

Fifth Community Education Conference

# Weaving a New Web:



## Education & Parenting in an era of Technological Change

Saturday, March 1, 2014

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Prairie Hill Waldorf School

N14W29143 Silvernail Rd

Pewaukee, WI 53072

# The Fifth Community Education Conference

## Weaving a New Web: Education and Parenting in an Era of Technological Change

8 a.m. Registration/Refreshments

8:30 a.m. Welcome

8:45 a.m. Music & Movement

9 a.m. Keynote Address, Eric Utne

### 10:10 a.m. **Breakout Session #1**

- Overview of the Waldorf Curriculum Grades 5-8 – Melanie Reiser
- Simplifying Your Life with Young Children – Stanlee Malesiewski
- Working with the 4 Temperaments – James Boland & Lisa Mullaney
- Balancing the Relationship Between Nature, Art, & Technology – Nancy Price
- Sensory Integration – Amy Schroeder & Ceal Hunter
- Family Math: Grades 4 – 8 - Sandra Martin & Sandy Loucks

### 11:20 a.m. **Breakout Session #2**

- Too Much, Too Soon, Too Easily: The Impact of Technology on Child Development and Behavior – Philip Chard
- Kindergarten Confidential: Revealing “Tricks of the Trade” – Laura Cassidy
- The Philosophical Wellspring of Waldorf Education: An Introduction – Robert Karp
- Working to Incarnate: Exploring the Value of Will Education – Bente Goldstein & Lori Barian
- The Wisdom of Going Slow: Reading ala Waldorf – Jacqueline Beecher

12:30 p.m. Lunch/Exhibitors

1:40 p.m. Music & Movement

1:50 p.m. Keynote Speaker, Eric Utne

### 3 p.m. **Breakout Session #3**

- Media, Technology, and Health: Understanding the Challenges and Lifting the Spirit – Dr. Mark Kamsler
- Supporting Middle-School Students towards Authentic Relationships – Corinne Lorian
- Is Discipline a Dirty Word Ages 1-8 Years – Mary O’Connell
- The Waldorf High School Experience – Kate Knuth
- The Handwork Thread: How Handwork Supports Child Development – Dawn Imes & Marcia Duncan
- Family Literacy: Reading in the Home (Grades 1-3) – Sandra Martin & Sandy Loucks

4:10 p.m. Plenum with Eric Utne

4:30 p.m. Closing

**Keynote Speaker: - Eric Utne**

Eric is the founder of the eponymous Utne Reader. His name has been a New York Times crossword puzzle clue 40 times in the last 18 years. Journalist, publisher, and entrepreneur, he is the founder or cofounder of three magazines, starting with East West Journal in the 60s, New Age Journal in the 70s, and Utne Reader from the 80s to the present. From 2000 to 2002, Utne was a seventh and eighth-grade teacher at City of Lakes Waldorf School in Minneapolis, which he helped found and develop. The father of four boys, he was a Waldorf parent for over 30 continuous years. Eric now writes a back page column for Utne Reader, teaches social entrepreneurship at the University of Minnesota and serves as an emeritus board member of the Nobel Peace Prize Forum. He is writing a memoir which will be published by Random House at the end of 2014 or early 2015.

**Breakout Session #1****1A. An Overview of Waldorf Curriculum Grades 5-8: From Ancient Greece to the Green Bay Packer - *Melanie Reiser***

Anthroposophy, the founding impulse on which Waldorf Education is based, offers insights into child development that guide and inform Waldorf schools and their curriculum and methods. In this workshop you will learn more about the child development and pedagogical ideas behind grades 5-8 that are the foundation for the disciplines: math, language arts, social studies, science, and the many arts that are a part of the Waldorf Curriculum. Experience some of the age appropriate methods, such as geometric drawing, poetry writing, and scientific observation and write-up, utilized in Waldorf classrooms that allow students to deeply penetrate the content they are learning.

**1B. Simplifying Your Life with Children - *Stanlee Maliszewski***

Leave this hands-on workshop with a plan to simplify your daily life with your children through practical and tangible methods based on the workings of Kim John Payne and the experiences of Stanlee Maliszewski, Parent-Child Educator and Waldorf Parent. When we simplify our lives, we create space for deeper connections and can pave the way for a more peaceful household.

