



AUTUMN: APRIL 2022

EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE STATE BRANCH SECRETARY

Dear members and friends,

I would like to start with a message from Rudolf Steiner in the "Leading Thoughts".

"Hearts are beginning to have thoughts; Enthusiasm no longer emerges from mystic darkness, but from thought-borne clarity. Understanding this means to take Michael into one's mind. Thoughts that seek to grasp the Spirit must come from hearts that beat for Michael as the fiery thought Prince of the Universe."

It is a clarion call to involve our will in thinking but also the will to act. When we act out of "pre-formed norms", an inner cold spreads in our feeling and thinking. We de-humanize and start functioning like a machine. This has a chilling effect on our warmth organism. Our thinking should not remain abstract but should be transformed into warm heart thinking.

Many illnesses in our age develop because of the absence of warmth.

"Cancer and sclerotic illnesses are cold diseases especially in the Western World including in our own Country."

Rudolf Steiner was the founder of Eurythmy. This is a New Art of Movement. Soul-imbued movements could counteract these cold diseases. To see a Eurythmy performance for the first time was the most touching experience I had in my life, and I cried because I thought I arrived too late to be able to learn this art form. Eurythmy has many stimulating abilities in Education, so needed today for the little children or for adolescents. Strong

healthy humans develop through the healing forces of Eurythmy. Curative Eurythmy as therapy is the most powerful, activating and transforming force for adults, also as a preventative measure against those "cold illnesses".

In the early days of Anthroposophy almost every Anthroposophist would join a Eurythmy class. Every mystery centre in the past would offer a practice of special movement—yoga, temple dance, Tai Chi, Qigong, and various forms of folk dance, just to name a few. We are approaching Easter! We are living in a different Time Spirit since the greatest of all Mysteries on Earth, the Mystery of Golgotha! That is why Rudolf Steiner inaugurated this New Art of Movement, which works with the Logos. The magic power of sounds was well known in old Mysteries:

'L' as life-giving, activating growing forces
'S' as a magic power to extend ones will

Rudolf Steiner encouraged members to see Eurythmy performances and to join Eurythmy classes. He even said on one occasion, "You do not need to come to my lectures if you do not see the performance."

Spiritual beings from the Hierarchies work on our etheric forces during our sleep at night while our astral body and ego return "home" to the other side of the threshold. They work on the life processes of the organism as spiritual light from out of the Cosmos and regenerates our etheric body towards recovery. Life is transformed through warmth into light of Consciousness.

The blood becomes etherised through the movement of the rhythm and sounds. Vowels are the planetary feeling forces, and consonants are the zodiacal forming forces. The interplay between these different forces forms the Word. This "Word" spiritualizes the whole human being. When we do Eurythmy, Hierarchical beings work through the Word (Logos). Eurythmy as the new Mystery Art helps to ennoble the whole human being.

It is known even to mainstream scientists that lying or being false, for example, has an adversary effect on the forces of healing wounds and on one's 'immune system'. Nowadays we are tempted to sit in front of a computer while we listen or try to have conversations on Zoom. I hear again and again that it is possible to warm the Zoom with our love. I will leave it up to you to answer for yourself if this is possible. However, many people complain about the tingling sensations in their hands and feet or the water in their legs. Some have irregular heartbeats. These are warning signs that should alarm us since this can lead to serious illnesses if we do not counterbalance it with regular exercises. (I do not mean Gyms.)

The four lower senses that relate to our will are:

Sense of Touch
Sense of Life
Sense of Self movement
Sense of Balance

We have the possibility in these times to work with those Hierarchical beings, and the beings of the elemental nature spirits who are waiting yearningly to work with and through us if we make contact with them through our awakened consciousness and through sounds or meditations.

After Easter we are planning to offer an introduction to Meditation and Eurythmy on two Saturdays. The dates will be confirmed in a separate email.

We hope to welcome you on Good Friday and on Easter Sunday for our Festive gatherings.

Warmly
Birgith Lugosi
State Secretary
Anthroposophical Society in Australia
Victorian Branch



Vic Branch Thursday Study Group

3 February 1924

TO ALL MEMBERS • III

Members' Meetings

It happened not infrequently that people became members of the Anthroposophical Society for the sole reason that they could thus acquire literature which was not sold outside. Such members then took little interest in the life in the groups of the Society. Having attended the meetings, maybe, to begin with, they soon remained away and said, 'What goes on in these groups is of no help to me. I shall find Anthroposophy better by working at it alone.'

