



■ GOETHEANUM

Goetheanum Leadership: the future of the Goetheanum

What basis are we building on?

The work on the Foundation Stone Meditation forms the ground for the ten project groups which were developed from the chosen target images. It is also reflected in the Anthroposophical Society's annual theme («Light and Warmth become Freedom and Love»). The main question in this context is how we can gain peaceability through the Foundation Stone Meditation – a hundred years after the birth of the Threefolding impulse? (See *Anthroposophy Worldwide* 10/2017).

After the Goetheanum World Conference of Michaelmas 2016, where the Foundation Stone Meditation was an essential element, an initiative group was formed aiming to enhance, foster and develop the work on the Foundation Stone Meditation* through research as well as activities and events.

For almost a hundred years this meditation has been used and cultivated by many people in larger and smaller groups – often through eurythmy and speech. In the Netherlands, Great Britain, Switzerland and various places in Germany regular conferences focus on the Foundation Stone Meditation.

Facilitating more conscious collaboration

At the Goetheanum World Conference we were able to experience how the Foundation Stone Meditation can also be a source of inspiration for individual professions, based on the question: how does the work on the Foundation Stone relate to my everyday life? A farmer who only got to know the Meditation during this conference said in a conversation that he was now better able to understand his compost. A group of physicians who are members of the Medical Section in Finland is working with the rhythms of the Foundation Stone Meditation. This Meditation, which was originally planted as a symbolic Foundation Stone into the hearts of the members of the Anthroposophical Society in order to consolidate the community-building impulse within this Society, can also facilitate a more conscious collaboration within the Anthroposophical Society and contribute to the further development and deepening of the work of the Sections within the School of Spiritual Science.



Freedom and love: Zervreila mountain sculpture by Raoul Ratnowsky

With this collaboration in mind, the 2018 Annual General Meeting and Annual Conference will combine the work on the Foundation Stone Meditation with a presentation of the Section work in work groups that will be inspired by the theme of Light and Warmth.

At Christmas, from 27 to 31 December 2018, the Goetheanum will host an international conference on the Foundation Stone Meditation, where the main emphasis will be on artistic approaches to this Meditation. The conference will be organized by a Foundation Stone initiative group consisting of Christiane Haid, Paul Mackay, Stefan Hasler and the general secretaries Marjatta van Boeschoten (GB) and Jaap Sijmons (NL). | *Christiane Haid, Goetheanum Leadership*

* A number of books have been **published** on the Foundation Stone Meditation since the middle of the twentieth century, mostly in German, Dutch and English. The authors include (to name but a few) Willem Zeylmans van Emmichoven, Bernard Lievegoed, Heinz Zimmermann and Sergej Prokofieff.

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Humanities Section Clarification

The article by Rolf Speckner entitled *Between the Esoteric and the Exoteric*, which was printed in *Anthroposophy Worldwide* 10/2017 under the heading «Humanities Section», was neither written in agreement or cooperation with the leader of that Section nor was the content known to her. The impression conveyed by this article of a close cooperation between the Humanities Section and the Hamburg Colloquium is inaccurate. This also applies to the conferences mentioned in the article, for which the Hamburg Colloquium has sole responsibility. It was incorrect to use the name of the Section in this context. | *Christiane Haid, Leader of the Humanities Section at the Goetheanum*

Humanities Section

The Revelation of John

The Apocalypse is considered one of the most difficult books of the Bible. Rudolf Steiner saw it as a mystery book of the «I», of the deed, and as an impulse for the future. He spoke four times in depth about the Apocalypse: in his book *Christianity as Mystical Fact* (1902), at the 1907 Munich Congress, in a special lecture cycle in 1908 and, lastly, in a cycle for the Christian Community priests in 1924. Rudolf Steiner pointed out that the ancient mysteries were revealed in Christianity and that they provided then the key to the interpretation of the apocalyptic images. Spiritual science has this role today and adds a new dimension to their comprehension and interpretation. [Because the Apocalypse looks to the distant future, its contemplation involves dealing with the present and future of humankind. In this context Rudolf

Steiner explained deeper layers of historical evolution which he did not address anywhere else.] The study conference on the Apocalypse, which will take place at the Goetheanum from 10 to 12 November 2017 (*Die Apokalypse des Johannes*), will look at the author of the Apocalypse and his vision of the far distant future as well as present fundamental aspects regarding the interpretation of his apocalyptic images. | *Christiane Haid, Leader of the Humanities Section at the Goetheanum, and Jaap Sijmons, general secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in the Netherlands*

Information and registration
www.goetheanum.org/8639.html

Eurythmy Ensemble Directors and ensemble

At Easter 2018 Margrethe Solstad will step down from her position as director of the Goetheanum's Eurythmy Ensemble (*Anthroposophy Worldwide* 5/2017). She will be succeeded from September 2018 by a team of directors. Performances will continue during the transition period, from Easter to September 2018, and will include – from 21 to 25 July 2018 – scenes from Rudolf Steiner's *Mystery Dramas* (*Anthroposophy Worldwide* 1-2/2017).

On 10 October the Goetheanum Leadership has confirmed that the new team of directors will include Gioia Falk (CH/DE), Tanja Masukowitz (DE), Silke Sponheuer (SA), Maren Stott (GB) and Eduardo Torres (CH) – for some of whom this will be a part-time position – as well as Stefan Hasler, who will continue to be in charge of the Section for the Performing Arts. The tenure of this directorial team will be limited to the period from September 2018 until 2021.



A double page about wine in *Das Goetheanum* 43/2017

Details of how the tasks will be spread among the members of the team will be finalized in the forthcoming meetings. The idea is to divide up the responsibilities into, for instance, major performances, school performances, tours and branch work. All the members of the new directorial team will also be part of the Goetheanum Eurythmy Ensemble.

In December 2018 auditions will be held for six new ensemble members. | *Sebastian Jüngel*

Communication

A new look for the weekly journal Das Goetheanum

Since Michaelmas this year the weekly journal *Das Goetheanum* has acquired a new look. The new layout features coloured areas and loosely placed images. It was preceded by various colour and form studies conducted by Philipp Tok, Nina Gautier and Fabian Roschka, who have developed the new style together. The team have also changed the journal's concept, with the first and last editorial double pages now being devoted to the Goetheanum at two levels – to the worldwide Goetheanum as manifest in the «anthroposophical initiatives of all continents», and to the

Goetheanum Campus in Dornach (CH) and the events that are going on there. Essays, portraits and interviews, complemented by contemplations on current affairs, poetry and conversations on meditation, culture and literature, will continue to form the heart of the journal (www.dasgoetheanum.com). | *Sebastian Jüngel*

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The quality of therapeutic community building: the moment of meeting

Medical Section: Annual Conference - «Living Warmth»

Celebrating interprofessional cooperation

The Annual Conference of the Medical Section, which took place at the Goetheanum from 14 to 17 September, attracted 830 medical professionals from more than 40 countries. Section leaders Matthias Girke and Georg Soldner included specialist contributions, esoteric deepening and a festive gathering in the programme of their «first» conference.

