



Knights Templars Inter-branch Festival

Hershey, PA ~ 30th June '07

St. John's Tide 2007

The Order of the Knights Templars celebrated their largest annual gathering during St. John's Tide. On this festive occasion new knights were inducted into the Order.

Members of The Corps de Michael (Hershey) and Albert Steffen Group (Pittsburgh) are pleased to announce an Inter-branch Festival during St. John's Tide and hosted at Stonehaven Farm (Founded 1737) in Hershey. The festival opens on Saturday, 30th June at 3:45pm with a Knights Templars study, *Cosmic Knowledge of the Knights Templars*. The open study will be followed by a potluck picnic, a talk, and a community circle on the West Lawn as the Sun sets on one of the longest days of the year. (An electronic copy of the study-text is available from the Corps Librarian by writing: littleflower@paonline.com).

Finally, as fireflies emerge from evening's dusk, the festival culminates in a large bonfire-on-the-meadow. The St. John's Bonfire recalls Hiram's initiation into the Mysteries of Fire (Will) as described in *The Temple Legend* of Christian Rosenkreutz. In these mysteries of the human will we see the dawning of a new spiritual impulse as it was unfurled in the 12th and 13th centuries by the Knights Templars. The Order heralds our own time, the Age of the Consciousness Soul, which subsequently opened at the dawn of the 15th century. In the new Mysteries of Fire (Will) spirit works into and through matter in a healing manner. Culturally renewing endeavors such as Waldorf Education, Biodynamic Agriculture, Camphill Communities, Eurythmy, and Anthroposophical medicine offer a few examples of spirit-will working in the Templar tradition.

At the heart of Templar initiatives in agriculture, craftsmanship/architecture, medicine, finance/banking, and community life was a spirit-brotherhood steeped in mysticism and cosmic knowledge. Emerging from truths embodied in the Temple of Solomon, and continuing through the Templar and Rosicrucian Brotherhoods, we find a social fabric bearing the potential for a significant fulfillment in modern Anthroposophical group and branch life.

The Sisters and Brothers of the Albert Steffen Group (Pittsburgh) and The Corps de Michael (Hershey) warmly invite friends and members to join us in the *sweetest place on earth** for this Inter-branch Festival at St. John's Tide. For more information please call David Lenker at 717-964-3376 or write: thecorpsdemichael@yahoo.com

** In 1903 American philanthropist and industrialist, Milton Snavely Hershey broke ground for the world's largest chocolate factory. Simultaneous to construction, he laid-out a model utopian town known today as Hershey, PA. In 1909, he founded a school for orphan boys on a 12,000 acre farm campus surrounding the town and effectively completing a 'threefold commonwealth' as Steiner envisioned the free and beneficent working of the economic, political, and cultural spheres. In 1918—just one year prior to Rudolf Steiner's publication of "The Threefold Commonwealth"—Milton Hershey gifted his entire personal fortune and controlling chocolate company stock to three community trusts. The largest of these was earmarked for the orphans' school which continues today as America's largest residential school for disadvantaged youth.*