It cannot be denied that the reproaches made in this way against the members' meetings were not always reasonable. The trouble lay not always in the meetings, but often in the impossible demands of people who could not find their right relation to them.

It is easy to say 'this or that does not satisfy me'. It is more difficult quietly to observe what is unsatisfactory, and then oneself to make the necessary efforts, contributing towards improvement. On the other hand — and we have no reason to conceal the fact — there is much in the members' meetings which calls for change.

In these meetings a great truth might be established. When human beings are met together, seeking the Spirit with inner singleness of purpose, then they too find the way to one another — the paths from soul to soul.

In countless human hearts today the need to find these paths is deeply felt. They naturally say, 'If Anthroposophy is the true view of life, this need of the heart must be felt by those who call themselves anthroposophists'. Yet they must witness how many in the members' groups,

advancing Anthroposophy as their theoretical conviction, show no signs of this feeling.

Anthroposophical members' meetings must of course make it their task to cultivate the contents of Anthroposophy. The knowledge and insight gained by Anthroposophy is read and listened to. Anyone who does not see that this must be so, is certainly not right. Merely for the purpose of debating on all manner of opinions which one may have just as well without Anthroposophy, we should need no Anthroposophical Society. But on the other hand, if we do no more than read anthroposophical writings aloud, or even lecture on Anthroposophy as a mere teaching, then it is true that the meetings give no more than each of us alone could gain by his own reading.

Everyone who goes to an anthroposophical meeting should have the feeling that he will find more there than when one merely studies Anthroposophy alone. We should be able to go to the meetings because we shall find human beings there, with whom we like to work at Anthroposophy together. In the literature on Anthroposophy, a certain view of life and the world is to be found. The anthroposophical meetings are there for people to find their fellow human beings.

However keenly we read anthroposophical literature, we should be able to feel joy and elation as we go to a gathering of Anthroposophists — simply because we look forward to the human beings we shall find there. Then we shall look forward to the meeting, even if we expect to hear no more than we have studied long ago and made our own.

Old members finding a new member in the group which they attend, should not rest content to feel with satisfaction that Anthroposophy has

gained a new adherent. They should not merely have the thought, 'Here is one more whom we can fill with Anthroposophy'. But they should feel and be alive to the fresh human element which comes into the group with the new member.

In Anthroposophy it is the Truths it can reveal which matter: in the Anthroposophical Society it is the Life that is cultivated.

It would be bad — nay, nothing could be worse than this — if there were justification for the idea gaining ground: 'Valuable as Anthroposophy may be, I prefer to go elsewhere if I want to come near to other people, instead of letting fanatical, self-satisfied anthroposophists hurl their theories and thoughts at my head, with the implication: If you do not think as I do, you are only half a human being.'

Much is done on the one hand to give rise to such judgment by the cold didactic impulse to instruct — an easy snare for some when once they recognise the truth in Anthroposophy. On the other side there is that 'playing at esotericism', so repellent to newcomers when once they enter anthroposophical meetings. They will find people who give them to understand with a mysterious air that they know many things which cannot yet be told to those who are not ready. But an atmosphere of levity somehow pervades all this. The esoteric in effect

can only do with real earnestness of life. Vain satisfaction which one may draw from idle talk of high and hidden truths, is incompatible with it. This is far from implying that a sentimental reticence, afraid of joy and enthusiasm, should be the life-element in anthroposophical intercourse. But to play at withdrawing from the profane 'external' life while one pursues the 'truly esoteric' — this the Anthroposophical Society cannot endure. Real life on every hand contains far more that is esoteric than is ever dreamt of by people who repeat, 'We cannot carry on the esoteric life in such surroundings; we need some separate and special circle'. Undoubtedly, circles of this kind are often needed; but there can be no playing with them. They must be centres of fruitful influence for real life. Esoteric circles so-called, which only arise to disappear after a short time for lack of serious purpose, can only carry disruptive forces into the Society. Far too often, they are but the outcome of a desire to form cliques, the effect of which is to impoverish, not to increase the anthroposophical life in the Society. If we succeed in counteracting the inner falsehood which characterised so much of the talk about the esoteric in the past, then will true esotericism be able to find a home in the Anthroposophical Society.



WHAT'S HAPPENING? – announcements, initiatives, members' news, repor

VIC BRANCH GOOD FRIDAY GATHERING & EASTER FESTIVAL – 15TH & 17TH APRIL

You are warmly welcome to the gathering for members and friends on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Good Friday 15th April 12 pm sharp

THE ANGEL OF WRATH, at 2 Union Street, KEW. Shane Rohde on Piano, Infesto transfiguratione Jesu Christi by Franz Liszt, and Birgith Lugosi reading The Angel of Wrath by Alexander Remisov.

