

# The Question of Consciousness Today

## A Conference with Virginia Sease

Friday evening, August 28<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup>

### REGISTRATION FORM

This special conference with Virginia Sease is open to members of the Anthroposophical Society and members of the School for Spiritual Science. Friday's lecture is open to the public. Saturday and Sunday meals and snacks will be catered and are included as part of the conference fee. This event is sponsored by the Portland Branch of the Anthroposophical Society. We have discounted work-study positions. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. To request work study or a full or partial scholarship contact James Lee at [anthroposophynow@comcast.net](mailto:anthroposophynow@comcast.net).

**Registration Conference Fee:** (Select the one that applies to you):

I am a member of the School for Spiritual Science. **\$250**

The conference fee includes access to the Friday evening lecture and five lectures on Saturday and Sunday. The conference fee includes two catered lunches; one catered dinner and catered snacks. **Blue Card required.**

I am a member of the Anthroposophical Society and not a member of the School for Spiritual Science. **\$150**

The conference fee includes access to the Friday evening lecture and two Anthroposophical Society members' lectures on Saturday. It also includes one catered lunch, one catered dinner and catered snacks. **Pink Card required.**

**Meals:** Lunches and dinner included in the conference fee will consist of a poultry-based main course, predominantly vegetarian offerings, and gluten and dairy free options. Please indicate your primary food preference here:

**Poultry**

**Vegetarian**

**Gluten Free**

**Dairy Free**

**Lodging:** When planning your stay in Portland, you will find that there are numerous lodging options available. Traveling around Portland is rather easy and flexible most times of the day. The conference venue is located at the Cedarwood Waldorf School, 3030 SW 2nd Ave. Portland OR 97201. Parking is available on the streets near the school.

**Home Stays:** There may be a few community home stay possibilities provided by local members, subject to availability. The charge for a room and bathroom is typically \$35. If you are interested in a home stay, please indicate that preference by checking here:  . We will contact you and let you know if a home stay is available.

Name: <input type="text"/>	Nametag Name: <input type="text"/>
Address: <input type="text"/>	
E-mail: <input type="text"/>	Mobile Phone: <input type="text"/>

Please make your check out to "The Portland Branch" and write "Virginia Sease Conference" in the memo line. Mail your Early Registration form and check as soon as possible and before August 1, 2015 to: "Ruth Klein, Treasurer – Portland Branch, 3609 SE Center Street, Portland OR 97202."

You can submit your registration form and make a payment using PayPal or your credit card at the Portland Branch website: <http://www.portlandanthroposophy.org/question-of-consciousness>.

## Conference Schedule

**All conference events take place at the Cedarwood Waldorf School, 3030 SW 2nd Ave. Portland OR 97201.**

### Friday

7:00 PM–9:00 PM: **Public lecture:** Rudolf Steiner's Contribution to the Question of Consciousness for Contemporary Life

### Saturday

9:30 AM: Transportation to conference venue.

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM: **AS Members Lecture 1: The Enigma of Reincarnation Today and the Activity of the Hierarchies**

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM: Break with Snacks

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM: Conversation about the Lecture

12:30 AM – 2:30 PM: **Catered Lunch and Break for First Class and AS Member Participants at the Conference**

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM: **Art Exhibition in the Art Hall** at the Cedarwood Waldorf School, curated by Robin Lieberman.

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM: Break with Snacks

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM **AS Members Lecture 2:** The Development of the Human Ego in the Era of the Etheric Christ

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM: Conversation about the Lecture

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM: **Catered Dinner for First Class and AS Member Participants at the Conference**

7:30 PM – 8:30 PM: **First Class Members Lecture 1:** Silence When Meeting Inner and Outer Experiences of the Threshold

### Sunday

8:30 AM: Transportation to conference venue.

