Glimpses

Newsletter of the Anthroposophical Society in Canada

No. 75 Spring 2015



"And the darkness becomes light"

Friday, May 15 - Sunday, May 17, 2015 Toronto Waldorf School, Thornhill, Ontario

Letter from the General Secretary

- by Arie van Ameringen

Dear Friends,

First, here are some updates about upcoming events:



The Toronto Annual General Meeting

The annual conference of the Society will take place from May 17th to 19th with the theme And the Darkness Becomes Light. This theme was chosen by the conference organizers to connect with the theme for the 2015/2016 year as proposed by the Goetheanum. Selfknowledge and inner development foster active commitment: The "I" knows itself in the Light of Michaelic World Affirmation and World Connection. How then can the "I" encounter darkness and in a Michaelic gesture bring this darkness into its own inner light? The conference and the AGM are open to all. However, in order to be able to vote during the meeting, one must be a member in good standing. I would like to remind you that there are funds available to help pay the travel expenses for members and that young friends of the Society can benefit from the special Youth Fund. In order to take advantage of this funding, you need only contact the administrator or a council member. Up to now we have received very few requests for financial assistance.

The Visit of Bodo von Plato

Bodo Von Plato is a member of the Executive Committee at the Goetheanum. He has enthusiastically agreed to travel with me to several cities across Canada in order to meet with members. He will offer a lecture, a workshop on inner work and will also meet with members of the School for Spiritual Science. As we visit several centers around the country, we shall attempt to build a connection

between members in all regions by taking up common themes in the places visited. Here is a reminder of the dates:

- ♦ Vancouver, July 24-26
- ♦ Toronto, Thursday, July 30 and August 1-- 2
- ♦ Montreal, August 7-9 (in French exclusively)
 In each of these three cities, there will be a public lecture on the theme: Philosophy, Anthroposophy and Everyday Life.
- ♦ On Saturday, we shall co-host a workshop on inner development. During the morning session, the focus will be on the six exercises, and the afternoon session will explore the theme: Concentration, Contemplation and Meditation.
- ♦ On Sunday there will be a gathering for the members of the School for Spiritual Science. We are looking at the possibility of also making stops in Nelson and in Calgary, if the schedule permits.

The Encountering our Humanity Conference 2016

Our organising committee has met regularly since last fall. The committee members are: Jean Balekian, Douglas Wylie, Dorothy LeBaron, and Robert McKay and, from Ottawa, the committee is joined alternately by Sylvie Richard and Hamo Hammond. We are adding an extra day dedicated specifically to the arts to the conference schedule. Following the opening on August 7th, each day of the event will be devoted to a specific theme:

- Biography and Karma
- Education
- Medicine
- Science and Earth Sciences (biodynamics)
- The Arts
- Social Art
- And to close the conference on Sunday, August 14, inner work and meditation

At the end of the afternoon on four of the days, space will be reserved for individuals to present the results of their personal research. Each participant wishing to share the results of the research he or she has been carrying out will be allotted 15 minutes. These presentations could focus on things such as: observation of phenomena, starting an

initiative, results of an artistic process or work concerning meditative reflection.

The spiral motif developed by Jean Balekian for the poster being prepared for the conference evokes the movement of the soul as it seeks for the spirit within the self and in the cosmos: encountering the universally human, encountering our humanity.

*** * * * ***



Félix Leclerc

4

As the spring season approaches, our inner being encounters the "rebirth of the universal spirit bringing us the joy of cosmic becoming". The Soul Calendar verses for March (weeks 50, 51, 52) urge us to become aware of the moment when the "I" can come into conscious contact with cosmic light.

Into the inner self of Man
The senses' riches pour themselves;
The cosmic Spirit finds itself
Reflected in the human eye,
Which must create anew
From it, its inner strength.

- The Calendar of the Soul, Rudolf Steiner. Anticipation of spring (21-27 March), translation by Daisy Aldan (Anthroposophic Press)

Throughout the decades, Canadian poets, both French-speaking and English-speaking, have been inspired by their respective sensibilities to describe this rebirth of nature in spring. They express in images the joy one feels when discovering new life. Beyond linguistic differences, one can discern a characteristic feature of the "Canadian soul" - if one can speak of such a phenomenon - which could be described as having a unique connection to nature. This bond causes us to experience this period of renewal with great intensity and makes us particularly aware of the time of the year when outer light comes to triumph over darkness.

Here are two poems that express this special connection, along with their corresponding translations:

Hymne au Printemps

Les blés sont mûrs et la terre est mouillée Les grands labours dorment sous la gelée L'oiseau si beau, hier, s'est envolé La porte est close sur le jardin fané...

