rd</sup> February: Karla Cryer – **The Future**. We live in a time of accelerating and escalating change. This lecture explores how we can orient ourselves to the future in body mind and spirit. The unprecedented government response to the corona virus has thrown a dramatic wrench of uncertainty into all our futures. The lecture explores various future pictures, Steiner’s, Elon Musk, Ray Kurzweil, the World Economic Forum and astrological indications. The focus is on how we might chart our own personal course in these interesting times.

2<sup>nd</sup> March: John Pater – **How spiritual beings evolve when human beings truly meet each other**. The spiritual world and human beings are intricately interconnected in supporting each other. By consciously meeting each other spiritual beings receive the soul strength to beneficently support the earth but when we push each other away due to unconscious antipathy and love of ease the earth loses some of its beneficent support and suffering comes about.

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16<sup>th</sup> March: Ron Vaisey – **TBA**

23<sup>rd</sup> March: Martin Samson – **Preparing to Experience the etheric Christ in the 21st Century.** An Easter presentation. What has changed in the human soul, and therefore in the dynamics of community, since 1879 and especially in the last twenty years. This lecture will explore aspects of living in the eighth sphere and the critical factor of meeting each other to build the Bodies of Christ for the future.

30<sup>th</sup> March: Renate Long-Breipohl – **Thoughts on the necessity of death for the evolution of the spiritual and the human world.** At a time of a growing human desire and research aimed at prolonging human life as much as possible and eventually eliminate death, this lecture reflects on the spiritual necessity of physical death for human beings and in this context reflects also on the meaning of the events of Good Friday and Easter for the evolution of the spiritual and human world.

## St John's Group Library

Our librarian is in attendance every Monday from 10:30am until 4pm. You can find the full catalogue in: <http://stjohnsanthroposophicallibrary.blogspot.com.au/>

## Rudolf Steiner Book Centre

<http://www.rudolfsteinerbookcentre.com.au>

02 9264 5169 or [info@rudolfsteinerbookcentre.com.au](mailto:info@rudolfsteinerbookcentre.com.au)

Mon-Wed: 11am – 3pm Tue-Thu: 11am – 7pm Sat: 10am – 2pm

## Workshops

Matters of the Moment Every last Sunday of the week starting – February 28<sup>th</sup>; March 28<sup>th</sup>; April 25<sup>th</sup>; May 30<sup>th</sup> with Karla Cryer, from 9:30am to 4pm.

Course on spiritual scientific research Every first Saturday of the month – February 6<sup>th</sup>; March 6<sup>th</sup>; April 3<sup>rd</sup>; May 1<sup>st</sup> with Martin Neeme-Samson, from 2pm to 5pm.

Deadline for Summer newsletter 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## Study Groups

Knowledge of the Higher Worlds: Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at Rudolf Steiner House from 7pm. Using the book Knowledge of the Higher Worlds. For enquiries email Brigitta Gallaher (brigitta@gallagher.com.au) or Katherine (fairbrooks@yahoo.com.au)

Self-Development & Meditation: Every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at Rudolf Steiner House from 5:30pm. Using the book Occult Science. For enquiries phone John Pater (02) 9659 1009.

Lunch time study group. Meets fortnightly Wed (10<sup>th</sup> February) from 12:30 pm to 13:30pm. Currently studying “Philosophy of Freedom”. Contact Maureen Ten Tel 9484 3392.

Members’ study group. Meets weekly every Thursday during school term at 7pm. For information, Contact Norma Blackwood on (02) 9417 6046 or 0411 616 656

## New member

We would like to welcome one new member to the Sydney Branch; Lilly Wieland. Welcome to you!

## Working bee – Thank you – by Annet van Kesteren

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> January this year, a few people came together to make a big difference at Rudolf Steiner House. Organised and held by John Pater, Heike Fischer, Josephine Formosa, Mustafa Al Assadi, Vaike Neeme-Samson and Martin Neeme Samson took some time off from their personal lives and cleaned up a few things that needed cleaning. To say that they made a difference would be an understatement. It is absolutely incredible to see and realise the work that they put in.

On behalf of the members and friends of the Sydney Branch, thank you so much for organizing John and thank you Heike, Josephine, Mustafa, Vaike and Martin for your hard work. It is very much appreciated.

## Matters of the Moment – by Karla Cryer

The world Economic Forum signed an agreement with the UN in June 2020 to accelerate the implementation of agenda 2030 and to commence the Great Reset - a dramatic change to all our social contracts, business, education, health, financial policies, food production, urban development, and political structures. They present Covid-19 as the opportunity to catalyse this Great Reset. We often in anthroposophy urge the transformation of our inner evil but I notice that there is a profound unconsciousness or self-deception of this in most individuals. Simultaneously there is also an unconsciousness in the recognition of the external evil in the wider society resulting in a social and inner paralysis of the will which is then submerged into going along without dialogue without engagement.