**1C. Working with the Four Temperaments - *James Boland and Lisa Mulaney***

In this workshop we will seek to gain understanding of Rudolph Steiner's work on the 4 temperaments; sanguine, choleric, melancholic, and phlegmatic, as a way to work with others more effectively. We will explore this topic through humor; discussion and play to better understand the temperaments.

**1D. Balancing the Relationships Between Nature, Art, and Technology - *Nancy Price***

A knife was a new and unique bit of technology, as was the wheel, the party-line telephone, and an indoor toilet. There was a time when technology came into being slowly over many hundreds of years and because of this pace, human beings easily learned to integrate the use of these items into their lives. We now live in an age where technology changes and advances so quickly that we find it difficult to keep up. Our children seem to know much more about it than we do and have almost been born with an understanding of the computer, the smart phone, and how to operate many intricate gadgets. Children naturally

want to engage in the world of technology because it is their world. It is important that as adults we understand how to help children find the balance that can counteract the sometimes depleting effects of the screen, without condemnation or passing judgment. Through regulation of and mastery over technology, it is possible for children to have healthy experiences in the techno-world. This workshop will include observation of the natural world and engagement with simple artistic process. Be sure to bring your cell phones so that we can also go deeper in our understanding of technology and its component parts and gestures. Come ready with your questions and thoughts on this topic.

**1E. Sensory Integration: How We Learn Through Movement - Amy Schroeder and Ceal Hunter**

The foundations of development and learning are shaped by movement in the human being. Our physical and emotional bodies are informed by physical motion. Think about how we take in the world, process what comes to us, and how we interact with it. This workshop will explore the foundations of learning, what obstacles get in the way and ideas of how to remove these hindrances. Participants will have the opportunity to experience movement that demonstrates key developmental stages and exercises for healthy growth for children and adults alike.

**1F. Family Math: Grades 4 - 8 - Sandra Martin and Sandy Loucks**

This workshop is designed to provide participants with fun and interactive ways to practice and support the development of math skills with children at home.

**Breakout Session #2**

**2A. Too Much, Too Soon, Too Easily: The Impact of Technology on Child Development and Behavior (Middle-School, Teens & Adults) - Philip Chard**

The explosion in technology-based gaming, social networking, instant communication, and entertainment media has become a potent force in child development. Emerging research is measuring the impact of these media on the neurology, behavior and relationships of young people, as well as their parents and teachers. We will explore the perils and promises posed by current technology, as well as rapidly emerging advances in artificial intelligence, robotics and human-machine interfaces. Participants will be asked to assess the impact of technology on their own lives and those of their children, and to examine self-management strategies in this regard.

**2B. Kindergarten Confidential: Revealing the "Tricks of the Trade" - Laura Cassidy**

Many people wonder what the secret is to the joy that children experience in a Waldorf Kindergarten. Discover how one kindergarten teacher meets children so as to serve them with simplicity and joy. This workshop will give you effective tools to enrich and simplify your life with young children.

**2C. The Philosophical Wellspring of Waldorf Education: An Introduction - Robert Karp**

Waldorf Education has its origins in the life philosophy of its founder Rudolf Steiner, called anthroposophy. In this workshop I will seek to bring the participants into an understanding of anthroposophy and some of its guiding insights and perspectives through clear and simple language and examples. I will also provide some history of Waldorf education and its

relationship to Rudolf Steiner's other social change efforts in the early 20th century as well as to other social, cultural and philosophical trends in our time. The workshop will consist of a lecture and several conversational exercises in small groups.

**2D. Working to Incarnate: Exploring the Value of Will Education in Our Time - *Bente Goldstein and Lori Barian***

Through presentation, conversation, and artistic activity, we will explore the questions of how to effectively prepare young people to be adults capable of self-sufficiency, and how we can implement these ideals in our communities.

**2E. The Wisdom of Going Slow: Reading a la Waldorf - *Jacqueline Beecher***

Based on experience with children who could already read when they entered grade one (but flourished with the Waldorf curriculum) as well as those who bloomed late (and went from Frog and Toad to The Hobbit in one week), this workshop aims to take up the many issues that surround reading teaching and learning in a Waldorf school. I will present a picture of the writing to reading approach taken in grades 1-3 in a Waldorf school and invite conversation and discussion about the ways the child benefits by moving at his/her own developmental pace. Discussion is invited on these topics and other questions/ topics from participants: the problem of the worried parent; the concerned others who are well-meaning but pile on the pressure; respecting delayed reading as an indicator of the child's motivations and life destiny; the question of when remediation is warranted and how to address it.

