



The Anthroposophical Society
La Société Anthroposophique Canada

December Enews 2024

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Notes from Communications:

Friend Us on [Facebook](#)

Reminder: Please complete the Society Survey Know Thyself. The purpose of the survey is for the society to know itself better through a database of contact information and activity. Read more [here](#).

Book Reviews: Members, please consider writing reviews for the enews of new anthroposophical literature you are reading. Send to communications@anthroposophy.ca

Contributions for Perspectives 2025

As mentioned in the October enews, the theme of this year's Perspectives journal 'Encountering Polarization'. The communications working group has received several offers to write on this topic from members from the point of view of personal experience. However, we have room for a few more pieces.

We and the Council feel that a deeper reckoning with how polarization is working in us as anthroposophists would be a healing gesture to explore. We are looking for members who want to write about their experience of polarization, not about the point of view they brought to a particular polarizing issue but the experience of living in opposition or polarity with one another. We imagine this issue consisting of many small pieces rather than four larger ones. If you are interested please email:

Copies on 2024 Enews in English are now on the website. Menu: JOIN US, then, MEMBERS' AREA, then, ENEWS. French versions coming soon.

Research: The latest research piece to be added to the Research page of the website is called **"Music, Healing and Human Rights"** by Elizabeth Carmack. Found [**HERE**](#)
The Research page can be found under the COMMUNITY tab in the website menu.



NEW ASC BRANCH IN BC

The Council would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest branch of

the Anthroposophical Society in Canada: the Kootenay BC branch! Located in south eastern British Columbia, the area is a long time focal point of anthroposophical projects including the Nelson Waldorf School, a biodynamic farm, and currently two study groups, one more than 25 years old. The last branch to form, two years ago, was the Vancouver Island Branch based in Duncan BC.



Recommendations for the Next General Secretary

Last chance to send in your recommendation for our next General Secretary. All submissions must be received by December 31. Please send to Claudette Leblanc at admin@anthroposophy.ca.

Dear Members of the Anthroposophical Society in Canada

As we approach Christmas, we will be taking up the important task of searching for our next General Secretary. It was during the Christmas Conference that Rudolf Steiner appointed the first circle of General Secretaries and spoke of the importance of their tasks and responsibilities. In Canada, this is a seven year appointment with an option for renewing the task. For the past six years, Bert Chase has carried these responsibilities and has made the decision to now step back.

The General Secretary provides a significant function within our complex anthroposophical world. The primary function is to serve as a bridge; a bridge between the General Anthroposophical Society and the Society in Canada, and to bridge the activities of the Society and that of the School for Spiritual Science. The process for finding the individual who can best carry these responsibilities at this time is structured to take all of these elements into account. This important search begins with you, the members here in Canada.

This first step begins with each of you. In the months ahead, we ask that you quietly consider those who you feel are best able to carry these responsibilities into the coming years. This individual should be active both in the Society and the activities of the School, and be able to be considered for the responsibilities of class holder. Please carry this individually, not discussing it with others. Most especially do not speak with the individual you are considering. The importance of this is critical and will become clear with the subsequent steps in the process. If, out of your reflections you would like to put forward someone for consideration, please share your proposal in a letter to our administrator Claudette Leblanc at admin@anthroposophy.ca. Please include your reasons for the recommendation. Your letter should be delivered to the administrator before Christmas.

During the Holy Nights the second step takes place. Your letters will be entrusted to a joint committee composed of members of the Council and the Circle of Class Holders in Canada. They will carefully consider each proposal, coming to agreement on who they can support and recommend for the next step.

The committee's recommendation then goes to the Executive Council at the Goetheanum. As the General Secretary is a working colleague of the Executive Council, their recognition and support of the individual is essential. It is only after the Executive Council has recognized the individual as colleague, that the individual is contacted and asked if they are willing to take up the tasks and responsibilities of the next General Secretary. These steps are to be completed by Easter 2025.

The final step is the affirmation of the proposed new General Secretary in our upcoming Annual General Meeting in May 2025.

