



The Anthroposophical Society  
La Société Anthroposophique Canada

## January Enews 2024



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### *Promise*

*Remember, the time of year  
when the future appears  
like a blank sheet of paper  
a clean calendar, a new chance.  
On thick white snow  
You vow fresh footprints  
then watch them go  
with the wind's hearty gust.  
Fill your glass. Here's tae us. Promises  
made to be broken, made to last.*

Jackie Kay

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### **A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY**

From the Working group "Future of the Anthroposophical Society"  
as part of the members' forums at the Goetheanum

Dear Readers,  
In view of the 100th anniversary of the Christmas Conference and the founding of the Anthroposophical Society, we believe that we need a new self-image and a shared vision for the future.

This vision for the future of the Anthroposophical Society was developed during the members' forums at the Goetheanum in the summer and fall of 2023.

More than a dozen members were involved in the working group. Contributors to the specific formulation of this text were: Agnes Hardorp, Elisabeth Kurz, Enno Schmidt, Moritz Christoph, Reinhild Engelen, Rozanne Hartmann and Thomas Mayer.

This vision describes a long-term orientation and long-term projects for the coming decades. We look forward to lively discussions and feedback. The principles of this vision will then be presented to the General Assembly of the Anthroposophical Society in Dornach for approval.

(This brochure is available as a PDF at the website of [the Anthroposophical Society in Canada](#). It is 40 pages long. To see past the first page hover your cursor over the bottom line of the document and click on the numbers.)

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How can the vision of the future be further developed?

### ANTHROPOSOPHICAL BOOKS-EAST

Paper Pipit - Toronto

[website](#)



### ANTHROPOSOPHICAL BOOKS - WEST

Freya Sophia Waldorf Store, Duncan BC

[on facebook](#)



# Reflections on the Foundation Stone Meditation from Catarina Burisch (Part 1 of 4)



*Throughout the past year, in the many celebratory events marking the centenary of the Christmas Conference, we returned ever and again to the structure and content of the Foundation Stone Meditation.*

*During the North America Festival of Initiative, each day began with reflections on one of the panels of the meditation. Each contribution helped set the tone and focus for the day. Many found these reflections deeply insightful and helpful for our individual work with this meditation.*

*In the spirit of bringing more of what was built up over this unique year, we are now sharing these contribution with you. Beginning with this first panel, over the coming months we will bring what came at the beginning of each day. We hope these thoughts will contribute to your own contemplation on this central meditation for Anthroposophy's realization.*

*Human Soul, You Live Within the Limbs*  
Reflections by Catarina Burisch

*Radiant light, formidable shadows*  
*Seek inner peace and find your orientation*  
*a Manichean maxim*

The Foundation Stone and specifically the first panel, is an orientation in space. The space we discover on earth, held by gravity and within our physical body. With our body we discover polarities; we descend from wide fields of light into earth's denser darkness and with ever more narrowing into the vessel of our physical body. A vertical gesture is being created.

We are born of the Word. The Word speaks: *Human Soul!*

Such an important polarity from *human/temporal* and *soul/eternal*. This is a call, the call of the Word. A sound, a word when spoken seeks to be heard, by ourselves, others, the world. This call echoes through the wide spaces right into our individual soul. The Foundation Stone calls out to the individual soul from the wide spaces, seeking to be heard, discerned, understood. It speaks to you, to me. Each one of us is being addressed, how to orient our life.

This is a call to each of us to experience our own personal incarnation as a soul into a physical human body, in this life. An experience of great contraction – consolidation.


[CONTINUE READING HERE](#)



## Susan Smith - Obituary

Susan Smith (nee Patterson), passed away peacefully on December 25, 2023, at the age of 78 in Stratford, Ontario. I remember meeting Susan in my living room in London, Ontario, perhaps in 1977. She had seen our ads for starting a Waldorf school, was curious, and wanted to find out more and be part of the effort. She soon became an energetic working member of the Waldorf Education Interest Group, helping with our activities and meetings. She had a special gift for writing letters to the editor of the London Free Press, where she extolled the virtues of Waldorf education at a time when she was a public school teacher, explaining to us that she needed to sign her letters with initials, her maiden name, or other disguises so as not to lose her job.

Susan championed Waldorf education. A labour of love, her book "Echoes of a Dream" served to inspire creativity in parents and children. The book, conceived as a fundraiser for the London Waldorf School, reached readers around the world.



Susan also became a devoted member of the Anthroposophical Study Group, which was initially led by Dr. Kenneth McAlister, faithfully attending Sunday night meetings in living rooms for many years, even after she moved to neighbouring Thamesford and broke all speed limits to arrive in time. She became a member of the Anthroposophical Society in Canada in 1985 and a member of the First Class in 1999. This all became more challenging after her move to Stratford, but her most recent attendance to the study group was online during the pandemic, as she gamely adapted to the technology with smiles and grace. While living at the farm in Thamesford and later in a home in Stratford, she and her husband Alan hosted June end-of-year study group potluck gatherings, with readings and a warm and gracious receiving of us all. And music—I was particularly struck by her piano accompanying of her cellist daughter Gwendolyn and others: how she was able to play with the light touch needed to highlight the other instrument, not always easy for someone of her advanced skill.

Susan can be seen in the dedication photo for the London Waldorf School in September 1980 and was active in supporting the school through her three daughters' graduations.