The Annual Conference of the Medical Section focused on the significance of warmth for body, soul and mind. Contributions covered a wide range of topics revolving around human life, starting from pregnancy and birth, to fever, anxiety and trauma to cancer, palliative medicine and the care for the dying (Anthroposophy Worldwide 10/2017). Practice-related lectures provided insights into the newest findings of anthroposophic-medical research. There was a panel discussion on special needs education with a very moving report from a couple, a paediatrician and a social educator, whose child had disabilities and died at a young age, and contributions which highlighted the importance of warmth in therapy, for instance in art therapy for cancer patients.

Esoteric deepening and a festive gathering

The work groups, most of which were interdisciplinary, made it possible to experience further qualities of warmth in a variety of contexts such as pharmaceutical processes, nursing and external applications, eurythmy therapy, massage, psychotherapy or in the dialogue between physician and patient. For those interested in working with warmth at a deeper level a brochure with warmth meditations was made available, with an introduction by Matthias Girke: Rudolf Steiner – Meditations on Warmth.

This year's Annual Conference also featured some new aspects: at the beginning of each day conference members could choose between freely rendered class les-

sons and contemplations on the Warmth Meditation and on the healing impulse of the Gospel of Luke. On the last evening there was a festive celebration, similar to the one initiated on the Goetheanum Terrace during the Goetheanum World Conference in September 2016. Because of the wet weather the planned festivities at the Annual Conference were moved inside. Visitors were treated to music for piano and violin in the West Staircase and could enjoy the fresh juices and sandwiches provided for them – an atmosphere where new impulses could arise from human encounters. In his lecture on the following morning Stefano Gasperi proposed a future Michaelmas festival as a celebration of human dignity.

Warmth in working together

An important question addressed by the conference was how the individual therapeutic professions can not only deepen the practical aspects of their work, but how they can also establish a multi-professional, patient-centred cooperation. This kind of cooperation would allow the «system of Anthroposophic Medicine» (Rudolf Steiner) to become effective in therapy.

Integrated in the Annual Conference were meetings of professional groups, committee meetings such as the AGM of the international association of pharmacists, the members' meeting of the International Society for Anthroposophic Body Therapies and the Teach the Teachers work group. Another innovative element was the «World Space»

session where initiatives in Anthroposophic Medicine, from Ukraine to South America, were able to present their activities. The conference clearly develops more and more into an annual meeting of the worldwide anthroposophic-medical movement.

Therapeutic community building

Ronald Richter, a journalist from Berlin (DE), conducted interviews with physicians and shared his impressions. «I felt that new impulses are emerging with David Martin, the paediatrician and new incumbent of the Gerhard Kienle Chair at Witten/Herdecke University, who spoke in a very inspiring way about fever and cancer; and with the oncologist who, following a period in the outpatient department of the anthroposophic Arlesheim Clinic, will set up a department for complementary medicine in a mainstream hospital in Switzerland. I have the impression that conventional medicine seeks the human warmth of Anthroposophic Medicine in order to find its own new ways forward.»

How did the two leaders of the Medical Section, Matthias Girke and Georg Soldner, experience this annual conference? When the staff members met directly after the Annual Conference, they both expressed their gratitude that this conference could be run so successfully and smoothly, considering the amount of spaces that were needed for the up to thirty parallel work groups. They also explained that it was important to them to provide, over and above the specialist aspects of «warmth», a topic that would connect the presently 23 professional groups that are part of the anthroposophical medical movement: warmth is, after all, a quality that is essential to the social life and to therapeutic community building. | *Sebastian Jüngel*

Rudolf Steiner – Meditations on Warmth

With an introduction by Matthias Girke. Medical Section 2017. Available from the Medical Section at the Goetheanum, 4143 Dornach, Switzerland, info@medsektion-goetheanum.ch, Goetheanum Bookshop, 12 CHF/11 Euro.

The next annual conference of the anthroposophical medical movement will be from 13 to 16 September 2018.

■ SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE

Section for Social Sciences: conference in Ukraine on The Soul of Europe

Transformative processes

The conference *The Soul of Europe* took place for the eighth time, this year in Kiev from 25 to 28 August. The hosts pursued the question as to what kind of contribution the people of Ukraine could make to the future of Europe.

After the Ukraine had become an independent state following the collapse of the USSR in 1991, two further major civil-society movements resulted in a change of power inside the country: the Orange Revolution of 2004 and the Euromaidan events in the winter of 2014-15. Many of the people who attended this conference had personally witnessed these developments.

In this now bustling city with its three million inhabitants various anthroposophical initiatives started directly in the 1990s with help from Central Europe: institutions of Waldorf and anthroposophical Special Needs Education, a eurythmy training and others. The initiatives thrived whilst those involved were facing the everyday problems one encounters in this city of domes and churches which are again sought out by many young people today.

Individuality and culture

The conference was held in the sacred district of Lavra, the former monastery on the steep Western banks of the Dnieper River. This was where the Christianization of the ancient Rus once began, now it is a UNESCO World heritage site. The organizers managed to hire several rooms in the Books and Printing Museum, the place where Eastern Europe's first printing house was founded in 1615.

Around a hundred people from Ukraine and from Northern and Central Europe came together, contemplating the current situation and the future in conversations and short presentations: today we each need to find our path between individual autonomy and our search for the spirit of our own cultural context.

A few aphoristic statements are worth mentioning that were made by hosts and guests, because they capture the liveliness and openness that permeated this conference. «How can we become better



The Soul of Europe: concluding plenary discussion

at judging and stop seeing mistakes and weaknesses only in others?» «Languages don't know borders, because they can serve to enhance etheric perception.» «Higher beings can enter into groups which are working spiritually and bestow impulses on them. For this to happen, the work of these groups must be sincere and profound.» «We constantly cross boundaries – in languages, landscapes, countries. As we do this we can learn to become more sensitive: crossing the threshold whilst being with ourselves at the same time.» «Holland once split away from Germany, and Portugal from Spain (GA 121, lecture of 9 June 1910): similar developments now unfold in Ukraine and Russia.» «We are still at the beginning of the Europe we are aspiring to. But we are on our way.»

«Eternal essence be!»