Comme un vieux râteau oublié Sous la neige je vais hiverner Photos d'enfants qui courent dans les champs Seront mes seules joies pour passer le temps

Mes cabanes d'oiseaux sont vidées
Le vent pleure dans ma cheminée
Mais dans mon cœur je m'en vais composer
L'hymne au printemps pour celle qui m'a quitté
Quand mon amie viendra par la rivière
Au mois de mai après le dur hiver
Je sortirai bras nus dans la lumière
Et lui dirai le salut de la terre

Vois, les fleurs ont recommencé Dans l'étable crient les nouveaux nés Viens voir la vieille barrière rouillée Endimanchée de toiles d'araignées

Les bourgeons sortent de la mort Papillons ont des manteaux d'or Près du ruisseau sont alignées les fées Et les crapauds chantent la liberté Et les crapauds chantent la liberté The wheat is ripe and the earth is damp,
The furrows are asleep under the frost,
Yesterday that beautiful bird flew away,
The gate is now closed on the faded garden...

Like an old forgotten garden rake I shall hibernate under the snow. Photos of children running in the fields Will be the only thing I have to pass the time.

My birdhouses are empty,
The wind wails down the chimney,
But in my heart I shall compose
An ode to spring for she who has left me.

When she arrives by boat on the river In May, after the harsh winter, I shall dash out into the light with bare arms And tell her how the earth now welcomes her.

Look, the flowers have returned. In the barn newborns are crying. Come look at the rusty old fence All dressed up in its finest cobwebs.

The buds have sprung back from the dead.
The butterflies have donned their coats of gold.
Water nymphs are lined up at the stream
And the toads sing of freedom.5

Poem by Duncan Campbell Scott

When the ash-tree buds and the maples, And the osier wands are red, And the fairy sunlight dapples Dales where the leaves are spread, The pools are full of spring water, Winter is dead.

When the bloodroot blows in the tangle, And the lithe broods run, And the violets gleam and spangle The glades in the golden sun, The showers are bright as the sunlight, April has won.

When the color is free in the grasses,
And the martins whip the mere,
And the Maryland-yellow-throat passes,
With his whistle quick and clear,
The willow is full of catkins;
May is here.
Then cut a reed by the river,
Make a song beneath the lime,
And blow with your lips a quiver,
While your sweethearts carols the rhyme;
The glamour of love, the lyric of life,
The springtime – the springtime.

[&]quot;Hymne au Printemps" Félix Leclerc (1914-1988) Quebec poet, chansonnier and author.

Lorsque les frênes et les érables bourgeonnent, Et les baguettes de l'osier sont rouges, et la fée du soleil les ponctue où les vallées montrent les feuilles en éventail, les étangs sont pleins d'eau du printemps, l'hiver est mort.

Lorsque la sanguinaire souffle dans le fouillis, Les douces couvées courent et la violette rayonne en étincelles les clairières dans soleil doré, les averses sont claires comme la lumière du soleil, Avril a vaincu.

Lorsque la couleur est libérée dans les herbes et les hirondelles fouettent les flaques d'eau, le Maryland-jaune-gorge passe, avec son sifflet rapide et clair, le saule est plein de chatons; Mai est ici.

Alors coupe un roseau à la rivière, fais une chanson sous le tilleul, et souffle avec tes lèvres un trémolo, tandis que ta bien-aimée chante le refrain ; le charme de l'amour, les chants de vie, c'est le printemps – le printemps.

Duncan Campbell Scott (1862-1947), Ontario poet, one of the "Confederation Poets".

Annual Conference Weekend

- by Dorothy LeBaron

This year the annual Classholders
Conference will take place from May 17 to
19th. In Canada we have a special
situation where Council and Classholders
meet and work together for a day. It is
exciting this year that many of the
Classholders from across Canada will be
present for our AGM/Conference. So, we
would like to encourage as many members
as possible to come to Toronto and join
us! We would love to see you here.



Important News - Please Note!

- by Judy King

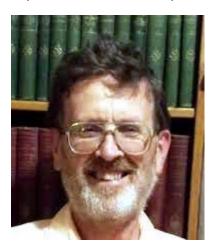
Dear Friends,

Mark McAlister is stepping out of the role of Administrator of the Anthroposophical Society in Canada. He has carried the work of membership and communications administration for seven years, and will pass this role to new hands at the end of March (2015). Council members wish to take an opportunity to show our gratitude, respect and appreciation to Mark for the lively dedication he has brought to the task.