The Circle of General Secretaries forms a critical global network that carries the consciousness of the worldwide membership to both the Goetheanum Leadership and the country Councils. Each meets twice a year. To fulfill these responsibilities, the General Secretary is an active member of both the Council in Canada, and the Circle of Country Representatives.

We very much look forward to working with each of you as we move forward on this important task.

With warm wishes,

Catarina

Catarina Burisch

President, Anthroposophical Society in Canada

Anthroposophy Canada Wide Zoom Recordings Now on ASC Website



ANTHROPOSOLOGY CANADA WIDE

Sunday December 8th

1pm PST, 3pm Central, 4pm EST and 5pm Atlantic

THE ANTHROPOSOPHICAL PATH

An Experiential Introduction

A 90-minute workshop with Robert McKay
An experiential introduction to a number of meditations
as practiced through Spiritual Science.

The Communications Committee is now hosting ANTHROPOSOLOGY CANADA WIDE on a bimonthly basis. Our first presentation was by Barbarah Nicoll which unfortunately was not recorded. Our second, on December 8th with Robert McKay, was recorded. There is now a new page in the website

where you can find this and future recordings. It is found in the menu under JOIN US, then MEMBERS' AREA

90-minute recording [HERE.](#)

A Letter From Catarina Burisch, Council President

December 2024

Dear friends,

I recently had the privilege of attending both the Class holders conference during Michaelmas at the Goetheanum in Switzerland and a few days later the annual Anthroposophical Society in America (ASA) Conference in Portland, Oregon. It was a pleasure to represent the Anthroposophical Society in Canada. I would like to share with you the contrasting impressions I had and invite you to imagine that you are viewing two paintings, one more traditional and pastoral in mood and the other more modern and urban.

The General Anthroposophical Section

Life today requires us to have values and practices which protect our essential human dignity and reflect our true being. This is a conscious task as we increasingly recognise the spiritual dimension of human and earthly existence. Our true being is always unfolding and often remains hidden as does our spiritual dimension. Yet when/if we ask ourselves "what is my soul experiencing at this moment?" we can, even if for only a fleeting moment, become



aware of our intangibility and wonder at it, even smile.

The starting point of spiritual science is human thought. The Anthroposophical Society connects people for whom knowledge is a practical life question explored through observation, reflection, and meditation. This process can become a research question by asking the powerful question “What.” What are we observing? what is changing? what is remaining the same? These powerful questions are accessible to each one of us and sharing them with others has a quickening effect on our thinking.

This meditative practice raises questions and issues which can be further developed in the context of the School of Spiritual Science. The General Anthroposophical Section cradles the School whose teachings infuse the spiritual research and work of the Sections and of the Society.

This *schooling* enables each one of us to become increasingly more effective and relevant in our personal life and in our unique knowledge working contexts. My dual path of pedagogy and psychology has provided insights into relationships and highlighted the necessity of interconnectedness. I am most grateful for the gifts it has afforded me. Being at the Goetheanum during Michaelmas and for the centenary of Rudolf Steiner’s Last Address was meaningful and memorable. The daily occurrence of hearing what Rudolf Steiner had once spoken, 100 years ago and in the same place, namely in the wood working workshop (Schreinerei), a building adjacent to the Goetheanum, had a unique quality. Having the opportunity to hear from mouth to ear over seven consecutive days a spiritual lesson, lent a distinct filter with which to experience the immediate surroundings. In turn what I observed, I brought to my encounter with the next day’s lesson. This alternating rhythmical enhancement process between spiritual and natural realities was subtly moulding my ability to perceive. Walking up to the Goetheanum three times a day for a week from my quaint lodging in Arlesheim passed flow forms, aged trees laden with chestnuts and quince, cows and donkeys grazing in the fields which one morning after a warm rain burst into slender blooming lavender-coloured colchicums. This daily rhythm was healing as I began to feel the earth not only supporting me but holding me – an intimate experience of Nature’s warm embrace. Behind me, were the rolling Jura mountains with the ruins of the Ermitage dating back to the 12th century where Parsifal is said to have received the Grail. Twice, I climbed to the top, to the ruin of the castle and admired a gentle and vast vista opening all around me which kept on unfolding into the distance. There was the regular soothing ringing of church bells, chirping birds and people walking on cobble stones. This historical and natural setting juxtaposed with the impressive grey modern architecture of the Goetheanum contributed to a conscious awakening of the senses. These sudden contrasts would also surge up on the other side of the Atlantic, in the West, on the North American continent.

