

To members and friends of the Natural Science/Mathematics and Astronomy
Section of the School for Spiritual Science in North America

Dear Colleagues,

Last October over 100 scientists from many parts of the world were brought together in Dornach under the guidance of the Natural Science Section at the Goetheanum for *Evolving Science 2015*, a conference aiming to take stock of recent developments in Goethean and spiritual science and to assess how these developments relate to current research in mainstream science.

A wonderful lineup of presenters, workshops, world cafes, and professional group meetings was the result of gathering issues and questions during the preparatory Ideas-Workshop *Evolving Science 2014*. (See attached report and links on website: www.naturalsciencesection.org.)

We envision our upcoming December Section conference in Ann Arbor as a similar preparation workshop for a larger gathering of scientists in North America in the summer of 2018.

We would like to invite you to this special brainstorming conference at the Rudolf Steiner House in Ann Arbor, MI, to be held from December 1-4, 2016. The theme of the conference will be "Evolving Science and the Task of the Science Section."

The focus of the conference will be twofold: 1) We will survey current developments in natural science and seek to understand them in the light of the evolution of human consciousness, and 2) we will assess our own work as scientists inspired by the pioneering work of Goethe and Rudolf Steiner with the goal of laying the groundwork for future collaboration. The motivation for this conference arises out of a growing awareness that recent developments in modern science are calling for insight into the spiritual nature of the physical world. It is the task of our Section to foster and stimulate research that leads to such insight.

Fred Amrine will start us off with a talk on the evolution of human consciousness as it is reflected in contemporary science. With this overall theme in mind, the conference will then take stock of what research is being done by Section members and our colleagues and lay the groundwork for future collaboration in North America and with Europe. Johannes Kühl, leader of the Science Section at the Goetheanum, will also join us once again to bring us his perspectives on collaboration and work being done in Europe, as well as learn about our efforts in this country. Already, several of us from North America were able to participate in *Evolving Science 2016*.

We are calling upon individuals working in biology, neurobiology, medicine, conservation ecology, agriculture, chemistry, geology, astronomy, physics, engineering, architecture, nanotechnology, artificial intelligence, mathematics, and other fields to share their experience of working with Goethean-anthroposophical methods and to help lay the groundwork for a larger, more public conference. We are hoping that you will participate in this concerted effort to coordinate, strengthen, and enhance awareness of our work in these fields.

Over the past several years the annual conferences of our Section have been devoted to building the inner capacities required to conduct such research that goes beyond the materialistic/mechanistic paradigm. We feel that the time has now come for us to add a focus on cultivating a sense of scientific community among us in order to gather our collective forces in an effort to reach out to our colleagues and to prospective colleagues who are looking for a new way of doing science.

We hope that you will be able to take part in this important endeavor. One of us on our Steering Committee may get in touch with you in the near future. Or you might be inspired to take the initiative and phone one of us below.

Please let us know if you are interested in attending. If you cannot attend, we would love to have your input regarding these intentions.

With warm greetings and best wishes for your work,

The Steering Committee:

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