

Portland Anthroposophic Times

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

www.portlandbranch.org

Volume 5.9 September 2009

MICHAELMAS FESTIVAL



Please join us for a community Michaelmas Festival for members and friends, sponsored by the Portland Branch. Monday, September 28, 7:00 - 8:00 PM at Bothmer Hall, 5915 SE Division St, Portland, OR 97206.

Siegward Elsas will give a brief talk about the Michaelmas Imagination and introduction to a staged reading of Scene IV of the *Portal of Initiation* by Rudolf Steiner which will follow. The Mystery Drama Chorus will recite the "Calendar of the Soul" verse for Michaelmas by Rudolf Steiner. They'll also present a staged reading of Scene IV of the *Portal of Initiation* by Rudolf Steiner.

James Knight and Laura Radefeld will perform a tone eurythmy piece - part of a Chopin sonata for cello and piano. The Sauvie Island Painter's cooperative will display nature themed works.

Refreshments will follow. Due to dramatic content, only children age 9 and above will be admitted. Free admission for all.

Questions? Contact Diane Ramage at drumage@earthlink.net or 360 241-7854.

Portland Pedagogical Section Potluck

Waldorf educators and all those devoted to educating children...

Please join us for a wonderful potluck at Gabriel Park
Next to the Children's Play Structure on Vermont

Saturday October 3rd from 5pm-6:30pm

The work that we do touches the lives of children forever beyond one's imagination. We want to celebrate you the teacher, home program teachers, subject teachers, assistants, aftercare providers, administrators, and office staff!

We know that every moment of your waking presence with children lives and breathes their well being. What a phenomena. What a service to humanity. Please come to celebrate one another, our Waldorf schools, Home programs, Charters, Home schools and Inspirations!

With awe and inspiration, Sacha Etzel, for the Portland Pedagogical Section Chiaki Uchiyama, Tom Klein, Betty Baldwin and Lucia Mello.

Torin Finser Visits the Portland Branch

You are cordially invited to attend a Members'
Gathering

*Awakening Opportunities through the
Anthroposophical Society in America*

A brief presentation on recent news and
conversation with

Torin M. Finser, General Secretary

Saturday, September 19th at 6:00 PM
*Pot Luck Dinner Followed by Presentation and
Conversation until about 8:00 PM*

3135 NE 17th Avenue (503) 249-3807

HOME SCHOOLING USING WALDORF EDUCATIONAL PRINCIPLES

by Marsha Johnson, Portland, OR

Homeschoolers are increasing in numbers in America at an astonishing rate, with up to 30 percent of some community's families choosing to educate their offspring in this fashion rather than enroll in a local public school or private alternative program. Using census data from the late 1990s, it was estimated that over two million children are currently educated at home with that



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 2009!

Leslie Cox	Janet Terwilliger	Teresa J Ramirez
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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.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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 Proofreading: Diane Rumage
 Communications: Diane Rumage and Jannebeth Röell
 Logistics: Community Volunteers Like You
 Website Services: Angelica Hesse
 Hardcopy Reproduction: Kinko's
 Accounting: Ruth Klein

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numbers growing by 15-20 percent every year. Naturally, some of these families are quite interested in Waldorf education and seek out help and advice from a wide variety of sources. It is hard to discover how many of these millions of families are including Waldorf ideas in their schooling, however using a Google search reveals over 42,000 sites listed as resources for this purpose in 2009.

About twelve years ago, I helped found Cedarwood Waldorf school and immediately began to encounter families who had been homeschooling or who were homeschooling and who were asking for access to the beautiful model of education based on the indications of Rudolf Steiner. The very first family I met in such circumstances resided in Astoria, on the Oregon Coast, where Waldorf education was not an option for a delightful 7 year old child, and the mother and I struck up a friendship and whenever they made the two hour drive into Portland, the child would join our class for the day or afternoon, whatever worked. In addition, I was happy to send along my monthly lesson plans and ideas to the mother via the internet and she found them useful to help guide her home education. I recalled reading about Rudolf Steiner and his own experiences in educating a family of boys, at home as a tutor, and how one of the boys demonstrated a need for special care, and I felt intuitively that perhaps these homeschooling families deserved as much information as I could offer, freely and warmly given.