***Breakout Session #3***

**3A. Media, Technology and Health: Understanding the Challenges and Lifting up the Spirit - *Mark Kamsler, M.D.***

What might the role be for these ever-new technologies and "social" opportunities? What can Anthroposophy, Waldorf Education and Anthroposophical Medicine offer as a way to balance and move beyond the challenges? What might the effects of these technologies be and how can we work with remedies, eurythmy, and "lifestyle" activities to lift ourselves up in body, soul and spirit in this time of increasing technologies and mechanization of our world. Come explore these questions and more.

**3B. Supporting Middle School Students Toward Authentic Relationships - *Corinne Lorian***

Middle school is the time when young people begin making choices that lay the foundations for their relationships with others, as well, as with themselves. They begin to define what it means to "belong, how they achieve "belonging", and how they view themselves. Learn how to best support this age group through their self-discovery process.

**3C. Is Discipline a Dirty Word? Ages 1-8 Years - *Mary O'Connell***

The word "discipline" often evokes negative associations because it calls to mind punishment or imposed rules. But the root of the word "discipline" is DISCIPLE. A disciple is one who learns from us, follows in our footsteps, and goes on to bear good fruit. Learn how we, as parents and educators, embrace our role as loving leaders to our children so they can go out into the world as fruit-bearers.

### **3D. The Waldorf High School Experience - *Kate Knuth and colleagues***

Waldorf Education was imagined from the beginning as an elementary-through-high school experience. With momentum to open a Waldorf high school in Milwaukee this autumn, this workshop will offer a hands-on, in-depth look at the academically rigorous, creatively artistic, socially relevant curriculum of the Waldorf high school.

### **3E. The Handwork Thread: How handwork Supports Child Development - *Dawn Imes and Monica Duncan***

Knitting and other handwork projects play an important role in the development of fine motor skills, inner calm and intellectual clarity. Handwork also offers many opportunities for reinforcing math skills in practical, challenging and enjoyable ways. Come see how handwork builds self-esteem and hear about the joy that arises in the child as a result of having made something practical and beautiful.

## ***Presenters Bios***

### **Barian, Lori**

Lori has been involved with Waldorf education for more than 20 years in various teaching and administrative capacities. Currently, she serves as Director of Administration for Great Lakes Waldorf Institute and Director of Tiny Green Trees Children's Center.

### **Beecher, Jacqueline**

Jacqueline has been an educator for more than 30 years. She completed a post-degree Waldorf teacher training and took her first class in 1986 at Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor, MI. She taught curriculum and artistic courses for Waldorf Teacher Development Association in Detroit, later directed the Summer Sequence program for Waldorf teachers in Ann Arbor, and mentored teachers around the country and in the Detroit area. She moved to Madison, WI in 2003. She founded The Orchard: A Lifeways Representative Early childhood program in 2005. She was a founding member of the Madison Waldorf School in 2007 and taught there from 2008-2011. She currently administers The Orchard, is an adjunct faculty member for Sophia Institute for foundation Studies and the Arts, and maintains a relationship with Madison Waldorf School.

### **Boland, James**

James is a Wisconsin native who is active in the Milwaukee theater community. He enjoys long form improv comedy, writing, gardening and cooking.

Education: B.A. Critical Theory in English Literature and Theater, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Certified Yoga for Kids Teacher. Mr. Boland is pursuing Waldorf Teacher Certification through Great Lakes Teacher Training and is currently a class Teacher at Tamarack Waldorf School

### **Cassidy, Laura**

Laura trained under Cynthia Aldinger, and is a graduate of the Lifeways Training, as well as the Gradalis Waldorf Early Childhood Remedial Training. She is the proud mother of three Prairie Hill Waldorf School alumni and has served the school for 22 years in many roles including, Parent-Tot Playgroup teacher, Wonder Garden Preschool founder and teacher, and Kindergarten Lead Teacher.

**Chard, Philip**

Philip Chard is a practicing psychotherapist who writes an award-winning weekly column in the MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL titled "Out Of My Mind," and is author of *The Healing Earth*, which won the 1995 Midwest Publishers Award, and *Nature's Ways*, which examines the spiritual aspects of nature interaction. Philip is a contributing writer to *Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul*, has been a guest expert on ABC Television's *20/20*, and has presented at the Brookings Institution, among many other venues. He holds a master's degree in counseling psychology and taught behavioral sciences at Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine, where he received the Outstanding Faculty Award.

