



School of Spiritual Science at the Goetheanum  
Youth Section

Youth Section  
at the Goetheanum

REPORT ON OUTCOMES OF  
VISITING YOUTH  
LEADERS PROGRAM

SUMMER THROUGH WINTER OF 2024



This experience was like a seed put in the soil and time after time it's growing and its fruits will appear year after year. I feel it's a tree that lives for many many years...

~Ani,

Member of Youth Society Parzival  
in Matsevani, Georgia.

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*The intention for this year was to pilot this program with individuals who we already knew from their initiatives in the network. Working with young people we know will help get the idea established while our intention is to gain experience in this way with an eye toward eventually developing an international anthroposophical youth-oriented program at the Goetheanum.*

## **WEEKLY PROGRAM**

	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>Morning</b>	<i>Independent research and work</i>	<i>Independent research and work</i>	<i>Service Work</i>	<i>Creative projects and team check-in</i>	<i>Service work</i>
<b>Lunch</b>	<i>Shared meal</i>	<i>Shared meal</i>	<i>Shared meal</i>	<i>Shared meal</i>	<i>Shared meal</i>
<b>Afternoon</b>	<i>Team meeting</i>	<i>Creative projects session</i>	<i>Common study</i>	<i>Independent research and work</i>	<i>Service work</i>
<b>Evening</b>	<i>Common study</i>		<i>Community shared meal</i>		

*Tuesday evening common study: Towards Social Renewal, R. Steiner, CW23 & excerpts from Karmic Relationships, R. Steiner, CW 235, & The Philosophy of Freedom, R. Steiner, CW 4*

*Thursday study: Youth and the Etheric Heart, R. Steiner, CW217a, and the Anxious Generation, Jonathan Haidt*

*Not included in this overview is the work related to the care of the Youth Section House as well as weekly house meetings.*

## **RECENT AND CURRENT YOUTH PROJECTS**

### **Understanding and Singing about Social Threefolding**

*September, 2024*

*In multiple art sessions each week, we selected folk songs that have played a part in social movements from all over the world or that express a social dilemma, adding new verses inspired by social threefolding as we studied the book “Towards Social Renewal” (CW4). We developed illustrations for each song and a small selection of relevant articles were included in the publication. These books were hand bound by the team and distributed at the event “Working for Freedom and the common Good”, a collaboration with the World Goetheanum Association ([worldgoetheanum.org/en/wgf-2024/wgf-2024-review](http://worldgoetheanum.org/en/wgf-2024/wgf-2024-review))*

### **Question! Encounter! Play!**

*October, 2024*

A week-long intensive theatre project with young people from all over the world where they are invited to create the story, music, and scenography weaving in aspects of their biographies in creative ways ([dasgoetheanum.com/en/a-tale-of-faith-love-and-hope/](https://dasgoetheanum.com/en/a-tale-of-faith-love-and-hope/))

### **3-D printed 2.0 Prototype of new screen instruments**

December-January, 2024-2025

Over the past decade it has become widely evident that current screen cultures and technologies are influencing young adults in a negative way. One of the ongoing projects within the Youth Section involves creating new artistic instruments and disciplines that can counter these negative influences. This has involved research and the development of a series of instruments that allow for an artist's intentional, live sculpting in light, color, form and movement. Between 2022 and 2024 young people have participated in artistic projects with these first instruments. The experiences suggest significant artistic and therapeutic potential. It is time to produce the next generation on a professional level. Participants have helped to create a new concept for the instruments and to create a prototype using a 3D printer.

### **Quest for a Pictorial Understanding of Anthroposophy**

February, 2025

This event was dedicated to bringing thinking into artistry. The intention was to work with the living thoughts of Anthroposophy through different forms of art.

The chosen text was Rudolf Steiner's "The Philosophy of Freedom". Rudolf Steiner expressed that this book was written for people over the age of 28. At the founding of the Section for the Spiritual Striving of Youth in 1924, one of the tasks that was given, was rewriting a number of the fundamental works of Steiner so that they would speak to young people. This event was dedicated to this idea that involved guiding a process through different forms of art toward an experience of thoughts.



### **Structures for Freedom**

December-ongoing

One of the goals living in the Section is how to help young people in their last years of high school to engage with deeper questions that they are carrying, and to spread awareness of how they can engage with the Section and the Goetheanum. Structures for Freedom intends to bring young voices on education together in a global participatory, peer-led project that stimulates grassroots encounter, introspection and qualitative inquiry. It's objective is to inspire spaces for sharing lived experience, discovering shared idealism and to find creative expression and qualitative articulation of latent youth

wisdom that seeks to find a voice in envisioning and planning educational approaches of the future.

