



Shining Waters

News from The Corps de Michael



Helianthus (Sunflower)
"The Sun Bride of Michael"

Helianthus, sublime Sun bride
Prepared for the 'Hero of the Gods'.
With thy spear-like stem
With the shield of thy green leaves
With the gleaming chalice of thy blossoms
Thou art filled with oil like the wise virgins
To tarry for the bridegroom.

"Who is like God?!" thy gleaming face exclaims
And **Mi-cha-el**, yes, yes, He hears His name!

Through flames of autumn, through rustling trees
With spear and shield adorned in thy image.
Yes, a corps of angels rushes before Him.
And demons squeeze themselves into dark shadows
Where dragons lurk in dreaded melancholy.
Thou bow thy head, sublime one, and thou tremble
Before His lightning penetrating glance
Before His sword's flaming point.
Blessings of heaven fill thy chalice now
And mildly speaks His mouth,
"Nature recedes for her final rest
But thou, Helianthus, my Sun bride thou art
Thou mayest bestow the everlasting radiant blessing."

Then thou wilt stand high and lonely
In the golden flood.
Deeper sinks thy ripe chalice,
Thou wilt wisely smile when finch and titmouse
Snatch their food in dance of flight,
For the Sun bride hath prepared the wedding feast.

--Ymelda Hamann-Mentelberg
"The Sacred Messages of Flowers"

Shining Waters

Sun-bride,
Volume I, No. 2 ~ Michaelmas/All Souls' 2006
Hamann-Mentelberg

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Published by members and friends,

Susquehanna Corps de Michael—
Anthroposophical Society in Hershey
David Lenker & Scott Hicks, Co-Editors

Please send comments, letters, suggestions, articles, &
announcements to the address on the mailing pane
(last page) or to: thecorpsdemichael@yahoo.com

Frontispiece: "The Archai Michael & His
Helianthus" a watercolor by Ymelda

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"Soul Calendar," single reproductions, or
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artist/poet/eurythmist Ymelda Hamann-
Mentelberg.

Festival Features Michaelmas Plays

The Corps de Michael's 13th Annual Michaelmas Festival featured the East Coast's debut of two plays by Katherine Katz, *A Michaelic Imagination* and *Saint Michael and the Dragon*. Katherine was a founder of the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor and the Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society. Our threefold festival opened with a keynote address by David Lenker, *Diversity vs. Cosmopolitanism in the Age of Michael*. The festivities continued with the two plays followed by a community picnic. We concluded with a Biodynamic agriculture stirring and spreading exercise led by Arthur Hildreth. The holistic festival engaged all three faculties of the



human soul: thinking, feeling, and willing. *Saint Michael & the Dragon* was performed on the West Lawn with both children and adults enjoying the colorful costumes illuminated by brilliant autumn sunlight. Ernst Katz remarked that our Hershey

performance was the first time Katherine's plays were offered outside of Michigan. Martin Croes represented the Aurora Group (Buffalo). We also welcomed Betty Christian of Lycoming County (near Williamsport, PA) on her first visit to Stonehaven.

Left to Right: *Saint Michael* (David L.), *Dragon* (Scott H.), *Servant* (Nathaniel H.), *Queen Astrid* (Lynn C.), *King John* (John C.), *Princess Rosalind* (Bernadette W.), *Henry* (Chris H.). Performers in *A Michaelic Imagination* (not pictured): *Meditator* (Ruth H.), *Lucifer* (Scott H.), *Ahriman* (Arthur H.), *Michael* (David L.), & *A Voice* (June L.).

All Souls' Festival ~ November 18th

With Soul Calendar Illustrations by Ymelda Hamann-Mentelberg

Saturday, 18th November, 5pm ~ Community potluck

6:30pm ~ Ymelda Artwork

7:30pm ~ Verses for and Remembrances of Departed Souls with Musical Interludes

Traditionally, All Hallow's Eve or 'Halloween' celebrated the earthly wanderings of recently departed souls. Our modern customs, however, tend to overlook the subsequent ascension of all souls to higher worlds as commemorated on All Souls' Day (November 2nd).

Please join us in the Michael Room at Stonehaven for an evening of inspirational verse, musical interludes, and 'soul calendar illustrations' by anthroposophical artist, Ymelda Hamann-Mentelberg. A renowned dancer known as the *Priestess of Eternity*, Ymelda met Rudolf Steiner following her performance at the Royal University of Music.

She subsequently studied eurythmy as his guest and became a personal pupil of the founder of Anthroposophy.

