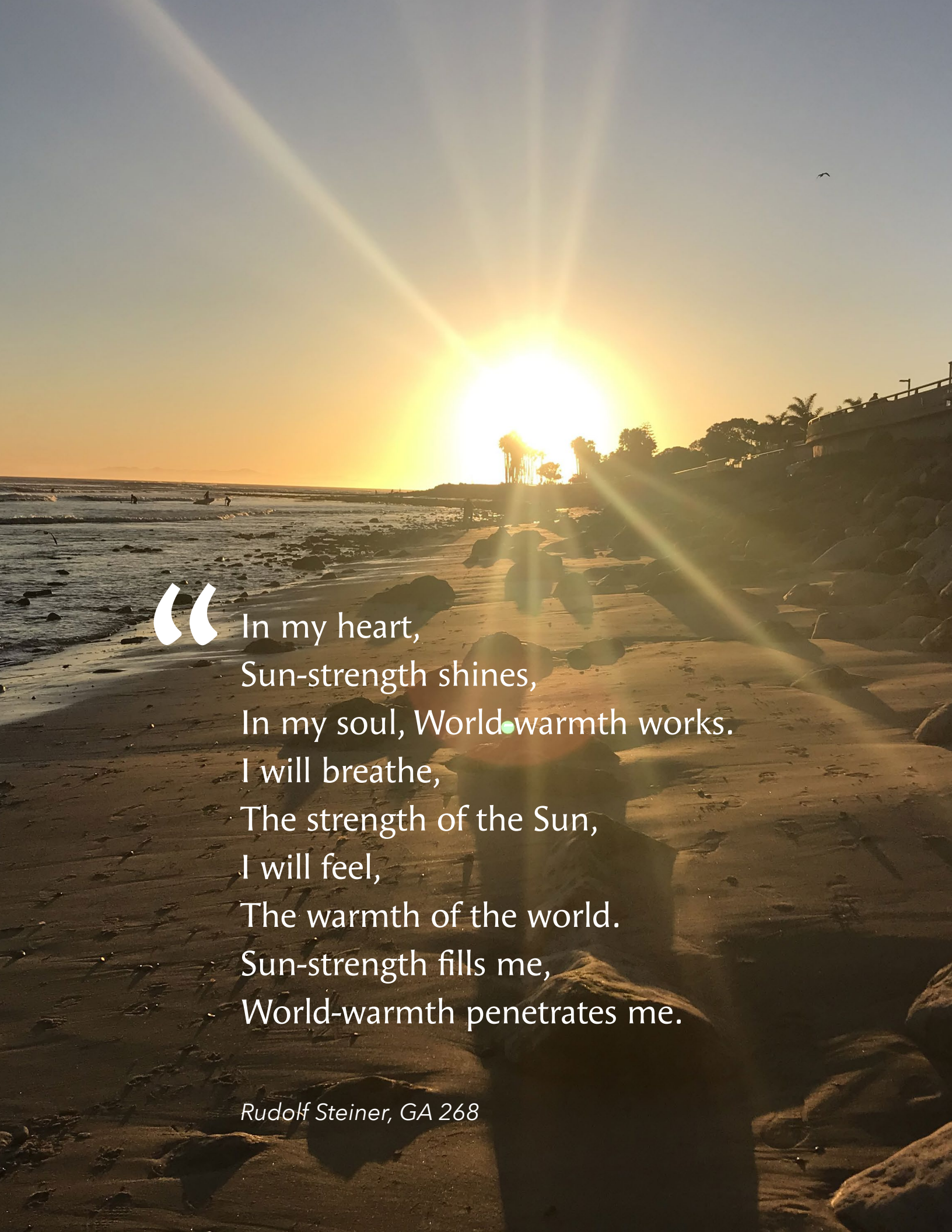


2021  
Annual Report

# Engage & Transform



**ANTHROPOSOPHICAL**  
Society in America



“ In my heart,  
 Sun-strength shines,  
 In my soul, World-warmth works.  
 I will breathe,  
 The strength of the Sun,  
 I will feel,  
 The warmth of the world.  
 Sun-strength fills me,  
 World-warmth penetrates me.

Rudolf Steiner, GA 268

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## from the general secretary

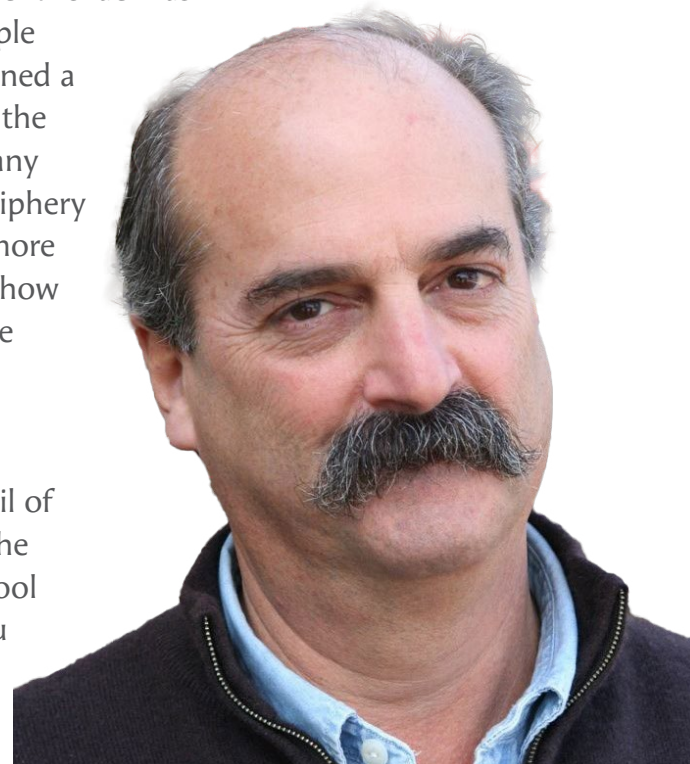
Dear Members and Friends,

Last year, 2021, was a year of transition from the ever-presence of Covid to a reawakening of our social spaces and senses. The International General Secretaries and Country Representatives meetings at the Goetheanum remained a mix of room-present and zoom-present with many outside Europe unable yet to travel. Yet, we were able to find innovative ways to hold a world picture meditatively. This recombinant form was a mixed blessing and I think characteristic of many of our US gatherings. While there is an emergent reality that comes from gathering in person, there is also something gained through the simplicity of access.

In our Council conversations, we hear reports from the three regional Councils. This year we realized, after a full year plus of practice and proliferation of online activity, that we now have a fourth region—our online community. That community reaches beyond US membership and friends and makes visible what a world Society can be, even if it is virtual.

One highlight of 2021 was the US Society collaborating with the Society in Canada in organizing a virtual tour of the Goetheanum on Michaelmas on September 29. The tour was followed by an extraordinary address by Peter Selg from Rudolf Steiner's atelier on the Michaelmas theme. On one hand, we had 800 people register for the event, but it also awakened a kind of enthusiasm from leadership at the Goetheanum to feel invited into so many people's homes. Those of us in the periphery (from the Swiss perspective) became more present at the center. I cannot tell you how important this shared warmth is for the health of the whole.

On the home front, I participate in numerous circles, including the Council of Anthroposophical Organizations and the North American Collegium of the School for Spiritual Science. In some ways, you could say that I have a privileged



“ a willingness to engage and transform is also a sign of health, even if painful. Such conflict has mirrored back our own ability to create new social agreements that hold both freedom and responsibility for that freedom at the core.”

view into the organizational connections between the body carrying Spiritual Scientific research and those organizations deeply engaged in serving the world and ideally inspired by the insights of that research. There is much work to be done in building those connections, along with understanding, working with, and learning from how the world is challenging the anthroposophical movement as it meets the public through practical work.

The questions about Steiner and race remained, and, in some ways intensified through the year. Other issues, such as medical freedom, have continued to divide us within the movement. But a willingness to engage and transform is also a sign of health, even if painful. Such conflict has mirrored back our own ability to create new social agreements that hold both freedom and responsibility for that freedom at the core.

Even with so many social and spiritual challenges, interest in anthroposophy continues to grow and our membership numbers reflect that. Opportunities for engagement that allow for each person to lead themselves in their journey, such as Applied Anthroposophy, are one aspect of this growth. Another is how active some of the branches have been in innovative online programs.

One other is the result of post 2020. During that time and moving through 2021, many of us moved into a kind of reassessment of what is important. Amidst all the conflict and politics and media and claims of truth, spirit, and I mean this in the broadest sense, was remarkably absent. Some of those seeking that spirit, or at least a way to it, are finding us—and we need to welcome them.

I just want to close with an appreciation for all the email responses I have received from you regarding the “From the General Secretary” letters. While I have not been able to respond to each of you, I have learned much from your reflections, and I trust that they have been in service to your own inquiry in this shared journey we are on.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Bloom".

John Bloom, General Secretary (California)



# IMPACT

## from the leadership team

Warm greetings and deep gratitude to you, dear ASA members and friends. It is our pleasure to present the Anthroposophical Society's 2021 Annual Report, "Engage and Transform." We have gathered updates and glimpses of activities around the country from friends near and far. We hope you enjoy reading about and seeing the highlights of the year.

2021 felt like a transitional kind of year. World events kept evolving, plans were made, changed, and changed again. There were challenges and gifts and many opportunities for growth of all kinds. Here at the ASA, we've worked to bring inspiration, share insight, and build community around the country and across the globe.

It has been our practice to meet several times a year in person, but due to Covid travel restrictions, we were unable to for quite a while. We meet regularly via video conference to share news and insights, set direction, and implement strategies toward the health and effectiveness of the Society. We frequently meet as well with General Secretary John Bloom and Council Chair Helen-Ann Ireland and are appreciative of their support in navigating these transformative times.