In 2008, with an acknowledgement from Council that help was needed with administrative work, the decision was made to hire someone who would be in charge of keeping membership records and communication with members, including publication of Glimpses. At the beginning of that year Mark was engaged for the position. Because some aspects of the work were new, Council did not have a

complete picture of what the role entailed. The main aspects were clear. It soon became evident that part of the work was also to come to clarity and definition, together with council members, in the greyer areas of the task. This was not always easy, and we are very grateful Mark persisted in his courageous efforts to penetrate the forest, as it sometimes must have looked! An important part of what grew was our working together; and we very warmly thank Mark for helping to keep that process moving.

He has performed a huge task for the Society and Council. Some aspects of the broad scope of work that Mark carried out with



dedication, are: reaching out and connecting and caring for members with good will and good humour, drumming up the Society with enthusiasm for new and existing members, completing the chores of the administrative work with professional diligence and warmth, initiating and producing the wonderful and essential e-news, including the more recent geographical enews, paying attention to, and ensuring compliance with government charitable regulations, holding a modern vision of the Society and

standing up and voicing the things he felt he needed to change, and dedicated service and support for Society and Council members.

Very best wishes to Mark for his future projects!

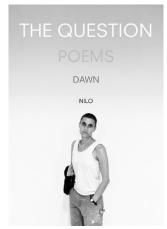
For two weeks (mid-March to end of March 2015) the work will be in transition between Mark and his successor in the role of Membership and Communications Administrator, Jef Saunders. We ask you to join us in giving Mark a big THANK YOU, and giving Jef a big WELCOME!

From the Council of the Anthroposophical Society in Canada: Arie van Ameringen (General Secretary), John Bach, Jean Balekian, Judith King, Dorothy LeBaron, Douglas Wylie

11

CLOWNSONTHELOOSE

DAWN NILO: The Question is a collection of poems by Swiss poet and artist Dawn Nilo. [Dawn is also a member of the Canadian Society.] Evoking the feel of a "how to" guide to the imagination, The Question weaves in and out of grand themes like love, death, and freedom, while intermingling with a host of enigmatic and colorful characters including Sweat Pea, Eagle Rose, Mouse and the Glad Companions. Curated from Nilo's oeuvre of over 700 poems, The Question offers an introduction to the work of a remarkable and singular writer.



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www.buildingbridgeswithblondine.com

12



RESEARCH CORNER

The Freedom Mystery Quest and Conference (3)

Join us for the Adventure...

- by Tim Nadelle

Two independent initiatives which have been in hopeful conversation since September 2014 have now firmed up their collaborative intentions. A conference devoted to the exploration and experience of the path of knowledge which is implicit in the Philosophy of Freedom will take place from Friday 23 October to Sunday 25 October 2015 at the Christian Community Church in Thornhill, Ontario. Interwoven into the fabric of the conference, TQuest Productions of Toronto will perform the first third of the Portal of Initiation, from the prelude (Friday night) through scenes one and two (Saturday), up until scene three (Sunday afternoon).

Accompanying us on this journey, Christian Community Priest Daniel Haffner will open and close the conference with lectures which are intended to awaken a spiritual dialogue between the two initiatives. Over the course of many years of study and activity, Daniel has worked deeply with both of these works, lecturing and leading workshops in Canada, the U.S. and Europe. Daniel recently delivered four stirring lectures over the course of the festival and conference in August 2014 in Spring Valley, NY, where all four mystery dramas were performed.

These two masterpieces which were developed so long ago - The Philosophy of Freedom and the Portal of Initiation – are both works which carry us into the distant future. In April 1922, Walter Johannes Stein asked Rudolf Steiner: "What will remain of your work thousands of years from now?" He replied: "Nothing but The Philosophy of

Freedom." The mystery dramas portray the life journeys of a circle of individuals who are in the process of developing the imaginative faculties of perception which humanity will increasingly evolve in the sixth post-Atlantean cultural epoch.

Our assay to bring these works together creatively, our imagined "Freedom Mystery Quest" is, therefore, an attempt to reach both backwards and forwards and to fashion through their interweaving a present moment where a new impulse can unfold, inspired by our anthroposophical heritage, yet carrying us into the future.

Join Us for an Epistomological Quest with The Philosophy of Freedom...Rudolf Steiner wrote and spoke repeatedly throughout his life about the importance of the Philosophy of Freedom. For example, in the introduction to Occult Science he wrote, "...The path leading through acquaintanceship with spiritual-scientific truths to sense-free thinking is completely reliable. But there is another even more dependable and, above all, more exact, through for some people it may prove more difficult. It is described in my books, The Theory of Knowledge Based on the Goethean World Conception and The Philosophy of Freedom. These books point out what human thought achieves when thinking becomes absorbed in self-activity instead of working on impressions of the physical sense world.... A person who allows these books to work upon his entire being is already experiencing the spiritual world, although he perceives it only as a world of thought."