The evenings were devoted to artistic performances: The Light-Eurythmy-Ensemble from Arlesheim (CH), which includes two Ukrainian eurythmists, showed a programme they had put together especially for Kiev, and the hosts presented an evening with excellently performed polyphonic folk songs and classical Ukrainian music. The morning eurythmy was well attended and done in a big circle, using a verse by Angelus Silesius that stood like a future motto over the entire conference, «Eternal essence be! The world will fall away, the accidental perish, essence alone will stay.»

| Michael Kurtz, Dornach (CH)

The Soul of Europe initiative was founded in Amsterdam (NL) in 2005 by Paul Mackay und Ron Dunselman. Co-organized by Hans Hasler it then moved on to Budapest (HU; 2007), Prague (CZ, 2008), Gdansk (PL, 2010), Varna (BG, 2014), Simeria (RO, 2015) and Lahti (FI, 2016).

Medical Section: The Quality of the Seven in Music Therapy

The art of striking the right tone

From 10 to 13 August the Orpheus Music Therapy training provided by atka (anthroposophic academy for therapy and art) held a summer academy in Lenzburg (CH), inviting alumni and students of music therapy trainings to engage with and deepen aspects of music therapy.

Thanks to the variety of methods represented by the three lecturers, Anna-Barbara Hess, Marlise Maurer and Laura Piffaretti and the balanced conference structure, which offered theoretical as well as practical (musical) sessions, this conference was like a harmonious composition. The seven planets were presented in diverse ways, as polar pairs of sub- and suprasolar planets, with consideration being given to their physical constitution, their effect on the etheric (the organic), their reflection in the human soul life and their manifestation in music. In each case the relationship to Holy Week rounded off the presentation.

The sound of planets

What do the forces of Mercury or Mars sound like? Theoretical presentations were followed by a musical unit with phenomenological studies that aimed at experiencing the quality of tones. In which octave is the planetary tone at home? How does it relate to the other planetary tones? What is its individual character?

The conference experience was enriched by playing together and listening to Anny von Lange's mirror scales («Man, Music and Cosmos. A Goethean Study of Music, Rudolf Steiner Press 1992») and to Maria Schüppel's planet compositions. This phenomenological approach is so valuable because the joint musical activity – one group played, the other listened and vice versa – allows for an intense experience of the various qualities.

We also had a small gong for each of the planets, fashioned from the corresponding metal (with the exception of Mercury). It is easy to imagine that each metal has a different sound or that from some of them one can hardly coax any tone at all. But the fact that lead, which only made a «dry» sound that soon faded away again, begins to resonate when its temperature is re-



*Planets and the soul life:
a meeting of music therapists*

duced to that prevalent on Saturn – i.e. minus 147 degrees Celsius – astonished us all.

In his book *Musical Anthropology* (2014) Hans-Heinrich Engel has explored the relationship between the effects of the planets and the intervals. Based on his findings, small groups worked together on compositions that could be used for working with patients: to stimulate life processes, inner movement and transitions in life, but also to enhance the organ processes, for instance the liver-gallbladder process.

A basket filled with planetary fruits

At the end of each day we were treated to a folktale, each of which was – of course – based on the seven: The Seven Swabians, The Wolf and the Seven Young Kids, and The Six Servants, an experience that helped to deepen and inspire our own musical activity in the social context.

When the Summer Academy came to an end, we were each able to take with us a basket richly filled with planetary fruits. We felt enriched by the qualities of the planetary tones and had come a bit closer to their inner being, for instance to the loving presence of the sun tone A, but also to the self-assured personality of the Mars tone C, and the affirmative, future-oriented encouragement one experiences when listening to the Mercury tone D – to pick out but a few. | *Simone Lindau, Coordinator for Music Therapy within the International Coordination of Art Therapies in the Medical Section*

■ ANTROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

Germany: Michael and the Social Threefolding impulse

Individual images merge into one

The Anthroposophical Society in the Hanover region in Germany (Arbeitszentrum Hannover) celebrated Michaelmas from 29 September to 1 October with a conference that brought together the Michaelic impulse and the social threefolding concept. By uniting beings favourable conditions can be created today for threefolding to thrive.

If one takes the healthy development of the threefold human being as the basis, the threefold social organism emerges as the «natural» order of our society. Rudolf Steiner said, «From now on people will have to develop a healthy sense for the way in which the social organism should work if its forces are to be life-giving ones. People must feel that it is actually unhealthy and anti-social to be involved in this social organism without such feelings.»¹ These words formed the motto of this conference. Understanding this lawfulness is a wholly Michaelic impulse. Michael has the power to «push» the universal cosmic intelligence right down into the physical. Perceiving the spiritual in the physical² is an experience that is increasingly obscured by Michael's great adversary, Ahriman (not forgetting the luciferic attempt to lure us away from the world). What usually remains of spirit perception is a more or less vague notion.

Interweaving of the three aspects of the social organism

The conference included short introductory talks and many small concentrated work groups and conversations during the breaks. The work groups were devoted to immediate encounters and presence as the «raw material» for the life of rights (Reinald Eichholz), the vivacity and «taming» of the financial system (Johannes von Buchenwald), the human encounter as a bridge to an understanding of the threefold social organism (Rainer Schnurre) and entrepreneurship based on the spirit of anthroposophy (Christoph Möllmann).

In my work group I aimed at an open discussion developing out of a few thematic impulses: What is a free entrepreneurial decision and how is it arrived at? What realm is expressed in it, and what are the consequences of such a decision in the economic and legal spheres? We tried to understand this process using a book as an example: an idea out of the spiritual life is worked into the manuscript for a book; it is carried through the life of rights into the depths

of economic production; then it rises up again to the reader, to the spiritual life. This image again and again served as a starting point for questions about the free spiritual life and the individual within the spiritual life and in society. The vibrant image of the interwovenness of the three aspects of the social organism was a joint creation that none of us would have achieved individually. By sharing our images in the large group they merged into one.

Awakening to attentive listening

With her musical contributions and artistic exercises Gunhild von Kries – supported by Annette von Stackelberg and Christine Morf – created the space where we could listen attentively to what wanted to develop between us and where the feelings could grow that the conference motto demanded of us. Silence was an essential and uniting element during this weekend.

The artistic framework for this conference was the exhibition of Rainer Schnurre's cycle of images on Social Threefoldness, which caught our eye again and again and which was directly related to the discussion topics (Anthroposophy Worldwide 7-8/2017).