Our annual winter planning retreat took place as a series of online meetings among the Leadership Team, John Bloom, and Director of Communications John Beck. Together we reviewed the past year, looked forward to the future, and updated our plans for the coming year.

As a national membership organization with a huge mission, engagement is critical! How can we invite and engage new members? And how can we inspire and keep connected with those of you who've been members of the ASA for many years? These are living questions that are essential to the future health and strength of our organization and our movement. What are your thoughts on this topic?

Finally, in August 2021 at Rudolf Steiner House, we gathered as a Leadership Team and staff, and then as a full General Council, for our first in-person meetings since January 2020. In addition to several days of meetings, the



Great Lakes Branch graciously hosted a small outdoor gathering where we learned about local initiatives and the history of Rudolf Steiner House. It was really moving and powerful to see one another again. We were grateful for the planning and collaborative time, the community connections, and the sweetness of the real-time presence of one another.

In November 2021, we were delighted to welcome Tess Parker as the new Director of Programs and member of our Leadership Team, following her successful 3-year tenure as assistant director. Her vision, leadership, and connection to others bring strength and beauty to our program offerings. If you haven't already, please consider this your personal invitation to join us for an upcoming live or online event.

It is an honor to serve our membership and the deeper spiritual purposes of anthroposophy. As a Leadership Team, our work is collaborative and geographically remote. We work in frequent consultation with the General Secretary and the General Council. It's our responsibility to hold the big picture and to implement strategies for the long-term health and effectiveness of our Society.

We believe that anthroposophy is transformative, and the work of Rudolf Steiner and the ASA is more relevant and more powerful than ever. The best part of our work is the real connections we get to make with you, our members and friends. We invite your ideas and your feedback, and we would love to hear from you.

We are grateful to be on this journey together with you.

– Deb Abrahams-Dematte, Director of Development (NH)  
 Tess Parker, Director of Programs (CA)  
 Katherine Thivierge, Director of Operations (MI)

## program highlights

*2021 was an impactful year of learning and growth. Our online community grew and we continued to find innovative ways to connect and engage in the virtual sphere. Smaller groups were able to begin meeting in person again as the social fabric of our community continued to shift and transform for the good.*



### SERIES & WEBINARS

#### HOLY NIGHTS: A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

We welcomed over 1,100 people to our Holy Nights program! This potent gathering over the 12 holy nights included inspirational thoughts from a presenter related to Sophia and a sharing of the zodiac image and virtue associated with each day.

#### DIE AND BECOME

WITH JOLIE HANNA LUBA AND LINDA BERGH

This interactive series provided a safe space to explore the theme of death and dying. The enriching workshop was an emboldened and intimate environment for people to connect from a sense of vulnerability, loss, and resilience. This work carried forward many themes initiated in our Sacred Gateway conference series.

#### THE SPIRITUAL ORIGINS OF CONSPIRACY

WITH LISA ROMERO

Over 940 people registered to take part in this exploration that one of the greatest conspiracies facing humankind is that the spiritual world does not exist.

#### WHITSUN STUDY

WITH THE WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

Over 350 joined us for a three-part series held by the Western Regional Council. The organizers expertly held a study of the lecture "The Whitsuntide

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 CHRYSALIS GUIDES

Andrea de la Cruz • Angela Foster • Anne de Wild • Chris Burke • Elizabeth Roosevelt  
Hazel Archer-Ginsberg • Jerilyn Burke • Joaquin Munoz • Jolie Luba • Jordan Walker  
Linda Bergh • Nancy Melvin • Nicolas Criblez • Patrick Foster • Robert McDermott  
Verlyn McGilvray

Festival: Its Place in the Study of Karma" and offered artistic exercises and contemplative questions. Questions and insights of a profound nature were held in this online space.

### YEAR-LONG PROGRAMS

#### SOPHIA COMMUNITY CIRCLE

This year-long community circle focused on a variety of topics related to Sophia and the divine feminine. Breakout sessions at the end of each leading thought created an intimate circle of connections.

Presenters included: Signe Schaefer, Hazel Archer-Ginsberg, Michele Mariscal, Claudia Knudson, Helen-Ann Ireland, Joyce Reilly, Angela Foster, Timothy Kennedy, Linda Bergh, Sandra LaGrega, Jennifer Fox, Tess Parker, Christine Burke, and Jordan Walker.

#### NEW IMAGES OF THE ZODIAC IN THE CYCLE OF THE YEAR

Within each monthly session, we hosted a thorough and inspiring presentation by Mary Stewart Adams and an enlivening eurythmy session led by Lynn Stull. Color, form, and historical and physiological context of each zodiac image were the focus, as participants came away with a deeper understanding of the Being of the Year. You can find this program and others in the store at [anthroposophy.org/webinars](https://anthroposophy.org/webinars).

#### APPLIED ANTHROPOSOLOGY

Our second year of Applied Anthroposophy was a successful and meaningful experience. We hosted a speaker "Seed Series" and a diversity of themed "Chrysalis Groups" on specific topics. The curriculum once again followed the metamorphosis of the butterfly and its different stages of growth and development. The cohort of over 200 people enjoyed hearing from speakers like Bastiaan Baan, Orland Bishop, Brian Gray, Megan Durney, Henrike Holdrege, Julia Poulter, and more! The program coordinators Angela Foster,

### GRATITUDE TO OUR HOLY NIGHTS PRESENTERS

Laura Scappaticci  
Joyce Reilly  
Hazel Archer Ginsberg  
Jordan Walker  
Stefan Ambrose  
Ultra-Violet Archer  
Deb Abrahams-Dematte  
Lelan Harris  
Michele Mariscal  
Claudia Knudson  
Jolie Hanna Luba  
Timothy Kennedy

Tess Parker and Jordan Walker also worked closely with Chrysalis Guides from around the country.

### CONFERENCES

#### BUILDING THE TEMPLE OF THE HEART

Our annual conference and general members' meeting were co-sponsored by the Central Regional Council. The online gathering of over 400 was supported by several smaller in-person gatherings around the country. The theme of the six basic exercises were led by groups at hubs in New Orleans (LA), Austin (TX), Twin Cities (MN), Ann Arbor, and northern Michigan. Biography and eurythmy wove the experiences together along with keynotes by Dr. Michaela Glöckler, Brian Gray, and Michael Lipson. It was a triumph of an online hybrid event, and many people who attended shared that they could feel a social spirit of warmth, sincerity, and depth.

There is much in store for 2022 and beyond! See you there.

– Tess Parker, Director of Programs (CA)

“ Sophia is the name of a Divine Feminine being, a creative mother presence, bearing all that was, and is, and will be. Throughout times she has been revered and described in myths from around the world. She has been known by many names—The Great Mother, Isis, Tiamet, Gaia, Mary, Kuan Yin, Aditi, Ala, Skywoman, to mention only a few. Now, this great wisdom being, she who embraces human becoming in all its striving and suffering, is calling in new ways into our consciousness.”  
– Signe Schaefer



## the school for spiritual science

### NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGIUM

In 2021, the North American Collegium of the School for Spiritual Science came to a nearly full complement of representation from all Sections of the School for Spiritual Science, including Pedagogical, Agriculture, Visual Art, Performing Arts, Natural Science, Social Science, Spiritual Striving of Youth, Literary Arts, and Medicine. Mathematics and Astronomy are still in development. At the same time, the Collegium has continued to focus on developing the awareness and practices of the General Section which is essential to all of the Sections and their common striving.

The School for Spiritual Science is comprised of those members of the Anthroposophical Society who feel a deep commitment to stand for anthroposophy in the world and in their respective professions and practical fields. The School includes those working directly with the Lessons of the First Class, Sections of the School as mentioned above, and the General Section. Each of these functions flows from the esoteric work initiated by Rudolf Steiner at the 1923-24 Christmas Conference.

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### COLLEGIUM MEMBERS

**Frank Agrama** Youth Section  
**John Bloom** General Secretary, US, General Section  
**Bert Chase** General Secretary, Canada, General Section  
**Patricia Dickson** Visual Arts Section  
**Bruce Donehower** Literary Arts  
**Branko Furst** Medical Section  
**Jennifer Greene** Natural Science Section  
**Herbert Hagens** General Section and Class Holders  
**Michael Holdrege** Pedagogical Section  
**Michael Hughes** General Secretary, Hawaii  
**Kim Hunter** General Section  
**Rudiger Janisch** General Section  
**Helen Lubin** Performing Arts

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## SECTIONS OF THE SCHOOL FOR SPIRITUAL SCIENCE

General Anthroposophical Section

[Mathematics and Astronomy Section](#)

Medical Section

[Natural Science Section](#)

Agricultural Section

[Pedagogical Section](#)

[Youth Section \(Section for the  
Spiritual Striving of Youth\)](#)

Social Sciences Section

Performing Arts Section

[Visual Arts Section](#)

Literary Arts and Humanities Section

To learn more about the US Sections,  
please visit [rudolfsteiner.org](http://rudolfsteiner.org).

To learn more about worldwide activity  
of the School for Spiritual Science, visit  
[goetheanum.co/de/hochschule](http://goetheanum.co/de/hochschule).

Members of the School are committed to spiritual scientific research. This Collegium has developed into a place where that research is shared and developed across disciplines. One particular and important aspect of that collaborative research has been to enliven and reflect on the work with the Lessons of the First Class as a leadership task for the School itself.

