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TOGETHER

The Anthroposophical Society in America
2019 Annual Report

Anthroposophical Society in America



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From the General Secretary

Dear Members and Friends,



Seeing 2019 through the complexity of the first half of 2020 is a challenge, but once through an amazingly fruitful but distant year emerges. The most pronounced theme was the quality of engagement, in the increased level of regional and branch work and our national gathering in Atlanta, all accompanied by a degree of increasing generational transition. The elements of a more social future started to become more visible across the movement. Those many members and friends who participated in the Holy Nights Celebrations online, sometimes from around the world, experienced the warmth of a space-based series of events in which community took on a new shape. This event was an early seed for what has flourished out of necessity as we shelter in place.

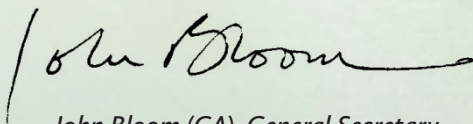
Fortunately, place still played a very important part of activities in 2019. I was at the Goetheanum for both the spring and fall meetings of the General Secretaries/Country Representatives. Those meetings were complemented by the active presence of the Youth Section. As an international group we very much support and increasingly participate in the collaborative leadership that has emerged between the Executive Council (Vorstand) and the Goetheanum Leadership (Section Leaders). It seems that leadership group is asked to do ever more work on behalf of the worldwide movement with fewer resources and people; and, they have accomplished a lot not only in activities, but also in building relationships with countries and sections.

One highlight of 2019 was my accompanying Joan Sleight for a week plus participating first in meetings with The North American Collegium of the School for Spiritual Science in Harlemlville, NY, then some time for programs and visits to the Temple-Wilton, NH, area, and onto Washington, DC, for more school and branch visits, and touring the nation's capital. It was a profound moment for us both to tour the National Museum of African American History and Culture. It helped bring context to a unique and painful reality in US culture which will inform and be part of the Goetheanum's impulse to be an increasingly cosmopolitan world society.

In June in Chestnut Ridge I participated as an elder and representing the Society in the Youth Conference. The level of enthusiasm for the journey in search of meaning was palpable. And as I referenced earlier, I hope I was present and treading lightly on the seed bed of the future. The interest in and value of biography and artistic expression made soul-presence aesthetic and real. Such emergence needs and deserves support, opportunity, and leadership—they are after all carrying the future of anthroposophy in their hearts, hands, and heads.

I also was honored to represent the Anthroposophical Society in the US at the Biodynamics in the Americas Conference in San Miguel Allende, Mexico. I experienced there the earth wisdom connected to the north-south axis that runs through North America. This is a whole field open for spiritual scientific research. Just as I have been in conversation with Bert Chase, General Secretary of Canada, we together are cultivating relationships in Mexico to help support the development of anthroposophy there. As part of that work, I attended the Waldorf 100 gathering in Mexico City to discover that there are some 72 Waldorf schools in Mexico. Anthroposophy is alive there in its practical educational expression.

The Anthroposophical Society in the US continues to grow in membership, which is wonderful and needed in the world. We are grateful for your interest and your generous support. At the same time, we have the challenge of continuing to kindle the flame of anthroposophy in the practical fields as they themselves reach more broadly into the world. This is a kind of active dialogue that is quite alive in the work of the Council of Anthroposophical Organizations. How can the Society and its members, including the School for Spiritual Science, nurture this impulse while recognizing by serving both the spiritual world and the needs of people and the earth, that anthroposophy's deepest integrity can and must remain even as its outer manifestations will by the nature of time and culture be transformed.



~ John Bloom (CA), General Secretary

From the Leadership Team

It is our honor and pleasure to present the Anthroposophical Society's 2019 Annual Report, *Coming Together*. We have gathered updates and glimpses of activities across the country, from friends near and far. We hope you enjoy reading and seeing the highlights of the year.

2019 was another busy year for the Leadership Team. Together with General Secretary John Bloom, we continue to strive to bring anthroposophy more fully into the world through learning opportunities, community building, and service to you, our members and friends.