Such bits of relevant information at that time were difficult to find for a homeschooling family. There were very limited resources in publication, and much of what teachers shared with one another at February and summer conferences was via copies of materials, carefully passed around from one teacher to another, and I recall long sessions at night in Fair Oaks, California, waiting at copy-businesses as we tried to acquire those

precious words of wisdom. Many newer teachers love to stack up files and stapled packets of poems, circle rhymes, stories, and ideas until they begin to gain confidence in writing and preparing their own material.



Homeschooling families had little access to materials at that time as they were not encouraged or allowed to attend teacher training events or conferences, as a rule. Many of these families lived far away from any Waldorf schools and chose to home educate rather than submit to a local public program. Others lived near schools but financially could not reasonably enter the realm of the school, or had a hard choice of sending one of the children but not the others. Barbara Dewey was a pioneer homeschool Waldorf leader with her Waldorf Without Walls website and materials.

Over time, as Cedarwood developed, my small group of homeschooling families grew, too, who were interested in my teaching materials, and I shared these freely. These sincere loving families and the children were certainly present in my mind and heart as I made a transition in 2003 and founded Shining Star Waldorf School in inner eastside Portland, with a mission in mind to serve the home schooling population in the area. I offered two once-a-week classes as Family Playgroups, and quickly 24 families signed up for \$50 per month, with children from newborns to age 15. Families gathered in the 2nd floor of a church on 26th and NE Fremont, bringing fresh baked muffins, baby diaper bags, and large baskets of blocks, silks, dolls, and natural toys. We hauled those up and down the stairway each week. A few drapes placed over an empty trash can became a backdrop for many wonderful puppet shows and stories, and we gathered round the Formica tables to light beeswax candles as I brought seasonal songs, rhythm, and parenting principles from anthroposophy to these wonderful people. The sterile temporary settings

simply vanished as we transformed them with love and sympathy into a castle of magic! I figure that I have personally taught at least two hundred adults to sand dowels into knitting needles and create knitted string wash cloths over the past six years. Not to mention showing so many how to make Kindergarten Soup and a simple loaf of bread!

As with most sincerely incarnating social beings, Shining Star quickly expanded over time to include a preschool and a kindergarten, where parents were encouraged to help in the classroom and bring along smaller siblings! The warmth and enthusiasm were so irresistible, everyone wanted more and more time together. And so the homeschooling families formed the core of the school and influence the current model as well, with a choice of a 1 day and I spent the second year teaching 20 children from grades one to eight in a single classroom with several helpful colleagues (Peter Nahigian and Adria Reed).



Four years ago, I offered the first Waldorf Home School Conference in Portland and a few parents attended for a week to learn how to paint, play the flute, create main lesson rhythms, and what to teach. Now we just finished the 4th Annual Conference, titled Responsive Education: The Waldorf Way, and 20 participants attended from as far away as Alaska and Colorado. The parents work hard at learning the Arts of Waldorf while children attend a camp on the campus at 602 NE Prescott. The number of printed resources for these home educators has increased dramatically as has the interest in our unique form of education in the world. Demonstrations alternate with hands-on activity and small group

biography or planning groups. It is an intense but very satisfying week.

In addition, the wonder of the internet has allowed for such tremendous ease in sharing resources and materials, and I founded a Yahoo Group website called Waldorfhomeeducators which now has nearly 1800 members spread all over the globe! Over 17,000 submissions have been posted of which I have personally written almost 3000. In the way of this modern world, I can share my stories, poems, songs, lyrics, music, circles, lesson plans, craft or handwork ideas, and we can enjoy a welcome dialogue about Rudolf Steiner, anthroposophy, and the terrific and terrible battle that is currently taking place around the rapidly disappearing phenomena known as "childhood". At the 4th annual Home school conference this year, the participants enjoyed lectures with Betty Baldwin, Nancy Peirce, and myself as well as instruction on the arts of teaching, help in lesson planning and block preparation, storytelling, movement, music, and much more. Probably one of the most helpful aspects of these conferences, though, are the immediate and helpful friendships that form and endure, those wonderful sympathies that instantly appear when like-minded and like-hearted people gather. We enjoyed an afternoon presentation by a mother with seven children who had homeschooled them using Waldorf principles (one now in grad school, three finished college, and she has her younger two at Shining Star School).

