

# Portland Anthroposophic Times

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

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

Volume 4.2 February 2008

## Inmate Correspondence

By Marion van Namen, Portland, Oregon



For half a year I've been corresponding with an inmate through the Anthroposophical Prison Outreach. I send my letters to the Society in Ann Arbor and they forward the mail further. I only know the inmate's name and date and place of birth. He only knows my first name and whatever I choose to disclose about myself. The inmate also sends his correspondence to the Society, which they forward to me.

It's been a wonderful experience and I want to encourage you to consider signing up for an exchange with a fellow esoteric student. These inmates have approached the Anthroposophical Society to ask for a mentor. There is a lesson program called "EduCareDo", created in Australia, which is a guideline of 25 lessons in esoteric training, integrating anthroposophy in our daily lives. To be honest, Larry and I haven't used that. After a few letters of getting to know each other, we have now decided to study *Knowledge of Higher Worlds* together. We simply read a chapter on our own and share questions and answers, and try to apply it to our daily lives. Larry's letters always impress me very much. A friend of mine, who also corresponds with an inmate through APO calls these prisoners the "monks of the 21st Century". Larry for instance has pointed out to me the similarities between the life of Jesus Christ and that of Horus, which raised the question whether the mystery of the incarnation of Christ into the child Jesus had been preceded by a mythological or spiritual version 3000 years earlier. I'm still searching for answers.

There are still plenty of inmates who haven't been hooked up with a mentor yet. I can only recommend interacting with an inmate who has reached out to anthroposophy. It is a very rich journey for both. See <http://www.anthroposophyforprisoners.org/> for more information.

## NEW MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

By Linda Connell, Los Angeles, California

The Western Regional Council added two new members in the past year, Daniel Bittleston and Michael Pinchera. They wanted the members of the Western Region to get to know them, and solved the problem of who would write about them by asking them to interview each other. The council of the Western Region presently consists of Daniel Bittleston, Linda Connell, Michael Pinchera, Joan Treadaway and Beth Wieting. They hope to see many of you at the conference on The Dawning Clairvoyant Gaze: Charting a Safe Course at Rudolf Steiner College in Sacramento March 7-9. (For information call 503-774-8764.)

### DANIEL BITTLESTON



Daniel Bittleston was born in England with what he describes as an Anthroposophic silver spoon in his mouth. His father was a Christian Community priest and author, and his mother was trained in massage by Ita Wegman, sang folksongs in many languages and taught glove puppetry at Emerson College. He grew up not really knowing anything about Anthroposophy, although he went to six different Waldorf schools in England and Germany.

Daniel received an M.A. degree at Edinburgh University. As a young man, he did a lot of hitch-hiking around Europe and worked in advertising. He first started thinking seriously about Anthroposophy while living in North Africa, where he began to see what decadence there is in the world, and thought that one of his teachers at Michael Hall might have some answers. This led him to Emerson College where he attended the Orientation and Teacher Training Years and then he took a class through eight grades at Michael House School in D.H. Lawrence mining country. While in a

post-grad program, he asked the professors why Waldorf wasn't better known in England. Their answer was that it is well known and respected, but the esoteric ideas were unmanageable in academia. *The Philosophy of Freedom* was the book that first spoke to him. Before this, he felt that his "...mind was a kind of antique store of unrelated facts. *The Philosophy of Freedom* was a fresh wind for me."

When Celia Querido died, Daniel offered to take over her class at Michael Hall, in Forest Row. Instead, he was given the new first grade, which he took through seventh grade. He took another first through third grade at the Marin Waldorf School and then helped found the Waldorf School of the Peninsula. Daniel left Waldorf for one year to work as an illustrator of children's books, and since then he has worked in his flooring company, Golden Floors, which he says has brought him down to earth a little.

Daniel joined the Anthroposophical Society in 1966, and entered the First Class in 1977. He has been married three times and has six wonderful children. He currently resides in Santa Cruz, where he has been on the Branch core group since 2000, putting out the newsletter, leading a study group, and also publishing his Imagination Troubadour, chairing the Waldorf School Ombuds Group, planning conferences for Anthroposophia In The World and directing the Oberufer Shepherds Play.

**MICHAEL PINCHERA**

In 1977, in his 24<sup>th</sup> year, Michael first encountered Anthroposophy in the form of Rudolf Steiner's lecture on *The Etherization of the Blood*. He was studying Gestalt Therapy and reading voraciously in all directions. Two weeks later, prompted by a friend, he read *Knowledge of the Higher Worlds*.



Michael grew up in Detroit, and at the age of 21 he was working in the Detroit Children's School, teaching 7-13 year-olds in an open classroom. He felt that his main purpose was to get the students, who came mostly from very poor areas of the city, out into the country, in which he was largely successful. He tells of one winter home visit that he made with a colleague, when they found that the student's house had no front door, only a screen door, with the interior heated to the maximum. They returned next day and installed a door. For a time. Michael was a member of an Anarchist group, although he thought of himself as a closet Buddhist.

Moving to the West side of Michigan, Michael studied at Thomas Jefferson College, where he had the freedom to design a course around *Knowledge of the Higher Worlds*, including his experiences with the exercises.

In 1980, he returned to Detroit and attended the Waldorf Training Center, discovering that he had played on its campus as a child. Intending to study Anthroposophy, he found himself in a class led by Truus Geraets on Curative Eurythmy, and felt strongly drawn in this direction. However, Werner Glas persuaded him to become a Waldorf teacher. There followed a very challenging time, during which his daughter was born,

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

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he became a single parent, taking the Waldorf Teacher Training full time and working full time.