Donation welcome. For details, contact Birgith Lugosi 0448 844 453.

Easter Sunday 17th April 3pm **EASTER FESTIVAL** at 2 Union Street, KEW. Talk by Johannes Schuster "Some Thoughts on the meaning of Easter", Eurythmy by Aurora Australis Performance Group, food and conversation. All welcome. For details, contact Birgith Lugosi 0448 844 453. Organised by *the VIC BRANCH*.

More about Johannes' talk on next page...

Easter Talk “Some Thoughts on the meaning of Easter”

The events of Easter represent the very core of Christianity. In this talk Johannes explores their meaning and significance from a cosmological perspective. What are the connections between the event of Golgotha and humanity’s cosmic past and future? Why is this perspective of particular relevance right now, more so perhaps than ever before?

Johannes Schuster was a Co-founder, the first Class Teacher, longstanding administrator and building designer of the Little Yarra Steiner School. After leaving the school he developed an Anthroposophical Theory of Transformative Art & Architecture, which he and his wife Sue have been teaching in Australia and internationally, in recent years mainly to groups in China, online since 2020. More info on his website:

<http://biosculpturalarchitecture.com/>

WHITSUN FESTIVAL & THE VICTORIAN BRANCH AGM - SATURDAY 4TH JUNE

We would like to warmly invite you to the festive Annual General Meeting of the Anthroposophical Society in Australia – Victorian Branch to be held:

on **Saturday 4th June 2022**
at **2 Union Street, KEW**

We are planning a festive Whitsun gathering in the morning, and the AGM will be 1:30 – 3:30 pm. More information will follow, and the Vic Branch members will receive AGM-related documents in due course. Mark this date in your calendar.



Speech Chorus led by Johanna Shaefer at our Christmas Festival 2021



Christmas Festival 2021

FORUM – sharing thoughts, questions, responses

DIVINE SOPHIA AND MYSTERY PLAYS – THE JOURNEY OF THE MICHAEL DRAMA GROUP – CON MARGARITIS

The Michael Centre Drama Group has been preparing for over 2 years to present William Shakespeare’s The Winter’s Tale in April 2022.

This play came to Marcus Cox and others in the group as a continuous impulse of the Divine Sophia.

It began with the previous plays performed by the group, beginning with Edouard Schuré’s “The Mystery of Eleusis” written in 1889, Aeschylus’s “Prometheus Bound” written around 440BC and Percy Bysshe Shelley’s “Prometheus Unbound” published around 1820.

The Eleusinian Mysteries, held each year at Eleusis in Greece, celebrated the story of Demeter and

Persephone. Initiates who participated in the mysteries were said to be forever changed for the better and that they no longer feared death.

The rituals were based on a symbolic reading of the story of Demeter and Persephone and provided initiates with a vision of the afterlife so powerful that it changed the way they saw the world and their place in it. Participants were freed from a fear of death through the recognition that they were immortal souls temporarily in mortal bodies. In the same way that Persephone went down to the land of the dead and returned to that of the living each year, so would every human being die only to live again on another plane of existence or in another body. The Demeter story offered a vision of eternal life and triumph over death.

In Aeschylus's "Prometheus Bound", we have the story of the Titan Prometheus, who stole Zeus's fire and gifted it to humanity. Where Zeus wanted to obliterate the human race, Prometheus' gift of fire was also the birth of the intellect and the ego. Not only could human beings receive the skills and all the gifts that the Gods had, they could also develop them further and overcome Zeus through their own doing. For this Prometheus was banished to the Caucasus where he was fettered in chains to the rock representing materialism, which humanity must overcome. Zeus's eagle, symbolising astrality, would come and gnaw at his liver (his life forces) by day, and the cold would bite his skin by night. To become unchained from the material or mineral world, humanity must overcome this lower nature. Prometheus also cursed Zeus by telling him he would be overthrown but would not say by whom. Zeus overthrew his father Chronos, the Titan, who in turn had overthrown his father, Uranus. Humanity is destined to rise above Zeus and become the fourth tier of the Gods.

In Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound", we have the continuing story of Prometheus who is suffering on the rocks of Caucasus. He laments his suffering and recalls his love for the Oceanid Asia. He hears Earth retell his curse against Zeus (Jupiter) and recalls his words. After hearing these words, he goes through metanoia and repents. "I wish no living thing to suffer pain." Jupiter sends Mercury to offer

Prometheus freedom, if he would tell him who will overthrow Jupiter. He refuses and is tortured by the furies, first within, then without. Prometheus goes through redemption and a blossoming of his love for Asia, and eventually he is freed by Hercules from his fetters, and Jupiter falls from power. Being unwilling to change, Jupiter is unable to go through his own inner transformation and is banished down into Hades by the Demogorgon. The earth goes through a metamorphosis reflecting Prometheus' and Asia's love for one another.

In "The Winter's Tale" we have the story of King Leontes who turns against his wife, Queen Hermione, and his good friend, King Polixenes. He literally goes mad with jealousy, loses his mind accusing them of having an affair. Leontes throws Hermione in prison proclaiming the child she is bearing illegitimate, whilst Polixenes escapes back to Sicilia after finding out Leontes wants him killed. The queen gives birth to a girl which Leontes believes is not his heir. Leontes sends messengers to Delphos for word from the Oracle. Hermione is put on trial before the king, but she asserts her innocence and asks for the word of the Oracle to be read before the court. The Oracle states categorically that Hermione and Polixenes are innocent. However, Leontes refuses to believe it as the truth. Hermione falls in a swoon at the news that their son, Mamillius, has died of a wasting sickness brought on by Leontes' accusations against her, and is carried away by Paulina, who subsequently reports the queen's death to her heartbroken and repentant husband. Leontes vows to spend the rest of his days atoning for the loss of his son, his abandoned daughter, and his queen.

The abandoned baby is found by a shepherd in the forest. Forward 16 years and Perdita has fallen in love with Prince Florizel, Polixenes' son. Florizel and Perdita go to Sicilia followed by Polixenes, and there is a reconciliation between Leontes and Polixenes. Leontes is overjoyed at being reunited with his daughter. As they all go to Paulina's house, where a statue of Hermione has been recently finished, they witness the miracle, Hermione is restored to life.

In each of these four plays we have a strong expression of the divine feminine. With Demeter and Persephone there is the vitality of nature's rebirth in spring of each year. In "Prometheus Bound", there are the Oceanids, who went to Prometheus' side and had deep compassion for him. Their character changes from being sympathetic yet cautious to being assertive to stand up to the might of Hermes. In "Prometheus Unbound", Shelley describes the three nymphs who, despite being terrified of the happenings to Prometheus, strengthened their inner resolve to endure and developed Ego consciousness.

In "The Winter's Tale", we see the endurance and the acceptance of all that Queen Hermione had to go through: the loss of the relationship with her husband, the loss of her son and her newborn daughter, and the loss of her role as Queen of Sicilia. Through all these she stays strong, allowing the projected madness of Leontes' shadow to run its course, and she returns with unconditional love, a deep strength of self, compassion for everything and everyone.

Through all these and other plays he directed prior, Marcus was drawn to the Divine Sophia, the giver of wisdom in so many forms. She is the great mother Isis, the goddess of healing and magic, crucial to ancient Egyptian religious beliefs. She is Shakti in Sanskrit, the powerful Hindu personification of feminine wisdom, and the personal and collective linking soul as atman, realized in the transcendent state of samadhi (Gnosis). She is the compassionate bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara in Buddhism, returning to light the path to nirvana (Gnosis), personified by the deity Guanyin. She is both Mother Mary, in her ascendant form, and Mary Magdalene, as the earthly companion of the Christ potential in Christian Gnosticism. In Jungian psychology, she is the unifying power ("individuation") of both the feminine and masculine archetypes, anima and animus, and of the lower self of the psyche with the higher spiritual self (Gnosis).

"She is the Sophia of wisdom, the Maria of compassion, the Persephone of destruction, compelling Necessity and Fate, and the Muse".
– James Hillman

In Proverbs 8, she is the Divine Sophia, whose existence and Wisdom was prior to the manifestation of the Earth... and will be beyond it!

I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning,
or ever the earth was.

When there were no depths, I was brought forth;
when there were no fountains abounding with
water. ...

... when he appointed the foundations of the
earth:

Then I was by him, as one brought up with him:
and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always
before him;

Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and
my delights were with the sons of men.

Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children:
for blessed are they that keep my ways.

Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.

Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching
daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my
doors.

For whoso findeth me findeth life and shall
obtain favour of the LORD. ...

