

Portland Anthroposophic Times

Newsletter of the Portland Branch of Anthroposophical Society in Portland, Oregon

www.portlandbranch.com

Volume 4.6 June 2008

Midsummer Revisited!

By John Miles, Portland, Oregon

Thou Uriel!
Bring me the red flame of summer
From air's golden steps;
Till the blessing of fires of the sun
And rainbow
Into me leaps.

Verse from Seasons and Archangels by Isabel Wyatt

Midsummer Day was the culminating festival of the year at the first Waldorf School I taught at in England and the images of it are etched in my memory. My wife and I came back to England from Germany where we had been living for five years, mixing with anthroposophists, reading a great deal of anthroposophy with them, but not having experienced the festivals in a practical way. The first year at the school made an enormous impression on us, especially working with people who had worked with Rudolf and Marie Steiner, but also experiencing the different festivals; the trumpets and blazing reds of Michaelmas; the quiet reverence of the still holy night at the Christmas Service; and especially midsummer – the culmination of the year.

In the afternoon of Midsummer's day there was a great festival atmosphere with many sideshows and games from rolling the penny to the battle of the slippery log. No profit was allowed to be made on that day so it was free from commercial atmosphere. Then there were the classes doing country dancing and the Maypole with lots of music. The strawberry teas were a great event where the junior strings played as people ate. At one time everyone disappeared from the sunshine into the tearoom. You could not breathe in that huge room as there were so many people. Eventually we found that the attraction was a parent who had taken out his flute to play with the junior strings. Oh! I nearly forgot to mention that the parent was James Galway.

Around 7pm the theatre filled up with the adult community and the older children to watch the Grade 8 Shakespeare play, which usually took some 2 hours and was the culmination of the work in the Grade School. Then the real experience of the day began. As it was

getting towards dusk the school community gathered on the playing fields where the Grade 9 had built a huge bonfire like a giant haystack at least 24 feet high. A rope line lay on the ground about 20 feet from the wood to stop people getting too close. After it became noticeably dark, a double line of flaming fiery torches came over the hill from the school. It was grade 7's privilege to carry the torches to the fire. Quietly the gathered community watched the scene with wonder. When the torch bearers arrived at the venue the lines separated to form a circle around the pile of branches. A deafening silence fell as the students spoke their verse at full voice on the breath stream:

“Yeah! Thy origin I know
Swiftly as the fires glow
Burning and consuming me
Fire am I. Certainly!”

As the verse ended they rushed forward and thrust their torches into the pile. With bated breath the community waited to see if the pile would take, wondering about the rain shower the previous night. After a cough or two the fire roared through the pile thanks to the Chemistry teacher's special concoction of gas and starter fluid. Within seconds the crowd was struggling to get away from the heat and keep their hair and eyebrows intact. Gradually over the next hour the fire settled down to a quiet roar as the voices of the community sang rounds and chatted at a safe distance watching the smoke and heat take the earthly etheric forces to communion with the cosmos. Families eventually drifted home to bed, and a bundle of High School students brought sleeping bags from their cars to wait until near dawn when the fire had subsided enough so they could perform the age-old fertility ritual of holding hands and leaping over the burning remains, or at least a corner of it.



Since then, 37 years ago, much time has been spent studying Rudolf Steiner's lectures on the Festivals though very few of which were directed towards Midsummer or Saint John's-tide as we were instructed to call it. Of the festivals, St John's-tide is conspicuous by the little amount Rudolf Steiner said about it in

comparison to all the other festivals. He does call it the Festival of the Future and tells us that we are too incarnated to fully share in the outbreathing of the Earth beings at this time of year as they stretch away from the earth to unite themselves with the Divine Bliss of the cosmos. He says: "The human soul endeavors in Spring to follow the outbreathing of the Earth's Soul as it seeks union with the cosmos. But the human soul is unable to attain this. Owing to the influence of the sense of freedom and ego-consciousness, it has become powerless with regard to the heavenly heights."¹

As we, incarnated human beings, find it so difficult to conceive the true picture of Midsummer we would do well to compare it to Midwinter and the Holiday season

where we are so wide awake in the coldness of the year. Rudolf Steiner talks about this comparison a good deal in "The Cycle of the Year"ⁱⁱ, and he composed a poem to bring this to our attention:

Asleep is the soul of the Earth
In Summer's heat,
While the Sun's outward Glory
Rays through the realms of Space.

Awake is the soul of the Earth
In Winter's cold,
While the Sun's inmost Being
Lightens in Spirit.

Summer's day of joy
For Earth is sleep.
Winter's holy night
For Earth is day.

If you are interested to learn more about the Portland Branch of the Anthroposophical Society, please call Diane Rumage at (360) 241-7854.

The Portland Branch Thanks the following Members and Friends for their Generous Donations in 2008!

