



THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

MOVEMENT FOR RELIGIOUS RENEWAL

North American Newsletter

Vol. 23, Nr. 1, Spring 2015

www.thechristiancommunity.org

www.christiancommunityseminary.org

www.facebook.com/thechristiancommunity

<http://ccyouth.homestead.com>

Priest Ordination, Spring Valley NY

Saturday, March 14, 10:00 a.m.

Priest Ordination for Lisa Hildreth

Sunday, March 15, 10:00 a.m.

First Celebration of The Act of Consecration
of Man by Lisa Hildreth

For the Sacrament of Ordination, space
is limited and therefore **registration is
required.**

For scheduling details and to register
please visit www.christiancommunityseminary.org/ and follow the 'Events & Courses'
tab. Or visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-sacrament-of-ordination-tickets-15308017693>.



For housing and other questions email Abigail Dancey at ccordination15@gmail.com We look forward to sharing this special event with you.

There is also an Open Course associated with this event:

From Priest Ordination to Priesthood

Tue March 10 - Sun March 15 (changed dates)

An Open Course that combines orientation about Priest Training and Priesthood with an introduction to the Priest Ordination.

Contributors: Rev. Bastiaan Baan (Seminary Director), Vicke von Behr, Christward Kröner, and Anand Mandaiker (Oberlenkers, Berlin).

During the mornings we will work together with the students. Themes:

Priesthood: Origins, Development, Contemporary Priesthood

Development of Prayer and Meditation in Daily Life

Significance of the Sacraments for the Spiritual World, for Humanity, for the Earth

Priest Ordination in the Development of Christianity: Continuity and Renewal

This Open Course includes registration for the Priest Ordination



Open Courses at the Seminary Spring 2015

Being (a) Patient: An Open Course about Medical and Pastoral Care

Sun Apr 26 – Thu, Apr 30 (changed dates)

Judith Aventura (Anthroposophical Nurse),
Bastiaan Baan (Seminary Director) and
Hans van Delden MD PhD (Professor Medical Ethics,
Nursing Home Physician)

In this Open Course we will investigate the experiences of being a patient and of giving care – as well as the social, ethical and spiritual dimension of being a patient and of care-giving. Five lectures will be followed the next day by workshops on these themes as well as Gospel Study related to sickness and healing.

Lectures can be attended separately.

Sun Apr 26, 7:30 p.m. Health and Disease

Mon Apr 27, 7:30 p.m. Being a Patient

Tue, Apr 28, 7:30 p.m. Being a Caregiver

Wed, Apr 29, 7.30 p.m. The Community around the Patient

Thu Apr 30, 7:..30 p.m. Disease and Karma in the Biography

For information and registration please contact: info@christiancommunityseminary.org

From Priest Ordination to Priesthood

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Shakespeare and the Bible

Mon Mar 23 – Fri Mar 27

Rev. Peter van Breda

We wish to deepen in our course a more religious and spiritual understanding of *The Merchant of Venice* and to see how the Bible underpins the narrative and is implicit in the unfolding drama.

The Merchant of Venice is not an easy play to speak about. Some might even call it explosive. It has within it racial slurs, narrow and sometimes hypocritical themes and it often points to diverging religious values. To speak about it can stir passions and misunderstandings. In many ways this play is though a mystery drama written out on the background and in the knowledge of more esoteric values, strivings and wisdom. If one attempted to formulate the essence of this play one can suggest that its main theme is about the path of transformation and love.

Transformation is the key which ultimately leads us to a true experience of love, the kind of love which is the source and goal of the earth and humanity. Shakespeare leads us to the threshold of life where we can begin to understand and begin to live out of the heart of the mystery of love.

The Great Husbandman

Theresa Melia

when the great husbandman scattered glittering seeds with his giant hands
some soared up into the realm of sun warmed air these held sun streams in the heart of their becoming
and a sheen of iridescent light spread between their veins of life into wings of insects
all abuzz with being a fluttering blossom freed by the cosmos

when the great husbandman scattered glittering seeds with his giant hands
some landed softly in the embrace of water earth
and entrusted themselves into the gravity of an anchoring earth home into which they rooted and rose up spiraling
reaching out of water earth into sun warmed air between their veins of life spread the finest film of water earth
as leaf and finally blossom all aglow with being a butterfly fettered to the earth
all glittering seeds fell from the tree of life into the living hand of the true husbandman
who tossed the glittering seeds of spirit that condensed into matter
all abuzz all aglow



van Gogh

Christianity

James H. Hinds

The earth is not our home. Our true home is in the heavens, a picture for the spiritual world. The earth is our school. We come to earth to learn to love, to learn selflessness. Paradoxically, the more powerful a human self becomes, the greater is his or her power to do good through selflessness.

