



Shining Waters

Midsummer News

St. John's Tide 2015

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1995—2015



**Célébration du 20ème Anniversaire
du Corps de Michael!**



Midsummer greetings from the Sweetest Michaelites on Earth!

With this Midsummer edition of *Shining Waters* we are pleased to offer reflections on two recent Corps de Michael festivals as well as share the seminal thoughts of a recent study session, ‘Karma of Factory Farming in Relation to the Animal Kingdom’. Additionally, please **SAVE THE DATE—SATURDAY, 1ST AUGUST** for a summer concert with the “Fever Trees” in Hershey. The band’s long anticipated return to Stonehaven will include a bonfire on the St. John’s Meadow, poetry reading, community potluck, and karma study. Please also save Michaelmas Conference dates: **Saturday/Sunday, 10th to 11th October.**

St. John’s Festival (27 June)

Our St. John’s and Whitsun festivals formally opened 20th anniversary celebrations of the founding of Corps de Michael. In 1995, a Commonwealth Center for Anthroposophy “corps” group wished to deepen its connection with Anthroposophy—*the awareness of our humanity*—by affiliating with the Anthroposophical Society USA. By this path Corps de Michael became the first Society affiliate in Pennsylvania between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia/Kimberton. Mere hours before the St. John’s Festival 2015, we received a festival message from Linda Larson. A former Hershey resident and Corps de Michael member, Linda presently resides in New York City where she offers classes and workshops in Eurythmy, an art of movement. Linda’s message follows below, as well as additional festival insights penned some years ago by John Davy and Francis Edmunds, the Vice-Principal and Founder, respectively, of Emerson College (England).

St. John’s Festival spirits could not be dampened despite day long rains on the last Saturday in June. We opened with a community potluck welcoming a first time visitor to Stonehaven, Michael Moussa of Harrisburg. Michael was the guest of Corps treasurer, Michael Mazock. A native of Cote d’Ivoire, Africa, Michael Moussa was delighted by the unexpected opportunity to engage in dinner conversation—in French—with two French natives, Christian and Muriel Brigouleix. Language comparisons prompted David Lenker to note the cosmopolitan mission of Michael, Spirit of Today. For the benefit of our guest, David relayed how three dolphins were incorporated into the Corps de Michael seal signifying both *esprit de corps* and Susquehanna Valley spiritual geography.



Dolphins appear on the historic emblem of the French *dauphin* (eldest son and successor of the king of France). Prior to its adoption by the French Crown, the title referred to the regent of a formerly independent province of present day France known as *Dauphine*. In gratitude for indispensable French aid during the American Revolution, the French *dauphin* was chosen as the namesake of Dauphin County in the Commonwealth

of Pennsylvania. Municipalities of the ‘American Dauphin’ include both the Capital City, and Hershey—the *Sweetest Place on Earth*. In medieval heraldry the dolphin signifies ‘peace, brotherhood, and friendship’. This meaning arose out of real life incidents reported by mariners who were lost at sea when their boats capsized, but later towed to safety by helpful dolphins! Additionally, we recalled two former French members, Collette Rentier and Stephen Kuegner, who helped inspire our name, Corps de Michael.

Karma of Factory Farming and the Animal Kingdom

Festivities continued with a study, ‘Karma of Factory Farming and the Animal Kingdom’. A summary of Chapter 2 in *The Manifestations of Karma* noted the gradual eradication of the whole farm organism known to generations of family farms such as Stonehaven in favor of ‘factory farms’ which specialize in just one or two animal species such as dairy, swine, or poultry. Although factory farms are regarded as more efficient (bigger is better), we must ask, “What are the environmental and karmic consequences of windowless poultry barns (not free range), gigantic dairy herds, or massive swine manure pits?” The windowless poultry barns remove chickens from the natural rhythm of day and night, Sun and Moon. They substitute artificial man-made rhythms designed to trick the chicken into maximum production. Since the days of William Penn’s *Holy Experiment*, each family farm was a self-sufficient whole organism authentically constituted by an assortment of dairy cows, chickens, pigs, goats, sheep, ducks, etc. Each species was present on the family farm because each contributed a specific quality to the whole organism. Influenced by Darwinian evolution, the modern view regards animals as mere ‘automata’. Too often the result is exploitation of farm animals to achieve maximum economic return on investment through methods designed to increase quantitative yields of milk, eggs, beef, pork, poultry or other agribusiness products.

