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being human
 personal and cultural renewal in the 21st century

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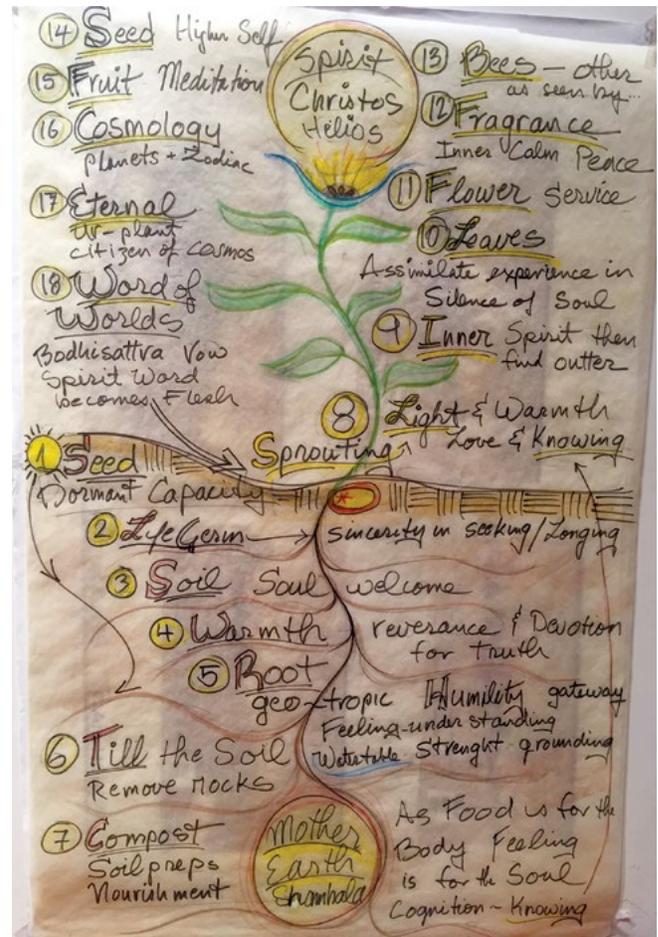
Michael Bain of the Free Columbia Puppet Troupe prepares for production of the "Romano Salamander" (see Gallery, page 27)

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Tierra Viva: the Santa Fe Biodynamic Conference

by Laura Scappaticci

In November 2016, the beautiful Santa Fe Expo Center teemed with the youthful energy and the deep explorations that the organic and biodynamic farming movement are bringing to the world today. With nearly 800 participants from 45 states, 20 countries, and six continents, the conference brought together many different disciplines, ideas, and people.



As a conference exhibitor, the Anthroposophical Society was one booth among many, including biodynamically-grown cotton products, a new line of biodynamic chocolate, and the Rudolf Steiner Health Center in Ann



Arbor, Michigan. During our time at the ASA table, Deb Abrahams-Dematte and I offered ASA materials like *being human* to people who were completely new to anthroposophy, as well as those who had heard of anthroposophy, and wanted to deepen their understanding. Society members stopped by with warm wishes, offering enthusiasm about the open nature of the conference.

One conference participant, Nate Downey, owner of PermaDesigns in Santa Fe, was introduced to biodynamic farming through his local farmers market. Nate purchased some carrots and offered them to his son and his friends as an after school snack. They loved the carrots and asked for them again and again. This convinced Nate of the benefits, right down to taste, of biodynamics. Nate wanted to grow tastier, healthier food, and says that he learned hands on ways to use biodynamic ideas and methods in his work and personal life. The spiritual aspects of the conference, particularly Chris Tebett's talk on water, affected Nate on a deep level, and he says that he is "much more a convert as a result of the conference."



Particularly present throughout the conference was the connection with the indigenous people of Santa Fe. Pueblo blessings and invocations were offered, alongside eurythmy and the singing of hallelujah in four parts. Thea Carlson, co-director of the Biodynamic Association, observed that "the conference helped the biodynamic agricultural impulse to become rooted here on this continent in a new way. I am inspired by all of the connections between indigenous agriculture and biodynamics that were initiated and shared through this conference, and I am



excited to explore how the Biodynamic Association can continue to nurture these connections and

collaborations into the future."

From the fun and social Young Farmers Reception, to the depth of the workshop content, and breadth of knowledge among the keynote presenters, the BD conference was a wonderful demonstration of the ways diverse interests and people can connect to a common cause rooted in Steiner's work.



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