

The Karl König Institute goes to America!

Cornelius Pietzner, Summer 2021

After 10 years of international events, activities, lectures and the publishing of 20 volumes of König's works, the Karl König Institute, has undergone a series of planning meetings with a Committee designated by the Board of Directors of the Institute to look at needs and opportunities for the next years. This 'road map' is intended to show different development routes for the Institute into the future.

We are delighted to share with you that a significant step that has developed since these planning meetings is the opportunity and offer for the Karl König Institute to establish an office in the North American region of Camphill, specifically in Camphill Soltane in Pennsylvania. This also represents a strong destiny situation that coincides with the 80th birthday of Camphill. The North American Region plays an important role in the present situation of the Camphill Movement. It is therefore especially encouraging that the establishment of a North American office for the Karl König Institute is being strongly supported by the various regional bodies of the North American region- in addition to Camphill Soltane- such as the Camphill Foundation, the Camphill Association of North America and the Camphill Academy.

The Board of Camphill Soltane has generously offered the Institute the Carlo Pietzner Library in Whitsun Hall for three years without rental payments to establish its offices there. Additionally, two Camphill related Foundations are offering very substantial three year funding support to enable the office to be established, including the funding for our North American Institute Administrator, Deborah Grace. Deborah will make the move from the Pacific Northwest, where she currently resides, to the east coast during the course of this year and take on the responsibilities of managing the office in coordination with Richard Steel and a support group. Deborah has been an active member of the Institute Support Group since its beginning, and a long time coworker in Camphill. She spent nearly three decades in Camphill Village Copake, before taking a break of some years to explore new experiences, and returned as Executive Director of Camphill Ghent in upstate New York for several years. It was there that she began a close collaboration with Richard, who was also living there at the time. We are absolutely delighted to have Deborah actively involved in the North American Karl König Institute and warmly welcome her to this exciting and important new step!

This development moves forward with two special projects – one is an “Oral History” initiative to include a series of video interviews with early Camphillers that will record first hand experiences of Karl König and the impulse that brought the Movement into being. The second is a North American exhibition, scheduled for 2022, combined with presentations and conferences, of Karl König's original drawings for the Calendar of the Soul. Through the lens of this exhibition we will explore how the earth and humanity are crying out for us to learn to breathe in accordance with cosmic rhythms, and how Rudolf Steiner's meditative verses, deepened by König's illustrative drawings, can give a healing impulse for both humanity and the earth.

This is a major step in the further internationalisation and work of the Karl König Institute, and we are humbled and overjoyed that so many supporting elements, including human destinies, are coming together at this time to make such a complex and far-reaching step possible.



The Carlo Pietzner Library in Whitsun Hall, Soltane – new home of the Karl König Institute in North America



„Brother Markus“ (From Goethe’s epic poem „The Mysteries“) - Glass window by Carlo Pietzner in Whitsun Hall