



Greetings to all of our colleagues who have an interest in the developing human being in the light of Anthroposophy – whether you are an early childhood teacher in an established school, caring for children in your own home, seeking a deeper understanding of the foundational stages of life, or ..... This is the third conference in a three-year cycle and we are hoping to see both returning and first time attendees.

Please extend a warm welcome to new WECAN NW Regional representatives - **Esther Chase** for British Columbia and **Vanessa Kolhaas** for Washington, Montano and Idaho. Esther and Vanessa have joined *Robin O'Brien* who is continuing on as the Oregon representative. **Annie Gross** and **Holly Koteen- Soule** complete the WECAN NW team.

We are amazed and grateful to all of you who have supported these conferences. Each year the registration has grown and your enthusiasm has affirmed for us the value of creating a forum where we can share as Waldorf Early Childhood educators and caregivers. The workshop selection is an amazing reflection of the talent and expertise we have in the Region. You will find lots of new presenters and topics to choose from along with some familiar favorites.

Again this year we are very appreciative for the generosity and support from **Joseph Doucette**, Northwest Representative for AWSNA Leadership Council, the AWSNA NW delegates and schools. This support enabled us to launch our first conference in 2009 and continues through this conference. Thank you AWSNA NW!

The overarching theme for this three-year cycle is *Cradle for a Healthy Life* and covers the stages from pre-birth to entry into school. Our first conference in 2009 at Eugene Waldorf School was titled: *'The First Three Years of Childhood'* and last year at Whidbey Island Waldorf School, the topic was: *'Birth of Imagination'*. This year completes the cycle with: *'Birth of the Etheric'*.

**Dr. Johanna Steegmans**, out of her understanding of child development, will continue to lead us in an exploration of the growing child as a developing human being. This conference will address the kindergarten years. We will examine how our earlier practices prepared and supported the children for these years and what environment is required as we accompany them towards the Grade One threshold and the birth of the etheric.

Warm wishes for 2011 to all of you,

Holly Koteen-Soule, Annie Gross and Robin O'Brien,  
WECAN Northwest Regional February Conference Group

WECAN Northwest Conference Feb 19-20, 2011  
 Cradle for a Healthy Life: Birth of the Etheric  
 with Johanna Steegmans, ND

**Schedule of Events**  
**2011**

Saturday Feb.19

Sunday Feb.20

Saturday Feb.19		Sunday Feb.20	
		8:00 AM	Singing
8:30 - 10:00	Registration	8:30 AM	WECAN Update & Discussion
10:00 AM	Welcome and singing	9:30 AM	Eurythmy
10:30 AM	Lecture 1 with Dr. Steegmans	10:15 AM	Break & Snack
11:45 AM	Eurythmy	10:45-12:15	Workshops C
12:30 PM	Lunch	12:15 PM	Lunch
1:45 - 3:15	Workshops A	1:30 PM	Lecture III with Dr. Steegmans
3:15	Break & Snack	2:45 - 3:00	Closing & Farewell
3:45 - 5:15 PM	Workshops B		
5:30	Dinner		
7:00 - 8:30 PM	Lecture II: Dr. Steegmans		

WECAN Northwest Conference

February 19-20, 2011

**Cradle for a Healthy Life: Birth of the Etheric  
with Johanna Steegmans, ND**

A1-1	The Joyful Kinderharp Part 1	Patricia Cairns
A2-1	An Introduction to Wood Carving Part 1	Sue Conlon
A3-1	Understanding Boys Part 1	Melissa Borden & Tim Bennett
A4	Conflict Resolution for Young Children	Vanessa Kohlhaas
A5	The Joys and Challenges of the Sixth year Transformation	Ruth Ker
A6	Creating Stories	Robin O'Brien
B1-2	The Joyful Kinderharp Part 2	Patricia Cairns
B2-2	An Introduction to Wood Carving Part 2	Sue Conlon
B3-2	Understanding Boys Part 2	Melissa Borden & Tim Bennett
B4	Parent & Child Classes – Birth to 3	Adrienne Doucette
B5	Angel Babies: A Journey Toward Peaceful Rest Time	Annika Fae
B6	String Stories for the Older Kindergarten Child	Holly Koteen-Soule
C1	Music: The teacher's Transformational Tool	Dyanne Harshman
C2	Making Moving Pictures	Holly Koteen-Soule
C3	The Inner Life of the Teacher, Caregiver, Seeker	Sacha Etzel
C4	Back to Basics with Wool	Yvonne de Maat
C5	Parents as Partners	Ruth Ker
C6	An International Year	Johanna Hose

**Workshop A: Saturday afternoon – 1:45 – 3:15pm**

**A1-1 and B1-2: The Joyful Kinderharp Part 1 & 2 with 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.

**A2-1 and B2-2: An Introduction to Wood Carving Part 1 & 2 with Sue Conlon**

Learn how to whittle animal and human figures for your classroom. The \$25.00 materials fee includes a carving knife and a thumb protector for you to take home. This workshop will continue in the second time slot so everyone can complete his or her project. Limited to 12 participants. Please register for Part 1 and Part 2.