I have been able to present fundamentals of anthroposophical thinking that underlie and support the model of education indicated by Steiner and the response has been so gratifying, especially when these important insights help parents to grasp why a child is behaving in a particular way at a particular time. Explaining the important stages and states of human development, the temperaments and the specific curriculum that was arranged to support the child at each step, is a pleasure as well as revolutionary for the parents.

As the current forms of education are changing so rapidly in this country, with the explosion of public charter programs and options, home schooling continues to satisfy many families and remains a viable option for multiple reasons, and certainly Waldorf education is the method of choice for a substantial number. It has been a pleasure to work with these particular families and I anticipate further development in this area, worldwide, and of course, locally.

THE NATURE OF THE DRAGON: UNDERSTANDING MENTAL ILLNESS

On October 11th, at 11:00am, following the meeting of the First Class of the School for Spiritual Science, we will gather in Bothmer Hall for our second quarterly Member's Meeting. We will begin with a potluck brunch until 11:30 when our program will begin.

The program will start with a presentation given by Lucian Schloss. Lucian will speak of how to understand the varying degrees of mental illness from an anthroposophical perspective and where modern Psychotherapy and Anthroposophy connect.

Lucian is currently working in Portland as a counselor for a national suicide and crisis line. He also works with couples, individuals and children at The Portland Relationship Center. Last spring he received his MA in Transpersonal Psychology from the California Institute of Integral Studies, following a year in the Conscious Studies Program at Rudolf Steiner College. He is also a flower essence practitioner. He has taught in several different Waldorf schools with children of all ages. He is a graduate of the Princeton Waldorf School. He and Sonja Barclay (graduate of Portland Waldorf School and co-owner of Spielwerk Community Toystore) married in Oregon this summer. His personal interests are human development, alchemy, esoteric Christianity and the nature of human relationship.

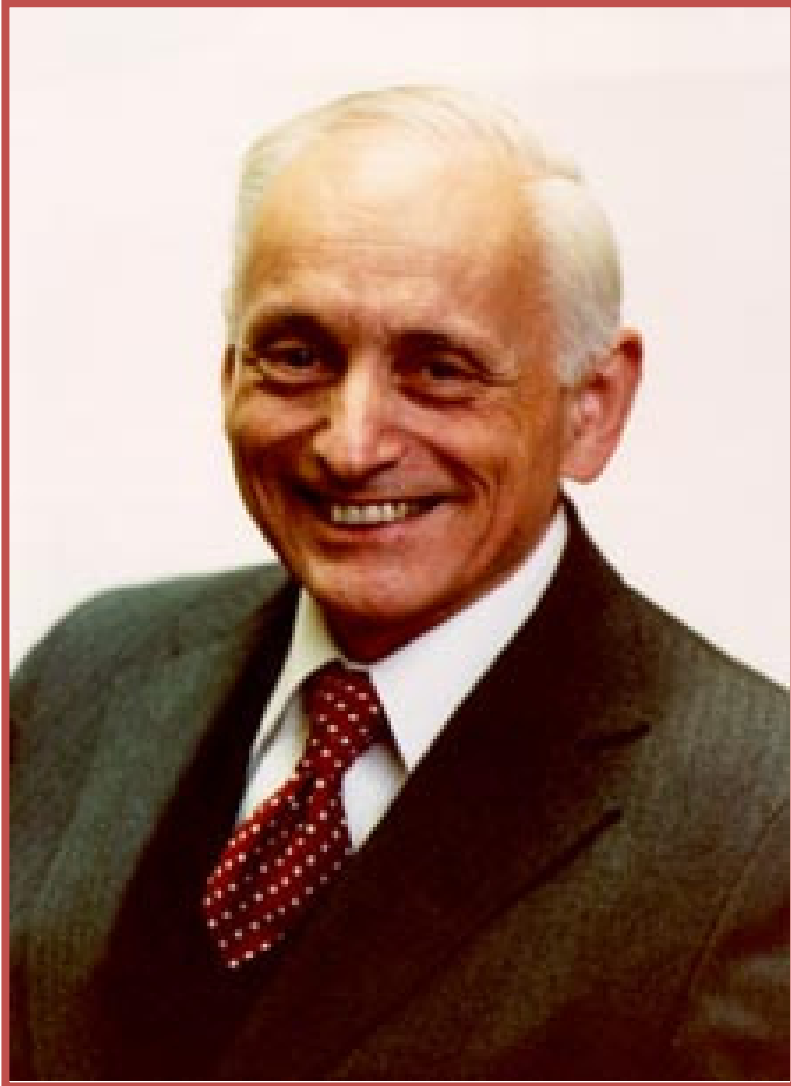
Preparing for this meeting has been an interesting opportunity for me to have many conversations on the topic and has raised questions both within myself and in dialogue with others such as "What is the difference between the role of the doctor and the priest/counselor?, What is the relationship between imbalance in the world and extreme states in the soul of an individual?, What is our responsibility to one another? How can we help ourselves and one another? What is mental illness/mental health? What do the organs have to do with illness? What does early childhood have to do with mental illness? What is the karma of extreme states?" I look forward to seeing you at our meeting and to exploring our questions together.

