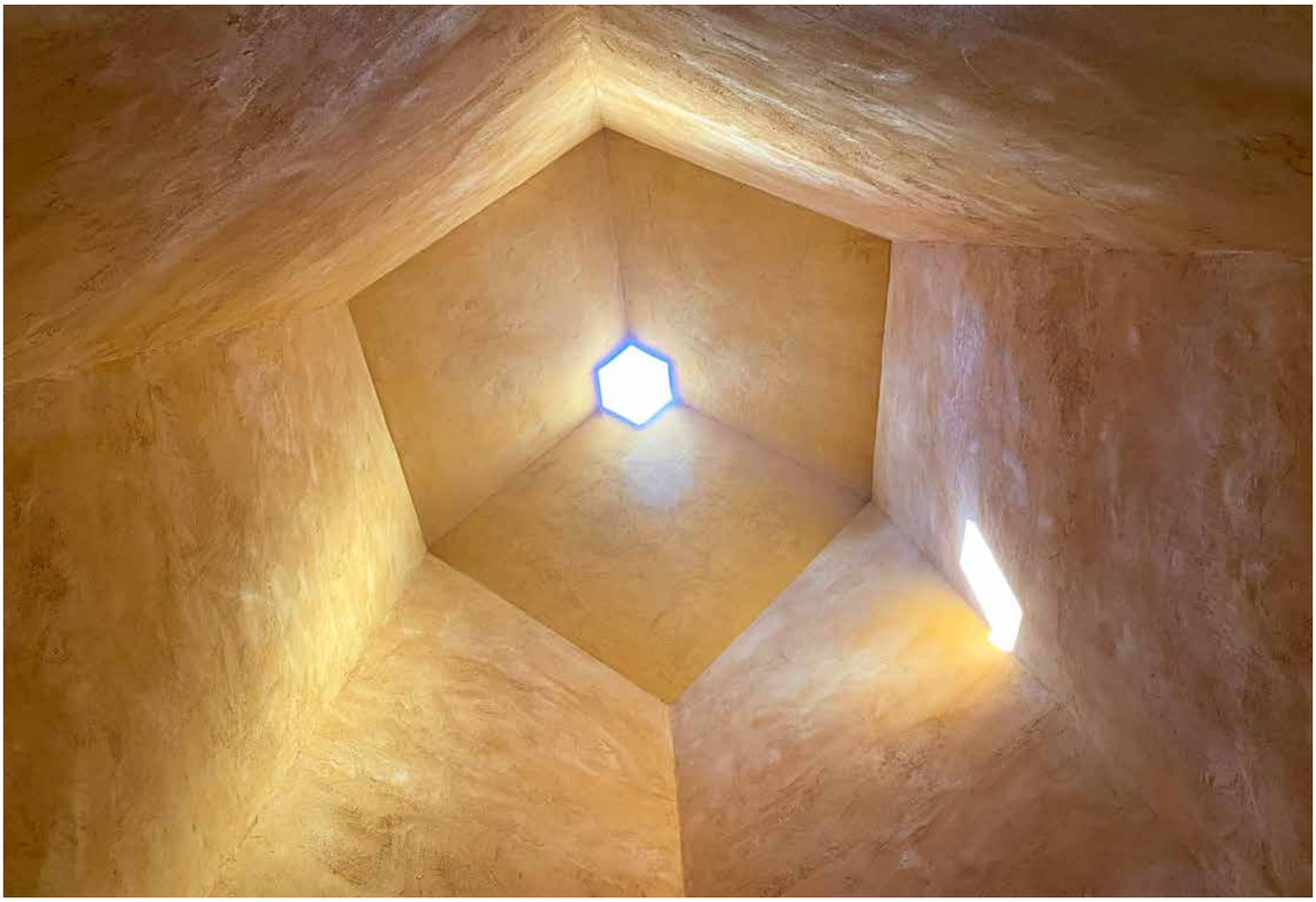
Anthroposophy Worldwide

What is happening in the Anthroposophical Society

6 · 30 May 2025

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Image (page 1) Bee Sculpture in the Goetheanum Park, photo: Xue Li

Wishing for Society

Changing trend in member numbers?

Since the end of 2024 the number of members in the General Anthroposophical Society has been increasing for the first time in 25 years.

Following a drastic overall drop of 20 per cent – from around 50,000 members in 2000 to 40,734 in 2023 – the number of members was essentially the same at the end of 2024 as in the previous year. The rising number of applications in certain months over the past years was already an indication of this trend.

For a long time, it was thought that the declining membership was due to people leaving the Society or passing away, but it was not considered that the real reason was a 70 per cent drop in new applications per year from around the 1990s to 2020. The Society experienced a highpoint in its history in 1987 when around 3,000 new members joined, and a low point in 2013, when only around 1000 applied for membership. Last year we were able to welcome a greater number of new members again (1,636) for the first time in a long while.

Common good and individual decisions

In this respect, the numbers are clearly an expression of an underlying movement. There are three possible reasons: firstly, the Goetheanum has held many sold-out events in the past five years in connection with the centenaries that may have impacted on membership developments.

Secondly, we hear increasingly that people are actively seeking ways of counteracting the sense of powerlessness in today's world and seem to see anthroposophy and the Anthroposophical Society as possible alternatives. Thirdly, the Goetheanum has been working actively together with all the country societies on reshaping the Society under the motto of 'Wishing for Society'. Various concrete initiatives and offers as well as a shared awareness of this development have already grown from this endeavour.

But what Society? This is a question that many new members are asking. First of all, the General Anthroposophical Society, a kind of global federation with autonomous groups and country societies that is connected with the Goetheanum and the School of Spiritual Science with its Sections and programme for inner development (class lessons). Each group, region or country is entirely free to shape its anthroposophical life in accordance with its requirements. The whole does not determine the parts, but it has something that Rudolf Steiner described as a Michaelic quality: a cosmopolitan attitude, in which the common good and individual determination condition and promote each other.

Viewed in this light, every member is in the first instance part of the General Anthroposophical Society, but also part of a group or branch, part of a region or country, and finally part of the Goetheanum. The dual picture of centre and periphery is therefore potentially overcome in every member, every person. The development of the whole depends on each member – whether they are 'silent' or active, living or deceased. Every membership has a determination. Since its inception, the Society has had 70,000 members in all, on both sides of the threshold.