**A3-1 and B3-2: Understanding Boys Part 1 & 2 with Melissa Borden and Tim Bennett**

Melissa and Tim will talk about their experiences with boys in the mixed-age kindergarten and guide a conversation about what boys need to thrive in today's society, and how we can become more aware of the unique challenges they face as they mature into young men. Register for both Part 1 and Part 2.

**A4: Conflict Resolution for Young Children with Vanessa Kohlhaas**

It is often difficult for parents and caregivers to know what to do when a young child has a conflict – with them, another adult, or other children. But, conflict is a necessary element of child development. This workshop will explore how we can best support the child (from birth to 3 years old) during these moments, allowing him to express himself while respecting those around him.

**A5: The Joys and Challenges of the Sixth year Transformation with Ruth Ker**

We will first look at the mysterious transformation that the older child in the kindergarten undergoes and then at some of the compassionate responses that the teacher can have in responding to the needs of the children.

**A6: Creating Stories with Robin O'Brien.**

Teachers and caregivers should feel empowered to create imaginative stories that serve the children with whom they work. This workshop will focus on the elements of creative storytelling for pedagogical purposes. Participants will discover ways to use scenarios from their programs to originate healing stories appropriate to the children in their care.

**Workshop B: Saturday afternoon – 3:45 – 5:15pm**

**B1-2: The Joyful Kinderharp Part 1 & 2 with Patricia Cairns**

Part 2 – See A1-1 above

**B2-2: An Introduction to Wood Carving Part1 & 2 with Sue Conlon**

Part 2 – See A2-1 above

**B3-2: Understanding Boys with Melissa Borden and Tim Bennett**

Part 2 – See B3-1 above.

**B4: Parent & Child Classes – Birth to 3 with Adrienne Doucette**

The rhythm of infant, wobbler and toddler playgroups, circle activities, stories, crafts and snack ideas will be presented with some examples experienced together during this workshop. Resources and articles to share with the parents in your classes will be available to take home. This workshop is for anyone currently teaching parent/child classes or for those who wish to begin them. Please come with questions, suggestions and experiences to share.

**B5: Angel Babies: A Journey Toward Peaceful Rest Time with Annika Fae**

In this workshop everyone will make your own angel baby. You will hear the story of how they brought together the teachers, preschool children, their parents and the spiritual realm in a spirit of collaboration and imagination. This has fostered trust and warmth in our community and transformed our classroom rest time into a peaceful, joyful coming together and our favorite part of the day.

**B6: String Stories for the Older Kindergarten Child with Holly Koteen-Soule**

The first-grade-ready children need new activities in the spring of their last year in kindergarten. Holly made up these simple stories utilizing a piece of yarn that challenge both their dexterity and their imagination. Learn Holly's stories and how to make up your own.

## **Workshop C: Sunday morning – 10:45 – 12:15pm**

### **C1: Music: The teacher's Transformational Tool with Dyanne Harshman**

The therapeutic value of music in the classroom is a well-known phenomenon. Music also can be a very effective tool for parent meetings, faculty meetings and for one's personal access to the fount of joy. In this course, we will look at how making music can transform a group and/or personal experience, take an experiential and musical journey through the epochs of human consciousness, and of course, we will sing! This course is designed for the Human Being, which is, by nature, a musical being (not to be confused with musically-skilled) and is meant to enhance one's confidence with this powerful tool.

### **C2: Making Moving Pictures with Holly Koteen-Soule**

Moving picture books are the one of the toys that Rudolf Steiner recommended for the Waldorf Kindergarten. Learn how to make moving pictures for your classroom or as birthday presents for the children in your class.

### **C3: The Inner Life of the Teacher, Caregiver, Seeker with Sacha Etzel**

We will begin doing some gentle sacred Spacial dynamics inner strengthening movements, get to know one another through journaling, review and learn some of Steiner's exercises, and deepen our understanding of being caregivers on a higher path! Yet most of all walk away encircled with a deep healing balm for our souls and each spiritual being.

