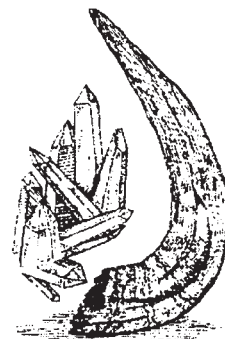


Applied BIODYNAMICS®



Winter, 2000–2001

Newsletter of the Josephine Porter Institute • Woolwine, Virginia

Issue No. 31



For the Michael Age

*We must eradicate from the soul
All fear and terror of what comes towards Man
Out of the future
And we must acquire serenity
In all feelings and sensations about the future
We must look forward
With absolute equanimity to everything that may come
And we must think only that whatever comes
Is given to us by a world directive full of wisdom
It is part of what we must learn in this age,
Namely to live out of pure trust
Without any security in existence.
Trust in that ever present help of the Spiritual World.
Truly, nothing else will do
If our courage is not to fail us.
And we must seek this awakening within Ourselves
Every morning and every evening.*

The Michael Impulse at the End of the Millennium

During the late summer and early fall of the year 2000, the powerful nature of what could be termed the Michael impulse at millennium's end was so noticeable that two of us felt compelled to put down in writing the thoughts that we feel have been prompted within us by the strength of that impulse. This issue of the newsletter is a sharing

with our readership of those thoughts. If any of our readers believe that they might also have been influenced by this Michaelic impulse at the end of the millennium, we would like to hear from you. We believe that the Michael impulse being prepared for the year 2001 will be quite powerful as well.

Welcoming a New Editor

Upon completion of this issue, which is technically the last issue for the year 2000, I can look forward to turning the editorship of *Applied Biodynamics* over to other hands. Our previous issue, #29/30 was overseen by Patricia Smith as guest editor, and I believe that you the reader have been as pleased with her editorial effort as I have been. We have certainly received a number of compliments for that issue. The present issue is one for which I still feel a responsibility to serve as editor, as may be obvious when you read the article I have written on the Michaelmas impulse I experienced in September of 2000. (You will also see in Patricia's article, that she felt the impact of that impulse herself.)

As a result of the job that Patricia has done as guest editor, and because of circumstances in her own personal life, she has now agreed to take on the position as editor of *Applied Biodynamics* for the year 2001 and, hopefully, beyond. Beginning this year, we will also return to a schedule of publishing four times a year. After flirting briefly with the idea of online publishing, we have decided to continue publishing as we have been in a hard copy format. The sudden change in the financial picture for JPI as well as the numerous expressions of disappointment from our subscribers over the loss of a "real" publication, has prompted us to postpone the electronic version of the newsletter for all of 2001.



Mission

The Josephine Porter Institute for Applied Bio-Dynamics Inc. (JPI), was founded to produce quality biodynamic agricultural preparations based on the spiritual-scientific research of Rudolf Steiner.

It serves as a living memorial to Josephine Porter, a pioneer for this work in America.

The mission of JPI also includes education and research in biodynamic agriculture. JPI undertakes these tasks so that the earth may be healed.

Board of Directors

Corry Watts (Horse Branch, KY), President
Elizabeth Courtney (Woolwine, VA), Vice-President
Sara Tufts (Mebane, NC), Secretary
Hugh Courtney (Woolwine, VA), Treasurer
Jim Marquardt (Winchester, VA)
Lee McWhorter (Luray, VA)

Patricia Smith has been associated with JPI since August 1997, when she began helping out as a volunteer. Beginning in November of 1997, her role changed to that of a part-time paid staff member. In the fall of 2000, as part of her Michaelmas baptism, she realized that her very long commute from her home in Newport, Virginia and its effect on her health, plus other family and personal obligations in her community, were going to force her to give up her job at JPI. At that time we mutually began to consider maintaining her contact and relationship with JPI in a role as editor of our newsletter. Such a role would allow her to accomplish much of the job from her home, lessen the stress experienced in commuting, would utilize her talents and previous experience, yet still maintain for her a strong connection to the preparations work here at JPI. We are therefore quite pleased that she has accepted the editorship of *Applied Biodynamics* for the year 2001.