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The *Portland Anthroposophic Times* is published twelve times a year by the Portland Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America to serve members and friends in the wider anthroposophical community. Printed copies of the newsletter are available at the Steiner Storehouse, Portland Waldorf School, Cedarwood Waldorf School, Shining Star and Swallowtail School. The newsletter and calendar are also posted on the Portland Branch website at www.portlandbranch.com.

Questions, suggestions and submissions may be sent by e-mail to anthroposophy@earthlink.net. Items selected for publication in the Portland Anthroposophic Times may be edited for style, content and length. The deadline for submissions to the *Portland Anthroposophic Times* is the first day of each month for publication in that month's edition. Submit calendar items to branchcalendar@mindspring.com no later than the first of each month for publication in the next edition.

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When talking about the Mysteries of ancient times when Midsummer was a festival of the present and human beings were much more conscious and awake in their relationship with the spiritual cosmos, Rudolf Steiner says: "And what could be revealed in this way under the influence and inspiration of the Year-God through the letters budding forth from the Earth herself, unveiled to the pupils of the teachers in the Mysteries, in the manner of that time, secrets of the physical body of man.

"The teachers pointed to the physical productiveness of the Earth, to the force of the Earth shooting into the plant. At every single place on the Earth to which the pupil's attention was directed, there was a different "letter." These letters – which were living plant beings, or living animal forms - were then combined as we today combine single letters into words. In sharing thus in the life of Spring, man was reading in Nature. The Initiations bestowed by the Year-God consisted in this reading. And when Spring came to an end, at about the time of the month of May, man had the impression: Now I understand how out of the womb of the universe the human physical body takes shape and is formed.

"Then came the Summer. The same letters and words of the great cosmic Logos were used, but it was pointed out to the pupils how under the Sun's rays which stream differently now, under its light and warmth which now work in a different way, the letters change their forms, how the first buds, which had spoken of the secrets of the human physical body, open themselves to the Sun in the blossoms. These many-colored blossoms were now letters used by the pupil; each blossom made

him feel how the Sun's ray lovingly kisses the plant-forces springing up from the Earth. And in the wonderfully delicate and tender process of the cosmic forces weaving over the Earth-forces in the blossoming plants, he read the words which conveyed to him how the Earth strives outwards into the cosmic expanse. Man lived in union with the Earth as she opened herself to the Cosmos, to the distant star, lived with the Earth herself in the infinitudes.

“What lay hidden in these infinitudes revealed itself to man as he gazed at the letters which were the blossoming plants. He read out of these letters what the conditions of life had been for the human being who has descended from the spiritual worlds to physical existence on the Earth; how he had gathered together etheric substance from every quarter of the heavens to form his own etheric body. Man was thus able to read the secrets enshrined in this etheric body from everything that was now coming to pass again between the Earth and the Cosmos. The signs of the Cosmic Word are inscribed upon the very surface of the Earth when the plants blossom and particular forms of life become manifest in the animal world at the time in Midsummer.”ⁱⁱⁱ

In ancient times and in the future humans will have much more connection and consciousness of Midsummer. At the moment we can only feel it in an artistic dream and recent centuries have put that down as the symptoms of ‘madmen, poets and lovers’.^{iv} For men of the present time Rudolf Steiner puts it most beautifully in his picture of Uriel in the St. John's Imagination.^v He calls the spiritual gift to mankind at this time Cosmic Intelligence and although Uriel looks on mankind with an austere face he is not imparting knowledge but wisdom – Cosmic Wisdom. However, as Lorenzo says:

“Such harmony is in immortal souls;
But, whilst this muddy vesture of decay
Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it.”^{vi}

ⁱ Man's Being, his Destiny and World Evolution May 21st, 1923

ⁱⁱ Cycle of the Year 5 lectures especially March 31st, 1923 and April 8th, 1923

ⁱⁱⁱ Man and the World of Stars, Part II, Lecture I pp 130-131

December 23, 1922

^{iv} Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* Vi: Theseus says:

“More strange than true: I never may believe
These antique fables, nor these fairy toys.
Lovers and madmen have such seething brains,
Such shaping fantasies, that apprehend
More than cool reason ever comprehends.

The lunatic, the lover and the poet
Are of imagination all compact:”

^v The Four Season's and the Archangels October 12th 1923.

^{vi} Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice* Vi.

Happy 25th Birthday Portland Waldorf School!

A Brief Biography by Lauren Johnson, Portland, Oregon

Portland Waldorf School has been celebrating the people and events that have shaped the school's biography. We know we are part of a wider community whose members sustain and nourish us all. The Michael Institute, Cedarwood School, Shining Star, the new Village charter school, and all of the many in-home early childhood centers are all part of this network of visionary, caring, and courageous people. The growth of the Portland Branch of the Anthroposophical Society and the emerging network of medical providers, therapists, artists, eurythmists, farmers and musicians are all part of the supportive fabric around all of our efforts. We recognize our interdependence and want to celebrate together with you!

