

## booking form

# The Isenheim Altar

Holy Week, 17th-22nd April 2011

Name

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Address

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Post Code .....

Phone no

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Email

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How did you hear about this course?

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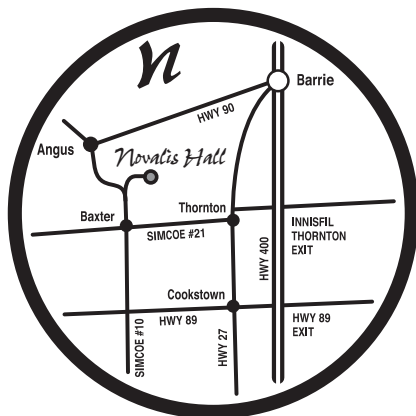
Do you need information about local accomodation?

Do you need a map?

I enclose a non-refundable deposit of \$75. The full amount is due by March 1st.

Please make cheques payable to:

**The Ita Wegman Foundation,**  
78 Toronto Street,  
Barrie, ON L4N 1V2,  
Canada



## driving directions

Novalis Hall, (705)424-4121  
7841, 4th line, Angus, Ontario, Canada.

**From Toronto:** Hwy 400 North to Hwy 89 exit. West on Hwy 89 to Cookstown. 10 km more on Hwy 89 to Simcoe County Road #10. Turn north on #10 at lights to Baxter. Exactly 4 km past Baxter corner to green Camphill sign. Turn right onto gravel road. Proceed 1/2 km to Camphill property. Follow signs for Novalis Hall.

**From Barrie:** Hwy 90 West (Dunlop Street) through the Village of Angus to Simcoe county road #10 south toward Alliston. Exactly 4 km to green Camphill Road sign. Turn left to stop sign, left again to Camphill property. Follow signs for Novalis Hall.



The term **Novalis** signifies a clearing of ground for new things. It was the name assumed by a poet/philosopher/scientist, born in Germany in 1772, who lived for only 29 years. He believed that every human being is called upon to form and develop the earth. Novalis Project workshops, inspired by his writings, are designed to facilitate the awakening to service that artistic activity engenders.

# The Isenheim Altar

An artistic approach to the mystery of Easter



The journey through the images of this work of art is in itself a deeply meditative path with which to accompany the mood of this week as an inner preparation for Easter.

Matthias Grünewald, The Isenheim Altarpiece - Detail from the Resurrection panel



Holy Week,  
17th-22nd April 2011

## the course

The painter Matthias Grünewald was a contemporary of Albrecht Dürer but not nearly so well known. The historical aspect of his life is steeped in mystery with few documented facts. It reveals however a genius on the level of Leonardo da Vinci. His artistic output was modest and yet the works he produced were of great significance. His most outstanding achievement is the Isenheim Altar which is situated today in a museum in Colmar in France. The luminosity of colour in this piece is unsurpassed and shows a mastery of technique and craftsmanship in preparing pigments, which even today cannot be entirely explained.

The Isenheim Altar was painted for the specific purpose of healing. It was commissioned by a physician, the abbot Guido Guersi, in order to assist him in the work of his hospice which specialised in the treatment of skin diseases such as syphilis, leprosy and especially St. Anthony's fire, an affliction caused by ergot poisoning. Patients suffering these diseases were social outcasts because of the fear of contagion.

The images form part of a large winged altar which describes the journey of healing more powerfully than any words can convey and it carries a deeply Christian message. It remains hugely relevant for our time too, as we grapple with such new illnesses as cancer, HIV and AIDS.



During this seminar we will walk this healing journey together, decode the messages of the paintings and experience their depth through our own artistic renderings and exercises in observation. The art sessions with Karin will help participants form their own personal relationship with this very powerful work of art and make it accessible to their own experience.

## the tutors



### Karin Jarman

is an art therapist at St. Luke's Medical Centre in Stroud, England.

"I have lived and worked with the Isenheim Altar since I first encountered the original in Colmar, France, over 30 years

ago. It has accompanied me from the start of my journey as an art therapist and has continued to be a source of tremendous inspiration and guidance for healing work. I would not have wanted to have been without it. Although it was painted more than 500 years ago, its relevance today is as strong as ever. I feel very privileged to work on this course in partnership with Michael whose depth of insight surpasses anything I had studied previously."



### Michael Schubert

is an author and a teacher of children and adults.

"I was born in 1940 in Berlin. I studied Sports, Art, Craft, History, Geography and German. I have been a teacher, starting out as

a class teacher in Germany and then spending five years at a German School in Johannesburg (South Africa). In 1972 I began teaching at Waldorf Schools. I was one of the founders of the 'Michael Gemeinschaft, Schweigmatt', and the 'Kaspar-Hauser School' - a boarding school in the Black Forest and the 'Freie Waldorfschule Schopfheim'. I lectured at various teacher training seminars in Germany and Russia. Since 1975, I have been doing research on Mathias Grünewald and the Isenheim altar piece. I have published several dramas, a book about Queen Ishtar and recently 'Der Isenheimer Altar: Geschichte-Deutung-Hintergründe' (Publ. Urachhaus, Stuttgart).

## the venue

### Novalis Hall

7841, 4th line, Angus, Ontario, Canada.



Arts inspiring social renewal is the defining purpose of the Novalis Project. Established in 2003 by members and friends of Camphill Communities, it is dedicated to the performance, practice and appreciation of the arts.

Novalis Hall is its centre of activities, an architectural and acoustic gem set in Nottawasaga Village, a 280 acre property in Angus, Ontario, where adults with developmental disabilities work and reside in intentional community. The Novalis Project is sponsored by the Ita Wegman Foundation.

## the details

The course begins on Palm Sunday, April 17th at 7.30pm, with an introductory talk. It runs 9.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Thursday, and 9.30am to 3.00pm on Good Friday, April 22nd.

## the cost

Course Fee: \$500 inclusive of all art materials, 5 lunches and other refreshments.

**For reservations or more information,** email [rsvp@novalisproject.com](mailto:rsvp@novalisproject.com) or call the project coordinator, Treasa O'Driscoll at **1-705-722-5408**



Matthias Grünewald, The Isenheim Altar - Detail from the Nativity panel

**novalis project**  
arts inspiring social renewal

[www.novalisproject.com](http://www.novalisproject.com)