"For the Michael Age"

The poem, "For the Michael Age", according to staff at the Rudolf Steiner Library in Ghent, NY, "is apparently a compilation of statements or sentences by Steiner, but not put together by him. Research has never been able to pinpoint exactly who did put it together." Our thanks to them for help in researching this poem.

Applied Biodynamics

Applied Biodynamics will resume printing four times per year, starting in 2001. The newsletter is published by the Josephine Porter Institute for Applied Bio-Dynamics Inc. (JPI). The subscription price of thirty dollars per year helps support JPI research and development. Back issues are \$7.50 each.

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Valerian Experiment – A Call For Participants

The *Applied Biodynamics* readership is invited to participate in and report on their observations of an experiment with BD #507 valerian preparation as indicated below. In this newsletter, a data sheet is provided to record information for the following experiment.

- 1) Take the compost you have made in the usual way with the biodynamic preparations, and spread half of it on one area.
- 2) Four to fourteen days before you spread the second half, make up a dilution of fermented valerian in the usual way of one to two milliliters in one or two gallons of water and stirred for ten to twenty minutes. This preparation should be made, if possible, with warm (98.6 F) rainwater or warm water from melted snow, i.e., water from above the Earth. Sun-exposed (four day minimum) distilled water may also be used. If you must use spring, stream, well, or tap water, this should be sun exposed as well, and note this on the information sheet.
- 3) Apply the diluted valerian to the compost by pouring the entire amount into its own hole. It is most important for the purposes of this experiment that the

valerian preparation not be sprayed or sprinkled outside the pile, but be poured into a single hole in the compost pile.

- 4) After four to fourteen days, spread this “treated” compost on a second area. It is important that there be a minimum of four days for the preparation to take complete effect before the compost is spread, and a maximum of fourteen days.

Preliminary research by biodynamic practitioner Joe Stevens suggests that BD #507 valerian preparation is properly applied to the finished compost because it functions as a preservative of the life force created by the other five biodynamic preparations from the raw manure. According to Joe, if applied to the raw manure or other compost material at the beginning of the compost process, the valerian preparation loses its preservative quality. The valerian preparation requires the colloidal structure of the humus produced in the finished pile in order to maintain its preservative effect. A detailed report of his research will appear in a future issue of the newsletter. We would be particularly grateful for those of our readers who choose to participate in this valerian project.

Discount for BDA Membership Now Offered

As a means of saying thanks to the Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association, Inc. (BDA) and its members for support of the preparations work here at JPI in the form of an annual financial grant for the last several years, we now offer a discount of ten percent to anyone ordering preparations who is also a member in good standing of the Association. This discount applies to the Associative Contract and will also be extended to other Anthroposophical initiatives such as Camphill communities and Waldorf schools. Those who are eligible for the discount, but who choose to waive it will be helping both JPI and the BDA, because any income in this category will be used to help retire the loan of \$15,000.00 owed to the BDA by JPI. We hope that this service to members of the BDA may encourage those who have benefited from the preparations made available through JPI over the years to join or rejoin as members of the Association, which also needs your support.

Dandelions Needed

JPI needs your help in harvesting dandelions again this year. For advice on harvesting and drying blossoms for shipment, give us a call.

Biodynamic Preparations Legend

BD #500 – Horn Manure

BD #501 – Horn Silica

BD #502 – Yarrow

BD #503 – Chamomile

BD #504 – Stinging Nettle

BD #505 – Oak Bark

BD #506 – Dandelion

BD #507 – Valerian

BD #508 – Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*)

} Compost Preparations

The Michaelmas 2000 Impulse – A Personal Experience

As the millennium-ending year 2000 approached the Michaelmas season, it was very evident to me that there was a particular energy manifesting which I had not experienced before with quite the power and strength of this season. I have termed this energy the Michaelmas impulse of 2000, and the particular essence it held for me was the character or quality most fulfilled by the word “responsibility”.

In attempting to understand this call of Michael in the year 2000, I realized that my greater responsibility to the work with the biodynamic preparations that I had taken up many years ago was to *step aside and begin to say farewell to the biodynamic preparations work*. In accordance with that understanding of the Michaelmas impulse, I requested at the December meeting of the Board of Directors of Josephine Porter Institute (JPI) that the Board begin a search for my replacement as Executive Director with a target date of my seventieth birthday in July of 2002. During my tenure, the position has been without salary as an unpaid volunteer position. A successful search is, of course, based on the assumption that a person or persons could be found to take up the preparations work, and that the necessary financial resources could be found to pay that person or persons a living wage to do this work. Both of those conditions are substantial difficulties to be overcome.