The Mission of the West

A week later I was back in Canada and flying across the continent from Ontario to British Columbia. An incredibly smooth flight with clear blue sky all the way until the descent into Vancouver. From my window seat on the plane, I could marvel at the shapes of the land transforming from open fields and numerous lakes and rivers into mountain ranges, carved by glaciers, water and the undeniable traces of human activity. Two days later while driving south to Portland, Oregon I admired the display of uniquely familiar vibrant autumn colours seen from inside a van. Portland is carved by water and mountains, requiring many bridges, and is well known for its roses. No longer was I walking about and experiencing nature directly, now it was from afar and through the filters of modern transportation. I was deeply moved by the many homeless human beings struggling through life. The uncomfortable inability to assuage this pain mixed with a deep feeling of compassion welled up within me like a dark cloud.

The evening prior to the conference, we heard a spiritual lesson first given by Rudolf Steiner 100 years ago. An artistic drawing exercise quietly consolidated what we had just received. We left with the space and our hearts having been warmed and took it all into our sleep. The next day at the opening of the ASA conference, the ballroom at the Crown Plaza hotel, welcomed about 500 guests. Being addressed as “anthroposophists” in a public venue was another awakening moment. The next three days provided a vast array of rich substance. The conference began with Timothy Kennedy sharing a beautiful description of the spiritual geography of the area. His words helped situate us in both Space and Time. The eurythmy and the inspiring keynote addresses of both Marc

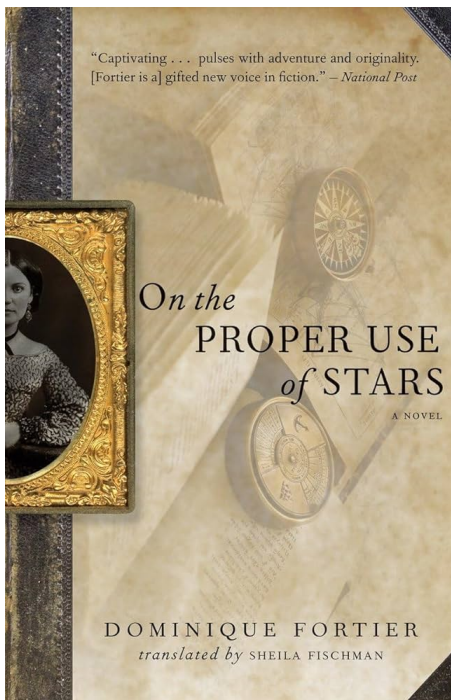
Desaules and Mary Stewart Adams depicted a dynamic imagination of the threshold. A description of the construction of the Goetheanum in space and the earthly human social experience it houses illustrated this. Imagine entering the big Hall on the second floor of the Goetheanum. The red window is at your back as you begin to descend through the many rows which seat the audience, lined by great columns. The light streams through tall coloured stained-glass windows on either side. Colourful illustrations adorn the vaulted ceiling. As you arrive at the bottom you come up to the stage. You must now ascend, turn around and face the audience. It is a threshold moment. You have moved from the vast receptive space of the audience to being on stage, facing the audience in a gesture of offering/giving.

There is a notable contrast between being at the Goetheanum and being in a conventional hotel ball room in the United States. The floor, walls and ceiling are flat, the walls beige, the lighting cool and YET the enlivening power of human togetherness, created a Goetheanum! This formidable moment was part of many more. We began to consider the power of language and the meaning of the word *America* as an ideal, as a continent, as a country with a purpose. There was the dramatic spoken presentation of Edouard Schure's play, the *Sacred Drama of Eleusis*, the traveling double dodecahedron, the warmth and richness of many varied human encounters, conversations, and meetings. The essence of the conference was indelible and significant.

