

# Portland Anthroposophic Times

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

[www.portlandbranch.com](http://www.portlandbranch.com)

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## YOUTH CONFERENCE AT HEARTBEET

By Tieman Woutersen, Baltimore, Maryland

Heartbeet is a 160-acre biodynamic farm in Vermont that provides respite and a permanent residence for developmentally disabled individuals. Hannah Schwartz and Jonathan Gilbert manage this farm. Heartbeet hosts an Anthroposophical youth conference twice a year during the Memorial and Columbus Day weekends. Though it focuses on younger people, there is no age cap and everyone who feels drawn to the content of the conference can take part in the weekend. Recently, Heartbeet started a fundraising campaign to build a new house that will include a modest lecture hall. In May 2005, sufficient funds were raised to decide to go ahead with the building. We hope to raise the last \$ 20,000 by the end of summer 2005 and we very much look forward to be able to use the new building for the conference during the Columbus Day weekend in 2005. Here is an abbreviated report on the conference that was held October 9-10, 2004.

This time the theme of the 2004 conference was "An Introduction to Rudolf Steiner's Spiritual Scientific Research into the Nature of Christianity". Recommended reading was the lecture cycle of Rudolf Steiner on the Gospel of Luke. There were four lectures.

Steve Usher gave the first lecture of the conference and presented an overview of Rudolf Steiner's lectures on the Gospel of St. Luke. He began with the observation that it is difficult to speak of Christianity in our time because civilization has developed enormous prejudices toward it. The materialistic scholarship of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries propounds ideas such as "there never was a historical Jesus" or alternatively there was such a "simple man of Nazareth" who managed by some amazing sociological formula to capture the fantasy of the next two thousand years. More recent prejudices run the spectrum from "Christianity is the religion of closed minded right wing people" to "Christianity is the tradition that created a disregard for the environment and a will to dominate the world." It is much easier to speak to a spiritually minded audience about Buddhism than about Christianity.

After a request to put prejudice aside and imagine we were to hear about something completely new, the following thought was presented. To grasp esoteric Christianity a central concept is that at the Baptism in the Jordan a solar being, a being from the Sun known as the Christ, united Himself with the body of Jesus of Nazareth. For the next three years this Solar being lived upon the earth as a man. Those three years are rightly understood as His embryological period. At the mystery of Golgotha, when Jesus Christ died on the cross, the

Christ was born into the earth and since then He has been the Spirit of the Earth who will remain with men for the rest of earth evolution.

The history of these events consists on the one hand of the preparation of Jesus to be a worthy vessel for the Solar Christ and, on the other, the life of the god-man, Jesus Christ, who for the three years walked the earth and from then onward works as the Spirit of the Earth.

The Gospel of St. Luke, investigated with the means of spiritual science, reveals deep and moving pictures of both aspects of this history. The lecture considered many details including the roles of the Gautama Buddha, Zarathustra, the founder of the ancient Persian religion, and the Adam Kadmon soul in the unfolding events. It also considered a central aspect of Christianity, namely, that Christ brought the power of love to the ego such that the ego could overflow with love. Love existed before but only at the level of the astral body and soul. Christ made it possible for love to become a possession of the ego and this has the greatest implications for the future.

Els Woutersen then spoke about "Christ and Inner Development". The Luke and St. John Gospels were written out of different levels of perceiving into the supersensible world. Whereas the "eyewitnesses and ministers or servants of the Word" wrote the Luke Gospel, the St. John gospel describes the mysteries of Christ as imbued with the Inner Word or Logos.

The old Christian path of initiation was based on the Gospel of St. John whereby after intense preparation one would develop certain feelings to a very high degree and experience the seven different stages of Christian initiation. The events that are described in the Gospel of St. John then became an inner experience of the soul. This path is now only accessible to those who have developed the feeling life to a high degree.

The Rosicrucian path of schooling is a further development of the Christian path of schooling, appropriate for this time. We are able to perform our outer duties and activities and let everything that we develop spiritually flow in the physical plane. By developing a strong and living thinking to a high degree with this path, we can use this thinking for when we have perceptions in the spiritual world. Because one does not see Luciferic or Ahrimanic beings in the sensory world, one is not led astray by them and can develop a healthy strong thinking without being distracted or confused.

When we are ready to enter the spiritual world we meet two guardians. The Lesser Guardian of the Threshold is mostly made up of the results of our own past actions, feelings and

thoughts. After we have recognized in this being the things from which we need to free ourselves, we meet the Greater Guardian of the Threshold. The Greater Guardian of the Threshold will become the ideal toward which we strive. If we can inwardly feel that the Greater Guardian is the ideal toward which we strive, then we recognize that the Greater Guardian is the Christ. The Christ is the great ideal of man on earth and we can only unite with Him when we have offered up our own gifts and talents so that all humanity has reached the same goal.

Sherry Wildfeuer gave a talk entitled “How can I Find the Christ in and for Myself?” She began by acknowledging that the rejection of Christianity so common to spiritually striving young people today is a healthy reaction to the popular versions distorted by sentimentality, dogmatic morality, or academic materialism. She shared her own path as a young person to agnosticism, which was intellectually liberating, but lacked substance which could provide nourishment and

insight in the face of life’s trials. It was a great relief to meet Anthroposophy, insofar as Rudolf Steiner lays a foundation in his philosophical writings by addressing the question, How can I know anything for sure? He describes how human knowledge is the consonance of experience that comes from two directions: perception and thinking. Two questions we each may ask are: 1) What are the perceptions to which I must apply my active thinking in order to know the truth of Christ for sure? and 2) What thoughts will enable me to perceive Christ in myself?