It was with great personal struggle and even sorrow that I came to the above decision. Much of my effort to examine how and why responsibility loomed so large this past September at Michaelmas was prompted by the financial crisis experienced at JPI in June, July, and August of 2000. By the end of August, income from distribution of the biodynamic preparations had decreased dramatically, and was down by over \$8,000.00 for that month alone in comparison to the previous year of 1999. My immediate responsibility when this situation arose was to commence a drastic economic belt tightening by laying off three employees and bringing to a halt those construction activities still intended for our new building. A further reality I was required to face as part of my Michaelmas 2000 experience, was the fact that the interest in biodynamic agriculture in this country is not sufficiently great; the work of making and distributing the biodynamic preparations cannot financially support itself through sales of the preparations alone. In addition, although JPI is a 501(c) 3 organization, chartered by the

Commonwealth of Virginia on October 22 1985, and is eligible to receive donations which qualify for tax-exemption for the donor, there has not been sufficient interest on the part of either the biodynamic or anthroposophical community to generate the kind of funds that are needed to do a proper job of making and distributing the biodynamic preparations to those unable to make their own. With respect to the solicitation of donations, I confess to a personal shortcoming by failing to devote sufficient time to this aspect of the efforts here at JPI. Given the other tasks that have required my attention over the years, such a shortcoming may be forgivable. So that you may reach a better understanding of this crisis of responsibility within biodynamic agriculture, let me sketch as briefly as possible the biodynamic preparations effort in this country.

Sometime in the 1930s or early 40s, the biodynamic preparations were made under the auspices of the fledgling Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association (BDA), most likely under the tutelage of Ehrenfried Pfeiffer. Very shortly after this early effort, the BD preps were made by Evelyn Speiden. In 1956, when Evelyn married Richard Gregg and moved to India, Josephine Porter, who had already been assisting Evelyn for several years, took over the making of the preparations as well as becoming Secretary of the Association. Sometime in the late 60s or early 70s, the preparations making and distributing became a “private enterprise” of Josephine Porter. This situation arose after Josephine had requested a modest increase in her salary as Secretary. As a result of this request, the Board of Directors relieved her as Secretary and also deemed that the making of the preparations was a “commercial” venture, rather than a spiritual responsibility of the BDA itself. The karmic responsibility of those involved in this decision is an area which I do not choose to address, other than to suggest that this was not a situation that could be viewed by an impartial outside observer as accruing glory for the BDA. In August 1976, at the height of the “back to the land” movement, I met Josephine Porter at the annual BDA meeting held in Spring Valley, New York. At the plenum session, someone in the very large audience of conference attendees complained about the secrecy surrounding the making of the preparations, and asked that a way be found to teach people how to make them properly. At that point, a very feisty lady rose, and declared that she would be “happy to

teach anyone who wanted to learn how to make the preparations.” This lady turned out to be one of the BDA Board members, Josephine Porter. A sign-up sheet was posted outside in the hallway of the Threefold auditorium, and quite a number of people signed up to come to Josephine’s farm in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania later that fall to learn from her how to make the preparations. A few weeks later, I visited Josephine in Stroudsburg on the first of many occasions over the next several years, thus beginning my still ongoing effort to learn all I could about the preparations. Incidentally, of all the people who affixed their name to the sign-up sheet at that conference, I was the only individual who actually showed up at Josephine’s farm that fall to learn about the preparations. I believe now that I was answering the call of Michael. That only one person showed up to learn, and the fact that that person was a total newcomer to biodynamics, is truly a sad commentary on the degree to which biodynamics has been able to penetrate the materialistic culture of America.