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I am offering this participatory course to engage in concrete and spiritual detail of what is planned for us - to bring some clarity into our own thinking, feeling and willing in regard to these matters of the moment. It is time to engage with the Reset Plan and be proactive in how we meet it in our lives, in our schools, in our medical centres, in our jobs, in our families and in the anthroposophical society.

Steiner shifted operations to Switzerland when he grasped the changes in Germany but we now have nowhere to run to, it is completely global. How are we going to navigate the ever changing, ever accelerating New Normal I hope the course may help?

## **Tribute to Pam Thomas** – *by Rose-Marie van Hoogstraten*

Pam with her 'long will' would choose a goal, and then commit herself to whatever was needed to bring the project to fruition and to excellence. This was the case with the establishing of Christophorus House Retirement Village.

The three main golden threads that I saw, running through Pam's life were Family Life, Religion and Anthroposophy/the work of Rudolf Steiner. Pam was actively involved as librarian at Glenaeon, with Knights Hill and with Christophorus House Retirement Village for over 30 years. Pam always so enjoyed the wider family gatherings in the festive season.

Pam found her faith in the Anglican Church and regularly attended St. Lawrence Anglican Church in the city. In her later years, when she was confined to her home, she would set herself a topic and then would research it, in true librarian style, writing down her findings. Some of her topics were, The Eucharist, Festivals, Initiation, the Gnostics, Sophia, Michael, Parsifal and others.

When I read her work, I was deeply moved by the depth and wideness of scope in each one and suggested that they should go into print. We settled for making sets for close members of her family. Every set had a detailed index and many carefully chosen exquisite illustrations. Pam your research will live on in these volumes.

Good things are wrapped up in small parcels. Pam, with her choleric strength, when she took on a task, could pack quite a punch, was highly organised, deeply dedicated and a strong leader.

Pam was one of the pioneers of Christophorus House and Chaired the Christophorus House Board. Pam liaised with our architect, Reuben Lane, for the design and development of Units 17 - 23. She also took charge of the Library at Christophorus House.

In the early days there was sometimes tension between residents. Pam to help this arranged for the First Class to be held monthly at Christophorus House, and Rev. Rosalind Pecover brought the Christian Community Service quarterly. There were also other denominations/churches that visited regularly in The Hostel, this according to the requests from residents, ranging from Catholic, Anglican, Baptist amongst others.

Pam also started the Social Group where residents met regularly to work out a quarterly program of activities. Susan Haris came weekly for a study/discussion group. The Self-Care residents' meetings were also started at that time. This was indicative of Pam's resolve which was to care for the social and spiritual needs of residents, as well as for the financial stability of the Organisation. Pam was the initiator of the celebrating of the

festivals. With any tricky situation I shared with Pam, she would listen intently and then philosophically, and very practically, offer wise ideas to work on.

Pam, we are in awe and appreciation of your contribution to life at Christophorus House. You showed us the enriching journey one can do right up to the nineties, even when born with only one functioning kidney and taking a very matter of fact approach to this. You take with you many gifts and much you have worked on in yourself to the heavenly worlds. All of us at Christophorus House who knew you, love you dearly. We will your presence in our midst.

## A course on spiritual scientific research – by Martin Neeme-Samson

The spiritual scientific research group will continue through 2021 (see below for details). Our focus will be to provide a dedicated space and time to explore research methods, but also to actually do some research in community.

We will not only develop research theory and review each other's ideas and progress, but we will also support with quiet time for reading writing and one on one conversations. There may be some people who would wish to do join this group. If you do you can come along at 1 pm on February 6th for a one-hour induction to the group.

Martin is also offering to provide a one-on-one introduction to the course so far before that date. Contact him on 0488 273 736 if you would like to enter the group with this guidance.

The dates on which the course will be held are the first Saturday every month starting February at 2pm. The first Saturday, 6th February, will be a re-introduction to research methods, refining questions through dialogue and positing how, through a research group, literature can be created to reflect our spiritual knowledge and experience to the world. Several methods will be presented to help you work out which of them suits you best. In 2021, if you decide to undertake a research project, you will establish a supervisory team from among your peers and commit to reporting at each further meeting and learning to write your findings for peer review. Each session will allow you to present ideas, seek guidance and formation. as well as discover leads for your process. During each we'll devote time to actual research by the individuals too.

We will use the academic idea of collegial discussion where warm encouragement and honest questioning of ideas will create a safe space. On the final Saturday we will hold an academy symposium to give each of the researchers an opportunity to present the findings of their research *'in via'*.

Research and learning how to present it in an academy of peers, and then to the world is considered to be both character building and a path of spiritual development. You can be a beginner, you do not need to have a particular level of research skill, but this is a group where you will need to commit to broadening your knowledge through Spiritual Science and Anthroposophy, working between sessions and developing content to present. To provide a some idea of what working as part of the Research Group is like, four of the current participants have provided a short description of their experiences.