On October 4, we hosted a talk by author and activist Torin Finser and held a lively reception with food and music. Torin came to us as part of a tour of his new book *Organizational Integrity: Applying the Wisdom of the Human Body in Creating Healthy Organizations*. He shared with us his fascination of the unfolding story that is part of every organization and painted a picture of health over pathology and the amazing self-healing that bodies do. His talk touched on these themes and provided inspiration to each of us in our daily work and our personal journeys.

Many people have come together, and so many events have transpired to build PWS -- one of the largest and most stable Waldorf schools in the country. Thank you -- each and every one of you who have been part of our journey! Here is a brief synopsis of the last 25 years. Errors of content or omission are mine -- please don't hesitate to call or email me with any corrections! Lauren.Johnson@portlandwaldorfschool.org or 503-654-2200 x210.

The early years -- pre-1982 to 1987

In June 1980, Mart and Ella Pool, Beth Wieting and Kevin Murphy began formally meeting in a study group to read Rudolf Steiner's work. James Knight, then a student at the U of Oregon (and gardener to the Pool's), also joined when he was in town. The group grew and after reading *The Kingdom of Childhood* and “The Four Temperaments,” a second study group formed to study

Waldorf education with the intention of beginning a school. On August 20, 1981, the group filed for status as a non-profit corporation, The Waldorf Association of Portland. (Thank you Ruth Klein – you are here every day on our IRS letter!) The members of the study group became the first Board of this Association.

In early 1982, a garage sale raised \$228 -- and Rene Querido, from Rudolf Steiner College in Sacramento came to give a public talk in Portland in February. The talk attracted nearly 200 people – an unexpectedly large crowd that confirmed an interest in Waldorf education in Portland. The search for a teacher began in March. Denis Fitts, age 23, became the new Morningsong School's first teacher, and Cyndia Ashkar, the assistant. At that time, there were only six children whose parents expressed interest in the school, but Board members, lead by Tom Klein, famously personally guaranteed Mr. Fitts' salary for the first year.

With Kevin Murphy's inspiration, The Pickle Family Circus was brought to NE Portland's Grant Park to help raise funds and awareness of the new school that was to open in the fall. School started at Ascension Church near Mt. Tabor with 16 students and grew to 19 by the end of the year. By September 1983, there were 33 children. In 1984, the school became Portland Waldorf School. In 1987 – with a pre-kindergarten, 2 kindergartens, and grades 1-4, PWS became a sponsored school with AWSNA (the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America). Also in 1987, the College of Teachers was formed.

Some People Who Carried the Early Torch

Founding Board: Karen Moglia, Kevin Murphy, Tom Klein, Laurie Tanner, Sally Stalkfleet, Hannah Indra, and Ruth Klein. Linda Sussman joined soon after.

Founding Teachers: Denis Fitts, Cyndia Ashkar. Miriam Rose and Craig Thom provided aftercare.

Teachers and Staff 1983-1987: Leslie Cox, Dolores Julien, Ron Odama, Esther Centers, Darthea Stalnaker, Maryanne Stalnaker, Susan Kibbey, Katherine Doorly, Hedwich Slawson, Patricia Lynch, Claudia Scates, Shannon Foby, Joseph Cook, Peter Parker, Sally Fitts and Barbara Dills (first 2 school administrators), Lisa McGinley (secretary)

Early Community Life

- Parent Council formed 1985

- Advent Faire and May Faire were first community festivals in 1983
- Board members (now with Duke Castle) attend the first US Conference on Social Science with Chris Schaefer in 1985 – committee structures recommended
- Festival Committee formed in 1987 -- first Michaelmas festival held

These early years were marked by countless new ideas and hours upon hours of sweat and labor on the part of parents, teachers, and Board members. The community persevered through 3 school moves, sometimes difficult staffing decisions, and much more. The founders of the school were committed to consensus in decision making and heartfelt attempts at positive communication and dialogue. This was not always easy, or perfectly done. Yet, the school grew and GREW!

Childhood and Adolescence

At the dawn of the last decade of the millennium (i.e. 1990), Portland Waldorf School was 8 years old, filled with 166 students spanning kindergarten to 8th grade. A Parent Council had been operating for 5 years and a College of Teachers for 3. The school went through some challenging growing pains when some faculty were let go and the ideals of consensus decision-making and communication between faculty and the Board were tested.

