

Portland Anthroposophic Times

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

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WILLI MUELLER'S BIOGRAPHY



By Diane Ramage, Vancouver, Washington

It seemed appropriate that after the long drive from Vancouver, WA to Eugene, OR I arrived exactly at 10:30 a.m., our scheduled appointment time, with Willi Mueller, former watchmaker, waiting at the bottom of his steep driveway

for me, surrounded by his flowering bushes. I entered his home and admired the beautiful lazured walls he had painted 27 years ago.

Our planned few hours of discussion turned into an all day shared journey along pathways of Willi's life. Tea on the sunny patio, with bees buzzing from their hive in his back yard around the trees, bushes, and flowers packed into every nook and cranny--a nice segue from our Portland Member's Meeting on Bees of a few days before. After some time, we moved into his study to begin the "official" interview, and at once a prolonged beeping was heard: we tracked it down to a wristwatch that was chiming the noon alert--it must have been digital, because even though he tried to silence it, it kept resounding in spurts for quite some time, then finally gave up. Again, the watchmaker, but with modern abstract technology.

I was privileged to view a book on his home village of Reckingen, Switzerland, where he joined his family on January 26, 1927 in the evening as the sun was setting. Reckingen sits at 4534 feet altitude 10 miles from a glacier in the Valais (Wallis) or valley area of the Swiss Alps which separates Italy from Switzerland, with the Rhone River flowing through the village towards the Mediterranean Sea. Avalanches have wiped out portions of the village in the past. That is unlikely to happen anymore with all the precautions taken in the last 20 years.

He was the 4th of 6 siblings, the second eldest his only sister, who was like a second mother to him. He still visits her, dearly loved, now age 88, in Switzerland. His wonderful parents were like all the residents, hard working peasants, living off the land. His father and his uncle, twins, were millers, English for Mueller. His

father, very skilled in carpentry, ran a saw mill, and Willi was fascinated with the wheels and mechanism of the mill. His uncle ran the flour mill just above the saw mill, with its mill wheel and grindstones. Willi and his brothers worked relatively hard, but also occasionally ventured to check out and mess around with the empty train wagons at the station. Though his older brothers sometimes earned spankings, he doesn't remember being the recipient of any. Willi's family raised crops on patchwork plots of land and tended cows, sheep, goats, and chickens. A former classmate of his who became a veterinarian has also an outstanding artistic ability, and has provided Willi with a book of sketches of all the tools, facilities and activities of the village. They sheared the sheep, from which wool was spun, and then woven by others. He has vivid memories of the scratchy wool pants becoming stiff pipes after getting wet and frozen in the snow. They raised flax with its beautiful blue flowers. They beat the stalks and made a strong cloth from it with which to collect hay in bundles and load onto a horse drawn wagon. At the barn Willi would climb up a ladder with a large bundle on his head, and dump it into the loft, with the cows below during the long winters. There were various barns up and down the hillside, and he would ski up and down with the milk on his back. They made butter and cheese from the milk. With the whey obtained from the first cheese process, they made zigger, boiling the whey and tossing in something sour to clot it, then putting it in a cloth to hang for a day. It could be eaten fresh or salted and matured. There was a village bake house, and every seventh week was baking week. The fire was started in the wood oven, then villagers took turns, bringing the sourdough they had prepared beforehand and kneading the dough from the flour they had produced, and baking the quantity of rye bread each family needed to last them for seven weeks. However, there was a bakery where one could buy fresh bread every day, too. There were three community wash houses, where a few times a year families would wash their large items, such as linens. A large cauldron of water was heated, then water was poured with a big ladle over the laundry which had been placed in large tubs--a layer of linen, a layer of ash collected from the fires, a layer of linen, a layer of ash, etc. in order to soften the laundry and soak it. Then they washed it in lengthwise hollowed out logs. Of course there was the village blacksmith. Mules, horses and skis were the only means of transportation, though a doctor

from a neighboring village owned the one automobile. In viewing this booklet, I realized what a blessing it was for him to grow up there, where if one performed a thought exercise imagining where something came from and how it was made--one could trace it back to the land and the actual craftsman. Willi is so grateful that all was so transparent. Some of these buildings are now museums.

