

## **“Iron Sharpens Iron”** (Proverbs 27:17)

Still aglow from working the Biodynamic preps at Zinniker Farm, on September 28<sup>th</sup> 2013. On Sunday, the next day 30+ members & friends of the Rudolf Steiner Branch in Chicago gathered for our Michaelmas Festival, “Iron Sharpens Iron”. We began the afternoon with a Radiant Bass solo ‘Poucha Dass’ composed by François Rabbath that opened us to the music of the spheres, rendered so beautifully by Jacque Harper. Then Clark Remington, our 1<sup>st</sup> Class Reader recited Rudolf Steiner’s Michael Meditation, to continue to set the tone for our ‘Reverse Ritual’, this idea of ‘Openness to Above,’ where we rise in our thinking to the spiritual world.

I gave the ‘Tone of the Day’, ‘The Fiery Thought King of the Universe; St. Michael Beckoning’, the essence of which speaks of Michaelmas as the festival of Enlightenment, in terms of Heart-Thinking, the modern antidote to the dragon.

Mark Pelnar shared his spiritual research in an art presentation- The Transformation of Michael in Art through the Ages.

Michael’s gesture is no longer only that of battle. He raises his hand beckoning. Our work today is to begin to feel this transformation reflected in Michael’s gesture. As Guardian of Cosmic Intelligence, Michael counts on us to become free human beings, that we may return the gesture in kind.

The group marched & spiraled as we sang the ‘Michaelmas Harvest Song’ led by Nancy Melvin. Then we carved out our etheric hearts with a 7-fold copper rod exercise.

As we listened to a sharing of the Grimm’s Tale “The Devil with the Three Golden Hairs” by Karen Hartz, we received a hunk of beeswax that had been molded & held in the hands of the ‘Bluebells’ early-childhood class, that we warmed; letting the images of the tale work into our hands.

We fashioned a shield with the beeswax & with a large iron nail we let the various images of Michael live into the iron, transforming it into a stylus that shaped the sparks from Michael’s sword, branding the wax. Asking: What markings does your shield need?

Paulette Arnold led the Biography Work inviting us to share a story of courage from our lives: a time when we had to be brave; or perhaps a time when we wished we would have been brave; or a time we learned a lesson that gave us strength & courage.

In groups of three, each person shared their tale. The cue to switch was a sounding on the iron triangle. We passed our medallions to the person on our right, taking a moment to perceive the symbols on our neighbors beeswax shield. I encouraged everyone to take their shield home, keeping as a touchstone for courage –a reminder, that to conquer the dragon, we must live an ethical moral life, schooled in the discernment of Spiritual Science, which applies Heart-thinking – to see, & think & experience life with wonder, awe & reverence.

We finished our forging by returning our iron nails to the cast-iron skillet with intention. Using it to make a joyful noise, clanging it, giving it voice, letting it be our clarion call to the spirit world, that we are indeed a Michaelite in the making.

I read from John 14:12 & Clark Remington closed with the 'Verse for the Michaelic Age'.

I invited everyone downstairs for refreshments & fellowship encouraged one & all to ask their neighbor what the markings on their beeswax token means to them, so that we could carry the Michaelic conversation back into our lives, to continue to live into this festival of enlightenment.

May all we do our part to forge the cosmic intelligence, & Take Michael's wisdom beckoning into our heart-thinking, with courage & joy.

~Hazel Archer Ginsberg

Festivals Coordinator & council member of the Rudolf Steiner Branch of Chicago