

OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY READING

Please join us to participate in a group reading of this traditional play
on
Thursday, December 21st, 7:00 PM
at the
Waldorf School of San Diego
3547 Altadena Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105



One of the most beautiful and meaningful celebrations of the Christmas festival is the study, practice and performance of one or more of the Oberufer Plays. The Shepherds Play portrays the birth of Jesus in a stable, where he is sought out by a group of shepherds.

For hundreds of years, ordinary people in the small Austrian village of Oberufer on the Danube gathered in the local tavern at Christmastime to perform plays for their neighbors. With their roots lost in medieval times, the plays gradually evolved to incorporate a unique blend of folk humor and profound reverence in their celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Towards the end of the 19th century Professor Schröer spoke to Rudolf Steiner about these plays. His enthusiasm and concern about the possible loss of such precious folkways touched Steiner, who quickly realized their beauty and proceeded to bring order to the sketchy script and the music. In 1910 the first revived performance took place in Berlin, Germany.

From then on, these plays have become part of the Christmas time tradition for many Waldorf schools all over the world. They were first translated by Cecil Harwood, from England, who tried to keep intact the medieval way of speaking—the simple beauty of expression.