### **C4: Back to Basics with Wool with Yvonne de Maat**

Making wool animals and sprites for the Spring nature table. At this workshop we will rediscover the innate qualities of wool, and make little animals without any felting or sewing. By fluffing and knotting wool strands we are able to create simple and airy creatures. We will make bunnies, birds, air sprites and blossoms for a little tree.

### **C5: Parents as Partners with Ruth Ker**

Partnering with parents during the kindergarten years involves much more than just making the right decision for grade one placement. Please come prepared to share experiences about the joys and challenges of working with these adults who are so important to our kindergarten children.

### **C6: An International Year with Johanna Hose**

How can the Waldorf Kindergarten meet the needs of children from other cultures? How can we make a language and culture bridge to help these children feel at home? We will explore stories, songs, and food, from other cultures and see how they can be incorporated into an international year that nourishes the whole Kindergarten and pair them with the yearly rhythm of activities and crafts commonly found in the Waldorf kindergarten.

## **Workshop Presenters**

*Melissa Borden and Tim Bennett are both long-time kindergarten teachers at the Seattle Waldorf School who have also parented their own sons. Melissa has worked with chickens and rabbits and brings her dog, Tuck to the classroom every day. She has three grown children and spends her summers in Alaska assisting with the family's commercial fishing operation. Tim has been inspired by Helle Heckmann's work and takes his kindergarten children on long walks every day.*

*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.*

*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.*

**Yvonne de Maat** was born in Holland, complete her teacher training in Spring Valley in 1995, taught at the Susquehanna Waldorf School and the Portland Waldorf school prior to starting Heart in Hand Preschool in Portland, Oregon. Yvonne has made dolls and wooden toys for stores and winter fairs and taught adult toy making and nature table classes; crafting is one of her favorite activities in the classroom and outside.

**Adrienne Doucette** has taught kindergarten and preschool classes the past sixteen years. In addition, she has offered parent/child classes for 9 years and currently holds infant, wobbler, and toddler playgroups weekly at the Whatcom Hills Waldorf School. The structure and content of her programs is rooted in Waldorf education and inspired by the work of Emmi Pikler and Magda Gerber.

**Sacha Etzel** was raised in an intentional esoteric community and has been a spiritual seeker all her life. She joined the Anthroposophical community 12 years ago and shortly after becoming a first class member. For the last 11 years she has worked as an Early Childhood educator teaching a mixed aged kindergarten, serving as Early Childhood Chair and supporting her student teachers. She is also a wife and mother of four young adult children.

**Annika Fae** completed her Waldorf Teacher Training at Sound Circle Center and has taught preschool, kindergarten and parent-child classes variously for the past five years. She uses her training in Energy Psychology to intuitively lead the classroom and create an early childhood curricula that meets the specific needs of the individual children and class. Currently she's co-teaching at Sweet Peas Preschool in Kirkland, Washington (aka The Best Place on Earth).

**Dyanne Harshman**, teacher and musician, brings to the fore her innate wisdom of "educare", inviting the student out through the mediums of movement, music and play. Dyanne has taught young children in a Waldorf School since 1999 and has been leading song and dance in multi-generational, experiential learning situations since 1997. With the belief that "to music" is every person's birthright, she brings her passion for music and for the journey of personal growth to groups, skillfully offering a unique doorway into personal and group development. Dyanne holds a Master's degree in Waldorf Education and is a trained leader of the Dances of Universal Peace. She is a singer and player of many instruments, as well as a student of Life itself.

**Johanna Hose** was born in The Netherlands, and lived in Indonesia, England, and South Korea, before arriving in the US at 18. She drove across the US 3 different times and lived in Greeley CO, Berkley CA, Bridgeport CT, and New York City, before arriving in Kirkland WA and deciding this really was the best place on earth. She graduated from Sound Circle Center in Seattle in 2009 and has been an Early Childhood Educator at Sweet Peas Preschool – a home based Waldorf inspired preschool for the past 5 years. She lives with her husband and two sons 8 and 11 and two chickens, two rabbits, two doves, a hamster and two goats.

**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.

**Holly Koteen-Soule** taught kindergarten for 18 years and is presently the Director of Early Childhood Education at Sound Circle Center in Seattle. She also teaches parent and child classes at the Bright Water School and the Seattle Waldorf School.

**Vanessa Kohlhaas** is an experienced Waldorf early childhood teacher with a Master's of Education. She has studied at the Pikler Institute and Resources for Infant Educators (RIE) and will use the insights from these philosophies during her workshop.

**Robin O'Brien** has a BA in Theatre as well as a Waldorf Early Childhood Certificate. She has been happily active in the kindergarten for 14 years and has a special fondness for language and the art of storytelling.

**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.