## CRC Overview of the Bridging Project

In our last initiative, while striving to 'Speak with the Stars' most of us began by looking outside ourselves, trying to learn the terminology, looking up to the sky, out to the horizon, into the night, in our search to try & understand the spiritual beings working behind the wandering planets & thru the fixed constellations, seeing the connections between Sun, Moon, & Earth. Following their relationships, their continuous conversations revealed in the various alignments, learning what it is that we would speak to the stars from out of ourselves.

Those who were at the 'Festive Resounding' culmination retreat before the AGM in St. Louis, may remember that it was not for nothing that we took an experiential journey thru the planetary spheres, which every human soul encounters when they pass thru the threshold of death, only to be born into the spiritual world.

So it makes sense that we would want to continue, in a new way, to explore that world. This time within ourselves, where not only the hierarchies live, but those places in ourselves where the so-called dead, & the unborn souls waiting to come into incarnation live, which as Steiner tells us, is within our feeling & willing life. Thru spiritual science we can awaken to this, & strive to know our connection with this world of the dead that lives within us, to recognize that we share this world, to be aware of our responsibility to each other, to truly understand & work with that mysterious thing called karma. How much is this needed in the Anthroposophical society right now? We have allies on the other side that can help us, why not tap into this spiritual resource?

So around the time of the Holy Nights we began to ask ourselves: What Questions are Living in us about Dying? How can we know the mysteries of pre-existence – that time of "unborness – that other side of eternity?"

We all come through the gate of birth – we will all go through gate of death. How can we bring consciousness to these portals? Isn't death in the physical world really a birth in the spiritual world? What is the life between death and rebirth? What can we do to intentionally cross the abyss, to meet & work with the Guardian of the Threshold? How can we make anthroposophy practical in these ways?

Rudolf Steiner has written quite a bit on these subjects. And in searching for a common study, the Dietzels recommended the book "The Influence of the Dead on Destiny" which can also be found in the archives under the name: 'Historical Necessity and Freewill'- Later in the call Raven will speak to this as the basis of our study together. I'm sure you'll agree the tiles themselves are so evocative. The Influence of the Dead on Destiny, & the ideas of Necessity and Freewill... So thru this project we hope to work together to discover this important distinction - to find our true free will & use it to connect with those on the other side, 'that good may become'.

The image of building a bridge came to Marianne Fieber-Dhara, & we all agreed that this imagination really seemed to capture the essence of our project.

For in the realities that Rudolf Steiner brings us in his many teachings on communicating with our dearly departed, working with the spiritual hierarchies & coming to know the Christ, we learn, not only what the dead teach us about living, but also what it means to be human in a spiritual sense.

May we learn the importance of working beyond the threshold, in consciousness, for our own development, for the development of the so-called dead, as well as for the future evolution of the Earth.

And so it is, that we build the bridge together, that will connect us, soul to soul.

## $\sim$ Hazel Archer-Ginsberg

<u>Reverse Ritual</u> - Understanding Anthroposophy Through the Rhythms of the Year

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