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"I loved to participate in the research group last year, it was a very warm and interactive group, I felt supported throughout the entire process.

Not only did the group bring clarity to formulate my research question it also supported me in breaking through my initial hesitance to write up my findings.

I'm very much looking forward to the continuous process of my started drafts, hopefully to be finalised in a final form this coming year."

"My whole involvement with the research group was spurred on by my experiences at work leading to my exploration of how to 'deal' with evil in the everyday. The group felt like a good place to start dialoging about our topics. Discussions evolved over time. Dialogue partners changed and moved through. It was great to have someone guiding the process too. It was helpful to have the group as support. The only drawback for me is finding a dialogue partner who I could deepen the discussion with. My topic is confronting and needs a passionate person who knows themselves well to be able to stand firm within the discussion. There was one person who was not part of the group who helped catalyse my creative aspirations. I thank them for this. Also it was difficult to organise dialoguing get-togethers due to life circumstances and schedules and so on... Overall, though, a positive growth experience."

"The first thing I noticed in participating in the Research Group was the level of engagement that the process naturally required; although participation in the group was open to anyone, and Martin made the sessions accessible and warm, the process itself is a threshold. It is quite something, and certainly an 'I-development' to choose a path to follow, to follow it and to articulate that to others; much more is called on than, for instance, participation in a study group. Once committed, the next major milestone was the forming of a research question, which was again, subtly intense, as it is actually a dying process: you die to all the other potential questions in the choosing of one. After that came for me the unsettling experience of finding my existing thinking on my chosen subject was not as ordered as I'd thought, and was actually incorrect, though encouragingly, it was merely my own novice research enquiry that was able to show this to me - so you win some, you lose some! Finally, the whole context of this group is, I think, and became more so throughout all that 2020 entailed, one of the most important things that a human being can work on right now: learning to move the ability to come to knowledge through the different capacities of sentient, intellectual and consciousness soul, and focussing on that immeasurably important, often ignored and eminently mysterious transition from intellect to consciousness and back again. Thank you Martin, Annet and Ron - looking forward to more."

"For me the main bit that stands out is that it gave me impetus to actually make time available for my own research instead of just always reading and listening to other people's research. Questions come up when studying Anthroposophy, but actually making the time to go deeper into any topic is rare. This group provided me with the feedback to go on, but also the push I needed to actually do some of the work needed for the research. One thing that struck me was how difficult it was to actually find a subject that I really wanted to research, something specific, where I could formulate a clear main question to work from. Again, the group process was very helpful with this and I look forward to continuing and expanding on the work I've done so far."

## Just imagine how many – by Annet van Kesteren

At the start of this New Year, I'd like to go back and review the old year a bit, see what it brought us at Rudolf Steiner House. It's was a bit of a crazy year for us all and we certainly (like so many other organisations) did not get to do all the things we wanted to do. We did however still manage to pack quite a bit during the times when we could. There were over 30 Tuesday evening lectures, with an average attendance of 14 people and more than 15 different lecturers. The Sydney Rudolf Steiner College also made use of the rooms on the weekends outside of times during lockdown, with various courses spread throughout the year, being present in the rooms almost every Saturday in October and November for instance.

Then there were the study groups and workshops. We currently have 4 regular study groups that meet on a fortnightly or weekly basis. There were also regular workshops held on the Saturdays as well as the Research Group and of course First Class. And let's not forget the wonderful Eurythmy group that regularly use one of the rooms for practicing eurythmy.

With all of that going on, it's not easy to guess how many footsteps moved around Rudolf Steiner House over the past year, but we can say with a fair amount of certainty that it was this was more than a thousand.

Looking now a bit more specifically at the bookshop, which also generated plenty of footsteps during the past year, it's certainly been a very different year. Whereas normally the bookshop is present at many of the fairs and conferences throughout a year, these were all cancelled after March. Instead, it seems, that the people we would have normally met at these events, started purchasing from the bookshop online. To assist our customers with this significant change in circumstances, the bookshop offered free delivery for a short period as many parents especially were all of sudden left to needing a lot more schooling items at home.

Looking at the items purchased during the year, we can once again see a few remarkable things. The bestselling book for the year was "On Epidemics" by Rudolf Steiner with a total number of books sold of more than 4700. Just imagine how many words were taken out of the bookshop to be absorbed by the readers!

The craft items are another interesting category to look at. We sold over 1200 individual crayons and over 400 individual pencils. Water colour paint was also a favourite this past year with 230 individual paint bottles sold and 190 individual jars sold for people to mix their own colours in. Just imagine how many drawings, paintings and different colours have been created by all of these!

What I think I have failed to mention over the last few years since we have started this review, is the think about the number of conversations that have been had at Rudolf Steiner House. From the many customers who walk in at the bookshop or call up; from the people who met before and after a lecture or workshop; from the people who shared their work during the various study groups. So many conversations were had and have already started to happen again in 2021.