

Dear Friends -

*“We come here
To embrace what is common in each one of us -
Our love for a higher knowledge
Which unites us in understanding.
Let this Light of Knowledge unite
Each and All of us
Making rise in each
The raising of the Other”.*
~Rudolf Steiner

On the Autumn Equinox, September 22nd 2017, The [Elderberries](#) Three-Fold Café Initiative surpassed their crowdfunding goal, raising \$25,690, enabling them to pave the way for a 3-Fold Café in the Heart-land!

Daniel Evaeus came in from LA for the [Michaelmas Festival](#) on the 23rd. He also visited CWS & got to know the city a bit.

On Sunday a group of over 35 folks from the various Steiner initiatives in the area including: [The Chicago Waldorf School](#), & The [Urban Prairie Waldorf School](#), The [Chicago Christian Community](#), [Arcturus](#), & the [Rudolf Steiner Branch](#), gathered in the upper room at the branch.

[John Bloom](#), the General Secretary of the Anthroposophical Society, his associate Mark Herrera, from [RSE](#), & Daniel Evaeus from [Elderberries 3-Fold Café](#) in LA, met at the Archer-Ginsberg home for a lunch meeting, then over to the branch for the ‘Open Conversation’, exploring how to best serve the ‘Being of Chicago’ at this time in history & talk about the future of anthroposophy.

Eurythmist Mary Ruud got everyone up to do eurythmy, as late comers were bringing in more chairs from downstairs, explaining that it was International Eurythmy Day!

I welcomed all & gave the imagination of The Archangel of Summer taking us to task to ‘make straight the path’ by holding us in 90 degree weather, before handing the seasonal chalice over to Michael. Powerful energies abound during these volatile times of transition; storms arise, as well as opportunities for growth & change. The 100 year anniversary of 3-folding was highlighted.

Branch Council Secretary Elisabeth Swisher recited the ‘Verse for America’*.

Christian Community Priest Ann Burfeind helped chair the meeting; she spoke about how the impetus for gathering was sparked by what was living in a young teacher from Urban Prairie.

Branch Council Treasurer Chuck Ginsberg shared his impressions from the [‘How We Will Forum’](#) put on by the Elderberries youth over labor day weekend in LA, where he was able to deepen his understanding of 3-Folding & was impressed by how they were able to put on such a successful event with a plethora of guest speakers, gathering over 150 attendees.

Mary Spalding from Urban Prairie spoke about how her 6th grade class, while learning about business math, decided out of themselves to create a ‘3-Fold Café’!

Many folks, including Ultra-Violet Archer, a 12th grader from CWS, spoke about how the youth were wanting to bring these kind of impulses into practice in the world. (see the [attachment for the letter](#) sent to the Branch Council from the seniors at CWS)

Eurythmist Johanna Rodhe, Kris Boshell, Educational Support teacher at CWS, & several other people told stories about feeling called to do their work here in the ‘Heart-Land’.

Many people asked Daniel to hold forth about the Elderberries mission. Mary Tom wondered if their social process was primarily geared toward underserved or at-risk youth. Daniel gave examples that featured Waldorf alum, International YIP participants, as well as helping those who were struggling; called as they all are to bring their ‘pre-natal’ pictures into focus. Along with Gordon Edwards, Mary Tom questioned whether the branch was the best location. Daniel spoke about how in LA the branch was an hour away, in Pasadena, & that they felt cut off, & so for them it was attractive to be able to have the anthroposophical impulse so close; that many young people were wanting to be able to come to 1st Class & participate in study groups & in the festival Life.

Sheila Donahue spoke about the need for good food, & hoped that perhaps Elderberries could provide a healthy school lunch?

Someone mentioned that Farmer John Peterson from [Angelic Organics](#) could be a supplier for the café. A parent from Urban Prairie, after hearing that the Café in LA was vegan & gluten free, jokingly asked if Elderberries would have sausage.

And folks wondered if [Zinniker](#), the oldest bio-dynamic farm in America, might be a resource?

Sylvie Desouches, music teacher at CWS, told the story of how her daughter was interested in the future of food, bio-dynamics & sustainability.

Handwork teacher & Renaissance woman Nancy Melvin brought up the fact that the kitchen is an important social gathering place; and also offered to host Lazure painting workshops to help bring in venue & an artistic, educational impulse.

Michael Holdrege, master teacher at CWS & beyond, told stories of holding powerful gatherings in the Cafés of Vienna.

Alex Boshell, the Athletic Director at CWS, spoke about the upcoming 100 year anniversary of the Waldorf School & the need to renew. He also expressed the hope that students could share their artistic offerings to the wider community, bringing their offerings to places like the branch.

Chuck Ginsberg agreed asking why the Branch building is so under used; except for the festivals & a few study groups, it stands empty. And Mary Ruud said because the building is always locked! Others agreed & talked about coming during public hours & that no one was there to let them in. Then Chuck gave an impassioned speech about how 'institutions are failing us because of a lack of Brotherhood'; asking 'how can we unlock the branch' to rousing applause!

Branch Member & Engineer Mihi Rosu gave a succinct definition of how the 3-Fold Social Organism worked. John Bloom filled in the picture of how each sphere needed to mutually support the others, & how the economic realm must be worked in 'Brotherhood' not out of the old patterns of fear, scarcity & 'power over'. He talked about how people sometimes get stuck when it comes to making agreements that serve the highest good. When asked if RSF could help with the lease agreements, he said yes. John talked about how people were waking up to the arrival of various 100 year anniversaries, & that the time for the 3-Fold Social Order is NOW.

Mark Herrera shared that he was a Waldorf graduate, with kids in the San Francisco Waldorf School. He has worked at RSF for over 19 years & is very excited that the Elderberries initiative is coming to Chicago.

Council Member Andrei Onegin said he would be willing to help build out the space with Elderberries, inviting his own crew of young people to help.

Kris Boshell hoped that we could make these kinds of meetings a more regular thing, & asked if we could convene again in a month?

Many were frustrated with the lack of communication between the Mother & Daughter initiatives, asking how they could become members of the branch.

Branch member Deborah Rogers closed the meeting with the 'Verse for The Michaelic Age'.

Many folks stayed for snacks, social time & further conversation downstairs. Our family hosted Daniel Evaeus & branch member Nick Novak for dinner that night. And the next day Daniel met with Andrei in the branch space, before Chuck drove him to the airport. We now await the drafting of the agreements & the signing of the lease with the Branch Council. If this cannot happen in a timely matter, (they would like to make an official announcement at the AGM in Phoenix in mid-October) then Elderberries will take up residence at another location; options were scouted in Bucktown, East Rogers Park & Uptown.

May this initiative thrive & serve the highest good for all.

May we see past the 'me' to meet the 'we'; rising in our thinking to work with the true Spirit of Chicago, healing the past, unlocking the now, to support the future, as we join our striving with the Being of Anthroposophia.

~yours in service

[Hazel Archer Ginsberg](#)

THE "AMERICAN" or "THREEFOLD" VERSE by **Rudolf Steiner** given to **Ralph Courtney**, a pioneer of Anthroposophy in North America for the Threefold Group.

**May our feeling penetrate to the center of our hearts –
And seek, in love, to unite with those who share our goals,
And with the Spirits who look down benevolently on our hearts earnest strivings.
Sending us strength from realms of light, to illuminate our love.*