

Portland Anthroposophic Times

Newsletter of the Portland Branch of Anthroposophical Society in Portland, Oregon www.PortlandAnthroposophy.org

Volume 7.5 May 2011

PORTLAND BRANCH LIBRARY NEWS

By Tom Klein, Portland, Oregon

In April, the Portland Branch Library received a donation of about 120 books from Theresa Konomos. This brings us to 1,325 library books. Most of these new books are titles that we did not have. Theresa is a music therapist and there were many books of a psychological nature. There are also many books published in the last decade.

There are tasks that need doing in the library. All the books are catalogued in a WordPerfect merge file. This is not a user friendly format. I am looking for a computer program to transfer the information to that would make it easier to publish a new catalogue. The last catalogue was published over a decade ago. We also have a wealth of information in our periodicals that need to be catalogued. Robin White began this work a couple of years ago, but there is a great deal of work still to do.

PORTLAND BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Paper editions of the newsletter are available at the following venues:

- Takacs Clinic
- Portland Waldorf School
- Cedarwood Waldorf School
- Shining Star School
- Swallowtail School
- Micha-el Waldorf Training
- Eugene Waldorf School
- Corvallis Waldorf School
- Waldorf School of Bend
- Pohala Clinic

The newsletter is published monthly and is available in color by e-mail at the Portland Branch Website:

WWW.PORTLANDANTHROPOSOPHY.ORG

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We also have a few books that need repair. They are soft cover books that are coming apart. Is there someone who could help with this task.

Lastly, I need help with an unpleasant task. There are three people who have had books out for over a year. I have made several attempts to get these books returned without success. They are Michael Horowitz who borrowed *Wrong and Right Uses of Esoteric Knowledge*, *Prerequisites for Occult Development*, *Esoteric Christianity*, and *Anthroposophic Leading Thoughts* in 2005. Robin White borrowed *Apocalypse of St John* by Bock and *Man as a being of Sense and Perception* in 2009. Last, also in 2009 Marsha Johnson borrowed *The Spiritual Hierarchies and Their Reflection*. Can anyone out there help remind these three friends to return these books so others may benefit from them?

A REPLY TO DR. USHER'S ARTICLE ON JUDITH VON HALLE IN THE APRIL 2011 ISSUE

By Alan Mullen, Kassel, Germany



Dr. Usher's article discusses the German anthroposophist Judith von Halle, focusing on a particularly significant contradiction between Rudolf Steiner and her concerning Jehovah. I would like to comment on several aspects of the article. I have by no

means been a "follower" or supporter of hers (and only thanks to Dr. Usher did I even decide finally to read her first book), but I have followed the controversies which

arose following her stigmatization in 2004. I attended the annual general meetings of the German Anthroposophical Society, where the problems in the Berlin branch were discussed and where a commission was formed to investigate and report on the whole affair. I have read their commission report and most of the articles by and about her in *The Goetheanum*, and talked with many anthroposophists here, who know her or read her books. All the while I have remained somewhat skeptical of the validity of her claims, but not feeling any necessity to form a judgment, especially considering how devoted she appears to be to anthroposophy and to her work in the Society, and how many prominent anthroposophists read her books with great interest.

First of all, Dr. Usher's introduction for those not acquainted with Ms von Halle was rather brief and potentially misleading. She has been an active Society member, giving anthroposophical lectures based on her own research for several years before the stigmatization began spontaneously on Good Friday, 2004. Only from that time on was she completely unable to eat or drink anything except small amounts of water, a phenomenon which has often accompanied stigmatization in the past, the most famous case in the 20th century being Therese Neumann. Dr. Usher calls her "a **breatharian**, which means that she does not eat." The Catholic Church uses the term **inedia** for those who can no longer eat after the stigmatization. "Breatharian" usually refers to those who voluntarily stop eating completely by means of very questionable and dangerous techniques. (The Swiss chemist Michael Werner is a breatharian, who has stopped eating since 2000, when he undertook the 21-day, so-called "holy initiation" propagated by the Australian New Age medium Jasmuheen. Werner's book, which he co-authored with his friend and fellow anthroposophist Thomas Stöckli, appeared recently in English translation as *Life from Light: Is it Possible to Live without Food? - A Scientist Reports on His Experiences.*)

Dr. Usher writes, "she experiences curious visions of historical events." Actually, she explains that she has two quite different types of spiritual experiences, those which she had beforehand by following the anthroposophical path of knowledge, and then the extremely sensitive physical sense perceptions, which arose as a result of the stigmata, and which somehow enable her to "see" the events surrounding the Mystery of Golgotha. The latter in itself is not new in connection with stigmatization (e.g., Anna Katharina Emmerick), but Judith von Halle is the first person who claims to combine the experiences of her own stigmatization with the spiritual insights and perceptions resulting from

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THE PORTLAND BRANCH THANKS THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS IN 2011!

