

e-Correspondence

from the Central Regional Council
of the Anthroposophical Society in America



November, 2014

Communication Support:

If you are receiving this email as the contact person in your area, **please forward it on** to all the members in your group, branch or initiative. We want to ensure that all our members in the region remain connected. If you prefer that another member of your group be responsible for receiving and passing this on, please let us know. **We need your help and thank you.**

Contents:

[Regional Conference Calls](#)

[May 2015 Retreat](#)

[Cosmos and Earth - Astronomical Study Days](#)

[Saint Martin](#)

[The Descent of Inanna](#)

[I was born of the shining of distant stars](#)

[What's Happening in Our Region](#)

[International Lyre Conference](#)

[Verses for the Zodiac](#)



Speaking with the Stars project

The **Speaking with the Stars** project strives to empower us to ripen our speech, so we can work in a Michaelic way with the spiritual beings of the stars. We encourage individuals, groups and branches throughout the region to prepare for and participate in a collaborative regional Star Festival on Holy Saturday, April 4th, 2015. (include Facebook page address here)

UPCOMING REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALLS

November 18th – 7:15 pm CST (2nd Trimester)

- ⊕ Leading thoughts by Mary Stewart Adams
- ⊕ Reflections from our regional beehive cluster groups. Please consider preparing a brief report on project activities and events in your area.
- ⊕ Conversation and planning for our collective event on April 4th 2015 in preparation for the Total Lunar Eclipse on Holy Saturday of Easter Week;

Conference Call November 18, 7:15 pm CST (8:15 pm EST) → (646) 749-3131 Passcode: 497-642-861

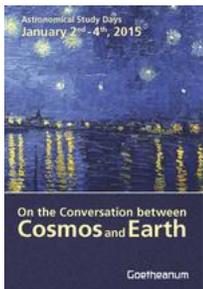
February 24th – 7:15 pm CST (3rd Trimester)

More information will be coming in January.

May 2015 retreat

The Central Regional Council is beginning to look ahead toward our May retreat!

We are looking for a great location to house this retreat to reflect on our Speaking with the Stars project as well as to look forward toward to a possible culminating event at to mark the final total lunar eclipses of the current Tetrad (Sept.28 2015). Generally we look for a retreat center location that can house up to 30 people in sleeping rooms and with common areas for group work. We are hoping to find a place that has some access to dark sky in order to continue our work with the stars. The date is not confirmed but we are looking at the first couple weekends in May preferably the weekend 15-17th. We invite suggestions or hosting offers. Please contact us with any thoughts, offers or ideas.



Astronomical Study Days

On the Conversation between Cosmos and Earth

January 2nd – 4th, 2015

At the Goetheanum in Dornach Switzerland

Program and Booking Form <http://www.goetheanum.org/Januartage-zur-Astronomie.6727.0.html?&L=1>

Saint Martin: Between Michaelmas and the Holy Nights

A study by Michael Martin: Excerpt from the forward by Helmut von Kügelgen

From autumn to the festival of Christmas, we experience different gestures of love through the beings that we celebrate and revere. With the archangel Michael, a storm of spiritual love-force goes over the world. Deep in our “I” being we feel called upon to make decisions, to place ourselves at his side, with thinking as well as with devoted will-activity. Nowadays we should not entreat Michael; we should be his co-workers. He rides on the rays of a spiritual education into the darkness of civilization.

Saint Martin moves our soul, he who shared his cloak with a beggar, who goes into battle without weapons. Compassion and love are combined with hardness towards himself, severity towards those he considers unfaithful to Christ. His love is in the deed; it does not remain only in compassion, in feeling.

The love that is prepared by saint Nicholas appears at Christmas, led by the stars to the children. Ultimately it is experienced in the manger in the stable and in the manger of the heart, in its very being.

In November, as a special blessing, come the festivals for those who have died. At this time, our love for the dead and their love for us may strengthen how spirit, soul, and body take part in the mystery of love, rising up to heaven, incarnating on earth.