She described the process of initiation in the ancient Mystery Centers, which led the striving pupils to die to the temporal aspects of life and be re-born through the transformative experience of the Imagination of the eternal aspect of being. They taught that the Father God had sacrificed himself into the things of the manifest world, that the Mother dwells in the deep longing of the soul to unite with the divine, and that the Son of God, or *Logos*, can be born in the human soul through this union. Indeed, this birth is our calling as human beings. In Jesus, the *Logos* entered not merely as image but as the actual Power of Love, making this available for all human beings and for the life of nature.

Sherry spoke of Christ as the Lord of Karma, as we die through the painful process of disillusionment and can gradually develop, through our inner effort, those capacities of soul and spirit, which have their root in the eternal. She shared some personal and archetypal experiences from her own journey, culminating with the Imagination of the Woman Clothed with the Sun. And she showed that we can each find in our own soul the woman traveling in birth, the child that will shepherd with a rod of iron, the dragon that would devour the child as soon as it would be born, and Michael, who would defend the child. Sherry ended her talk by recognizing the Michaelic deed of Rudolf Steiner, who, through his spiritual scientific investigation, has offered us truthful thoughts about the life and history of the being of Christ.

Beth Usher then talked about “Occult Physiology: Blood and the Awakening Ego”. The evolution of the blood begins with the warmth of Ancient Saturn. Saturn still exists within us today as the warmth of our blood. Blood first became warm during the Lemurian period of Earth evolution. The circulation of the blood appeared when the warmth ether united with the outer warmth of the physical Earth. The Ego, which first entered man when he began to breathe air, works in the circulating blood by way of the warmth organism. In the new book, *Das Herz des Menschen*, Dr. H.C. Kummell differentiates the ego’s activity in relation to warmth and uprightness. As warmth leads the inner experience of the self and its *inner* identity, so uprightness leads the self in relation to the *outer* world.

Blood was originally to have become matter “just to the extent of being materially perceptible.” As it shot back to the spiritual, a flashing up of light would have given the human

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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 community.

Printed copies of the newsletter are available at the Steiner Storehouse, Portland Waldorf School and the Cedarwood Waldorf School. The newsletter and calendar are also posted on the Portland Branch website at [www.portlandbranch.com](http://www.portlandbranch.com).

Questions, suggestions and submissions may be sent by e-mail to [anthroposophy@earthlink.net](mailto:anthroposophy@earthlink.net). Items selected for publication in the Portland Anthroposophic Times may be edited for style, content and length.

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The deadline for submissions to the *Portland Anthroposophic Times* is the first day of each month for the following month’s edition. For example, an article or calendar submission for the Sept. newsletter must be received by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

being his only sense perception: the perception of the ego. This experience would have given us a highly refined social sense, because the ego was to have been the sevenfold Jahve, the countenance of Christ, rather than our single individual ego, standing alone as we know it today. The Fall from Paradise changed this. As the human being fell, he left behind the life of his nervous system in the cosmos. The Christ brought this life from the cosmos back to the human being beginning at the Baptism. Life returned, though not to the nerve, but to the blood.

Embryology shows that on the nineteenth day the blood begins to move. This is the first quickening by the incarnating ego. The heart forms later out of the moving blood. Rudolf Steiner has said "it is outrageous to speak of a heart pump." If the blood moves before the heart, what is the heart for? We can turn to Rudolf Steiner's picture of the etherization of the blood for this. Ehrenfried Pfeiffer speaks of this etherized substance, this new substance that streams out of the human heart, as that out of which a new cosmos will be created. Rudolf Steiner speaks of blood as the real issue in the fight for an individual's soul between good and evil. Thinking the wrong thoughts about the heart materializes culture, even materializes the heart. Moral ideals stimulate the warmth organism, producing in the air organism sources of light. By way of warmth, all that becomes active which we inwardly experience as the moral. By returning through the moral to warmth, we come full circle to the blood warmth from Saturn. This is a new way to think of the circulation of the blood.

Beth Usher also gave beautiful eurythmy performances of "The Zend Avesta-Hymn to the Sun" and "The Michael Imagination" and gave two eurythmy lessons.

There were 47 participants from as far as California, North Carolina and Canada as well as from the mid-Atlantic and New England areas. The foliage around us was beautiful with deep red, orange and yellow leaves and the food that was prepared with organic produce from Heartbeet was delicious.

Conferences that are truly uplifting are quite rare. What really helped here was that many participants had lived with the content for several months, that the lecturers are very knowledgeable, that the organization by Rachel and Hannah Schwartz was very good and that the workers at Heartbeet created a special moral mood. Together, this formed the basis for penetrating the Luke gospel, the mystery of the blood as well as the path of inner schooling.

The next conference at Heartbeet Lifesharing will be May 28-29, 2005. For more information call Rachel Schwartz at (617) 522 0580, or e-mail her at [raugustina@hotmail.com](mailto:raugustina@hotmail.com). For more information on Heartbeet Lifesharing and their capital campaign for a second house, visit <http://heartbeet.org/>.

## CHRISTOF WIECHERT TO SPEAK IN PORTLAND JULY 22<sup>ND</sup>

In June 1909, Rudolf Steiner gave a lecture in Berlin with the title Evolution, Involution, Creating Out of Nothing. In this lecture Steiner emphasizes the role of etheric forces in the ongoing stream of history, related to heritability and socialization. But there is one possibility to escape from this iron rule; when people really meet, if in an encounter new feelings emerge, then something really new comes into existence.

