Healing the Heart ~ The Balm of Storytelling and Puppetry Arts

July 25th - 30th 2014

Dear Friends,

Susan Howard once called puppetry the high art of early childhood education, and Steiner has been quoted as saying that it has the potential for healing that which ails modern society. Yet many of us who would love to bring more of the transformational beauty unveiled in this art form find it increasingly difficult to make the space for it in our lives and work.

With a deep passion for the multidimensional mysteries of the therapeutic, artistic and pedagogical possibilities within the creative spirit, this year we will hold our 2nd biennial summer retreat conference at Hawthorne Valley July 25th - 30th with the goal of deepening skills in puppetry arts through opportunities for collaborative learning. We are very pleased to host Nancy Mellon, therapist, storyteller, and author of many books on the healing qualities that lie within the story including The Art of Storytelling, Storytelling with Children, and Body Eloquence. Currently living in Monterey, California, Nancy has lead many workshops for adults on this subject worldwide. Jennifer Aguirre, master puppet apron performer from the Sonora Waldorf School in California, and Katie Schwerin White who has been working with Steiner's indications of healing light and shadow puppetry will also be joining us.

Our valley's rolling pastures, forests and waterways will invite time for meditational journeys that deepen a connection to the forces, gesture and form of the elements in nature each morning. Activities each day will include working with leading thoughts on the conference theme and movement in Therapeutic Eurythmy. Conference participants are invited to share their work and we will experience many different styles of performance art. Workshops will include: the making of puppets, working on a Nuno felted landscape, exploration in shadow and light, and the deepening of storytelling art. My hope is that our shared time will bring inspiration that will nurture our creative spirits and bring renewal to our work throughout the year.

This is a conference for all interested in deepening an exploration in puppetry arts and especially for those who are looking to connect with other colleagues who share a love for the creative process! Please share the news of this event with your school's faculty and others who may be interested. I appreciate your help in “getting the word out”.

“Let the beauty we love be what we do.

“There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground, giving thanks and worship.”

~ Rumi

With warm wishes and blessings on your work,

Janene Ping

Healing the Heart

The Balm of Storytelling and Puppetry Arts

Puppetry Collaboration Conference at Hawthorne Valley

July 25th - 30th 2014

Featuring Storyteller Nancy Mellon,

Puppetry Artists – Janene Ping and Jennifer Aguirre

and Light/Shadow Artist Katie Schwerin

With great joy we look forward to your company exploring the gifts of storytelling and puppetry arts! Our collaborative endeavor will open at 7pm on Friday July 25th with leading thoughts by Nancy Mellon to be followed by “Heart's Muse” - an inspired shadow-light show by Katie Schwerin.

Our five day journey into the depths of healing will include therapeutic eurythmy, storytelling seminar, collaboration in performance art, and choice of workshops in: shadow-light exploration, the making of a landscape tapestry, and marionette or rod puppetry construction. We will end our conference by 2pm on Wednesday July 30th after a closing plenum and luncheon.
Registration Form

Name:_________________________________________________

E-mail:_________________________________________________

Address:________________________________________________

Telephone:______________________________________________

The Conference Fee of $425 includes participation in the Healing the Heart seminar and workshops, puppet making materials, mid-morning and afternoon teas and snack, and a closing celebratory luncheon.

A 10% discount is given to those who bring a puppetry performance vignette to share.

Lodging and all other meals are to be arranged separately with registration assistance.

Conference registration is limited and on a first come basis. A non-refundable deposit of $150 is needed to reserve a place. Balance of the conference fee is due at registration 3 – 5pm on Friday July 25th. The Conference Schedule (which will include observational meditational experiences in Nature, artistic instruction and exploration, eurythmy, puppetry demonstrations from a wide range of artistic styles and local cultural events) will be sent out by June 30th 2014.

Will you be bringing a performance to share? Yes No

If so, please e-mail jping@hawthornevalleyschool.org or call 518 672-7542 to talk about your offering.

The conference fees do not cover the cost of meals and lodging... (For the week food and lodging combined will range from $225 and up).

Would you like us to help you find lodging? Yes No

If Yes, please indicate the lodging of your choice:

Local Room in a house, walking distance to the conference ($30-$40/per night)________

Local Bed and Breakfast ($50 - $150/per night) __________

Hotel/Motel within 30 minutes of Conference ($80 - $125/per night)________
If applicable, transportation services will be provided either from the Hudson Train station or the Albany airport. Please indicate if these will be needed.

Conference meals will be purchased on an individual basis by participants – with the exception of a closing catered festival meal. Our Hawthorne Valley Farm store provides local, organic or biodynamic foods and deli service. An average cost for deli meals is $25/day.

Please choose the area of your interest in puppetry arts for your break-out session:

- Constructing a Marionette or Rod Puppet
- Working with Colored Light/Shadow Performance
- Making Nuno felted landscape scenery for staging
- Deepening the Art of Storytelling

Thank-you for your interest in joining us for this exciting exploration in puppetry arts! Please complete the above form and send it with a $150 deposit fee to:

    Janene Ping

    62.18 May Hill Road,

    Ghent, N.Y. 12075

Confirmation of your registration and fees due will be communicated as soon as received

* For more information or if you are needing scholarship work/study support in order to attend, please call Janene at 518 672-7542, or e-mail jping@hawthornevalleyschool.org.