### **Fundraising for youth scholarships and grants**

#### *Ongoing*

*This is a project that is inspired by the desire to work with resources together. All groups are invited to contribute what they can to a fund dedicated to support travel scholarships to the annual co-worker meeting as well as grants for youth work. They are also invited to help fundraise from foundations, individuals and other sources. A team of young people are now designing the application process for the grants that will be distributed at the end of the year. ([gofund.me/3c452626](https://gofund.me/3c452626))*

### **Anthroposophical Youth Work Around the World: Bringing Visibility through the Section**

#### *Ongoing*

*One of the projects that we have worked on involved reaching out to youth groups around the world to share pictures and stories of their work. Over the past months groups from Georgia, North America, Argentina, Brazil, Spain and the BD youth group have been able to share through the Section's instagram account ([instagram.com/youthsection](https://www.instagram.com/youthsection) ) and many more appear through the Section's website and regular newsletter [HERE](#).*



### **SERVICE WORK EXPERIENCES**

*Light renovation and improvement of Youth Section House, renovation and improvement Youth Section's art studio, clearing out a house that was donated to the Goetheanum.*

#### *Tasks included:*

- Patching cracks in the walls*
- Painting walls and ceilings*
- Re-applying window kit*
- Sanding down window frames and repainting them*
- Repainting door frames*
- Sorting through furniture, crockery and clothes and looking for a new home for them that they might be reused*
- Arranging flea markets with donated goods to raise funds for youth work.*



## REFLECTIONS FROM YOUTH LEADER GUESTS

**How would you describe your experience visiting the Youth Section at the Goetheanum?**

*"I would describe my experience visiting Youth Section as very positive and very meaningful to me personally. That experience gave me things I thought I would get but also the things I wouldn't necessarily think I would get. After returning back to Georgia my teammates actually told me I matured. I feel like that experience was like a seed put in the soil and time after time it's growing and its fruits will appear year after year. I feel it's a tree that lives for many many years, it's not an annual plant.*

*The experience was very diverse, full of colors! When I think about the things we did there, encounters we had, I can't believe that all happened in such a short time. I am very very grateful and proud too. When I left Dornach I thought I should have done more with the time spent there, but in retrospect I feel like we achieved a lot together."*

*"In three words, impactful, community, connection. I had the pleasure of living at the Youth Section House for two months, a time I will look back on fondly. The orientation of the home to youth community I experienced to be majorly successful, we all took up the task of the house with love and responsibility. The team all worked together to create a home environment that was fun, nourishing, engaging, loving, kind, and healthy."*

*"Personally, it was a great learning experience. I held the Goetheanum in a position of ideal and perfection. I learned that humans are like everywhere else. Being part of the Youth Section was very nice in accompanying this learning process. There I felt that anthroposophy was still alive and transforming."*

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**Did a connection with other youth groups around the world deepen or emerge during your stay? Did it shift your experience of the worldwide work of the section?**

*"Definitely, I already knew some people in different youth groups because of my previous relation with them but during my time there I had a chance to connect with them deeper, to ask about their experience in their country, what challenges do they face there, what are the things they have to deal with... I also had a chance to connect with individual people, some were not necessarily part of any youth group but individually searching, learning... those encounters were*

*also very interesting, because we are all going through life as individuals and we are searching for ways individually too so it was great to share these private experiences.”*



*“As for the worldwide work of the Section, I think this was the most powerful aspect for me. I have worked on some international projects before as well but this was different experience for me. I was very involved and submerged in the global section’s work, I had this deep feeling that I was working for every young person in anthroposophy to have a chance to find what they are looking for, to have a chance to connect, to have a chance to know what is happening in different countries where they could join in. I think the most important goal for me*

*was to try to be (as Youth Section) as open, inviting, welcoming, approachable for every young person as possible. However, I had this weird feeling that I was more needed in my country... It was very sad for me, even though working for the international network actually means you are doing good for the whole organism, including your country, and it felt as such an important thing to do and I loved it, I still felt like my place was in my country...(I knew I would go back soon, I was never supposed to stay in Dornach forever, but I still had this weird feeling).”*

*“I didn't know about the Youth Section or international youth groups before my stay, looking forward, I intend to connect into these international movements. I will be attending a conference in April with YIP that I wouldn't have known about if not for my stay in the Youth Section House. I would offer the feedback that the Youth Section at the Goetheanum could consider being open to more folk like me joining the team as an entry point to youth work, not just people coming from youth groups already.”*

*“I was very impressed by how international it is. It was illuminating to mix with so many different cultures.”*

