

Unfolding future human potential

Pan African Waldorf Teachers Conference - Michael Mount Waldorf School,
Johannesburg, South Africa April 8th-12th, 2017

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The Pan African Conference at the Michael Mount Waldorf School was the first conference of this kind in Africa. This conference was inspired and stimulated by the last World Teachers' Conference in Dornach 2016.



Over 350 attendees from Africa and international guest lecturers designed a diverse conference program. In the various lectures held in the morning, the development of the human being from birth to adulthood was the focus.

Florian Osswald, Clara Aerts, Martin Rawson and Bernd Ruf created important impulses for the conference theme, unfolding future human potential.

Florian Osswald presented rhythms and their meaning, in particular the importance of day and night rhythms. Here he drew particular attention to night-time learning. In addition, he also emphasised how instructors become more sensitive and attentive through the training path towards the encounter with colleagues, students and life itself.

Bernd Ruf unfolded the foundations of trauma pedagogy and presented the effectiveness of rhythm and personal human encounters. Further information: info@parzival-schulzentrum.de



Clara Aerts put the child during the first seven-year cycle and the teacher in the center stage in her lecture. She gave a lively presentation of the child and pointed out that the development of the child is linked above all to the thoughts and attitudes of the educator. The care of the anthroposophy and the secondary exercises are a refreshing college task, which can find a room in every conference!

I am not I. I am this one
walking beside me whom I do not see,
whom at times I manage to visit,
and whom at other times I forget;
who remains calm and silent while I talk,
and forgives, gently, when I hate,
who walks where I am not,
who will remain standing when I die.

JUAN RAMÓN JIMÉNEZ translated by Robert Bly

Martyn Rawson gave the auditorium a lively presentation of the task of teaching in upper classes. He explained that this is not just about conveying the abstract presentation of the content. Learning is also a matter of feeling and perception. The student has to connect to the lessons and to be approached in a variety of ways! A special help can be a circus project. From the diversity of these tasks, qualifications such as teamwork, social competences and practical activities are transformed into an experience that makes learning quite different from that inside a classroom.

Florian Oswald concluded the conference with a very humorous speech: Let's get together! Let us be open to life in a way taught by the fairy-tale "Hans im Glück" by the Brothers Grimm! If we look at our encounters, we will discover that our future is shaped by this.



The conference was supplemented by numerous deepening workshops. In particular, there were offerings from some of the colleagues of IASWECE:

Clara Aerts, Belgium: The human potential as yeast for social chance

Louise deForest, USA: Gender pedagogy

Heather van Zyl ,Australia: Finger games for the child

Kathy MacFarlane, New Zealand: Seasonal celebrations of the southern hemisphere

Ulrike Farnleitner, Ireland: Meeting challenging behavior

Ursula Dotzler, Austria: At eye level with the parents

Claudia Freytag, Germany and Stefanie Allon, Israel: The inner quality of teachers

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