The Anthroposophical Society was built on these principles. Today we have to consider the question of whether the structure of our society continues to be the right one. Today it is for many people not easy to step into a society. Normally they stay outside, even if they judge it as quite interesting. Do we need a new form for the Anthroposophical Society? Do we need new forms for the School of Spiritual Science? How do we create something out of nothing today? If it is our task to serve humanity, by strengthening the true and genuine picture of what is human, then we need to speak about the way this should be done in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. (The lecture mentioned, is the last in the cycle *Geisteswissenschaftliche Menschenkunde*, GA 107, Berlin, June 17, 1909)

Please join us Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at Bothmer Hall to welcome the return of Christof Wiechert to Portland. He will be speaking with the branch on the theme: **"The Mission of Anthroposophy and the Anthroposophical Society in our Time: The Challenges We All Face."** The event begins at 7:00 PM and will continue until 9:15 PM. Contact James Lee at 503/249-3804 or [anthroposophy@earthlink.net](mailto:anthroposophy@earthlink.net)



Christof Wiechert was born in 1945. He was schooled at the Waldorf School in The Hague, Netherlands. After studying education and geography, he spent 30 years teaching at the Waldorf School in The Hague. During this time he co-founded the Dutch State Waldorf Teacher Training Seminar. For many years, Christof has

been a Council member in the Anthroposophical Society in the Netherlands. Together with Ate Koopmans, he partnered in the development of the "Art of Child Study" course. He has lectured in many countries. Christof has worked for the Pedagogical Section of the Anthroposophical Society since September 1999; he has been the head of the Pedagogical Section since October 2001. He is married with five children.

## WHY HEARTS ARE CALLED TO HAVE THOUGHTS

By MariJo Rogers, Sacramento, California

“Open up!”

To whom? Who are you?

“I want to come into your heart to you.”

Then it is a small space you wish.

“What does that matter? Though I scarcely find room, you will have no need to complain of crowding. I will tell you now of wondrous things.”

*Parzival*, Wolfram von Eschenbach, Chapter 9

As a minnesinger in thirteenth century Europe, Wolfram von Eschenbach shares with his listeners a snippet of conversation with his muse, a spiritual being, we might say, whom he calls “Lady Adventure.”<sup>1</sup>

As a teacher of the modern mysteries, Rudolf Steiner shares freely with us what had been at one time a hidden, protected experience in the Holy of Holies of the mysteries. He shares a human being’s conversations with the gods. He shares with special intimacy his relationship with the high spiritual being deeply committed to our development toward freedom, the Being of Michael.

From Rudolf Steiner, we learn that Michael is transforming his way of working. “He is seeking a new metamorphosis of his cosmic task. Formerly he allowed the thoughts to stream from the spiritual outer world into the souls of men; since the last third of the nineteenth century, he wishes to live *in* the human world in which the thoughts are formed,”<sup>2</sup> he explains.

We learn further something very affecting. In order to work in his new way, Michael needs our help. “In earlier times the human beings related to Michael saw him develop his activity in the spiritual sphere; they now know that they ought to let Michael dwell in their hearts; they now dedicate to him their spiritual life which is based upon thought; they now, in their free and individual life of thought, allow themselves to be instructed by Michael as to which are the right paths of the soul.”<sup>3</sup> If we intend to work with him, we must open the door of our heart to him, because he is not a being that compels us in any way; he is a most fervent defender of our freedom.

Michael wants us to become co-workers. We can do this by developing heart thinking.

“The Age of Michael has dawned. Hearts are beginning to have thoughts,” exclaims a passage from *Anthroposophical Leading Thoughts*. “Spiritual fervor is now proceeding, not merely from mystical obscurity, but from souls clarified by thought. To understand this means to receive Michael into the heart.”<sup>4</sup>

Rudolf Steiner showed us throughout his life how to open our heart’s door to Michael. The six basic exercises given in *Knowledge of Higher Worlds and its Attainment* and *Occult Science: An Outline* help prepare our heart chakra as an organ for the new way of thinking upon which spiritual work today must be based. This new way has been referred to by Rudolf Steiner as “thinking of the heart” and “heart thinking.”<sup>5</sup>

This compellingly beautiful phrase, “heart thinking,” refers to “an exacting process.”<sup>6</sup> It is not a feeling way of thinking, as might first come to mind, but a thinking that is a direct and true seeing in the spiritual world. It is an immediate apprehension of spiritual events that distinguishes between true and false pictures.

To distinguish between the true and the false, heart thinking depends upon our first developing logical thinking. That’s because “in logical thinking, we experience above all a kind of conscience, and by developing that, we establish in the soul a certain sense of responsibility towards truth and untruth, without which nothing can be achieved in the higher world.”<sup>7</sup>

With that conscience, we move through logical thinking into heart thinking, into a clear vision of the spiritual, and then we bring our spiritual experience, undistorted, back into logical thinking in order to share it with others. “A very great deal depends upon this fact, that the ideas of human beings do not merely remain “thinking” but in thought develop *sight*.”<sup>8</sup>

At the end of a talk in Arnhem that envisioned “Michael standing there within the hearts of men,” Rudolf Steiner concluded, “That is what I wanted to lay on your hearts in these lectures. For it is to *hearts* that the words are chiefly spoken. The hearts of men must become the helpers of Michael...”<sup>9</sup>

He speaks to human hearts because that is where the temple of this higher Being to whom he is committed heart and soul now is found.