Allemand was spoken in his village, a medieval sounding Middle High German dialect. Further down French dialects were spoken. In school they had to speak and were taught High German. In a sense, he learned

more from the land than the school. If the class behaved, he reveled in the stories his teacher read by Karl May about the Indians and cowboys of North America. For example, he heard about Winnetou the great chieftain and his white friends Surehand and old Shatterhand.

As is common in Switzerland, entire areas are either Catholic or Protestant. Reckingen is Catholic, so all the villagers attended the beautiful baroque style church filled with sculpture and paintings and with an organ carved and created by the regional artisans. The bells rang out at 12 p.m., 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. and the peasants stood for a moment of prayer in their fields. Willi was an altar boy, very devout and religious, and considered becoming a priest, but that changed when entering puberty.

When he was 12 in 1939 WWII broke out. His father with his horse and Willi's eldest brother, like other men in the area, took up their arms and went off to their allotted places along the frontiers. He was left as the "man" to handle most of the tasks, and even though he was not supposed to run the saw mill, he was thrilled about the possibility and responsibility, and had watched his father all his life, so he set about to run it and did well. However, in watching the river, wondering where it came from and where it went, in observing the one train that passed through the village and wondering the same, not only blessed with the large vista but climbing higher up the mountains to see far and wide--he had a mighty longing to leave. For the next 6 years of war that longing increased. Being poor money-wise, he could not afford an education. If he were to study to become a priest, his training would be paid. Dominicans in their white robes visited and preached about becoming African missionaries which greatly appealed to him in his youth (he had no desire to go with brown robed Franciscans or Capuchins). However, he had questions as a 12 year old that no one could answer in the all-Catholic setting. Each village had its own patron saint, with its own feast day during which one was obligated to go to church. What if he was in a different village during his own village saint's feast day? Would it be a sin if he didn't go to church? Doubt began to creep in. From then on nothing could stop him on the quest of truth-finding.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PORTLAND BRANCH OF THE ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, PLEASE CALL DIANE RUMAGE AT (360) 241-7854.

THE PORTLAND BRANCH THANKS THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS IN 2009!

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

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

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Correction – July 2009 Newsletter
 The African Song mentioned in the piece about St John's that was printed in the July newsletter should have been named 'Jemaya assesu'.

In May 1945 when throughout Switzerland the "Peace" bells were ringing, Willi began his watchmaker apprenticeship at age 18. At first he was not accepted. But a second letter changed the no into a yes. Mr. Erpf



told him later that he couldn't say no to the 2nd letter, though Willi doesn't remember what he wrote in it. Willi suggests never to take a no for an answer, for this happened to him three more times later in life. Over the 4 years, the training was accompanied with school in Buchs and Zurich. There was a 3 day exam at the end by the Association of Watchmakers, where he

had to make parts from scratch to mend a broken watch-creating delicate little stems and axles that could break at any moment. Willi passed, for he possesses a fine mechanical and detail oriented ability, obviously enhanced by his childhood upbringing. Willi was a watchmaker for 23 years, always knowing that was not his task, always living with the question: "What am I meant to do?" It took him some 18 years of ceaseless searching and life experiences to come to that point.

He lived at age 23 in Zurich for 1 year with Frau Landhold who was about 80 years old. She was very important in his life. He was about to break away from the church, and she exposed him for the first time to the Bible. He had encountered hymns and catechism before, but there was no talking of the Bible. Frau Landhold's



friend gave him his first Bible, which he still has. He was shocked to learn from Frau Landhold that Jesus had brothers and sisters. How could this Virgin Mary have more children?! They conversed into the wee hours of the morning, and she shared much of her difficult life. He came to really

respect her. He read a history of the Popes of the Church, which was an eye-opener. He also read a book by a rebel priest who had broken away from the Church. He came to the point where he realized that no dogma could hold him any more. How relieved he was! He believed in God as strongly as before, but there was no set form to hold him. What now?

