



In 'Education as a Social Problem' Rudolf Steiner states 'that when children are grown to adulthood in the social organism they will have to be free human beings, and one can only become free only if as a child one has been a most intensive imitator.'

How do we understand and work with this profound statement? In the second of a three-year cycle, Doctor Johanna Steegmans, out of her understanding of child development, will lead us in an exploration of the growing child as a developing human being. This conference will offer us an opportunity to review and renew our understanding of the true nature of imitation, its manifestation in imaginative play, its effect on the developing senses and its nurturing of the social capacities of the adult human being. In addition, a diverse choice of workshops covering all aspects of early childhood will be offered.

Again we are extending this invitation to all our colleagues who have an interest in the developing human being in the light of anthroposophy. From early childhood teachers in established schools to those of you engaged in the equally all-important work of caring for children in your own homes.

Johanna Steegmans, ND was born, raised, and trained as a paediatrician in southern Germany. She came to Seattle in 1989. Here she completed her training in Naturopathic Medicine at John Bastyr University. Johanna was on the founding faculty of Sound Circle Center, teaching in the Early Childhood courses and the Foundation Year. Now, besides co-directing the Foundation Year Studies in Sound Circle Center, Johanna travels and teaches in various places here and abroad. Johanna also works out of a private practice in Seattle.

WECAN Northwest Conference Feb 13-14, 2010
 Cradle for a Healthy Life: Birth of Imagination
 with Johanna Steegmans, ND

Schedule of Events

2010

Saturday Feb.13

Sunday Feb.14

8:10-8:30		Singing & Announcements Thomas Berry Hall
8:30 - 10:00		Keynote Lecture 2 Thomas Berry Hall
10:00-10:30		Snack Whidbey Institute
10:30-12:00		Workshop 1 WIWS
12:00-1:15		Lunch WIWS
1:15-2:45		Workshop 2 WIWS
2:45-3:15		Tea Break Whidbey Institute
3:15-4:15		Keynote Lecture 3 Thomas Berry Hall
4:15-5:15		Group Conversation with WECAN reps Thomas Berry Hall
6:00-6:30	Registration Whidbey Institute	
6:30 - 7:30	Welcome & WECAN Presentation Thomas Berry Hall	
7:30-9:00	Keynote Lecture 1 Thomas Berry Hall	

Cradle for a Healthy Life: *Birth of Imagination*
Workshop Sessions

Choose one of Workshop 1 and one of Workshop 2

Workshop 1		
Sunday 10:30am – 12:00 noon		
AM1	Birth of Imagination Discussion Group	<i>Johanna Steegmans, ND</i>
AM2	Useful and Beautiful: Two Wet Felted Projects for the Kindergarten	<i>Holly Koteen-Soule</i>
AM3	Who are you - Who am I?	<i>Annie Gross</i>
AM4	Relationships with Parents of the Youngest Children: Tools for Bridge Building	<i>Margo Running</i>
AM5	When Animals Speak - A Healing Language for Children	<i>Melissa Borden</i>
AM6	An Introduction to Wood Carving, Part 1	<i>Sue Conlon</i>
AM7	The Joyful Kinderharp, Part 1	<i>Patricia Cairns</i>

Workshop 2		
Sunday 1:15pm – 2:45pm		
PM1	The Wisdom of Traditional Games.	<i>Ruth Ker</i>
PM2	The Waldorf Baby's Nursery School	<i>Carrie Riley</i>
PM3	Using Imaginations to Build a Positive Classroom Culture	<i>Victoria Payseno</i>
PM4	Stepping in Where Archangels Fearlessly Tread	<i>William Dolde</i>
PM5	Land of the Little Ones	<i>Kim Dunkley/ Dyanne Harshman</i>
PM6	An Introduction to Wood Carving, Part 2	<i>Sue Conlon</i>
PM7	The Joyful Kinderharp, Part 2	<i>Patricia Cairns</i>

Workshop 1: Sunday morning - 10:30 am to 12:00 noon

AM1. Birth of Imagination Discussion Group

Johanna Steegmans, ND

Participants will have an opportunity to review and discuss the morning lecture with Dr. Steegmans.