Over the next several years, until Josephine’s death in early May of 1984, I made visits to Josephine’s farm as many as two or three times a year, for up to ten days or more at a time, in order to help her with her work, and to further my own education in learning to make the preparations under her tutelage. I remember on my first visit being given several tasks that had no direct connection to the preparations work. The first task was to build a short length of fence on the backside of the farm to help keep her 100-plus herd of goats properly corralled. I later came to realize that this was actually a test to which Josephine subjected me in order to see what my capabilities were in terms of taking and following orders as well as a way for her to gauge my work ethic. I have since learned in my own work with the preparations that there are more than a few people who have yet to learn to build a proper fence. Among my fondest memories of working with Josephine over the years is that of sitting with her at her kitchen table while she worked on packaging preparations orders and imagining together with her as to what was necessary to provide a proper home for the preparations work. I remember also my last visit with her in early March of 1984 on my return trip from an orchard meeting in Spring Valley. It was a moment of extreme pleasure when I was able to show her the just published article on Biodynamics that had appeared in the latest issue of *Mother Earth News*. She expressed the thought that at last her life’s work with the preparations was bearing fruit, and biodynamic agriculture was about to enter mainstream agriculture or, at least, mainstream organic agriculture. For the next two months, a comparatively huge number

of orders and inquiries about the preparations arrived at her mailbox in Stroudsburg. Barely two months later, in early May, Josephine Porter crossed the threshold while sitting at her kitchen table.

In 1984, when Josephine died, there was no contingency plan in place within the biodynamic movement to see that the preparations work which she had carried on for some twenty-eight years or more would be continued. In total naiveté, I agreed to take over the preparations work, provided I received help with the building of a root cellar for proper storage of the preparations and conducted the work under the auspices of the BDA. Although I did receive \$1,500.00 towards the construction of the root cellar, it was labeled a personal grant or non-repayable loan to me personally and I was advised that the sale of the preparations was to be conducted as a private business, rather than being under the Biodynamic Association. (I should note that this non-repayable loan was, in fact, reimbursed by me to the BDA). It was at this point that I undertook to obtain a non-profit charter for the Josephine Porter Institute for Applied Biodynamics as a means to honor my mentor. I did this for the very clear



reason that for me, just as it was for Josephine, the making of the preparations is a spiritual task, which must be supported out of the economic realm, rather than a purely economic activity. One of the major reasons for arriving at this perception is the fact that toward the end of her life, Josephine Porter was sending out preparations orders which cost her personally not less than fifty cents per order above what was being paid by the person ordering. In fact, for the last several years of her life, she subsidized the preparations work out of her own meager resources, leaving a much-encumbered estate for her heirs. I made a vow that I would do my best to avoid this subsidization. Regrettably, I have also ended up providing a substantial subsidy to ensure that the preparations work would continue.

During the course of the next couple of years, I attended Board meetings of the BDA as a guest on a fairly regular basis, and spent a good deal of time and energy trying to educate the members of the Board concerning the importance of the preparations work and the need for concrete support for that work. Sometime in 1986, those educational efforts resulted in the preparations work being taken back under the auspices of the Biodynamic Association, and for the next six years or so, the preparations were distributed under the umbrella of Biodynamic Preparations (BD Preps), as an agency of the BDA. During the course of that period, it became evident that the expense of the work (production of the preparations) fell to the lot of JPI (and the Courtney farm), whereas the major portion of the income (distribution of the preparations) accrued to Biodynamic Preparations. At the March 1992 meeting of the BDA, held here in Woolwine, Virginia, the BDA agreed to place the work entirely under JPI and agreed to support that work with an annual grant of \$12,000.00 for a period of five years. During that five-year period, JPI was to aim to become self-supporting. That goal was regrettably not achieved, and in 1998, the annual grant was extended for another five years with the same target of self-sufficiency, and with the provision that the grant was to be reviewed annually.

Over the years, from 1992 until now, a number of events in the history of activities at JPI are worth highlighting. In 1993, we began distributing the Pfeiffer BD Compost Starter and BD Field Spray Concentrate. Some months after that, we offered to provide a home for production of the Pfeiffer products. In August of 1995, following several months of negotiation, JPI was licensed to produce these products. In order to house this production activity and especially to move the biodynamic preparation making and distribution out of the Courtney

basement, we began construction of a barn-like building intended to provide the physical home for the preparations which I had envisioned when sitting with Josephine Porter at her kitchen table some fifteen years or so earlier. In early 2000, the building passed its final inspection and was certified for occupancy. Up to the fall of 1999, JPI had managed to pay costs of construction out of current income, plus the generous donations of a few individuals who recognized the importance of the work being done at JPI. However, in order to complete the building, invest in an inventory of cow horns, and provide significant new computer and office equipment, JPI applied for and was granted a \$60,000.00 loan from the Rudolf Steiner Foundation. We had now entered some pretty scary territory, and the economic downturn experienced some nine months later by JPI and, as of late winter 2001, by the entire world economy caused additional trepidation. So far, we are still meeting the monthly payments of over \$1200, but the belt-tightening will go on for some time.