<sup>1</sup> Wolfram von Eschenbach, *Parzival*, Vintage Books, p. 233.

<sup>2</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *Anthroposophical Leading Thoughts*, Rudolf Steiner Press, p.53.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 53.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p. 54.

<sup>5</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *Macrocosm and Microcosm*, Rudolf Steiner Press, p. 151.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, p. 156.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, p. 153.

<sup>8</sup> *Leading Thoughts*, p. 58

<sup>9</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *Karmic Relationships*, Vol. VI, p. 178.

**MariJo Rogers** lives in California where she works for a high tech company. A long-standing member of the Sacramento Faust Branch, she taught at the Sacramento Waldorf High School and Rudolf Steiner College. She is General Secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in America for national affairs.

## STAR LIGHT

By Diane Rumage, Portland, Oregon

The virtue of the month for July 21 - August 21 when the sun is in the sign of Leo the lion is "Compassion becomes Freedom." At first glance we might ask ourselves what compassion has to do with freedom. To Leo is ascribed the sense of warmth, the heart, kingliness, and the gesture of enthusiasm. It is ruled by the sun. The symbol for Leo can be seen to represent a central heart raying out into the periphery. With this we can picture a Leo's sense of self and passion, which can be distorted into a sense of pride. Leos can reach out to lord it over others, displaying a regal nature, or being a tyrant. They can be very generous out of their inner feeling of abundance as well as not wanting to associate with anything petty that might diminish their worth. We often associate the word "passion" with fiery feelings. However, it also means suffering. We can develop com-passion---suffering with another, feeling pity. In the "Portal of Initiation", Rudolf Steiner's first Mystery Drama, Johannes the artist lives deeply into all those around him, and suffers his own nothingness. He thereby experiences for the first time the pain he caused another who loved him in his youth, and is thus led further on his path of initiation.

We may just revel in our own warmth. If we begin to notice others, we might look at their suffering as their righteous due: "That's their karma." Or be indignant that they come too near to us: "Get those beggars away from me. Lock up those prisoners so I don't have to be bothered by them. Sure society is dreadful, yes lies are printed in the media, but what has that to do with me?" The Leo Saturn line in Steiner's "Twelve Moods" reads: "In the sway of the pain of growing". Once we admit our own failings despite our usual high opinion of ourselves - "How *could* he/she do this to me?!!" - and realize how much we struggle in the pain of growing, we can begin to be compassionate with others' struggles. Yes, we could continue with our karma, experiencing others' karma unfolding, and just react accordingly. Our first stage is probably reaction. Next we might try to distance ourselves and ignore the other, hoping that by lessening encounters, our karma will be better. But we aren't really free of the problem until it is transformed. We are forced to react until we choose to creatively take our inner warmth and help the other being. We know the transformative power of fire. So our inner fire glows with the pain the other is experiencing and we create a totally new deed, in freedom. We didn't have to help the other. It wasn't our karma. But we choose to lighten another's pain--even if it first comes as a tolerant understanding, then perhaps a warm feeling we must consciously call up in ourselves towards another, then a deed that relieves another of their suffering.

After death, we are unable to take our faults into the sun sphere. We bring only the good with us, leaving our baggage behind in the lower spheres. There we work out our future

karma with the hierarchies. Steiner gave a "Karmic Relationships" lecture on July 20, 1924 where he speaks about a holy enthusiasm, how we can grasp what lives in our heart as a result of our time with Michael in the sun sphere. He says that Michael, whose activity was freed from earthly tasks from the 16th century to approximately 1879 was able to work out the karma with his own in the sun sphere in a very unique way. We can call up these sun forces within us here on earth, and reach in freedom to the super-personal stream of karma. Such a gift! Are we using it?

New moon occurs at 8:05 p.m. PDT on 8/4/05. Jupiter in the constellation Virgo and Venus in the constellation Leo may be visible around 9 p.m. setting in the SW. At midnight on 8/15/05, Mars will be rising in the SE in the constellation of Aries, and the Moon will be in the SW in the constellation of Sagittarius. Full moon occurs 8/19/05 at 10:53 a.m. PDT.

Historic planetary similars at the time of the new moon when we can perceive new spiritual impulses: Saturn, Neptune and Pluto are similar to the 3 years of Christ. The birth and death of Michelangelo and Galileo, death of Albertus Magnus, Robert Fludd, Nostradamus, Puccini, Scarlatti, Botticelli, birth of Mozart, Shelley and Holderlin are also aspected.

## HOW ANTHROPOSOPHY INFORMS MY TEACHING

by Robin O'Brien, Portland, Oregon

I wish to say that I can only speak for myself as a kindergarten teacher at the Portland Waldorf School. Other teachers would say other things. I can only hope to barely scratch the surface in this article. I also wish to acknowledge Rudolf Steiner and the many teachers and friends (too numerous to mention) who, over the years, have helped me comprehend Anthroposophical principles and child development. This is an ongoing process that I expect to continue throughout my life.

You should know that I consider Anthroposophy to be the guiding star of my life and of my work as a Waldorf teacher. It is the spiritual map from which I set my life's course, and I consider it the most important aspect of my life as a teacher.

As a kindergarten teacher, I recognize the importance of doing the six basic exercises outlined by Rudolf Steiner in *Knowledge of Higher Worlds*. There is nothing as crucial to my teaching as my own striving to understand and transform my shortcomings. My inner work is revealed through my activities, my feelings, words and thoughts. The young children I work with live into every aspect of my being and thus it is my obligation and goal to be worthy of their imitation.