In Austin, Texas, Michael took a class from 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. In Davis, California, he took a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade. Then, he moved to Sandpoint Waldorf School, Idaho, where he re-married and has lived to the present day, taking over classes in emergency, mentoring teachers, chairing the Board, and traveling to do High School blocks at other Waldorf schools.

Michael joined the Anthroposophical Society in 1982, and the First Class in 2004. He started a study group in 1996 that is still going.

This year, he was very happy to be able to go to the First Class Conference in Ann Arbor, and in September, he went with his wife to Dornach and met Virginia Sease. He is the newest member of the Western Regional Council.

### The Dornach Christmas Conference 2007- "Christmas in Apocalyptic Times"

"The Mystery of Space, Time, and the Earth" from a talk given by Dr Siegward Elsas as reported by Diane Rumage, Vancouver, Washington



On one evening at his home, Siegward Elsas gave a brief overview, and, based on specific interests in the group, a more comprehensive report of some lectures given at the Dornach Christmas Conference in 2007.

Siegward grew up in Germany about 30 miles north of Dornach, Switzerland, and has attended the conferences with his family since he was a teenager. He flies each December back home to attend the conference.

He mentioned the significance of Dornach's setting--where Germany, France and Switzerland meet, and the Rhine river makes a bend. There is a confluence of different cultures and languages that meet in the area. Many young people from all over the world train in Anthroposophical disciplines there. When flying over the area, the Goetheanum stands out dramatically. The

landscape is the limestone Jura mountains, which tends to suck or draw out the forces of man, quite different from a granite base which supports one. The Goetheanum's concrete is also reminiscent of the limestone. Steiner modeled the upper shape of the Goetheanum to coincide with the slope of the Gempen Hill behind it. He emphasized the importance of the artistic setting of the entire building for the gathering: the stained glass windows, the cupola drawings, the seven pillars along the sides, the shape of the great hall with the stage, the organ at the back, and the door underneath the organ which opens to the big, red window in the west of the initiate with a smaller image of man before the abyss on the left, and across the abyss on the right.

Part of being in Dornach is the meeting of kindred souls. He met and had lunch with Dr. Armin Husemann, Anthroposophical doctor and the director of training for Anthroposophical medicine and a conference contributor. Siegward has been in contact with him since Armin read his article on the physiology of neurotransmitters and the breakdown of proteins in the brain as a basis for consciousness. Armin liked it so much he uses it in his training course. They shared their latest research with each other. A relative, Friedrich Husemann, founded the Anthroposophical Psychiatric Hospital in Freiburg during Steiner's time that today bears his name.

Armin is a genius and highly artistic as well. Following Rudolf Steiner's suggestion to understand the human body via art, Armin gave three lectures about the human heart. The first was about the plastic formative forces and sculpting as related to the etheric; the second was about musical physiology, nature and harmony and the astral; the third was about the sun forces in the heart related to poetry and speech and the ego. In the Riddles of the Soul Steiner introduces the concept of the 3-fold understanding of human physiology (not just the 3-fold soul qualities of thinking, feeling, willing) of the nerve-sense, the rhythmic, and the metabolic processes. There he describes how the experience of musicality comes about through the meeting of breath with the experience of sound, and how the breath is transmitted to the cerebral-spinal fluid. Armin, with great excitement, has discovered nerve cells around the cerebral-spinal fluid and ventricles that sense movement.

The conference in the 1000 seat hall followed a flow of lecture, smaller conversation groups, lunch, artistic activity, lecture and an evening artistic offering. Some of the offerings were scenes from the Mystery Dramas,

J.S. Bach's art of the fugue, and the seven planetary seals in eurythmy. At most international conferences there are simultaneous translations via ear piece into English, though Siegward doesn't recall noticing them this time.

Michael Debus, retired director of the Christian Community Priest training in Stuttgart, Germany, lectured on the "Apocalyptic Future and the Idea of Christmas". (Portland folks studied the *Apocalypse of St John* this Christmas time as part of their alternating cycle during the Holy Nights). Stuttgart is a very lively center for Anthroposophy in Germany, and when people from there get together with folk from Dornach, their sharing evokes great depth. Michael said that nowadays we don't have much real connection with the babe in the manger. Rather, the "Apocalypse" is the Bible for our time. We need to find a new Christmas concept. The original Christmas concept centered around Epiphany, the Baptism in the Jordan, when the Christ entered Jesus. Around 300 - 400 A.D. the focus changed to the babe in the manger.

Dr Michaela Glöckler put the conference together. She leads the Medical Section at the Goetheanum. She spoke on the *Seven Mysteries of the Threshold* and connected them with the seven post-Atlantean cultural periods.

Otfried Doerfler spoke on the "Image Language of the Apocalyptic Seals as Expression of the Revelation of St John". He related it as well to Anthroposophy. This very exciting topic was discussed over the entire week, too vast for Siegward to cover during the evening. He would be happy to cover this in another special session if desired.

Markus Schneider, Director of Teacher Training in Dornach, lectured on "Decision for Freedom--the Christmas Message in the Year of St Paul." Two different approaches to the Christ event were contrasted: one who approached it from the old tradition and just missed it--John the Baptist, and one who missed it, and only experienced it afterwards from the inside--St Paul.