He traveled to Durban, South Africa, on the Indian Ocean, and arrived after three weeks on his 26th birthday in 1953, to work in a well established Swiss watchmaker firm there. 3 days later while exiting a room at the immigration registration office, his boss, who accompanied him, pointed out 3 people exiting another room. He said he knew the young woman's parents, and would introduce them. Christa, the young



woman, had grown up in South Africa but wanted to go to Salzburg to study music. When they met at tea, she knew right away they were meant for each other. It took him a few more meetings, but not many, to know the same. Music was her life. She was not studious, as he was, but she was a student of Anthroposophy in an intuitive, living way. But at that time Anthroposophy was still a long way off for both of them.

In Durban there was a Theosophical Library. While studying Psychology and Philosophy at the University, he also began studying Madame Blavatsky's "Isis Unveiled" and "The Secret Doctrine", even though his English wasn't that great yet. Much later in the 1960's he read many Alice Bailey books, among them the "Seven Rays". He connected with AMORC, San Jose, CA (Ancient Mystical Order Rosae Crucis). One had to join in order to get the monograms (lessons). One experience he had assured him he needed to be careful. A retired English officer and neighbor wrote a book called "From the Turret". Willi and a friend visited him to discuss the

book. He disclosed that it had taken him 10 years to write about his astral travels. Within the framework of twelve days, Willi went alone later to visit him and discuss the Rosicrucian monogram teachings and other questions. Gratefully he thinks back on the guidance he received from the dignified English gentleman. He later burnt all the monograms, realizing the importance of discrimination along the path. He and his wife enjoyed reading the books by Paul Brunton, a travel writer and occultist, such as "The Quest of the Overself" and "A Search in Secret Egypt", where Brunton describes his all night experiences in the King's Chamber of the Great Pyramid.

In 1957 he returned to Switzerland and opened his own watch making shop in Basel. In the evenings he went to school to study Latin, English, French, Geography, Biology--nine subjects in all--that he needed for the Federal Swiss matriculation. When he walked to school he passed a window with Rudolf Steiner books on display. He was too busy then with work and school, but he knew that one day he would and must read them. He and Christa, her mother, and their 2 sons lived just outside Basel, and on weekends they would walk over the hill to the Hermitage outside Dornach. Some of his clients were Anthroposophists with "funny" rings, and one of them invited him to the Waldorf School to attend a Paradise Play, which was his first encounter with Waldorf. They also visited the Goetheanum once. One year shortly before Christmas, while doing the obligatory three week service with the Swiss Army in the Bernese Alps, he caught a serious cold. It rapidly developed into an extreme situation, and he spent the next 2 years and 3 months going through pleurisy, two surgeries, tonsils and some ribs removed, and tuberculosis in a sanatorium in Davos. He sold his business, and his family moved eventually to Davos. He had never been ill before. His illness gave him much time to think. The intended three years in Switzerland became eight years.

In 1965, age 38, he and his family returned to South Africa, now to Cape Town. How different was this second voyage down along the African coast compared to the one in 1953, when Willi was traveling as a "greenhorn", taking in all with great excitement and also apprehension, shared by all passengers who were on their way to a new life on a new continent. A year later he partnered with a former watchmaker-colleague, who had established himself in Zululand. He loved the sun and never missed the snow during all the 18 years he lived in South Africa. As a boy in Reckingen he recalls waiting for the first grass to appear on the sunny slopes,

running up to the bit of green, stretching himself out on the bare earth, embracing it.

The years during his second stint in Africa were crucial and full of activity, apart from being in the Watch business. His sons were in lower and high school, so he helped in Boy Scouts. As a member of Lions International he took up initiatives in education. Language classes were established. His wife, he and other friends of music founded a music society, organized concerts, established an annual Music Festival for all Zululand. By the third year there participated in the festival some 900 people in the various categories of piano, singing solo and choirs as well as choral speech. It was wonderful to see how the different people who were usually at odds with each other, especially the English and Afrikaner, could come together in all these activities. It carried on for years after they left, and may still be going on.

