

The Mid-Winter Festival . . . a reflection.



To celebrate a festival really means to unite oneself in spirit with the cosmic spirit. ~Rudolf Steiner

The Greek meaning of the word festival is “Shining Day”.

A festival has the quality of lifting us out of the ordinary and into the mysteries and magic of the rhythm of the seasons. Throughout history, festivals have emerged from people’s connection with their spiritual life and their search for the meaning of human existence. The festivals not only commemorate great historical events, cosmic truths and traditions; they are in themselves spiritual events that manifest in seasonal rhythms, and carry a significance that grows and deepens with the development of human evolution. The celebration of the festivals let us practice what Rudolf Steiner calls ‘the Reverse-Ritual’ - The idea of ‘Openness to Above’. Instead of invoking Spirit down, as in days of old, we rise to the spirit, in our thinking. We study and celebrate these ‘Shining Days’ to sustain and renew ourselves and the world.

Festivals as a Path of Initiation by Hazel Archer Ginsberg

From the noisy outer world to to the meditative moment of mid-winter . . . a moment in time, to breathe in, to listen, to participate and to contemplate.

The festival began with music and ended with music – Marian Stronach's playing of the lyre and later the piano greatly enhanced the festival's ambiance.

A midwinter mood in colour using pastels . . .



Inspired by the fourth verse of the Foundation Stone Meditation, the underlying theme of the talk was love. The effects of three forces at work in the world- love, wisdom and power were shared through the realities experienced in the biographies of three individuals – Edith Eger, Bassam Aramin and Wild Bill Cody. In the lecture ‘Love and its Meaning in the World’, Steiner spoke of wisdom and power having evolved, but that love streamed into mankind as a gift of the Godhead in complete, perfect wholeness. Love cannot diminish or grow, it does not awaken an expectation for the future, it is a debt – payment of debts incurred in the past. The mystery of life is revealed where we see and experience love in the world.



“Love is higher than opinion. The most diverse opinions get along when people love each other . . . But this is one of the most important tasks of mankind today and in the future: this living with one another, this understanding with one another. And as long as this human community mood does not develop, there can be no talk of an occult development.” Rudolf Steiner

Sue Simpson, Paulette Durrant, Bernie Raichle.