The last lecture was given by a priest and a doctor together: Michael Lebus and Dr Michaela Gloeckler. It looked forward to the New Year and at what impulses we need in the future for Anthroposophy, and was entitled "Mysteries of Light, Space and the Earth."

Based on the greatest level of interest, Siegward proceeded to go into the details of a few lectures.

## **The "Seven Mysteries of the Threshold" by Dr Michaela Gloeckler.**

1) The Mystery of the Abyss, acute in Ancient India. For the first time, the people of ancient India consciously experienced the mystery of incarnation. They remembered the unity of spirit at the time before birth, and experienced the illusion of Maya coming into the separateness of earthly existence. Through this, They experienced the abyss between man and the world, and between each person, which is the basis for individuation.

2) The Mystery of Number, acute in the Ancient Persian Culture. There was a big discrepancy between the forces of light and Ahura Mazda; and the forces of darkness, of the physical world, of Ahriman. The Persians were beginning to bring the light into the physical world of darkness, using numbers as a help. Numbers help us to bring order into the world, and a number in itself is a purely spiritual principle. The laws of nature are essentially numbers. Numbers are the clearest form of thoughts. They are sense free, though they can be applied to the sense world. The striving for truth in the pure light of thought has changed today into what "works", the pragmatic. In the Mystery Dramas of Rudolf Steiner, Strader is a character who wrestles with this issue, but gives up and instead designs screws for a company. We need to attain spiritual clear thinking that is independent of the body like that of numbers. On a similar vein, the "St John's Gospel" mentions the Light that shines into the Darkness.

3) The Mystery of Alchemy, acute in the Egyptian-Chaldean period. At that time, Illness was for the first time recognized as individual in origin. Before, illness was recognized as something that affected the whole population, or that was given by God. Individualized medicine and an understanding of substances, both healing and toxic, grows. Also understanding potencies, in their use for transformation and metamorphoses. Healing pictures of an Imaginative nature also accompanied the process. The double nature of the etheric body was recognized: the forming, metabolic nature connected with the incarnating body and the limbs, and the etheric removed and freed from the body in the nerve-sense pole for thinking. (A recent Egyptian exhibit in Portland, OR showed a mastaba or King's burial chamber depicting the 12 hours when the King's Ka, or etheric body, transformed from the "metabolic" etheric body for the past life to the "nerve-sense" one for the following life as it passed through the spiritual world. Siegward has a picture of this.) As an

example of soul alchemy, Dr Glockler spoke of how Capesius in the Mystery Drama gets psychiatrically ill. Only soul alchemy heals him--he recognizes his karma. For true alchemy, knowledge of spirit is not just thought, but felt. Where people undergo spiritual transformation, such as in R. Steiner's mystery dramas, and come to such threshold points, they have the opportunity to experience their past lives and understand what brought about their current difficulties, and can overcome them.

4) The Mystery of Death, acute in Ancient Greece and Rome. During the former 3 cultures, man appreciated death as an opportunity to return home. Only the Greek feared death as leading to the realm of the shadow, and wanted to remain on earth. We now live consciously with death. Angelus Silesius wrote: "He who does not die before he dies, he will be destroyed (or decay) when he dies." Life on earth is an embryonic stage preparing for a future to come, and death is a birth into the spiritual world. Theodora of the Mystery Dramas dies so that Johannes Thomasius does not fall. Strader also dies under mysterious circumstances. Both are forms of initiation.

5) The Mystery of Evil, acute in our time, the 5th Post-Atlantean culture. We are familiar with the 4 former mysteries, though we still deal with them. We are not so adept at dealing with evil. Are we capable of feeling ourselves responsible for what is evil in the world? Evil can only begin to be transformed when it is understood. As long as we only point fingers at evil, little is accomplished. Evil intends to wake us for the possible good, for what needs to be transformed into good. It brings us to the path of Initiation which is a path of peace. We find peace by knowing and being aware of evil, even in ourselves. Goethe was aware of the capability of all possible kinds of evil in himself. That made him close to an initiate. Evil can only be healed by empathy. Dr. Gloeckler mentioned the 7 stages of will from the philosophy of freedom: instinct in the physical, drive in the etheric, desire in the astral, motive for an action in the ego, wish in Spirit Self, intention in Life Spirit, and resolve in Spirit Man. In the Mystery Dramas we find Lucifer and Ahriman as portrayals of evil everywhere.

6) The Mystery of the Word, acute in the future 6th Post-Atlantean culture. Am I capable of the future? Through feeling, thought gets meaning for the individual. The Word is the personal clothing for Wisdom. As Anthroposophists we cannot just spread universal wisdom without personal involvement.

Formation of community through the Word; there is a very conscious use of the Word in the Mystery Dramas. There is portrayed as well the ideal of brotherhood. We need to deal consciously with evil before we can form a true community. Community difficulties arise in our 5th period because we cannot yet sense and heal the evil in ourselves and others.

7) The Mystery of Unity with God (Divine Bliss), and the War of all against all, in the future 7th Post-Atlantean culture. This war seems surprising to come after achieving brotherhood. Maria in the Mystery Drama irritates and harms other people through her overpowering spirituality, for instance the child she cares for, Thomasius who loves her. She overcomes this by her holy oath. She vows to sacrifice and forsake her personal happiness and divine bliss, and only to be happy by knowing that her thinking is serving the gods. She does not dwell in her own rapture, but what lives in her consciousness is a service to humanity as a whole, and thereby to the gods. The highest spiritual can accompany the worst apocalyptic devastation on the physical plane. Consciousness carries death forces in it. Siegwald mentioned the coming of the Etheric Christ in the 1930's, and the accompanying destruction in Europe at that time. (As many are aware, Steiner mentions how the 5th, 6th and 7th Post-Atlantean epochs overlap and interweave with each other).