For the final hour of our meeting, Cheri Munske will lead us in a therapeutic painting exercise (no painting experience necessary!) Cheri is an art therapist in private practice in Portland. She offers individual counseling sessions and leads painting classes and workshops, most recently exploring the theme of Demeter, the mother/daughter relationship, and the colors and moods of the seasons. Cheri has a Master's degree from the Tobias School of Art and Therapy in the UK. She also teaches Handwork at the Portland Waldorf School, and is the founder of Wool Horse Puppet Theatre.

Some additions to our event are still in development; for example, we hope to have a showing of paintings contributed by other counselors working with the arts in our community. Did you know that there are several people in our community who do this work, including Jannebeth Röell, Robin Lieberman and Valerie Miles?

Childcare will be available for \$5 per child or \$7 per family. Admission of \$5 for Members and \$8 for friends will be collected at the door.

Contact Chrystal at (503 816 2440) for more information.



ERNST KATZ

Our Good Friend Ernst Katz crossed the threshold on September 2nd at 11:15 PM EDT in Ann Arbor, Michigan. For years he brought ideas to his community that empowered anthroposophy and brought it to the attention of those with an interest to experience it. His work as a professor of solid state physics at the University of Michigan resulted in a number of his students meeting anthroposophy, the teaching of accredited courses on Rudolf Steiner and anthroposophy, and showings of Dr. Steiner's blackboard drawings on campus. Ernst and his wife Katie were participants in the purchase of Rudolf Steiner House, which is now the headquarters of the Anthroposophical Society in America. His work over the years has affected many anthroposophists across the country who attended his summer courses on topics related to the School for Spiritual Science and his Christmastime conferences on the Foundation Stone Meditation. Ernst was involved in all that was going on around him and had a palpable effect on any room of people to which he was speaking. More on Ernst Katz and his work can be found at the following link.

[ERNST KATZ ON THE MISSION OF RUDOLF STEINER](#)

**Ernst Katz Memorial Gathering September 20th
between 4:00 and 6:00 PM. See the following program
for more detailed information.**

Sunday, September 20, 2009 at 4:00 PM

A CELEBRATION TO COMMEMORATE THE LIFE OF ERNST KATZ

Born on July 23, 1913 – Crossed the Threshold on September 2, 2009

**Friends of Ernst Katz and of Anthroposophy are Welcome to Attend
Bothmer Hall, 5909 Division Street, Portland OR**

Welcome

J.S. Bach Prelude – MariJo Rogers

Eurythmy – J. S. Bach – Laura Radefeld

Eurythmy – I think speech

Health verse by Rudolf Steiner – MariJo Rogers

Pictures out of the life of Ernst Katz – Jannebeth Roell

Contributions from Friends

Verse by Rudolf Steiner – Diane Ramage

Eurythmy – J. S. Bach- Laura Radefeld

Eurythmy – 'Halleluiah' – with all who wish to participate

Light Refreshments

Portland Anthroposophical Society Calendar - September 2009

Ongoing Events and Study Groups

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.