Further, the Collegium began to look at how it might help in preparing the Society and all its various activities for the centennial recognition of the re-founding of the Society in 1923-24. The purpose would be to invite more flow of ideas and insights from the meditative work into the practical work, both in deepening disciplines and to foster intersectional collaboration.

The Collegium is North American in its scope because of geographic proximity, but it remains connected to the School for Spiritual Science and respective Section leaders at the Goetheanum. General Secretaries from Canada, US, and Hawai'i participate, and we are looking forward to adding a peer from Mexico once the Society there has completed its formation. Hawai'i has its own Society because that work was initiated before Hawaii became a US State in 1959.

– Bert Chase, General Secretary, Canada  
John Bloom, General Secretary, USA

### THE FIRST CLASS INTENSIVES INITIATIVE

Over the course of 2021, groups started to gather again in person for Class Lessons across North America. In-person gatherings had been suspended in most places. Zoom was not considered to be a suitable substitute. A few groups did continue Class work despite restrictions and vaccination issues, and members continued the work individually in various ways as well.

Bert Chase, General Secretary for the Anthroposophical Society in Canada, was the North American representative who attended the Fall 2021 international meeting of Class Holders at the Goetheanum. An in-person meeting of the Class holders in the Central Region of the US is scheduled for October 2022.

–Herbert Hagens (NJ) and Penelope Baring (CA)



... a vibrant sense of presence was experienced by all and tremendous gratitude for what was possible. The enlivened space from mouth to ear brings the possibility of the awareness of the School as Mystery Center to consciousness.

### CLASS LESSON INTENSIVES

The intensive class weekends have continued since they began in February 2020, alternating with one in February and one in November each year (2020, 2021, 2022). For each February weekend, a Festival of Unbornness was integrated; in each November weekend, an All Souls' Festival. Three lessons were held each weekend except the first, which encompassed the first four lessons. They have been allowed to continue in person at the Threefold Educational Center in Spring Valley, NY, within the framework of the lockdown restrictions. We are nearing our final weekend (November 4, 5, and 6, 2022) of this series, when the mantras of the last three lessons will be the focus.

How does one describe the soul-spirit space that is created by having a group of people turn their attention to that which flows to us from the class lessons over a period of three days? I am not able. But I know that a vibrant sense of presence was experienced by all and tremendous gratitude for what was possible. The enlivened space from mouth to ear brings the possibility of the awareness of the School as Mystery Center to consciousness. The days gave strength to enter one's life's responsibilities with renewed strength, vigor, and purpose. And a renewed sense of awe and responsibility for what has been gifted to the world through Rudolf Steiner, as impulses for each person to carry out, according to his/her individual destiny and circumstances, radiated through the room.

– Barbara Renold (NY)



# being human & anthroposophy.org

2021 communications supported community awareness in a time of public health restrictions, and two print issues of being human included a tenth-anniversary outreach.

For winter-spring, Martina Angela Müller contributed covers from an installation at the Lightforms Art Center in Hudson, NY, and filled the Gallery with astonishing sculpture and painting. In “A Sophia Mosaic,” Signe Eklund Schaefer gathered 17 brief statements on the mystery of Isis-Mary-Sophia. Adam Blanning MD wrote on “Maintaining Our Inner Initiative.” Violinist Emmanuel Vukovich shared “Archetype of Hope: Beethoven, Timbre & the Social Art,” eurythmist and poet Clifford Venho described “Eurythmy as a New Mystery Art,” and actor-director-teacher David Anderson shared “The Art of Yielding.” A commentary, “Anthroposophy, Politics, Science: A Warning,” by Richard G. Fried, MD, stirred controversy.

Reviews included “Karl König in America” (David Andrew Schwartz), Sergei Prokofieff’s Rudolf Steiner, Fragment of a Spiritual Biography (Stephen Usher), Yeshayahu Ben-Aharon’s The Twilight and Resurrection of Humanity (John Beck), and The Foundation Stone Meditation and the Challenges of Our Times (Herbert O. Hagens). John Urban’s two poems offered haiku-like concision, and we saluted Renewal, produced for 29 years by Ronald Koetzsch and Anne Riegel-Koetzsch for the Waldorf community. Edward Reaugh

Smith, Margaret Powell Chambers, Gene Gollogly, and David James Hollweger were remembered.

The special issue celebrating ten years of being human was sent to 3000 non-members with an invitation to join the Society. Its articles illustrated aspects of anthroposophy: to walk the human path (“The Twelve Senses: Sensing Justice in the Encounter,” Paige Hartsell; “Biography &

Social Art in the Time of Covid,” Karen Gierlach; “Two Lives in Progress,” Joyce Reilly); farms healing the earth (“Open-Pollinator Future Lab, Youth+Agriculture,” Walter Goldstein); medicine more human (“Rudolf Steiner & the Art of Healing,” Christoph Linder, MD; “The Relevance of Anthroposophic Medicine for Our Times,” Ricardo Bartelme, MD, and Walter Alexander); art awakens higher life (“The Unified Field,” David Anderson); enter the cosmic child (“Individuality and Diversity,” Harlan Gilbert); awakening community (“Social Ecology in Holistic Leadership,” Christopher Schaefer, Ph.D.); and science and technology (“The

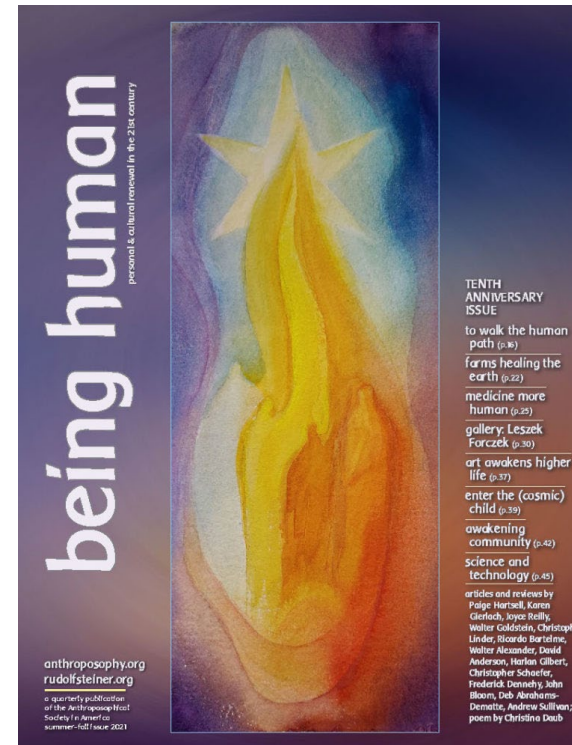
Perennial Alternative by Frederick Amrine,” Frederick Dennehy; “Opening Secrets: Rudolf Steiner, Spiritual Science, and Technology,” John Bloom); plus “Michaelmas,” a poem by Christina Daub. “GEMS—An Inspiring Labor of Love,” celebrated Margaret Shipman’s 19-year study group for “geographically extended” members; Andrew Sullivan questioned his “Dear Anthroposophical Self”; and we recalled Hartmut Schiffer, Ann Pratt, and Beth Wieting. The Gallery featured the spectacular “illuminism” of the late Leszek Forczek.

Back issues of being human are online at [www.issuu.com/anthrousa](http://www.issuu.com/anthrousa) with many articles broken out for easy reading on phones and tablets.

Our e-newsletter *being more consciously human*, ranged from Steiner on music and Beethoven in January through our annual October conference, pointing out dozens of ASA, Goetheanum, and other events in a very rich year, still mostly online. Photos accompanied the seasons, with many from former ASA treasurer Dwight Ebaugh.

At [anthroposophy.org](http://anthroposophy.org) and [rudolfsteiner.org](http://rudolfsteiner.org) we present core information, the events calendar, blog posts, and links to the Society in the USA and to the life and work of Rudolf Steiner and the global initiatives flowing from him.

– John Beck, editor, *being human* and Director of Communications (MI)



## more consciously being human

### Notes from Katherine Thivierge

Rudolf Steiner House in Ann Arbor now has an entirely new heating and cooling system. We also downed the boiler in March due to many unspectacular boiler pipe books, and investigated our best options for heating in this northern clime. We ended up abandoning the nearly 100 year old pipes in the walls and installing a new boiler and water heater. The second floor of guest rooms now has forced air heated by hot water from the boiler and system air conditioning. The main floor is primarily heated and cooled with electrical split units, which will also provide the kitchen hall with quiet air conditioning. Steiner House remains closed to outside events, and some staff continue to work on site at their distanced desks, with health safety protocols in place. We all miss the life that the branch activities, study groups, and meetings bring to Steiner House. It was an unexpected joy to see that the Great Lakes Branch received its annual Christmas tree in the lecture hall, though they are not able to meet there for lectures or retreats. I would also like to mention that Dwight Hough is standing his term limit as a member of the General Council and the Treasurer of the Anthroposophical Society in America soon. We will no doubt continue to see him here in Ann Arbor when branch events resume, face to face. He has also been an enormous help over the last 5-6

An Argument For Higher Knowledge  
World Knowledge cannot solve  
The World Problem.  
Conquering The World Begins  
Within The World Itself.  
—John Urban

### Gino Ver Eecke joins the General Council

At its January 2021 meeting the ASA General Council accepted the nomination of Gino Ver Eecke by the Eastern Region Holding Group as the regional representative on the council. He replaces David Mauer who becomes a member at large and will now assume responsibility as Treasurer of the Society. As Dwight Hough marks his term limit, Gino met Anthroposophy in his birth town of Rocourt, Belgium, at the young age of 16. After working for a year as a RD-farm in Switzerland, he moved to New York to study agriculture, receiving his diploma from Earlston Spring Valley in 1976. For eight years he performed as the character of Beowulf with the Thirdfield Mystery Drama Group, culminating in the performance of the four Mystery Dramas in the summer of 2014. During the Mystery Drama Conference at the Goethehaus in July 2018, Gino performed the last scene of “The Soul’s Awakening.” Currently he guides the work of the Thirdfield Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in Chester Ridge, NY. He also serves as the President and Treasurer of the Eurythmy Association in North America.