It was in the third year of all these endeavors when the pivotal moment of recognition of his life task arrived. It stood with utter clarity before him that the Education from early childhood onward is the most important single thing. Willi remembered Rudolf Steiner's books in the shop window in Basel. In January 1969, age 42, he and his family drove 1000 miles to visit the two Waldorf Schools in Cape Town. He approached an older teacher there, who advised him to train in Stuttgart, even though there was a small teacher training being offered in Cape Town. In August, 1969, he asked a lawyer friend to help sell the house he had built there, and traveled to Stuttgart to find housing for his family. They followed two weeks later. Thus during the 50th anniversary year of the Waldorf School, he took his 1 year teacher training with 30 other students. Then he had two practicums in German Waldorf Schools, and one spending time at Highland Hall near Emerson College during the seminar holidays. They traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa, where he took a Waldorf class from 1st - 8th grade. Then back to a pioneering effort in the Black Forest of Germany, much different than pioneering efforts in America. They started with 3 full classes, plenty of money, land was gifted, they had a eurythmist, Bothmer gymnast, a school doctor--but also the often encountered political difficulties that can arise among faculty. He waited until in the 4th grade, when an experienced teacher could take over his class, who lived just until the 8th grade was graduated.

In reading the Eastern wisdom over the years, he was disappointed to see that Christ was considered just one of many Bodhisattvas, and that Jesus was very low down

on the charts. The Christ question was the most important one in his life. Christ's relationship to Jesus, Zarathustra, and Buddha was important to him, and he was jubilant when he finally read the clarity Rudolf Steiner brought regarding Christ and the others. For Willi it was impossible that the great spiritual leaders would not be in agreement in the big picture. He is tremendously grateful to Rudolf Steiner, Christian Rosenkreuz and Master Jesus and others who plow ahead to help us make the connection with Christ.

In 1975-76 he and his wife visited Irene Ellis in Santa Rosa, CA. She had been a colleague of his in South Africa. He and his wife traveled by bus up the West Coast to Vancouver, Canada, and across the Rockies to New York. In March-April, 1978 he was asked to give a workshop in Eugene by Lucy O'Neal. Lucy knew Irene, who suggested she ask Willi, since he and his wife were on a second visit to the States. Lucy had started a study group and an educational initiative. There was a kindergarten which later became a play group until 1980 when the Waldorf School really began with those truly committed founding parents who were still connected with the school. During the workshop weekend, they had wanted Willi to take on a 1st grade, but he told them he didn't think they were ready.

3 years later, Irene, who'd been in Eugene in 1980 guiding the school, had to leave, and she urged him to come to Eugene. So in 1981 he came as an advisor. In 1982 he took on a 1st grade with 11 children. The first 1st grade had 5 children. Even though there had been very loving and grateful Waldorf parents in Germany, one of the first things he appreciated in contrast was the actual physical warmth in the form of hugs. He had also learned by this time to never tell the parents what they must do--they had to learn by getting involved, going through the process with him. It was so small in comparison with Germany, but due to the enthusiasm of the parents, he said he'd give it a year and see.

He came on a 1 year visitor visa. He extended it and applied for permanent residence. However, he twice received letters to leave the country by a certain date. With the assistance of Lee Ann, they worked with the immigration people in Portland. A work permit would take longer and they would have to leave the country to apply. His wife was ill with very low blood pressure and couldn't travel. She remained cheerful, but very weak. They were advised that if anyone were to check their papers, to just say that the Immigration Office in Portland knows about it. He wasn't worried; he trusted in destiny. Finally the permanent residence and green card came through.

He and Christa were together for 32 years. It was a marriage made in heaven. She sang on the radio, gave concerts in small circles, taught singing and piano and accompanied Eurythmy at the school. She played piano and sang nearly to the last--Willi sometimes accompanied her with violin, and he now plays the piano which traveled with them wherever they went. She died May 30, 1985. He continues to feel strongly connected with her. Though they never put any Anthroposophical books into their son's hands, they both came to Anthroposophy on their own. The youngest, Eric, taught a class through 8 years in Eugene, and has been teaching Humanities at Hawthorne Valley Waldorf High School for 13 years. Willi's older son George lives near Basel, is well known for his lazing work and also does art work for the Goetheanum stage. Willi has 6 grandchildren.