From 1984 until 1992, preparations sales increased from \$6,000.00 to \$20,000.00 per year, and by 1997 had reached \$90,000.00 per year. In the year 2000, sales took a nosedive from the 1999 level of \$140,000 down to \$110,000, a stunning decrease. Not since the Persian Gulf War had sales of the preparations failed to show at least a modest gain over the previous year, and the year 2000 was the first year JPI had seen so radical a drop. It is difficult to pinpoint all the reasons for such a drastic decrease in sales of the preparations, but we have been able to identify one reason. It seems that we have been successful to some degree in fulfilling our mission of educating others to make their own preparations. It is evident that each person whom we teach to make preparations is, potentially, no longer in need of JPI's services, and each cow horn we provide means two or more fewer units of BD #500 or BD #501 that would need to be purchased from JPI. Since we have delivered more than one thousand cow horns each year for the last several years, we have lost thousands of dollars in potential sales of BD #500 and BD #501. Yet, our greater responsibility to the biodynamic community is not to hoard cow horns, and try to maintain a monopoly on BD #500 and BD #501 production in this country, but to continue to give people the training and the tools they need to make their own preparations.

All that we presently face at JPI, and that I personally face along with my family makes it necessary to open up for wide debate the entire question of the future of the preparations work. I am now sixty-eight years old, and while I have asked the JPI Board of Directors to begin a search for a replacement, there is no certainty that such a

person or persons can be found, or that JPI will have sufficient financial resources to pay a living wage. Part of the message of responsibility that I heard during my experience of the Michaelmas 2000 impulse was that if I chose to hang on forever to the reins at JPI, that it would be for egotistical reasons only. By building a physical home for the preparations work, I have managed to fulfill a part of the dream that Josephine Porter and I dreamed together so many years ago. However, I was unable to fulfill the most significant part of the dream by failing to inspire the people needed to carry that dream forward into the future. I have not been able to put into adequate words what is needed to persuade and inspire people to take up the same dream or ideal inspired in me by Josephine. That inspiration from her came more through her deeds than through her words, however.

There are now a number of questions that must be asked of both the biodynamic movement and of its parent, the anthroposophical movement itself:

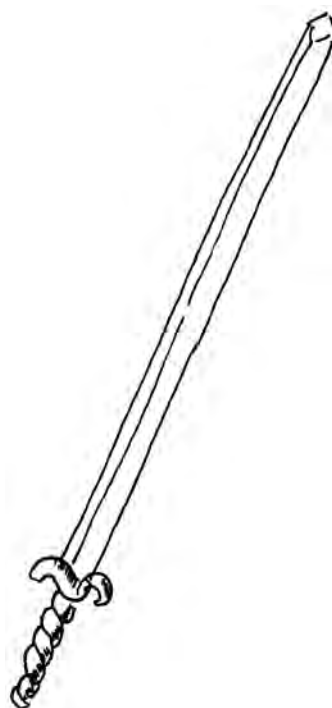
- 1) How should the biodynamic preparations be made available in the world, and specifically in this country?
- 2) If not through JPI (or a similar entity), must each biodynamic practitioner, even the backyard gardener, be responsible for making all his or her own preparations?
- 3) How and where will the newcomer to biodynamics, seeking to use the preparations, obtain the necessary tools, that is, biodynamic preparations of consistent quality, to research for him/herself the viability of this spiritual approach to agriculture?
- 4) Should JPI close its doors, and turn over its stock of preparations to the BDA? (It should be noted that back in 1992, contingency planning for the future of the preparations included holding a certain quantity of the preparations which still remained the property of the BDA in storage at JPI, to be turned over to the BDA at such point as was deemed necessary).
- 5) Should the BDA itself undertake once more the production and distribution of the preparations?
- 6) Should the preparations work be accomplished only in regional groups?
- 7) How should the quality of the biodynamic preparations be ensured other than through dedicated entities such as JPI?
- 8) How can the financial as well as the spiritual burden of the making and distribution of the biodynamic preparations be supported so that it does not rest on the shoulders of just a few people?
- 9) Have Hugh Courtney and JPI properly and effectively carried out the preparations work in a manner that can serve as a model for future preparations centers?