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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 Takacs Clinic, 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.org.

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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anthroposophy and the inner path of development it describes.

However, the main point of the article is to show that Ms von Halle contradicts Rudolf Steiner (and thus herself as well), and that she therefore cannot be a reliable spiritual scientist, as she implicitly claims to be. The problem with this argumentation is that Rudolf Steiner also often seemed to contradict himself in perplexing ways. He often refers to these paradoxes as resulting from differing points of view used to describe a spiritual fact, and from the complexity of the spiritual worlds. He often left paradoxes unresolved, perhaps due to lack of time, but no doubt also because he expected to be asked whenever members could not resolve it themselves. In either case, he gives an example in one lecture (March 29, 1910, in GA 119 - *Macrocosm and Microcosm*) of someone who pointed out to him his two strikingly contradictory descriptions of the soul's preparations for a new birth. He then used an analogy from everyday life to resolve the paradox, thereby showing how both descriptions can be true. And so, with a little fantasy, it is perhaps possible to resolve the paradox Dr. Usher describes, concerning Jehovah leaving the Moon sphere, by means of an analogy: imagine a manager who is promoted to a higher position in his company, thus receiving more responsibilities, but continuing to be responsible for his old department for a time, since there is no one to replace him. He is seen happily leaving his old office, moving up three floors to a bigger office, but without neglecting his old responsibilities. For the outside world he continues to be seen as the manager of his old department. Could it not be similar with Jehovah? Considering how close the beings of Christ and Jehovah are, it is unthinkable that Christ's leaving the spiritual Sun sphere for the Earth could have no impact on Jehovah, and all the more so, since Christ's appearance on Earth has meant that the hereditary forces have ever decreasing importance for human evolution. By the 7th millennium the Moon will reunite with the Earth, and then human reproduction, as we know it, will be replaced with a more spiritual form. (S. lecture May 13, 1921, in GA 204 - *Materialism and the Task of Anthroposophy*.)

And so, since Judith von Halle is still alive and a fellow Society member as well, it would have been a matter of common decency for Ms Mosmuller to have asked Ms von Halle how she explains the contradictions before publishing an attack on her. (Perhaps she had done so and after receiving no satisfactory answer, decided then to publish the book.) If Ms von Halle has not already resolved the paradoxes in the interim, I intend to ask Ms

von Halle in September, when she gives a lecture here in Kassel. However, in my opinion, it is not really necessary to go through all the contradictions which Ms Mosmuller has found, since her basic premise concerning Ms von Halle itself is wrong. As Ms Mosmuller states in her more recent book *Der lebendige Rudolf Steiner* ("The living Rudolf Steiner") in the chapter classifying Steiner's opponents, she puts Judith von Halle in a class by herself, and dismisses her with one sentence, claiming that she bases all her teachings solely on her visions arising from the stigmatization. This is patently false, as one can ascertain simply by reading Ms von Halle's first book thoroughly, where she states repeatedly that she has two other sources, namely Rudolf Steiner, and her own purely spiritual experiences resulting from following his path of knowledge.

Pointing out contradictions in Steiner's work is a favorite tactic opponents use to prove him an imposter. The most recent case is the latest book by the theologian Helmut Zander, *Rudolf Steiner, The Biography*, who is by far the worst opponent of anthroposophy we have in Europe at the present. At the very beginning of his book he calls Steiner a liar, since he once wrote that he was born on Feb. 25, 1861, yet otherwise always said Feb. 27, (a contradiction which has never been resolved, but then Steiner never claimed to be infallible!) Zander goes on to show that Steiner was a racist and a cocaine user, among many other such absurdities! (Steiner's many problematic statements about certain races, gladly emphasized again this year in the media with Zander's help, are rather difficult to resolve and continue to cause headaches for many anthroposophists.)