In 1982 there was a mini-Waldorf Teachers' conference in Eugene with about 10 people from the Ashland area, Seattle and Eugene. They each had 1 or 2 grades and kindergartens. They met in a double garage transformed into a classroom. In those early years he often went up to Portland to attend board meetings of the Waldorf School there, and visited the kindergarten and grades, often together with Ilse Kolbuszowski. Eugene Waldorf School has gone through many physical transformations in its growth: from teaching in a house, to renting space, to their present purchased former public school building, which has been expanded with two extra classrooms, eurythmy hall, stage, to the gym and a High School. The High School had to close 13 years ago, and the building now houses the kindergartens. The Teacher Education Institute added an art room.

Willi started holding First Class lessons 20 years ago, in 1989 in Eugene. He became a member of the School of Spiritual Science in 1973 in South Africa, where Herr Biesantz came from Dornach and gave lectures and lessons. He appointed two Class Holders at that time.

In September 1990, after taking his last class through 8 grades, and realizing how difficult it was to get trained Waldorf teachers, he initiated the Teacher Training in Eugene, under the umbrella of the school. Ilse Kolbuszowski taught eurythmy, his son Eric taught Music, his son's wife Martina taught Art, Dennis Klocek visited for seminars, and Daniel Stokes taught Plays to more than 20 students, many of them interested parents. The Training is now a full member of AWSNA, and the first one to go through the rigors of its requirements. In the last 4 years he has shifted away, and is now only giving seminars if asked. He knows it is important not to hang on.

He feels his life has had three parts to it: 1st, the peasant child, who was devotional, and lived as a teen with his spirit in the muscles; 2nd, the watchmaker; and 3rd, the educator. He asks himself: "Why am I still living?" He feels that as long as we live and are experienced by others, we are educators--children see and hear us. He is now able to devote as much time to contemplation as to reading, and that is a great privilege as well as responsibility. He is deeply grateful for the friends through whom he learns and whom he can help. He feels in a "farewell mood".



We had talked way past lunch time. He offered to show me how he "survives" by cooking large batches of delicious vegetables and grains, and then just needing to re-heat and combine. We relished our late lunch on the patio, and Lourdes, responsible for the early childhood teacher training, visited bearing dessert and joined us for her late lunch. She had just taught a class at the University on Waldorf Education in early childhood, where the University actually provides a printed textbook that includes information on Waldorf Education. What a long way we've come since the 1970's

and 1980's. And Willi has been a rock--as he says the Swiss have, for better or worse, the endurance of the granite Alps in their spirit--and he has been a beacon shining from that rock, glowing as his beautiful eyes, illuminating the essence of those he meets. I finally parted with regret, at 5 p.m., the time he was born, before the sun set, now shining on the green grass, not the white snow of his birth.

AN ANTHROPOSOPHIC PILGRIMAGE

By Jim Knoll, Portland, OR

While relatively new to the Anthroposophical Society, finding this organization which touches the world in so many fruitful ways has left a deep impact on me, and a genuine happiness in having found something into which I can pour my support and see its positive forces magnified into the world at large.

It was in the summer before this current one that I first found myself opening the cover of an old copy of *Knowledge of Higher Worlds*. I found that when I opened the book's cover, it was as if my soul opened the door into a beautiful and vibrant temple which was a treasure trove and repository of some of the most vital wisdom of life. My recognition of the valuable nature of this find claimed me, and my days quickly became dedicated to the study and experience of the concepts presented through the densely arranged English words printed upon the pages of this all too humble looking book. It was beautiful, the way the words codified and drew down into our world the wisdom of this temple's spiritual tomes of knowledge.

Not long after, I found the Steiner Storehouse. There, with a few well asked questions, I discovered my very first Portland Branch newsletter and, like a kid fleeing a candy store, eagerly absconded with it to a local coffee house where, at length, I poured over its pages and found all the monthly events which intrigued me and sparked my interest.