Doerfler in another lecture spoke of 7 as the number of evolution and of Christ. The 4 Gospels were descriptions of what Christ did. The "Apocalypse" is the revelation of the nature of Christ.

### **"Musical Physiology" by Dr Armin Husemann**

There are 5 liters of blood in the blood vessels. There are 35 liters of interstitial fluid (between the tissues), and the body is around 95% fluid. The volume of blood that the heart ejects equals the sum of that returned by the venous system. The heart is not a machine that produces blood flow, but the blood flow directs the heart. Slowly, peripheral liquid gets taken up by the smallest blood vessels (an etheric process) and it is white in color--the etheric is in the physical in willing, we are asleep in this realm. As it collects in the veins, it takes on color and moves faster and finally collects in the large inner space of the heart and comes to a complete stop. Like a death process, the ether separates from the physical. The heart is the equivalent thinking salt pole of the cardiovascular system. We become aware of our inner system. The sulphur is the peripheral realm. Armin played Beethoven on stage on a piano while lecturing to help demonstrate what the

process feels like. The process is what allows us to feel and experience ourselves as a human being. At first we are expanded to the periphery asleep, with many flowing notes, then it changes to a more rhythmical music for the feeling, dreamy experience, then the music stops, and we are contracted to an awake moment in the heart. The eye can describe anatomy from the outside, but music can help us experience and feel the inner processes. The circulation of the bloodstream starts in the tonic of the periphery to the heart and stops, then moves in the sub-dominant to the lungs. The Neapolitan 6th is related to the blue blood in the lung artery. In the lungs there is a 4:5 relation, the breathing in and out of the major third. The blood returns from the lungs to the heart in the dominant with a relationship of 5:6 (also the number of valves) back into the heart in contraction. The 5:6 5:8 is the minor third relationship of the left and right ventricle. The blood streams out into the periphery again in the tonic. The stop of flow in the heart equals a chord, which also equates with the stopping of a melody, a consciousness event, whereas the moving melody of the periphery flows.

A piano enables one to play a chord and arose in the Consciousness Soul time. In Atlantis we experienced the 7th, in Greece the 5th, in classical music the major and minor 3rd, the breathing into the blood, showing the gradual process of incarnation of humanity as a whole. Bach and the art of fugue can be played by any instrument. Mozart deals more with the breathing aspect. Beethoven adds color and metabolism. Debussy created music for 120 piece orchestra with all the different colors of sound. This again shows how music gradually enters more and more into the physical. Wagner's trumpets carry artistic music to the grave, death being the culmination of incarnation. Tone eurythmy is the resurrection of music from the grave.

"The Christmas Message in the Year of St Paul" by Markus Schneider

Markus Schneider started with Rudolf Steiner's verse for Capricorn from his "Twelve Moods". Capricorn is the sign of the time of Christmas. It deals with time: past, present and future. There is also the verse of the Foundation Stone Meditation that states: "In the Turning Point of Time..."

John the Baptist represented the highest accomplishments of the past. The Archai or Time Spirit of Greek/Roman/Jew was the LAW, and acts through John the Baptist. The same spirit then, as inspirator of

exoteric Christianity worked through Catholicism and the Pope. John was beheaded just before Christ's ministry, and returns as Raphael and serves exoteric Christianity again when he builds and paints for the Pope during the Renaissance, the renewal of Greek culture.

Paul is a Roman citizen because of his Roman father, he spoke Greek because he grew up in Tarsus where that was the language, and he was a Jew through religious training, as a Pharisee. After Damascus, he experienced not the physical but the etheric Christ, and time reversed for him. He went through the eye of the needle and became a new person who enters the future through freedom. St Paul follows the Christ in Faith, Love and Hope. According to St. Paul, Through the Law, sin came into the world (not the reverse as we might think) --we become conscious of sin, which can only be overcome through Love. St Paul says that Love and Knowledge are One; "not I, but the Christ in me".

In another lecture, Michael Debus said the original Christmas idea was the Epiphany event, where the Christ being entered the body of Jesus. Such an incorporation of a new ideal human being we can all experience ourselves but need to strive and work towards it so that we may become a vessel for the gift from the spirit to enter in. Paying heed to Steiner's *Fifth Gospel*, we can envision that the Jesus strives up creating a vessel, and then at epiphany the Christ being flows down. So we have two opposite processes: one moving upwards toward the divine, and another flowing downwards towards human beings. John the Baptist can be seen as a representative of the upwards stream, and St. Paul as a representative of experiencing the downward stream of unexpected revelation of the divine within. During the 4th culture period, there was not yet much of an understanding for the upward process of development, and the possibility and need of a human being to prepare himself as a host for the divine, so this aspect of Jesus became misunderstood and finally was abolished by decree. In 336 AD the Nicean Council discussed the question if Jesus was similar or the same as God. They decided he was the same. Thus, the birth of the human baby Jesus came to be the birth of God, and came to be celebrated as Christmas until today, instead of the moment of Jesus being filled with the Christ being at Epiphany, which was the original Christmas event.