Perhaps the most important self-contradiction occurred in Steiner's last address, in which he seemed to substitute the name Lazarus-John for John the Baptist in the sequence of incarnations from Elijah to Novalis. Luckily, he was asked to explain it shortly before he died; otherwise, we would not have known what he meant.

I recently read another rather graphic description of the life of Christ and found a passage where Christ refuses to help a woman because she wasn't a Jew, even comparing her to a dog! Clearly this contradicts Steiner's description of the principle of Universal Love which Christ brought to Earth, so Dr. Usher's reasoning would similarly require me to reject this author; unfortunately he is the Evangelist St. Matthew (15:21-28.)

However, Dr. Usher's last thesis concerning Ms von Halle and the Eighth Sphere is not based solely on the contradiction concerning Jehovah and must still be

considered seriously. There he quotes extensively from Steiner's lecture concerning "visionary clairvoyants" and the Eighth Sphere (GA 254, Oct. 18, 1915). I reread this lecture, and found it very hard to see how it should apply to Judith von Halle. Steiner describes there the situation with mediumistic visionaries, primarily Madame Blavatsky, where the latter developed a strong hatred for both Christ and Jehovah. It is precisely the mediumistic state of consciousness that allows the free will to be shackled, and thus fall prey to the adversary powers. Judith von Halle does not appear to be mediumistic, nor can one find any trace of such hatred - quite the contrary! And why would Lucifer and Ahriman have an interest in conjuring up all the images which Ms von Halle describes, which, though they often go beyond what Steiner and the Gospels describe, continually help her to emphasize the unique, cosmic importance of the Christ event for Earth evolution, as well as the importance of Rudolf Steiner's work for its understanding. Her book breathes a spirit of intense devotion and gratitude to anthroposophy and its central mission: an ever deeper, spiritual understanding of the Christ event.

It is appalling how Judith von Halle has been attacked by some anthroposophists, without seeming to give her a fair, unbiased treatment, even to the extent, in one case, of refusing to talk with her, despite her request, before publishing the book containing the attack. (Similar attitudes led to the horrible difficulties in the Society in the 1930's.) I would think anthroposophists could take to heart the tolerance and open-mindedness Steiner describes in the first scene of *The Portal of Initiation*, where Maria says of the clairvoyant Theodora: "... One day she felt transformed, / And nowhere could she find understanding. / Her being caused alienation everywhere, / Until she entered our circles. / Not that we ourselves could understand, / What with no one else she has in common; / But through our way of thinking, we acquire / Full sympathy for the unfamiliar, / And let every type of human being prevail." (translation by Alan Mullen)

Alan Mullen joined the Anthroposophical Society in 1971, studied math at the UC Berkeley, and anthroposophy and Goethean science at the Christian Community Priest Seminar in Stuttgart, Germany. He was then high school math and physical sciences teacher at the NYC Rudolf Steiner School for two years. Since then He has worked as computer software developer and lastly as computer consultant in Kassel, Germany. Before moving to Kassel in 1994, Alan lived in Texas for 12 years, where he was one of the founding members of the first Society branch in Texas and then was the School for Spiritual Science First Class reader for Texas.

SAYING GOODBYE TO A FRIEND



Laurene (Laurina) Esther Compton
August 23, 1962-April 17, 2011.

Laurene, loving mother, wife, and friend spent her final days surrounded by family and friends whose lives she had enriched with her creative spirit and love. She peacefully took her last breaths at home encircled by the love of family and friends after a two-year battle with cancer.

Born to June and Harold Compton of Van Nuys California, Laurene graduated from Humboldt State University where she met her husband Brian who shared her passion for the outdoors, music and sharing laughter with good friends. They moved to West Linn, Oregon in 1991 and started a family. Her son Robin, 13, added a dimension to her life filled with much joy and discovery. He was a vessel for the love that blossomed within her each day spent with him.

Through her passion for life she developed a community of lifelong friends that neither time nor distance could diminish, but which only grew stronger throughout her life.

We will miss her.