It was from this that I met Bob, Donna, and those who came on a weekly basis to their house to study Dr. Steiner's book *Occult Science*. From the newsletter I also met Natasha Moss, who offered to help me take my first steps into the study of the High Art of Eurythmy.

From the beginning of my studies with Natasha, I could see that, for me, in Eurythmy there slept the potential for developing a very meaningful way of coming to understand my relationship with Life. It was an easy decision for me to make the pilgrimage to the

Anthroposophic heartland of America in Chestnut Ridge, New York, and to attend Eurythmy school in Spring Valley when Natasha recommended that I consider it.



In New York, I quickly found a friendship take root with Shannon Foby, another Portlander, and one of the early members of the Anthroposophical Society in Portland. In coming to know her, I learned of the decades of work she invested in the cultivation of the Waldorf school system in the local area and found a deep respect for her far reaching knowledge of wisdom.

With Shannon, I found a great friendship bloom and she truly became my best friend. Many were our adventures, like a spontaneous overnight adventure to spend a day at the Herkimer diamond mines of New York where we claimed our share of a beautiful east coast treasure. Together we discovered magical places away from any road in the heart of the natural world as well as the absolute best place for Sunday brunch in the entire world. We spoke of things that held such depth that our conversations often simply could not be grasped by those passing by and indeed by many who sat and tried to listen, for so deeply had we come to understand each other that often whole realities came to fill each word we spoke to each other.

In New York I also had the great pleasure of spending my time with Avery Lohss, an Anthroposophist and Chicago native who had come to Portland to attend Lewis and Clark College. In the full-time Eurythmy training, it seems to be that all students come to face their weakest link and must reforge that link to grow and move forward. Well, in this, as everyone around is

struggling with something, it is easy to fall into negativity and strife. With Avery, I perceived a woman ever holding the torch of kindness in the difficult environment of the Eurythmy classroom. Avery has completed her first year of the training, and, when last I spoke with her, is entertaining the thought of exploring the therapeutic Eurythmy field after completing the four year training at Spring Valley Eurythmy.

As for the woman who guided my first steps down this path, it was with gladness that I saw Natasha kept very busy with her Eurythmy offerings to the community and with her teaching duties at the school. Though we did not share a great deal of time together, a fondness stayed powerfully between us which led to "Monday dinners with Mamatasha." There she would help me cultivate my ability to outwardly show the gestures of speech Eurythmy and attempt to put some meat on my bones (for a full-time Eurythmy training is, I have discovered, about the best weight loss program on Earth!).

It is with a happy heart that I have returned to the Portland area, which I call home, and have been given this great opportunity to introduce myself and, at the same time share some tales of other members of the Portland Anthroposophical community with you all. When I left Portland, I was seeking The Path. In having returned, I have found it is something I now simply travel upon. From this, I have given myself into a powerful calling which speaks to a soul level understanding of my life's purpose. As such, I'll see you all around town!

NEWS FROM THE PORTLAND BRANCH

Our Branch communications will soon be managed via a service called Constant Contact that will allow members and friends to subscribe either to the monthly Portland Branch Newsletter alone or announcements, for example of Branch events, alone or both. It will also allow you to update your contact information yourself. Watch your email inbox for an invitation to Constant Contact. Tom Klein is becoming Constant Contact savvy and will answer questions as they arise. You may contact Tom by e-mail at tgklein@aol.com or by phone at (503) 777-3176.

pdxanthropops@yahoo.com is an open community forum for discussions, announcements, invitations, requests for housing for out of town attendees of events, rides, information sharing about local resources, book discussion, observations and musings on seasonal happenings, wanting to buy, sell, trade items, event announcements such as community meetings, impromptu gatherings, etc, etc...this might be a good place to try to

return a left behind item to its rightful owner (Silk Scarf, Easter at Chrystal's, anyone??), bring up questions related to anthroposophy in daily life, and increase awareness of one another's initiatives and interests and in general build relationships within our anthroposophical community.