The earth is also the stage on which the drama of humanity's evolution unfolds. In this drama we strive to grow strong, wealthy in wisdom, competent for life and confident in our ability to know at any given moment what is at stake and what we must do next, what steps we must take. This is not easy. But our growth as spiritual beings depends on our learning to recognize when selfless sacrifice is the only way forward. This is even harder and our weaknesses so often stand in the way of this insight, or we simply lack the strength to do the good. Sometimes we can experience this failing as a kind of death.

The earth is also the path we must tread to become strong, confident and loving, knowing when to sacrifice. On our path we play many roles as we journey across meadows, mountain ranges, forests, swamps, deserts, lakes, seas and oceans. Our adventures include life and death, sickness and healing. There is no other way for us to progress, like pilgrims, toward the goal of full humanity, of knowing how to love. This journey often seems impossible. But all the while there is a spiritual being, a guardian spirit watching over every individual human being, from before birth through life and even after death. Our humanity requires of these beings that they respect our freedom. Therefore, they do not intrude; they wait for us to ask for help. But even with these guardian angels watching over us and helping as they are allowed for tens of thousands of years, still we so often lack the strength to do the good.

This is what Christianity is really all about: the deepest help a human being can absorb: the spiritual essence of what a human self is made of, from a higher world, inserted into history, introduced into the very being of every human. This self, the self of God, is pure divine fire of the highest imaginable order – even higher. The human self is a small flame; but the flame, as small as it is, is also divine, is of the same nature as God's fire. That is why Christ can enter a human soul and that soul becomes more intensely itself, stronger and purer itself. Our true, higher self, as uniquely individual as it is for every human being,

was created by this spiritual being called the Son-God, the second person of the Trinity, the Christ. He is the power to become, to grow, to evolve. Finding him, we find ourselves. With him in our hearts we can learn every lesson, play any role assigned to us, tread any path and overcome any death. For we will have become powerful in the purity of our selfhood. "Not I, Christ in me," will have become complete and the I that speaks and acts will be our higher self, Christ filled.

The Mysteries of Prayer

Rev. Julia Polter, with Scott Springer, leading Spatial Dynamics movement awareness



August 21-23, 2015 (Fri. 5 pm – Sun. 1 pm)
at the Alcyon Center, Seal Cove Maine
Cost: tuition \$150, plus double room/board \$180

In this summer workshop in the quiet beauty of Mount Desert Island we will explore, through gospel study, practice in silence, words and movement, the Mysteries of Prayer: What longing is at the heart of prayer? Who prays, and who is prayed?

How do Body, Soul and Spirit pray?

Rev. Julia Polter is a priest in Boston, MA with the Christian Community – A Movement for Religious Renewal. She has led summer workshops with us on the Mystery of the Rose, the Mystery of Cancer, the Mystery of Living Water and the Mystery of the Will. She enjoys exploring fields in which art, science and religion merge and has developed a special interest in contemplative practices, pastoral medical work, spiritual counselling and anthroposophically inspired angelology.

Scott Springer is a class teacher at The Bay School in Blue Hill Maine and the father of two grown children. Inspired by his study and teaching of Spatial Dynamics, he will offer physical activities and exercises to help us work on carriage (how we carry our physical selves), moving from the periphery (a draw on the more spacious self), and fun group movement games.

Directors Joan Jordan Grant & Kathryn Booth PO Box 40, Seal
Cove, Maine 04674 207/244-1060
alcyoncenter@roadrunner.com (email) www.alcyoncenter.org
(website)

Man finds his eternal ground when he, in full trust, breathes within his depths the work of God. Rudolf Steiner—20th c.