The school had already moved 4 times to accommodate growth. In 1988 the school tried to purchase an eight acre site on SE 42nd Avenue near Johnson Creek and in 1989 the school was split in two – kindergartens and grades 5-8 in one place, and grades 1 through 4 in another. It was stressful to all to be so split, but due to financial constraints, the desire to have one permanent site was far from being fulfilled. This was an extremely difficult time for the school in terms of social life and governance.

In the fall of 1990, the school was located in the Multnomah Arts Center in Southwest Portland. Two years later, PWS moved to a site on NE Couch Street and 50th Avenue, where it would stay for the next 10 years. Kindergartens were still, however, located separately. The main site on NE Couch Street was a previous private school property and satisfied many of the school's needs.

Many things came to strengthen by 1994 – the College of Teachers re-formed after having previously dissolved and new energy came into organization and committee

work. In 1995, PWS became a full member school of the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America, giving teachers and parents confidence.

During this time the school created its current mission statement: "To work out of the insights of Rudolf Steiner to educate children for the whole of life. The school nurtures the imagination, cultivates the intellect, and recognizes the spirit of each child. In this way, children are strengthened individually and socially to meet the challenges of life." The mission remains the same today.

In 1996 the Council of Trustees and the College of Teachers developed the school's first set of 5-year strategic goals. PWS had reached an operating budget of \$1,000,000 and had near full enrollment. It was an optimistic time.

After years of study and preparation, the first high school coordinator, Patricia Lynch, was hired along with humanities teachers Jeffrey Levy, Elizabeth Enslin, math and physics teacher Phil Poleson and chemistry and biology teacher Wade Cavin. Grades teachers for applied arts and language helped make the bridge to the full curriculum. Nine students joined the first class – eight went on to become the first graduating class of 2003.

In 1999, PWS was located in four separate locations: the Multnomah Arts Center (one kindergarten), the Ascension Church (two kindergartens), NE Couch Street (pre-k and grades 1-8) and Gregory Hall in SE Portland (the high school). The long standing site search committee – led by John Jennings, Bruce Fong, Jim Morton, Cyndia Ashkar and others, shifted into high gear. The National College of Naturopathic Medicine, located at 110th and NE Market Street, was offered to PWS – 10 acres, several buildings, and room to grow.

A challenging community process ensued. Should we move so far east? How will west side families respond? Do we have the money? What is the vision for the site? These and many other questions opened an often passionate dialogue. PWS went forward with the purchase, only to be challenged by the David Douglas School District in a suit of eminent domain. PWS was compelled to sell the site to the school district. It seemed we were back to square one.

If not for the diligent work of the contingency site committee – mandated by the Board when the sale was disputed – we might have been at square one. In 2000-

2001, that committee, led by Ed Parecki along with Francine Adams, Barbara Dimick, Hugh Healey and Kim and Megan LeBas, kept on the lookout for sites that fit the site search guidelines: within 7 miles of the Burnside Bridge, 7 acres and with enough room to live and grow. When the Milwaukie Middle School was put on the market by the North Clackamas School District – it was nearly a perfect fit.

In the meantime, by late 2001, the quietly running capital campaign committee started to crank into full gear. Led by Ron Ennis and supported over time by Virginia Berg, Jerry Marcyk, Barbara Dimick, Steve Romero, Deandra Ellerbe, Betsy Wright, Teri McKenzie and Lauren Johnson. With a kick-off event thrown by Raelyn Dolton and featuring Siegfried Finser and the Sawtooth Mountain Boys, the final sprint to raise the money began. In addition to the hundreds of individuals who made gifts of all sizes, the Meyer Memorial Trust provided a boost with a matching challenge gift of \$175,000 and the Miller Foundation kicked in later for a gift of \$100,000 to support renovations.

Growing up – our 21st year

Taking possession of the site in June of 2002, Dan Manning, Harry Alston, and the whole design and construction group put in untold hours to create the spaces necessary to hold school in the fall of 2002. Exhausted, but exhilarated, PWS finished the marathon of immediate renovations to move into our permanent site and consolidate our programs onto one campus.

Once the initial physical work was complete, energy was devoted to supporting teachers with incremental raises to reach parity with public schools – part of a 5-year strategic goal setting process spearheaded by the board and Jerry Marcyk. In 2003, the gala auction was revived with the impulse of Raelyn Dolton and Ellie Meyers and we witnessed the graduation of our first high school class. As of 2004, Parent Council continued to work diligently in supporting the social life of the school and a study group of parents and teachers began exploring Kim John Payne's work with Social Inclusion, now in its 3rd year of work to support healthy student interaction and positive communication.

Many May Faires, Harvest Festivals, Olympiads and other events continue to delight and warm the community. New faces have joined the school since that time, continuing to bring fresh ideas and helping our school community integrate into the fabric of our home town of Milwaukie. Our school is now holding strong

at about 360 students – nearly 100 of them are in the high school. Wow, it's been an amazing 25 years -- what will the next 25 years bring? We can all decide!

