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Subject: March News and Events from Camp Caravan

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March 2009

# Work Opportunities, Events, and Updates from Camp Caravan and the Village School

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## Dear Stefan,

We're writing to you from Massachusetts with lots of updates on group Work opportunities and news from Camp Caravan, the Village School, and the Millers River Educational Cooperative. Thank you so much for all your interest and good will.

# Gurdjieff Bennett Practicum 2009 and Group Work Announcements

Although spring is not yet quite in the air as we look out over a blanket of new snow, we have lots of news and fresh opportunities this month. Preparations are in full swing for the 2009 Practicum facilitated and supported by leaders across the globe. Thank you to the Claymont Society and to many others.

The 2009 Practicum runs September 5 through Dec 1, 2009. Look for Gurdjieff Bennett Practicum 2009 news and information in a special enews edition, coming soon. To access Practicum information immediately, or to refer an applicant, you can now view the online prospectus and application at the Gurdjieff Bennett Practicum website. If you can't log on right away, please view the information at the Camp Caravan site or try again at a later time (we are changing our hosting arrangements).

We invite all of you to consider joining us for a new monthly meeting opportunity, the first Tuesday of each month, held at the Campaign Office at Camp Caravan beginning on April 7 at 7:30 p.m.

If you know of "new" people who may be interested in exploring the Work please invite them to consider joining a group for newcomers in the central Massachusetts area, beginning Thursday, March 12, 2009. Contact Martin Brown at 978-249-2993 or Ana Bennett at 978-544-5225. For those closer to the Boston area, the M.I.T. group for newcomers meets on Wednesday evenings. For information contact <u>Elan Sicroff</u>

Elan just completed a series of Gurdjieff Sacred Music Concerts in Europe and we look forward to sharing those stories and clips with you in the special edition, and at our new website--scheduled to launch shortly. We'd also like to be in touch by phone but may not have your full contact information, so please share your updates at <a href="mailto:info@campcaravan.org">info@campcaravan.org</a>

# **Event Schedule**



Please note NEW TIMES and schedule for Work events

As always, the weekend group meetings at Camp Caravan begin at 7:30 a.m. and generally go until about 12:30. WORK DAYS usually end at about 5:00 p.m.

A new monthly meeting begins Tuesday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m.

The first meeting for the Warwick, MA group for new people begins Thursday, Mar 12.

Please check each month for the WORK DAY schedule, which generally takes place on the second Saturday of each month, but moves to the third Saturday for the month of April

In addition, for those interested in a Morris Dance team for young and old, the first meeting is Wednesday, March 4 at 5:30 p.m. at the North Orange Church.

#### March Schedule

Wed, Mar 4, Morris Dance team meeting, 5:30 p.m., North Orange, MA (subsequent dates to be announced)

Wed, Mar 4 M.I.T. group meeting, Cambridge

Sun, Mar 8 Weekly group meeting, Camp Caravan

Wed, Mar 11 M.I.T. group meeting

Thurs, Mar 12 7:30 p.m. Meeting for "new group" in Warwick, MA

Sat, Mar 14 WORK DAY joined by the M.I.T. group, Warwick group, and others

Sun, Mar 15 Practicum faculty gathering

Wed, Mar 18 M.I.T. group meeting

Thurs, Mar 19 Warwick group meeting

Sun, March 22 Weekly group meeting (possible Sweat Lodge, TBD)

Sun, Mar 29 Weekly group meeting (possible Sweat Lodge, TBD)

#### Save the Dates

Tues, Apr 7--FIRST monthly group meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Sun, Apr 12 NO MEETINGS

Apr 18 WORK DAY (moved to third weekend to accomodate Easter)

Date to be announced -- Public Talk Gurdjieff: Creating the Future at Clark University, Massachusetts

Sun, May 10 Concert of Gurdjieff Music by Elan Sicroff at Warwick Town Hall, Warwick MA, 4 p.m.

Sat, June 20-Sun June 28 SUMMER SEMINAR, Camp Caravan

Sat, Sept 5 GURDJIEFF BENNETT 2009 PRACTICUM begins

## The Village School Updates

Enjoy this excerpt from the Village School newsletter about the special trip to the U.K.,

"Many of the 4th-6th class traveled to the U.K., just before and into vacation week, accompanied by ten adults, two Village School alumni and two older siblings of children in the class. We took a day flight to London and the children had their first taste of London as they traveled from the airport in a 'tube' train to our hostel in Hammersmith. The next morning we visited various London sights, including Westminster Abbey, the London Eye, a rivertrip to Tower Bridge, Trafalgar Square and the National Gallery. The children were excited to see many of the paintings they had been studying in class. They saw Buckingham Palace from the Eye and noted the royal standard flying above it, showing that the Queen was at home. The next morning we toured the Tower of London, before heading west in two 15-seat buses to Salisbury. Saturday, a glorious warm sunny day, began by visiting Stonehenge. From there we stopped at Old Sarum, originally an Iron Age hill fort and later a Norman settlement that played a key part in thesubjugation of Saxon England. In the afternoon we took a delightful tour of Salisbury's 12th-century cathedral, and attended evensong,

which gave us a chance to enjoy the singing of a visiting Dutch choir and to hear the liturgy echoing from the vaulted ceiling. Next we drove to South Wales, and saw Caerphilly Castle, the second largest castle in Britain. It was constructed in an astonishing three years as part of the 13th-century English campaign to subdue the Welsh. On the way to our overnight stay in a 13th-century castle (now youth hostel) that once belonged to King John, we visited the ruined abbey of Tintern in the spectacular Wye Valley. On Monday, with the sun still shining and no snow in sight, we took in Chepstow Castle, built on a cliff above the Wye River. This was most everyone's favorite castle (and by now we were all experts!). From Chepstow we drove north to Tewkesbury, whose fine abbey church survived Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries (unlike Tintern) because the townspeople ransomed their church from Henry at a cost of £470. After a night at the youth hostel in Stratford-upon-Avon, our final visit was to the castle at Warwick (pronounced Worrick). This was inhabited as recently as the 1970s, though it dated back to a motte and bailey castle built in 1068. Our visit included a demonstration of how medieval swordsmen really fought (not much like the movies), that was as fun as it was informative. Wednesday saw us back on the plane to Boston, and safely home. It may sound complicated to conduct a large school group for a week around a foreign country, but it's easy when the children (and their parents!) are so helpful and engaged."

In closing, we share a poem written by one of our group members, and invite you to be in touch.

#### Winter Morning at Camp Caravan

A crisp clear winter morning at Camp Caravan. The sun is low in the sky,
At this time of year.
It comes in angled,
Shining on faces at the breakfast table.
Outside the frozen ground lies waiting,
Recuperating.

We too are recuperated.

More than one world is here.

The physical world of sense perceptions

And the invisible behind appearances.

The unseen world brings us here.
It has a life we rarely see or hear,
Inexpressible.
We come to quench a thirst,
Maybe catch a glimpse,
Of what this world can offer,
Meaning, connection, harmony, participation, work.

Martin Brown

Thank you for all your good feeling and support.

With love and best wishes, we bow to the higher within all,

Debra Strick
And the folks at Millers River Educational Cooperative



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