### Hats Off to Renewal

Ronald Koetzsch and Anne Riegel-Koetzsch: 29 years representing Waldorf education  
In June 2020, ANSNA (The Association of Waldorf Schools of North America) celebrated the retirement of Ronald Koetzsch and Anne Riegel-Koetzsch, and the retirement of Anne Riegel-Koetzsch and Ronald Koetzsch. Anne Riegel-Koetzsch studied Philosophy and Art at Oberlin College. She became a copy editor for a Waldorf press and held positions as structure for the Oberlin Board School and also a writer and columnist for *Star Wire Journal*. At the request of Henry Barnes, Ronald became founding Editor in Chief of *Renewal* (every two years ago). ANSNA’s board resolution said that “Ronald made Waldorf education visible to the world with literary grace, artistry, and endless care and devotion, and provided education and insight to parents and teachers across the globe as that children would benefit from the wisdom of Waldorf pedagogy and the nurturing impulse of anthroposophy.” It concluded, “Ronald lives life with dignity, principle, and resolve, and has surrounded us all with humor, compassion, and love for humanity and the earth.”



## anthroposophical prison outreach

2021 was a strong and steady year for Anthroposophical Prison Outreach (APO). We are so grateful to Society members for your care and ongoing interest in supporting this life-giving program! As our work continues adapting to a variety of changes—from rising postage costs to pandemic-related shifts in prison rules and regulations—we continue serving over 1,200 incarcerated individuals through our program's offerings.

### HIGHLIGHTS

**APO program survey:** A survey was sent to participants to gather feedback and insight about their anthroposophical studies and journeys while incarcerated. We thoughtfully review these surveys and integrate lessons, books, and ideas from the participants we serve into the living work of the APO program.

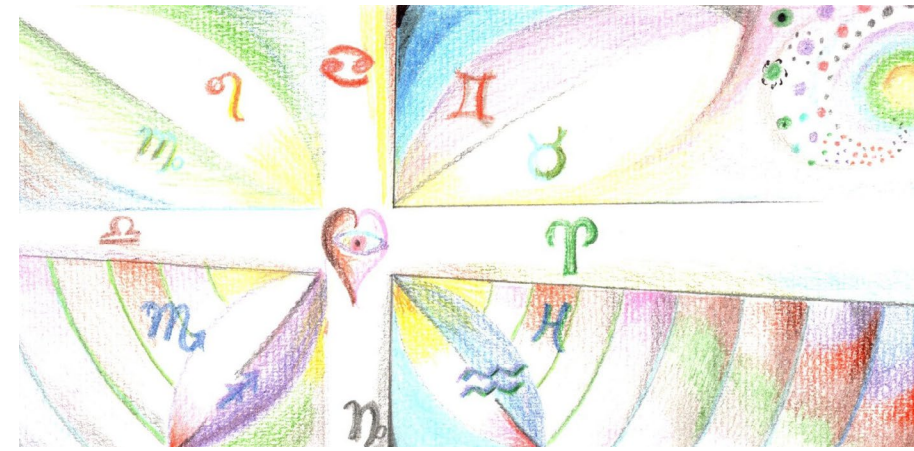
**Released inmates:** When prisoners are released, many who have participated in APO's program while incarcerated reach out to us and continue sharing their reflections and experiences growing through anthroposophy.

From B.J.I., a released inmate, "I am 33 now and have been in prison since I was 21. Through the years, prison outreach has been a pillar of my developmental life. My personal experience with anthroposophy began with APO. I am indebted to APO for the scaffolding that supported my climb out of the darkened states of mind I once considered home. One of the most notable changes of inner development that has taken shape is in the forms of control and application of my thinking, feeling, and willing, and my sense of destiny. It is safe to say that I have experienced a very broad reach of what a person can be. There is no question that the most consistent movement in

“ My picture came when reading ‘Working with Anthroposophy.’ It is an image from my heart. When a heart opens, its eyes can 'see' many things that is concealed from a 'blind' heart. We start to see (understand) everything in a positive way. We start to move freely in the spiritual realms with confidence, we walk with guidance. I appreciate this picture, seeing it against the light, rotating it, in a shadow or little light, mentally magnifying it. I do not put my name on it, to give THEM all the credit, because it belongs to Them. It is my gratitude because they guide me, through you.”

– Eric, incarcerated in Diboll, TX

my life has been anthroposophy, which is to my greatest fortune. Thank you for the opportunity to share, and also for sharing with me the light and love inherent in our anthroposophy.”



Jonathon H. also participated in the APO program, beginning in 2013. He shares with us his reflections on studying anthroposophy while incarcerated, "As a free person [now], looking back on all of the learning, I've learned many things about the essence of the spiritual world that really stands right in front of us, that can't be seen by the naked

eye. I've read many books and also done a lot of studies dealing with spiritual science. APO has changed my life for the better, for mankind. I would like to thank all the staff at APO because I have learned a lot."

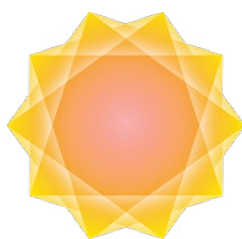
**Illuminating Anthroposophy:** Issues 32 and 33 of our biannual APO newsletter, *Illuminating Anthroposophy*, featured articles by two writers from Dornach: Dr. Virginia Sease and Dr. Peter Selg. Dr. Sease's piece, "How Can We Help Those Who Have Died?" offered meditative verses and Steiner's teachings around helping those who have crossed the threshold. In issue 33, Dr. Peter Selg's feature, "Survival and Development: The Responsibility of Human Beings," was also grounded in the meditations of Rudolf Steiner. Dr. Selg writes: "Humanity must act in this emergency, act creatively and in the moment, inwardly as well as outwardly. We need ideas and formative courage—and spiritual activity. This spiritual activity seems more necessary than ever for the confined existence of the human being on earth" We are so grateful for these contributions that speak to and offer the inmates solace, inspiration, and support during the pandemic.

**Walk a Mile in my Shoes:** Our 2021 walkathon was our most fruitful yet! Over 60 volunteers walked or cycled, and we raised over \$41,000. [https://www.rudolfsteiner.org/central-region/Participating in this event](https://www.rudolfsteiner.org/central-region/Participating%20in%20this%20event) is a tremendous way to support the APO and spread the word about the presence and impact of anthroposophical studies in prisons. A warm and grateful thank you to our donors and Society members who participated in this virtual walkathon, which will celebrate its 10-year anniversary in 2022!

– Kathy Serafin, APO Program Director (MI)

# council of anthroposophical organizations

*a committee of the Anthroposophical Society in America*



## COUNCIL OF ANTHROPOSOPHICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Council of Anthroposophical Organizations  
A committee of the Anthroposophical Society in America.

Associations of organizations, organizations, institutions, and initiatives working with anthroposophical ideas in the context of public life come together in the Council of Anthroposophical Organizations. The CAO brings together representatives of organizations for the purpose of collegiality, communication, discussions of common interest and concern, projects of mutual interest, and active service to Anthroposophy and the Anthroposophical Society.

The scope of the Council of Anthroposophical Organizations work includes:

- Developing cooperative and mutually supportive activities between the Anthroposophical Society with its School for Spiritual Science and those organizations and initiatives which bring the practical application of anthroposophy into all spheres of life.
- Fostering collaborative endeavors between these various organizations and initiatives on a national and local level, as well as providing a common meeting space with other like-minded organizations.
- Providing collegial support to participants in their own meditative work as they serve in anthroposophical endeavors.
- Reporting on and studying issues, topics, needs and opportunities arising from our broad constituencies in order to determine or recommend further possible actions to the appropriate organization(s) or as a collaborative project.
- Serving as a consultative body to member organizations.

In 2021, the CAO sponsored an 8-session series, Questions of Race and Diversity in Rudolf Steiner's Spiritual Science, led by Cory Eichmann. Participants from member organizations explored the profound and

## CAO MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

[Alliance for Public Waldorf Education](#)

[Anthroposophical Society in America \[US\]](#)

[Association for Anthroposophic Psychology](#)

[Association of Waldorf Schools of North America](#)

[Biodynamic Association](#)

[Camphill Association](#)

[Center for Biography and Social Art](#)

[The Christian Community in North America](#)

[Eurythmy Association of North America](#)

[Hawthorne Valley Association](#)

[LifeWays North America](#)

[MysTech](#)

[North American Youth Section](#)

[Physicians Association for Anthroposophical Medicine](#)

[RSF Social Finance](#)

[SteinerBooks](#)

[Threefold Educational Foundation](#)

[Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America](#)

challenging questions that have increasingly come toward them from the public. The course provided a broader and contextualized exploration of race and culture, particularly in North America, and provided an informed framework to look at race within their respective experiences of anthroposophy and Steiner's work.

In his introduction, Cory shared the perspective that "we are all miraculously complex human beings. Steiner is not an exception to that, and the questions of race and culture are not simple and deserve a nuanced discussion." The group had courageous conversations, asked hard questions, and together deepened their experience with these important and timely questions. One of the benefits of the course was informing and inspiring deeper conversations within the wider circles of each of the member organizations that had designated participants in the course.