## News from the Portland Council

By Betty Baldwin, Portland, Oregon

The Portland Branch Council reviewed the Holy Night Readings at our January meeting, and was pleased to note that they were well attended. About sixteen people gathered for each reading, and six managed to attend all of the readings. Our thanks go to those of you who so graciously hosted these evenings. Other business centered on scheduling upcoming speakers for our Branch. We will host Glen Williamson on March 1 and 2 for a dramatic presentation of "Faust". We are hoping to get the Old Church for this event, and want to advertise it broadly. Nancy Poer will instruct us on death and dying at home in April. We also invited Mark Finser for a weekend series of lectures in late winter or early spring 2009. Our next council meeting is Wednesday, February 27th at Ruth and Tom Klein's home, 3609 SE Center, Portland OR 97202, phone: 503-777-3176. All Branch members are welcome to attend. Please join us.

### Youth Sponsorship Appeal

Rachel Duarte is looking for sponsorship to travel to the festival forum youth conference in Dornach, Switzerland. It is a weeklong conference held at the Goetheanum. My intention is to find sponsorship to supplement the \$350 grant given to me by the Society's Youth Section so that I can purchase the ticket to go to the youth conference (airfare is now about \$1,400). I'm in my 2nd year of Waldorf teacher training at the Michael Institute. I work as the grades assistant at the Portland Waldorf School. I feel going to the youth conference would be an incredible opportunity to connect with an international community of aware, spiritual youth. It will be an enriching experience to participate in workshops, artistic activities, and lectures from a spiritual, anthroposophical approach. If any interested individuals would like to learn more about the youth conference and sponsorship, I can be e-mailed at: [rachel5413@yahoo.com](mailto:rachel5413@yahoo.com). Peace and blessings.

### Marjorie Spock Across the Threshold

By Nancy Parsons, Philomath, Oregon

Marjorie Spock crossed the threshold of death in the early morning hours yesterday, January 23, 2008. She was 103 years old and remained fully conscious until 2 days before her death. Her last study group was held a week ago and she stood and shook hands with all who attended.

Marjorie Spock was my first introduction to Waldorf Education. Out of her experience as Eurythmy teacher at the Rudolf Steiner School in Manhattan, she wrote *Teaching as a Lively Art* which remains one of the best overviews, as well as hands-down the most enthusiastic, of Waldorf Education through the elementary grades. It is in a sense through her eyes that I came to understand what such an education could mean for children and for the world in which we live.

She was less well known, but no less effective as a biodynamic gardener and farmer. At some point, the US Government sprayed her BD farm with DDT -- she sued them. Her friend, Rachel Carson, used Marjorie's courtroom testimony as the primary content for her ground breaking novel, *Silent Spring*. Marjorie herself wrote a lovely book about her experience of the elemental world, *Fairy Worlds and Workers*.

She was the last known living person to have personally studied under Rudolf Steiner. As a eurythmist, she accompanied him on lecture tours throughout Europe. One of her study group members recounts that when they were studying *Man as a Symphony of the Creative Word*, Marjorie commented, "Yes, I remember when Rudolf Steiner gave that lecture." I think this must be a day when heaven is aglow with new joy to receive such a soul.

### Obituary for Marjorie Spock

By Jennifer Greene, Blue Hill, Maine

Marjorie Spock died peacefully at her home in Sullivan, Maine on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 at the age of 103.

Marjorie Spock was born in New Haven, Connecticut on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1904, the second child, and first daughter, of six children. The Spock family was prominent in New Haven, as her father was a corporate lawyer there and her older brother, Dr. Benjamin Spock, was later a world-renowned pediatrician, known through *The Baby Book*, which changed the way children were brought up and viewed, and known for his work against the Vietnam War.

At eighteen, Marjorie went to Dornach, Switzerland, to meet and work with Rudolf Steiner, the founder of Anthroposophy. This had deep significance for her life, especially her study of the dynamics of human movement, through Eurythmy. After her final return to the US, she received her BA and MA degrees from Columbia University at the age of thirty-eight. During her studies, she began a prominent career as a teacher

and the head of the Dalton Middle School and teacher at the Fieldston Lower School, both progressive schools in New York City. She also taught at The Rudolf Steiner School in New York City and The Waldorf School in Garden City, Long Island.

With her deep understanding of nature and as an avid Bio-Dynamic gardener, Marjorie's work took on an added dimension when, in the area where she and her friend, Polly Richards lived, on Long Island, New York, the government began aerial spraying of DDT against the perceived gypsy moth epidemic. She, and Polly, who helped finance the legal action, brought a case with ten other people against the United States government for the continued DDT spraying. Marjorie and Polly were formidable leaders for this commitment to the health of the earth. Organic, Bio-Dynamic food was a life-saving matter for Polly, who was in ill health. For Marjorie, the concern was for her friend's health, and the constitutional right as a property owner to keep her land, as she wanted it, free of government infringement. This team was brilliant, committed and erudite. According to Marjorie, the "government ran rough shod over anyone who got in the way of the new technology. They brushed us off like so many flies". The Federal judge, appointed by President Eisenhower, threw out 72 uncontested admissions for the plaintiffs and denied their petitions. From the summer of 1957 to 1960, when the case reached the Supreme Court, Marjorie wrote a report to interested and influential friends of each day's progress in and out of court, each evening after work. Rachel Carson heard of this and soon got these daily briefings because she realized that the testimony from the experts that Marjorie had found, would be valuable for her own research. This case, along with a massive bird kill on Cape Cod, was the springboard for the writing of *Silent Spring*. Although the trial took only 22 days, towards the end, Rachel Carson asked for the transcript. They became close collaborators and friends.