Johanna Steegmans, ND originally trained as a paediatrician in Germany currently has a private practise in Seattle. She is a founding faculty member of Sound Circle Centre for Arts and Anthroposophy and also teaches child development and physiology abroad.

AM2. Useful and Beautiful: Two Wet Felted Projects for the Kindergarten Holly Koteen-Soule

Creating a three dimensional whole from soft fibers of wool with just soap and water is indeed a magical experience for the young child. It is a delightful and helpful sensory activity, as well. Come and make a cheerful clothes pin boot gnome and a snowy tea light candle shade in this workshop session. Participants can also share with one another other successful felting projects appropriate for children and felting resources.

Holly Koteen-Soule worked as a kindergarten teacher in the Seattle area for 18 years. She is the Early Childhood Director at Sound Circle Center Teacher Training and teaches parent and child classes for the Seattle Waldorf School and the Bright Water School.

AM3. WHO ARE YOU - WHO AM I?

Annie Gross

The quest to deepen our understanding of the developing human being goes hand in hand with deepening our understanding of ourselves. Please join me to explore contemplative and playful opportunities that can lead to a deeper knowledge of who we are, thus enabling us to strengthen our capacities to understand and know the children and adults in our communities.

Annie Gross took up kindergarten teaching first in England and in 1990 when her family relocated to Toronto where she joined the Early Childhood Faculty at the Toronto Waldorf School. She and her husband now live on Salt Spring Island and work as consultants in Waldorf Schools in development, teacher evaluation and mentoring. In 2001 Annie became a board member of the Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN) and is one of three PNW regional representatives of WECAN.

AM4. Relationships with Parents of the Youngest Children: Tools for Bridge Building Margo Running

A child crosses the bridge of relationship between the parents and caregivers when coming and going from home to childcare and back again. How we build and sustain the bridge is of utmost importance.

Margo Running has offered childcare in her home in Arizona and now directs 2 childcare programs in North Vancouver, babies to school age. Her interests include communication in difficult moments, culturally sensitive care and education of children and respect for the space that lives within and between us all.

AM5. When Animals Speak - A Healing Language for Children

Melissa Borden

Explore through literature and history the compelling relationship between children and animals. Consider the healing potential for children when they are given the opportunity to participate in the care of animals. Discuss a practical approach to working with animals in the classroom.

Melissa Borden has been a kindergarten teacher at the Seattle Waldorf School since 1987. She has worked with chickens and rabbits and brings her dog, Tuck to her classroom every day. She has three grown children and spends her summers in Alaska assisting with the family's commercial fishing operation.

AM6. An Introduction to Wood Carving -Part 1

Sue Conlon

Learn how to whittle animal and human figures for your classroom. The \$25.00 materials fee includes a set of carving tools and a thumb protector for you to take home. This workshop will continue in the afternoon time slot from 1:15-2:45 so everyone can complete their project. Please register for Part 1 and Part 2.

Sue Conlon was a wood shop teacher before becoming an early childhood educator. She is the mother of five daughters and has a home preschool in Portland filled with beautiful handmade furniture and toys.

AM7. The Joyful Kinderharp – Part 1

Patricia Cairns

The kinderharp can bring a wonderful mood in to the classroom or home, enhancing story time, rest time, puppet shows and festivals. We will learn a simple way to tune our harps, basic strumming and plucking and then explore a variety of techniques for creating a musical mood. We will also learn one or two seasonal songs on the harp. Please bring your own kinderharp tuning fork and tuning key. Limited to 10 participants. Register for both Part 1 and Part 2.

Patricia Cairns has been involved in early childhood Waldorf education since 1972 as a kindergarten and preschool teacher and mother. She has taught many children and adults the kinder harp and has developed its use as a therapeutic instrument.

Workshops 2: Sunday afternoon - 1:15 pm – 2:45 pm

PM1. The Wisdom of Traditional Games

Ruth Ker

In our times, as we review our work with the young child, we are called upon to ask what are the essentials of our pedagogical strivings. The value of Traditional Games becomes ever more relevant. Together we will explore their place in the daily routine of the children, the way in which they can bring peace to transitions and their hidden wellsprings for the future.