**Duncan, Marcia**

Marcia currently teaches Handwork at Tamarack Waldorf School in Milwaukee. She also enjoys a little sailing and a little skiing.

Education: Graduate of the Applied Arts Program, Sunbridge College (NY); B.A. History, Charter Oak College (Hartford, CT).

**Goldstein, Bente**

Bente was educated in a Waldorf school in Norway, taught a class from 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades at Prairie Hill Waldorf School, and has been a Farm-Based Educator with A Week on the Farm and Farmwise, Inc., for more than 20 years.

**Hunter, Ceal**

Ceal has worked in Tamarack's curative program since 1999. She has trained and been mentored in Waldorf Therapeutic Education and participates in ongoing study and classes in related topics. She serves currently as the Learning Support Specialist at Tamarack Waldorf School.

Education: MSW and BSW, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

**Imes, Dawn**

Dawn has been the practical arts teacher at Prairie Hill for more than 15 years. She is the parent of three Prairie Hill Graduates. Before joining Prairie Hill, Dawn was the handwork teacher at the Milwaukee Urban Waldorf school, and was an artist in residence and potter at Bardstown Elementary and High Schools in Kentucky. Dawn completed her BA in Studio Art from Southern Illinois University, in Carbondale, IL. She has taken several Waldorf Teacher Training courses at Mt. Mary College in Milwaukee, and has participated in various Waldorf workshops and trainings.

**Kamsler, Mark, MD**

Dr. Kamsler practices Anthroposophic Medicine in the Hartland and Delafield area. He is Board Certified in Pediatrics and in Anthroposophic Medicine (a comprehensive approach to medicine with a holistic understanding of the human being). He provides pediatric medical care to all ages of children/young adults and also provides consultative care for adult patients looking for a more holistic input. He has worked closely with several Waldorf Schools for many years. Dr. Kamsler is also a co-founder of the True Botanica company (anthroposophical remedies/supplements) and the True Botanica Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to research and education in the area of Anthroposophic Medicine.

**Karp, Robert**

Robert Karp has been a student of anthroposophy, which is the philosophical wellspring of Waldorf Education, for over 30 years. For the last 15 years Robert has been active in the sustainable agriculture and local food movements as a social entrepreneur, consultant and non-profit leader. Currently, Robert serves as Executive Director of the Biodynamic Association, which promotes a holistic approach to agriculture developed by Rudolf Steiner. He is also the director of New Spirit Farmland Partnership which helps farmers gain long term access to farmland by linking them with social investors. Robert has a BA in English literature and an MA in Educational Leadership.

**Knuth, Kate**

Kate received her BFA from California Institute of the Arts. Kate inaugurated the position of High School Coordinator at the Chicago Waldorf School, overseeing all aspects of the High School's day-to-day operations in tandem with High School Chair Michael Holdrege. She was soon invited to join the Chicago Waldorf High School faculty as a Humanities teacher. Kate was a class teacher and librarian at Hawthorne Valley Waldorf School before working alongside Patrice Maynard in the AWSNA Development offices. Kate then served as School Manager at Pine Hill Waldorf School in Wilton, New Hampshire, before returning home to Wisconsin in the spring of 2012. Kate brings 20+ years of Administrative leadership work to her current roles as High School Planner and Co-Chair of the Tamarack Waldorf High School Working Group.

**Lorian, Corinne**

Corinne's relationship to Waldorf began 36 years ago when her daughter joined the Washington Waldorf School as a 3 year old. Corinne has an extensive teaching background that spans over 30 years of teaching both early childhood and grades at seven Waldorf Schools in four states, including Washington Waldorf School, Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor and Tamarack Community School in Milwaukee. She graduated the Prairie Hill Class of 2006 and is the current Grade 7 teacher at Prairie Hill. Corinne provides mentoring, accreditation, and evaluation services for other Waldorf schools.

Corinne has attended the University of Maryland and has completed the AWSNA Mentoring Training as well as several other Waldorf trainings, most recently the Teaching Sensible Science Course.