THOMAS MEYER COMES TO PORTLAND IN SEPTEMBER

Karma, Reincarnation and Biography and Rudolf Steiner's Core Mission – Parts I and II

Friday, SEPTEMBER 23rd and Saturday, SEPTEMBER 24th

Location: Bothmer Hall, 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Discussion of Current Events in the Light of Anthroposophy

Sunday, September 25th

Location: Bothmer Hall, 3pm

The Portland Branch of the Anthroposophical Society is sponsoring this lecture series as part of the 150th anniversary celebration of Rudolf Steiner's birth. Thomas Meyer will speak on the topics of Karma, Reincarnation and Biography by bringing alive the biographies of Laurence Oliphant (see *Karmic Relationships* Lecture by Rudolf Steiner on August 24, 1924) and Rudolf Steiner's core mission – reincarnation and karma. Thomas will also speak about the significant youth friend Friedrich Eckstein, also born in February 1861. The participant can expect to receive insight Rudolf Steiner's work on karma.

On Sunday, Thomas Meyer will bring his perspective on current events in the light of Anthroposophy – a direction that we are excited to initiate in our community.

Cost for the two-lecture series on Karma is \$30 when purchased before the first lecture. The cost of individual lectures is \$20; donations accepted for the Sunday lecture. Pay online at www.PortlandAnthroposophy.org. Contact Valerie Hope at valerieannhpdx@aol.com for more information and to reserve your place.



Thomas Meyer (b. 1950) is a resident in Basel Switzerland, where he is fully engaged in Anthroposophical work as a freelance writer, publisher (see www.perseus.ch), lecturer and teacher of Rudolf Steiner's legacy of Spiritual Science. Thomas publishes a monthly magazine *Der Europaer* which includes historical and current events seen from the light of an anthroposophical world view. Thomas Meyer's main contribution to the life of Anthroposophy in our times is his books. The ones that have been translated into English put him into the same category as the most prolific anthroposophical writers of our time.

He has written such monumental books as *D.N.Dunlop, A Man Of Our Times*; and the truly amazing book *Light For The New Millennium*. These two books alone rank Thomas Meyer as outstanding historian on the work of Rudolf Steiner. They are also highly educational in coming to an understanding of Rudolf Steiner as the greatest occultist of the twentieth century. People don't generally realize that in these two above-mentioned books the daily life of Anthroposophy's founder comes into view in a way that cannot be experienced from any other source. The other books on Thomas's roster are *Reality, Truth and Evil*, a collection of facts about the days in and around the destruction of the Twin Trade Towers in New York City on September 11th 2001. His book has been acclaimed by the 9\11 Truth Organization for finding facts that no one else writing about these events found. Also written by Thomas is a small book - *Clairvoyance and Consciousness* – on the difference between clairvoyance in ancient times and the clairvoyant consciousness that is attainable today. The *Bodhisattva Question* – on Krishnamurti, Tomberg, the masters etc . – was just reissued in an revised edition, including the lectures by Elisabeth Vreede on the subject. *The Death of Merlin* is a collection of writings by Walter Johannes Stein, one of the most creative spirits in Rudolf Steiner's closest entourage.

Portland Anthroposophical Society Calendar - May 2011

Ongoing Activities and Study Groups

Anthroposophical Course for Young Doctors, Study Group

1st Tuesday of the month 7-8:30 PM

Pohala Clinic, 12050 SE Holgate Blvd.

Contact Julie Foster by phone at (503) 572-4196 or by e-mail at julie@pohalaclinic.com.

Karma Exercises and Study

1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7:00 PM

NE Portland

The study group has just completed its multi-year work with the entire *Karmic Relationships* lecture cycle, and is now starting to work with Rudolf Steiner's karma exercises. Call James Lee for information 503 249-3804 or send an e-mail to him at anthroposophy@earthlink.net.

Knowledge of the Higher Worlds

1st and 3rd Tuesdays 7:30 - 9:00 PM

3046 NE 33rd Avenue, Portland, OR 97212

Contact Donna Patterson and Bob Kellum at 503-331-7393.

Moms' and Dads' Parenting Group

2nd Mondays

North Portland

This group is intended for parents of very young children wishing to connect through the inspiration of Rudolf Steiner's lectures and writings specifically regarding the incarnation and growth of the young child and how we can apply this wisdom to our modern day circumstances as parents. Meets for potluck and discussion 6:00 - 8:00PM at Rose Hip Preschool in North Portland, please contact Kristin Zay (formerly Kresch) for more information at 503-830-1003 or heyheykk@gmail.com.

Mystery Dramas, with Speech-Formation Exercises

2nd and 4th Wednesdays

7:30 - 9:00 PM, in SW Portland

Currently working on the 2nd *Mystery Drama* by Rudolf Steiner, *The Soul's Probation*. No acting experience necessary, just a love of the Word. Contact Diane Ramage by e-mail at drumage@comcast.net or by phone at (503) 908-0131 for information.