Ruth Ker is a founding teacher at Sunrise Waldorf School and has over 30 years experience in the early childhood classroom. As a WECAN Board member she participates in research on the older child in the kindergarten on this continent and internationally and is the editor and a contributor of the new WECAN publication, "You're Not the Boss of Me." Ruth is also a faculty member of the West Coast Institute and presenter/mentor for other training institutes.

PM2. The Waldorf Baby's Nursery School

Carrie Riley

This workshop will focus on adding the nurturing of babies into our fold. Why, and how, to introduce infants and wobblers to our program. What does an infant program look like? Why do RIE and Waldorf philosophies work so well together? How LifeWays works in our program. More than just "patty cake"... songs and finger games for babies and toddlers. See photos of the program. Please join me as we explore these topics and hear your questions!

Carrie Riley is the mother of 3 grown children, grandmother of 3 wee ones and has been teaching children ages infant up to age 14 for 20 years. She has been a certified Waldorf teacher for 16 years & small business owner for 6 years. She opened the first Waldorf daycare in Portland, Oregon offering service to Portland's newest arrivals, the infants, after running a successful in home preschool for 4 years. Carrie enjoys gardening and tending to their many animals with the children. In her free time she takes great pleasure in dry & wet needle felting & traveling to the mountains or to the beach for renewal.

PM3. Using Imaginations to Build a Positive Classroom Culture

Victoria Payseno

Surprise, delight, wonder, anticipation-these could be called the "bread and butter" of early childhood. Sadly many children come with their imaginations dulled and spirits soured by facts or perhaps they are just fiery and delight in knowing what is "real" or "just pretend." An imaginary friend in the classroom is just the antidote to being too much in the head or knowing everything already. We will create a delightful needle felted friend (a finger puppet, animal or gnome-you choose) and share ideas for inviting these special friends into our classroom in a lively, manageable and flexible way and how to obtain their help in practical and social situations to build the classroom community.

Victoria Payseno is a Waldorf Educator with experience in both the Grades and Kindergarten classroom. She trained at Rudolf Steiner College and holds a Master in Teaching Degree from The Evergreen State College. She has a background in the Social Inclusion Approach, puppetry arts and the pedagogical role of doll play. Victoria is currently involved with the Whidbey Island Waldorf School Mukilteo/Everett Early Childhood Initiative.

PM4. Stepping in Where Archangels Fearlessly Tread

William Dolde

Welcoming conflict in parent & child classes. Although it can be stressful when two toddler tug, grab, pull, hit, and bite, these moments of conflict provide a great opportunity for teachers and parents to connect and support one another. In this workshop, William Dolde weaves together the social health work of Kim John Payne and the practice of respectful trust coming from RIE in Los Angeles and Loczy in Hungary. He will also present Steiner's description of planetary evolution and the relationships of angels, archangels, and humans to help participants form a metaphor to help reach the right tone when supporting toddlers in conflict.

After teaching kindergarten in public school and at the Monterey Bay Charter School, **William Dolde** has for the past seven years taught parent & child classes and nursery classes in Baltimore and on Whidbey Island. During this time, he has worked with hundreds of children and their parents, launched programs for various age groups, and made many adjustments and refinements to his work. He has also developed curriculum for parenting programs and taught at Sophia's Hearth in Keene, NH.

PM5. Land of the Little Ones

Kim Dunkley/Dyanne Harshman

Come and join us in the Land of the "Little Ones". Kim and Dyanne will share how they work with these special friends and how they can be potent for working with the young child and their blossoming imaginations. There will be time in the workshop to make the basic bodies and some supplies and instructions will be provided to take home to make clothing.

Dyanne Harshman came to the Whidbey Island Waldorf School as a parent seeking education for her two sons, (now 18 and 20 years old). She holds her M.S. Ed. in Waldorf Early Childhood Education from Sunbridge College as well as the Washington State Teaching Credentials, and has taught Nursery and Kindergarten at WIWS since 1997. Dyanne is also a singer and instrumentalist and has recently, in her spare time(!), begun performing semi-professionally in a group called Subito, which is comprised of 3 WIWS teachers.

Kim Dunkley has been teaching kindergarten at the Whidbey Island Waldorf School for five years and is thrilled to be able to teach where her girls go to school. Kim grew up in England and found her way to Whidbey Island after searching all over the world for the best place to raise a family. She trained at Sound Circle Center for arts and anthroposophy in Seattle.

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