10) Should JPI cease to be a major producer and distributor of the biodynamic preparations and function only as an educational or research institution? If so how will it be financially supported?

11) If JPI does remain in operation, how can the money be found to purchase the present financial interest in the land and facilities held by private individuals?

12) What is to be the future of the biodynamic preparations work in this country?

All these questions need to be addressed by anyone and everyone who believes that the biodynamic preparations are important enough to have a home in this country. Please make your thoughts known to the board of Directors of both JPI and the BDA as soon as you are able. I have requested both Boards to take up these questions concerning the greater responsibility we all face within the biodynamic and anthroposophical community. Your input is highly important.



“And when at last we come to Michael, he is our Cosmic Spirit in autumn. He is then at his highest; he has reached his cosmic culmination. Then he begins his descent; in spring his forces penetrate up through the earth and live in all that comes to expression in human beings as movement and the power of will, enabling them to walk and work and take hold of things.”

Rudolf Steiner, *The Four Seasons and the Archangels*, p. 63

The Michaelmas Impulse: Giving Us the Direction We Need For the Year Ahead

For most of my life, I have experienced early autumn as a time of intense feeling and emotion. For such a beautiful time of the year, there seems a sense of bracing for the worst. Michaelmas 2000 was of particular importance because some events in my life in the preceding twelve months (see sidebar) made me feel a closer connection to the Archangel Michael than ever before. The impulse at this time was not received just as a single idea upon waking the day after Michaelmas, but as a series of thoughts coming throughout the period preceding and following Michaelmas itself. These thoughts or impulses seem to provide a blueprint for the twelve months ahead.

The impulse or thought form I received upon waking the morning after Michaelmas was: "It's the preps, not the people, it's the people, not the preps." One is just as important as the other. Intentions are everything. There is a reciprocal influence of the preparations upon those who make and use biodynamic preparations as well as an influence on the preparations by those same people. The people bear a responsibility when applying, using, making or distributing biodynamic preparations, and are helping to bring in the spiritual influences of the world through the plants and animals that they nurture. Food becomes our medicine. The saying, "you are what you eat", is especially insightful for people who grow and eat biodynamic foods.

When I first learned about biodynamics and JPI in early 1997, I knew this is what I wanted to do. Making and working with biodynamic preparations is a constant learning experience. Considering JPI is about the only place in the country, and one of the few places in the world that makes biodynamic preparations and educates people on how to make the preps, the sixty-mile journey from home did not seem that long. Having to pack food and clothing for the three-day stay each week was never a struggle for me.

A few days after Michaelmas, my first waking thought was that I would be leaving my job at JPI. The following week at JPI I prayed for guidance about how to confirm that this message was in keeping with the Michaelmas Impulse. Five minutes later, co-worker Jennifer Reeve stepped through the door to say she would be away at workshops for the next two weeks. Before saying good-

bye, Jennifer told me she had a dream that I was leaving JPI. We determined we had received the information on the same day!

On that same morning, I also realized that I was not going to die within a year's time as I had felt since June 2000. (By the way, I am in good health now.) This thought of my impending death came about during my two weeks of bed rest in late spring of that year. Back in early spring, an ailment became aggravated; my doctor advised one week of bed rest. The early spring is the busiest season of the year for JPI and is not a time to consider taking a break. I decided it would be best to forego the week off and instead try to take it easy. Unfortunately, the condition did not improve. Another visit to the doctor in May and I was now ordered to take two weeks of bed rest for recovery time or else. The bed rest, for someone like me who is restless by nature, seemed an impossible task. Never in my life had I ever been still for such a length of time. Among the things I observed and experienced during the two week respite:

