

Elderberries Threefold Cafe

Dear Friends!

I share some thoughts on behalf of my coworkers Daniel Evaeus and Frank Agrama for your consideration of co initiating the second leg of the Michael Grailroad, with an Elderberries Threefold Café in Chicago at the Rudolf Steiner Branch of the Anthroposophical Society.

We are an anthroposophically inclined café in line with the Spirit of our Time, Michael, in that we are seeking to cultivate the space for healing in and with very diverse communities wherever we go. Rudolf Steiner shares that Michael knows no boundaries of race, religion, nor geographical and that this Michael is a cosmopolitan being. For us this is at the very heart of our strivings to imitate and to bring to life the 'Yes!' for friends who keep finding 'No!' in our society. Our teacher also shares that the youth now bring their prenatal pictures with them and we seek to be the place where these pictures can unfold towards their becoming.

The cafe has been in Los Angeles for a little over nine years now and it has always been the dream of the café, a part of the forming seed, that these cafés would create spaces across America where the graduating Waldorf youth and likeminded friends could come together with their peers who have not been as fortunate to receive such an education that uplifts and strengthens the human spirit for the life before them: these youth would be able to meet peer to peer to see what they themselves can unfold together, united, for our community, country and world. One of the questions that I ponder at times is if we are helping to support the healing of the split of the Angels in 869. I imagine in my heart this is another part at the core of our work. Considering that Rudolf Steiner shares that he and his students, all of them, would return after a very short period between incarnations, for what must be implemented into the earthly realm at this time for the future, I have to think this work of bridging the divide goes hand and hand in our work.

We were fortunate to have met quite a few of the members of the Branch when we flew in for a few days before Daniel had to fly to Belgium for a Connect Conference with graduating Waldorf youth: he was invited to share his experiences of Standing Rock and also what it takes to stand in the fire of one's ideas, to live out of one's own heart core. Speaking of the Branch members we met, Daniel said 'I love each and every one of them! Each and every one!'. And I have to say, Yes!, Frank and I agree full heartedly with his experience. The three of us left excited for what is possible between us and for the Branch, the surrounding community and city.

Proposal:

To co- initiate the second leg of the Michael Grail Road with an Elderberries Threefold Cafe in Chicago Illinois at the Rudolf Steiner Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America.

To work with the talents already residing within the Branch towards basic needs of the Branch building itself and also the space we seek to rent. We have reached out to Nick about a conversation with he and Mihai on collaborating with us on the question of the basic needs of building codes being brought up-to-date in the existing branch and what would be needed for the café/art/theatre space. These questions were surrounding the ideas of looking at the space and assessing what needs to be brought up to code and also looking at building up a list of rental possibilities for art and theatre as we move forward. Although we have said we would like to start rent at \$2000 a month we'd like to see if we can get closer to what the Branch would like which is about another \$2300 or so a month for the whole space. I am hopeful that Andre will also be able to assist us with his ideas and also his knowledge of work already accomplished.

For the Start Up I thought to offer these basic item figures that could be helpful to see what could be useful if we were to do a fundraising campaign as some have suggested. I think the Branch might feel better supported in knowing these numbers below which really stand for a higher end wish list versus what we could do on a shoe string budget and make it work.

Rent/Deposit – \$10, 000

Permits / Licensing - \$2, 500

Equipment - \$8,200

Dishware/Glassware - \$ 1000

Construction - \$2500

Tables – 15 made by us @\$80 each = 1,200

For the shifting of what the space looks like we would be inviting our friends to join us in Chicago from all around the world. I think it would be an incredible opportunity to show what is possible when we come together to create something that seeks to serve human beings and the community in which they live. There is very much excitement in Europe for what we are doing here in America and for us we are happy they shall see that we are inspired out of Anthroposophy: these deeds shows a new face of Anthroposophy to the youth, one where their own hands, as their forbearers, have something to offer to contribute and shape for the future. My experience is that it is also inspiring long-time anthroposophists who have been asking the question ‘where are the youth?’ and for me this is such a blessing. That there is a biodynamic farm nearby where we could source the food is a cherry on top 😊

I’ve asked Hazel to share what her own inspirations are for having a Threefold Café in the space and I can see she has done her homework with the business needs! These are included in the numbers I have put together above. We are looking forward to co creating and supporting the Branch with our work, our studies and our friendships.

All good things,

Dottie Zold