Towards a cosmopolitan Society

The General Anthroposophical Society is growing ever more cosmopolitan and is therefore implementing Article 4 of the Christmas Statutes which specifies that everyone is welcome irrespective of their origin, religion and scientific or artistic convictions. This specification is a radical and humane idea that is (again) becoming increasingly difficult to practise.

The cosmopolitan approach has resulted in currently 37 country societies and members spread across 78 countries. The youngest country society, the Anthroposophical Society in Korea, was only founded a few months ago (Anthroposophy Worldwide 11/2024). In early 2025, around 260 new members joined from the Anthroposophical Community in Africa (Anthroposophy Worldwide 11/2024). The designations of these two groups are an expression of the fact that the General Anthroposophical Society wants to be in movement. In the summer, Anthroposophy Worldwide will look again at greater depth into the world of membership numbers. | *Johannes Kronenberg, Goetheanum*

Cosmopolitanism

Michael's call is universal but can only be heard by the individual heart

Dear Members,

Tariffs are going up, fences are going up, military expenses are going up. We have entered a new age and are witnessing a period of new nationalisms of every shade in many parts of the world. How do we reconcile this situation with our status as a world movement, a worldwide School of Spiritual Science, a global society?

What do we mean by 'world'? Are we simply many people from many countries and therefore constitute the 'world'? Or is there something essentially anthroposophical in the way we relate to the world as a whole, to humanity? I see anthroposophy as intrinsically cosmopolitan because it is an expression of the zeitgeist. It is rooted in the current mission of Michael who is the spirit of our time.



Budding diversity

In his Michael Letters, Rudolf Steiner describes this spirit of time in depth. Since the beginning of time, Michael has been in charge of cosmic intellectuality and watched over humanity as it evolves 'in a corner of the world'. He is the 'countenance of Christ' and when Christ left the Sun to unite himself with the earth, Michael followed him some time later, for cosmic intellectuality is becoming earthly human. With the beginning of the modern period, it becomes the soul force of individual thinking.

As both Ahriman and Lucifer assert their claims, Michael holds the door open for spiritual thinking and actions – silently, earnestly, granting full freedom.

Personal freedom as a 'step across the abyss' is given to us by Michael; not as a gift but rather as a request, 'Be free, be a person of initiative, help to actively shape the time you live in.' This request, which we can only hear and heed individually, applies equally to all human beings. Michael's call is universal, but it can only be heard by the individual heart. Michael's gesture is both universal and individual. This statement encompasses both the abstract Ahrimanic and the effusive Luciferic element. How do we hold the balance? How do we stay real?

Because our reality is very diverse. There is my life as a middle-class Swiss person, sixty years old, socialized in a reformed Christianity, which is different from that of my young colleague in Southern India who lives in a poor village, deeply rooted in Hinduism, or from that of our newly rich colleague in California who is interested in multiple spiritual streams all at once. The national, language-related, social, religious affiliations are a reality. Are they not what makes life on earth so rich and beautiful? Should they not apply in anthroposophy? Of course! They should even become more nuanced and vibrant through anthroposophy.

In many respects we are still at the beginning after a hundred years. We are only just learning in schools, on farms, in eurythmy and elsewhere, that the way anthroposophy first appeared in Central Europe cannot inform how it appears globally in different cultures. This cultural diversity is only beginning to emerge.

Interest in and respect for the otherness of others

We need to recognize the danger that lies in construing a contradiction between world and nation. The two don't exclude each other, they are conditional upon each other. They form a polarity. Anthroposophical life means breathing between poles. This is what is meant by 'cosmopolitan society'. It stands for the solidarity of all people and for embracing their cultural and social diversity.

Our interest in and respect for the otherness of others must grow accordingly, as must our commitment to, and our working together for, a world based on individual freedom. | *Ueli Hurter, Goetheanum*

Image Ueli Hurter, photo: Xue Li

Rudolf Steiner

The Goetheanum's task

The Goetheanum in Dornach is designed in its characteristic way so that the underlying thinking can address the current disastrous fragmentation caused by the absence of unity. The Goetheanum does not simply want to be a model, it wants to be the place where people can acquire – through thinking, art, creativity, religion, feeling – what they need to face the great tasks, social and otherwise, of our time.
It must be said once more that the social life does not only ask us to create other institutions. We can create as many other institutions as we like that may strike us as heavenly – as long as we remain asocial, as long as sociality does not pour from the depths of our souls, there can be no social order. We ourselves must become social beings. Once we are socially ensouled in the right way, the right institutions will be found. This is what wants to live in Dornach and what wants to inspire the tasks of the Goetheanum. [...]

Source
GA 80b, 31 January 1921

Announcement

Warmth for the Goetheanum with loan money
Research at the Goetheanum with gift money

Dear Members,

We would like to inform you that we are preparing a funding appeal that should reach you towards the end of June. With this early announcement we hope to prepare the soil for our appeal.

What is this about? The heating of the Goetheanum needs updating and at the same time we want to increase research in the Sections of the School of Spiritual Science. We are therefore looking for loan money to invest in the heating and gift money for research. This means that each project can be supported with the appropriate form of money.

We will propose different forms of loan so that you can participate in the investment for the new climate-neutral eco-heating that uses regional wood. The money will remain yours, but you will loan it to the Goetheanum for a fixed period of time.

Gift money is the appropriate form for research. We will inform you of various ways in which you can help to build up a research fund according to your means with amounts that are tax-deductible in Switzerland and Germany.

The heating

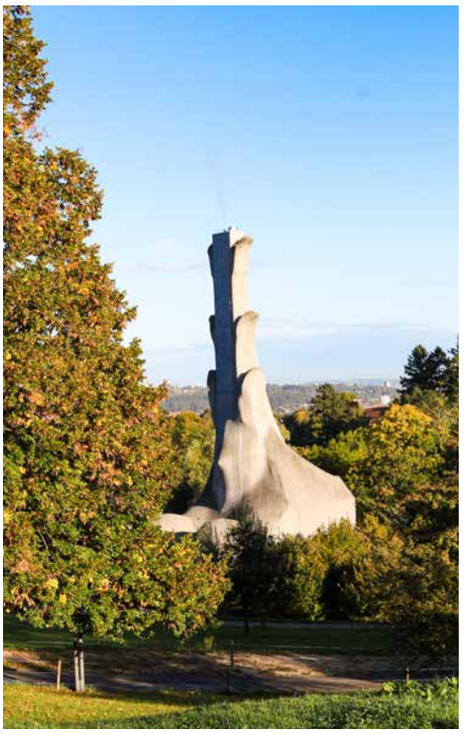
After considering many possibilities we decided in favour of a woodchip heating which best meets the following requirements.

