



## The Homeschool Journey Newsletter

Christopherus Homeschool Resources  
Waldorf-inspired Parenting and Education

Dear friends,

There has been a wonderful outpouring of support and enthusiasm regarding webinars and other videos from Christopherus—thank you to all who have gotten in touch—this gives me the confidence to forge ahead!

We still have a few technical challenges to surmount but we are well on our way to a seamless process whereby people can join our webinars, pay for them and then view them later.

**On Monday evening, 4 December at 8pm Eastern, I will offer another trial video, this one for the nominal fee of \$5 so we can test our payment software. The topic will be 'Festivals at Home.' It will only be available to watch later for those who have registered and paid.**

[Click here to register and pay.](#)



Back to the perennial question of 'can I watch this later', this brings me to an important point: some of the webinars I will offer will be completely open and people not attending will be able to watch them.

But I also want to have closed sessions so that some degree of intimacy and human relationship can be fostered—as far as one can do that via zoom.

The closed sessions will include grade specific (and early years) webinars and also an 'anthroposophy for homeschoolers' webinar I think could be popular.

I want to begin the 'anthroposophy for homeschoolers' webinars soon—I will offer a 90 minute introductory session on **Sunday 10 December at 12 noon Eastern time**. This will cost \$15 and will be an open session—ie others could pay and listen at a later time.

So the introductory session will be open and the on-going group will be closed.

This open session will pave the way for an on-going group focused on 'anthroposophy for homeschoolers' beginning **Sunday 7 January, also at 1pm, for 6 weeks**. These sessions will be an hour and 1/4 long and I am thinking that I could send readings (from Steiner and others) to participants in advance of sessions which we will discuss (as much as one can actually discuss things via zoom) during our sessions and I could explain and comment etc. Between sessions I would be happy to receive feedback and further questions which I would address in the following session.

So this would be a closed group—I'm thinking 20 participants max. This would cost **\$100 for all 6 sessions**. Participants would be able to listen again or listen if they missed a session for a limited time.

If this is popular and goes well, I could offer more such 'anthroposophy for homeschoolers' (and maybe 'anthroposophy as a path of self development') sessions.



**Then we get to the other multi-part webinars which I am super excited about: grade specific webinars (and early years).**

January/February is the time when homeschoolers are often in desperate need of help—the euphoria of beginning the new year/grade in the Fall is a distant memory and, especially if one lives where the weather is awful, the beginning of the new term can seem overwhelmingly challenging. (And I have not forgotten those of you in the Northern Hemisphere—in Australia and NZ and S Africa who are beginning your school year!)

So why not join one of our webinars and receive help from me to renew, enliven and joyfully embrace teaching your child? And of course parenting woes can also be addressed! I am full of practical ideas on how to actually tackle each year's curriculum. Hearing from other parents will also be of invaluable help.

These sessions will be closed and have no more than 15 participants. One feature I am very excited about is the possibility for each participant to send in a few examples of her child's work from the Fall—handwriting, writing, drawings, form drawing—which I can look at and offer suggestions. Everyone in the group will see this—and for homeschoolers, I know how valuable something like this can be as, unless one is a former teacher or in a certain kind of co-op, one has no idea what might be expected from children in each grade. Is it ok how lopsided my child's writing is? How do I get her to make larger figures? What went wrong with this form drawing?...and so on.

There will be 5 sessions for each grade at the same time each week (probably evenings—evening in the Eastern time zone that is). The sessions will be 90 minutes long and no children present please!!! I am not comfortable speaking about children in front of children (that goes for all webinars). I have not decided the cost of these webinars yet.

As these grades webinars will be intimate and 'personal', recordings of the sessions will only be available to those participating.

I intend to do these webinars twice a year—in perhaps June to prepare for the year ahead and then in January/February to take stock of the last term and look toward the next.

And then I will also offer other multi-session webinars and one-session webinars. Topics will include: schedules; raising strong children; death; the four temperaments; storytelling through the grades; forming lessons....and lots more!

I will also have a youtube channel with very basic videos focused on homeschooling, child development, parenting, Waldorf education...and one-session webinars as well.

**I would be very grateful if folks let me know if they are interested in what I have described! All feedback very welcome!**

More emails to come with specific information. And information on my revamped consulting service to come as well.