Originally published in German by the Internationale Vereinigung der Waldorfkindergartene. V. Stuttgart

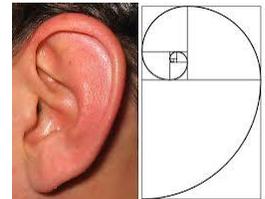


The Descent of Innana

By Hazel Archer Ginsberg - Festivals Coordinator and Council Member of the Chicago Branch of the Anthroposophical Society and the Central Regional Council.

The Descent of Innana, is an archetype of the soul in the spirit world. This myth is from Sumeria, a place that today we call Iraq, just a smidge northwest of Kuwait, where the Tigris and Euphrates meet. It depicts the descent of the Goddess Innana across the threshold. This ancient allegory is not unlike the cosmic journey that every human being takes through the planetary spheres in the life between death and rebirth. In its highest form it is a prefiguring of the 3 day descent into the underworld by The Christ at Eastertide.

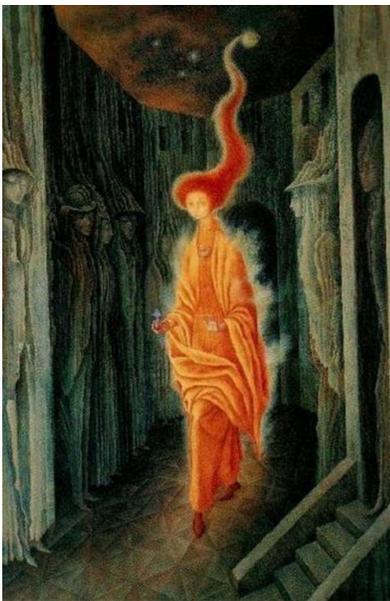
In the first line of the Wolkstein-Kramer translation we hear 'From the Great Above she set her ear to the Great Below.' Yes, the word for ear and wisdom in Sumerian are the same. Innana opens or sets her ear to the Underworld. One can imagine the ear tilted toward the depths, poised to inner listening, straining to hear those who have gone before. The symbolism of the ear is profound in this myth. A womb-like labyrinth with its secret tunnels and spiraling pathways, the ear symbolizes receptivity, a vital state of inherent potentiality.



Opening the ear to something new is in fact an 'Annunciation', a hint gestating a deeper meaning in life, a noble fate. And when we truly hear and heed it, we can answer the Call. James Hillman names such callings as signals to explore "that essential mystery at the heart of each human life."

Innana had dreamt of another life and by opening her ear, she received the knowledge of her deeper purpose in life.

In this tale, Innana, the Sumerian Goddess of Love and Light, hears the groans of her sister Ereshkigal, Goddess of the underworld, so, Innana, who as Queen of Heaven and Earth, knows all in the kingdoms of nature, seeks to understand the supersensible worlds. She follows her destiny into initiation and consciously takes the journey into the dark, into the realm beyond the threshold, a sacrifice that leads to transformation and allows a reuniting with the undiscovered and rejected parts of herself symbolized by her dark sister/her double, Ereshkigal.



Inanna's journey takes her through the 7 gates – The 7 planetary spheres at which she must put her experiences into perspective from the point of view of the other. Innana cannot follow 'The Call' without relinquishment. The ways of the Underworld are not the Ways of the Upperworld, and no one, not even the great Goddess can enter the Kingdom of death holding onto materialistic trappings. Innana, like all who die, must be opened, exposed and left to the trial of what is called the nigredo state in the alchemical process. She is told by the Guardians of the Gates: "Quiet, Innana, the ways of the underworld are perfect. They may not be questioned." (Wolkstein-Kramer 58).

Before her Journey she fortifies herself with the royal power inherent in each of her 7 chakras, represented in the symbol of the jewels she must discard.