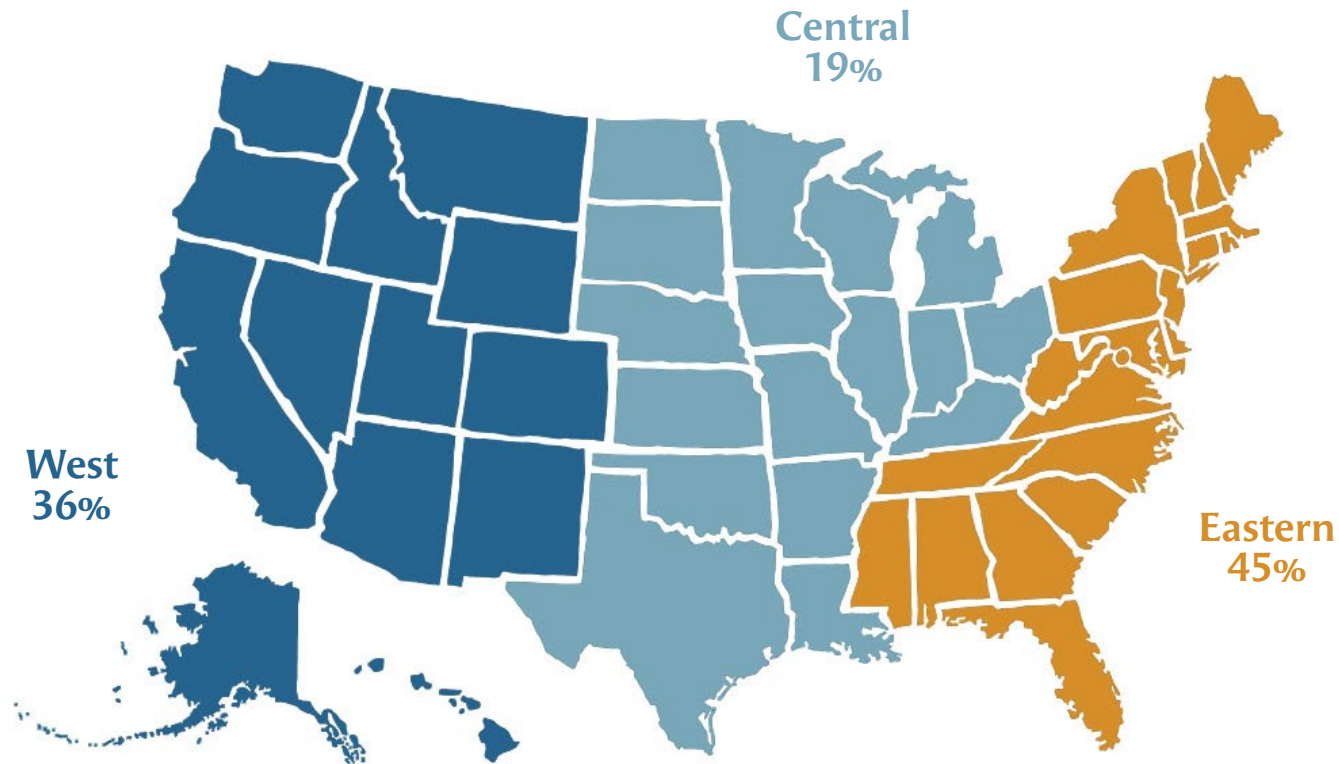
The CAO is financed by membership contributions from the various member organizations, and its actions are guided by what would serve to further anthroposophy, the work of the Society, and the inspiration of Rudolf Steiner.

The CAO continued to discern what programs and services it might provide in support of its members in these changing times. Thank you to these associations and organizations that participated in the CAO in 2021.

– John Bloom, General Secretary (CA)

# work in the regions

2021 US MEMBERSHIP BY REGION



The Western, Central, and Eastern regions were created to enjoy more-than-local activities in our large country. Wherever you live, you can contact your regional council representatives directly to find out what's happening in your part of the country. Visit the [ASA Local Groups/Region web page](#) for local resources and more. Region representatives are:

- Western Region: Christine Burke (as of August 2021, [socsciencenews@gmail.com](mailto:socsciencenews@gmail.com))
- Central Region: Hazel Archer Ginsberg ([hazel@reverseritual.com](mailto:hazel@reverseritual.com))
- Eastern Region: Gino Ver Eecke ([gfbver@gmail.com](mailto:gfbver@gmail.com))

## FROM THE WESTERN REGION

In April 2021, the Western Regional Council (WRC) hosted an online Whitsun Study on The Whitsuntide Festival, Its Place in the Study of Karma, a lecture given in June 1924 in Dornach. Christine Burke joined the Western Regional Council in April, with Timothy Kennedy joining soon after in May.



2021 brought more clarity and more questions around the Coronavirus pandemic, and the programs and protocols that rolled out were different from state to state and even from town to town. The WRC reached out to many communities to connect, ask how we might support their endeavors, and of course, connect with our brothers and sisters across the region.

Many of the groups, branches, independent initiatives, farms, schools and institutions in the Western Region faced the new challenges of meeting and connecting with goodwill and a desire to stay in touch. The extreme polarities meeting us from outside of anthroposophy also began to enter as questions and caused a good deal of conflicts. The WRC reached out to

branches and groups with concern and interest in finding ways to bridge the polarities that were arising. In Portland, the difficulties inspired conversations on challenging topics, which have brought and continue to bring healing to the conflicts.

Many branches and groups started and continued study groups online, which brought connections to new people (locally and globally) and inspired spin-off studies like the weekly meetings of a Mystery Drama group through an Arizona branch and the Six Essential Exercises and Calendar of the Soul weekday meetings based in California. There are too many to name them all!

Community-based and individual initiatives continue to grow in the west as well, for example, with the Elderberries work in developing relationships within and outside anthroposophy. Many biodynamic farms in the region have experienced a boon of interest and a greater demand for healthy produce and products – as well as interest in the community life around foods. And the Front Range Anthroposophical Café, based in Colorado continues to thrive by inviting new topics and discussions every Friday night!

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to Rebecca Soloway for being a member of the Western Regional Council for the past seven years. She concluded her work on the Council in October 2021. We are so grateful for her energy, intention, and loving service.

– Christine Burke (CA) Western Regional Representative to the General Council

**2021 Western Regional Council:**

Sebastian Heycke (CA), Micky Leach (NM), Sandra Stoner (chair) (CA), Christine Burke (CA), Kirk Mills (CO), Rebecca Soloway (cycled off in October) (OR), Timothy Kennedy (OR)



**FROM THE CENTRAL REGION**

The Heartland is ever pulsing with activity. The CRC hosted the ASA annual conference and members meeting in 2021: Building the Temple of the Heart as the first in-person and hybrid AGM. The theme came out of our monthly study of the Grail and Parzival mysteries that we combined with Rudolf Steiner’s Six Basic Exercises as the foundation for our Temple. This four-day event offered opportunities to gather at nine branches around the country to experience the conference in person and online.

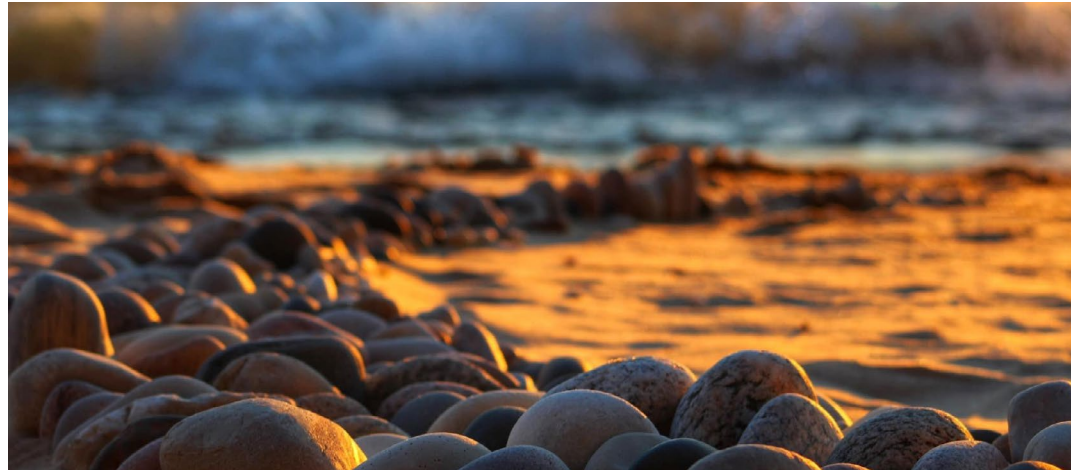


Throughout the conference, six “hubs” from around the Central Region were featured, each taking on one of the six basic exercises: New Orleans (Thinking), Austin (Willing), Twin Cities MN (Equanimity), Kansas, and northern Michigan (Positivity), Ann Arbor (Open mindedness), and Chicago and Youth Section (Harmony). We had biography leaders Janey Newton and Kathleen Bowen singing with Dennis

Dietzel and the Twin Cities crew, speech with Katherine Thivierge, Eurythmy with Mary Ruud; and keynote speakers: Michael Lipson, Michaela Glöckler, and Brian Gray. There were musical interludes with Chicago youth Morgan Vallat.