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM: **First Class Members Lecture 2:** Rudolf Steiner's Esotericism before 1914 and its Metamorphosis in the Lessons of the First Class

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM: Break with Snacks

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM: Conversation about the Lecture

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM: **First Class Members Lecture 3:** A Pathway through the 19 Lessons of the School for Spiritual Science: Encounters with the Hierarchies

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM: **Catered Lunch for First Class Members**

## Lecture Descriptions:

Friday Evening

### **Public Lecture: “Rudolf Steiner's Contribution to the Question of Consciousness for Contemporary Life”**

Today Rudolf Steiner (1861 - 1925) is well-known in many spheres of life such as Waldorf education, medicine, therapy, bio-dynamic farming, architecture and art forms in general, and other endeavors which arise out of the impulse of Anthroposophy (the wisdom of the human being) which he developed. In addition to these fields he may also be credited as a clear thinker who introduced not only very clear and comprehensive descriptions of human consciousness and its evolution but also examples to illustrate his findings. We need only embark on a journey through some of his best-known works such as "Philosophy of Freedom", "How to Attain Knowledge of the Higher Worlds", "Esoteric Science, an Outline" and many more as well as his 6,000 lectures which were recorded in shorthand to discover that this enormous edifice - which also includes his artistic work: 4 Mystery Dramas, 2 large buildings called "Goetheanum", a more than 8 m high wooden sculpture - has its fulcrum in consciousness in all of its manifold diversifications.

The greatest contribution of Rudolf Steiner in regard to consciousness may be summed up in one sentence: All life, all evolution arises and subsists as consciousness and develops further as consciousness.

In this presentation Virginia Sease will describe some of the steps in the evolution of consciousness with a special emphasis on the importance of the integrity of the individual of the human being as a decisive factor in the disparities of civilization today.

Saturday Morning

**AS Membership Lecture I: "The Enigma of Reincarnation Today and the Activity of the Hierarchies"**

Many people in our time from childhood on have a feeling that they have previously experienced life on the earth before their present one. Moments or situations come over them with the sense: I know this; I have experienced this before. This experience often becomes the impetus for them to set out on a search for the reality of their identity. For example, a gifted person might ask "Why do I have this particular talent and others do not?" The former answer frequently given no longer suffices: "it is because of grace". Today the recognition of reincarnation is widespread, therefore the question no longer concerns whether reincarnation exists but rather how does it work.

Rudolf Steiner, as no other spiritual researcher before or after, provides insights into the preparation for a new earthly life. In this preparation the spiritual hierarchies play a decisive role which we will form a central aspect of this lecture and the following discussion.

Saturday Afternoon

**AS Membership Lecture II: "The Development of the Human Ego in the Era of the Etheric Christ"**

To comprehend the complexities of the human ego it helps to become acquainted with the differentiation in regard to the ego which Rudolf Steiner described from various aspects. After considering these differentiations we will approach our theme through two special meditations by Rudolf Steiner which provide a background for the era of the accessibility of the Christ-Being in the etheric world. This pathway will lead through historical developments up to the dimensions of consciousness necessary for humanity today. The degree of I-consciousness which human beings can achieve in our present time will also determine how their spiritual endeavors to comprehend the Christ Mystery will work on in the future both for the individual as well as for humankind. It is important today to recognize at least from a cognitive perspective the reality of the presence of the Christ within the etheric sphere.

Saturday Evening

**Members of the First Class 1: "Silence When Meeting Inner and Outer Experiences of the Threshold"**

In approaching the necessity for silence in regard to the threshold between the physical and the supersensible worlds we will focus on several main aspects: the significance of silence for the inner life based on cultural history; Rudolf Steiner's understanding of "silent knowledge" and the development of inspiration; the encounter of silence, listening and speaking in the last three mantric situations in the Class Lessons (17, 18, 19).

Sunday Morning

**Members of the First Class II: "Rudolf Steiner's Esotericism before 1914 and its Metamorphosis in the Lessons of the First Class"**

Now after more than a century we can regard Rudolf Steiner's exoteric and esoteric contribution through Spiritual Science as an integrated continuum which through its innate flexibility and dimension/scope could find expression in

1. the content appropriate for the work of the Esoteric School (1904 - 1914) and the work with ritual (1906 - 1914)
2. in the form for the content
3. in the verbal expression

With the inauguration of the Michael School on earth (1924) the prior content was significantly increased, the form underwent some vital changes and the verbal dimension may be regarded as highest achievement in cognitive-mantric expression, which, however, bears witness to earlier achievements in this domain. Examples will assist us in perceiving such metamorphoses.

**Members of the First Class III: "A Pathway through the 19 Lessons of the School for Spiritual Science: Encounters with the Hierarchies".**

The role of the hierarchies becomes more and more decisive as the Class lessons proceed and the human being's awareness of them progressively develops. This awareness proves to be of ultimate significance on the pathway.