



# Southeast Regional WECAN Gathering

Friday April 7 – Saturday April 8

Friday 4:30-7pm, Saturday 8:00am-4:30pm

## Igniting the Social Impulse of Waldorf Education Keynote Address by Laurie Clark



Rudolf Steiner founded the first Waldorf School to promote cultural understanding and to bring about a renewal of society after the calamity of the first World War. Steiner's insightful efforts through Anthroposophy have brought a living awareness of the most profound understanding of education and the ideal of true community. In these uncertain times in which we are living, promoting and engaging in the exploration of what unites us in our humanity, rather than what divides us, is a worthy endeavor towards healthy social life.

What can we do to deepen our own inner work to meet these challenging times? How can we, as Early Childhood teachers, re-enliven the offerings that we bring to the children who are entrusted to us? Young children imitate what lives within the teacher. In the earnest effort to strengthen our moral courage through the revolutionary spirit of goodwill, we are called to become evermore wakeful to the responsibility of our task.

**Laurie Clark** has had the privilege of being a Waldorf Early Childhood teacher for close to 4 decades. She incorporates her therapeutic training in all aspects of the classroom and is in constant research through observation and engagement with her class at the Denver Waldorf School. She is a teacher trainer, mentor, a WECAN representative and a member of the Teacher Education committee. Laurie has co-authored 2 books with her colleague, Nancy Blanning, entitled *Movement Journeys* and *Circle Adventures*, Volumes 1 and recently published, Volume 2.

**In addition to the keynote address**, this conference will also include a choice between two workshops, a marionette performance by Washington Waldorf School, an artistic activity, Friday night supper, and Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks.

**The cost to attend this gathering will be \$65 (\$55 if booked by March 1, 2017)** We hope to see at least one participant from each school in the Southeast region so make your plans to attend now! Use this link to reserve your spot at the conference, choose your workshop, learn about accommodation choices.

**If you have additional questions**, please contact WECAN Southeast Regional Rep Lisa Bechmann at [lm619@gmail.com](mailto:lm619@gmail.com)

For registration questions, please contact Susan Wallendorf at <http://ofcmembership@waldorfearychildhood.org>

## Friday April 7

- 4:30 Registration
- 5:30 Supper
- 6:30 Conference Opening by Laurie Clark
- 7:00 Musical Offerings by Waldorf School of Baltimore students
- 7:15 Close and goodnight

## Saturday, April 8

- 8:00 Continental Breakfast and registration
- 8:30 Opening Verse and Welcome
- 8:45 Artistic Offering
- 9:30 Keynote Address
- 10:45 Snack
- 11:00 Workshops (first session)
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:30 Optional tour of Children's Garden spaces Forest Aftercare presentation
- 2:00 Workshops (second session)
- 3:30 Afternoon tea
- 4:00 Marionette Show by the Washington Waldorf School
- 4:30 Closing remarks



### **Workshop I: Opportunities to Creatively Meet the Needs of Our Children: Laurie Clark**

#### *Healthy Imaginative Movement throughout the Day*

When the teacher consciously chooses movements that enhance the child's sensory life, enlivening forces can help mature and integrate the nervous system and help the child feel more 'at home' in their body. We will practice reading the behaviors of the children in our care and how we can meet them through enlivening movement possibilities throughout the day. An exploration of various equipment we can add to our classroom that satisfies the child's deep need for movement will be discussed. A new Spring circle that brings therapeutic support will be introduced from the newly published book *Volume 3 of Movement Journeys and Circle Adventures* by Nancy Blanning and Laurie Clark.



### **Workshop II: Healthy Life Sense in the Kindergarten: Lynn St Pierre**

Wilma Ellersiek created a body of work designed for the young child as an antidote to modern life which has robbed the young child and their families of healthy developmental opportunities. Her finger plays and movement include gesture, rhythm, rhyming verse and singing in the mood of the fifth. These games demonstrate great wisdom in supporting development of a healthy life sense. We'll do a variety of games including loving touch, dancing hands, seasonal plays and delightful movement games. These plays may be included in your circles, festivals, movement journeys, or used as transitional pieces throughout the day with the children.

**Lynn St. Pierre** presents developmental movement and speech for the young child. She teaches at Waldorf teacher trainings, workshops and conferences in the US, Canada, Europe, South Africa, Ghana, Kenya and India.