As the culminating event, the CRC presented one of our unique specialties, an experiential pageant – Building the Temple of the Heart: The Royal Art: A Social Pilgrimage of the Soul. This staged reading, written by Hazel Archer, featured sixteen local folks that included branch and Christian Community members, our local Biodynamic Farmer John and Haidy Peterson, and singers Lucien Dante Lazar and Ultra-Violet Archer, who wrote an original song for the pageant, along with the folks from the six “hubs” and the CRC. Staging: Marianne Fieber; Technical Director: Mary Spalding (President of the Rudolf Steiner Branch in Chicago); and Michael Chekov work with Lisa Dalton. Purchase a copy of the pageant by following this link: [proceeds go to support the CRC.](#)

The focus of anthroposophical work facilitated by the CRC continues to be threefold. We start with a study text based on our theme of the year. Many of our members live far from a group or branch and long for connection with other students of anthroposophy. We have friends joining us from around



the world every first Wednesday for our monthly study call working with our current theme: The Mysteries of the Holy Grail – From Arthur and Parzival to Modern Initiation. These well-attended calls spark lively group discussions that deepen our understanding of the New Mysteries. If you'd like to join us, reach out to Mary Mertz via email to request the link.

Throughout the year, we also celebrate festival life with special events and online pageants, inviting members and friends to engage in our experiential offerings. All are welcome.

Alberto Loya stepped down from the CRC after being on the Council since 2009 —thank you for your many contributions, Alberto! Mary Mertz, from Kansas, who has been working with the CRC for the past year, was officially inducted onto the Council recently. We also worked with Camilla Veciglio and appreciate her contributions in 2021.

Recordings of past events and more information are available on our webpage: [www.rudolfsteiner.org/central-region](http://www.rudolfsteiner.org/central-region).

Thank you for supporting our work.

– Hazel Archer-Ginsberg Central Regional Council Representative to the General Council (IL)

#### **2021 Central Regional Council**

Hazel Archer-Ginsberg (IL), Lisa Dalton (TX), Mary Mertz (KS), working with Michael Gratsch (MI)

#### **FROM THE EASTERN REGION**

The Eastern Region Holding Group continues to meet monthly online to study, plan and listen to the needs within the Eastern Region, which covers the areas of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and the Southeast. In our studies, we work with the letters to the Members, which keep inspiring us to tend to the spiritual life in our region.

Please visit our updated webpage on the ASA website: [www.rudolfsteiner.org/easternregion](http://www.rudolfsteiner.org/easternregion). There you will find the minutes of our meetings, mission statement, and short bios.



We held our Eastern Region Video Newsletter in February 2021, which was well attended. About 50 people joined in the Zoom call to hear from Tari Steinrueck about events and developments at the Rudolf Steiner Fellowship Community in Chestnut Ridge, NY, and a report by Alex Tuchman on the workings of the North American Agricultural Section. He also shared a beautiful slideshow on the work of the Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary in Virginia.

The Mid-Atlantic Area held an in-person gathering at the NYC Branch on November 2021. This was well attended and included friends from PA and the Berkshire-Taconic area. We continued with our theme of research in the art of conversation. We came more and more to the realization that incorporating moments of silence

## rudolf steiner house, ann arbor, mi

would bring us closer to the spirit. Our next Mid-Atlantic Area meeting is planned to take place in the Berkshire-Taconic Area.

In the Southeast, in-person activities are beginning to start up again slowly, and online meetings are robust. We are promoting the use of an online bulletin board to help folks know about activities – follow this link to check it out. ([www.padlet.com/programs4/southeast](http://www.padlet.com/programs4/southeast)).

There's also an online bulletin board for the entire Eastern Region here: [www.padlet.com/programs4/eastevents](http://www.padlet.com/programs4/eastevents).

The 6 Basic Exercises (6BE) practice group, with participants worldwide and hosted from Atlanta, just wrapped up 150 days of consistent meetings to focus on the fundamental exercises. Anthroposophy Atlanta started two new study groups that are structured in a way to bridge out to people who are not necessarily anthroposophists. One is a group reading Brothers in the Beloved Community by Rev. Marc Andrus, which explores the friendship between Martin Luther King, Jr and Thich Nhat Hanh. The other group, reading for the dead, is hosted by Jolie Luba, using the book Anam Cara by John O'Donohue.

– Gino Ver Eecke, Eastern Region  
Representative to the General  
Council (NY)

### **Eastern Region Holding Group**

Angela Foster (GA), Cathy Green (TN), Sheena Ifkovitch (PA), Dave Mansur (MD), Gino Ver Eecke (NY)



The Rudolf Steiner House is the main office of the Anthroposophical Society in America and a beautiful and comfortable gathering space for retreats, events, workshops, and small performances. It has been a slow year at Steiner House, with in-person activities just starting up again in 2021. We currently have two long-term residents and are open once again for overnight guests and events.

The house has nine guest rooms (with shared bathrooms), a small performance space, a huge kitchen and dining room, and gorgeous gardens and grounds. Our excellent location is within walking

distance to the University of Michigan's Nichols Arboretum and convenient to restaurants, stores, and other downtown attractions.

The Great Lakes Branch continues to meet at Steiner House and hosted several in-person festivals this year. We were delighted to once again host the Educational Support Training – Association for a Healing Education's two-week teacher training intensive. The Youth Section also came for a retreat in 2021. A local eurythmist also comes regularly to practice in our meeting hall.

The General Council of the ASA met in Ann Arbor in July – the first in-person meeting since 2019. We were so glad to be together and to also host a small, outdoor social event for the Council and members of the Great Lakes Branch. The conversations and connections were deep, and the potluck dinner provided by the local community was quite delicious.

We did not host any short-term overnight guests in 2021, aside from the General Council, but are now welcoming overnight visitors and groups. If you are coming to the Ann Arbor area and would like a comfortable and affordable place to stay, please visit [www.anthroposophy.org/rsh](http://www.anthroposophy.org/rsh), or contact Cynthia Chelius at [cynthia@anthroposophy.org](mailto:cynthia@anthroposophy.org) or 734-662-9355 for more information.

– Cynthia Chelius, House Manager (MI)



GRATITUDE

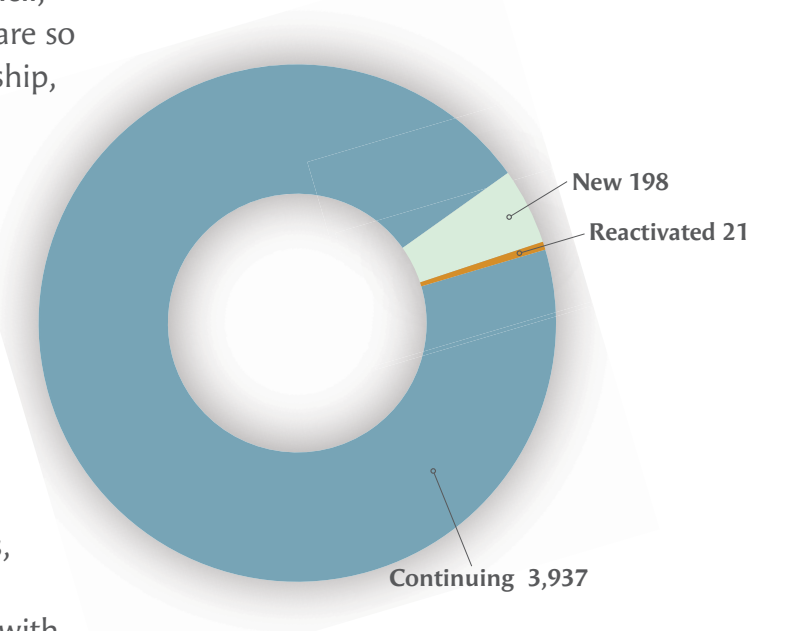
## thank you for your membership & support

On behalf of the General Council, Leadership Team and staff, we are so very grateful for your membership, interest and generous support. 2021 was a year of challenges and changes, and the interest and care of our members and friends helped us all to bring anthroposophy more deeply into the world today. Thank you.

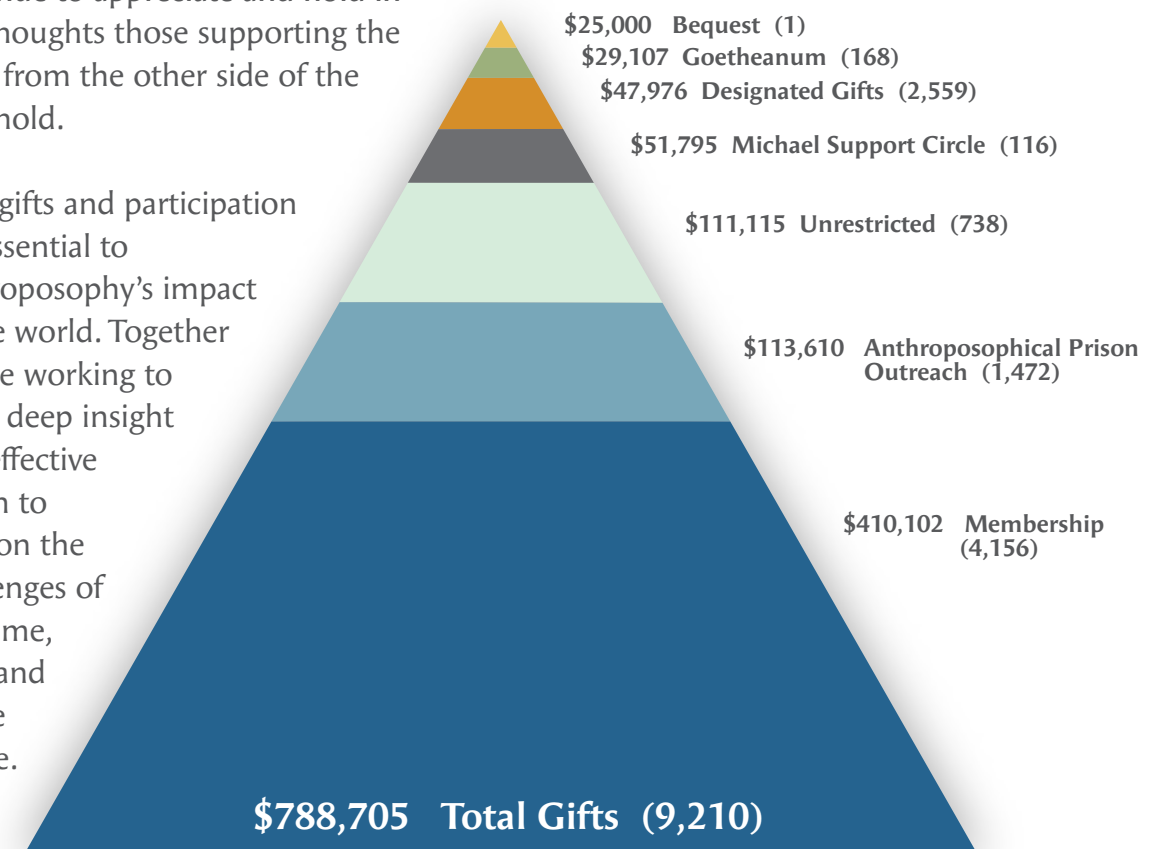
In 2021, we raised \$378,603 in unrestricted and special gifts, and \$410,102 in membership contributions, ending the year with 4156 members – a 9% increase from 2020. We extend a warm welcome to our 337 new members. And, we continue to appreciate and hold in our thoughts those supporting the work from the other side of the threshold.