St. John’s, the festival of present and future community, afforded the perfect setting to consider the significance and practice of humanity’s community with the animal kingdom. Through the modern concepts of spiritual science outlined in *The Manifestations of Karma*, we come to understand and appreciate animals as sentient beings endowed with consciousness, who played a decisive and sacrificial role in the evolution of human consciousness. When this wider understanding deteriorates to the misconception cited in the reading, animals as mere ‘automata’,

the resulting exploitation of farm animals can lead to mistreatment through growth hormones, drugs, cramped artificial indoor cages, and/or massive manure pits that challenge natural assimilation by the whole farm organism. A visible ‘karmic consequence’ of factory farming is the desecration of the *shining* Susquehanna River. Indeed, the largely polluted state of both the Susquehanna (largest USA river basin emptying into the Atlantic Ocean), and Chesapeake Bay can be traced to chemical discharges by industry as well as the unassimilated manure, pesticide, and fertilizer runoff originating on factory farms in the fertile Susquehanna Valley of Central PA (home to some of the richest farmland in the world). The aim of the modern Biodynamic agricultural movement is to return to the sustainable practices of the farm organism aided by the concepts of modern spiritual science. As a result, many Biodynamic farms include a wisely chosen diversity of farm animals in recognition of the unique role played by each variety in the creation of an authentic whole.

Questions: 1) *If an individual purchases and consumes eggs, dairy, or meat products produced on factory farms where animals are treated inhumanely, will there be karmic consequences for the consumer regardless of whether the consumer had information or knowledge about the inhumane treatment of animals on the factory farms?*

2) *If there are karmic consequences, should these moral considerations be weighed against the economic considerations of cheaper prices for factory farm products as part of the decision to buy factory farm or whole organic products?* To answer these questions, we can consider two related questions:

3) *If an individual deposits funds at a large bank which engages in questionable lending and/or investment practices, will the karma of the depositor be affected even though the depositor may have no concrete knowledge or information about the deceptive or questionable banking practices?*

4) *What is the potential karmic difference between maintaining an account and depositing funds with a large bank vs. opening an account and depositing funds with a credit union?*

We will consider these karma questions at the next Corps de Michael karma study, Saturday, 1st August, 3pm. All welcome.

Joining the St. John’s karma study, we welcomed Nathan Peirce from Folcroft, near Philadelphia. Following the summary of the chapter on animals in *The Manifestations of Karma*, Nathan commented that the anthroposophical concept of the evolution of consciousness (specifically, the pre-Earth configuration) is not compatible with astro-physics. June Lang observed that portions of modern physics are becoming more mystical/spiritual, thus suggesting a bridge or possible evolution towards spiritual scientific concepts. Nathan responded with a detailed elaboration of the non-conventional concepts of space suggested by a new scientific idea, ‘entanglement’. A scientist by training, Rudolf Steiner encouraged students of Anthroposophy to think through scientific conceptions. His seminal work, *The Philosophy of Freedom* utilizes the rigor of the scientific method to examine the process of thinking and necessarily, the consciousness that produces thinking. Steiner predicted that if natural scientists think through the findings of science to conclusion, they will arrive at the tenets of spiritual science. Moreover, the fundamental (if forgotten) role of consciousness in scientific investigations is addressed in the following passage from Schelling on the relationship between natural science and spiritual science. Rudolf Steiner includes this passage in his early work, *Welt und Lebensanschauungen im neunzehnten Jahrhundert*:

The necessary tendency of all natural science is to ascend from nature to intelligence. This and nothing else underlies the endeavor to bring theory into natural phenomena. The highest perfection of natural science would be the complete spiritualization of all natural laws of observation and thought. Phenomena (the material) must completely vanish, and laws alone (the formal) remain. Hence it happens that the more conformity to law is brought into nature herself the more the veils vanish, phenomena themselves become more spiritual and finally disappear altogether. Optical phenomena are nothing more than a geometry whose lines are drawn by light, and the light itself is already an ambiguous materiality. In the phenomena of magnetism all traces of matter are lost, and in those of gravity, which even the natural scientist is only able to accept as a direct spiritual operation—an effect at a distance—nothing remains but its laws, whose transactions are in the vastness of the mechanism of the celestial movements. The perfect theory of nature would be that by virtue of which nature as a whole is resolved into an intelligence. The lifeless and unconscious products of nature are only nature’s abortive attempts to reflect herself; so-called lifeless nature is, however, an unripe intelligence, hence in its phenomena the intelligent character still peeps through, but without consciousness. Nature only reaches her highest aim—to become herself wholly object—in her highest and final reflection, which is none other than humanity, or more generally, what we call Reason, through which nature first completely returns into herself, and by which it becomes manifest that she, nature, is originally identical with what is known in us as intelligence and consciousness.