Many impulses are beginning to grow; some are assuming a more definite shape, while others remain hidden. Our perception was sharpened by the situation today. The threefolding impulse is almost three times $33\frac{1}{3}$ years old. There will be many events to mark this occasion, including those that celebrate a hundred years of Waldorf Education, a last (or first) concrete result of the threefolding impulse. There is a need to do something major together on this occasion – to meet, share, and perpetuate the impulse. | *Christoph Möllmann, Borchten (DE)*

- 1 Rudolf Steiner: *Towards Social Renewal*, GA 23, Forest Row 2000, tr. M. Barton, p. 41.
- 2 Rudolf Steiner: *The Destinies of Individuals and of Nations*, GA 157, London 1986, tr. A. Muss, lecture of 19 January 1915).

Next Summer Academy Summer 2019
Information: www.atka.ch
Contact orpheus-musiktherapie@atka.ch

Switzerland: New book about Rudolf Steiner's childhood and youth

Strengthening the powers of spiritual understanding

A number of biographies have been published since the celebration of Rudolf Steiner's 150th birthday. Martina Maria Sam's new biographical investigation focuses on Rudolf Steiner's childhood and youth, a period that has been relatively rarely explored, but can provide various kinds of insight into the development of this spiritual scientist.

Is there still anything new to discover about Rudolf Steiner, we may ask. In her studies Martina Maria Sam has been able to discover, explain and put into context various aspects of Rudolf Steiner's childhood and youth (1861 to 1884). And yet, these findings are just side effects of her research. What is more important to her is the inner line of development in the life of a teacher of humanity such as Rudolf Steiner: the question of how significant individual experiences were for his later work. The influence of destiny «is particularly apparent in childhood and youth, when we do not yet shape our destiny consciously,» the author points out in the introduction to her new book, where she also quotes Rudolf Steiner as saying, «All this is of symptomatic significance»¹.

Factual knowledge and deductive skills

To give one example: Around 1911/1912 Rudolf Steiner, in order to explain spiritual circumstances, repeatedly spoke of a student taking his own life. Martina Maria Sam thinks that «Rudolf Steiner experienced this event in his immediate surroundings.» In order to pursue her hypothesis Martina Maria Sam combined factual knowledge and deductive skills. It was of help to her that she is familiar with the Rudolf Steiner Archives, a former place of work, and in particular with Rudolf Steiner's library, and also that, as the writer of monographs on anthroposophical topics, she has broad knowledge of relevant events and situations.

The secondary school in Vienna Neustadt, which Rudolf Steiner attended, published annual reports that included essays from teachers and school news. The report of 1879 stated that three students had passed away in that year: two had been ill and for the third it merely says that «the student died just before achieving his goal.» Martina Maria Sam wondered whether this could have been the suicide Rudolf Steiner had mentioned. And her assumption was indeed confirmed: In the Teachers' Con-

ference of 23 June 1920 (GA 300a) Rudolf Steiner said that a student in his school, the son of a janitor, had poisoned himself with cyanide after having been hit by an irascible teacher. Online research detected an article about this incident in an Austrian newspaper that describes the case in more detail. This also helped to clear up a mistake that occurred when the shorthand notes of this conference were transcribed: Instead of «He seized the coxcomb (Laffen) and slapped him» it should have been «he seized the cloth (Lappen) and slapped him.»

In summary Martina Maria Sam says that due to the broad overview we have today over the documents and studies that are available to us, and because of the possibility to search online, it is possible to uncover new information. But one needs to have inner questions. «My experience is that the facts actually want to reveal themselves,» she says.

Easy access to the sources

For her book Martina Maria Sam has investigated and documented many details from Rudolf Steiner's childhood and youth. One whole chapter is devoted to his most important teachers and to all the fellow-students Steiner mentioned. In the course of this research she noticed that in an article about Rudolf Ronsperger, one of his student friends (GA 31), Rudolf Steiner wrote how he had been given Ronsperger's literary estate by his sister, «the wife of a renowned Berlin writer». Martina Maria Sam was interested to know who this «renowned writer» was – and came across the philosopher and politician Karl Kautsky. Would the estate of Luise and Karl Kautsky yield any information about her brother? It did indeed: not only was a photograph of Rudolf Ronsperger discovered there but also a letter he wrote to his aunt just before taking his life in 1890.

Having collated all the available documents from Rudolf Steiner's school and



Steiner's friend Rudolf Ronsperger (29 Aug. 1863 – 2 Oct. 1890) Rudolf Steiner as a student, 1882

study years – Martina Maria Sam even reconstructed the study timetables from that time – she noticed that in his fifth school year Rudolf Steiner had to write an essay on the Greek motto of «Courage if united with wisdom». Later on he would give this verse to the first eurythmists – poetically re-rendered by Elise Wolfram: «Not until wisdom to courage is wed...»

There are other examples that show how the combination of seemingly unimportant details can yield new insights. It would be wrong to conclude, however, that the author was trying to reduce all motifs to external events and apply a merely naturalistic-materialistic interpretation to Rudolf Steiner's work and research.

The role of memory

Martina Maria Sam rather looks at childhood and youth experiences in connection with the development of anthroposophy. «Someone's own biography, their own experiences,» she points out, «constitute the most important material of spiritual research.» Every encounter, every experience can be the starting point for spiritual knowledge – albeit often only in retrospect.

For instance: Rudolf Steiner related on 25 November 1923 how it was «vitaly important for me [...] when I needed to strengthen my powers of spiritual understanding, to relive a situation of my youth.»² The situation he referred to was the deep shame he felt on upsetting an inkpot through carelessness and spoiling a book his parents had bought for him at great expense. The example illustrates the importance of memory. Memory is implanted into our will, unconscious to us, as a fruit of our previous life. Memory is also very important for

community building³ and, as has been demonstrated, for our own «powers of spiritual understanding». Rightly understood memories can become a «source of life», as Martina Maria Sam interprets Rudolf Steiner's statement that «We are coming closer and closer to a time when people will need more and more memories of their youth throughout the whole of their lives, memories they like, memories which make them happy.»⁴

Pilot project: a chronicle of 1916

In 1992 Hella Wiesberger, then editor of Rudolf Steiner's complete works, said to Martina Maria Sam that, in order to come closer to Rudolf Steiner's essence and importance, one would need to continue the attempt made by Christoph Lindenberg in putting together a chronicle of Rudolf Steiner's life. «That is the task of your generation». Martina Maria Sam follows this advice in another aspect of her biographical project: choosing the year 1916 as an initial example – the time of Rudolf Steiner's third moon node and an important year in his preparation for first presenting the threefolding idea – she lists, day by day, every event in Rudolf Steiner's life: lectures, performances, encounters, invoices from bookshops, letters, notebook entries and other traces of his life, as well as historical events. | *Sebastian Jüngel*

- 1 Rudolf Steiner: From Symptom to Reality in Modern History, GA 185, London 1976, tr. A.H. Parker, lecture of 1 November 1918, p. 170.
- 2 Rudolf Steiner: Mystery Knowledge and Mystery Centres, GA 232, London 1997, tr. rev. by P. Wehrle, lecture of 25 November 1923, p. 64.
- 3 Anthroposophy Worldwide 10/2017, page 1.
- 4 Rudolf Steiner: The Fall of the Spirits of Darkness, GA 177, Forest Row 2008, tr. A. Meuss, lecture of 20 October 1917, p. 162.