- * The historic building that houses the heating can be used; the chimney should smoke. To meet this requirement, we need to create more space by adding a subterranean functional area directly next to the Boiler House.
- * The radiators in the one-hundred-year-old Goetheanum require a high supply temperature (70 degrees Celsius). We are currently heating with natural gas, which is expensive and unecological and the supply is unreliable. The wood for the new woodchip heating comes directly from the woods behind the Goetheanum via a forestry.
- * The new heating should be climate-neutral and state of the art ecological. Wood is a renewable resource. A 50-year-old tree has stored a lot of carbon dioxide that is released during burning and will be sequestered again in the growth of the next generation of trees, leading to a circular economy.
- * Heating costs must be affordable for the Goetheanum. The new heating system will require an investment of five to six million Francs. For calculating the annual heating costs, it is important to know how high the capital costs for the heating system will be. If we can manage to keep capital costs as low as possible with your help, the annual costs of warmth will be affordable and the costs per kilowatt hour reasonable.

Research at the threshold

In the hundredth year of its existence, the School of Spiritual Science focuses its activities consciously on future-oriented research (see the brochure Insights and contributions in Anthroposophy Worldwide1/2204 to 3/2025). In the Goetheanum Leadership we speak of 'research at the threshold' to show that spirit and matter question and inspire each other. The collaboration of the twelve Sections and the first class now generates research initiatives that connect spiritual inspiration and practicality.
Here are three examples:

- * Potentization and dynamization have been used widely in the past hundred years in medicine and agriculture respectively. We see effects and experience evidence in manufacture and application. But to what extent do we understand these processes? Is there a way to intellectually penetrate the phenomenon that 'the smaller the amount of substance, the greater the effect'? Using the concept of counterspace, we try to develop conceptual models that transcend material causality.
- * Art and technology Our thinking and doing is increasingly informed by technological structures and processes. This can be harmful to our physical, mental and spiritual health. Can artistic activities such as painting, sculpture, architecture, art observation, eurythmy, music, speech and drama counteract these influences? Research can help to show which artistic processes, methods and formats can help the 'I' to stimulate and foster physical regeneration, mental mobility, joy and creativity, so that we can overcome the 'need of the soul in the present time' in the struggle for humanity.
- * Rudolf Steiner's Mystery Dramas The Goetheanum stage and main auditorium were built particularly for Rudolf Steiner's Mystery Dramas. It is time for further development and a new production. We want to continue to explore how the topics of reincarnation and karma – as key aspects of destiny – can be addressed, spoken, staged today so that they can awaken and empower us in our current, personal and social, threshold situation.
- * The first class as a source of public representation How can the 19 class lessons be unlocked today as the spiritual foundation of the Sections and their individual fields of work – from the theory of light to the hierarchies, from the word to the logos, from the essence of the guardian of the threshold to the composition of the meditative course of development in the first class?



The appeal for support for the research at the Goetheanum with gift money and for the Goetheanum heating with loan money will be sent out to you before the summer. We hope that you will be willing and able to take these steps towards the future of the Goetheanum with us.

With warm greetings | *Justus Wittich, Constanza Kaliks, Ueli Hurter and Stefan Hasler on behalf of the Executive Council and the Goetheanum Leadership*

Image Goetheanum Boiler House, photo: Francois Croissant



Dornach Member Forum

Fruitful work

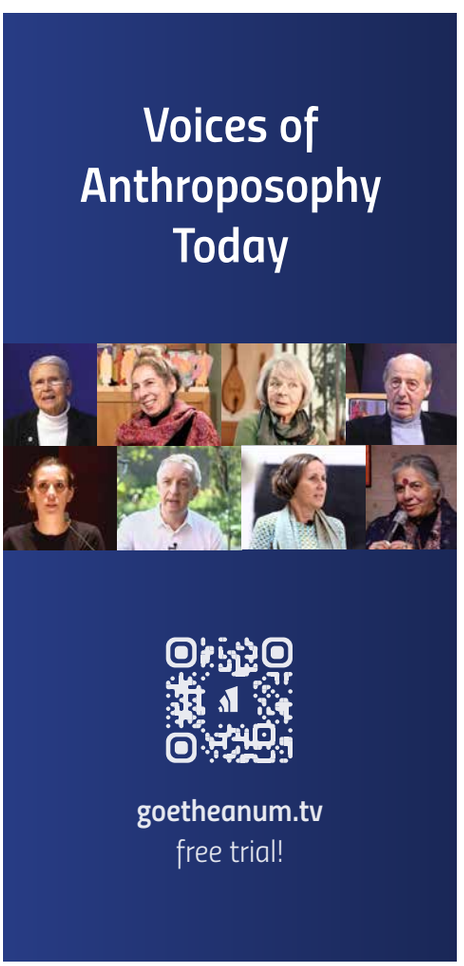
On 3 May 2025, participants of the Dornach Member Forum reviewed the 2025 AGM and found the work so far to be fruitful.

First a point of clarification: the word 'Dornach' in 'Dornach Member Forum' refers to the place where the meeting takes place. It is open to all members who travel to Dornach (CH) to attend it or who take part online, if the meeting is set up for this.
The designation also reflects the fact that this meeting takes place at the Goetheanum, while the International Member Forum is held online and at different times.
The International Member Forum has grown out of the Dornach Member Forum and is organized by members from fourteen different countries. Some of them participate regularly in the Dornach Forum, and one member represents the International Member Forum in the steering group of the Dornach Forum. This enables exchange and mutual perception. The next meeting of the International Member Forum will be on 1 June 2025 from 3 to 7 pm CEST (Anthroposophy Worldwide 5/2025), contact: contact@initiative-memberforums-worldwide.cl
The Dornach Member Forum will meet four times in 2025, once in each season. Following the meeting on 3 May, there will be meetings on 5 July, 11 October and 22 November, from 9 am to 1 pm. We would like to have an additional meeting before the 2026 AGM.
Sadly, the next three meetings cannot take place in the Schreinerei at the Goetheanum where everything is set up for online participation. Those of you who would like to take part could therefore change to the international group. Aside from financial considerations, the necessary technology is not available in other locations for logistic reasons. Online participants announced how important it is for them to take part.