- 1) I was actually healed and became pain-free from simply resting.
- 2) In almost three years, this was the first time I was at home for more than seven days at a time. The revelation: home is a sanctuary and not a pit stop.
- 3) I realized that for the past three years (half of my married life) I had spent three days each week away from home at JPI. (Previous to this, my husband and I had moved six times in two-and-a-half years in Britain and the U.S.)
- 4) I sensed that it was quite possible that I would be dead within a year's time, and had no understanding as to how to prevent this from happening.
- 5) Near the end of the two weeks, once I slowed down enough to catch my breath and relax, I was able to absorb this information with reflection and gratitude. Whether ill or not, complete rest such as this for a week or two should be recommended more as a renewal/reflection remedy for our fast-paced world.

Regarding the past twelve months, I would like to think of the saying, "what does not kill you, only makes you stronger." The question of my mortality served to remind me that I really cannot be of help to biodynamics

if I kept the schedule as I had been. We all know one day we will die, but my time seemed to be coming up sooner rather than later.

In October, the ailment had returned. One week before the fall preparation making workshop, I had to inform Hugh Courtney, the Executive Director at JPI, that I could no longer continue working and must quit. A happy medium was reached and I now work from home editing the newsletter, and work at JPI about one day a month.

It seems I have come to the end of a three-year “internship” working at JPI, and now am to begin another assignment, as editor, starting with the next issue of this newsletter. While one chapter in my life has come to an end, another one is beginning. Michaelmas seems a fitting time for this to occur.

My background has included working in horticulture, journalism, photography, and administration in state and federal government, as well as in business settings ranging from small operations to large multi-national corporations in the U.S. and Britain. I hope as editor that the information provided through the newsletter is valuable and helps to spark interest that making, using, and applying the biodynamic preparations brings.

The Michaelmas Impulse is not just a brief period in September; it's all year round if you listen to the message from within upon waking. This may not be a revelation to those who awake with a plan, a thought, or an answer to a question, every morning, not realizing that they have been helped along by the Archangel Michael. The study and application of biodynamic practices serve to ground us and make us more aware of our surroundings and circumstances. Listening to the Michaelic message in the early morning hours guides us through the day with the influence and will to work towards healing the earth and ourselves.

We humans of the present day
are in dire need
of the right hearkening
to the spirit's morning-call,
the morning-call of Michael.
Spiritual knowledge
would bring awareness to the soul
of this true morning-call-hearkening.
Meditative Poetry of Rudolf Steiner
Dornach, October 21, 1923, p. 9



Transgenic Cattle Controversy

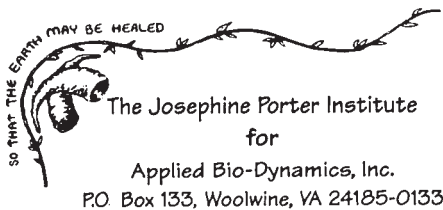
In the summer of 1999, with no forewarning, our local newspaper reported that a Dutch pharmaceutical firm was planning to build a transgenic dairy cattle facility in Craig County, where I happen to live. This story made national as well as international news. These transgenic animals are not cattle, but chimeras, part human, part beast, that are genetically engineered with a human gene in every cell of their body, in order to produce human proteins from the milk to make blood-clotting drugs.

Choosing not to ignore this situation, but to confront it, I had to learn more about transgenic cattle than I ever cared to know. For the next several months, many hours were spent researching this situation, and writing letters to officials and news organizations, while still journeying to JPI each week. With few hours sleep each night for an extended period of time, it always surprised me that I had the energy to go on no matter what. The Michaelmas influence of 1999 kept me going, since the opposition to this facility was at its most intense from August to December of that year.

For over a year now, beef cattle have been grazing on the property of the proposed facility. However, it appears plans have stalled. The company has a record of changing its objectives and now is considered not so reputable even by other biotech companies. The company is still deciding whether to build its facility in Wisconsin, Virginia or Canada. Hopefully, this facility will not materialize anywhere.

*“... the sword of Michael, as it is being forged,
must be carried to an altar that lies beneath the earth.”*

Rudolf Steiner – *Youth's Search in Nature*, page 16



FIRST CLASS

Address Correction Requested