

31. July 2023

Program

To have a good start in the warm summer days in Dornach, we had an early breakfast at 7.30. Some early birds would stir our big pot of porridge on the gas stove, and after some wake up singing they would be joined by the rest of the group.

When the dishes were done, we walked up the hill to our space where we worked together for this gathering: slightly hidden between bushes and trees, behind the Goetheanum the Holzhaus is located.

We started each day with movement! Playing games, learning a dance, running around, getting into our bodies and arriving in the space. This was facilitated by our movement group.

To come together after, Nathaniel Williams gave short 30 min contributions: the Focus sessions. Knowledge, thoughts and insights were shared on the following topics: 'The spirit of the Youth Section and the School for Spiritual Science', 'Technology and the digital revolution' and lastly, 'Alternative ways of association'.

Finding a balance between focusing intellectually, working together as a whole group as well as in smaller groups, creating a space for everyone to share their work and building a community within the group, to feel the worldwide network for these five days was a challenge as well as an opportunity for the organising team in shaping this gathering.

So following the Focus session, it was time to sing together! We learned songs from Romania, Australia, Brazil, Argentina,... These will all be collected in a song book for the Youth Section's gatherings.

A couple of co-workers were asked to host a so named 'Future session', where they could share their living questions on issues that are important for the Youth Section's network in the coming years. We started with a session engaging with the topic of 'Affiliation', on the following day on 'Communication and Connection' and the last session had the title 'Between Life and Form'.

After a short tea, coffee, carrots and crackers break, the workshop sessions, facilitated by co-workers took place in different outside and indoor spaces, diving deeper into one theme with a small group.

A wonderful team of people coming a couple days earlier for the gathering prepared all our meals in advance with fresh organic ingredients. This made it possible that everyone could really participate and engage in the gathering all through.

Our lunches for 45 people were heated on a big gas stove outside of the Youth Section House. And the weather mostly allowed to enjoy our meals outside as well!

We hoped to meet everyone's needs for rest, action, socialising, work and creating by having a 2.5 hours open space after lunch.

Most importantly, there was the opportunity to work on a service project, which this year was the Youth Section House itself! Cracks in the walls were plastered and windows repaired: even with the storm the new kit held all rain outside. During this open timeframe a group would already prepare dinner, other people would take a mop and clean our common space. A wonderful experience of community living.

We all met again at the Holzhaus for coffee, tea, cookies and fruit afterwards, and then went into the 'Global Perspectives'. These sessions were created so that all groups could share their work as well as the questions they were bringing. Each person present at the gathering was able to share some words about their work as well as the questions, challenges and opportunities they are facing in their local work. The sessions were each facilitated in unique ways; in connection to the topic and questions these groups and individuals had. The themes were 'Spiritual Work', 'Culture of Encounter', 'Practical Challenges and Opportunities'. They connected to the Focus and Future sessions of the mornings as well.

After a dinner back down at the Youth Section House, the evenings were filled with different activities. A walk to the Dorneck Castle, the opportunity to listen to a lecture from Peter Selg held in the context of the St. John's Conference at the Goetheanum, a eurythmy performance as well as an open mic where people

shared a broad palette of music and especially opera singing, storytelling, improvisation with the audience, and much more.