Eurythmy

Eurythmy with Laura Radefeld every Wednesday morning that school is in session at the PWS Orchard Room @ 8:30 AM. Donations accepted to cover cost of piano accompanist. For more info call 503-654-4362 or contact by e-mail at laura.radefeld@gmail.com.

Karma Exercises and Study

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 on the first and third Thursday of each month. Call James Lee for information 503 249-3804 or e-mail him at anthroposophy@earthlink.net.

Meditation and Practical Spiritual Science

We are currently studying Rudolf Steiner's lecture cycle "True and False Paths of Spiritual Investigation", also called "Initiate Consciousness". We encourage a lively conversational exchange of questions of all kinds. New members welcome. Meetings are on second and fourth Thursdays at 6:30 PM at 9510 SW View Point Terrace, Portland OR 97219. To RSVP, questions and directions call (503) 244-2277 or e-mail elsas@ohsu.edu

Mystery Dramas, with Speech-Formation Exercises

On the second and fourth Wednesdays each month, 7:30 - 9:00 PM, in SW Portland. Currently working with Rudolf Steiner's *Portal of Initiation* and the *Genesis* lectures. No acting experience necessary, just a love of the Word. Contact Diane Ramage by e-mail at drumage@earthlink.net or by phone at 360 241-7854 for information.

Occult Science

First and third Tuesdays from 7:30 - 9:00 PM at 3046 NE 33rd Avenue, Portland, OR 97212. Contact Donna Patterson and Bob Kellum at 503-331-7393.

Portland Youth Discussion Group

We invite you to join some of the young, and young-at-heart, members of our community for an ongoing potluck/study group. We are currently working with the last few lectures of *Becoming the Archangel Michael's Companions* in order to understand what our task is, as the youth of the world, in the 21st Century. In the fall, we may turn to *Knowledge of Higher Worlds*, to renew our understanding of this key work (other possibilities exist). We welcome new people who are open to exploring spiritual science, asking questions, discussing topics that sometimes get overlooked in other groups, and trying to keep Anthroposophy as fresh, relevant, and living as possible. We meet Sunday evenings, twice a month to share a potluck dinner, practical/artistic activity, and conversation. For more information, please contact Angelica Hesse at 503-238-0055 or swingsprite@gmail.com.

Psychosophy Study Group

Working with the Steiner text, *Psychology of Body, Soul and Spirit*, we meet the second and fourth Tuesday of the month, 7:30 - 9:00, beginning March 10, in NE Portland. Call Cheri Munske for more info: 503-484-4133.

Waldorf Education and Teacher Training

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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 13

First Class of the School of Spiritual Science

Bothmer Hall, Blue card required - Discussion on Recapitulation Lesson 1 at 8:30 AM, class at 9:30 AM sharp. Recapitulation Lesson 2. Please contact Jannebeth Röell 503/249-3807 or Diane Ramage at (360) 241-7854

SEPTEMBER 17-20

Sanford Miller in Eugene

Thursday, September 17, 7PM: The Dysfunctional Self and the Need for an Authentic Inner Life. Friday, September 18, 7PM: Individuality and Community: The Impossibility and the Necessity for Community Today. Sunday, September 20, 10:30 AM: The Act of Consecration of Man. All events take place at the Art Building of the Eugene Waldorf School, 1350 McLean Blvd., Eugene, OR 97405. For information please contact Sandra Burch (503) 353-1818 or galenalyn@gmail.com.

Saturday, SEPTEMBER 19

Pot Luck Dinner and Meeting with Torin Finser

Torin Finser, Co-General Secretary of the Anthroposophic Society in America, will meet with members and friends of the branch on September 19th from 6:00-8:00 PM. Bring your favorite dish and questions. This event will be held at the home of James Lee & Jannebeth Röell, 3135 NE 17th Avenue, 503-249-3804.

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 20

Memorial Gathering for Ernst Katz

A gathering of friends of Ernst Katz and friends of anthroposophy will take place this day. See the program on page 5 of the newsletter for the program. Time: 4:00 PM. Location: Bothmer Hall, 5909 Division Street. Contact Jannebeth Röell at (503) 249-3807 for info.