Friends are invited to offer the names of departed souls, personal remembrances, and plant a candle in the 'Light Box.' This year's All Souls' Festival is dedicated to the memory of Hans Koelle, husband of Corps member, Margot.

The Light Box

Whitsun for the World

Inter-branch Whitsun Conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania



On Whitsunday, June 4th 2006, representatives of four groups and branches of the Anthroposophical Society convened in Hershey, Pennsylvania for an Inter-branch Whitsun Festival and Conference. Our venue was a historic stone house surrounded by one hundred acres of unobstructed meadows, streams, woods, and farmland. In 1737 Thomas Logan founded Stonehaven Farm by proprietary grant from William Penn's *Holy Experiment*. Today, the Widow Logan House and Farm serve as home of the Susquehanna Corps de Michael—*Anthroposophical Society in Hershey*. Lazured meeting rooms retain the original horsehair plaster, deep-set fifteen light windows, high ceilings, and elaborate wood moldings typical of a colonial-era mansion.

As members of The Corps de Michael began arriving from seven counties of the vast Pennsylvania heartland, we quickly welcomed representatives of the Aurora Group (Buffalo), Southeast Pennsylvania Branch (Kimberton), and Anthroposophy NYC (New York City). This year's theme was *Love, Courageous Thinking, and Projective Geometry*. The conference included multilingual readings, music and song, a keynote address, conversation, 'Crown Rosicrucian Jewels,' a Whitsun potluck, poetry, and hands-on exercises in projective geometry.

We opened in the orange lazure of the Michael Room which is accented by an orange/yellow painting of Michael and an orange Persian carpet. The opening verses were taken from *Acts* describing the moving events of the first Whitsunday. Bernadette Warman spoke in English, followed by German (Bluemchen Frey), Dutch (Maria Rosa Costa i Alandi representing Kimberton), Shona, a Zimbabwean dialect (June Lang), French (Scott Hicks), Spanish (Maria Rosa), Latin (David Lenker), and Greek (Scott). Previously, Ruth Hessong remarked that the multifarious rhythms, intonations, and colorations of the various languages were of themselves justification for the drive to Stonehaven. Into this thoroughly Michaelic cosmopolitan atmosphere Lisa Hildreth favored us with two recorder pieces, *Flow Gently Sweet Afton* and *Gathering Peas*.



In the keynote address David Lenker suggested that just as cosmopolitanism is an emblem of Michael, so is Whitsun the exemplar of anthroposophical group and branch life.

Fifty days after Easter, assembled together in a house, the flames of spirit knowledge descend on the heads of the disciples. The flames bring inner understanding of the Mystery of Golgotha which had previously confounded the twelve. Spirit knowledge leads to the awakening of the 'universally human.' This essential ground or *awareness of one's humanity* becomes the context and light for experiencing differences in culture, ethnicity, religion, national origin, and language. These differences are not *merely* celebrated as an outcome of diversity training, but are experienced as revelations of a greater whole: The

Representative of Humanity. (A large print of Rudolf Steiner's wood carving known as 'The Representative' gazed out upon members assembled in the Michael Room. Presented as a gift during Corps founding celebrations, this print hung for many years in the historic Munich Branch of the Anthroposophical Society).

The Representative of Humanity holds sway at Whitsunday's 'First Group Meeting'. Multitudes gather from many and varied lands. They speak in different languages. But owing to the presence of the spirit of the universally human, each understands the foreign languages of strangers as if spoken in one's own tongue.

The first Whitsun offers a premonition of true spirit community—the seed of the New Jerusalem. When intellect's traditional role of 'divide and separate into component parts' is transformed to intuitive heart-thinking, then brotherly and sisterly love Triumph in the era known as 'Philadelphia.' Anthroposophical group work prepares both the forces of the spirit self, and the spirit communities of the sixth epoch:

.....We must become conscious of a higher form of community, founded in the freedom of love among brothers and sisters, as a breath of magic that we breathe in our working groups.