**Loucks, Sandy**

Sandy taught combined classes in Washington for eight years before joining Prairie Hill 15 years ago. Sandy graduated Prairie Hill's Class of 2008 and is the current Grade 6 teacher. She has coordinated the Learning Support program and helped create and advise a student Social Inclusion group at the school after completing author Kim John Payne's Social Inclusion training. Sandy is the parent of two daughters, Katie and Laura, both graduates of Prairie Hill. Sandy has a B.S. in Elementary Education from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point; and an M.A. in Education from the University of Portland; with an emphasis on reading. Sandy has her Wisconsin teacher's license for grades 1-8 and has completed several Waldorf trainings most recently the Teaching Sensible Science Course.

**Maliszewski, Stanlee**

Stanlee Maliszewski is a certified "Simplicity Parenting Group Leader", the Coordinator of Prairie Hill Waldorf School's Parent-Child Playgroup Classes and Summer Programs. She is the parent of two active boys. She has her BA in Psychology and her LifeWays Early Childhood Certification. "Miss Stanlee" as the children call her, genuinely loves the joy and learning that working with small children offers.

**Martin, Sandra**

Sandra Martin has been an educator for over 30 years. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education, a Master's of Science degree in Curriculum & Instruction and has completed Post-Masters course work in Curriculum & Educational Administration. She holds a State of Wisconsin licensure for Elementary Education and Director of Instruction (10). Sandra has taught in rural, suburban and urban communities, including Milwaukee Public Schools. She was a Class Teacher at Sunny Meadow Waldorf School and Class Teacher, Faculty Chair, and Board Member of the Waldorf School of Milwaukee. She has completed Grades Intensive Training at Rudolf Steiner College, Sunbridge College and the Rudolf Steiner Center of Toronto. Sandra has attended various conferences including the World Steiner Teachers' Conference at the Gowtheanum in Domach, Switzerland. Currently Sandra is a Board Member of the Great Lakes Waldorf Institute.

**Mulaney, Lisa**

Lisa is the current Grade 1 teacher at Prairie Hill Waldorf School. Lisa holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, a Masters of Arts in Education from Mount Mary



College, and a Waldorf Teaching Certificate for Grades 1-8 from Great Lakes Waldorf Institute. Lisa has also specialized in Rehabilitation and Integration techniques as a Licensed Massage Therapist for the past 15 years, in addition to providing Prenatal, Labor Support, and Post-partum services to clients as a Doula.

#### **O'Connell, Mary**

When her own children were young, Mary had a LifeWays home program with such a long waiting list, she decided a LifeWays center was necessary. In 2002, she opened LifeWays Early Childhood Center in Milwaukee and is currently the center Director. Mary has a Bachelor of Business Administration from University of Wisconsin-Madison, has completed the LifeWays training, and is a consultant and trainer for LifeWays North America. Her favorite thing about LifeWays is seeing both children and their caregivers thrive in a home-like environment that truly values and respects them. Mary is also the co-author of *Home Away from Home: Lifeways, Care of Children & Families*

#### **Price, Nancy**

Nancy Kresin-Price, Ph.D. was Tamarack Waldorf School's founding administrator and is helping to shepherd the opening of its high school in the fall of 2014. Nearing the end of her 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of class teaching, Nancy leads a creative and lively 7<sup>th</sup> grade. She is available for consulting and mentoring through the Great Lakes Waldorf Institute, where she serves as Director of Teacher Development. Nancy's book, *Social Sculpture: New Eyes for the World*, in which Eric Utne and other social artists are interviewed and profiled, is available on Amazon. She and husband John, live "in-the-middle-of-nowhere" and are parents to five distinguished Waldorf children aged 11 to 27, who live and work all over the world.

#### **Reiser, Melanie**

Melanie Reiser is the Leader of Programs and Activities for the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America. She earned a BA in Mathematics and Anthropology and an MA in Education with a Waldorf Concentration, with joint Waldorf Elementary and Michigan Professional teacher certification. She is currently working on her Ph.D in Curriculum and Instruction. She was a Class Teacher at the Detroit Waldorf School and has served in many administrative capacities including, Faculty Chair, Outreach Director, Enrollment Director and as a member of Accreditation teams.

#### **Schroeder, Amy**

Amy has taught eight years in the public school and has specialized in working with children with special needs. Amy has a B.S. in Education from the University of Wisconsin- Oshkosh with emphasis on early childhood and learning disabilities; and a Master's in Education from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee with emphasis on deaf and hard of hearing. She also has specialized training in autism, and sensory integration.

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**For questions or more information, please contact Carolyn Wise at 262- 646-7497 or email her at [admissions@prairiehillwaldorf.org](mailto:admissions@prairiehillwaldorf.org)**

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