Six Basic Exercises

By Twila Rothrock, Portland, OR

In the spirit of the Society's theme this year of "Pictures Leading to a Culture of the Heart", it seemed a good time to welcome and encourage more of you to join us once a month in deepening our understanding and practice of Six Basic Exercises. We meet from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. on the Saturday following the 1st Sunday of every month.

Christopher Bamford speaks of the development of our 'spiritual heart' [or heart chakra] in the following way: "It requires that we strive for the complete mastery of our whole being by becoming conscious of our self in such a way that, within this awareness – body, soul, and spirit are in perfect harmony. Physical activity, the inclinations and passions of the soul, and the thoughts and ideas of the spirit must be brought into perfect accord with one another."

It is a challenge to conceive of a 'beginning point' when considering this picture of such profound spiritual development. The Six Basic Exercises are considered to be foundational for inner development by many Anthroposophical scholars because Steiner spoke of them as a key "preparation" for meditation. He emphasizes in "Guidance in Esoteric Training" that people will not achieve anything worthwhile in meditation if they do not first prepare themselves properly. He describes the Basic Six Exercises as safeguards against all negative influences of the soul, as well as reinforcements for all of its positive qualities.

These "six virtues", as Steiner described them are sometimes overlooked as 'side' or 'subsidiary' exercises from the German Nebenuibungen, and yet they were the practices he referred to more frequently and in more detail than any other in his lectures to both the general public, members of the Theosophical Society and within his "Esoteric School".

The Exercises are simple yet not easy. The rigor they ask of us is richly supported by practicing with a group, where there is a wholeness that exceeds the sum of its parts and 'carries' us. We warmly welcome all levels of practice... including 'never'.

Christof Wiechert's Visit to Portland July 2008



Christof Wiechert is the Leader of the Pedagogical or Educational Section of the General Anthroposophical Society whose center is in Dornach, Switzerland, and therefore the de facto leader of Waldorf Education. He has led conferences for the Micha-el Institute in Portland on Waldorf Education and Biography for five years and last year was a speaker at the Anthroposophical Medical Conference in Portland. We are honored that he is returning this year to take part in and lead several workshops and conferences. His program is:

Sunday, July 6th

7pm Meeting with the Anthroposophical Branch members and friends in the Music Room Portland Waldorf School. "Being a companion of Saint Micha-el today."

Monday, July 7th

8.30am-11.15am Working with Grade 5 teachers at their Class Teacher Deepening Conference.

11.15-4.15pm leading a conference for Micha-el Institute Graduates and experienced Waldorf Teachers "Educating for the Twenty-first Century."

7.00 to 8.30pm Seminar Session: 'The Inner Life of the Teacher'.

Tuesday, July 8th

8.30am-11.15am Working with Grade 6 teachers at their Class Teacher Deepening Conference.

11.15-4.15pm leading a conference for Michael Institute Graduates and experienced Waldorf Teachers "Educating for the Twenty-first Century."

7.00 to 8.30pm Seminar Session: 'Working with Parents and Teacher Colleagues'.

Wednesday July 9th

8.30am-11.15am Working with Grade 7 teachers at their Class Teacher Deepening Conference.

11.15-4.15pm leading a conference for Michael Institute Graduates and experienced Waldorf Teachers "Educating for the Twenty-first Century."

Thursday July 10th

8.30am-11.15am Working with Grade 8 teachers at their Class Teacher Deepening Conference.

11.15-12.15pm Plenum Session with Teachers.

7.15 to 9.15pm Workshop begins: "Harmonizing and Enlivening the Waldorf Community" for all members of

the Waldorf Communities: Parents, Grandparents, Administrative Staff, Board Members and Teachers.

Evening lecture: "Rudolf Steiner's vision for the Waldorf Community."

Friday and Saturday, July 11th and 12th

9.00am to 4.15pm Workshop continues.

Sunday July 6th at 7:00 PM

In addition to Christof's work in the Waldorf community, he will speak with the Portland Branch of the Anthroposophical Society on **Sunday July 6th at 7:00 PM**. The topic of his talk will be **Being a Companion of Saint Michael Today**. The event will take place at the Portland Waldorf School, 2300 SE Harrison, Milwaukie.

Waldorf Charter Group Forming

By Tom Klein, Portland, Oregon

Are you interested in starting a new Waldorf charter school in the SE metro area? I am starting to explore this idea and possibly start planning if there are like minded people who would like to join me. You may contact me at tgklein@aol.com or at 503-777-3176.

Portland Newsletter Team News

The Portland Newsletter is currently produced by Jannebeth Röell, Diane Ramage and James Lee.

The newsletter team seeks other interested and willing individuals to participate in this important community building activity.