**For now, here are some comments from people who participated in those calls:**

*I was so excited to get to attend the entire live with you. I am newer on my Waldorf journey, two years in with kindergarten for my six year old son (and I also have an almost four year old son). I am a first generation homeschooler. I am also a part of your Self-Study group. I've learned so much from you, and I feel like I am getting an amazing foundation for the heart behind Waldorf, in addition to a richer and more thorough understanding of anthroposophy. I could seriously listen to you talk all day- I just love it. Everything is finally clicking for me. It seems the more I understand the philosophy behind what I am working towards, the more I am able to embody it and bring it forth, from head to heart to hands. DW*

*What a wonderful offering you shared! It was lovely to see you "live" and hear first hand some of the wisdom you share in your newsletters. MU*

*Thank you, Donna. The zoom sound quality and video were excellent. I really appreciate that you had me laughing out loud more than once. By just being yourself we can all learn so much from you. Your points come across clear and I appreciate especially the logical nature of your mind and how you lay out the information. Adi*

*Thank you for the video meeting about Gratitude- I loved it! Sarah*



**'Libraries' has been an on-going topic in the last few newsletters....here is another contribution:**

*I am so thankful to our public libraries, as I rely heavily on them for books, and this year (4th grade) for their wonderful collection of material on local history and geography. But I agree that many are not safe spaces. While a baby board book on pronouns goes completely unnoticed by my children since we're not reading board books anymore, I do wonder at it. And the Lego book my boys found last time, which is basically a sales catalog with a few "did you know's" thrown in. Mostly though, my conclusion that many libraries are not safe is based on the many computers now commonplace, on low counters with cushions at child height, left with the screen on and some colorful "educational" game. Children are drawn to them like a magnet. I have searched the towns nearby and only go to the libraries that have preserved the safe space of children's books sans screens. It's a shame they are so few. JR*

**And feedback on the last newsletter which [you can read here](#):**

*Your newsletters are always so welcome. I so much enjoy hearing your perspective and those of other homeschooling parents. I found this issue so timely - both in the discussion of the protection of childhood and in the first letter from a mother about not relying on others. My local homeschool community has become consumed in fear since the pandemic. In many ways, I understand this descent. The pandemic tore down so many of our conceptions about the world: trust in institutions, security in meeting our needs, our feeling that we lived in a land where we had the freedom to speak what and when we wished, and to live without coercion from those in power. This fear has led to people making many changes in their lives and those of their families. For example, many of the women with whom I have long associated have begun to practice many self-reliance skills: food production, natural medicine, etc. There is nothing wrong with this, in fact I think it is wise on so many levels. However, I find it troubling that many of the mothers have shared their reasons for suddenly adopting this lifestyle quite freely with their children. Some even go so far as to discuss their belief that end of society as we know it is imminent with their younger-than-teenage children. I do not understand this approach. How can we expect a child to flourish in such an atmosphere of fear and doubt? How can a child have any sense of calm or peace, so necessary for the life of a child (or anyone, really), if they are plagued by worries about the world? I understand the desire to learn these skills and pass them on, but surely there is a way to do this gently?*

*At the same time, I have found it nearly impossible to get involved in local homeschool activities because they are constantly in flux. A group or activity runs a few months and is abandoned whenever any problem arises or new thing comes along. Activities are scheduled during times when young children need to nap or at least have some quiet time. They are also random, sometimes on this day and sometimes on that one. There is so little stability. I am doing a poor job of articulating it, but I feel that these two things are somehow connected. The lack of rhythm and stability in general is somehow leading to an increase in fear and the need to overshare with young children. There is so much looking out at the world and so very looking in to the self or the family circle. With great pain, I have come to the conclusion that we cannot rely on this community any more for anything other than occasional playdates at the park. I have found other opportunities outside of the homeschool community for my teenage children, as it is important for them to begin reaching out beyond the family in more independent ways. I pray that this is the right decision.*

*Anyway, thank you again for this newsletter and all the work you do for families and children.*

Sincerely, EE

Well! Exciting times for Christopherus—which I sincerely hope will mean exciting homeschool opportunities for you all!

Til December,

Blessings on your homeschool journey,  
Donna  
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