



2020 Fellowship of Prep-Makers Gathering: “Tools to Bring the Cosmic Light into the Earth”

Yes, my friends I am a city girl at heart - but I discovered this weekend that I officially have a BD soul. Since childhood I have been seeking beyond the electric glare, noisy leaf-blowers & traffic, to work with the elemental beings who live in every so-called weed, parkway, garden, & greenspace, calling out to be acknowledged. So I was thrilled to be asked to make the short road trip to East Troy WI, where I have been many times to visit Zinniker Farm, the oldest BD farm in America, just 2 hours from the city lights.

When I arrived at the **Michael Fields Agricultural Institute***, [Ryan Herring](#) was leading a full on science project with **soil chromatography**; a qualitative method used in biodynamic agriculture to reveal the hidden qualities of soil, crop quality, bio-fertilizers, & health.

Folks brought in samples from their farm or garden for assessment. The process creates these amazing circular images - **making visible the etheric formative forces within the soil**. The sacred geometry was evident, producing beautiful works of art, as well as allowing them to diagnose & analyze their soil quality thru applied science.

After an amazing dinner (all the food was locally sourced & cooked. [Allison Pratt-Szeliga](#) was our amazing hostess!) the evening program commenced & I was introduced by my dear [Petra Zinniker](#) who had asked me to bring a '[Candlemas](#)' offering to kick off this year's theme "**Tools to Bring the Cosmic Light into the Earth**".

I presented an overview of the energies of this [Cross-Quarter](#) time, holding the indication of **quicken**ing, exemplified by the **rising sap**. I brought **Rudolf Steiner's Seed Exercise** in as the main activity, which folks delved into with good humor & earnestness. We ended with '**St. Brigid's Song** to Christ as the Lord of the Elements'; & a homemade chant for the blessing of the seeds in the fires of purpose -Brigid's eternal flame, brought from Kildare Ireland, which sparked singing & comradeship in the light of the promise of Spring. What a glorious evening. We all went into the night with a collective glow.

The next morning we enlivened the social realm again with individual intros, & got a glimpse into the work of the Fellowship & their primary shapers who refer to themselves as SG2 = 'Subgroup 2' - a noble, yet truly humble collection of dedicated prep makers from around the country. [Wali Via](#) set the tone by sharing the groups motto: '**We agree to disagree, but not to be disagreeable**'. - which I have taken to heart.

[Mac Mead](#) gave a captivating lecture on 'Why Biodynamics'? He has been practicing this powerful earth healing for over 40 years, primarily in Camphill communities, & is the program director of the [Pfeiffer Center](#).

Respected Elder [Hugh Courtney](#) shared his insights on 'How the cosmic works into the earth'. Years ago, after his fateful mentoring by [Josephine Porter](#), he created [The Josephine Porter Institute for Applied Biodynamics](#) (JPI) a non- profit organization dedicated to making biodynamic preparations of the highest quality, & conducting research & education, which is accomplished by emphasizing the spiritual, as well as the practical aspects.

The afternoon was buzzing on a high vibration when [Marjory House](#) & [Lloyd Nelson](#) took us on a hands-on journey, focusing on the different ways to make & use BD 501 &BD 508. By

combining these 2 preps, the earth receives a balance of 'As Above, So Below'. We experienced a real alchemical process by employing an innovative stirring method to potentize equisetum & other plant & mineral substances, by tipping a large kombucha bottle in a leminscate back & forth chanting 'Matter to Spirit - Spirit to Matter'. [Dawn Rains](#) assisted by adding 22 kt gold leaf into the fine quartz powder, blending it to make a stunning white paste, with which they filled the cow horns. This was pure magic.

In the evening, mover & shaker [Brian Wickert](#), led us in the 'Journey of the Prep Maker', by putting folks in the inner circle 1 by 1 according to years of experience, so we could hear a bit of their fascinating biographies & how they came to this important work. The many stories of their experience in the field, was captivating & enlightening.

Many of the folks expanded the dialogue in the 'party dorm' across from Michael Fields, which used to be the dairy barn; having animated discussions late into the night. I was grateful to hear more about [Demeter](#) from my roommate **Jen Silverman** who is a certification specialist.

The next day **Mac Mead** took us from Lemuria to today, showing the history & mystery of silica in relation to human & cosmic evolution - bringing in easy to digest snippets of Steiner's various works, tying it all together with grace.

Dr. [Mark Kamsler](#) of The [Lili Kolisko Institute](#) brought in the perspective of anthroposophical medicine from his experience treating children with silica.

Ryan Herring gave interesting interpretations of the Chromatograms.

And then we did a whole investigative session with **Wali Via** on the quality comparison of 18 samples of BD 501 & BD 508 - set out for us to evaluate, writing up our analysis based on sense impressions as well as whatever else arose - So interesting to hear the various descriptions & insights. I was fascinated with how deeply [Ines Kinchen](#) lived into her experience, sharing many unique perspectives as a Waldorf teacher & mom, biodynamic gardener & healer.