Palm Sunday

Theresa Melia

green gold palm fronds glow
in the afternoon light of the sun
as we solemnly proceed down the aisle
burdened by this ancient symbol of Hosanna

on a colt never ridden before
He sat and saw through the clouds of glory
to the wood never bloodied before
to the grave never death full

on He tread over palms and Hosannas
over reeds from the fields
the colt's hooves pressed the palms
in the heat of people screaming
the awe full news that the Sun God
shone through them
rode passed them
onto His death to the tree to the tomb
to the yawning Easter grave

split open by the might of the true man
who forged a new earth with his own
blood iron with His own God willed
Resurrection lighting the dim earth
with his own cloudbright Ascension



Lorenzetti

Where There's A Will, There's A Way

Spiritual Nourishment of Humanity

An Interview with Christine Huston, Devon Congregation
By Mary Hirsch, Legacy Coordinator



Christine Huston

When Christine Huston walks into a room, everything shifts. She has an energy and sparkle that emanates from her being. Her wisdom comes from years of serving in leadership roles, starting with her foray into co-founding the Cape Ann Waldorf School in Massachusetts. She has served on the board of the Kimberton Waldorf School, rising to president, and was an active participant of the school's sustainable fundraising program - Waldorf Works. Formerly, she was the director of development for Camphill Special School, as well as administrator of Camphill Resident Trust. She is a member of the Anthroposophical Society

in North America and the School of Spiritual Science. Currently, she is a student of the Anthroposophical Counseling Psychology. For the past seven years, she has been a mentor and life coach providing soul care to co-workers and staff at Camphill Soltane. In her spare time, she works in her garden and is active in her local community. She has one son, 32, and she lives with her partner, Bear, in Chester Springs, PA. Christine is a self-described optimist and lover of poetry. She is a writer, traveler, and enjoys time in nature.

I had an opportunity to interview this "can-do" individual who shared that another of her accomplishments was to include The Christian Community in her estate plan.

Mary: What drew you to The Christian Community?

Christine: As a natural seeker of the Spirit, daughter of an Episcopal priest, and a woman who explores many faiths, I take what is of value to me from each. I had a solid foundation in spiritual/faith matters. When I began studying Anthroposophy, I was drawn to Steiner's Christology lectures, in particular.

How does The Christian Community fill your life and what is your involvement?

Over 25 years, I had many opportunities to experience The Christian Community services, from time to time. My son was confirmed there on his 15th birthday. When my husband died, Reverend Franziska Steinreuck intervened with the funeral director to make it possible for me to have his three days in my home. The love and care of The Christian Community was already at work in my life. Eventually, it seemed to me that it was the right step to commit to The Christian Community.

How do you think philanthropy affects one spiritually?

There is no question in my mind that philanthropy is a statement of faith: first, that one has faith that one's resources will be replenished when one gives generously to support the Good; and second, it is an investment, a statement of confidence in the initiatives and organizations that are doing meaningful and important work in the world.

Well, you certainly are a shining star in demonstrating what it means to be a philanthropist and to give. What prompted you to consider The Christian Community in your own estate plans?

That was an easy decision. The Christian Community is doing tremendous deeds of love, healing and service, even redemption through the Act of Consecration of Man.

Can you shed light on the steps you took to include The Christian Community in your will?

I did it as part of my estate planning, through my lawyer, when I was re-writing my will and re-allocating my charitable bequests.

May I ask what you hope to accomplish with your legacy gift to The Christian Community?

I hope to serve the purposes of The Christian Community: spiritual nourishment of humanity, service to the Christ.

Why do you think others should consider a future gift to The Christian Community?

I would hope that each individual carefully considers the initiatives and activities in the world in which they find of particular value and leave a legacy to support them. Although the work of The Christian Community is not widely known or easily quantified, I believe it is an extraordinarily effective means for enriching and empowering our Earth with Christ consciousness.

Mary: All of us at The Christian Community in North America thank you for the steps you've taken to include the Movement in your estate plan. Speaking for myself, I appreciate the depth in which you consid-

ered your choices and looked to the future to determine ways to fortify the work of The Christian Community.

To learn more about how you might provide a future gift for The Christian Community, please contact Mary Hirsch at 732.232.5159 for a confidential conversation. Resources are available to help you to get organized and on the way to preparing your estate plan.

Old and New Mysteries: from Trials to Initiation

By Bastiaan Baan

Reviewed by James H. Hinds

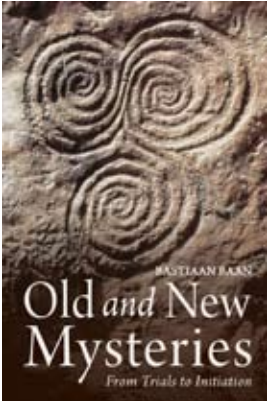
Life is a journey. We all must traverse a path through life, be it short or long. We must find our way through our own dark forests of doubt, meadows of blooming beauty, mountain peaks of meaningful achievement, and too often, swamps of troubled waters. There may be pleasant karma, there may be unpleasant karma but it is all good karma because it belongs to us. That is modern wisdom.