But the 7 gates to the underworld are narrow and she must leave behind her vestiges of power, with all the karma attached, in order to enter. In this expanded state, she faces her sister, symbol of her unresolved karma, and her double, as well as a token of the collective unconsciousness that lives buried in the undeveloped will. Out of this alchemical process empathy is born. This compassionate part of Innana takes to heart her sister's travails of painful labor. She hears her pain and names it back to her. This is the action of Wisdom, which allows for her rebirth through her sisters redemption which is her own - Returning the rainbow gifts of her 7 chakras transformed and renewed, ready for a new deepened reincarnation.



*I was born of the shining of distant stars
I drew their beams with me from afar.*

*I was born of the gold of the radiant sun
Of the light of the world ere the earth begun.*

*Born I was of the silver eye
Of the guardian moon, keeping watch on high.*

*Born of the wild winds roaming free
Born of the flames' intensity.*

*Born of the wave that laps the shore
And the rock that hides the glittering ore.*

*Born I was from out of the whole
I bear the world within my soul.*

(Author unknown)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR REGION?

Weekend Intensive Workshop in Hartland, WI

The Zodiac: Meditative and Therapeutic Aspects

Thursday, November 6th - Sunday, November 9th, 2014

The **Lili Kolisko Institute** is the new name for the **True Botanica Foundation**.

The Lili Kolisko Institute for Anthroposophic Medicine™ is a tax exempt, non-profit, charitable 501(c) 3 organization dedicated to promoting an anthroposophically oriented healthcare and life style, through: Research, Educational activities, and Social community involvements. The institute's autumn workshop will be very special this year: More learning and discovering, more practice, more applying.

A lot less is known about Rudolf Steiner's insights on the constellations of the zodiac than is known about his insights on the planets. Not surprisingly then, practical work with the constellations of the zodiac is not given its full due. And yet the consciousness of the zodiac is crucial for both a general living of anthroposophy as well as for a practice of anthroposophic hygiene and therapy.

Fortunately many of our anthroposophic friends have expressed their desire to go more deeply into this topic. To answer this call we are offering this very intensive workshop to study

- ★ the constellations of the zodiac and their influence on:
- ★ the 12 Zones of the human anatomy;
- ★ the Eurythmy movements (emphasis on Rudolf Steiner's "12 Moods");
- ★ Substances like the gemstones, calcium and silica;
- ★ the 12 Senses;
- ★ Clinical applications and more.

Also as an ongoing group work we will study Rudolf Steiner's lecture of July 2nd, 1922.

For information please contact: **262-912-0970** or **info@koliskoinstitute.org**

Verses for the Zodiac

by Daisy Aldan

Libra

A swift scythe of light slices the sky:
She of the crown of serpents in my breast, is slain.
I mount the white winged horse:
From the sea of my Self, dawn ascends.

Scorpio

Last torn leaves
flap in the wind: fall.
Hammering bare
the fragile tracing
of their skeletons,
the rain completes
the alchemy
of their metamorphosis:
returns them to the great amorphic ash:
refines to immortality.

Thanks to Tim Mowrey, TX for posting this to our Facebook page

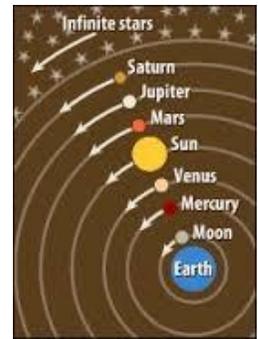
THE STARRY HEAVEN ABOVE ME — THE MORAL LAW WITHIN ME