The reality of three-folding and the quest of the youth seeking an orientation in a world order that has been turned around and upside down found new practical meaning and direction. We are being called to notice and find a way into this new world order, a new way to fully participate. What is homelessness next to a comfortable hotel illustrating and asking of us? What are the youth seeking? What is the future calling us to awaken to? We are each facing the abyss, seeking to find seeds of healing. Each one of us brings a unique quality, essential to the whole community. This is the great gift – the mystery of Love. The one within the whole. We are both.

Sending everyone warm Christmas wishes,

Catarina Burisch
President, Anthroposophical Society in Canada



Update From the Literary Arts and Humanities Section

Susan Koppersmith

Some of us who were fortunate to plan and attend the 2024 September LA&H Section conference in Toronto want to work together further to plan literary events in Canada. FYI, there will be another North American Section conference in May 2025 in San Francisco. Christiane Haid, our Dornach representative, will attend.

Christiane is only available for 10 days in North America. It would be ideal if we could plan a literary conference in Canada also in May 2025 and have Christiane in attendance but that is not possible as our Society's AGM and Collegium meetings take place at that time in Toronto. The program would be too full to add events from the literary arts.

Our literary arts group wants to work together to plan for a future in-person conference in Canada. Hopefully, this might happen in 2026. In the meantime, we want to be active in some way. If we can't meet in person in Canada in 2025, the next best thing is to meet on Zoom!

Our Section group wants to focus particularly on Canadian themes. Could we have

meetings that focus on novels or poetry written by Canadians? We decided YES! We would start and see if there is interest to continue.

On **Sunday March 16 at 7 pm Eastern** we are planning to have a country-wide Zoom call on the novel: ***On the Proper Use of Stars***, shortlisted in 2008 for several prizes including the French language Governor General's Award for Fiction. The author is Dominique Fortier who lives in Montreal. The book has been described as "fresh and imaginative as it weaves together the voices of Francis Crozier, Sir John Franklin's second in command, who turns a sceptical eye on the grandiose ambitions and hubris of his leader, and of Lady Jane Franklin and her niece Sophia, both driven to uncommon actions by love and by frustration as months then years pass with no word from the expedition. Fortier skilfully accents the main narratives with overheard conversations and snippets from letters that bring two entirely different worlds -- the frozen Arctic and busy Victorian London -- alive."

This book is available in French and English at your library or on Kindle or as a paperback from Amazon. We are giving advance notice to give Society members and friends time to read the book. We hope you will join us on March 16th for a discussion led by Philip Thatcher. All are welcome!

Warm greetings,
Susan Koppersmith, Philip Thatcher and Arie van Ameringen

The Birth of the Sun Hero



Signs and Symbols of the Christmas Festival

December 15, 2024
by Karin Wietrzykowski

This Christmas, we are deeply grateful for the outpouring of financial support that we have received from the anthroposophical community during our fundraiser. With these gifts, we are committed to making Rudolf Steiner's teachings more accessible online in English. Through Advent and Christmas, we continue this work by offering highlights from Dr. Steiner's lectures on the greatest gift to humanity—the birth of Christ in Man.

[The Rudolf Steiner Archive's Advent and Christmas Essay](#)