--**Rudolf Steiner**, *Preparing for the Sixth Epoch*

In a sincere effort to find the transition from intellectual to intuitive thinking we turned our attention to projective geometry. This non-Euclidean discipline offers measure-free constructions resolving such seeming opposites as: three dimensional space, 'counterspace' (the infinitude within), and infinitely distant points. In this context we considered the soul journey of Rudolf Steiner: a quest to bridge inner and outer realities. When the young Steiner borrows a geometry text, he discovers both his first bridge from the ideal to the sensual, and his first happiness. Ultimately, *The Philosophy of Freedom* delineates the metamorphosis of intellectual to intuitive thinking at the hand of *introspective observations following the methods of natural science*. The social ramifications of courageous (intuitive) thinking are revolutionary: *To **live** in love towards our actions, and to **let live** in the understanding of the other person's will, is the fundamental maxim of **free human beings*** (Rudolf Steiner, *The Philosophy of Freedom*).

The keynote was followed by the sharing of 'Crown Rosicrucian Jewels.' Corps members presented the kernel of spirit-truths gleaned in the course of our past year of studies on the Mission of Christian Rosenkreutz. The Whitsun potluck was preceded by grace and a poem by Ymelda Hamann-Mentelberg describing her inspirational experience of a Peony. The German name, *Pfingstrose*, means literally, 'Rose of Pentecost'. The potluck precipitated many sidebars and conversations which continued long past the last dessert. The intense spontaneity and community spirit was difficult to break-up for the afternoon's practical work. However, the din gave way to concerted efforts when each member tried his/her hand at weaving a hexagon net free of measure! The morning's theme of cosmopolitanism and the polarity of individual/universal became quite concrete with the construction of hexagons called-forth from freely chosen points on the 'line at infinity'.

Typically, when Corps members return to the seven counties comprising our region surrounding Susquehanna's *shining waters*, they bear with them the Whitsun impulses engendered together at Stonehaven. But in 2006 these impulses radiated far beyond Hershey, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Buffalo, Philadelphia, and New York City. Less than a fortnight following their participation in the inter-branch conference, two members pulled-up Pennsylvania stakes for new pastures West and East. Corps Brother Matthew Sponenberg bid farewell to his native Central PA and resettled in Hawaii. Maria Rosa Costa i Alandi bid farewell to Kimberton Hills and resettled in Norway. Without contrivance our inter-branch festival and conference had become a *Whitsun for the world*.

Shortly after Matthew and Maria Rosa carried this Whitsun impulse in opposite directions far and wide, Tropical Storm Alberto moved inland. The Corps de Michael's 13th Annual St. John's Festival was thus placed in jeopardy. Moreover, on the morning of St. John's Day, a flood warning was issued for Hershey and Central Pennsylvania. When Classholder Bernard Wolf departed the Kimberton area at 1:30pm, he encountered pouring-down rain to our East..... But despite the warnings, as well as continuous rain on the days both before and after the St. John's Festival, we enjoyed our highest and brightest bonfire ever! The blazing bonfire was preceded by a Class Lesson, picnic on the West Lawn and amazingly, the brief appearance of a resplendent orange setting Sun during our outdoor community circle of songs and stories.

In the midst of a major tropical storm that flooded the Susquehanna, Swatara, Conodoguinet, Conewago, Conestoga, Yellow Breeches, and countless other rivers and streams throughout the Northeast, not even one drop of rain fell during the festivities (which continued 'til 10:30pm as Waldorf boys Davey and Robbie Hildreth swapped stories around the dying embers). The ashes had barely settled when a day or two later, a national television network opened the evening news with a live report from nearby Reading. As cameras broadcast the havoc and destruction wrought by Nature-on-a-rampage, one felt gratitude for the elementals and all who had enlisted their cooperation for St. John's in the *sweetest place on earth*.

--David Lenker

The Threefold Commonwealth for Iraq

The death of al-Zarqawi affords the U.S. and the government of Iraq the opportunity to establish a threefold commonwealth in their region. I do not mean that Iraq should be separated into three different political regions, as some have advocated. Rather, because Iraq has already lost the unity of a nation or a state, its leaders must take the courage to set up a new form of the social and political union in which the operation of the cultural-spiritual sphere is separate from both the economic sphere and the sphere of rights and political equality. This new arrangement of the social and political sphere, first developed by Rudolf Steiner in *Towards Social Renewal* (also published as *The Threefold Commonwealth*), does not grasp for some abstract utopia like communism, but instead mirrors the natural threefold constitution of the human being and arises from his most essential needs. In this system, which is fully capable of being realized, the **political administration** cedes much of its centralized power, and becomes primarily a guarantor of equitable and ethical practices in the free economic and cultural spheres. The current Iraqi parliament could still serve in this role, moderating property and land ownership, establishing public law and building rights, and organizing military defense.

