

# CONFERENCE FOR EDUCATORS AND SCHOOLS WORKING WITH WALDORF METHODS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Rudolf Steiner College • Fair Oaks, California

*January 18-20, 2008*

**Friday, 7-9 pm • Saturday 8:30 am–9pm • Sunday, 8:30–7:00 pm**

*Registration: Friday, 6:00 pm-6:45 pm • Saturday, 7:15 am-8:15 am in Stegmann Hall*

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It gives us great pleasure to invite you to the ninth annual national conference for teachers, administrators, and board members in public schools inspired by Waldorf education and working with Waldorf methods. This year the conference is cosponsored by the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education and Rudolf Steiner College. It takes place on the Rudolf Steiner College campus. This year's theme is:

## ***Enlivening the Curriculum Through Artistic and Imaginative Practice***

Cultivation of each student's imaginative capacities is at the heart of Waldorf pedagogy. How can teachers become more intentional and skillful in bringing images to the children that can stimulate the healthy development of their imaginations? How can we build students' academic skills through the use of arts and imagination in the Main Lesson? How can administrators and board members help sustain their schools in such a way that state standards can be met and teachers supported in offering the full artistic richness of the Waldorf curriculum? These are some of the questions that will be addressed during this year's conference.

Our keynote speaker on Friday evening and Sunday morning is **Betty Staley**. **Dennis Klocek** will speak on Saturday morning on *The Art of Imaginative Teaching* and **Patrick Wakeford-Evans** will speak Saturday afternoon on *Creating a Main Lesson that Breathes with Healthy Rhythms*. Nine different workshop tracks, consisting of three sessions each, are being offered for teachers, administrators, and board members.

This year's conference begins on Friday evening with an exploration of the challenges and opportunities of the middle school years. Betty Staley's talk, *Passages: Students Coming of Age; Teachers Changing Roles*, will be followed by a *Middle School Forum*. On Sunday afternoon, conference attendees will have the opportunity to continue this middle school forum with Betty Staley and others, or participate in a forum exploring classroom approaches for children with learning challenges, led by Ingun Schneider.

As a result of requests and suggestions made on evaluation forms for last year's conference, as well as those received over the last several months, the Conference Planning Committee has included the following this year:

- A folk dance on Saturday night in Stegmann Hall, accompanied by live music.
- A session on Saturday afternoon for teachers to meet in grade-level cohorts and for administrators to meet with the North Bay Administrators' Cohort.

- Time on Sunday to hear reports from initiatives in the field, including a presentation on the new Waldorf based public high school in Sacramento, slated to open in fall 2008.
- Two forums to examine the opportunities and challenges that arise as schools mature and their students enter the middle school years ( Middle School Forums).
- More time in the schedule for informal conversations.
- And last, but not least, a “dinner cabaret” on Sunday evening where we can share food and our abundant collective talents—musical, theatrical, or other! (It has been rumored that “Rudi and the Indications” will come out of retirement to perform).

We look forward to seeing you and send warm greetings,

#### THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Donna Burgess — Waldorf Teacher, Organizational Consultant, Administrator of the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education

George Hoeffeker — Educational and Organizational Consultant and Adjunct Member Faculty at Rudolf Steiner College

Katherine Lehman — Teacher, John Morse Waldorf-Methods Magnet School

Deborah Lenny — Principal, Golden Valley Charter School

Arline Monks — Coordinator, Public School Programs, Rudolf Steiner College

*Registration, housing, and contact information are on the attached forms. For further information, please contact Arline Monks or Sandra Gill at (916) 961-3932, or email [sgill@steinercollege.edu](mailto:sgill@steinercollege.edu)*

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#### CONFERENCE LOGISTICS:

**Registration in Stegmann Hall: Friday 6-6:45 pm or Saturday 7:15-8:15 am for late arrivals.** The conference concludes at 7:30 pm on Sunday, January 20. Conference fee is \$175.00 or \$150.00 for member schools of the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education, (postmarked by January 9), which does not include meals or housing. Limited on-campus housing is available at the Norton Dormitory. Please sign up for meals/housing on the enclosed registration forms. If you want on-campus housing, we recommend that you register as soon as possible. Community housing will be available when the dorms are full.

**School Visits on Friday.** If you would like to visit the *John Morse Waldorf-Methods Magnet* in downtown Sacramento, now in its tenth year, you may do so on Friday before the conference begins. Please contact the school directly at (916) 433-5544. Cheryl Eining, principal. **AND/OR** you may visit *Golden Valley Charter* in its new (seventh) home. This school is an example of how community building and perseverance can secure a sustainable school. (916) 987-6124. Debi Lenny, principal.

**RSC Bookstore Hours:** Friday 10am-6pm; Saturday 10am-5pm; Sunday 10:30am-2pm.

**Conference Schedule,** subject to change, is included.

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#### OUR MAIN SPEAKERS:

- **Dennis Klocek, M.F.A.,** directs the Consciousness Studies Program at RSC and is a much sought-after international speaker on themes relating to inner development, alchemy, Goethean observation, and weather. He is author of several books including *Drawing from the Book of Nature* and *The Seer's Handbook*.

- **Betty Staley, M.A.,** directs the High School Teacher Education Program and Programs for Public School Teachers at RSC. She is consultant and teacher trainer for the new Waldorf based public high school in Sacramento. Author of: *Between Form and Freedom—A Guide to the Teenage Years*; *Hear the Voice of the Griot—A Guide to the History, Geography and Culture of Africa*; and *Adolescence—The Sacred Passage*.

- **Patrick Wakeford- Evans, M.A.,** RSC Academic Dean, directs the full-time Teacher Education Program and is active in creating Community Learning Centers in various parts of the U.S.