Sunday November 9th, 2014, 1:30 – 4:00 pm

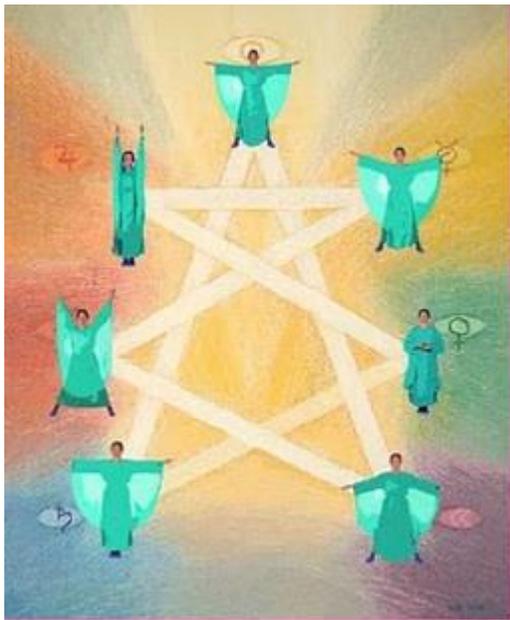
The Rudolf Steiner Branch of the Anthroposophical Society, Chicago, IL

To add Your Dearly Departed to the list of those to be Remembered.
Please contact Larry Olson (312) 218-1492 zolarczakl@netzero.net

Eurythmy, Storytelling, Didgeridoo, Beeswax Sculpting, Circle of Remembrance, Grandmothers Tale, Tone of the Day: Christian Rosenkreutz and Buddha on Mars, Singing and more. **Feel free to bring pictures and memories to share.**



Questions and information: hazel@shedrums.com



How the Stars speak to the Human Being:

The Planets Dancing through the Zodiac

A Eurythmy Workshop

December 5th 7:00 – 8:30 pm and

December 6th 10:00 am – 2:30 pm

City of Lakes Waldorf School

2344 Nicollet Ave. S., Mpls, MN

In these days before the holiday season, come be inspired and refreshed through movement. Join Raven Garland and explore the stars through eurythmy, study and drawing.

Pre-register by Nov. 26th: \$50 for the entire workshop or \$30 or Friday evening for \$20.

Information available from Regina Brenner 952-500-0138 or reginabrenner@earthlink.net.

You can also visit us on Facebook “Eurythmy Planets” for more information.

AUGUST 2015

Inviting Lyre Friends from Around the World . . .

The Lyre as Instrument for Peace: Giving Ear Toward Understanding and Reconciliation;

2015 International Lyre Conference 3-8 August, 2015

2015 Lyre Pedagogy Conference 1-3 August, 2015

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, USA

What is the task of the lyre in our time? What is the full reality of the lyre tone? Is it possible that there is more to this instrument than we, in our richly varied endeavors, have so far managed to bring about? Contemplating a thematic focus for the next International Lyre Conference, the Board of the Lyre

Association of North America, inspired by the suggestions of Channa Seidenberg, has felt compelled to ponder these questions in the context of our present global situation and to consider whether the lyre may have something particularly important to offer in our time. We have found it of interest to remember that during each of the regencies of the Archangel Michael* throughout history, there has actually been a lyre on the earth. We wonder if the existence of the lyre in our contemporary world may suggest that this instrument, with its unique tone, has the capacity to elicit new thoughts about how we might learn to work together. How could this be so? The sounding of even a single lyre tone evokes a listening response – not just the usual “listening to,” but a deeper “listening into.”



Visit <https://www.facebook.com/LyreAssociation> or contact Nancy Carpenter via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nancy.carpenter.9275>



If you have any suggestions or contributions for upcoming issues, please send them to Marianne Fieber at marianne.fieber@yahoo.com. In the subject line, indicate that they are for the e-correspondence. We hope this format will help us reach members in a timely way with information that is of interest.

Some simple guidelines for submissions:

- * Deadline: 3rd Saturday of the month
- * Electronic submissions only to marianne.fieber@yahoo.com
- * Poetry or thoughts coming out of your work with anthroposophical ideas
- * Activities taking place within the Central Region
- * Reports and photos from anthroposophical events offered by Groups, Branches or Initiatives
- * Activities which are led and/or developed by members living within the Central Region

Note: We reserve the right to edit contributions as needed.

The Central Regional Council is:

Dennis Dietzel, Roseville, MN
Marianne Fieber, Viroqua, WI
Mary Louise Hershberger, Fargo, ND
Alberto Loya, Ann Arbor, MI
Hazel Archer-Ginsberg, Chicago, IL