Secondly, Iraqi communities can reorganize the devastated **economic process** themselves, rather than waiting for the central political administration to rebuild the old system of finance. Associations of interested individuals can meet together to openly discuss what technical expertise and facilities of production are available to them, and what specific commodities need to be produced, and then enter into limited contractual engagements to produce them. At the outset, because most Iraqis desperately require the bare necessities, the workers should receive their share of the respective commodities, such as food, electricity, and shelter, rather than worrying about compensation from an unstable Iraqi currency. The associations can determine in a democratic manner how their goods can be distributed to the workers. Although American dollars may also have to help firm up the economic process in the beginning, by Iraqi economic associations compensating their workers with goods rather than currency, the seed is planted to eventually separate the dignity of the human laborer from the financial process altogether. In the future it should be possible that employers would no longer be able to 'purchase' workers for a certain salary, but that other forms of compensation appropriate to the situation would arise. A fine model for such compensation is to be found in the Camphill communities for children with special needs in Pennsylvania and around the world.

Thirdly, in the **cultural sphere**, everything concerned with education, spiritual life, the arts and literature will be administered by experienced practitioners in the various fields, who have understood the needs and aspirations of the community, and are committed to working toward them. There have been expressions of freedom of thought in Iraqi culture at various points during the last century, even as recently as the 1980s, and these can flourish once again, exhibiting all of the positive aspects of Islamic civilization for the world to see. Is this just a dream? No, for the Philippines has already taken positive steps in this direction under the influence of **Nicanor Perlas**. If the threefold commonwealth is set up in Iraq, we will find that the operations of the economic realm can be naturally and healthily regulated from the cultural-spiritual sphere, as well as infused with human rights from the political sphere. The social and political organization can then reflect mankind's capacity for free will, conscious thought, and emotional expression. The ancient civilization present in Iraq can truly become a model for other nations to imitate. Now is the time!

--Scott E. Hicks, author of ***The Shattering Light of Stars***



The well-being of a total community of human beings working together becomes greater as claims diminish for the products of individual achievements, that is, community well-being increases the more each worker gives over the products of his/her achievements to one's fellow workers; and the more each individual's needs are met, not out of one's own achievements, but out of the achievements of others.

--Rudolf Steiner

Letters

Dear Friends at Stonehaven Farm (Founded 1737),

Greetings to you from your old friend in Anthroposophia—Claudia Kirk; I was inspired by the premiere issue of ***Shining Waters*** to remember our times together in study, in workshop, in prayerful moments, and in many shared friendly meal-times. I remember with love my friends:

David—with whom I shared many volunteer efforts on behalf of the children of the Susquehanna Waldorf School;

June—who holds with me many happy memories of meetings of the Lancaster Anthroposophical Group with Hal and Dorothea Williams at their home on West Orange Street (an early pioneer outpost of Anthroposophy in America);

Hilde Maria, now known by her spiritual name, '*Bluemchen*'—who shares with me a love of the plants and what they give us from God;

Ruth and Ed—or—*Ed and Ruth*—who I also saw and shared with at The Christian Community in Devon; I watched with loving interest their family building for and with their son, *Nicol*—who is now (gasp!) fifteen years old. I read with interest that he brings his violin playing to add his part to the scene at Stonehaven Farm. Many other faces and souls have come through the doors, past, present, and future.....I extend my love to all. Remember me today, my friends, and I will remember and do remember—*you*.

The last study of Rudolf Steiner which I heard at Stonehaven included this verse spoken during the All Souls' Festival:

Christ knows us. To a soul that sees our Spiritual Science in the true light, to a heart that feels it in its true significance, I can impart no more esoteric saying:

The Christ is seeing us.

Hallelujah,

*Claudia Kirk
Paradise, Pennsylvania*

Dear Corps de Michael,

I just want to say hello and let you know that I am picking up the lectures on Rosicrucian Cosmology to read while pondering your group. It sounds wonderful, and stirs in me the longing for community. I moved away from Ann Arbor four years ago, and while I have strong connections inside and outside the anthroposophical movement, there is nothing quite like a dedicated group dedicating themselves to a particular course of study.

My recent activity has taken me more into the world where I have been teaching what I call a 'humanities perspective' on the night sky at the local community college. The group has been devoted and hungry for deep content, so there is some solace in the work that way.

I would very much appreciate the opportunity to vicariously participate in your studies and festivals. It is an enlivening experience to know the ways of others in this stream and the timing of such events. I have a small book study with a group that is entirely new to Anthroposophy, and they are open to festival celebrations, so perhaps some bridging can occur, at least in our thinking and knowing of one another. I have been reading Prokofieff on the Cycle of the Year and the last few chapters strike a powerful chord as well regarding the importance of our work together.