As Steiner points out, this path is more difficult for some people and in fact the struggles which many anthroposophists encounter when working with the Philosophy of Freedom lead them to give it up altogether. Happily, there is a way forward for even those who find the book too challenging to take up individually. That way forward is to take it up with colleagues. Now one way to do so is, of course, the study group and many people have found their progress quickened by the stimulation of such communal engagement.

While recognizing the value of the study group, the avenue of exploration we intend for the conference is different. Here we wish to

take up some of the many exercises for spiritual development which are implicit in the Philosophy of Freedom, exercises the discovery and fashioning of which are a process of individual, creative, epistemological experimentation. While the exercises themselves emerge through working with the living content of the book, the performance of the exercises leads to a rediscovery through experience of the truths to which the book points.

And - in a surprising and encouraging discovery - the engagement with such exercises is profoundly enhanced through working together. In this spirit, the conference is an invitation to connect with others who wish to discover together how we can walk the spiritual path which is implicit in the Philosophy of Freedom, to strive to practice the Philosophy of Freedom. This process of mutual engagement is essential to this endeavour, for the conference is not intended to be a sharing of received wisdom. Rather, we are looking for colleagues who wish to engage with us in the work. The work is experimental, not a finished product.

And it is only a beginning. There will be sufficient time at this conference to experiment with the exercises which are implicit in the seven chapters which form the first part of the book, entitled "Knowledge of Freedom". Whether we continue this work in a subsequent conference devoted to the second part of the book "The Reality of Freedom" will depend upon the momentum developed during this initial endeavour.

Join us for an Experience of the First Third of the Portal of Initiation The cast of the mystery drama has been toiling since September 2014 to bring the production of the first third of the Portal to life. Steiner said in a lecture on Oct. 31, 1910, "I have stated the fact that many, many things of an esoteric nature would not need to be described, that lectures would be unnecessary on my part, if only everything that lies in the Rosicrucian Mystery [i.e. the Portal of Initiation] could work directly on your souls... I would have to use the enormous number of words necessary in my lectures and speak for days, for weeks, even for years, in order to describe what has been said and what could be

said in the single drama..." The experience of the watching a mystery drama is a unique and powerful experience, a kind of concentration of anthroposophy. Anyone who sees one performed will attest to how moving it is to experience it "live" as opposed to merely reading it.

From another perspective, what's unique about the mystery dramas is the depiction of individual experience in spiritual development. On September 17, 1910, Steiner said about the Portal of Initiation, "This Mystery Drama exists now as a picture of human evolution in the development of a single person [Johannes Thomasius]. I want to emphasize that true feeling makes it impossible to throw a cloak of abstractions around oneself in order to present anthroposophy; every human soul is different from every other and, at its core, must be different, because each one undergoes the experience of his own development. For this reason, instruction to the many can provide only general directions. One can give the complete truth only by applying it to a single human soul, to a soul that reveals its human individuality in all its uniqueness."

And later, on October 31, 1910 he observed, "In a book like How to Know Higher Worlds, one can only speak about human development in a way that is more or less applicable to each and every human being... That means that no matter how concrete such a presentation is, it takes on a certain abstract – one could even say theoretical – character. One thing we need to keep in mind: development is not simply development in general! There is no development in and of itself, no generalized development; there is only the development of this or that or a third or a fourth or the thousandth person. There must be as many processes of development as there are people on the earth."

Perhaps it is because the drama portrays the unique development of a single, imperfect individual, who is nevertheless on a spiritual path of development – that witnessing its performance stimulates and challenges each of us at such a personal level. The experience of the painful progress of Johannes Thomasius over the course of the drama is a deeply hopeful portrayal, for are we not all fundamentally flawed individuals aspiring to spiritual wholeness?

Actively Participate in the interweaving of these 2 initiatives
This evocation of the development of a single individual in the Portal
resonates deeply with the work our planning group has been doing in
preparation for the conference. We'll be sharing the various exercises
we continue to discover in the pages of the Philosophy and inviting
you to join us in experimenting with them. However, these exercises
– as fruitful as they have been for us individually – are merely
examples. Our hope is that the weekend will inspire participants to
develop their own exercises, their own paths of exploration, with the
Philosophy of Freedom as their guide and treasure map.