Martina Maria Sam:
Rudolf Steiner. Kindheit und Jugend
1861–1884 «Alles das ist von symptomatischer Bedeutung», Verlag am Goetheanum. Expected publication date: **December 2017**

United Kingdom: Emerson College

Strengthening the Living and Learning Community

Since we last reported about the processes of transformation and renewal at Emerson College in Anthroposophy Worldwide 6/2016, the range of study opportunities there has been expanded, the relationship with China consolidated and building projects are close to being completed.

Here at Emerson we are continuing our journey of transformation and renewal. Over the last year we have brought several new educational programmes to the College, including: Foundations of Anthroposophic Medicine (Diploma awarded under the Crossfields Institute Quality Mark); Study of the Etheric; Storytelling Beyond Words; and a specially designed course for graduates of our programmes in China, based upon the Foundation Stone meditation. We hope that this will be the first of many visits by groups of our enthusiastic Chinese students.

Work has been completed on upgrading three of our student accommodation buildings, and the conversion of another into residential apartments is on track for completion by Christmas. These flats will be for occupation by new members of our Living and Learning Community: five of the six are already sold or reserved. Besides enlarging our community of supporters on the campus, these sales will help us meet historical debts (to an anthroposophical pension fund!) and invest in the future.

Readers are warmly invited to look at our website for more details of our many programmes, events and activities, including those in collaboration with our growing range of partner organisations. | *Steve Briault, Forest Row (GB)*

www.emerson.org.uk

To Aban Bana's contribution (Light in the World Ether) in Anthroposophy Worldwide 9/2017

This is a very beautiful article and it is really special that an entire stage ensemble could for the first time perform in several places in Nepal! It was, however, not the first time that eurythmy was seen in Nepal. Since 2005 I have been presenting bigger and smaller solo eurythmy performances in Kathmandu. This started in April 2005 in the City Hall, in front of a thousand people who had come together for a celebration of the lower castes that lasted more than five hours. Anyone who wanted to show anything to do with music or movement, or both, was welcome to do this. I had been invited by a few musicians who are cultivating and cherishing the traditional music of Nepal. Together we worked on a piece that had been composed for this occasion. Two Canadians who stayed in my hotel and who made a video of the performance were the only foreigners. After that there have always been opportunities here or there for small eurythmy presentations.

The enthusiasm with which eurythmy was received encouraged me to prepare a 60-minute solo programme in Germany. In 2012 I performed the same programme twice at Shanti Sewa Griha, the school and Leprosy Shelter of Marianne Grosspietsch which, at the time, was still located in Budhanilkantha – the same place where the Light Eurythmy Ensemble later also performed. We were even able to present, in Nepalese, a verse that the head of the school, Rabina Shahi, had composed and which she then spoke for the eurythmy. A Nepalese musician accompanied one of the pieces on the Sarangi.

I was also invited to other occasions because I spent much time in Nepal, sometimes staying several months; for instance by a group of young people who did not want to send their children to a state school. They would have liked to study eurythmy in depth in order to pass it on to their children. Unfortunately that was not possible.

The openness and enthusiasm that has been shown towards eurythmy in Nepal is very special indeed and has certainly to do with the fact that Nepalese dance has very similar elements. In 2006 an article on this first performance appeared in the anthroposophical journal «Wege». | *Irina Staschewski, Freiburg im Breisgau (DE)*



Faust part 1: Faust (Bernhard Glose) and Gretchen (Anne-Kathrin Korf)

Executive Council at the Goetheanum

Full report on the Faust production

At the 2017 AGM the members successfully moved for a financial statement and a Members' Day in reference to the Faust production (Anthroposophy Worldwide 3/2017 and 10/2017). The Members' Day has been scheduled for 3 November 2017, 2 to 5.30 p.m. (Anthroposophy Worldwide 10/2017). The financial statement is published below.

A new Faust production was first taken into consideration by the Goetheanum Stage in May 2011. In the same year the Collegium of the School of Spiritual Science began to consult on this question with the result that Christian Peter was appointed director, Margrethe Solstad director of eurythmy, Martina Maria Sam dramaturg and Ilja van der Linden lighting director.

Starting from February 2012, individual scenes were studied and dramaturgical and other issues discussed. In early 2013 Roy Spahn was put in charge of set design and, at the beginning of 2014, Alexander Höhne joined the team as dramaturg and Andrea Pfaehler as scene director. At the same time 52 actors and 32 eurythmists applied for the project. In June 2014 the Goetheanum Leadership discussed casting questions during their summer retreat. In a conversation with Christian Peter, Margrethe Solstad and Martina Maria Sam at the end of May 2014, the proposal had been put forward that Martina Maria Sam should give lectures and introductions for the actors and eurythmists. This she did in early 2015. At that time a preview was scheduled for summer 2015.

Faust 1 and 2 premiered at Easter 2016. All in all there were six performances in 2016. Around 6000 people saw and experienced this Faust production, either as a whole or in parts.

Social difficulties

In summer 2016 the Faust ensemble consisted of 38 actors and eurythmists; for 28 of them it was the first Faust production. In the extremely short rehearsal period of only fifteen months these artists achieved outstanding results: to rehearse eighteen hours of theatre and to perform Faust 1 and 2 unabridged by far exceeds anything that is usually required of any stage artist.

The extreme stress caused by these circumstances inevitably led to social difficulties. From 2015 Stefan Hasler, who was by then the new leader of the Performing Arts Section, was another link to the Goetheanum Leadership, but at the same time he was the contact person for ensemble members who were experiencing problems.

Audience responses have been varied, ranging from enthusiasm to criticism (see Motion 4 or, for some examples, also Anthroposophy Worldwide 9/2017).

The Youth Faust Conference in July 2016 was particularly well attended. The country representative for Georgia, Nodar Belkania, related how thirteen young people, graduates from the Tbilisi Waldorf School, returned home very inspired and continued to work on the Faust. They performed individual scenes and have started to study Rudolf Steiner's Philosophy of Freedom together.

Sadly, we must also admit that our hopes for sold out performances have not been realized. Although the costs of this Faust production were – at 3.8 million CHF – much lower than for any previous production, and also lower than originally envisaged (4.7 million CHF), they left a hole in our budget. A decision as to the future of the Faust performances needed to be made. Intensive talks started in the autumn of 2016 between Stefan Hasler, Christiane Haid, Bodo von Plato and Paul Mackay and the individuals in charge of the production. It was decided that three more Faust cycles were to be performed in 2017 and that the production would then be discontinued.