Looking back on the AGM

The Executive Council was represented this time by Justus Wittich and Stefan Hasler.
We started by reviewing the AGM from 4 to 6 April at the Goetheanum (Anthroposophy Worldwide 5/2025). Many regretted the low attendance: only around 0.7 per cent of members had to represent the entire membership. This led us to ask what needed to change to rekindle the wish for participation.
Overall, the AGM was seen as successful. Some shared their experience of a searching for harmony rather than problem-solving. Others observed a strong wish for collaboration and emphasized that they found it pleasant that, unlike in previous AGMs, no feelings of hatred were expressed on this occasion.
Good moderation and careful preparation contributed to the good atmosphere that is necessary for building relationships. That so few members had to make the decisions was nonetheless seen as rather sad.
There was honest criticism and some ideas for the future were presented.
We discussed the way some members use points of order. A point of order can be a cutting sword and needs to be used with caution. Despite Stefan Hasler's clear recommendation to use points of order sparingly and only if necessary, one had occasionally the impression that they were used to cut presentations short. This was experienced as unfriendly and unhelpful and will hopefully not be considered necessary in the future. It seems that we still have some way to go before we can organize general meetings where people feel they really want to participate in.
The question was also asked repeatedly whether we want to be a general meeting like those of conventional Swiss associations. How do we become the kind of general meeting Rudolf Steiner recommended? This question remained open.





Looking back on the Dornach Member Forum

Urs Schwander and Christiane Frank would like to take up some of the work done in 2024 again and continue to develop it. For this, the group D2 will be newly formed – new members are welcome. This is about two brochures presented in 2024: 'A future image of the Anthroposophical Society' by group D2 and 'Tasks, goals and appropriate social structures for today's Anthroposophical Society' by Eva Lohmann-Heck. It was found that the content of these brochures is worth living in our consciousness so that it can gradually become a reality. Their in-depth discussion by the Dornach Member Forum should continue and we should strive for their eventual realization.

Complement to the Constitution committee ('Konvent')

The committee founded to work on the constitution asked for time to find themselves first within the group. From 12 to 15 December 2025 a conference will take place that is open to all interested members. (See the committee's contribution on p. •••) The committee will be complemented by an online platform (Forum) that will be open to members. On behalf of the Transparent Communication work group, Andreas Heertsch will install a digital room where ideas and suggestions can be shared. Finally, we evaluated the meetings of the Dornach Member Forum so far, which has generally been well received. We thanked Harald Jäckel for his enormous efforts in introducing the forums and in keeping up the communicative work that they achieve. The Forum members see them as a welcome and necessary consultative organ for members wishing to be active. | *Rozanne Hartmann, Arlesheim (CH)*

Web International Member Forum initiative-memberforums-worldwide.cl/inicio
Image Member Forum 2023, photo: Sebastian Jüngel

Constitution committee

Work started

This year's AGM commissioned twelve people to work out a proposal for a reshaping of the (General) Anthroposophical Society's constitution by 2027. This committee ('Konvent') has now started its work.



On 30 April the members of the committee met for the first time online to discuss the foundations of their work. For the first stage until the 2026 AGM, seven in-person meetings are planned, each stretching over several days. The first of these meetings will take place before the summer.

Communication plans

Members will also continue to be included in this work. The following decisions were made in regard to this:

- * A contact will be provided as soon as possible so that proposals can be submitted to the constitution committee and views exchanged. (We would ask you to wait until then before sending in proposals.)
- * The constitution committee will provide information in Anthroposophy Worldwide and on other platforms on how it will respond to submitted proposals and include them in its work.
- * We would like to work together with the Transparent Communications group of the Dornach Member Forum to have support for an open and inclusive way of communicating.
- * If possible, the constitution committee will give process reports in every issue of Anthroposophy Worldwide.
- * Save the date: another members' meeting is planned for 12 to 14 December 2025 on the reshaping of the constitution of the (General) Anthroposophical Society. A detailed invitation will follow.
-

The twelve committee members wish to work energetically together with all active and interested members on developing a future form of the (General) Anthroposophical Society that is right for our time and for anthroposophy. We look forward to this task and to ideas and suggestions from the membership. The members of the committee are Cyrill Häring (lawyer, CH), Jonathan Keller (CEO Confoedera, CH), Roos Naves (co-worker Iona Foundation Amsterdam, NL), Gerhard Schuster (IG-EuroVision and International Cultural Centre Achberg, AT), Armin Steuernagel (managing director Stiftung Verantwortungseigentum, DE), Monika Elbert (country representative, DE), Marjatta van Boeschoten (lawyer, country representative GB), Gerald Häfner (leader of the Social Sciences Section, Matthias Rang (co-leader of the Natural Science Section), Ueli Hurter (Executive Council of the General Anthroposophical Society) and Justus Wittich (Executive Council of the General Anthroposophical Society). | On behalf of the committee: Moritz Christoph, Weil am Rhein (DE)

Image The committee members during the 2025 AGM, photo: Xue Li



Covid review

What remains to be done?

The Covid years are distant and close at the same time. Reflection on how to adequately deal (here and now) with this incisive and 'fragmentizing' experience may be equally distant or close. Those, for whom it is distant, may have been 'lucky'; for others the effects of that time have led to permanent suffering.
Also, too much injustice has been done to simply be glossed over. There are too many questions regarding post-Covid and post-vac for us to simply return to a healthcare situation that some may have eyed critically even before.
At the 2025 AGM of the General Anthroposophical Society, the members present agreed to a motion that asked to continue the processing of the Covid period. The goal that was formulated includes continued reflection of the events from as many perspectives as possible so that errors can be identified and the corresponding lessons learned. A parallel concern asked the Executive Council and Goetheanum Leadership to continue supporting this process accordingly. It has

also been proposed by a third party to follow this up with regular conversations with changing contributors, where the most different standpoints can enter into dialogue.
The motion leaves it to each member whether they want to become active. It may be useful to continue the work in different locations.
In Dornach (CH) a group is currently being formed can be contacted via Barbara Stuten (barbara.stuten@gmx.ch, their language is German).
An international group, which will work online, is also being formed. People from Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and the US, some of whom have been working on the topic for some time, have been in touch.
A work group devoted to this topic will provide more information at the next International Members' Forum on 1 June and invite others to join. (Contact: multiperspektiv@posteo.de, their language is English)

Compassion and concrete support

The motion in question was also accompanied by a concern that is directly addressed to people who suffer in some cases severe illness as a consequence of Covid 19 or of the Covid vaccination. It is also addressed to people who (to keep it brief) have had personal or professional disadvantages because they stood up to Covid measures or laws and/or to political decisions. The overall concern aims to create spaces where these people can be perceived and respected and, wherever possible, concrete support can be offered. | *Claudia Bartholomeyczik, Berlin (DE)*

Image Covid measures at the Goetheanum 2021, photo: Goetheanum Communications

Correction

In the Forum contribution 'Good thoughts for the cultural development in Europe and the world' published in Anthroposophy Worldwide 5/2025, the amount mentioned of 800 billion Euros for rearmament and defence refers to Europe not only to Germany. | *Sebastian Jüngel*



Section for Performing Arts

Clowning group

After two video conferences, seven clowns of the international clowning group in the Section for Performing Arts at the Goetheanum met for the first time in person on 10 May.