It is not enough to create a beautiful environment for the young child. The nurturing examples of beauty that are

present in the room have little meaning if I as the teacher am not fully present in my work. What does it mean to be fully present in my work? It means that I consciously strive to imbue all I do with intention. This is part of what reverence is about for me. I do not fill my morning with "busy" work. If I am cleaning for example, then I wash as well as I can whether it is a paint jar or a floor or a table. I don't hurry. I make every effort to stand outside the stream of time in a way so that the children can live in the eternal of the present moment. I attempt to stay focused on what I am doing and try to be aware when my thoughts wander. Over the years I have learned to truly enjoy activities that I once found distasteful. These include ironing and mending. This type of experience is a direct result of working to transform my astral body: to overcome my dislikes. I believe it is much healthier for the children to be in a room with an adult who is happily ensconced in work rather than one who is quietly resentful.

As I am mindful of my work, the children are free to play. Sometimes they join me in what I am doing. Although I include them when they ask to help or when they need to be redirected I would prefer that they play. I have seen over time what happens to children who are given the opportunity to engage in creative play. Imaginative play allows children to process everything that happens to them. They involve themselves socially. They bring forth out of themselves an outer manifestation of an inner picture. The value of this activity cannot be overstated. The children also learn to cope with feelings of fear, joy, anger, sadness, curiosity etc. In this way they separate their feelings from their will and connect them to thinking through their imagination. A child who does this is laying the foundation to become a free human being. If feelings are trapped in the sphere of the will the body will react in a violent way. Young children hit others because they do not yet possess the ability to express themselves. Tantrums are another example of feelings tied to the will. Our society is full of instances where teens and adults have not been able to master this. However, if children learn to engage the will freely, the body no longer responds aggressively. Creative free play and eurythmy support this development.

I try to bring thoughtfulness and beauty into each gesture I do at our circle time. The songs, seasonal verses and large and small movements should be carried with a quality of the sacred even as they resonate with joy. Each time I do a verse or movement I need to be completely prepared and involved. This quality of aliveness nourishes the interest of the child and the repetitions help to build both the physical and etheric bodies. In particular I try to focus on the healthy development of the four lower senses (touch, life, balance and movement).

Another area where I rely on my Anthroposophical study is in my choice of stories for the children. I recognize that the fairytales in particular recapitulate the evolution of the consciousness of humanity in a form that the child can absorb. My choice of which story to tell is dependent upon my

understanding of the individual nature of each child, the group dynamic, the cycle of the year, and the predominant age of the children in my care. The stories create a mood where children's feelings once again separate, but this time they connect with the world of images. The children experience the images in a living way which in turn nurtures the soul, spirit and physical body of each one.

I have to say that in the kindergarten I strive to think worthy thoughts. Since I know that they are drinking in every impression, I know that the children receive my thoughts clairvoyantly. When I feel challenged I call upon the angels for help. When it is rest time, I try not to bring up a mental laundry list, but think instead of gentle, restful things as I play the harp. I know the children read my mind, for many is the time they start to sing a song I was just thinking about, or say the thing I was just about to say. One time I wondered whether or not it was appropriate to bring in a particular activity for our Halloween celebration. I took this question with me into my sleep life and the next day the children spontaneously set up a face-painting shop in their play. I had my answer! The longer I teach, the more often these things occur. I attribute it to my relationship to Anthroposophy and my journey of inner growth.

A related and no less important area has to do with my meditative life and how I strive to know each child. My studies and intuition have encouraged me to meet each one with warmth and acceptance. Hand in hand with that must be a sense of objectivity about the child so that his/her angel can reveal to me the best approach in each case. If I can develop this relationship, then I have access to the child's freely developing sense of becoming. If instead, I create a "fixed" picture of the child in my mind he is given less room to become who he truly is. By my thoughts I constrain him and he may feel compelled to act out my limited view of him. I consider it my obligation as a Waldorf teacher to meet the child anew each day. I expect to continue to explore and expand this area of my work.

This article would not be complete if I did not mention one more aspect in which my studies have played a major role. This has to do with my relationship to the parents of the children in my kindergarten. If I truly apply what Rudolf Steiner has said regarding our task as human beings, then I must consider what others offer with an open mind and heart. I do not have to agree with them. However, I ought to actively listen to them and look for the common ground whenever possible. The children did not make a mistake in choosing their parents and I must find a way to work with them to support their child.

The above holds true for my collegial work. But I must close in saying that I feel absolutely blessed in working with the dedicated and knowledgeable group of individuals who make Portland Waldorf School what it is. I am inspired by them every day.

# Portland Anthroposophical Society Calendar - August 2005

## Study Groups

### ***Anthroposophia Studies for Branch Life***

Working with the spiritual realm helping our community life. Call for meeting times to Valerie Hope 503/775-0778.

### ***Biodynamic Agriculture***

Focus on biodynamic agriculture with reading, discussion and art. Call Carrie Jo Caralyus at 503-239-5633.

### ***Eurythmy***

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

### ***Karmic Relationships – currently full***

Working through Rudolf Steiner's Karmic Relationships Cycle of lectures. Call James Lee for information 503/249-3804.

### ***Life Beyond Death – currently full***

Reading the collection of Steiner's lectures. Call Cheri Munske for information 503/772-2632.

### ***Mystery Dramas***

Most Wednesdays at 7 PM. Please call James Lee at 503/249-3804.

### ***Religious Instruction for Children NEW***

A new study group that is preparing to support religious instruction as indicated by Rudolf Steiner for children. Contact Lucia Mello with questions or for more information 503/892-5296.