Portland Waldorf School Community Choir

Friday morning from 8:45 - 10:15 am

Portland Waldorf School, 2300 SE Harrison Street, Milwaukie in the Orchard Room

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

At the moment the group is taking a break. Please contact Chrystal Godleske if you are interested in meeting again. socialsculptor@gmail.com.

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.

Events

Sunday Services

Sunday, MAY 15

Bothmer Hall, 5919 SE Division St., Portland, OR 97202 9:15 AM

Religious Instruction - 9:15AM for children in 1st - 8th grade, adults welcome, too.

Children's Service - 10:00AM - for children in 1st - 8th grade

The Act of Consecration of Man - 10:30AM

Contact Sandra Burch with any questions or to sign up for childcare, galenalyn@gmail.com or (503) 353-1818

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First Class of the School of Spiritual Science

Sunday JUNE 12

5919 SE Division St., Portland, OR 97207. Bothmer Hall

Blue card required 9:30 AM sharp. Lesson 15. Please contact Diane Ramage at (503) 908-0131 or Cheri Munske at (503) 772-2632

Portland Branch Council Meeting

Monday JUNE 13

1304 SE Main Street, Portland, OR 97214.

7 PM – 9PM at the home of Chrystal Godleske. Phone 503-816-2440 All Branch members are welcome to attend.

Redeeming the Realm of Rights

JUNE 30 - JULY 3

Hawthorne Valley School: 330 Route 21C, Ghent, NY

This conference will be on Rights and Democracy, hosted by the Social Sciences Section of North America. Along with presentations we will employ artistic exercises and focused and free-form conversations to gain insights and develop new capacities. For more information, contact Gary Lamb, garylamb@taconic.net; 518-672-4465. Ext. 223.

Nineteen Lessons of the First Class

AUGUST 7-12,

9200 Fair Oaks Blvd., Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Tel 916-961-8727. The School for Spiritual Science would like to invite all members of the School for Spiritual Science to a conference of the nineteen lessons, to be held at 9200 Fair Oaks Blvd., Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Look for more information in the Anthroposophical Society's newsletter *being human*.

The Soul's Probation

AUGUST 17 - 21

260 Hungry Hollow Road, Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977

The Spring Valley Drama Group will present Rudolf Steiner's second mystery drama, during a conference to mark the 100th anniversary of the play's first performance in Munich, Germany. info@threefold.org

Karma, Reincarnation and Biography and Rudolf Steiner's Core Mission – Parts I and II

SEPTEMBER 23rd and 24th

5919 SE Division St., Portland, OR 97207 - Bothmer Hall, 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

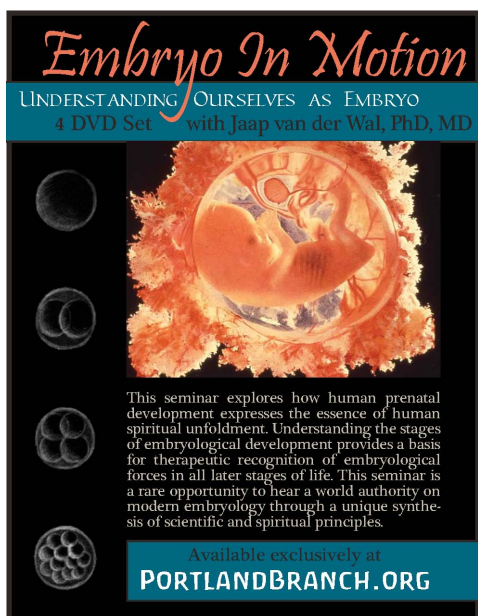
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5919 SE Division St., Portland, OR 97207 Bothmer Hall, 3pm


On Sunday Thomas will bring his perspective on current events in the light of Anthroposophy – a direction that we are excited to initiate in our community. Donations accepted for the Sunday lecture. Pay at the branch website online at www.PortlandAnthroposophy.org or contact Valerie Hope at valerieannhpdx@aol.com for more information and to reserve your place.



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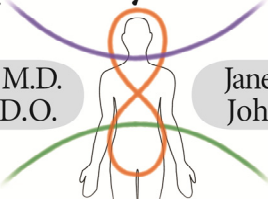
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Joan Takacs, D.O.




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