

Dear Council Members,

Firstly, thank you each for dedicating so much of your time and will forces to the branch; it's the work done behind the scenes that makes the true spirit and mission of anthroposophy shine through. As young people who've grown up through Waldorf education, our lives have been immeasurably shaped by the philosophies of Rudolf Steiner. Throughout our childhoods, we've been largely unaware of the true depth of these philosophies, but now, as we cross the threshold into adulthood, many of us have found a desire to understand more of what anthroposophy has to offer. That being said, it can be difficult to know where to begin. While the branch does valuable work to continue, preserve, and expand on the lessons of anthroposophy within its own circle of members, its lectures, workshops and study groups can seem daunting and inaccessible to us as anthroposophical novices.

Thanks to our Waldorf upbringing, we have all come to understand the efficiency and the importance of learning through real-world experience. One can read about, lets say, chemistry, but until one actually *does* the experiment, until one truly plays a part in making the chemical reaction, one might never fully *understand* the subject at hand. Many of us have found something that we don't quite understand yet, but we want to understand it, and even more importantly, we want to *live* it.

It has been brought to our attention that an opportunity has presented itself to the branch that would enable us to do just that. Elderberries Threefold Cafe is exactly what we've all been hoping for: a way to extend the philosophies of anthroposophy into the realms of art and culture, economics, and social justice. We understand that it's scary to depend economically on something so new, and it's also probably hard to hand down the torch, to watch the younger generation take something that you all love in a new direction. But as that younger generation, we want to remind you that every great thing starts off small. You all as council members have an opportunity right now to support something small that has the potential to impact so many people, young and old, experts of anthroposophy and curious amateurs. Elderberries will be more than a café – it will be a lifestyle. We need this, and more importantly than that, the world needs this. Again, thank you for all you do, and for opening your hearts to the next chapter.

- The Chicago Waldorf 12th Grade Class

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Helen Murray Gorkat

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