Monday, SEPTEMBER 28

Michaelmas Festival

Local members and friends of the Portland Branch will present eurythmy and a staged reading of scene IV of *The Portal of Initiation* mystery drama by Rudolf Steiner. Please join us at Bothmer hall at 7PM. Contact Diane Ramage drumage@earthlink.net or by phone at 360 241-7854 for information.

Thursday, OCTOBER 1

North American Youth Section Meeting

This meeting will be part of the Anthroposophical Society's Annual General Meeting pre-events in Spring Valley, NY. Registration for this event is separate from the AGM (see next calendar item). For more information contact Leslie Loy leslielal@yahoo.com.

OCTOBER 2 - 4, 2009

Christian Rosenkretz and the Social Impulse

Spring Valley, New York

The Anthroposophical Society in America's Annual General Meeting and Conference. Join us in exploring the many faces of anthroposophy, where inner work manifests in practical forms to bring about social transformation. Creating Living Connections: Christian Rosenkretz and the Social Impulse is intended to give anthroposophic organizations, initiatives, groups, and individuals the

opportunity to meet, interact, and share their work. A rich array of talks and discussions, artistic activities, and social events promise ample opportunities to Create Living Connections among individuals and initiatives. Beginning with the Threefold Community's Michaelmas festivities on Tuesday, September 29, groups, initiatives, and organizations working out of anthroposophy are invited to arrive early and take advantage of Threefold's facilities for pre-conference meetings on Wednesday and Thursday, September 30 and October 1. Planned social and artistic events will enable participants to meet and share ideas and information about their work; a morning forum on Friday, October 2, will offer a unique opportunity for those present to exchange perspectives, identify common concerns, and see what else is going on in the movement. Groups, organizations, and initiatives interested in participating in this pre-conference activity should contact Jordan Walker (845-352-5020 x19 or Jordan@threefold.org). To register, go to www.anthroposophy.org or call (888) 757-2742.

Saturday OCTOBER 3

Portland Pedagogical Section Potluck

Please join us for a potluck at Gabriel Park, SW 45th Ave & Vermont St, next to the Children's Play Structure. We want to celebrate you the teacher, home program teachers, subject teachers, assistants, aftercare providers, administrators, and office staff! 5-6:30PM. For the Portland Pedagogical Section, Sacha Etzel, Chiaki Uchiyama, Tom Klein, Betty Baldwin, and Lucia Mello, contact sachaetzel@yahoo.com

Sunday, OCTOBER 11

First Class of the School of Spiritual Science

Bothmer Hall, Blue card required - Discussion on Recapitulation Lesson 2 at 8:30 AM, class at 9:30 AM sharp. Recapitulation Lesson 3. Please contact Jannebeth Röell 503/249-3807 or Diane Ramage at (360) 241-7854.

Sunday OCTOBER 11

The Nature of the Dragon: Understanding Mental Illness

This quarterly meeting for members and friends of the Portland Branch will begin with a potluck brunch at 11 AM. At 11:30 AM our program will begin with a presentation given by Lucian Schloss, working in Portland as a counselor for a national suicide and crisis line. Lucian will speak of how to understand the varying degrees of mental illness from an anthroposophical perspective and where modern Psychotherapy and Anthroposophy connect. For the final hour of our meeting, Cheri Munske will lead us in a therapeutic painting exercise (no painting experience is necessary). Cheri has a Master's degree from the Tobias School of Art and Therapy in the UK and is an art therapist in private practice in Portland. Childcare will be available for \$5 per child or \$7 per family. Admission of \$5 for Members and \$8 for friends will be collected at the door. Contact Chrystal (503 816 2440) for more information.

Tuesday, OCTOBER 13

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.

Friday, OCTOBER 23

The Wisdom of Waldorf: Educating for the Future

Cedarwood Waldorf School is pleased to announce a weekend of lectures and workshops presented by Rahima Baldwin Dancy, author of *You Are Your Child's First Teacher*. 7-9 PM, 3030 SW Second Ave | Portland, OR 97201 contact 503- 245-1477. Cost: \$15 at the event or \$10 if pre-register rahimaconference@cedarwood.org.