A curtain. In front of it a stool and a wooden chest. On the floor by a wall, juggling balls and a large ball of wool. On a chair an overtone flute, a rauschpfeife and a small hurdy-gurdy.

A few minutes later: seven people sit in a circle on the floor, each of them holding a soundbellow in one hand that looks like a coloured light bulb. They make music together. Although they don't know each other and have not practised before, it always sounds good. A clowning trick? In this case, rather due to the pentatonic mood.

Immediacy, intensity, self-criticism

Forty-five minutes later. The seven clowns move around the room, interact with gestures, improvise freely, sometimes in parallel groups, then together again, until another group splits off. Motifs appear such as wonder, dying, entangling (and disentangling again), forming and playing with imagined objects. They use an accordion, a hurdy-gurdy, soundbellows and their own voice so that it occasionally sounds like a dramatic opera production.

After another hour: professional sharing of experiences. 'Professional' refers to the way we look at qualities we achieved such as immediacy, intensity, the themes we addressed, as well as self-criticism such as 'we just played away without a theme'.

The seven clowns wish for more practical exchange of this kind in the future, even in such a rather small groups, maybe as a step towards something bigger like a conference. Having the possibility to experience development through clowning on a regular basis makes us feel connected. There is also a need for research, for instance on clowning in connection with the path of inner development. If you find this idea strange, consider that Rudolf Steiner viewed humour as prerequisite to spiritual development, for instance as a means of rising above things that are not worthy of us. He also created with Edith Maryon the sculpture of the Representative of Humanity, which includes a being growing out of a rock that is often referred to as the 'world humour'.

Step forward after five years of preparation

It has been exactly five years since Stefan Hasler as head of the Section for Performing Arts encouraged me to find other clowning colleagues. Since then, more than 50 such colleagues have joined the work group. Prior to August 2021 we had two video conferences and since June 2021 eight editions of the pdf magazine 'red nose' have come out, the ninth edition being in preparation.

When a colleague announced in 2025 that she was planning to come to the Goetheanum, I spontaneously sent out invitations to a small in-person meeting of the clowning group. 'Small' because with so little notice it was unlikely that many could come. But seven clowns came to the Goetheanum. Their cultural backgrounds are Canadian, American, German and Swiss. Each spoke in their own language, which was no problem because everyone understood German and English.

Please get in touch if you are interested in the work of this group. For the first eight editions of 'red nose' visit

www.mynewsdesk.com/de/goetheanum/blog_posts/wir-brauchen-das-lachen-um-uns-zu-entwickeln-120785. | *Sebastian Jüngel*

Image Gabriela Jüngel, Michael Jenitschonok, Eva Pick, Barbara Wegener, Dawn Nilo, Abigail Dancey, Sebastian Jüngel; photo: selfie

Goetheanum

Events

3 June, 7.30 to 9 pm Medical Section Dialogue on the effects of mobile-phone radiation on the human organism (in German)
Online goetheanum-ch.zoom.us/j/83964047283?pwd=bUpFQoFvL1FENVhxVm5XK1c4dUpRdz09#success

6 to 9 June The School of Spiritual Science and its Sections, General Anthroposophical Society (German, English)
Web https://goetheanum.ch/en/events/whitsun_2025

13 to 15 June Meditation and Natural Science. The Etheric – Four in One, Natural Science Section (German, English)
Web science.goetheanum.org/veranstaltungen/meditationswochenende-2025

23 to 26 Juni International Eurythmy and Speech Graduation Meeting, Section for Performing Arts
Web https://goetheanum.ch/en/events/internationales-abschlusstreffen-eu

14 to 19 July Let's play! Theatre, poetry and music week for everyone from 10 to 120 (all languages you bring along with you), Bühnenkunst amwort
Web buehnenkunst-amwort.ch

23 to 27 July 2025 Alma Humana! Cosmopolitan Presence. Encounters with Rudolf Steiner and Anthroposophy (Lectures in English, French, Italian, Romanian, Spanish and Portuguese), General Anthroposophical Section
Web goetheanum.ch/en/events/almahumana

28 July to 1 August Reincarnation and Karma in the Work of Rudolf Steiner, Humanities Section (German; English if there is enough demand)
Web goetheanum.ch/de/veranstaltungen/studienwoche_2025

31 July to 3 August Family festival Spirituality in Education (German), Social Sciences Section
Web familienfestival.goetheanum.ch

27 and 28 September 2025 Rudolf Steiner as student and teacher (German, English)
Web https://goetheanum.ch/en/events/michaelmas2025





Anthroposophical media representatives

'I am anthroposophy'

On 8 and 9 May around 40 media workers from anthroposophically oriented organizations and institutions held their annual conference at the Goetheanum.

Traditionally, the hosts of this annual conference present their own work. At the Goetheanum this was the revival of the Faust production and the work of the Sections. The media representatives also visited the wooden sculpture of the Representative of Humanity. Philip Kovce and Angelika Schmitt talked about their work as the new heads of the Rudolf Steiner Archives (Anthroposophy Worldwide 1-2/2025), and the Edith Maryon Foundation showed a film in Basel about its endeavours to withdraw land from the sphere of speculation and to create social work and living forms: vimeo.com/1013075965/6c616391d5 (German with subtitles in various languages).

Attitude radiates out

One motif that kept coming up in the different contributions was the way we represent anthroposophy. Do I reveal myself as an anthroposophist? Aside from terminology and content, attitude plays an important part in public communication, because it has to do with authenticity and this is what ultimately radiates out. The question as to how the plurality of opinions is possible as long as views that do not reflect the mainstream tend to be quickly suppressed is one that concerns society as a whole, but the ability to listen actively in order to understand what others are trying to say is essential.