Warm regards,

*Mary Adams
Harbor Springs, Michigan*

Honey and the Rainbow

(Sapphic Strophe)

The Hive of the *Budhi*, tunneling heavenward
Summons the bees with the juice of the flowers,
'Deposit thy *gnosis* on *Devachan's* bowers,
Tincture of living.'

Hermaphrodite Queen, funneling starry gems
Mutates all memories with pollen and mercury,
'Purify the *Substance of Truth* in thy alchemy,
Pious distilling.'

Languid and molten, hexagon honeycombs
Pour out their essence: *Life-Spirit* rarefied,
'Dribble down primal light to the dignified,
Faithfully bowing.'

Strengthening Ether, lightning wrought Verity,
Nectar from Old Sun, vacuums in *Eidos* born
'Fill up the empty skull of the cosmic form:
Quintessence streaming.'

Mellifluous grail, mirror of Heaven's rose,
Cherish the treasure in chalice all glowing,
A waterfall bursts from the heart overflowing
Hopefully gleaming.

Joining the rainbow, dream light of hidden Sun
The blood soars upward, bridging to Spirit land
The World's circulation beats in the Love of Man
Pink, blue and golden.

--Scott Elliot Hicks

About Shining Waters & Anthroposophy

Shining Waters is the voice of Anthroposophy, *the awareness of one's humanity*, in the Pennsylvania heartland. Through systematic exercises of concentration and meditation, human consciousness can be explored/expanded with scientific clarity. Intuitive heart-thinking and conscious inner development afford new capacities to realize human potential, the meaning of life, as well as social and cultural renewal.

Since the dawn of the 20th century, the anthroposophical movement has chartered new, innovative and often acclaimed approaches to a variety of practical fields including: education (Steiner/Waldorf schools), agriculture (Biodynamics), curative education (Camphill), art of movement (Eurythmy), medicine, architecture, banking, nursing, and community living.

The Corps de Michael serves a vast region with active members in 6 counties surrounding Susquehanna's *shining waters*. We are the sole affiliate between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh of the Anthroposophical Society USA. Founded by Rudolf Steiner, the Society and its worldwide branches welcome all human beings, who wish to develop the life of the soul in community.

Donors

This Michaelmas/All Souls edition is made possible by the kind generosity of the following friends and members of Corps de Michael:

Dr. Erika V. Asten, Dr. John Charlton, Lynn Charlton, Martin Croes, Bluemchen Frey, Christopher Hasircoglu, Edward Hessong, Ruth Hessong, Scott E. Hicks, Arthur Hildreth, Lisa Hildreth, Dr. Margot Koelle, June O. Lang, David Lenker, Betty LeRoy, Erika Miller, Boel Neville, Bernadette Warman, John Zalot, and Mary Zalot.

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- ❖ Please send poems, articles, letters, and artwork for future editions to: thecorpsdemichael@yahoo.com

Save These Dates!

2006/2007 Holy Night Celebrations in Four Counties:

Thursday, **28 December**, 7pm, Harrisburg (Dauphin County), **Oberufer Shepherds' Play**

Saturday, **30 December**, 7pm, Frackville (Schuylkill County), **Star Walk and Zodiac Study**

Tuesday, **2nd January**, 7pm, Lancaster (Lancaster County), Topic TBA

Saturday, **6 January**, Three Kings' Day, 5pm~potluck, 7pm~play, Hershey, **Oberufer Three Kings' Play**

Email Announcements

To receive email announcements of open meetings, festivals, studies, and guest speakers, please send your email address to: thecorpsdemichael@yahoo.com



Commonwealth Center for Anthroposophy
Stonehaven Farm (Founded 1737)
22 Bachmanville Lane
Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033
USA

The Age of Michael has dawned. Hearts are beginning to have thoughts; spiritual fervor is now proceeding, not merely from mystical obscurity, but from souls clarified by thought.
To understand this means to receive Michael into the heart.

--Rudolf Steiner

*And when I asked the train's brakeman the name of the river.....and heard that it was called **Susquehanna**, the beauty of the name seemed to be part and parcel of the beauty of the land; that was the name, as no other could be, for that shining river and desirable valley.*

--Robert Louis Stevenson

Susquehanna Corps de Michael
Anthropolosophical Society in Hershey