Let us keep all these levels of this Faust Project in mind. There is another level, however, that is not about success or failure, but that asks us to practise awareness of another aspect: that of an «I» consciousness in the process of evolving.

This journey passes through the most diverse stages, circumstances and events which, as a rule, include situations of pain and crisis. We may find it difficult today to fully understand what we are going through with this Faust production, but we are nevertheless asked to cast an objective light on these inner, spiritual, processes.

Financial accounts

The financial accounts relating to the Faust production are of great interest. This production began in 2014 – while the stage and Main Auditorium were still closed for one year – with the conception of the stage set and they continued from January 2015 with intensive rehearsals for the premiere of Faust 1 in summer 2015, as well as the premiere of the entire Faust project at Easter 2016.

Everyone involved initially had contracts until August 2016. The expenses for the Goetheanum's permanent Eurythmy En-

semble and stage technicians are not included in this statement. They came out of the regular Goetheanum budget, even though these people were working extremely hard during that time, sometimes even devoting all their time to the Faust rehearsals and performances; these costs could therefore be added to the overall production costs. However, the table below only shows the additional production costs.

Staging Goethe's Faust at the Goetheanum has always been one of the core tasks of the General Anthroposophical Society. The previous production of 2004 had seventeen performances. The decision as to who would form the directorial team for an urgently necessary new production was an obvious one considering the staff situation in 2011 (Christian Peter as overall director, Margrethe Solstad in charge of eurythmy).

The fact that the envisaged cooperation could not be sufficiently realized caused unforeseen difficulties, especially for the cast members. Neither could the working together between the directors and the members of the Goetheanum Leadership on questions of content be realized to the extent that had been intended and would have been desirable.

Strengths and weaknesses

The 2016 performances had their strengths. The overall impression among the Goetheanum Leadership, in particular the group mandated with the stage (Stefan Hasler, Christiane Haid, Paul Mackay, Bodo von Plato), however – in contrast to a largely positive response from the audience and media – was that of a lack of spiritual penetration of the material, manifest in the missing synaesthetic visibility and tangibility of such a penetration.

This deficiency was particularly noticeable in scenes such as Walpurgis Night, Walpurgis Night's Dream, Classic Walpurgis Night, in the conception and presentation of «evil» and in the realization of mythical, poetic and spiritual-historical figures and contexts in Part II. The synaesthesia achieved by the arts of eurythmy, speech and music is invaluable in making spiritual aspects visible and tangible, a possibility that was not sufficiently made use of.

Following in-depth consultations among the team of directors (Christian Peter, Margrethe Solstad, Andrea Pfaehler, Alexander Höhne), the head of the Goetheanum Stage

(Nils Frischknecht) and the Stage Mandate Team in autumn and winter 2016-17, it was agreed to continue with the performance but re-cast the main parts (Mephisto, Faust, Gretchen) for the three performances in the summer of 2017. The Stage Mandate Team decided that these performances would conclude the production.

Aside from the re-casting intensive work took place, from January 2017, on the aspects that had provoked criticism: the presentation of evil, more silence and intimacy, the extension and deepening of the speech choirs as well as the quality of speech and clarity of the individual speakers. Because of the shortness of time no further changes could be envisaged.

While visitor numbers fell short of expectations in the summer of 2017, the performances were largely positively received. The changes that had been achieved were noticeable but they were – understandably – not yet able to unfold their full effect on crucial aspects of the overall production.

Considering the positive experiences of this summer – which have not been sufficiently processed yet – one needs to see how realistic it would be to continue work

on the production (with particular attention being given to the challenges mentioned earlier), on individual scenes and the artistic means involved. The Goetheanum Leadership is consulting on this question.

Cooperation as a challenge

Our main concern is the orientation with which this masterpiece is approached, a piece that is inseparably linked with the identity of the Goetheanum. Any productions and performances should arise from a contemporary reading of the drama, in conjunction with Rudolf Steiner's ideas and indications and the experiences gained in the Sections of the School of Spiritual Science. The quality of cooperation between the various levels will be of ever greater importance. With this in mind we would like to continue our intensive work on this. The studying, staging and performing of Faust and of Rudolf Steiner's Mystery Dramas are among the main tasks of the Goetheanum Stage. | *The Executive Council at the Goetheanum: Paul Mackay, Bodo von Plato, Seija Zimmermann, Justus Wittich, Joan Sleight, Constanza Kaliks, Matthias Girke*

The financial accounts for the Faust production

	in CHF	
	Budget	Real costs
Expenses 2015-16		
Actors	1,615,623	1,492,244
Additional eurythmists	765,448	573,935
Musicians	235,500	203,069
Costume making/costume design	759,862	596,472
Technicians, artistic staff	359,116	81,110
Stagecraft/set design	665,000	592,344
Administration/advertising	261,000	227,915
Total production costs	4,661,549	3,767,089
Income		
Tickets	2,054,400	1,404,991
Donations	101,000	174,635
Total income	2,155,400	1,579,626
Appropriated from Goetheanum budget	2,506,149	2,187,463
Expenses 2017		
Staff	561,421	453,357
Material costs	156,000	177,617
Total expenses	717,421	630,974
Income 2017		
Tickets	678,240	464,714
Appropriated from Goetheanum Budget	39,181	166,260

*Communication***Newsheets (part 4)**

At the 2017 Annual General Meeting a member proposed that anthroposophical newsheets should introduce themselves on these pages. The suggestion was triggered by a motion to allow the initiative *Ein Nachrichtenblatt* to present itself in *Anthroposophy Worldwide*. So far we have published portraits of newsheets in issues 7-8/2017, 9/2017 and 10/2017.

Ein Nachrichtenblatt - A members' initiative

To the members! The 2017 Annual General Meeting decided with a large majority that *Ein Nachrichtenblatt* is to be presented to all members. *Ein Nachrichtenblatt* is an initiative to promote Rudolf Steiner's impulse for a newsletter. In order to explain the essential characteristics of such a newsheet (*Nachrichtenblatt* in German) one needs to know more about Rudolf Steiner's thoughts regarding this impulse:

Rudolf Steiner's newsheet impulse of 1924

When Rudolf Steiner introduced the newsheet as he re-founded the Anthroposophical Society in 1923, it was not just some minor issue. It was the first initiative he presented during the Christmas Conference. He devoted a separate article in the Bylaws to this initiative, pointing out that «This is a clause that is particularly close to my heart [...]. This initiative will allow us to conduct a careful correspondence which will increasingly be able to become the correspondence of each individual, and this initiative will allow each individual member to develop a deep connection with the Anthroposophical Society. «[...] everything spiritual has this quality that it vanishes if one does not hold on to it, [...] it will disappear from the place where it is not fostered. [...] You must not think that what has been brought here through the Christmas Conference will appear elsewhere on earth once it has vanished because the impulses have not been put into practice. [...] It can take refuge in entirely different worlds. – It is therefore so important that people concern themselves profoundly with the Christmas Conference and truly heed its content. The Members' Newsletter shall make this possible».