The conference members remembered Ramon Brüll who passed away on 23 March 2025. He was a 'rebel' who created networks and made the anthroposophical scene better known, in Germany above all, with the journal Info3 and the publication of an index of addresses of anthroposophical institutions and enterprises – the work of a selfless enabler.

The conference was interrupted three times by the clown Dawn Nilo) who summarized her experience as 'I am the surprise' (as announced in the programme), 'I am a premature birth' (a midwifery conference took place at the same time at the Goetheanum and the intervention occurred at the beginning of the media meeting), 'I am anthroposophy' (something that had repeatedly been asked for). | *Sebastian Jüngel*

Weidler Orchestra Dornach

On tour

The Weidler Orchestra Dornach (CH) plays on string instruments inspired by Franz Thomastik. The group recently went on tour in Egypt, Germany and Switzerland.

As it did six years ago, the Weidler Orchestra took its eighth concert project with musicians from Switzerland, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy and Kosovo to Egypt. In addition to intensive rehearsing, they spent their time in Sekem finding out and describing criteria for exploring the 'new otherness' of the world of sound produced by these instruments. They had five Thomastik and 17 Weidler instruments at their disposal, built by Arthur Bay among others. These instruments were bowed one after the other according to the wood they are made of – maple, cherry, birch and ash – while the whole orchestra listened amazed, trying to describe and comment. Many were moved by this communal research and asked whether this could also be done as part of a concert.

On 4 May the Orchestra performed in the auditorium of Heliopolis University in Kairo and in the evening in front of the Canadian Consulate. The following concert was on 5 May in the Sekem school. After more rehearsals and a final concert in Hurghada, the Orchestra performed on 11 May in Dornach (CH) and on 12 May in Freiburg (DE). | *Adolf Zinsstag, Basel (CH)*

Contact zinsstag@hotmail.com
Image Weidler Orchestra Dornach in Sekem, photo: Gawan Hepp

Manfred Klett (1933–2025)

Casting seeds widely

Manfred Klett was head of the Agricultural Department in the Goetheanum's Natural Science Section from 1988 until 2002. He crossed the threshold on 2 April 2025 on 'his' farm, the Dottenfelderhof (DE) near Frankfurt, surrounded by his family.



The lying in state in the old hall of the Dottenfelderhof concluded with the last benediction on 5 April at 11 am. From 3 pm, a large community gathered in the farming community's seed hall to pay their last respects. The coffin, adorned with beautiful spring flowers, stood on a makeshift stage. Manfred Klett – a friend among friends, a friend of the earth and the sky, a friend of sowing and harvesting.

What a fitting venue, the seed hall! It happened to be the largest room on the farm, but it was also the most fitting because it always starts with the seed and everything comes together in the seed. A life cycle begins with the seed and dies into the seed at the end. Every plant shows us this, in fact, every living creature. And we humans, as spiritual beings – where and when are we seed? When we are born? When we die? At the cosmic midnight hour? Or in the middle of life when we plough and sow, think and speak, learn and teach?

Gift for words and images

Manfred Klett was great in many ways, including in his stature. He was the doyen of the biodynamic movement. He was a practitioner, founder and adviser. He also travelled the world for decades and was speaker, lecturer and partner in conversations. He had the gift of finding words and images for the biodynamic impulse that opened up worlds for his listeners. The biodynamic impulse seemed great because it was presented as a future-oriented continuation of the age-old (agri-)cultural impulse – an impulse that means living in partnership with the earth and with nature. It was Manfred Klett's destiny to directly meet the magnitude of this development at crucial points in his life.

Manfred Klett was born in 1933 in Tanganyika, now Tanzania, in Africa, at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro. All his life, he carried the grandeur of the East African savannah landscape in his soul.

He spent his school years during and after the war in the Stuttgart area (DE). During a one-year work experience in north-eastern Syria, he decided to become a farmer, a decision made in the historic 'land between two rivers', Mesopotamia, a place of early agricultural development. This was followed by an apprenticeship, studies, a doctorate and research.

Farming community and global activity

In 1968 Manfred Klett co-founded the farming community Dottenfelderhof and shortly afterwards the Dottenfelderhof Agriculture School. The 180-hectare farm situated close to Frankfurt (DE), within sight of today's capital power, the large farming community of five families and the future-oriented agriculture school were the next significant step in Manfred Klett's biography.

When, after twenty years of biodynamic development work with his wife and five children, he took over the leadership of the Agriculture Department at the Goetheanum in Dornach (CH) in 1988, the worldwide biodynamic movement became the focus of his activity.

He travelled to many parts of the world and the big annual biodynamic farming conferences at the Goetheanum were attended by people from more than forty countries. After fourteen years of this work and another eight years as a freelance Goetheanum co-worker, he returned to Dottenfelderhof. For 21 years, he actively supported the Juchowo village project in Poland with its 2,000 hectares of farmland.

As the fruit of his lifelong work, research and teaching in biodynamics, he published the book Von der Agrartechnologie zur Landbaukunst [from agricultural technology to the art of farming] in 2021. The title of the book points to the 'art of farming' as the way to the future. We may ask if that is the solution to the challenges of climate change, soil erosion and the global food crisis. The answer could be yes because art, the art of farming, means that each and every one of us makes their unique contribution with their individual commitment, in their very special place. Every farm, every place where people work in the sense of this book is a representative of the earth which has been entrusted to us for its cultivation.

Enkindling life and spirit substance

An image of Manfred Klett's life stood before us as we gathered in the seed hall. We each felt within us the life and spirit substance that had been enkindled in us through our encounter with Manfred Klett. His field was large and he cast many seeds with a wide gesture, giving greatness to the biodynamic movement.

For him it was never about being alternative, special, or the best organic approach. No, biodynamics as he saw it was the legitimate continuation of agricultural development since its beginnings. The biodynamic impulse presented by Rudolf Steiner at Whitsun 1924 in Koberwitz is the ripe seed of agriculture's great past and at the same time the young seed of agriculture's great future. | *Ueli Hurter, Goetheanum.*

Image Manfred Klett, Dottenfelderhof, Easter Sunday 2021; photo: François Hagdorn, CC BY-SA 4.0



Philosophical-Anthroposophical Press

Merging of publishers

On 8 May, the publishing company Philosophisch-Anthroposophische Verlage was entered in the Swiss commercial register in a step that concluded the merging of Rudolf Steiner Verlag and Verlag am Goetheanum in a new legal form (Anthroposophy Worldwide 4/2025).