Your gifts and participation are essential to anthroposophy's impact in the world. Together we are working to bring deep insight and effective action to bear on the challenges of our time, now and in the future.

### MEMBERSHIP



### GIFTS





## We extend gratitude to all our Michael Support Circle members, including these generous organizations:

[Anthroposophical Society of Cape Ann](#)

[Association of Waldorf Schools in North America](#)

[Bay Area Center for Waldorf Teacher Training](#)

[Biodynamic Association](#)

[The Camphill School](#)

[Carah Medical Arts](#)

[Cedarwood Waldorf School](#)

[Council of Anthroposophical Organizations](#)

[Gradalis Waldorf Consulting & Services](#)

[Great Lakes Branch](#)

[House of Peace](#)

[Rudolf Steiner Fellowship Foundation](#)

Lorene Allen  
Shannon Chamberlin  
Robert Cornett  
Diana Cosma  
Gary Davis  
Evalyn Drake  
Dwight Ebaugh  
Torin Finser &  
Karine Munk Finser  
Virginia Flynn  
Angela & Patrick Foster  
Nancy & William Foster  
Bob Froelich  
Susanna Gaertner  
Ray German  
Alice Bennett Groh  
Carol Gutierrez  
Paula & Van Beck Hall

Betty & Bob Hare  
Dorothy Hinkle-Uhlig  
Joan & Jeffrey Ingle  
William H. Manning  
Diana & Alexis Mei  
Sarah McBrian  
Beverly McGrath  
Linda Michaels  
Susan Moss  
Dr. Ida Oberman  
Kenneth Roe  
Dr. Virginia Sease  
Martee Seuss  
Rebecca & Jerome Soloway  
Mariola Strahlberg  
John Urban  
Anonymous (14)

## MICHAEL SUPPORT CIRCLE

Thank you to our Michael Support Circle members! Together you have contributed nearly \$52,000 in 2021, and we are grateful. You are leaders in sustaining and generous support.

The Michael Support Circle is our major donor group and a critical component of the Society's resource development efforts. The Circle began in 2009 as an initiative of Ernst Katz and Torin Finser and includes individuals and organizations who commit \$500, \$1000, or more as an annually recurring, unrestricted gift for five or more years in addition to a person's annual membership contribution.

Thank you to all of our Michael Support Circle members for helping the ASA to build sustainability, increase our impact, and bring the gifts of anthroposophy more fully into our world today.

**Are you the next Michael Support Circle member?** Visit [anthroposophy.org/msc](https://anthroposophy.org/msc) or contact [info@anthroposophy.org](mailto:info@anthroposophy.org) to learn more.

## LEAVING A LEGACY OF WILL - PLANNED GIVING

Legacy Gifts are making the difference in our ability to respond to challenging times. And that is an overarching goal for many of those who have included the Anthroposophical Society in their wills and planning. A national organization with a big mission in a huge country, the ASA strives to meet the needs of our members, our friends, and our Society, now and into the future.

Legacy gifts include bequests, life insurance policies and other methods which do not affect a person's current income. And legacy gifts build a bridge between the past and the future, bringing anthroposophy more fully into the world.

Our Legacy Circle continues to grow! We invite you to join by letting us know of your intention to leave a bequest or other planned gift to the Anthroposophical Society in America. If you have already made provisions for the ASA in your will or would like to learn more, please contact [anthroposophy.org/legacy.com](https://anthroposophy.org/legacy.com) or 734-662-9355.



We are strengthened and blessed by the efforts of all people who strive to bring beauty and meaning to the world, inspired by the work of Rudolf Steiner. And we remain connected in deep and meaningful ways with those across the threshold who share our intentions and love.

Thank you to these current and past members of our

## Legacy Circle

Erika V. Asten\*  
 Betty Baldwin  
 J. Leonard Benson\*  
 Susannah Berlin\*  
 Hiram Anthony Bingham\*  
 Mrs. Hiram A. Bingham  
 Virginia Blutau\*  
 Iana Questara Boyce\*  
 Gary C. Davis  
 Marion Bruce\*  
 Robert Cornett  
 Helen Ann Dinklage\*  
 Irmgard Dodegge\*  
 Raymond Elliot\*  
 Lotte K. Emde\*  
 Hazel Ferguson\*  
 Marie S. Fetzer\*  
 Linda C. Folsom\*  
 Susanna Gaertner  
 Gerda Gaertner\*  
 Ruth H. Geiger\*  
 Ray German  
 David Gershan, MD

Harriet S. Gilliam\*  
 Chuck Ginsberg  
 Hazel Archer-Ginsberg  
 Agnes B. Granberg\*  
 Alice Bennett Groh  
 Bruce L. Henry\*  
 Ruth Heuscher\*  
 Richard Hicks\*  
 Christine Huston  
 Ernst Katz\*  
 Cecilia Leigh  
 Anna Lord\*  
 Seymour Lubin\*  
 William H. Manning  
 A. Roz Mar, PhD  
 Barbara Martin  
 Beverly Martin  
 Gregg Martens\*  
 Helvi McClelland  
 Ellen McDermott  
 Robert McDermott  
 Robert S. Miller\*  
 Ralph Neuman\*

Martin Novom  
 Carolyn Oates  
 Mary Lee Plumb-Mentjes  
 Norman Pritchard\*  
 Paul Riesen\*  
 Mary Rubach\*  
 Margaret Runyon  
 Ray Schlieben\*  
 Lillian C. Scott\*  
 Fairchild Smith\*  
 Patti Smith\*  
 Doris E. Stitzer\*  
 Gertrude O. Teutsch\*  
 Katherine Thivierge  
 Catherina Vanden Broek  
 Jeannette Van Wiemeersch  
 Randall Wadsworth  
 Pamela Whitman  
 Thomas Wilkinson  
 Anonymous (24)

(\*indicates past legacy gift)

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

### GRANTS

We are grateful to the Rudolf Steiner Charitable Trust for their grant of \$12,000 to the Anthroposophical Prison Outreach in 2021. This generous gift helps bring anthroposophical materials and hope to individuals who are striving for self-improvement while in prison.

We are grateful for the ongoing and generous support of this wonderful organization. Their generous grants over the years allow us to reach more people and leverage our resources to make a bigger impact in the world.

### SPECIAL GIFTS

The Society also welcomes designated gifts to the following groups and activities: Anthroposophical Prison Outreach, the Goetheanum, the School for Spiritual Science and its Sections, the Henry Barnes Fund for Anthroposophical Research, Rudolf Steiner House, regional programs, and the Eurythmy and Speech & Drama Associations.

**It's easy to make a gift to the Society.** Just visit [www.anthroposophy.org/makeagift](http://www.anthroposophy.org/makeagift), use a remittance envelope from *being human*, or give us a call at 734-662-9355.

– Deb Abrahams-Dematte, Director of Development (NH)



# TRANSPARENCY

## treasurer's report

Like the rest of the world, the Anthroposophical Society in America (US) found itself slowly transitioning in and out of strict COVID protocols. This was certainly challenging at times, and most of our meetings continued to be on Zoom, although we did manage to meet in person in Ann Arbor in August (more on that later!) Throughout it all, our financial position remained strong and we closed out the year with a surplus of over \$100,000 compared to our annual budget. The surplus is primarily attributable to two key elements: travel expenses that were significantly below budget and programming income that was significantly above budget.

In 2020, ASA, along with countless other organizations, took on a Payroll Protection Loan (PPL) from the US government. In 2021, this loan was forgiven in its entirety due in great part to the professional attention of Katherine Thivierge, Director of Operations, and Eddie Lederman, ASA accountant.

In August, the ASA General Council and Leadership team met in Ann Arbor. At this meeting, the Finance Committee presented a draft Investment Policy Statement – an effort led by Eddie Lederman and carried by the Finance Committee. The investment policy statement was developed in response to the receipt of generous bequests and the creation of the Bequest Policy to preserve some funds to support the pursuit of the Society's mission over time. Work on the plan will continue into 2022 when a finalized plan will be shared with the membership and a standing Investment Committee will be formed.

While revenue from programs, donations, and bequests was very strong in 2021, membership renewal continues to be the single biggest source of Society revenue, with a 2021 income of \$410,000. This works out to an average renewal contribution of \$100/member.