A transformative move took Susan, Alan and their three children to a property near Thamesford in 1985. During these 32 years, Susan juggled her career with tasks related to homesteading, raising her family, and land care. Here, Susan's stewardship work extended beyond gardening and helping to plant and care for 4000 plus trees. As a board member of the Land Trust ROSE (Redeeming Our Soil Economically), she helped establish the organic operation at Sunnive Farm. Susan had a deep interest in biodynamic farming and nutrition. I remember being in awe of her cooking—how she purchased a special grain grinder from Europe to mill the flour for her baking, cooking without recipes in her wood-burning stove, and serving us lacto-fermented beverages, delicious and rich in accessible nutrients. Her daughters' classes and others were also able to visit her farm to pick dandelions for biodynamic composting make cider from the farm's apples with a hand-powered press.

We were saddened by losing Susan and her family to Stratford and tried to keep in touch. I called her on her birthday a year ago and was struck by how warm and articulate she was about deeply felt memories from her childhood. When I called on her in November this year, I was shocked to hear of her illness from her husband Alan, and then a month later that she was in the hospital in palliative care and on a waiting list for hospice. On December 23, we visited her at the Stratford hospital and found that she was mostly asleep but struggling to awaken when called by her daughters, who told her that we were there. With her eyes barely open, she said, twice, "We will be together." This is our last precious memory of her, and we hold it along with images of her whole beautiful family-- Alan and her three daughters: Bronwen (Graham), Gwendolyn (Hoai), and Arianwen (Sal) and her cherished grandchildren Dylan, Roy, Noah, Leah, and Francis—as we keep them all in our thoughts.

Carol Lewis, London, Ontario

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## **The Literary Arts Section Update from Bruce Donehower** (painting below by Marion Donehower "Die Feuerpredigt")





Dear Friends:

Our first meeting in the year 2024 for friends and members of the Section for the Literary Arts and Humanities of the School for Spiritual Science in North America is Saturday, February 3, 7-8 pm Pacific.

At this meeting we can catch up on what everyone has been doing, and I'll preview what's ahead for 2024 and highlight some important themes. I'll send the Zoom credentials to interested persons on February 2.

Hold the Dates: *The Genius of Language: 2024 North American Conference of the Section for the Literary Arts and Humanities.*

**The conference will occur in September 2024 in two North American locations** : San Francisco (September 7, 2024); Toronto (September 13 - 15, 2024). Christiane Haid, Section leader from the Goetheanum, will attend at both locations. This is a conference for friends and members of the Section. Keep an eye on the **Section website** for details, soon to appear. (***The Genius of Language; Rudolf Steiner: 6 Lectures given to the first Waldorf teachers, Stuttgart, Dec. 26 1919 - Jan. 3, 1920***)

Read More: [The Literary Arts Website](#)



### **New Online Study Group Offering: *Karmic Relationships***

S. Prokofieff speaks to three great gifts bequeathed to us through the Christmas Conference: the Foundation Stone Meditation, the Lessons of the Michael School, and the Karma Lectures. From Jan. 1924 to Sept., R. Steiner travelled throughout Europe giving these 84 lectures of Karmic Relationships, shortly before his

### **“At The Turning Point of Time”: The New Mysteries and the Development of the Human Heart Cognition with Christine Gruwez**

untimely death. These lectures weave together mighty events in the spiritual world, where we prepare with the hierarchies, our future lives; and historic events upon the earth which prepare the revelations of Anthroposophy.

There is no doubt these were given to help us to perceive our own karma, our karma with each other, and with Rudolf Steiner himself.

Our study group meets online, biweekly, to hear a summary of a chosen lecture, and to share our experiences. Please join us if you would like to understand these laws of karma and destiny, and to honour this gift that was given to us 100 years ago.

Next meeting: Wed. Jan, 31, 6:00 p.m. AST.; 5:00 EST. , and two weeks later.

Please contact: [sharon.ballah@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.ballah@gmail.com)

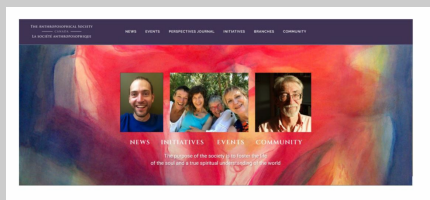


Saturday, February 10, 2024 12:00 – 2:30 PM (EST) Zoom presentation by Christine Gruwez from Antwerp, Belgium, Europe

For information, please contact:  
Dorothy LeBaron:  
[lebaron@nauticalmind.com](mailto:lebaron@nauticalmind.com)

\$15 suggested donation The link to the Zoom Meeting, will be available a week prior to the meeting.

[Read More Here](#)



## ASC Website Events Calendar

We are now posting events from across the country on the website events calendar. Email text and images to [communications@anthroposophy.ca](mailto:communications@anthroposophy.ca)

Link to [EVENTS](#)

## Contact Info

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## ARTICLES and NOTICES FOR ENEWS

Please send correspondence in either Word doc or PDF (without formatting except for paragraphs) before the 15th of the month before publication. If you are including photographs please also attach a pdf showing placement. Articles over 1,500 words may be edited.

Send to:  
[communications@anthroposophy.ca](mailto:communications@anthroposophy.ca)



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