There is yet another path, a second path that we can choose to follow: the path to knowledge of higher worlds. In ancient times this "knowledge path" was open only to those who were called by the leaders of mystery centers, or mystery schools. These centers, often a compound of buildings where many "chosen" lived, had existed since time immemorial. Students following this path to conscious experience of higher worlds were schooled for years, sometimes decades, before they were deemed ready in purity and knowledge for actual initiation. Then, under the guidance of a hierophant, their souls were lifted out of their bodies into the spiritual world. After three days they were brought back to earth, so to speak, where their experiences in the spirit were imprinted into their earthly memories. The journey back to into their bodies was a kind of resurrection that gave them certainty concerning their immortality and the illusory character of death. They were initiates, but their path did not end there; for spiritual experiences had been granted them only so that they may serve others.

In the past this second path to spiritual knowledge was a mystery. The word 'mystery' derives from the Greek verb *myein* which means "to close" referring to the closing of the lips or eyes. Those who had been initiated in the mysteries in ancient times were obligated upon penalty of death to keep silent about their experiences. This requirement was so successfully enforced that even knowledge of the very existence of the mystery religions of late antiquity was lost to the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Only at the beginning of the eighteenth century

did scholarly interest lead to research and publications on the subject. Even today there is no consensus of scholarly opinion on the exact content of the Eleusinian mysteries.

Here we must be grateful for the work of Rudolf Steiner. His clairvoyant research, (in large part corroborated by many contemporary secular scholars of comparative religions) explains the contents and significance of the various mystery schools throughout ancient history, even back into pre-historic times. Consciousness evolves and with it our relationship to God, to the spiritual world and to this second path, the path to higher wisdom.



Bastiaan Baan's book explains several different forms of ancient initiation and how the path to higher knowledge has changed over the millennium. With the arrival of God on earth in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, a new kind of initiation has begun. Baan explains in what sense Christ Jesus himself was initiated and by whom. Since his resurrection when, for the first time, a human physical body formed part of an initiation, a second path is available to everyone. The Logos has become the teacher of initiation to all humanity. The Gospel is to be proclaimed to all; and those who have an ear to hear will hear.

Now in modern times the second path is slowly but gradually merging with the first path. Life itself brings trials of fire, water and air to everyone. We are tested again and again as we are confronted by evil in all its various forms, from Satanic to Luciferic. In ancient times carefully prepared individuals were lifted upward into the spirit across the threshold separating earthly consciousness and heavenly consciousness. Today we see spiritual consciousness descending across the threshold into human earthly consciousness all around the globe, albeit in inchoate ways. Humanity as a whole is very gradually beginning to undergo an initiation that will take centuries and even millennia to blossom fully. Nevertheless, it has begun. Bastiaan Baan wants to show us how the everyday incidents and accidents of our lives are related to the old mysteries and how we can recognize the dangers and negotiate them. With understanding and insight we can take hold of ourselves today on our earthly journey and with consciousness meet the beings who are coming toward us. With many examples taken from contemporary lives he shows how important it is for us to know the role of Christ and his Cross on the modern path.

All the pleasant and unpleasant karma we encounter on our path today will turn out to be good karma if we know what to expect and welcome the wisdom that life brings us; for earthly wisdom will gradually but increasingly become higher knowledge as the two paths become one.

Without the Cross

Theresa Melia

Without the cross
the pressing thorns
the piercing nails
the splitting spear

without the jeers
without the haunted
Judas dreams
of a mighty
Jewish Caesar
what might have been
without?

like the bear
bowing before
Snow White
Rose Red
like the donkey before the princess
stands He before
his friends
and his earthly skin
dissolves into a shower
of silvery ash

for He has burnt
the mortal Jesus
transformed him into
Son of man

then shining
like a glowing crystal
He calls to the earth
to the wind
and the earth opens
her deepest mouth
and she breathes in
the holy ash
deep deep down
to the seed center
of herself

before his friends
can reach
in child wonder
to touch the magic man
He is gone

as fast as thought
gone into the hills

where he meets
beloved friends
and breaks bread
in the evening light
of His own sun
gone as fast
as thought

through the locked door
to the upper room
He hungers
as Thomas touches
then weeps onto
the perfect living
feet of Christ

but with the cross
the thorns
the iron nails
and poking spear
with these iron
mongered things
he forged a key

a key called death
that opened the long fast
door of the dead
where God
had never been.

into the land
of the shades
He cast forever
His mighty light;
the devil squinting still