If you have a skill or interest and wish to be part of this team, contact us by e-mail at anthroposophy@earthlink.net.

*Come and join the fun!
Experience the satisfaction*

Christian Rosenkretz

Living a Spiritual Life in the Modern World

A conference sponsored by The Anthroposophical Society in America with the Los Angeles Branch
110 Martin Alley, Old Town Pasadena, CA 91105-1900

October 17-19, 2008

Christian Rosenkretz “has always lived among us and is still with us today as our leader in spiritual life.”
Rudolf Steiner, Munich, June 1, 1907, Esoteric Lesson (CW 264)

Who is Christian Rosenkretz and how does he work in the world? In this conference we will explore the life and mission of Christian Rosenkretz, with particular focus on the power of Anthroposophy, today's Rosicrucian path, to bring about transformation in modern life.

Friday, October 17

5:00 p.m. Registration and light refreshments - Dinner in local restaurants
7:00 p.m. Welcome by Jane Hipolito, Chair of the Los Angeles Branch
Chamber music composed by the Count of Saint Germain and Mozart,
performed by inauthentica chamber ensemble
Lecture: Anthroposophy and Christian Rosenkretz: Wisdom to Will in Soul Endeavor,
Patrick Wakeford-Evans

Saturday, October 18

8:00 a.m. Overview of the Nineteen Class Lessons, Ernst Katz
Class members only, blue cards required
9:20 a.m. Introductions by MariJo Rogers, co-General Secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in America
Lecture: Diving into Life and Love: The Early Incarnations of Christian Rosenkretz,
Jane Hipolito and Dory Rindge
10:00 a.m. Spirit into Matter, Matter into Spirit, a workshop on Bothmer Gymnastics and Spacial Dynamics,
Pamela Saterdalen
10:30 a.m. Refreshments
11:00 a.m. Lecture: Deepening our Relation to Christian Rosenkretz, Linda Connell
11:30 a.m. Light and Darkness, a drawing workshop, Jannebeth Röell
12:30 p.m. Lunch in the building
2:00 p.m. Lecture: Living a Spiritual Life in the Modern World, Torin Finser
3:00 p.m. Spirit into Matter, Matter into Spirit, a workshop on Bothmer Gymnastics and Spacial Dynamics,
Pamela Saterdalen
3:30 p.m. Refreshments
4:00 p.m. Plenum: Questions for Future Work on Christian Rosenkretz, moderated by Patrick Wakeford-Evans
4:45 p.m. Meetings of special interest groups
5:45 p.m. Dinner in local restaurants
7:30 p.m. The Winter's Tale by William Shakespeare, a Rosicrucian drama performed by the
West Coast Michael Chekhov Players

Sunday October 19

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Annual General Meeting of the Anthroposophical Society in America

For more information about this conference and to register, contact the Anthroposophical Society at 734.662.9355 or go to the Portland Branch Website at www.portlandbranch.com to view the registration form.

Portland Anthroposophical Society Calendar - May 2008

Ongoing Events and Study Groups

African Drumming

Every Thursday evening from 7-8 pm in the high school building of Portland Waldorf School (2300 SE Harrison Street, Milwaukie). \$40 for 5 lessons, \$10 drop-in. Drums provided. No experience necessary. Marion Van Namen (503) 956-4046.

Anthroposophical Medicine Study Group

Once a month Monday (after the second Sunday) at the Takacs Clinic 7-8:30 PM. John Takacs at johntakacsdo@hotmail.com or Kevin Kane at drkev@involved.com.

Curative Education

Second and fourth Friday 7:30 PM – 9PM study of Rudolf Steiner's *Education for Special Needs*. Call Betty Baldwin for information 503-747-6367.

Deepening Our Experience with Six Basic Exercises

Saturday 9:00-10:00 AM once a month. Beginning and advanced students welcome. 2525 NE 13th Ave, Portland, OR 97212. For information call Twila at (503) 281-9349 or write her by e-mail at Twila@spiritone.com

Eurythmy

Training offered by Portland Eurythmy on weekends and evenings. Please contact Natasha Moss at 503 233-0663.

Karmic Relationships

Working through Rudolf Steiner's Karmic Relationships Cycle of lectures. Call James Lee for information 503 249-3804 or e-mail him at anthroposophy@earthlink.net.

Mystery Dramas, with Speech-Formation Exercises

Two Wednesdays a month, 7:30 - 9:00 PM in Portland. Currently working with Rudolf Steiner's *Portal of Initiation* and the *Genesis* lectures. No acting experience necessary, just a love of the Word. Call Diane Ramage at 360 241-7854 for information.

Mystery Knowledge and Mystery Centers

Meeting once a month on the fourth Thursday at 7 PM at Bothmer Hall. Contact Joan Takacs by e-mail at joantakacs@yahoo.com.