More recently, Owen Barfield reveals the fundamental role of consciousness in any consideration of the relation between nature (matter) and intelligence (spirit):

*...If we are asking, “How do we have to do with spirit?” the first question that arises is: “What sort of things are we aware of without supposing that we have perceived them?” Well, there is **one** thing we **never** suppose we have perceived, one thing of which we are aware during most of our waking lives, and of which we are perhaps aware most of all when we are in the act of perceiving other things. I mean of course ourselves, who are doing the perceiving. We come back to the definition of matter. Just as we can not really think of spirit, as spirit, unless we are also able to think of matter, so we cannot think of matter, as matter, unless we are also able to think of spirit. Matter is always that **of which** I am conscious; but correlative to it, and at the opposite pole, is the **“I”** who am conscious. Or we may say, as Coleridge said on one occasion, that matter is “that **of which** there is consciousness, but which is not itself conscious.” Spirit, on the contrary, is not that which is perceived, but that which **is**. It is not what we perceive, but what we **are**.*

--Owen Barfield, “Matter, Imagination, and Spirit” published in *The Rediscovery of Meaning and Other Essays*, (Middletown, Connecticut: Wesleyan University Press, 1977) p.147

We closed the karma study with an original poem by Eden Burnham followed by the Foundation Stone Meditation and healing circle. Friends and members then recessed to the Rose Room where Chris Brigouleix regaled festival-goers with a lively piano rendition of *Amazing Grace* followed by singing with piano accompaniment. To prepare in mood for the upcoming Independence Day weekend, Chris also led piano and singing of additional inspiring pieces: *America the Beautiful*, *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, and *La Marseillaise*.

Organic/BD Partnership at Stonehaven—The Sweetest Organic Heifers on Earth

At Stonehaven, we are pleased to celebrate a successful six year partnership founded on natural pasturing of organic heifers (adolescent cows) without employing drugs, hormones, or GMO feed. Grass-fed Jersey heifers enjoy kicking up their heels on Stonehaven meadows and are regularly visible from meeting rooms of the Widow Logan House! When the heifers give birth to their first calf, they relocate to a nearby Amish farm, Kingfisher, where they assume a vital role in the non-pasteurized, non-homogenized whole raw milk dairy operation. Kingfisher whole ‘organic’ milk was recently distributed to the Philadelphia Farmers’ Market as well as whole food outlets in the Susquehanna Valley. It is also available for purchase at nearby Kingfisher Farm. The sustainable number of heifers grazed at Stonehaven results in meadows enriched by heifer manure (no massive pits or runoff into creeks). Additionally, the meadows have been potentized with Biodynamic preparations spread by friends and members during Corps de Michael festival celebrations.



Whitsun Festival (31 May)

Whitsun opened with a Eurythmy exercise, “I Think Speech” and a special surprise gift presented to Corps de Michael by John Zalot of Frackville, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. John brought special drawings of ‘Michael and the Dragon’ for each person in attendance. Each hand drawn and colored composition was unique to the member or friend to whom it was presented and inspired by John’s meditation on that person prior to the festival.

David Lenker’s festival address, “Living Art and the *Holy Experiment*: William Penn’s Path to Freedom as Revealed by the *Palace of Art*” opened with reflections on the mission of group and branch life. Specifically, David dubbed the first Whitsunday as the “first group meeting”. The disciples gather together in a house where the winds of the Spirit grant an act of Grace: inner



understanding of the moving, yet confounding, events of the Mystery of Golgotha just fifty days prior. The flames of knowledge above the head of each disciple (as pictured in Giotto’s Pentecost painting) denote the mission of group work: to cultivate the Michael Logos (spirit knowledge) in community. The spirit-seed kernel of each Michaelic thought speaks to human hearts assembled, fashioning a chalice cup from the bonds of soul to soul that beat in unison with the fiery Prince of Thought in the Universe. This cup, or CORPUS MICHAELIS (Latin for ‘body of Michael’), is enlivened by Anthroposophia, the Mother of the movement whose heart-felt presence at meetings encourages each individual regardless of race, nationality, ethnicity, or gender to offer one’s individual perspective as a contribution towards manifesting the Spirit of the Universally Human. Was it this Spirit or the *esprit de corps*, or perhaps both, arising through interactions, deeds, words, glances, and thoughts of Sisters and Brothers assembled from

both near and far, that prompted June Oriel Lang to later reflect on the Whitsun Festival as “*Corps de Michael’s finest hour?*”

Festival Messages/Contemplations

Whitsun, the festival of the future community of humanity of which Francis Edmunds writes below, was inaugurated in Jerusalem in an upper room. There the apostles found a new word and a new will for renewal of life, founded in recognition of the free spirit in every human being irrespective of sex, race, or nation.