### ***Special Needs/Camphill***

Fridays, 7 – 8:30 PM Reading from Rudolf Steiner's Education for Special Needs, formerly titled Curative Education. Call Craig Thom 503/256-1622 for location and directions.

### ***Waldorf Education and Teacher Training***

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

## Upcoming Events

### **Mo JULY 11**

#### ***Biodynamic Viticulture: A Day featuring Alan York***

Veneta, OR - 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Sponsored by the Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association, this one day seminar is a rare opportunity to learn from one of the world's foremost biodynamic advocates and educators, **Alan York**. He has inspired many to practice biodynamic viticulture, now referred to in the mainstream wine industry press as "the right way to make wine." Register early! For more information, contact BDFG at 541/998-0105, [biodynamic@aol.org](mailto:biodynamic@aol.org) or [www.biodynamics.com](http://www.biodynamics.com)

### **Su JULY 17**

#### ***Branch Meeting and Member Welcoming Potluck***

Bothmer Hall - 3 to 5 PM

Portland is one of the largest centers of Anthroposophy in the U.S. and our membership is growing. Starting with an hour of reading from Leading Thoughts by Rudolf Steiner: The World-Thoughts in the Working of Michael and the Working of Ahriman, and continuing with local affairs, please join in a community-wide gathering of Anthroposophical Society members & friends, to welcome new community members. You're invited to bring tea and treats to share. Contact Diane Rumage 503/240-0908.

### **JULY 18 - 22**

#### ***Music & Speech Eurythmy Workshop***

Portland - 10 AM to Noon

Join a weeklong exploration of the art of movement with Music and Speech Eurythmy with **Francine Adams** and **Natasha Moss**. In eurythmy we experience the drama of color, the rhythmic quality of music, the forming quality of sculpture and the imaginative quality of poetry as we move the universal creative forces here on earth in our human capacity. We become partners of a living space. We dance with space as a poem or music unfolds through Eurythmy. The program will bring experienced eurythmists together with newcomers. Contact Dara Star, Portland Eurythmy at 503/975-3008 for information.

### **Tu JULY 19**

#### ***Discussion about Regional Waldorf High School Meeting #2***

Noon - 2:00 PM - Brown Bag Lunch Meeting - Downtown Portland

During the summer solstice, twenty-three members of the Waldorf and Anthroposophical Society community responded to an open invitation to discuss how a regional Waldorf High School might serve the region. Those attending represented staff and board members from the Portland Waldorf School and Cedarwood School, members of the Anthroposophical Society and the community at large. Participants shared information about their schools, their insights into the need for Waldorf education in the area, and challenges each school is tackling in the short term to nurture and cultivate existing initiatives. The next meeting to continue and deepen this dialog about a regional Waldorf high school will take place Tuesday, July 19th at noon in Ron Ennis's downtown office. Call (503) 221-8747 for directions.

### **Fr JULY 22**

#### ***Special Branch Event with Christof Wiechert***

Bothmer Hall - 7 to 9:15 PM

Please join us to welcome the return of **Christof Wiechert** to Portland. He will be speaking with us on the theme: "The Mission of Anthroposophy and the Anthroposophical Society in our Time: The Challenges We All Face." Contact James Lee at 503/249-3804 or [www.portlandbranch.com](http://www.portlandbranch.com)

### **Through JULY 22**

#### ***Teacher Deepening Conferences***

PWS - Call for Times

A series of intensive workshops for Waldorf School teachers on grades 1 through 8, offered by the Michael Institute. Please contact the Michael Institute at 503/774-4946.

### **Su JULY 24**

Portland

#### ***Oregon Biodynamics Group Summer Meeting***

For directions and further information, contact Sharon Parker 777-9086

### **Su - Th JULY 24 - 28**

#### ***Reincarnation and Karma with Christof Wiechert***

PWS - Sunday 6:30 Pm to Thursday Noon

This is a Conference on the principles of Reincarnation and Karma led by Christof Wiechert, Leader of The Pedagogical Section of the Goetheanum. Everyone interested in Anthroposophy is invited to attend. The conference fee is \$290 if paid before July 1<sup>st</sup>, \$360 thereafter. However, finances should not stop participants from attending and the Michael Institute is offering partial scholarships to those who need them. Mornings: Eurythmy or Spacial Dynamics followed by a lecture by and a seminar with Christof. Afternoons: Speech followed by a choice of workshop on the conference theme - Art Therapy, Clay Modeling, Copper Beating or Puppetry. Preparatory Reading for the Conference: Reincarnation and Karma - 5 Lectures by Rudolf Steiner. For books or further information call the Michael Institute at 503 774-4946.

**Mo AUG 1 – Please send in copy for September newsletter by this date to [branchcalendar@mindspring.com](mailto:branchcalendar@mindspring.com)**

**Th AUG 4 through Wed 10**

***Combined Artemisia and Medical Section Meeting***

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Medical Section First Class Meeting and Artemisia Meeting, Developmental Pediatrics, Preventive Cardiology, Endocrinology, Pediatric Neuro-developmental Disorders with Richard Fried, Kimberton, PA. Coronary Artery Disease and Preventive Cardiology with Andreas Fried from the Havelhoehe Hospital in Berlin, Endocrine Disorders with Rainer Sollfrank from Wala. The conference will follow the same format as the 2004 conference with 3 hours per day of sessions for physicians only in order to work in-depth on clinical and practical issues together as physicians. For additional information, contact [rhs@earthlink.net](mailto:rhs@earthlink.net). See the calendar of events at <http://www.paam.net/calendar.htm>.