The merger aims to stabilize the publishers economically by reducing the costs of administration, rent, storage, advertising etc. and by eliminating duplication, for instance of the presence at book fairs.

Just before Easter 2025, the publishing group Philosophisch-Anthroposophische Verlage was created by merging the two former companies. The new name refers to the former Philosophical-Anthroposophical Press, established by Marie Steiner to publish the works of Rudolf Steiner and other anthroposophical books. The group also includes the trade names Natura, Ogham, Rudolf Geering and Zbinden.

Over 1000 titles

The Rudolf Steiner estate administration (Nachlassverwaltung) with the Rudolf Steiner Archives are editors of Rudolf Steiner's work, while the School of Spiritual Science with its Sections is responsible for the publications by Verlag am Goetheanum. The responsibilities and profile of each of the two publishers remain the same.

As managing director of the publishing group, Johannes Onneken is holding the different publishing brands together. He knows the publishing business from various angles because he managed his own publishing company for ten years, worked as graphic designer for several publishers and has been managing director of Rudolf Steiner Verlag since 2024.

The merger results in a medium-sized publishing company with Rudolf Steiner Verlag offering around 650 and Verlag am Goetheanum offering around 500 available titles. The new group reunites two companies that go back to Marie and Rudolf Steiner and that had gone their separate ways following a conflict about Rudolf Steiner's estate. | *Sebastian Jüngel*

Web steinerverlag.com and goetheanum-verlag.ch
Image Rudolf Steiner Complete Works in the Goetheanum Bookshop, photo: Xue Li



Anthroposophy Worldwide

Waldorf 360: an ambitious project comes full circle

On 16 April 2025, during the International High School Conference in Kassel, the Modern Teacher team hosted the final of sixty weekly sessions of Waldorf 360: Global High School Network

In many countries there is nowhere for secondary school specialists to get any information about the Waldorf concept. During a breaktime conversation at the 2023 World Teachers Conference at the Goetheanum, Adam Dubignon, the principal of Sasana Waldorf School in Malaysia, asked me, 'Since you offer online courses for Waldorf teachers who can't access a training, how about something for the High School?' I pulled in my colleagues Alan Swindell, Amanda Bell (both UK) and David Barham (US), realizing that Adam had identified a real problem: while in most countries class teachers can often pick up good tips from their colleagues, High School specialists tend to be quite isolated: they usually are the only experts in their schools on biology, art or eurythmy, with no-one far and wide to ask for teaching advice.

International training and peer networks

So we set about building a truly inclusive, affordable international programme: Karla Neves (BR) and Virashni Bharuth (ZA) joined the core team, and we began to put together a faculty of well-known international experts on the Waldorf approach to high school subject teaching.

The programme started in January 2024. An overview of adolescent pedagogy was given at the beginning which included a rich introduction by Douglas Gerwin and members of the core team. We asked each lecturer to host three 90-minute sessions in twenty designated modules which were accessible live from the US (in the mornings) to Singapore (in the evenings). Teachers from other countries could (and did) access the recordings, and the materials which tutors made available. Participant numbers varied between 40 and 120 in each session. Altogether 118 schools and many more individual teachers (from 40 countries) signed up to absorb the advice from the presenters, but also to work together in weekly interactive sessions, creating international peer networks. When the programme broke even, we could afford to offer the remaining modules for free.

Flat rate depending on school size

The Modern Teacher is a non-profit organization based in the UK and well known for organising successful international online courses such as Waldorf Direct and "every child!". In its financial model every school pays a flat rate and can then allow each teacher to attend. The fee structure is based on the number of pupils, which means that small and pioneering schools pay considerably less. For individuals, the attendance fee is kept very low.

Presenters have included established experts such as Wilfried Sommer, Graham Kennish, Michael Holdrege, Ulrike Sievers and Jamie York. Often modules were shared between hosts from different cultures, allowing for an inclusive, contextual approach (Indrani Banerjee and Amanda Bell on History, Virashni Bharuth on Literature, Kemal Lowenthal and Simon Gillman on Crafts, Mandy Futter on Geography and Agnes Tan on Work Experience). Arts and movement were given equal billing to academic subjects, emphasizing the point that all subjects have their role to play in a balanced, holistic approach.

To be continued in 2026

For the sixtieth and final session, broadcast from Wilfried Sommer's Kassel laboratory, eight presenters were asked to each give a short presentation on 'the most important Waldorf aspect'. Each contribution highlighted a different element of our modern practice, demonstrating that there is a real commitment in our movement to renew and re-invigorate ourselves while both valuing and being nourished by our roots in anthroposophy. The entertaining and inspiring session can be viewed for free on the Modern Teacher YouTube Channel: https://youtu.be/PIRaWnwFVA8 .

The sixty sessions, arranged in twenty subject modules, will now be prepared for offline purchase to be useful to schools and individuals in staff training and professional development. Waldorf 360 will continue in 2026, offering sessions on 'The Inside View': approaches that characterize and inform Waldorf practice without being explicit in the curriculum, such as phenomenology, social work, inclusion, contextualisation, media training, emotional and mental health awareness, to name but a few. Details will be announced in the autumn. | *Sven Saar, Christchurch (UK)*

Web https://modernteacher.org/waldorf-360
Image Karla Neves (BR), Adam Dubignon (MAL), Amanda Bell (UK), David Barham (US), Graham Kennish (UK), Bandana Basu (IND). In the front: Sven Saar and Alan Swindell (UK), courtesy photo.

Membership news

The Membership Office at the Goetheanum is pleased to announce that the Anthroposophical Society has gained 151 new members between 14 April and 12 May 2025. They are in 17 countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, France, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Peru, South Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Between 14 April and 12 May 2025, we heard of nine people leaving the Society.

We have been informed that the following 46 members have crossed the threshold of death and provide this information in their remembrance.