EURYTHMY DREAMS

There are dreams in development to have a year of Portland community Eurythmy experiences. Some of the ideas include a performance of the fourth panel of the Foundation Stone in Eurythmy at a Branch Advent gathering and an ongoing series of Eurythmy classes given by local Eurythmists.

James Knight began this initiative when for two evenings he led Eurythmy coupled with lectures by Lynn Jericho, and for the two following Wednesday evenings, James led Eurythmy classes based on the Foundation Stone in Bothmer Hall.

Funds raised will be donated towards the purchase of lights for performances like those that were used at the performance of the Foundation Stone in Eurythmy at this summer's AWSNA conference. Contributions to this fund are welcome.

More information will be forthcoming in this newsletter, in our e-mail announcements and through pdxanthropops@yahoo.com, the local community discussions group.

PORTAL OF INITIATION – MICHAELMAS INITIATIVE



The Mystery Drama group of Portland will present a staged reading of Scene IV of Portal of Initiation by Rudolf Steiner this September, as a Michaelmas initiative. Watch for the exact time and place via e-mail or contact Diane Ramage by phone at (360) 241-7854 for more information.

ELECTIONS NOTICE

I am writing on behalf of the Council of Trustees for the Portland Branch of the Anthroposophical Society to lay out in advance how the election of the new council will be run. **The election will take place on Wednesday, September 9th at 7:00 pm. They will be held at Bothmer Hall. Details will be sent at a later date.**

The election of the Council of Trustees is laid out in the bylaws of the Portland Branch. In order to be elected you must be a member of the branch. "Members of the Council of Trustees must be members of the Corporation." (ARTICLE V, Section 2.) Members of the Corporation are also defined in the bylaws as members of the Anthroposophic Society of America and having paid dues to the branch. (ARTICLE IV Section 1. Any member of the Anthroposophical Society in America, Inc. or any member at large of the General Anthroposophic Society, may upon the payment of dues to the Portland Branch of the Anthroposophic Society become a voting member of the Portland Branch of the Anthroposophic Society Inc.).

Likewise, voters must be members of the Portland Branch. In order to be elected, candidates must garner two-thirds of the votes cast by those members present at the annual meeting. (ARTICLE V, Section 2... In order to be seated as a member of the Council of Trustees candidates must receive a two thirds majority of the votes cast.)

We will produce a ballot with all the candidates listed. Members will be asked to vote yea or nay for each candidate. Each member present will be asked to vote for no more than seven candidates. Those candidates receiving two-thirds of the total of votes cast will be seated as council members. If there are less than four members elected the vacancies shall be filled according to ARTICLE V, Section 7 "Vacancies in the Council of Trustees may be filled by the membership at a special meeting. If the membership of the Council of trustees falls below four the Council of Trustees must call a special meeting of the members to select new Council members in accordance with Article IV Section 2." Anyone who has an interest in a position on the Council should contact me, to submit their name and a short-bio or statement of interest. We would really like to have these returned by August 19th. Anyone may also nominate another member for a position but PLEASE discuss this with the nominee first. I can be reached by email at tgklein@aol.com, or in writing at, 3609 SE Center Street Portland, OR 97202.

These procedures should make for an orderly and legal election. We look forward to seeing all of you at the annual meeting.

By Tom Klein, for the Portland Branch Council

Portland Anthroposophical Society Calendar - August 2009

Ongoing Events and Study Groups

Anthroposophical Medicine Study Group

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

Eurythmy

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

Karma Exercises and Study

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

Meditation and Practical Spiritual Science

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

Mystery Dramas, with Speech-Formation Exercises

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

Occult Science

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

Portland Waldorf School Community Choir

Every Monday morning from 8:45 - 10:00 AM 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. For more information contact Marion Van Namen at (503) 956-4046.