Saturday, OCTOBER 24

Family Matters: Creating a Harmonious Home Life

Cedarwood Waldorf School is pleased to announce a weekend of lectures and workshops presented by Rahima Baldwin Dancy, author of *You Are Your Child's First Teacher*. 9AM-1PM, 3030 SW Second Ave | Portland, OR 97201 contact 503- 245-1477. Cost: \$25 at the event or \$20 if pre-register rahimaconference@cedarwood.org.

Saturday, OCTOBER 24

Taking Home as the Model in Waldorf Kindergarten for Teachers and Homeschooling Parents

Cedarwood Waldorf School is pleased to announce a weekend of lectures and workshops presented by Rahima Baldwin Dancy, author of *You Are Your Child's First Teacher*. 1-3 PM, 3030 SW Second Ave | Portland, OR 97201 contact 503- 245-1477 Cost: \$25 at the event or \$20 if pre-register. For information send an e-mail to the following address: rahimaconference@cedarwood.org.

Sunday NOVEMBER 8

First Class of the School of Spiritual Science

Bothmer Hall, Blue card required - Discussion on Recapitulation Lesson 3 at 8:30 AM, class at 9:30 AM sharp. Recapitulation Lesson 4. Please contact Jannebeth Röell 503/249-3807 or Diane Ramage at (360) 241-7854.

NOVEMBER 12-15

Sanford Miller

Reverend Sanford Miller of The Christian Community in Sacramento will spend four days in Portland. He will give public lectures, private meetings and perform The Act of Consecration of Man on Sunday November 15. Look for more details in the next newsletter. Call Sandra Burch (503) 353-1818 or Lucia Mello (503) 892-5296.

Friday, NOVEMBER 13

The Christian Mysteries - What Happened to Them?

Andrew Linnell will bring a talk and lead a conversation on The Christian Mysteries - what happened to them? Is Christianity today what Jesus envisioned? If not, why not? to the Portland Branch. This special opportunity takes place at 7:30 - 9:00 PM, location to be determined. Andrew is a member of the Natural Science Section of the School of Spiritual Science. Contact James Lee at anthroposophy@earthlink.net for more information.

Saturday, NOVEMBER 28

Eugene Painting Workshop

Chris Guilfoil will conduct an all day painting workshop at the Waldorf School in Eugene. Details will be posted in the next newsletter.

JANUARY 22-24, 2010


The New Mystery Knowledge and the Wisdom to Heal Modern Social Life

A weekend with Steve Usher in Seattle WA. Information: call (206) 517-4917 or email: branch@seattleanthroposophy.org.

MARCH 5-7, 2010

Bees: Tying It All Together

Gunther Hauk, the king of bees will visit Portland to give a lecture workshop series on the subject. If you would like to be part of carrying and making this event happen, contact Walter Rice at dub0302@hotmail.com. Also visit his home at Spikenard Farm: <http://www.spikenardfarm.org/whoweare.shtml>.



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Anthroposophy@earthlink.net

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF ERNST KATZ and A Report on the Austin Texas Memorial Service

Dr. Ernst Katz died on September 2nd at age 96. He had been a dedicated Anthroposophist since his teenage years. Born in the Netherlands, he met many important students of Rudolf Steiner including Dr. Zeylmans and Walter Johannes Stein. He attended the famous youth conference at the beach in Scheveningen during the 1930s, which, I recollect, was attended by some 1000 young people and many important students of Rudolf Steiner. During World War II he survived by hiding in sewer tunnels. He earned his doctorate in physics under the world-renowned physicist George Uhlenbeck at the University of Utrecht. Later, Uhlenbeck accepted a position at the University of Michigan and invited Ernst to join him. Ernst and his wife, Katherine, moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1947 where, over the course of decades, they built up a thriving anthroposophic community. In 1973, Ernst led the founding of the Rudolf Steiner Institute of the Great Lakes and the purchase of the Steiner house at 1923 Geddes Avenue on the campus of the University of Michigan. For many years, the house served as an Anthroposophical Center that also provided affordable accommodations for students interested in Anthroposophy. Eventually, the house was donated to the Anthroposophical Society in America and today, 1923 Geddes is the Society headquarters. Ann Arbor has many study groups, a thriving Waldorf school, an Anthroposophical Medical practice, and a biodynamic farm. Ernst not only led the community, but also served as a Class Reader and was instrumental in developing Class work of the School of Spiritual Science in North America.