These few lines alone reveal how important such an organ can be for the life of the anthroposophical society if it is undertaken in accordance with Rudolf Steiner's intentions. Rudolf Steiner expected this news-

sheet to grow from a broad impulse, which was not only intimately connected with the Anthroposophical Society but also had the task to ensure that this Society would be the opposite of a sect in that it would be interested in the world and include the world in its content. «[...] we need the broad horizon. We need the lively interest in all phenomena of life in the world. We need our Society to be able to cast healthy judgement on these phenomena. [...] Then this way, this «what is happening in the world» can become something that is «happening in the Anthroposophical Society». The newsletter should be a reflection in the Society of this way of thinking».

Rudolf Steiner was thinking of a healing effect on the development of modern civilization as a whole. «These communications [the newsletter] aim to join the entire Anthroposophical Society in a shared way of thinking. [...] The right kind of power will then live in the Anthroposophical Society [...] because the modern development of civilization, if it is not to decline altogether, needs a powerful revival».

This and much more was part of Rudolf Steiner's newsheet impulse. Since the first edition on 6 February 2011 we have been working toward this goal.

1987: Ein Nachrichtenblatt – beginnings and background

Ein Nachrichtenblatt continued the work undertaken by Roland Tüscher as early as the 1980s in reaction to Rudolf Steiner's newsletter impulse. Roland Tüscher was co-founder in 1987/1988 and chief editor of the Swiss Anthroposophical Society's membership organ *Schweizer Mitteilungen aus dem Anthroposophischen Leben* (Swiss communications from the anthroposophical life). The first issues of that journal reflect his attempt to shape these communications in keeping with Rudolf Steiner's newsletter impulse. Among those involved were above all Martin Barkhoff and, in a consenting role, Friedrich Hiebel and Jörgen Smit.

2011: The Newsletter founded by Rudolf Steiner is discontinued

In 2011 Bodo von Plato as a member of the Executive Council discontinued the membership organ which had been published 52 times a year in order to guarantee an up-to-date and frequent exchange. What has remained is *Anthroposophy Worldwide* which is only published ten times per year and largely limited to internal reports. Its selectiveness means that it does not convey a comprehensive picture of what is really happening in the Anthroposophical Society. This organ does not aspire to the range and differentiation Rudolf Steiner envisaged for a newsheet and it neither applies the contemporary judgement nor the interest in spiritual achievements outside anthroposophy intended by Rudolf Steiner, which would add the necessary counterpoise to the internal Society news.

Pointing out the differences between *Anthroposophy Worldwide* and the expectations Rudolf Steiner had of a newsletter is merely a stating of facts that can be verified by referring to the collection of statements Rudolf Steiner made on this point. That it is not meant as criticism is obvious from the fact that *Anthroposophy Worldwide* was founded in addition to the original Newsletter and pursues different goals. It would be absurd to accuse *Anthroposophy Worldwide* of neglecting tasks it never set out to achieve.

2017: Seven years of Ein Nachrichtenblatt

Building on the preparatory work mentioned earlier, which had started in the 1980s, we took the initiative to pursue Rudolf Steiner's so far unheeded impulse for a newsletter and founded *Ein Nachrichtenblatt*. Its readership grew quickly. In order to give all members the opportunity to hear about the existence of this initiative we have been making every effort since 2011 to present it in *Anthroposophy Worldwide*. But up until the decision was taken at the 2017 AGM, any such announcement has always been rejected. To this day new members keep getting in touch with us, astonished that they have only heard of this initiative now, by sheer coincidence. It is therefore the more gratifying – after almost seven years and thanks to a members' resolution – to be able to introduce *Ein Nachrichtenblatt*.

Ein Nachrichtenblatt in summary

Objectives: research and, if possible, implementation of Rudolf Steiner's impulses for the Newsletter of the Anthroposophical Society as intended by him in 1923.

Aim: an organ of fact-oriented, independent opinion-forming based on the objectives described above.

Approach: factual, humorous, forceful, free from polemics, not remaining silent for reasons of loyalty if this goes against the facts. Addressing uncomfortable truths is not confused with polemics.

Content: long-term and burning issues of our time and in today's General Anthroposophical Society, Rudolf Steiner's impulses for an Anthroposophical Society and for the needs of our time, and much more ...

Expectation: that the life of the Society grows as a result of the resonance with authors and readers, and, in turn, inspires enthusiasm and actions.

Ein Nachrichtenblatt is published fortnightly and is sent out to a continuously growing readership of presently over 1000. | *Kirsten Juel, Roland Tüscher, Ein Nachrichtenblatt (CH)*

Ein Nachrichtenblatt trial subscription for three issues: email free of charge; print 15 CHF/Euro. Annual subscription: fortnightly; email 95 CHF/Euro; print 120 CHF/Euro. **Contact details and to subscribe** Ein Nachrichtenblatt, c/o Roland Tüscher/ Kirsten Juel, Apfelseestr. 21, 4147 Aesch, Schweiz, ein.nachrichtenblatt@startmail.com, phone +41 61 701 42 08.

Collected statements by Rudolf Steiner about the Newsletter, ca 30 pages (A4): 15 CHF/Euro.