Though the plaintiffs lost the case, they won the right to bring an injunction in court, so that prior to a destructive environmental event, a full and proper scientific review had to be made. Marjorie always described it, saying, "We lost the battle but won the war".

This became the germinal legal action for the environmental movement in the United States. There has been continuous interest in this case since that time. Recently, Marjorie was interviewed for a documentary on Rachel Carson.

After the case, Marjorie moved to Chester, New York where she farmed, bringing Bio-Dynamic produce to a

larger public. She worked closely with Dr. Ehrenfried Pfeiffer, the renowned soil scientist, and compost and farm advisor for Bio-Dynamic movement.

As a beloved destination since childhood, in 1965, Marjorie moved to Maine, where she lived and worked for the next 43 years as an inspiring teacher, eurythmist, author, Bio-Dynamic farmer, translator and mentor to the many people, young and old, who came to see her. Until a couple weeks ago, she held a study group, which has been on-going since 1965, and to which people came from all over the state. Visitors, from all over the world, and wonderful neighbors, were always heartily welcomed and experienced wide-ranging and deep conversations, wise counsel and humor.

Amongst Marjorie Spock's writings are *Teaching as a Lively Art*, her master's thesis; *In celebration of the Human Heart*; *Eurythmy*; *To Look on Earth With More Than Mortal Eyes* and *Fairy Worlds and Workers: A Natural History of Fairyland*. The two pamphlets, *Group Moral Artistry I: Reflections on Community Building* and *Group Moral Artistry II: The Art of Goethean Conversation*, have had a readership around the world. Her love and understanding of the mystery of language can be seen in her article, "A B C D E F G: The Secret Life of Letters".

Surviving Marjorie Spock are several nephews, grand nieces and Mary Morgan, the wife of Dr. Benjamin Spock.

In the 100th year of her life Marjorie produced, directed and choreographed a video about Eurythmy, which was filmed at Hammond Hall in Winter Harbor followed by two short training films at 101 and 102 years of age.

The last few years have been amongst the happiest and most productive, because of the loving help and care that Kim Smith gave Marjorie. Many around the world are grateful for this, as she was then able to work tirelessly for the understanding of the goodness of mankind and for the health of the earth.

On Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, the funeral service was held in Winter Harbor at Hammond Hall. On Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 10:30, a Christian Community service, The Act of Consecration for Marjorie Spock, was held at New Elm Farm, 27 Lambert Rd., Freeport, ME.

For those wishing to make donations, there are two possibilities:

- 1) The Foundation for Human Movement Studies (supporting the mission of Spatial Dynamics), c/o Susan Harrington, 47 Spice Mill Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065.
- 2) The Bio-Dynamic Farming and Gardening Association, 25844 Butler Rd., Junction City, OR 97448

# Portland Anthroposophical Society Calendar - February 2008

## Ongoing Events and Study Groups

### **African Drumming**

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

### **Anthroposophical Medicine Study Group**

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

### **Curative Education**

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

### **Deepening Our Experience with the Six Basic Exercises**

Saturday 9:00-10:00 AM once a month. Beginning and advanced students welcome. February 9, first exercise; March 8, second exercise, April 12, third exercise. 2525 NE 13th Ave, Portland, OR 97212, For information call Twila at (503) 281-9349 or write her by e-mail at [Twila@spiritone.com](mailto:Twila@spiritone.com)

### **Embryogenesis in Myth and Science**

We are beginning a study of the above book by Thomas Weihs, Anthroposophical physician and teacher. It compares the Genesis of the Bible and creation myths with the science of embryology enlightened by Anthroposophy. We meet weekly on Tuesdays from 7:30 - 9:00 pm at 3046 NE 33rd Avenue, Portland, OR 97212 Contact Diane Ramage 360 241-7854 for information.

### **Eurythmy**

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

### **Karmic Relationships**

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

### **Mystery Knowledge and Mystery Centers**

Meeting once a month on the fourth Thursday at 7 PM at Bothmer Hall. Contact Joan Takacs ([docstakacs@comcast.net](mailto:docstakacs@comcast.net)).

### **Mystery Dramas, with Speech-Formation Exercises**

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

### **Portland Waldorf School Community Choir**

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

### **Portland Youth Discussion Group**

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

### **Spinning and Spiritual Science**

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

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

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

## Upcoming Events

### **FEBRUARY 6-MARCH 12**

#### **Wednesday Morning Painting Classes**

A series of six painting classes will be given by Jannebeth Röell on Wednesday morning from 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM at 3135 NE 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. Portland OR 97212. To reserve a place please call 503-249- 3807.

### **FEBRUARY 7-29**

#### **Micha-el Institute – Introductory Course “Eurythmy”**

2/7 Kindergarten to Grade 5; 2/14 Middle and High School Eurythmy; 2/21 Therapeutic Eurythmy and Movement; 2/29 Eurythmy as a Performing Art; held in the Music Room at Portland Waldorf School, 2300 SE Harrison, Milwaukie. Contact 503 774-4946 or email [johncmiles@usa.net](mailto:johncmiles@usa.net).