I bought a bunch of bio hemp products donated by some of the farmers at the Silent auction. [Angela Curtes](#) founder of '[Angie's Gold Premium Compost](#)', Integrating hot fermentation with biodynamic principles; is also the founder of '[Grounded](#)', where she makes a [Full Spectrum Hemp Oil](#) with the same thoughtful integrity & scientific rigour with which she does everything in her life. And also, to help with chronic pain, I got '[Permission organic CBD cream](#)' ([Molly Cronk](#) gifted me one too!), & a tasty jar of ground hemp flowers in coconut oil made by **Brian Wickert**. [Uriel Pharmacy](#), who has their headquarters in East Troy, also set up a booth with free samples, & a 20 per cent discount, which I took advantage of - buying a bag full of amazing products which I have been using for years with the best results.

The evening ended with some bluegrass music & dancing with the [Brew City Drifters](#), led by my old pal Chester, who I met many years ago during my Waldorf Pentathlon days. We started out with the hilarious game of musical chairs, (a tradition at these gatherings I was told) & then gleefully did some contra dancing led by Chet. So fun. The party continued late into the night at the dorm.

Sunday morning ([Brigid's Day, Ground Hog's Day, Candlemas...](#)) we had an eye opening round table discussion on "peppering for pests & weeds" - a practice that was new to this city girl. During certain astrological alignments having to do with reproduction (Sun & Moon in Scorpio) invasive plants, insects, or the hides of pests like gophers or rats (or ground hogs, ha) are burnt, & the ash made into a prep that is spread around the periphery of the property, spiraling into the center. Folks shared their amazing stories of how powerful this humane method is, giving off the essence of the group soul, so that the pests feel that they don't need to take up residence in the protected area. I loved hearing the farmers compare results & insights – a practice of collegial sharing of spiritual scientific research in true fellowship! And also a deep lesson in intention, & the patience to experiment over many years.

The traditional closing circle led by **Wali Via** was a much anticipated event. We each received a packet with the combined BD prep samples that we had analyzed during the weekend. We connected with the 4 elements; & then we 'stirred ourselves' - moving in a spiral into the

center, where we poured our individual packets into a ceremonial bowl, singing the chant from the Candlemas opening:

Then a youth, Lydia Noble, & an elder [Dewane Morgan](#), were chosen to carry the bowl with our combined offerings around the circle, where we were each gifted a portion to take home. For the culmination **Wali Via** got us singing 'Halleluiah' in 3 part harmony, a tradition that stirred our hearts.

After another stellar lunch, folks took a field trip to the [Mandaamin Institute](#) to experience the magic of [Walter Goldstein](#)'s research lab, where he works with the Spirit of Corn, to co-create & breed the best possible seed.

It was hard to leave the gathering where so much fellowship was fostered, to travel back to the City by the Lake. But the good will is potentizing in me, & will continue to grow & shine forth like the warmth & light of the Sun.

[Lloyd Nelson](#), who I felt a deep connection with, gifted me his potent [BD 501 & BD 500\(X\)](#) which we will stir & make into a prep along with the mixed silica prep we all received at the closing, on **Easter Sunday during our Song Trail, as part of Our [Karma and Anthroposophic Psychology](#), Easter-Tide Retreat**. We will spread this healing elixir by the Great Inland Sea of Chicago & the Rudolf Steiner Branch, in Lincoln Sq. which will connect us here in the Heart-land to the heart-beat of the Fellowship - all those amazing human beings putting Anthroposophy into practice, shoring up the [Foundation Stone](#), to ensure that our Earth & every Human Heart Becomes a Sun.

I have to say, these folks really won my heart. I feel as if I have finally found 'my people'!

Watch out Chicago - I am so fired up that I am going to start a local chapter of the **Merry Preppers = a BD guerrilla group - like a flash mob, spreading healing preps in urban settings!** Come join me, as we enact the New Mysteries - to Renew the Earth & set the Human Being Free - practicing with Love, the teachings of **Rudolph Steiner's** "[Spiritual Foundations for the Renewal of Agriculture](#)" (referred to as the ag. course) in all aspects of modern life!

*(Michael Fields Agricultural Institute = In my mind the ideal of this name, keeping the spirit of Christopher & Martina Mann alive, would be = The Biodynamic fields where the Countenance of Christ are a cultured).

~[Hazel Archer-Ginsberg](#) – Founder of [Reverse Ritual](#) Understanding Anthroposophy through the Rhythms of the Year. Essayist, Lecturer, Poet, Trans-denominational Minister, Anthroposopher - working as the Festivals Coordinator & Council Member of the Chicago [Rudolf Steiner Branch](#), The Traveling Speakers Program, & the [Central Regional Council](#) of the Anthroposophical Society.