--John Davy

Christ had said to his disciples he would send them the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter. What greater comfort may there be than to meet and know one another in the Spirit of Truth?

--Francis Edmunds

All the best for St. John's, with the blessing of Uriel and some Cosmic Understanding on our human level, between the Cosmic Intelligence in the glorious golden light from above and the Cosmic Will in the deep blue with crystallen forms from below.

--Linda Larson

We must become conscious of a higher form of community founded in the freedom of love among Sisters and Brothers...

--Rudolf Steiner

"Fever Trees" in Concert: Saturday, 1st August, Hershey, USA

The magic continues 1st August with the "Fever Trees" in concert on the West Lawn. The youth band returns to Stonehaven to light up the night with both original compositions and popular covers. If you listen carefully, you may hear bullfrogs strumming along the brook in unison with the band! Not to be missed are the fireflies' twinkles arising out of dusk as prelude to the band's sequel—a gargantuan bonfire on the St. John's Meadow. The concert, set in the sweetness of Nature, promises an experience confirming the conclusion of *Candide* in the noted work of Voltaire: *Le meilleur des mondes possibles est a la ferme.* (The best of all possible worlds is on the farm.)



Michaelmas Conference: 10th to 11th October 2015~



"Rose Cross Community and Templar Knights of the Grail: Mani, Milton, and Molay"

Please save the date—10th to 11th October—for this year's Michaelmas Conference. Talks will be offered on Jacques de Molay (Chris and Muriel Brigouleix), Mani—Leader of Humanity, Transformer of Evil into Good (Robert Horner), Templar Economics Today, Rose Cross of Tomorrow—Milton S. Hershey, Chocolate King and Social Reformer (David Lenker), and Becoming Human (Michael Mazock). Additional talks may include Voltaire's *Candide* (Chris Brigouleix) and a further installment of "A Passage Out of Africa" (June Lang). Watch for conference program and registration information. You may also call: 717-964-3376 or write: thecorpsdemichael@yahoo.com

About *Shining Waters*, Anthroposophy, & Corps de Michael

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.

Corps de Michael serves a vast region with active members in 6 counties surrounding Susquehanna's *shining waters*. We are the original 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. Visit our website www.corpsdemichael.org or visit us on facebook: www.corpsdemichael.facebook.com

To become a member of Corps de Michael, or to support Corps de Michael as a Michaelite friend, please call: 717-964-3376 or write: thecorpsdemichael@yahoo.com

Corps de Michael extends heartfelt gratitude to the following individuals for photos appearing in this Midsummer edition of *Shining Waters*:

Page 2, Corps de Michael and Friends at Stonehaven—Bernadette Warman
Page 6, Heifers at Stonehaven Farm—Jordan Minium
Page 6, Co-founder June Oriel Lang—Bernadette Warman
Page 7, Fever Trees in concert at Stonehaven—David Lenker
Page 7, Michael and His Sun-bride, Heliantus (Sunflower)—Ymelda Hamann Mentelberg, courtesy of co-founder Hilde Maria "Little Rose" Frey
Page 8, Heifers grazing at Stonehaven Farm—David Lenker
Page 9, St. John's Bonfire at Stonehaven—Jennifer Lopez
Page 9, Fever Trees Logo—Courtesy of Fever Trees
Page 9, Fever Trees Band Photo—Courtesy of Fever Trees
Page 9, St. John's Bonfire at Stonehaven Panorama—Adrien Barlup



...With the progress of evolution there will come again through the consciousness of karma a better relationship between humanity and the animal kingdom than there is now, especially in the west. There will come a treatment of the animals whereby humanity will again uplift those he has pushed down.

--Rudolf Steiner
The Manifestations of Karma



Celebrating the last Blue Moon until 2018!

~ Free Concert ~

FEVER TREES

Saturday, 1ST August, 7:30pm

**West Lawn—Widow Logan House
Stonehaven Farms (Founded 1737)
HERSHEY, USA**

Performing Live:

**Bad Moon Rising—CCR, Wagon Wheel—Bob
Dylan, Gloria—Van Morrison, Good—Better than Ezra
One I Love—R.E.M., Conflicted—Fever Trees and more!**

**Dean W. Lenker III ~ Rhythm guitar, vocals; Collin Hadsel ~ Lead guitar, vocals;
Nick Gilbert ~ Piano, percussion, bass, vocals**

PLEASE BRING A LAWN CHAIR!!!

Concert followed by

Bonfire-on-the-St. John's Meadow

Additional events begin at 3pm. **For information call: 717-964-3376**

www.corpsdemichael.org

Follow the band:

<http://theroads0.wix.com/fevertrees>