*There will be four performances of The
Winter's Tale on Saturday 9th, Sunday 10th,
Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th April at the
Michael Centre in Waranwood.
Tickets are available on trybooking.com.
For enquiries call 0419 007 445.*



THE WIDER WORLD

NATIONAL SOCIETY AGM in ADELAIDE & ON ZOOM

- SATURDAY 16TH APRIL

10.30 am -12 pm AEST: Annual General Meeting

(Members of the Society will receive the notice of AGM, reports, voting papers, how to receive a Zoom link, etc. shortly)

1.30 – 3.30 pm AEST: Lecture

'Thoughts on the relevance of Easter for the Anthroposophical Society today; Perspectives from three different professional points of view.



GOETHEANUM.TV

The following are some of the 'Goetheanum TV' programs. If you would like to be informed about current Goetheanum TV broadcasts regularly and receive reminders before livestreams, you can register at the [Goetheanum website here](#).

Anthroposophy - An Extension of Science?

- The first will be the last— Human evolution from a scientific and humanities perspective
- The cultural contribution of anthroposophy in the 20th and 21st century
- All mumbo-jumbo or solution to current problems? —BD Agriculture put to the test
- How old can new approaches be? —Is a reference to Goethe and Steiner still relevant?

Voices of a humane pedagogy

- The Copernican Revolution in Education
- Janusz Korczak: Every child, a star!

Shaping the World · Encounters

- Obligation to vaccinate - way or wrong way out of the pandemic?

People & Society

- Europe's responsibility for a peaceful future
- This war must end. Now! —Gerald Häfner on the war in Ukraine

Art & stage

- Some Eurythmy performances.

And many more... Lectures in German with English subtitle.



The Goetheanum

GRATITUDE by Rebecca Maxwell

The organs of Mother Earth give without counting,
fresh air from her trees,
legumes and grains and greens
her body's manifestations,
she nourishes us unstinting.

Mother Earth,
from your circulation of rivers and seas
you give us fresh slaking water,
and nourishing food from your fish.

Mother Earth,
the air and warmth of your breathing
assist us also to properly breathe.

Mother Earth,
the travail of your nature spirits
grows the plants that delight and feed us.

Mother Earth,
how shall I show my reverence to you?
how shall I sing right hymns to your grace?

Mother Earth,
you temper the heat of the sun to our needs,
you moisten the air to our needed softness.

Mother Earth,
perhaps all we can give you
is acknowledgement in sensitive prayers
from the warmth of our felt gratitude.

Mother Earth,
though I may lack deep perception,
I do feel you are a living being,
and I am willing to learn how to serve you;
I am grateful to work for you too.

Photo by makoto.h @ photo-ac.com

USEFUL THINGS TO KNOW ...

Vic Branch Committee

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Jenny Meltzer	Vic News Editor		
Elizabeth McKay	Event Co-ordinator, Vic Branch Library		
Ian George			
James Gillan			

Vic Branch enquiries: anthroposvic@gmail.com

SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE Meetings of the First Class: Please check with the class holders.

KEW - 2 Union Street

4th Sunday of month at 10am*

2nd Friday of month at 7.30pm*

Class Holder: (Free rendering)

Birgith Lugosi 0448 844 453

WARRANWOOD 37A Wellington Park Drive

3rd Sunday of month at 10am; Feb. to Nov.

Class Holders: (Free rendering)

Guenter Zimmermann 03 9727 2456

David Morgan 0401 999 402

ESOTERIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP for Class Members

WARRANWOOD 37A Wellington Park Drive.

1st Sunday of Month at 10am Rob Gordon 0417 033 744

VIC NEWS - Please send your member's news, reports, initiatives and creative contributions by email to:

The Editor yasushi.hayashi@yahoo.com or to anthroposvic@gmail.com

CLOSING DATES for Winter Edition, June 2022: 10th June

Vic News is distributed to the members of the Anthroposophical Society (the Victorian Branch and the Michael Group) and to the friends of Anthroposophy in Victoria.

LINKS and CONTACTS Visit these websites for further information:

The General Anthroposophical Society:

goetheanum.org/en

The School of Spiritual Science at the Goetheanum:

goetheanum.co/en/school

The Anthroposophical Society in Australia:

www.anthroposophyau.org.au

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Editorial Note

Vic News is your newsletter—a newsletter that *you* create. If you have something going in your area (geographically or subject-wise), please share your experiences here. If you have something in your mind or a question you are grappling with, you can share your musings or questions with other members here. It need not be an accomplished thesis. If there is no news, there is no newsletter. YH