Occult Science

Meeting weekly on Tuesdays from 7:30 - 9:00 pm at 3046 NE 33rd Avenue, Portland, OR 97212. Contact Diane Ramage 360 241-7854 for information.

Portland Waldorf School Community Choir

Every Friday morning from 8:45 - 10:00 am (at the Portland Waldorf School, 2300 SE Harrison Street, Milwaukie) in the music room of the high school building, whenever school is in session. Anyone in and outside the PWS community who enjoys singing songs through the seasons, across the centuries and around the world is very welcome, including drop ins. This event is free and a community builder. More information: Marion Van Namen (503) 956-4046.

Portland Youth Discussion Group

The Portland Youth Discussion Group, a group of people youthful in mind, body and spirit, gathers to discuss questions of how Anthroposophy compares and relates to other ideas in the realms of philosophy, spirituality, religion, economics, social activism, individual and social development, and relationships. We welcome new people who are open to exploring Spiritual Science and conducting their own research to join us. For more information, please contact Leslie Loy at (503) 819-3399 or leslielal@yahoo.com.

Spinning and Spiritual Science

Gathering on the first Saturday of each month, 3 PM to 5PM, to study *Art as Spiritual Activity*, lectures by Rudolf Steiner 1888-1923. We work with the fiber arts and spinning wheels. Call Marsha Johnson 503- 309-4223 to sign up.

Waldorf Education and Teacher Training

Lectures and courses conducted throughout the year by the Micha-el Institute. Contact John Miles at 503/774-4946. johncmiles@usa.net

Upcoming Events

JUNE 16 – 27

Early Childhood Intensive Conference-“Cosmic and Earthly Rhythms”

See brochure for details, held at Portland Waldorf School, 2300 SE Harrison, Milwaukie. If you are willing to let a room in your house please e-mail johncmiles@usa.net or call 503 774-4946 for rates of compensation.

Wednesday, JUNE 25

Portland Branch Council Meeting

7 PM – 8PM study of the theme of the year followed by a business meeting at the home of Ruth and Tom Klein, 3609 SE Center, Portland OR 97202, phone: 503-777-3176. All Branch members are welcome to attend.

Saturday, JUNE 28

Micha-el Institute Graduation

11AM held in the Music Room at Portland Waldorf School, 2300 SE Harrison, Milwaukie. Contact 503 774-4946 or email johncmiles@usa.net.

Sunday, JUNE 29

Celebrating Saint John's Day

The celebration and potluck will take place 4 PM-9 PM at Pam Guettler's home, 19265 SE Heuke Road, Boring OR 97009. For directions call 503-658-8197 or e-mail pguettler@attbi.com Please bring a white paper plate and crayons.

JULY 2- AUGUST 13

Music Theory - The Basics

Seven Wednesday evenings from 7-9 PM at 5705 SE Belmont Street, Portland. \$100 if you sign up by June 15th, \$120 thereafter. \$20 drop in fee. Marion Van Namen at marion@octavemusictherapy.com or 503-956-4046

Sunday, JULY 6

Being a Companion of Saint Michael Today

At 7:00 PM Christoph Wiechert will meet with members and friends of the Portland Branch in the music room of the Portland Waldorf School, 2300 SE Harrison, Milwaukie.

JULY 7- 10

Micha-el Institute – Class Teacher Deepening Conferences Grades 5, 6, 7 or 8

Speakers will include Christoph Wiechert [Leader of the Pedagogical Section] See brochure for details, held at Portland Waldorf School, 2300 SE Harrison, Milwaukie.

If you are willing to let a room in your house please e-mail johncmiles@usa.net or call 503 774-4946 for rates of compensation.

JULY 10- 12

Micha-el Institute – “Harmonizing and Enlivening the Waldorf Community”

A workshop with Christof Wiechert for teachers, parents, board members and administrative staff. See brochure for details, held at Portland Waldorf School, 2300 SE Harrison, Milwaukie. If you are willing to let a room in your house please e-mail johncmiles@usa.net or call 503-774-4946 for rates of compensation.

JULY 11-12

Temperaments Alive

Weekend workshop with Janet Allison, Marion Van Namen and James Knight. Exploration of the temperaments through form drawing, movement, music, conversation and story.

Friday 7-9PM and Saturday 9AM-4.30PM Bothmer Hall, 5919 SE Division Street, Portland. \$110 if registered by July 1st, \$125 thereafter. Call Janet at 503-493-7404 to register. For more information please contact: janet@languageofparenting.com or marion@octavemusictherapy.com

Sunday, JULY 13

First Class of the School of Spiritual Science

Bothmer Hall, Blue card required – Discussion on Lesson 9 at 8:30 AM, class at 9:30 AM sharp. Lesson 10. Please contact Jannebeth Röell 503/249-3807 or Diane Ramage at (360) 241-7854.

