

14th Annual Whitsun Festival *The Mission of Group & Branch Work*

The Corps de Michael's 14th Annual Whitsun Festival will convene at 8:45am on Sunday, 3rd June at Stonehaven Farm in Hershey, PA. Our 2007 theme is *BrotherSisterhood & the Mission of Group & Branch Work*. We open with multi-lingual verses in Greek, Latin, German, English, Spanish, French, and Shona. The verses describe the moving events of the first Whitsunday and will be followed by three mini-keynotes offered by three Corps members:

- 1) *Old and New Forms of Community Life (Ruth Hessong)*;
- 2) *Rites of the Freemason Brotherhood & Rudolf Steiner's First Esoteric School (Scott Hicks)*;
- 3) *Benjamin Franklin, BrotherSisterhood, and the Stream of Michael (David Lenker)*.

After a break members of the Susquehanna Corps de Michael—*Anthroposophical Society in Hershey* will offer 'Crown Templars Jewels.' The jewels will serve to recall the most essential truths experienced by individual members during the past year of anthroposophical studies on the Knights Templars. The morning concludes with Goethean group-observation of selected illustrations by Ymelda Hamann Mentelberg. These inspiring watercolors were painted to illumine the verses of Rudolf Steiner's *Calendar of the Soul*.

We convene again after a Whitsun potluck picnic to continue exercises in projective geometry introduced at our 2006 Whitsun Festival. Last year we wove a net of hexagons side-by-side. This year we will inscribe hexagons one inside another that swirl to an 'infinite within'. No experience and no measurements required!



These afternoon exercises permit hands-on experience of the spirit of Whitsun—the essential dynamic and interplay that lights-up between self and group, or self and universal. When spirit-knowledge (signified by Whitsun flames) leads to the awakening of the 'universally human,' this essential ground or *awareness of one's humanity* becomes the cosmopolitan context 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.

The Representative holds sway at Whitsunday's 'First Group Meeting'. This meeting affords 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 post-Atlantean 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*