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We have been informed that the following 51 members have crossed the threshold of death. In their remembrance we are providing this information for their friends. *The Membership Office at the Goetheanum*

William Crews Hillsborough/US (US), 19 December 2016

Dietrich Kahle Giengen (DE), 21 February 2017

Wolfgang Moritz Manderscheid (DE), 3 June 2017

Margrith Schreck Basel (CH), 21 June 2017

Hilke Rau Ammersbeck (DE), 1 July 2017

Petrus de Kruif Zeist (NL), 8 July 2017

Jan Åndahl Arnatveit (NO), 27 July 2017

Hans Klaus Becker Langballig (DE), 4 August 2017

Thomas Götte Engelsbrand (DE), 4 August 2017

Franciscus Geurts Nijmegen (NL), 13 August 2017

Hamo Hammond Ottawa (CA), 14 August 2017

Wolfgang Liebelt Dortmund (DE), 20 August 2017

Christina Fried Stuttgart (DE), 21 August 2017

Jakob Zwart Vlaardingen (NL), 21 August 2017

Grada Booy Badhoevedorp (NL), 26 August 2017

Ernst Honsberger Ittigen (CH), 26 August 2017

Gisela Ehlgötz Zeist (NL), 27 August 2017

Ursula Gebhard Stuttgart (DE), 29 August 2017

Lise Messner Stuttgart (DE) 29 August 2017

Carl Soeder Dortmund (DE), 1 September 2017

Magdalene Schleheck Cologne (DE), 2 September 2017

Erika Schwenk Kehl (DE), 6 September 2017

Hermann Bluhme Folkestone (GB), 8 September 2017

Christa Mensching Zurich (CH), 8 September 2017

Sonja Elsener Dietikon (CH), 10 September 2017

Ursula Nierbauer Bielefeld (DE), 10 September 2017

Martin Poppe Stuttgart (DE), 10 September 2017

Falk Feind Gempen (CH), 11 September 2017

Ingeborg Mikosch Ottersberg (DE), 12 September 2017

Daisie Blady Croissy-sur-Seine (FR), 14 September 2017

Susanne Mainzer London (GB), 15 September 2017

Eleonore Dettmar Erkelenz (DE), 16 September 2017

Isolde Kühn Dortmund (DE), 16 September 2017

Eva Wuttke Bornheim (DE), 16 September 2017

Ingrid Hugentobler Amriswil (CH), 17 September 2017

Lieselotte Fischer Dortmund (DE), 18 September 2017

Jörg von Kralik Dornach (CH), 18 September 2017

Arnold Langen Zülpich-Oberelvenich (DE), 19 September 2017

Elfriede von Müller Berlin (DE), 20 September 2017

Gisela Schubert Berlin (DE), 20 September 2017

Inger Brun Drøbak (NO), 21 September 2017

Emanuel Mutz Basel (CH), 23 September 2017

Tarja Sopen Tervakoski (FI), 24 September 2017

Emil Stöcklin Oberwil (CH), 27 September 2017

Edith Weinsheimer Berlin (DE), 27 September 2017

Julian Kühn Bochum (DE), 30 September 2017

Ingeborg Tetzner Ahrensburg (DE), 30 September 2017

Alduino Mazzone Heathfield (AU), 2 October 2017

Johanna-Veronika Picht Stuttgart (DE), 2 October 2017

Beata Schwarz Dornach (CH), 5 October 2017

Anne Herrmann Rehau (DE), 6 October 2017

Correction: Mrs Brunhilde Kirpes passed away on 16 January 2017

From 12 September to 9 October 2017 the Society welcomed 80 new members. 66 are no longer registered as members (resignations, lost, and corrections by country Societies).

■ FEATURE



Gorgeous gowns, suits and folk costumes: gala event during the World Congress

Yekaterinburg (ru): First World Congress for people with disabilities

Joy, creativity and social commitment

«We cannot see the world – we can get the world to see us.» These are the words of a blind lady attending the first World Congress for People with Disabilities which was held from 7 to 10 September 2017 in the university city of Yekaterinburg (Sverdlovsk Oblast) – under the heading of «Making Values Visible».

Anyone expecting the mood to be subdued or problem-oriented because there were so many people with disabilities present could not have been more wrong. From the word go the huge Sports Palace was reverberating with joy, creativity and social engagement. Even the opening ceremony included brilliant presentations, with everyone involved excelling themselves. People came onto the stage with wheelchairs and prosthetic limbs, presenting dances and acrobatics of the highest quality.

The Congress had been made possible by a collaboration between the civil society, represented by Thomas Kraus (DE), Vera Simakova of Blagoe Delo (RU) and Petter Holm (NO), and the authorities represented by the governor and the social affairs minister of Sverdlovsk.

«Standing up for my views»

More than 700 people from 29 countries came to this Congress. The guests from New Zealand had come from furthest afield and were welcomed with a special applause. The opening ceremony was even attended by 1300 people. There were many artistic contributions, including professional Russian dance and joint singing.

The conference languages were Russian, English and German. Every morning differ-

ent groups introduced themselves with artistic presentations such as music, dance, singing, drama, painting etc.

During the panel discussions nobody spoke about what society should do for people with disabilities but, on the contrary, what they could do for society. «We struggle with our difficulties and therefore we develop abilities that we can give to our society». «We also have to give help, we not only expect to receive it». «I have no legs but I can stand up for my views and my rights». «Our path belongs to us». It became apparent that everyone is responsible for how society develops and that every person, each with their particular abilities, can contribute to this development.

Fireworks and candle light

After the morning contributions and the coffee break it was time to join one of 43 work groups on offer. Some of them took place in the Sports Palace, others nearby. Transport was made possible thanks to a great number of buses and numerous volunteers, police and other helpers. The work groups covered subjects such as music, dance, sports, film, painting, crafts, and in addition there were study and discussion groups.

The afternoons allowed time for fifteen guided tours of museums, churches, his-

toric sites, the market square and other places of interest. One of the highlights was an evening outing to the philharmonic orchestra in Yekaterinburg. There were no lifts in the building but strong young men stood ready to carry all the wheelchair users up the two flights of stairs!

The World Congress culminated in a proper Russian ball in the Cosmos concert hall. Ball gowns for the great opening parade had been hired from one of the city's theatres. With all the volunteers, delegates, organizers and other parties involved more than 1000 people enjoyed themselves dressed in gorgeous gowns, suits and folk costumes, dancing polkas, mazurkas, waltzes and polonaises, accompanied by classical tunes played by the orchestra.

Later everyone tried to get hold of a piece of the giant World Congress cake that was wheeled into the hall accompanied by fireworks and candle light. It seemed like a miracle that there was space for everyone, wheelchairs included, on the dance floor. The mood was fantastic.

Talking about integration

At the end of the Congress the social affairs minister said, «The Sverdlovsk district has proved that it is able to talk with other countries about integration. We have made progress, too, even if, compared to other countries in Europe, we are only at the beginning of our journey. But the way forward we have chosen is the right one». Then all sang together («We are the World» by Michael Jackson) while doves were soaring up into the sky as a sign of the solidarity of people with special needs and skills and their organizations all over the world.

«If you feel a warm glow in your heart it will be your memory of us!» said a new-found Argentinian friend as we said our goodbyes. Yes, we all carried a lot of warmth back home with us – into all the corners of the world – from this outstanding demonstration of creativity, peace and love. | *Brigitte Deck, Järna (se)*

For **information** about the congresses: www.socialartist.events

Next European «Living in the Encounter» Congress from 31 May to 3 June 2018 in Belgrade (RS), www.zivetiususretu.com