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**Did you feel welcomed by the team and by other co-workers? While at the Youth Section did you struggle with something in particular? Did you receive attention and support from the others?**

*“Absolutely. I was very welcomed, I was very lucky, I knew almost everyone there already and I knew I wanted to work with them, so it felt like reuniting with your friends and having a chance to spend much more time with them. While being in Dornach I think I mostly struggled with feeling I wasn’t doing enough... And I felt like, oh, if I had a person who could push me more, be demanding of me OR who could do this project with me, I could do better things, but I think it*

*really grew me as a person to know that this is on me solely, and that I should take on things individually too. However, from this perspective I'm very happy with what I did during my stay there and I think that was just my character of always wanting to do more, always going for the maximum. In general, for the most part I definitely feel like I had an amazing support system. I could tell anything to literally any member of the team and I knew they would listen, they would empathize with it, they would support me, and they did.*

*Also, when I was organizing an economic conference I felt utterly supported, everyone did their best to take pressure off of me, they helped in so many ways, they took on many jobs and tasks without complaining, but on the contrary. On the morning of the conference they asked me: What can we do to make you feel safe and calm? And I said: we all should know that we are in this together, to have each other's back. And they said they would do it. And they exceeded all of my expectations. I think it was my favorite moment of the whole time I spent in Dornach."*

*"I did feel welcomed, for the most part. I would have loved to be brought more into the Youth Section work but I understand that it was a busy time. At times I felt excluded because I didn't fully understand what was being discussed in the meetings, which made it challenging to fully engage. Of course there were little things with the house but generally I would say that I felt very welcomed and supported by the house team and Gabriele in particular."*

*"I always felt very welcome. Sometimes there were problems of coexistence in the shared tasks of the home, but there was always help available and a good predisposition from everyone to want to overcome the complications."*

*"The team was great, and I loved being there. Everyone was friendly to me."*

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**Were you involved in helping to create and host an event? What did it mean for you to be able to come as a long-term guest and focus on this with other young people?**

*"Yes, I was involved in several events – World Goetheanum forum; Frage! Begegne! Spiele!; Student day;... These experiences for me meant more responsibility, I could also feel that I had a chance to do something great with the opportunity I had, to make things happen, to have an impact... To not wait for someone else but to take charge... be that person who creates space for others. You will always want to use this chance and do the thing/prepare for it as best as you can, then you host it and people come and join in and then what comes out of it is already not solely in your hands but everyone creates it together. It's a very complex experience I would say."*

*"At events I was more involved in helping in the kitchen or in details. I felt that there was room for me to take on more responsibilities, but if I didn't take them on it was because I didn't feel ready for the circumstances and that was always very respected. Being in the Youth Section meant for me to better understand the spirit of the Section. Having started one in Cordoba without fully understanding what it was about, it was very nice for me to see how in different parts of the world the Section can be so different but the root of the impulse is always the same. The Youth Section at the Goetheanum is a meeting point where you can observe the sections of the world from the periphery."*

**What stands out from your experience with the art sessions and creative projects?**

*“Art sessions definitely left me with the feeling that I should do more art. Now I’m back in Georgia and I intend to take part in a theatre project in summer, it seems like the most uncomfortable thing to do and I want to take on this challenge. Experimenting with light horses and then performing it was an experience that definitely stands out to me. I loved the process even though I was very self-conscious. Having new relationship with light, color, music, shapes was something that I still carry. Figuring out ways to be creative, look at things from creative point of view has been such an important skill to have in Georgia right now. We have protests and every day I try to find ways how to protest in a way that it could be meaningful, to have big effect but not to need a lot of resources... It’s very challenging.”*

*“Honestly, these were often challenging for me. I think I just have a different learning and engagement style, they were often too fast paced and theoretical for me. I felt like I was meant to come up with the right answer rather than an open space of co-creation, which was challenging. I never fully grasped our mission or directive fully. Again, I was only there for a short time, so maybe with more time this would have been more clear.”*

*“In the artistic field I do not usually feel very comfortable, but in moments of shared creativity a very soft and loving atmosphere was created where I felt invited to share what I had.”*

*“We worked on the Philosophy of Freedom, and I found it to be a rich starting point for an artistic project. I hadn't been part of an art project that was so intellectually stimulating.”*



**What has stayed with you when you think back on the efforts and conversations dedicated to understanding anthroposophy?**

*“I loved our study groups. I think it’s very valuable to have time and go into different texts, topics in depth, have a chance to discuss it with others, hear how they understand it... I don’t*