JULY 14- 19

Micha-el Institute – Class Teacher Deepening Conferences Grades 1, 2, 3 or 4

See brochure for details, held at Portland Waldorf School, 2300 SE Harrison, Milwaukie. If you are willing to let a room in your house please e-mail johncmiles@usa.net or call 503- 774-4946 for rates of compensation.

JULY 17-20

Young Economist Course

The course is intended for students who study economics and (young) people who are active in business but everybody with a strong interest in economics is welcome to attend. The course will be held at the Goetheanum, Switzerland, in the English language. Contact: Els Woutersen, Els.Woutersen@yahoo.com.

JULY 25-27**The Great Passage**

A Coros meditative retreat with Dennis Klocek, at Whidbey Institute, Chinook on Whidbey Island. For info: <http://www.corosinstitute.org> Call Crystal Godleske 503 816 2440 about carpool from Portland.

AUGUST 12-16**Mystery Drama Conference**

The Threefold Mystery Drama Group in Spring Valley, NY, under the direction of Barbara Renold, is planning a conference on the theme of the connection between Goethe's fairy tale, *The Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily*, and Rudolf Steiner's first mystery drama, "The Portal of Initiation". Contact Barbara Renold at barbararenold@yahoo.com or by telephone at 845-356-0674.

AUGUST 15-17**Myth of Me**

Finding the root of personality, a workshop with Dennis Klocek, Waldorf School, Carbondale, CO. For info: <http://www.corosinstitute.org>

AUGUST 18 - 21**Micha-el Institute – Home Schooling Workshop “The Power of Imagination”**

See brochure for details, at Shining Star School, 4317 NE Emerson, Portland OR 97218. Contact 503 774-4946 or email johncmiles@usa.net.

AUGUST 22- 26**Micha-el Institute – Foundation Conference**

See brochure for details, at Shining Star School, 4317 NE Emerson, Portland OR 97218. Contact 503 774-4946 or email johncmiles@usa.net.

OCTOBER 2-3**Money Can Heal**

Talk and workshop with Siegfried Finser, founder of the Rudolf Steiner Foundation. Contact Lauren Johnson at lauren.johnson@portlandwaldorfschool.org Details TBA.

OCTOBER 17-19**Christian Rosenkretz –Living a Spiritual Life in the Modern World and the Anthroposophical Society Annual General Meeting**

Who is Christian Rosenkretz and how does he work in the world? In this conference we will explore the life and mission of Christian Rosenkretz, with particular focus on the power of Anthroposophy, today's Rosicrucian path, to bring about transformation in modern life. More at www.portlandbranch.com.

The conference is sponsored by The Anthroposophical Society in America in cooperation with the Los Angeles Branch, 110 Martin Alley, Old Town Pasadena, CA 91105-1900. The annual general meeting of the Anthroposophical Society takes place on the Sunday following the conference.

Friday, OCTOBER 24**An Anthroposophical Publisher's Private Conversations with Saul Bellow on Spirituality**

A lecture given by Stephen Usher. This lecture tells the story of how Saul Bellow came to write the foreword to Rudolf Steiner's *Boundaries Of Natural Science*. In the process of obtaining the foreword publisher Stephen Usher came to know Bellow and had a number of interesting talks with him about Steiner's spiritual scientific discoveries including those described in *Work of the Angel in Man's Astral Body*. The talk will explore the conversations and Bellow's attitude to Steiner and Anthroposophy. It will also discuss what Bellow had to say about Steiner in *HUMBOLDT'S GIFT*, a book for which Bellow received the Pulitzer prize. 8PM Location TBA, admission \$15.00.

Saturday, OCTOBER 25**Anthroposophist Rudolf Steiner & the Three-Folding of Society**

A lecture by Stephen Usher. The lecture will explore the history of the threefold idea, the idea, and its opponents. Going back to 1917 Stephen Usher will point to the moment when Steiner first postulated the idea in a conversation with Otto Lerchenfeld in response to Lerchenfeld's heartfelt question about how to bring some sanity into the madness of the First World War. The basic threefold idea will then be outlined along with Steiner's idea of the Fundamental Social Law and the Law of True Price. From there the lecture will look at the opponents of the Threefold idea both historical and current. 8PM Location TBA, admission \$15.00

Sunday, OCTOBER 26**The Christmas Foundation Conference and the Foundation Stone**

In this presentation Stephen Usher explores the central event of the Christmas Foundation Conference of the Anthroposophical Society (Dec. 1923-Jan 1924) with particular emphasis on the events of December 25, 1923. In particular the talk will explore the distinction between the Christmas Foundation Verse and the Foundation Stone itself. Members with Pink cards only, 4 PM Location TBA, admission \$15.00.

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