The Leadership Team is a collaborative and geographically distributed team. We meet and study together regularly via video conference to share news and insights, set direction, and implement strategies toward the long-term health and effectiveness of our Society.

In February 2019, our annual planning retreat took place at the Christian Community in Fair Oaks, CA. The Leadership Team, plus John Beck and John Bloom, once again got together face-to-face to focus on high level planning, and we made progress on implementing a five-year budget and planning model for the organization.

We also continued to look at how best to serve our members and work with membership processes throughout the year. **How can we invite and engage new members, as well as inspire and keep connected with those of you who've been members of the ASA for many years?** This is a living and lively question in our team and we welcome your thoughts and feedback.

A great deal of focus was placed on fine-tuning the organization's strategic plan and working toward a five year picture. This plan supports the health and sustainability



of the Anthroposophical Society and of anthroposophical work in the United States.

The Strategic Plan has evolved based on North Star and business model visioning that began back in 2017. Since then, we have also worked together with the General Council to update our vision, mission, and values statements.

Here's an excerpt from our mission, as context for the priorities:

The Anthroposophical Society in America supports and furthers the work of Rudolf Steiner in the United States, fostering self-development and inspired social engagement.

See [page 39](#) for our full mission and values statements.

We continue to work with this plan actively; to review results, and to revisit assumptions and priorities, especially given the changing picture of our current time. The plan informs our program planning and budget processes, and helps us to stay focused on the big picture, in order for the ASA to have the strongest impact possible. Please follow [this link](#) for more information.

ASA Strategic Priorities 2019 – 2023

1. Strengthen the movement
2. Membership growth
3. Next stage communications
4. Generate and attract abundant resources to allow ASA to achieve its mission
5. Connect, serve, and strengthen groups, branches, and the School for Spiritual Science

These priorities help to focus and inform us, and have inspired a robust offering of programs with more accessibility than ever, new membership initiatives, and a strong impulse to connect deeply with our current members. We want you to know we are interested in supporting your journey, and appreciate your feedback, support, and participation at every level.

We believe that anthroposophy changes everything, and given the challenging times we are living through, the work of Rudolf Steiner and the ASA is more relevant and more powerful than ever.

Together, we can support one another and make a real difference in the world.

The Leadership Team feels deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve the anthroposophical movement and you. The best part of our work is the real connections we get to make with you, and our members and friends. We invite your ideas and your feedback, and we would love to hear from you. Our success depends on you!

Thank you for being a part of the Anthroposophical Society and for your care of anthroposophy in the world.

~ *Deb Abrahams-Dematte, Director of Development (NH)*
Laura Scappaticci, Director of Programs (CA)
Katherine Thivierge, Director of Operations (MI)

Events, Activities, Community

In 2019, the ASA started off the year with the Sacred Gateway: Conscious Living, Conscious Dying, and the Journey Beyond, a national conference on death and dying held in Ghent, NY. That October we held our annual conference in Atlanta, as well as a national youth conference in August, four well-attended webinars series, many new podcast episodes and the first-ever online Holy Nights community gathering.

The Sacred Gateway



We hosted our second national conference on death and dying (of a series of three) in April at Hawthorne Valley in New York. Over 140 members and friends gathered to hear keynotes by Rev. Julia Polter and Lisa Romero, and to learn about creating death-care communities to support our own journeys and those of our loved ones.

The weekend started with a screening of the film [Living While Dying](#) and a pre-conference visit to Camphill Ghent on Friday morning. We honored former ASA General Secretary and noted Waldorf early childhood warrior Joan Almon, as an inspiration and creative force behind the *Sacred Gateway* series. Just a few short months later in July, Joan crossed the threshold at the age of 74. See a tribute to her on [page 30](#).