Our imagination for the weekend is that conference participants will come to find in the experience of the mystery dramas a path to freedom and to discover in the Philosophy of Freedom a fundamental point of entry into the experience of the mystery drama which is at the foundation of every individual's life.

If you're intrigued, please visit the conference website: www.philosophyfreedom.ca. And if you're interested in attending, leave your contact information. We'll let you know when we're ready to receive pre-registrations.

Research Notes

- ♦ Money For A Better World. A new study group is being formed to explore innovative ideas around money and economics. The focus will be mostly on ideas arising from the work of Rudolf Steiner and anthroposophy. Starts April 6 at Hesperus in Thornhill. Contact Richard Chomko, richard@chomko.ca
- ♦ "What Trees Have To Tell Us." Elyse Pomeranz will be participating in a telesummit. Her session " will take place on April 2 at 2pm PDT. Details at http://www.mcssl.com/app/?Clk=5401780
- ♦ Master's Degree in Eurythmy in the USA .Course starts in September 2015. Contact: eurythmyma@gmail.com

Membership Update

TRINH HUYNH (Toronto ON) and MICHAEL SCHMIDT and ELISA VANDER HOUT (Durham ON) have joined the Society.

Welcome!

WORLD MOVEMENT

Youth Section

Connect Conference in Belgium.

"There is something unique taking place and possible at the age of the participants who will be there. They are at the brink of dissolving the assumptions of their upbringing and beginning to build the lens through which they will go on to create in the world." - Caleb Buchbinder (Toronto Waldorf School Graduate, Youth Initiative Program alumnus, Founder of Classroom Alive)



Conference website: www.connectbelgium.com

Interested in providing financial support? Contact : Ari-Paul Saunders, aripaulster@gmail.com

Deepening Anthroposophy

A newsletter is an independent newsletter by and for members .

Subscription enquiries: deepening@use.startmail.com

17

NETWORK UPDATES





Nova Scotia

THE DELICATE BALANCE OF GAIA -

developing a new consciousness of earth and water. 6-10 August, 2015 at Oakdene School, Bear River. LEADERS: Jennifer Greene (pictured), Duncan & Maggie Keppie, Jonathan Swan and Monika Wildemann.

More information: keppie@eastlink.ca OR Phone 902-542-5320



Thornhill and Toronto

Biography Work As Social Healing. Open conference with Christopher and Signe Schaefer, hosted by AAATNA and Arscura. <u>16-18 April</u> in Toronto and Thornhill.

For details about this and other upcoming events, follow the Thornhill link at the top of the members website.



RUDOLF STEINER THE ARTIST:

Architecture, Eurythmy and Music. <u>15-17 May.</u> with Professor Frederick Amrine, Professor of German Literature at

the University of Michigan and a life long scholar of Rudolf Steiner. His research has been devoted primarily to Goethe, German Idealism and the emerging fields of literature and Science. His formal training includes an undergraduate work in English literature and substantial graduate work in Philosophy and Classics at Cambridge University.



Professor Amrine has won several awards for teaching; he holds currently a prestigious Arthur Thurnau Professorship in German, one of the University's highest awards for teaching.

There will also be choral singhing workshops with Cécile Allemand.

Details, and more information about other IRSQ programs: Call <u>514-303-1716</u>; e-mail <u>info@irsq.ca</u>

website: www.institutsteinerquebec.org/actualite/

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Glimpses - between northern oceans - is published quarterly. A pdf version is available for download on the sidebar of the Members website.

A monthly eNews is available as an alternative to the print edition. – contact <u>info@anthroposophy.ca</u> to receive a sample copy or to subscribe.

Our newsletters are available in English and French.

Upcoming Events

ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN CANADA. Annual members meeting and annual Classholders Conference, <u>15-17 May</u>, <u>2015</u>, Thornhill, ON. Flyers will be mailed shortly.

FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND EDUCATION at the Rudolf Steiner Centre. 6-24 July. www.rsct.ca

GOETHEANUM SUMMER CONFERENCE. 30 July - 2 August, www.goetheanum.org/The-North-in-the-Goetheanum.6740.0.html?&L=1.

TOUR WITH BODO VAN PLATO.

♦ Vancouver: <u>24-26 July</u>. Contact John Bach: jbbach1@yahoo.ca

◆ Toronto: <u>31 July - 2 August</u>. Contact Dorothy LeBaron: lebaron@nauticalmind.com

♦ Montreal: 7-9 August.

Contact Jean Balekian: helekian@yahoo.com

ENCOUNTERING OUR HUMANITY

International Conference in Ottawa. <u>7-14 August, 2016</u> See Page 5.