

A STUDY CONFERENCE:
DEEPENING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THINKING, FEELING AND WILLING
With a focus on *Philosophy of Freedom* and the exercises
in *How to Know Higher Worlds*
at Rudolf Steiner College in Fair Oaks, CA
March 19 (Lunch) - March 21 (Lunch) 2010

We invite both members and non-members of the Anthroposophical Society to join us for our third western conference addressing the question: How can we prepare for the challenging times ahead?

At our first conference in 2008 we asked: "What cautions and warnings did Rudolf Steiner give to us in *How to Know Higher Worlds* to help us meet the challenges of clairvoyant development?" The second conference in 2009, based on Chapter 1 of Rudolf Steiner's *Theosophy* introduced what we hope will be a continuing study of the role of the Self as the core of the human being, and aspects of the Ego. We also characterized the qualities of Sentient, Mind and Consciousness Souls and Spirit Self, and asked the questions: Are we living out of them? And are they evolving or slipping away?

Everything evolves over time. Today the bridge to the spiritual world, as Rudolf Steiner indicated, can be constructed through a newly emerging living thinking, a true consciousness soul thinking. We would like to follow the thinking he made use of in *Philosophy of Freedom*, which leads to moral intuition, as well as to see how thinking may be used in ways which lead in other directions.

There will be two additional lectures on feeling and willing because, as human beings, we do not live out of thinking alone. Rudolf Steiner warned that in our time there would be ongoing attempts to eradicate the human soul, just as in the ninth century there was an effort to suppress awareness of our own spirit. As for our will, we bring it with us from before birth. But it also has a relationship to forces in nature which would turn it into instinct, so it will be important for us before and during the conference to develop a clear sense for how we are to transform our will. Throughout the conference we will be mainly trying to build pictures of what thinking is out of broad anthroposophical contents and of how we can interweave thinking, feeling and willing.

For further information, please contact the Registrar, Beth Wieting, at 503.774.8764. We will be happy to put your name and address on a list to receive additional updates about this shared study opportunity in preparation for the conference. As in past years we look forward to connecting with the many warm and caring participants from all over the Western Region and beyond. Those attending will receive a preparatory packet with passages from Rudolf Steiner's work on thinking, feeling and willing. Printed material on thinking was also included in the folder for the first conference on *How to Know Higher Worlds*.

Study Materials:

- Focus upon Chapters 3, 5, 8, 9, 12-14 of *Philosophy of Freedom* (also published as *Intuitive Thinking as a Spiritual Path, Philosophy of Spiritual Activity*). The conference planning committee is working on these chapters now, and invites us all to explore the question of how Rudolf Steiner characterizes thinking and how this can be useful for us today.

- "Practical Training in Thought," January 18, 1909 (now included in *Anthroposophy and the Inner Life*). With this lecture we can ask: How do we know that what we think is true? Rudolf Steiner said that this special kind of thinking described in *Philosophy of Freedom* (written when he was 33) is "sense-free thinking" and is characteristic of the ideal world. *Practical Training in Thought* contains exercises for helping us to develop a sense of truth in life which we can take with us when we cross the threshold into the spiritual world.
- Review body, soul, spirit and aspects of the soul, Chapter 1, *Theosophy*.
- Review the role of thinking in *How to Know Higher World* (also feeling and willing).

If you would like to suggest other readings on thinking, feeling and/or willing for distribution or inclusion in the conference folder, please bring them to the conference or mail/fax to Beth Wieting (see below).

Conference Highlights

Artistic activities: Friday evening, a play by Glen Williamson, *The Incarnation of the Logos*; eurythmy, speech, singing; and, we hope, clowning!

The Eastern path of spiritual development activated the chakras from below upwards. The western path proceeds, often by means of thinking, from the two-petalled chakra near the bridge of the nose (the chakra formed by thinking) down through the 16, 12, 10, 8 and 6-petalled chakras. Thinking plays a crucial role in the development of the other chakras, including the heart chakra. On Sunday morning, we will have a conversation about the exercises in *How to Know Higher Worlds*.

This conference is sponsored by the Faust Branch of the Anthroposophical Society.

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