**Sun to Fri AUGUST 7 – 12**

***Advanced Eurythmy Workshop with Michael Leber***

Portland – 7 to 8 PM

Renowned eurythmist and master teacher **Michael Leber of the Else-Klink-Ensemble, Stuttgart**, leads a workshop offered for those with prior experience. Contact Dara Star, Portland Eurythmy at 503/975-3008 for information.

**Th to Mon AUGUST 11 – 14**

***Being Awake!***

In Ann Arbor, Michigan

A conference for Anthroposophical Society members and friends with the leaders of the worldwide Society. See the webpage link for additional information, program of events, lodging possibilities and contact information: <http://www.anthroposophy.org>. We will publish additional information on this conference as it becomes available.

**Su AUGUST 21**

***Branch Meeting***

Bothmer Hall – 3 to 5 PM

**Gather with us to hear from those who have just come back from the *Being Awake!* Conference in Michigan. A community-wide gathering of Anthroposophical Society members and friends. Contact Diane Ramage 503/240-0908.**

Th SEPT 1 – Please send in copy for October newsletter by this date to [branchcalendar@mindspring.com](mailto:branchcalendar@mindspring.com)

**Su SEPTEMBER 11**

***First Class of the School of Spiritual Science***

Bothmer Hall – Discussion at 8:30 AM, class at 9:30 AM sharp Lesson One, for First Class members. Please contact Jannebeth Röell 503/249-3804.

Thursdays SEPTEMBER 8 - 29

***Rudolf Steiner's indications on Child Development***

9/ 8 on Human Biography; 9/15 on the Three Ages of Childhood; 9/22 on the Waldorf Curriculum and the consciousness of children; 9/29 on Working with the Temperaments. For reading list & to learn more: contact John Miles at 503/774-4946.

**Tu SEPT 20**

***Eurythmy Performance of Antonin Dvorak's New World Symphony***

Newmark Theater, Portland

Tickets may be purchased in advance. Contact Don Marquiss for more information 503/233-0663

Thursdays OCTOBER 8 - 29

***Anthroposophy - the philosophy behind Waldorf Education***

10/ 6 on the Worlds of Soul and Spirit; 10/13 on the Evolution of the Earth; 10/ 20 on Reincarnation and Karma; 10/27 on the Task of Humanity. For reading list & to learn more: contact John Miles at 503/774-4946.

**Th – Sa OCTOBER 6 - 9 (Columbus Day weekend)**

***Christ's Deed in Relation to the Forces of Evil: Rudolf Steiner's Research into the Working of Christ at the End of the 19th Century and the Beginning of the 20th Century***

Heartbeat Lifesharing in Hardwick, Vermont

Actor and storyteller Glen Williamson will perform "Kaspar Hauser: The Open Secret of the Foundling Prince." Sherry Wildfeuer will speak about the relation of Christ to Ahriman and Lucifer, Else Woutersen will speak about love and its meaning in the world, and David Schwartz will speak about the laying of the foundation stone for the first Goetheanum and the fifth deed of Christ. Erin Graver will lead us in singing, and Susan Elmore will lead us in eurythmy & verse. Do not hesitate to contact Rachel Schwartz with any questions at 617-522-0580 or raugustina@hotmail.com.

**Su OCTOBER 9**

***First Class of the School of Spiritual Science***

Bothmer Hall – Discussion at 8:30 AM, class at 9:30 AM sharp Lesson Two, for First Class members. Please contact Jannebeth Röell 503/249-3804.

**OCT 14 -16**

***National Biodynamic Conference***

Long Hungry Creek Farm in Red Boiling Springs, TN

The Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association's annual conference. Speakers will discuss the growing of all of the major fruit and vegetable crops, and offer workshops on raising cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens, and bees. There will also be talks on compost and compost tea, and presentations on Rudolf Steiner's work in the fields of medicine, education and meditation. A special pre-conference workshop, "Demystifying Biodynamics", will offer a hands-on opportunity to make and learn how to apply all of the biodynamic preparations. For more information, or to register for the conference, please contact Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association, 25844 Butler Road, Junction City, OR 97448; (888)516-7797; biodynamic@aol.com

**Fr-Su OCTOBER 21 – 23**

***General Anthroposophical Society Meeting (the AGM)***

Portland

The AGM comes to Portland! There will be many conversations and workshops to attend, and much for our branch to do to support and enjoy this important gathering. Look to the newsletter for updates on the AGM. For more information, contact Valerie Hope 503/775-0778.

**Su NOVEMBER 3**

***First Class of the School of Spiritual Science***

Bothmer Hall – Discussion at 8:30 AM, class at 9:30 AM sharp Lesson 3 for First Class members. Please contact Jannebeth Röell 503/249-3804.

**Thursdays NOVEMBER 3 – DECEMBER 8**

***Festivals***

11/ 3 on Cosmic and Earth Festivals in the Year; 11/10 on Autumn - Michaelmas, Harvest, Hallowe'en and Martinmas; 11/17 on Winter - Advent, Hanukkah, Christmas, 12 Holy Nights, & Epiphany; 12/8 on Spring & Summer - Imbolc, Easter, Mayday, Whitsun & Mid-Summer. For reading list & to learn more: contact John Miles at 503/774-4946.