*remember the name of the book but I liked Steiner's talks with students, answering different questions about Youth movement's tasks, etc. What has stayed with me is that effort to read and then relate to things from today, from your life, from yourself... And also, kind of opposite process of looking at yourself, your life, your perceptions and then putting that new thought and seeing how it will either make things clear or make things even more complicated... understanding anthroposophy to me was like looking at a compass, trying to figure out what should be your next step."*

*"I really enjoyed meeting people my age interested in holding conversations about anthroposophy for hours and hours. What I remember most is that there is no definitive answer. The best anthroposophical path is when there is constant searching."*

*"I was struck by how advanced the aesthetic sense of the community is. I continue to find myself reevaluating what this word "anthroposophy" points towards. I appreciate the holism of the movement."*

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**What was the significance of being able to work together on service projects while you were visiting?**

*"I think it really gave me the chance to feel like a part of the community there. I felt I was definitely doing something good, practical, beneficial for others, and I could see the fruits of my labor right away. It was a great aspect of the living."*

*"I loved this, it feels like such an essential element of youth work to me to learn how to work and be of service to the community. To learn that we are capable beings with much to offer. I loved being a part of these efforts of, to me, applied anthroposophy."*

*"Working as a team is a great science that is always being learned. But with the foundations of commitment and enthusiasm, everything can work."*

*"I brought back a new appreciation for cleaning."*



**Looking back on living in the Youth Section House as a carrying member and host, is there something you would like to share?**

*“Taking care of the Youth Section house was very special. I loved being a host, I loved welcoming people, I loved that this space hosts so many young people either to stay in the “hostel”, or to spend evenings with us playing cards, or to have a cup of coffee in the morning. But I’m not going to lie, it was challenging too. There are people with whom you share this space and these people are a lot, sometimes total strangers, sometimes a little bit weird. I was trying to have positive thoughts, and also not to take things personally, to have some boundaries but to be open at the same time.*

*I loved our House Meetings! We would discuss our week, tasks, give each other feedback directly (this felt like the most important part, because there were times when we would have things to say to each other regarding our tasks or our habits, etc. and if these things aren’t said, the situation can feel tense, and so this meeting was conditioning us in a way to say those things and feel much better afterwards), we would play a little game etc. It really was very helpful.*

*I also loved to take care of the house cleanliness, cleaning the floor with Tom was my highlight. I struggled with cooking a bit, I couldn’t think of what to cook for the shared lunches.*

*One thing that I want to say though is that sometimes taking care of the House was very overwhelming. I definitely thought I would spend way less time in doing house chores than I did. And at that time I felt like house chores were taking time out of doing something that would feel more valuable to me. But actually it taught me so much. After I returned to Georgia I realized how important it is to take very good care of the place where you do your work, where you host people, etc.”*

*“I want to share my love and gratitude to all the amazing people, to the house, to the community, for this beautiful time I had the pleasure of experiencing. I loved it so much and will treasure the memories and connections for years to come. I hope that the work I focused on; building community connection and strengthening the connection between the Youth Section House and on campus studying youth, as well as all my cleaning and hearth tending efforts continue to build and grow. With so much gratitude!”*

*“Living there is a laboratory for coexistence, the best and the worst of each person and of humanity comes to light. It is extremely important to give ourselves spaces for conversation to release tensions and coordinate as an organism.”*

*“I’m very grateful for the opportunity, and I’m frankly amazed by what a dreamlike flow it all was. There were such novel experiences around every corner in that house.”*

### **VISITING YOUTH LEADERS:**

- **Ángela M.**

*Youth Section group in Buenos Aires and Córdoba, Argentina.*

*July – December*

- **Manuela S.**

*Initiator of the “Editorial Casa de Jóvenes” (Youth Publishing House) in Córdoba, Argentina.*

*July – September*

- **Keivan A.**

*Recent Waldorf graduate from Germany, active in the Waldorf SV school political student association.*

*August- present*

- **Ani J.**  
*Member of Youth Society Parzival in Matsevani, Georgia.*  
*August – November*
- **Tom V.**  
*Former student fellow at Thoreau College in Viroqua, Wisconsin (USA).*  
*August – November*
- **Harrison T.**  
*Particularly developed the light horse instruments during his time in Dornach*  
*November-December*
- **Erika K.**  
*A young Waldorf teacher*  
*December-January*
- **Ana D.**  
*Core organizer of the February Days event at the Goetheanum*  
*December - February*

**TEAM AT THE GOETHEANUM, 2024-2025**

*Jacinta Gorchs*  
*Katrina Hoven*  
*Gabriele Nys*  
*Nathaniel Williams*

