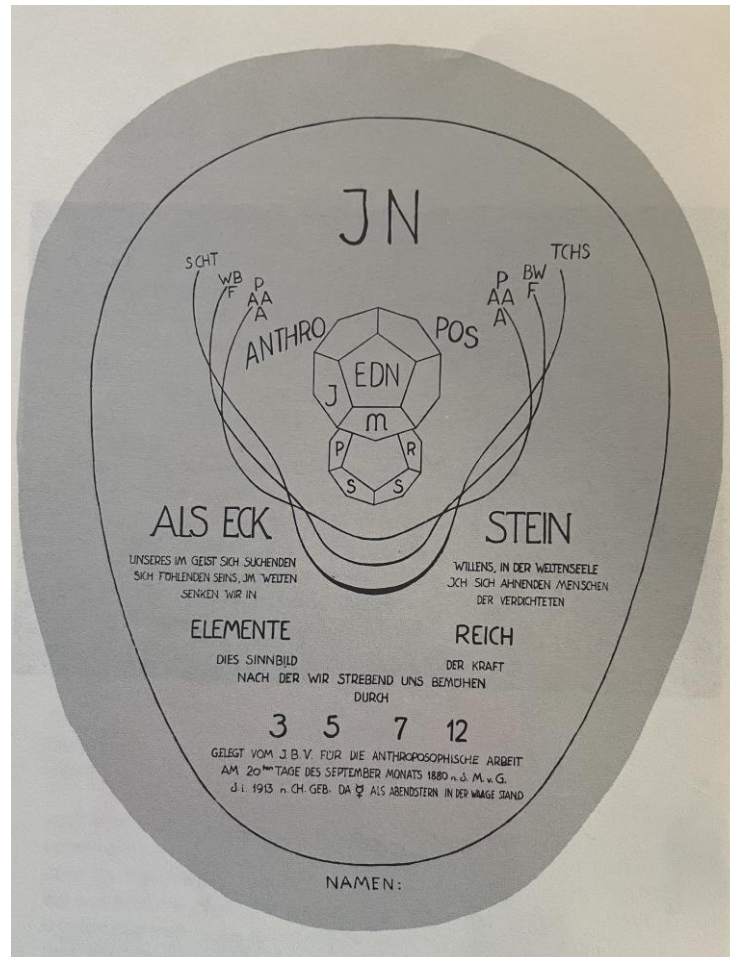


An Invitation and Save the Date

'Turning to the Christmas Conference: A Celebration for the Future.'

Camphill Village Copake, January 2nd – January 5, 2024



In 1922, on New Year's Eve, the Goetheanum was burned to the ground through an act of arson. The building was designed to be a theater for the performance of plays, movement arts and lectures that illuminated the spirit at work in the world around us. Its architecture was both revolutionary and profound, and those entering the auditorium would have been able to see physical representations of spiritual experiences. The architecture itself would have woken up the observer to new realities, new consciousness and a renewed and deepened life of feeling.

Rudolf Steiner had developed the Goetheanum to provide a modern spiritual language, visible through art, that could lead humanity into a reawakening. The crowning glory of this masterpiece was an immense carving, known as The Representative of Humanity, which would have been placed as the focal point of the building. It depicts the revelation that the Being of Love and Freedom, called Christ in the Christian faith, is at work now in the etheric world and is directly accessible to human experience. Paul's Damascus encounter with Christ that led to his conversion, and to the profound wisdom that flowed

from his pen in the decades after, is an archetype of the modern relationship that can be established with the Being of Love. The sculpture depicts this experience and shows the adversarial beings who would occlude it from us. The Goetheanum burned to the ground before it could be installed there.

Christian Rosenkretz repeated the Pauline experience in the fourteenth century, becoming a spiritual Master who developed a pathway of training that could lead any human being towards this powerful experience. Anthroposophy, as developed by Rudolf Steiner, is a thoroughly modernized version of this inner journey, available to any human being who wishes to walk in freedom and serve the world selflessly.

The work of the Anthroposophical Society and of Camphill flows from this source. The Goetheanum is still a lived experience with its forms, its colors, its images, but one that must be realized imaginatively. The fire on New Year's Eve 1922 gave birth one year later to the Christmas Conference of 1923. In the Holy Nights of that year the Anthroposophical Society was re-founded and rededicated itself to the modern path of esoteric schooling. The imaginative Goetheanum was to be anchored anew, not only on the hill in Switzerland where it had been constructed, but now laid as a spiritual foundation stone in the hearts of those who want to do this work.

The last hundred years have not been easy, but Anthroposophia continues to walk in the world, and the need to reawaken, to begin to work with etheric perceptions and to work towards direct encounter with the spiritual world is now an essential task. Humanity cannot bring healing without love, and hatred and greed cannot be diminished until we see our world with the selflessness and freedom that can overcome habitual grievances and prejudices.

In our gathering we will turn to these impulses behind the Christmas Conference of 1923 and work together through art, conversation and ritual to approach the ether realm and the warmth and light of love and wisdom that flow there.

Who is this for?

This gathering is intended for all those who are interested in creating community, in following an inner path that leads to service, or who simply want to be together to share conversation and fellowship.

An official invite will be available in early November, along with a tentative program, and a link for registration.

Camphill Village Copake is located at 84 Camphill Rd, Copake, NY 12516

If you have questions, or wish to contribute to the program offerings, please contact the preparation group by emailing Guy Alma: galma@camphillschool.org or calling (484) 888-0130.