John Brett, Schemmerberg (DE),date of death unknown
Pamela Goulden, Buckfastleigh (GB), date of death unknown
Ingeborg Gulliver, Epsom (GB), date of death unknown
James McDougall, Wilkieston, West Lothian (GB), date of death unknown
Alma Stroud, Whitby (GB), date of death unknown
Uta Schertling, Stuttgart (DE), 29 January 2014
Gerta Scharfenberg, Datteln (DE), 19 March 2024
Dieter Scharmer, Horst (DE), 31 July 2024
María Laura Ibarra Dolci, Pachacamac (PE), 26 August 2024
Jonathan Checkley, Kings Langley (GB), 19 September 2024
Wijna Meenk, Den Haag (NL), 3 November 2024
Johannes Wesselius, Bennekom (NL), 29 December 2024
Verena Scherpenhuijsen Rom, Amersfoort (NL), 31 December 2024
Mia Nölle, Essen (DE), 18 January 2025
Michael Bard, Neustrelitz (DE), 11 February 2025
Christine Walter, Hamburg (DE), 22 February 2025
Maarten de Jong, De Lier (NL), 25 February 2025
Willem Faber, Zeist (NL), 25 February 2025
Pieter van Blom, Eefde (NL), 6 March 2025
Wolfgang Meyer, Stuttgart (DE), 11 March 2025
Janet Roberts, Kings Langley (GB), 24 March 2025
Ingeborg Föhr, Untersiggenthal (CH), 24 March 2025
Heide Berk, Berlin (DE), 26 March 2025
Ottmar Karl, Berlin (DE), 1 April 2025
Johannes Wasser, Den Haag (NL), 2 April 2025
Irene Richter, Binzen (DE), 9 April 2025
Maja Kemker, Essen (DE), 11 April 2025
Wilfried Storz, Basel (CH), 15 April 2025
Gerhild Hobe, Alfter (DE), 15 April 2025
Margot Jaeger, Stuttgart (DE), 16 April 2025
Michael Mertens, Schwäbisch Gmünd (DE), 16 April 2025
Dorelise Putzar, Reutlingen (DE), 16 April 2025
Peter Ferger, Dachsberg (DE), 17 April 2025
Walter Zaiser, Köngen (DE), 17 April 2025
Lothar Keye, Bochum (DE), 18 April 2025
Berta Kircher, Borchen (DE), 19 April 2025
Gunda Kohl, Chemnitz (DE), 22 April 2025
Kirsten Beata Kux, Dornach (CH), 22 April 2025
Eva-Maria Bauer, Leinfelden-Echterdingen (DE), 26 April 2025
Renate Schmid, Stuttgart (DE), 28 April 2025
Edda Laude, Dachau (DE), 29 April 2025
Manfred Fahrentrapp, Rickenbach (DE), 30 April 2025
Judy Read, Gordon (AU), 1 May 2025
Siegfried Knapp, Stuttgart (DE), 1 May 2025
Christian Goll, Schopfheim (DE), 4 May 2025
Günter Schwittay, St. Blasien (DE), 7 May 2025

Corrigendum Ingeborg Föhr crossed the threshold on March 23, 2025, not March 24, 2025, as we were originally informed

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Campus

Events and learning

The Goetheanum campus is becoming more and more of an event zone. The Steiner 100 commemorative year saw the opening of a Bee Sculpture and a Preparation Pavilion. Additionally, there has been a memorial site for Rudolf Steiner at the Dornach-Arlesheim (CH) railway station since March 2025.







Two new structures – the Bee Sculpture and the Preparation Pavilion – have recently been added to the Goetheanum Park to make biodynamic agriculture more tangible to visitors, calling their attention to sustainable farming, healthy beekeeping and their profound interconnections.

Both structures seem archaic. The Bee Sculpture is seven metres high and rises from the landscape in a way that is both prominent and modest. In style it corresponds to the Preparation Pavilion and other buildings on campus.

As a walk-in sculpture the new apiary is a place of encounter between bees and humans. It invites visitors to experience the working of bees with all their senses throughout the year and to learn about the Demeter approach to appropriate beekeeping.

The overall form of the Bee Sculpture is a negative of a honeycomb cell and replicates its hexagonal shape. While bees build their honeycombs horizontally, the cell imitated by this sculpture grows upwards. As in the honeycomb cell, the roof has the form of a cube or rhombic dodecahedron that reaches into the building. It is open at the tip of the cube to allow light to stream into the interior and enable interesting perceptual dimensions. The interior walls are partly covered in beeswax which creates the characteristic smell.

Through the windows of the beehives in the walls visitors can observe the bees at work, their humming enhanced by the structure's unique acoustics.

The Bee Sculpture is made of wood and clay and is home to five bee colonies. In a communal project, many volunteers and experts worked on building it from sustainable materials. Children and adults helped to fill its timber frame with local straw and clay. The paint was made from local mineral pigments. A cell-like space has been created that invites visitors to linger in contemplation. | Barbara Schnetzler, Basel (CH)

Preparation Pavilion

The very expressive projecting roof of the Preparation Pavilion, which was designed by the architect Yaike Dunselman, illustrates how the biodynamic preparations radiate out into the world. The building is also functional because the preparations are kept here. Looking or stepping inside provides a unique spatial experience.

Exhibitions Changing exhibitions can be visited in the Goetheanum Art Gallery. A major exhibition on Rudolf Steiner's life continues until 1 January 2026. The exhibition in the Foyer is about Rudolf Steiner's activities in the various Section fields. Edith Maryon's flat can be visited in one of the Eurythmy Houses.

An exhibition in the south room of the Carpentry Building (Schreinerei Südsaal) provides insight into the building history and model of the First Goetheanum. At the centre of this exhibition is a scale model of the First Goetheanum built by Rudolf Feuerstack that can be entered from below for an experience of its main auditorium. On the fifth floor of the Goetheanum, in front of the Exhibition Room, architectural models of other buildings in the Goetheanum Park are shown.

The Exhibition Room itself houses the wooden sculpture of the Representative of Humanity between Lucifer and Ahriman, as well as preliminary studies. The Hochatelier (tall studio) next to the Carpentry Building is where this sculpture was made. Close by is Rudolf Steiner's Studio in which he also died.

The Glass House has an exhibition on Metamorphosis which can be visited at specific times.

Around the entire Goetheanum Park, visitors find information plates, for instance about the dye plant and herb garden, as well as different sculptures.

Guided tours offer insights into particular topics. In 2025 they focus for instance on the 100th anniversary of Rudolf Steiner's death.

Campus Fete In September the Campus Fete will take place with guided tours, workshops and concerts and with a special programme for children. Admittance is free.

Rudolf Steiner Memorial Site At the Dornach Arlesheim station (CH) a memorial plaque has been installed together with a bronze cast of Rudolf Steiner's suitcase. | Sebastian Jüngel

Web https://goetheanum.ch/en/campus

Images Bee Sculpture in the Goetheanum Park and Rudolf Steiner Memorial Site at the Dornach-Arlesheim railway station, photos: Sebastian Jüngel