## ASA BEQUEST POLICY

The ASA Bequest Policy directs that all bequest contributions received be placed in the Bequest Fund. Up to 12% of the total Bequest Fund balance on September 30 of the previous year may be used for operating expenses and other expenses as directed by the General Council.

ASA contributed \$72,000 dollars to the Goetheanum in 2021, for an average of about \$18/member. Our goal in the coming years is to increase this contribution to about \$300,000, which would put us in line with other national Societies with comparable membership. We realize this is an ambitious goal, and we look forward to working with you in 2022 to develop a plan for reaching this goal.

I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize Katherine Thivierge for her years of dedicated leadership as our Director of Operations. Katherine has always had a steady hand on the financial aspects of the organization and we wish her all the best as she moves into retirement. She leaves us in good shape, with good systems that will serve our Society well for years to come.

If you have questions about the Society's financial condition or would like a more detailed understanding of our financial process, please reach out to me directly at [treasurer@anthroposophy.org](mailto:treasurer@anthroposophy.org). I'd be happy to talk with you.

– Dave Mansur, General Council Treasurer (MA)

*Members who wish to receive a copy of the ASA audit may request one by contacting Katherine Chivierge at [Katherine@anthroposophy.org](mailto:Katherine@anthroposophy.org).*

## from the general council

It was quite a year as we continued to deal with the pandemic, which brought challenges and compromises on many levels in 2021. As I think about the year, I am aware that as a Council and as anthroposophists, we were called to adapt to new levels of flexibility while staying focused on our goals, staying vulnerable while being in positions of leadership; remaining steadfast in maintaining relationships amidst differing viewpoints, and above all trying to find the Christ path through it all.

After a year of meeting on Zoom, we were able to meet in person in Ann Arbor in August wearing masks during our meetings. This compromise was worth the effort to be able to be in the same room with one another and build our relationship with new members of the Council. As many other groups have discovered, online meetings are much less satisfying yet necessary for the in-between time since we are spread out over the entire country.

The pandemic has necessitated creating new ways of working together and the new form of the AGM is a result of that effort. The new model for the AGM is a hybrid version that allows us to work across time zones simultaneously. The AGM in October was a showcase for working with host groups and hubs around the country. This allows many people to attend who might otherwise not be able to, and as a result, unite us more as a community of anthroposophists across time and space.

Despite all the challenges and compromises, our work is always augmented by our study together, which gives us the strength and inspiration we need to do our work. This year we read "Anthroposophy, An Introduction" (GA 234). These lectures given in 1924, the year before Steiner's death, are a comprehensive compilation of essays, one of which outlines love as a cognitive force. This was the underlying inspiration for meeting all that came toward us this year – developing love for one another as a cognitive force in the truest sense of the meaning.

...Only, it must not be the shallow love of which alone, as a rule, our materialistic age speaks. It must be the love by which you can identify yourself with another being—...You must really be able to feel what is passing in the other being just as you feel what is passing in yourself; you must be able to go out of yourself and live again in another...



And only when this love goes hand in hand with that higher—inspired—cognition are we really able to enter the spiritual with all the warmth of our nature, with all our inwardness of heart and mind; that is, with our soul forces.

In good faith,

– Helen-Ann Ireland (ME),  
General Council Chair



### THE GENERAL COUNCIL

The General Council of the Anthroposophical Society in America carries the spiritual mission of the Society, and they are the board of directors of the non-profit organization, with responsibility for its legal and financial well-being.

The Council strives to represent the Anthroposophical Society in the world, support the work of the School for Spiritual Science and the Sections, and cultivate a deep relationship to anthroposophy among members and initiatives. It is the intent and purpose of the General Council to serve as a connection to the incarnation of anthroposophy in our time.

Council members chosen by a regional council serve annual terms, and at-large members serve 3-year terms. Both are limited to six years of consecutive service.

### THANK YOU GENERAL COUNCIL

John Bloom  
General Secretary (CA)

Margaret Runyon  
Member at large (LA)

Helen-Ann Ireland  
Chair, member-at-large (ME)

Gino ver Eecke  
Eastern Region Representative (NY)

Dave Mansur  
Treasurer, member-at-large (MA)

Deb Abrahams-Dematte, Director of Development,  
ex officio

Nathaniel Williams  
Secretary, member-at-large (NY)

Tess Parker, Director of Programs, ex officio

Christine Burke  
Western Region Representative (CA)

Katherine Thivierge, Director of Operations,  
ex officio

welcome



**NEW GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Christine Burke** joined the General Council as the new Western Region representative. She is a trained speech artist and Waldorf teacher who holds degrees in Linguistics and Communication Studies. She is the founder and chef at Caffrodite Community Collective in her hometown of Ventura, CA. She is also a member of the School of Spiritual Science and on the Collegium of the Social Sciences Section in North America, and edits the Section newsletter. Christine also hosts several online anthroposophical study groups and is a member of the Helen Hecker Group in Santa Barbara. She brings energy, vision, and a deep love of anthroposophy to her work with the Council.



**Margaret Runyon** has been working with anthroposophy for decades, building depth of understanding and deep community in New Orleans, LA, where she resides. Margaret was a long-time member of the Central Regional Council, served on the board of the Waldorf School of New Orleans for nine years, and was a founding board member of the Raphael Academy (now Raphael Village). Margaret has been part of the ASA's development committee since 2015. She currently serves as the Enrollment Director at the Waldorf School of New Orleans. We are grateful for her roots, intention, and deep devotion to bringing anthroposophy more fully into the world.

**DEPARTING GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Thank you** to our departing members for their many gifts of service:

- Dave Alsop
- Hazel Archer Ginsberg
- Micky Leach
- Hannah Schwartz



**THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!**

**Finance Committee**

- Dave Alsop
- Dwight Ebaugh
- Dave Mansur
- Jack Michael
- Katherine Thivierge

**Development Committee**

- Torin Finser
- Ray German
- Joyce Reilly
- Margaret Runyon
- Deb Abrahams-Dematte
- John Bloom

**Human Resources Committee**

- Marianne Fieber
- Micky Leach
- Jack Michael
- Katherine Thivierge

**Applied Anthroposophy Planning Group**

- Linda Bergh
- Chris Burke
- Anne de Wild
- Angela Foster
- Tess Parker
- Laura Scappaticci
- Jordan Walker

**APO Advisory Group**

- Eileen Bristol
- Dave Mansur
- Rick Ruffin
- Kathy Serafin

**AGM 2021 Planning Committee**

- Hazel Archer-Ginsberg
- Lisa Dalton
- Marianne Fieber
- Timothy Kennedy
- Alberto Loya
- Tess Parker

**Council of Anthroposophical Organizations**

- Deb Abrahams-Dematte
- Cynthia Aldinger
- Christina Beck
- John Bloom
- Kathleen Bowen
- Charlie Burkam
- David Gershan, MD
- Raphael Guzman
- Susan Howard
- John Scott Legg
- Rebecca Moskowitz
- Tess Parker
- Martin Ping
- Elizabeth Sanders
- Eric Silber
- Sea-Anna Vasilis
- Jasper van Brakel
- Rosario Villasana
- Craig Wiggins



## leadership & staff

John Bloom, General Secretary

### Leadership Team

Deb Abrahams-Dematte, Director of Development (through Nov 1,22)

Tess Parker, Director of Programs

Katherine Thivierge, Director of Operations

John Beck, Director of Communications and Editor, *being human* (on leave through Dec 2022)

Eddie Ledermann, Accountant

Kathy Serafin, Program Director, Anthroposophical Prison Outreach

Candace Acacia, Gardener

Diana Carlen, Development Assistant

Cynthia Chelius, Administrative Assistant and Manager, Rudolf Steiner House

Angela Foster, Program Assistant

Katrina Hoven, Program and Communication Assistant

Linda Leonard, Bookkeeper

Marta Stemberger, Communication Assistant

Julie Pangborn, Housekeeper

## statement on mission and values

### What is the Society?

Founded in the work and inspiration of Rudolf Steiner, the Anthroposophical Society in America tends the wellspring that permeates the research and practical manifestations of Steiner's work developed in such fields as education, agriculture, medicine, the arts, natural sciences, economics, and more.

### Values

The Anthroposophical Society is open to anyone interested in Rudolf Steiner's work. Those who are both on a journey of self-discovery in service to the world and who recognize the legacy of Rudolf Steiner's insights into the human being and into humankind are welcome to join the Society.

Relationships and engagement are at the heart of the work of the

Anthroposophical Society in America. The Society holds as core values inner freedom for the individual and a social consciousness that recognizes authenticity and inquiry as essential to personal and cultural development.

The Society serves its membership and friends through regional councils and local branches, conferences and gatherings, publications and opportunities for learning, and by encouraging initiative and enterprise committed to uplifting the human being and a more human future.

### Mission

The Anthroposophical Society in America supports and furthers the work of Rudolf Steiner in the United States. It is an open membership organization that fosters self-development and inspired social engagement.

*[We] must cast aside the division into races. [We] must seek to unite people of all races and nations and to bridge the divisions and differences between various groups of people.*

*- Rudolf Steiner*

### What is Anthroposophy?

Anthroposophy is a discipline of research as well as a path of knowledge, service, personal growth, and social engagement. Introduced and developed by Rudolf Steiner, it is concerned with all aspects of human life, spirit, and humanity's future evolution and well-being.

# we welcome your feedback!

For further information about the Anthroposophical Society, or if you have any questions or ideas to share, please contact:

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“ ... there bursts forth within us the inner awakening of the creative radiance of Spirit, which is man's high calling in the Universe.”

*Rudolf Steiner*







**ANTHROPOSOPHICAL**  
Society in America