### **FEBRUARY 18-19**

#### **Conference Boys**

Capturing the Spirit of the Boy Child, a workshop for parents and teachers and others at Shining Star Waldorf School, 4317 NE Emerson Street, Portland, Oregon 97218. \$50 per person. Please inquire at 503 753 4459.

**Monday, FEBRUARY 25 and Friday, MARCH 14****Introduction to "The Language of Parenting - Words Weave Magic"**

We feed our children organic food & give them a lively education; do we nourish them as richly with our words? When parents and teachers master the artful use of language, relationships are deepened, and children feel even more confident and capable. Learn practical skills that you can use immediately. Janet Allison is a Waldorf Teacher and Parent Educator. Fee \$25. 1-3 at Zenana Spa, 2024 SE Clinton. Call Janet at 503-493-7404 or e-mail her at [janet.familycoach@comcast.net](mailto:janet.familycoach@comcast.net) to register.

**Wednesday, FEBRUARY 27****Portland Branch Council meeting**

7:00 PM at the home of Ruth and Tom Klein, 3609 SE Center, Portland OR 97202; phone: 503-777-3176. All Branch members are welcome to attend.

**Saturday MARCH 1****GOETHE'S FAUST**

A one-man dramatic presentation of one of the most important works of German literature, given by actor Glenn Williamson from New York. Event is sponsored by the Portland Branch of the Anthroposophical Society. 8:00 PM at the Old Church in Portland. The church is at the corner of 11th and Clay. Admission \$20.00 general; \$15.00 seniors and students.

**MARCH 6 – APRIL 17****Micha-el Institute –Introductory Course “The Waldorf Curriculum”**

3/6 An Overview of the Waldorf Curriculum; 3/13 Before the Nine Year Change Grades 1, 2 & 3; 4/10 The Golden Age of Childhood Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6; 4/17 The Middle School Years Grades 6, 7 & 8; held in the Music Room at Portland Waldorf School, 2300 SE Harrison, Milwaukie. Contact 503 774-4946 or email [johncmiles@usa.net](mailto:johncmiles@usa.net).

**Saturday, MARCH 8****Working with Parents, for Early Childhood Teachers**

Janet Allison will guide Early Childhood Teachers in new ways of speaking and responding to parents. Learn how to create & maintain rapport, deliver difficult news, and use clear and positive language to minimize misunderstandings. Bothmer Hall, 9:30a.m to 12:30. Fee \$25. Call Janet 503-493-7404 to register or [janet.familycoach@comcast.net](mailto:janet.familycoach@comcast.net)

**Sunday, MARCH 9****First Class of the School of Spiritual Science**

Bothmer Hall, Blue card required – Discussion on Lesson 4 at 8:30 AM, class at 9:30 AM sharp. Lesson 5. Please contact Jannebeth Röell 503/249-3807.

**MARCH 15****2008 Silver Jubilee Auction Gala**

Celebrate our 25th Anniversary with an evening of magic and fun, including a delicious gourmet meal and exciting auction. For information e-mail [auction@portlandwaldorfschool.org](mailto:auction@portlandwaldorfschool.org).

**MARCH 16****Consciousness and Brain Physiology**

Consciousness is one of the unexplained mysteries of science. Dr. Elsas will discuss this mystery and contrast it with his physiological observations. 3:00 PM at Theosophical Society, 2377 NW Kearney Street, Portland, Oregon 97210. Doors will open at 2:30 pm.

**Thursday Evenings, APRIL 10-MAY 8****"The Language of Parenting- Words Weave Magic"**

In this five-week class series we will acknowledge the wisdom you have in your parenting and add to it through story, discussion, lecture and self-reflection. You'll learn positive language that increases confidence and deepens family connections. Janet Allison is a Waldorf Teacher and Parent Educator and, best of all, a mom of 22 years! Fee \$195. Bothmer Hall, 7-9pm. April 10 - May 8th. Call Janet 503-493-7404 or [janet.familycoach@comcast.net](mailto:janet.familycoach@comcast.net) to register.

**Friday, APRIL 11****Helping Loved Ones at the Threshold of Death, Spiritual Insights and Practical Aspects - Lecture**

Nancy Jewel Poer will give a public lecture (Friday) and workshop (Saturday) on death and dying at home. This event is sponsored by the Portland Branch of the Anthroposophical Society. Nancy Jewel Poer has been a national consultant for home death care for 30 years. With her family she pioneered deathcare work in her community, first nursing the family elders so they could die at home and then helping others to do the same. She and her husband wanted to not only care for their loved ones but to help their six children know that death is a natural part of life. Their children built the caskets for their grandparents and all the family members have helped with many community deaths since that time. Nancy has written a book *Living Into Dying, Spiritual and Practical Deathcare for Family and Community*, which has empowered many people to care for their loved ones at home when they realized it was both possible and legal to do so. Nancy has lectured across the United States helping to form “threshold groups” in many places so that people can be ready and knowledgeable when death comes to their communities. She was part of a documentary shown nationally on PBS television called *A Family Undertaking*. Nancy is a Waldorf educator and one of the founders of Rudolf Steiner College where she has taught for 33 years. She is also the founding teacher of Cedar Springs Waldorf School in Placerville, CA. Nancy lectures and teaches courses in parenting, child development, American studies and the spiritual feminine and is known for the warmth, humor, and practical life experience she brings to her lectures. She and her husband of many decades live on a cattle ranch in the Sierra foothills where they host many group retreats. An artist, she has created a children's book, *Mia's Apple Tree*. Friday's lecture is \$20 and the workshop is \$25 when purchased separately. Lecture and workshop together are \$35. Friday lecture (7:30 PM) and Saturday workshop (9:00 AM) will be held at 3135 NE 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Contact Jannebeth Röell for information at 503 249-3807. Please RSVP.