An Offering from the Anthroposophical Society in America

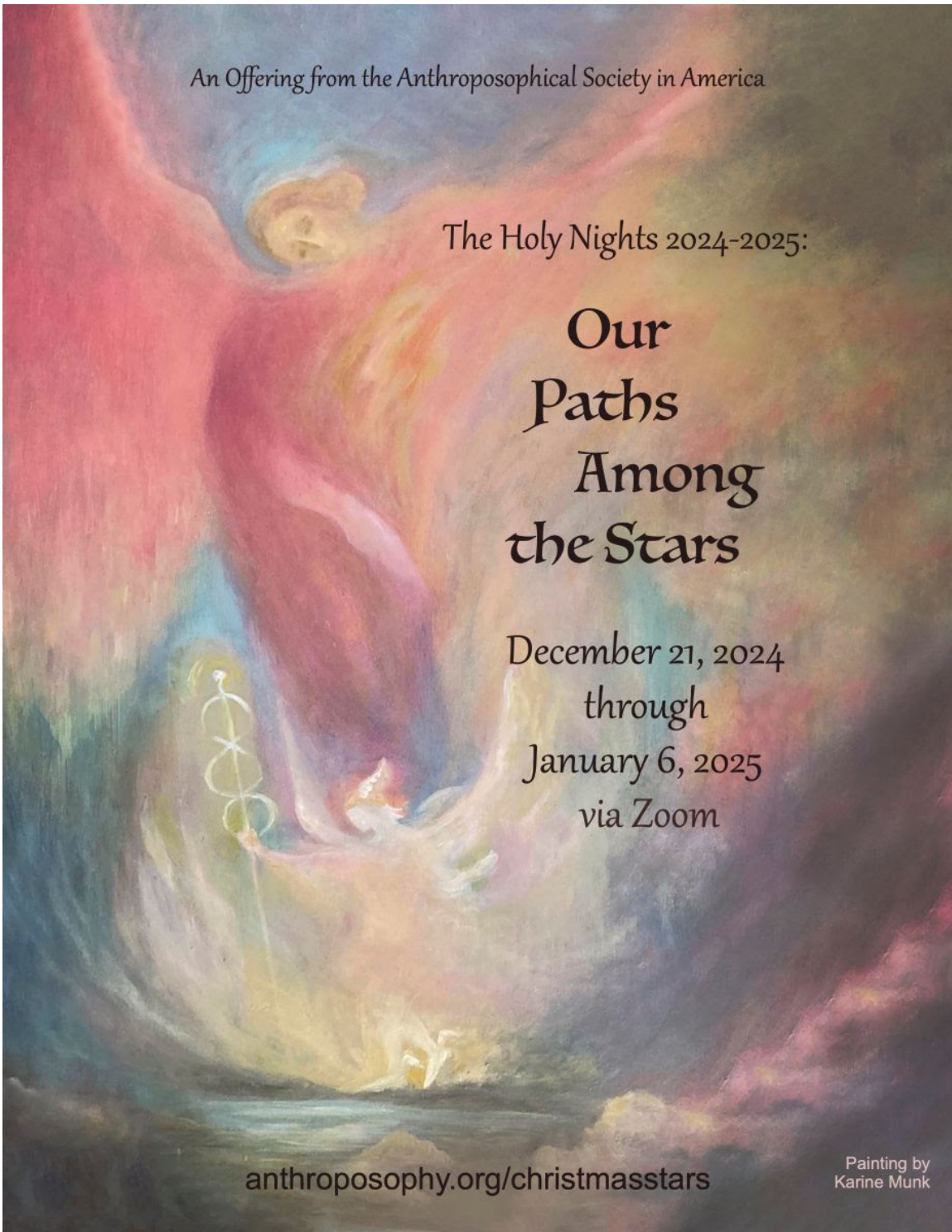
The Holy Nights 2024-2025:

Our Paths Among the Stars

December 21, 2024
through
January 6, 2025
via Zoom

anthroposophy.org/christmasstars

Painting by
Karine Munk



WHEN:

Solstice Address *with Mary Stewart Adams*

December 21, 2024

[More information and Registration Here](#)

4 pm ET / 1 pm PT for 45 min. via Zoom*

Holy Nights Sessions

December 24, 2024 – January 5, 2025

The Art of Conversation:

The Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily



January 11 to February 8, 2025

Saturdays 5:30-7:00 pm: January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8

Sundays 9:00-10:30 am: January 12, 19, 26, February 2

Online via Zoom; all times are Pacific Time.

Imagination, relationship, and soulful conversation: these are some of the leading themes of *The Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily*, written by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in 1795. This course will be a journey through the imagery of the fairy tale, meant to illuminate these themes as well as the questions that arise along the way—“What is more refreshing than light?”

Course participants will join our Early Childhood Educator Training Program and must pay for all classes within a course. Classes will be recorded and will be available for viewing for one month after the course ends.