Here is a brief report on the Austin, Texas Memorial for Ernst Katz held on Sept. 6, 2009 at 11:30 am. The Austin Novalis Branch includes a number of close friends and students of Ernst Katz.

The Memorial was a deep event, deep because one could feel Ernst was present. It took place almost exactly 84 hours after Ernst crossed the threshold, i.e. 3 ½ days. By that time, the memory tableau has faded and the soul begins its backward journey through its life, a journey which lasts about 1/3 the life time or about the time the person spent sleeping. One presenter explained the esoteric significance of the celebration that occurs after 84 hours. The earthly celebration -- where a certain sadness prevails -- calls forth a polar celebration on the other side of the threshold where, with great joy, the soul is met and greeted by friends on yonder side and by higher spiritual beings.

Another interesting insight from Rudolf Steiner's spiritual scientific research was shared. During earthly life, people are saved from the confusion of melting into one another by the forces in their physical and etheric bodies. During sleep, astral bodies and egos do begin to fuse but, because the living, during sleep, hanker for their physical bodies, they are able to maintain some sense of their own identity during sleep. After death, this fusing of individualities would occur, since the soul no longer has a physical and etheric body. Fortunately, something else replaces them. Steiner explains that each person is uniquely associated with thousands of Angels and Archangels. (Lecture of 26 March, 1918, *Earthly Death and Cosmic Life*, GA 181) No person has exactly the same set of thousands of Angels and Archangels though, of course, one person's set of Angels and Archangels could overlap with another's. An interesting calculation is this: If each person had exactly 2000 Angels and Archangels in his unique set, then 2004 Angels and Archangels would be a sufficient number to provide each of 6.5 billion human beings with a unique set of 2000. Since most souls are now on the earth in this time around the end of the 20th Century, which is the time of the great crisis of humanity, and, since the earth's population is about 6.5 billion, we can estimate 2004 as a minimum possible number of Angels and Archangels. With these observations in mind, it was observed that Ernst was uniting with his unique set of thousands of Angels and Archangels, that set constituting his star. One person said that upon that sentence

being spoken a tremendous change became perceptible in the spiritual presence in the room, as if Ernst recognized his new Angelic environment in that moment.

These thoughts came near the end of the formal part of the memorial. The ceremony started with a Eurythmy solo to Rudolf Steiner's notebook version (September 1924) of the *Michael Imagination*:

*Sun-powerful shining forces,
Ye who are blessing the worlds:
Welling billowing veils your light becomes
Michael's veils that support mankind.*

*Thus he appears, Christ's messenger:
Tidings will he bring, with solemn will,
Tidings of a new, a shining time,
Time of Spirit Man prevailing*

*You, the pupils of spirit knowledge,
Take into your hearts his will –
See his wise guiding to Christ,
Who is striving there in your souls.*

The program also included a Bach piano solo and two Bach tone Eurythmy solos: *Prelude in f minor* and *Chorale in f minor "Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ."* Wonderful reflections on Ernst' life from Don Melcer and Jack Bresette-Mills and the recitation of Rudolf Steiner's verse for one recently deceased were also part of the memorial:

*Angels, Archangels and Archai
In the Ether weaving,
Receive Ernst' web of Destiny.*

*In Exusiai, Dynamis and Kyriotetes,
In the astral feeling of the Cosmos,
The just consequences of the earthly life of Ernst
Die into the realm of Being.*

*In Thrones and Cherubim and Seraphim,
As Their Deeds of Being,
The justly transmuted fruits of the earthly life of Ernst
are resurrected.*

The formal part of the memorial concluded with all joining for eurythmy "Halleluiah."

Everyone then shared a wonderful 'unstructured togetherness,' with a light lunch.

-- Steve Usher, Austin, Texas, USA September 7, 2009