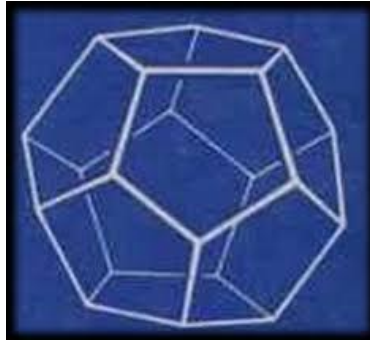


# Anthroposophical Society – Greater Washington DC Branch

## The Branch Festivals Group

### *Holy Nights 2018-19*

Friday, December 28 & Thursday, January 3, 7:30 pm; and Sunday, January 6, 3:00 pm



At the Christmas Conference of 1923/24, Rudolf Steiner laid the foundation stone for a new mystery center in the hearts of those whose destiny has led them to anthroposophy, in the form of the Foundation Stone Meditation. In the words of René Querido, “No other meditation embodies so fully the content of anthroposophy. . . . It is also a seed, and meditation on its content can lead to the unfolding of new capacities that lie dormant within the human soul. . . . It reveals, in the most succinct form possible, [our] relation to [our] threefold nature and to the macrocosmic Trinity.”

This year the Festivals Group, joining in the worldwide motif suggested by the Goetheanum Leadership, is focusing our Branch observances on this powerful meditation, offering the opportunity to work artistically with speech artist Debbie Spitulnik. We are hosting three Holy Nights events: Two evenings of preparatory readings about the Foundation Stone Meditation will culminate in a **Festival Gathering**, on the afternoon of Three Kings Day, when Debbie will lead us in working with the fourth panel of the meditation. This fourth panel, with its reference to the qualities of the shepherds and kings, can be felt as especially suited to the Holy Nights. Experiencing its words through artistic speech will deepen our understanding of its content. Here is the link to the [translation](#) we will be using.

🌀 Please see details on the next page. 🌀

**Debra Spitulnik** was a class teacher at WWS for twenty-one years and received her Goetheanum diploma as a speech artist from Performinternational in 2016. She now combines these two loves, bringing creative speech to the children and faculty of WWS; her unique perspective from her years as a class teacher enlivens plays, poetry, and story in grades 1-12. Debbie is also an adjunct instructor teaching speech, drama, storytelling, and curriculum to graduate students at Antioch University New England and the Center for Anthroposophy.

## 2018-19 Holy Nights Readings and Festival Gathering

Our two Holy Nights evenings of reading and conversation, in preparation for the Festival Gathering, will start at 7:30 pm and end by 9:00 pm. Reading the essays beforehand is encouraged. You are welcome to attend any one or two of the events, if you are not able to come to all three.

The essays, in book form, are available from The Anthroposophical Society in America in Ann Arbor: *Paths to an Understanding of the Foundation Stone Meditation*, by Joan Almon, René Querido, and Ernst Katz, \$6.00 + \$1.50 mailing. To order, call 1-734-662-9355 (between 9:00 am & 5:00 pm) or email [cynthia@anthroposophy.org](mailto:cynthia@anthroposophy.org).

### Holy Nights Readings

The following dates will be readings of the essays above. For further information, including hosts and locations, please contact Nancy Foster at 202-829-2909 or [nfoster14thst@gmail.com](mailto:nfoster14thst@gmail.com).

#### Friday, December 28, 7:30 pm

- Introduction by Joan Almon
- "Reflections on the Foundation Stone Meditation" by René Querido

#### Thursday, January 3, 7:30 pm

- "Thoughts about the Foundation Stone" by Ernst Katz

### Festival Gathering

**Sunday, January 6, 3:00 pm:** Eurythmy Room, Washington Waldorf School, 4800 Sangamore Road, Bethesda, MD 20816

- Experiencing the Fourth Panel of the Foundation Stone Meditation in artistic speech

~ Please arrive on time for this artistic offering. We plan to begin promptly. ~

~ Light refreshments will be served. ~

**If possible, please let us know you are coming: [nfoster14thst@gmail.com](mailto:nfoster14thst@gmail.com).**