A highlight of our time together was the “Container of Community” interactive gathering that honored Kirsten and Nina, Linda Bergh and Marianne and Dennis Dietzel’s daughters. No words can truly describe the power of this experiential re-telling of their death by family members and friends who lived in Hawthorne Valley at the time of the accident. Follow [this link](#) to read some reflections by Kirsten and Nina’s parents and conference participants. Additional conference presenters included Sandra LaGrega, Jennifer Fox, Jolie Luba, Deana Darby, Signe Schaefer, Laura Summer, Eve Olive, Jonitha Hasse, Joanna Carey, Maureen Flannery, and Dr. Steven Johnson.

Though people often wonder how a conference on death and dying will feel, we've found it to be inspiring and filled with positivity and light. A sense of deep community is quickly established as stories unfold, and meaning is created through a shared experience of loss and reconnection.

Questions of Courage

Over the course of many months, we studied and planned together with members of the North American Youth Section to create Questions of Courage, a youth conference held in August. Over 100 young people, ages 16-35, gathered together at [Threefold in Spring Valley, NY](#). The weekend was co-created by the young people who attended and offered workshops, art, singing, collaborative theater, storytelling, biography, conversation, movement and contemplation.

Keynote presenter Andrea De La Cruz from the Youth Section at the Goetheanum started the weekend off with a talk about "Courage To Face Our Blind Spots." And Iraq war veteran and international peace educator Paul K. Chappelle spoke about "Peace Literacy: Healing Trauma, Navigating Technology and Protecting Humanity's Future."

We enjoyed performances and music from Living Roots (Meaghan Witri,



Seamus Maynard and Jen Zimberg) Emmanuel Vukovich and John McDowell. Melody Brink and Ianthe Lauwaert joined us from England to tell the story of *Parzival*. And there were many workshops on a variety of topics, including understanding the movement of the planets, expressing our inner ideals, the value of social enterprise and more.

Facing Each Other: Freedom, Responsibility, and Love

In October, we gathered just outside of Atlanta, GA for our 2019 annual conference and members meeting. Through study, ceremony, and workshops, we connected with the work of Rudolf Steiner, Martin Luther King, Jr, and Marjorie Spock. Taking place at a community center in

Anthroposophical Society in America

Georgia, we could feel the friendliness and generosity of the surrounding environment. The theme of our conference unfolded with both gravity and levity as over the course of the weekend, members and friends listened deeply, shared their own research, attended workshops and learned with and from one another.



Over 150 people attended the event, which featured [keynote conversations with Rev Patrick Kennedy, speaking on “Love and Knowledge – How Practicing Spiritual Science Means Becoming Truly Social,”](#) and [Andrea De La Cruz speaking about “The Future of our Society: Freedom, Commitment and Youth.”](#)

A through-line of biography work led by Patti Smith and Chris Burke touched each of us deeply as we connected with each other in warm and profound ways. And once again, the keynotes as well as [the annual general meeting \(AGM\) presentation by the ASA General Council](#) were live streamed during the conference and available to see at home or at a later date.

There was a rich offering of pre-conference activities, including a Youth Gathering at the Anthroposophical Resource Center (ARC), the *Living in the Branches* national branch gathering featuring *Finding Our Voice* facilitator Beverly Amico from AWSNA, and a panel discussion about “Facing Technology.” Participants also had the opportunity to visit [the Martin Clinic](#) and Waldorf high school [Academe of the Oaks](#).

Songtrail creator and General Council member Marianne Fieber, along with Anthroposophy Atlanta branch member Jolie Luba, offered a special Decatur trail, “Connecting in the Past While Walking in the Present”. Over 30 people walked and sang together, and learned a bit about the history of this beautiful and historically important part of the country. Also on Friday morning, Rudiger Janisch offered Class lesson 9 of the School for Spiritual Science, followed by conversation led by Herbert Hagens and art led by Laura Summer.

