

CHRISTIANE HAID IN MONTREAL

9 - 10 SEPTEMBER, 2017

FAUST – REPRESENTATIVE OF MODERN MAN

Saturday, September 9th, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

Location: École Rudolf Steiner de Montréal
4855 Kensington

Admission: 20\$ (Students and Seniors -18\$)

The fundamental questions confronting human beings today are those having to do with the limits of knowledge, the encounter with evil, death, love, and power. Faust's career path provides a privileged insight into the plight of contemporary human beings: besides being a scientist, Faust has expertise in the fields of law, medicine, theology and philosophy. And yet he comes to realise that he understands neither the world nor himself, and that he is incapable of grasping the deeper meaning of existence. His inability to fathom the secrets of life and nature lead him, in a moment of doubt, to contemplate suicide. Completely isolated from everything and everyone, he delves into the practice of magic. He soon finds himself in such a state of depression that he is on the verge of taking his own life. Yet, somehow, he is miraculously saved, and decides to leave the confines of his gloomy study. He then meets the Devil, with whom he makes a pact. Mephistopheles entices him to learn to know the world, and this inaugurates the period of Faust's life during which he gradually gives in to all of life's temptations; he readily succumbs to the allurements of love, power and money. The pact he signs with the Devil chains him to the earth and prevents him from becoming a true human being through his own forces. He is only saved in the end by Gretchen, the sweetheart he had cruelly abandoned. The Faust story brings to light the challenges confronting us as human beings in today's world, where, freed from divine guidance, must find our own way to our inner self and our higher nature. The confrontation with evil can serve as a stimulus to undertake this quest.



Dorothea Templeton

THE MISSION AND TASK OF THE SECTION FOR LITERARY ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Sunday, September 10th, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

263 Duluth St. East.

The Section for Literary Arts and the Humanities was founded at the Goetheanum at the beginning of the last century. This field of human endeavour had been flourishing since the 18th century. Rudolf Steiner stated that its primary task was to create a bridge between science and art, between knowledge and creative imagination. Recognising its importance for the spiritual life of mankind, he lamented the fact that it was: “a field that, unfortunately for our human civilisation, has been put into a corner.” The poet Albert Steffen took on the leadership of this Section at the time of the founding of the School for Spiritual Science. The literary arts and the humanities have become ever more relevant in our digital age where everything is quantified and our culture is increasingly determined by mass media. Language is being misused for purposes of manipulating public opinion and spreading lies. And the human spirit is in danger of losing its very identity.

A renewed awareness of language and its various dimensions, extending to the primeval Logos itself, is an essential tool for preserving the quality of true humanness. Languages, literature, the history of the mysteries and philosophy all provide invaluable references for us today if we wish to work towards guaranteeing a positive future for our human civilisation.

For information:

Arie van Ameringen: 450-295-2387



BIOGRAPHY

Christiane Haid was born in 1965, and took courses in education, German studies, history and art in Freiburg and Hamburg. In 1993, she worked as a research fellow in the Friedrich von Hardenberg institute for Culture and Science in Heidelberg, did research into the history of anthroposophy in the Section for the Literary Arts and the Humanities at the Goetheanum in 2001, and was also a research fellow for the Albert Steffen foundation in 2006. She completed her doctoral thesis in 2012 on “Myth, Dream and Imagination in the Works of Albert Steffen.” She heads the Goetheanum publishing house in Dornach and has been leader of the Section for the Literary Arts and the Humanities since 2012.

Both lectures will be given in English. French translation may be