**Saturday APRIL 12****Helping Loved Ones at the Threshold of Death - Workshop**

Nancy Jewel Poer will lead this workshop on death and dying at home. The Friday night lecture will complement the workshop, although it is possible to attend only the workshop. This event is sponsored by the Portland Branch of the Anthroposophical Society.

**Sat. 9:00 AM – Noon: The Gifts of the Threshold**

**Noon – 1:00 PM: Potluck Lunch** – Please bring a dish to share that is sufficient for about 15 people. Bring serving ware. Plates, cups and flatware will be available at the workshop.

**Sat. 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM Legal and Practical Aspects of Home Death Care**

**Sat. 3:30 PM: *Conscious Dying and Community supported Deathcare before and After Transition***. This new film is optional for those that would like to stay and see it. See the mini biography of Nancy Jewel Poer under the Friday, April 11 lecture *Helping Loved Ones at the Threshold of Death, Spiritual Insights and Practical Aspects*. The lecture and workshop together are \$35. The workshop starts at 9:00 AM and will be held at 3135 NE 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Contact Jannebeth Röell for information at 503 249-3807. Please RSVP.

**Saturday, APRIL 12****Blending Temperaments within the Family**

Janet Allison will introduce you to the Temperaments and how to work with them in your unique family circle. Bothmer Hall, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 Fee \$25. Call Janet 503-493-7404 to register or [janet.familycoach@comcast.net](mailto:janet.familycoach@comcast.net)

**MARCH 16-20, 2008 in Portland, Oregon.****Self World Disorders with Jaimen McMillan**

ADHD, Autism, Bullying, Depression. These discomforts and dis-eases have many names and faces. Each has a myriad of causes, but one factor in common: the difficulty to relate. Many behavioral disorders exhibit dis-order in space. Balanced movement can create bridges over these gaps. We will experience that spatially-oriented exercises may enhance the individual's ability to connect, communicate, and cooperate. This course is open to everyone and begins at 7:30 pm on the first night and concludes at 12:00 noon on the last day. SDI graduate will receive Level II credit. Tuition is \$500. Please contact [sdiamissions@earthlink.net](mailto:sdiamissions@earthlink.net) or 518-695-6377 for information.

**MARCH 5 – MAY 14****New Course - Music through the Arts**

The question has come to me to have an artistic experience of musical elements such as major, minor, scales, etc. We may know the dry facts of how many whole and half steps are in a particular scale or chord, but how does that feel, what does it look like at a deeper level? In a series of 10 lessons we will explore through painting, drawing, poetry, eurythmy, but also through simple improvisation and composition, what's unique about melody, rhythm, major, minor, a scale, a particular note or instrument. Classes will be held from March 5th through May 14th, 2008 at Bothmer Hall (5909 SE Division Street, Portland) on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. \$15 per class or \$100 for the series of 10 classes. Register by calling

Marion Van Namen at 503-956-4046 or writing her at [marion@octavemusictherapy.com](mailto:marion@octavemusictherapy.com). Must have 5 people signed up for the series for classes to take place.

**Saturday, APRIL 12****Blending Temperaments within the Family**

Janet Allison, will introduce you to the Temperaments and how to work with them in your unique family circle. Bothmer Hall, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 Fee \$25. Call Janet 503-493-7404 to register or [janet.familycoach@comcast.net](mailto:janet.familycoach@comcast.net)

**MAY 24-25, 2008****Facing Karma in Life and Rudolf Steiner's Mystery Dramas**

Those who are young at heart are warmly invited to attend an anthroposophical youth conference on the weekend of May 24-25, 2008 (Memorial weekend) at Heartbeat Lifesharing in Hardwick, Vermont. For further information and the suggested list for pre-reading, please contact Rachel Schwartz at [raugustina@hotmail.com](mailto:raugustina@hotmail.com) or 802-472-9573.

**Friday, OCTOBER 24, 2008****An Anthroposophical Publisher's Private Conversations with Saul Bellow on Spirituality**

This lecture by Steve Usher is sponsored by the Portland Branch of the Anthroposophical Society. This lecture tells the story of how Saul Bellow came to write the foreword to Rudolf Steiner's BOUNDARIES OF NATURAL SCIENCE. It will also discuss what Bellow had to say about Steiner in *HUMBOLDT'S GIFT*, a book for which Bellow received the Pulitzer Prize. 7:30 PM Location TBA, admission \$15.00

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

This lecture by Steve Usher is sponsored by the Portland Branch of the Anthroposophical Society. The lecture will explore the history of the threefold idea, the idea, and its opponents. 7:30 PM Location TBA, admission \$15.00

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

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

**AUGUST 1-8, 2009****Encircling Light-Expectant Silence**

Anthroposophical Society in Canada hosts this conference on the North in White Horse, Yukon. Full details about all aspects of the Conference will be available on our website, [www.encirclinglight.ca](http://www.encirclinglight.ca), which will be in operation early in 2008. The flyer can be viewed online at [PortlandBranch.com](http://PortlandBranch.com).


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