This course is open to Waldorf educators and those interested in anthroposophy.

with Jason Yates

Read [Jason Yates'](#)
[biography](#) on our website

Course cost: \$200 CDN

For more information
please contact Ruth Ker
ece@westcoastinstitute.org
or Debbie Laurin
debbielaurin@westcoastinstitute.org

Visit our website
for more information
and to register



British Columbia, Canada | 604-740-0539
www.westcoastinstitute.org | info@westcoastinstitute.org

Study Anthroposophy ONLINE!

Join our online program "**5 Weekends of Anthroposophy**"!

Five weekends from **17 January to 16 February 2025**.

💬 Text-study and Discussion groups led by the Goetheanum faculty

🎨 Art classes and Eurythmy exercises

🖥️ Live sessions, video lectures and more!

More Information [HERE](#)

Job Posting: Membership Administrator

The Anthroposophical Society in Canada is now accepting applications from interested candidates for the role and responsibilities of administration and membership relations. This is a paid part-time position @ \$25/hr and requires on average 3 days per week. Applicants must be a member of the Anthroposophical Society in Canada. Fluency in French and English is a definite asset.

After several years of serving as membership administrator of the Anthroposophical Society in Canada, Claudette Leblanc will be looking to transfer her administrative responsibilities to another interested and capable member. Being the administrator is a great opportunity to get to know members individually and serve the membership through on-going and regular communication. There are reports and mailings to be done on a regular basis yet the greatest reward is forging meaningful relationships with members from across Canada. Strong people skills, including a positive attitude, patience and interest will enable the candidate to have a rich and positive experience as they engage with members and help meet their needs. Responsibilities include supporting the cultural development of anthroposophy with enthusiasm warmth and initiative in the following 3 areas:

1. Membership development and management

Connecting with members, and reporting members issues, concerns and challenges to Council

Processing membership applications, contributions, collections

Maintaining members reports

Preparing membership reports for council and Goetheanum

Participating in council meetings and teleconferences

2. Communication development and management

Answering phones, emails, mail; directing people to appropriate contact

Mailings and correspondence about the Society

Administering communications with Goetheanum and council

Outreach, relating in the community

Credit control of membership contributions

3. Office administration

Working knowledge computers and competency with programs such as MS Word and Excel, Constant Contact, and Dropbox

Maintaining office files and corporate archive

Reporting office actions to council

Keeping council up to date on charity and not-for-profit corporate responsibilities and regulations

Working with the bookkeeper; signing and mailing approved checks/Banking

Maintaining a record of time management for analysis by the ASC council

Candidates are invited to submit their resume by January 31, 2025 to the attention of the Hiring committee info@anthroposophy.ca

SAVE THE DATE - AUG 14-17 2025

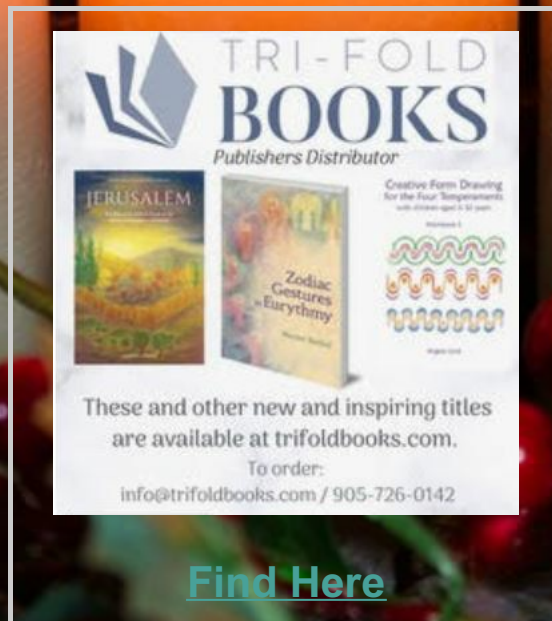
Deepening the Work of the School for Spiritual Science in North America

Space, Time, and the Human Heart

August 14-17, 2025

Threefold Education Foundation, Chestnut Ridge, NY

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN EARLY 2025 at Threefold.org



Anthroposophical Society in Canada | #130A - 1 Hesperus Road. | Thornhill, ON L4J 0G9 CA

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