**Sa-Mo NOVEMBER 11 - 13**

***Fall Conference and National Future of Prep Makers Group***

Lost Valley Conference Center outside of Eugene

Oregon will host the annual meeting of the National Prep Makers Group – so we decided to combine that meeting with our usual fall conference. This will be an opportunity to meet representatives of prep making groups from across the country, to compare notes and exchange ideas. Contact [Kathryn Casternovia](mailto:Kathryn.Casternovia@elementaldesigns@charter.net) at [elementaldesigns@charter.net](mailto:elementaldesigns@charter.net)

**Su DECEMBER 11**

***First Class of the School of Spiritual Science***

Bothmer Hall – Discussion at 8:30 AM, class at 9:30 AM sharp Lesson 4 for First Class members. Please contact Jannebeth Röell 503/249-3804.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**The Portland Branch and the Anthroposophical Society welcome the following new members to Portland:**  
Walter and Susan Rice are long-time members who have just moved to Portland from Sacramento, California. They will live in southeast Portland. Warm Greetings from the Portland Branch, and welcome to our fair city!



### WILLIAM FRANCIS KANE

We joyfully welcome William Francis Kane to our community.

He was born to Celia and Kevin Kane at 10:18 PM on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005, weighing 8 lbs. 2 oz.

### THANK YOU RUTH KLEIN!

Ruth Klein works behind the scenes for the Portland Branch, processing payments, depositing donations, keeping our books, and constantly reminding us how to laugh. Thank you for all the great work you do for us. We all appreciate it.

### FAREWELL PATRICIA DAIR

Patricia Dair has made a life decision that will soon cause her to spend significant amounts of time in California with her family to pursue her professional career. Patricia's efforts to build the Portland Branch Calendar have made Portland's many anthroposophical activities visible to community members. Thank you for your pioneering efforts! And don't be a stranger. You hear?

### NEW CALENDAR ADDRESS → [BRANCHCALENDAR@MINDSPRING.COM](mailto:BRANCHCALENDAR@MINDSPRING.COM)

Jannebeth Röell (503-249-3807) and Diane Ramage (503-240-0908) have assumed the role of calendar coordinators for the Portland Branch newsletter. Should you have an event of interest for the Anthroposophical Society community in Portland, please submit it by e-mail to [branchcalendar@mindspring.com](mailto:branchcalendar@mindspring.com) by the first of each month. For example, to be listed in September's newsletter, calendar entries should be received by the first of August. Should you not have easy access to e-mail, you can contact either calendar coordinator by phone at the numbers listed above.

### STORE WARS

For some light fun with a serious message, take a look at the Internet movie called "Store Wars".

It's a story about the value decisions we make every day when we buy food. Find it at

<http://www.storewars.org/>

**Please mark your calendars!** The following is preliminary information regarding the next anthroposophical youth conference/gathering at Heartbeat. We will be sending out registration and full agenda information in late July or early August, 2005, along with Tiemen Woutersen's report on the May 2005 conference.

**Date:** October 8 and 9, 2005 (Columbus Day weekend)

**Location:** Heartbeat Lifesharing in Hardwick, Vermont, USA

**Theme:**

**CHRIST'S DEED IN RELATION TO THE FORCES OF EVIL:  
RUDOLF STEINER'S RESEARCH INTO THE WORKING OF CHRIST AT  
THE END OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AND THE BEGINNING OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

Actor and storyteller Glen Williamson will perform "Kaspar Hauser: The Open Secret of the Foundling Prince." Kaspar Hauser is the compelling story of an innocent boy imprisoned for most of his childhood. The tale explores issues such as 'what it means to be human.' It is a journey through darkness where the forces of light come out victorious. Sherry Wildfeuer will speak about the relation of Christ to Ahriman and Lucifer, Els Woutersen will speak about love and its meaning in the world, and David Schwartz will speak about the laying of the foundation stone for the first Goetheanum and the fifth deed of Christ. Erin Graver will lead us in singing, and Susan Elmore, who is joining us for the first time, will lead us in a eurythmy lesson and perform a verse for us (welcome Susan!).

**Suggested pre-reading:**

\*\*\*We have provided links to online copies of the lectures where possible. Please contact me if you need further assistance locating a source.\*\*\*

*Love and its meaning in the world*, Zurich, December 17, 1912 by Rudolf Steiner.

[http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/LovWld\\_index.html](http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/LovWld_index.html)

*THE DEED OF CHRIST and the Opposing Spiritual Powers Lucifer, Ahriman, Mephistopheles, Asuras*, Berlin, March 22, 1909 (GA 0107), by Rudolf Steiner.

<http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA/GA0107/19090322p01.html>

*The Laying of the Foundation Stone of the First Goetheanum*, September 20, 1913, by Rudolf Steiner (including preface by Marie Steiner). This text can be found in *Guidance in Esoteric Training*, sold by Steiner Books Anthroposophic Press (or used online).

*Preparing for the Sixth Epoch*, Dusseldorf, June 15, 1915 (GA 159), by Rudolf Steiner.

[http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/PreSix\\_index.html](http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/PreSix_index.html)

*The Pre-Earthly Deeds of Christ*, Pforzheim, March 7, 1914 (GA 152),

by Rudolf Steiner. [http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/PreEar\\_index.html](http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/PreEar_index.html)

*Christ at the Time of the Mystery of Golgotha and Christ in the 20th Century*, May 1913, by Rudolf Steiner (found under the title *Occult Science and Occult Development*, ISBN: 0854404139, sold by Steiner Books Anthroposophic Press).

Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions at 617-522-0580 or [raugustina@hotmail.com](mailto:raugustina@hotmail.com).

Warm regards!

Rachel Schwartz