Portland Youth Discussion Group

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

Psychosophy Study Group

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

Waldorf Education and Teacher Training

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

Upcoming Events

AUGUST 17-21

The Waldorf Way


4th Annual home-school workshop at Shining Star School in Portland, Oregon. Monday-Thursday 9 AM to 3 PM, Friday 9 am -12 noon. \$300 fee. Please contact 503 753 4459 for more information, all welcome. Child care on site, if needed. To receive an application and more information, please email Oregon7@aol.com or call 503 753 4459.

Friday, AUGUST 21

Micha-el Institute - Summer Conferences

Foundation Conference, see brochure for details, held at the Micha-el School, 5239 SE Woodstock Blvd, Portland OR 97206. Contact 503 774-4946 or email johncmiles@usa.net.

PORTAL OF INITIATION



MICHAEL INITIATIVE

The Mystery Drama group of Portland will present a staged reading of Scene IV of Portal of Initiation by Rudolf Steiner this September, as a Michaelmas initiative. Watch for exact time and place via email. Or contact Diane Rumage 360 241-7854 for more information.

Wednesday SEPTEMBER 9

Portland Branch Annual General Meeting

7 PM Bothmer Hall. More information about who will be on the ballot and what else the evening will hold will come in an email announcement about two weeks prior to this meeting. Hope to see you there!

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 13

First Class of the School of Spiritual Science

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

OCTOBER 1

North American Youth Section Meeting

This meeting will be part of the Anthroposophical Society's Annual General Meeting pre-events in Spring Valley, NY. Registration is separate from AGM and due September 1, you can register by visiting <http://www.anthroposophy.org/agm-2009-registration.html>. For more information contact Leslie Loy leslielal@yahoo.com.

OCTOBER 2 - 4, 2009

Christian Rosenkretz and the Social Impulse

Spring Valley, New York

The Anthroposophical Society in America's Annual General Meeting and Conference

Join us in exploring the many faces of anthroposophy, where inner work manifests in practical forms to bring about social transformation. Creating Living Connections: Christian Rosenkretz and the Social Impulse is intended to give anthroposophic organizations, initiatives, groups, and individuals the opportunity to meet, interact, and share their work. A rich array of talks and discussions, artistic activities, and social events promise ample opportunities to Create Living Connections among individuals and initiatives. Beginning with the Threefold Community's Michaelmas festivities on Tuesday, September 29, groups, initiatives, and organizations working out of anthroposophy are invited to arrive early and take advantage of Threefold's facilities for pre-conference meetings on Wednesday and Thursday,

September 30 and October 1. Planned social and artistic events will enable participants to meet and share ideas and information about their work; a morning forum on Friday, October 2, will offer a unique opportunity for those present to exchange perspectives, identify common concerns, and see what else is going on in the movement. Groups, organizations, and initiatives interested in participating in this pre-conference activity should contact Jordan Walker (845-352-5020 x19 or Jordan@threefold.org).

Sunday, OCTOBER 11

First Class of the School of Spiritual Science

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

Wednesday OCTOBER 14

Portland Branch Council Meeting

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

Friday, OCTOBER 23

The Wisdom of Waldorf: Educating for the Future

Cedarwood Waldorf School is pleased to announce a weekend of lectures and workshops presented by Rahima Baldwin Dancy, author of *You Are Your Child's First Teacher*.

7-9 PM, 3030 SW Second Ave | Portland, OR 97201 contact 503- 245-1477

Cost: \$15 at the event or \$10 if pre-register rahimaconference@cedarwood.org

Saturday, OCTOBER 24

Family Matters: Creating a Harmonious Home Life

Cedarwood Waldorf School is pleased to announce a weekend of lectures and workshops presented by Rahima Baldwin Dancy, author of *You Are Your Child's First Teacher*. 9AM-1PM, 3030 SW Second Ave | Portland, OR 97201 contact 503- 245-1477

Cost: \$25 at the event or \$20 if pre-register rahimaconference@cedarwood.org

Saturday, OCTOBER 24

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


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

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PORTLAND BRANCH ELECTIONS

Wednesday September 9th at 7:00 PM in Bothmer Hall.

More information about the ballot and the candidates and other activities will come in a separate email announcement prior to the meeting.

Hope to see you there!



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