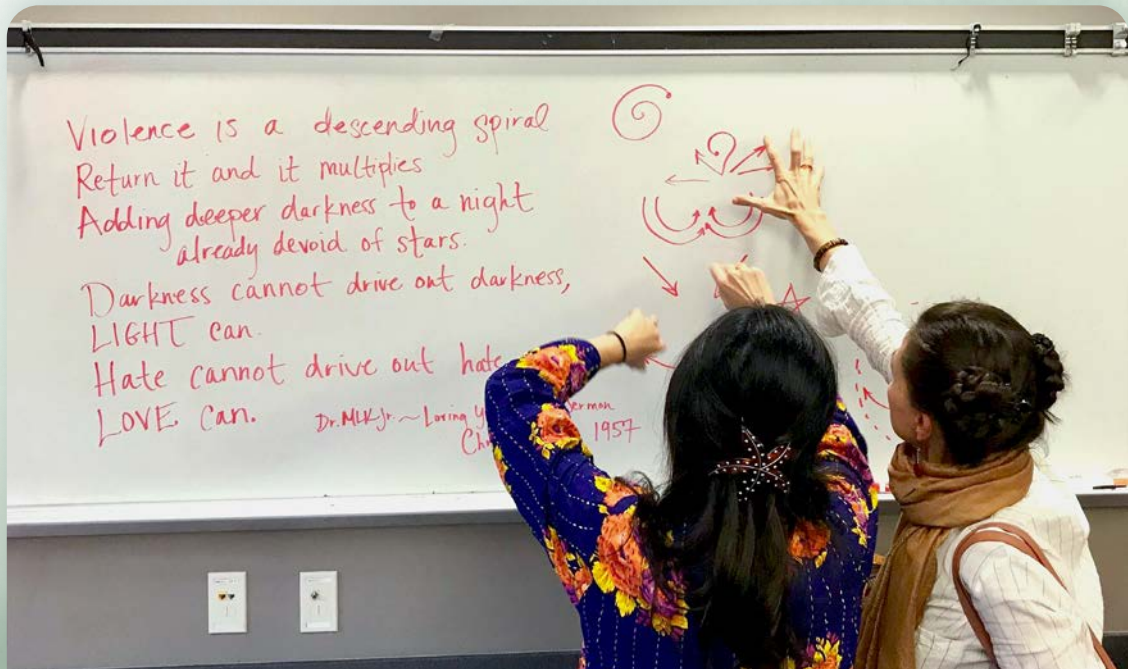
At the heart of the weekend was a meaningful exploration into the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his impact on our understanding of engaged anthroposophy, embodied activism, and facing the social, economic, and political struggles of our day. Workshops throughout the weekend touched on the deeper aspects of community and of meeting one another.

*What I came away from Atlanta with was **a deep feeling of wonder, a sense of awe, and a determination to work and to learn.** I believe there is still so much that I have to learn, and so much that I want to contribute to the mission that I encountered in Atlanta. To live, to enliven the legacy of those seeking justice and recognition of mutual humanity, to carry a love of the beautiful differences we all bring forth. And to do this with humility and love.*

~ Joaquin Munoz, PhD, presenter and participant

The conference closed with the group speaking the *Foundation Stone Meditation*, a reverent and poignant way to honor our time together.

Our 2020 conference plans have shifted and changed due to health concerns and travel restrictions related to Covid-19. [Willing the Good: Love, Action, Healing](#), our annual conference and members meeting, will now be held fully online, **October 9-11**. Speakers and presenters include Thea Maria Carlson, Peter Selg, Margaret Shipman, Harrie Salman and more. Stay tuned for details – registration opens August 15, and we hope you will join us.



ASA Webinars

(check them out at: anthroposophy.org/webinars)

The Society's webinar offerings expanded and reached international audiences in both remote and densely populated anthroposophical communities. Webinars

continue to be very well-attended, with upwards of 2000 people registered for live and recorded access to ASA webinars in 2019. Some have a specified cost, while others are free or available by donation.

At the end of December 2019 we hosted our first ever online Holy Nights Gathering with nearly 900 registrants from all over the world, who gathered to reflect on the meaning of this spiritual time of year. These broadcasts spanned

the 2019-2020 year beginning in late December to early January. Presentations were shared by groups and branches all across the country, focusing on the Foundation Stone and star wisdom. This initiative was created by Hazel Archer-Ginsberg, Angela Foster and Laura Scappaticci and carried by many members and friends, including

Mary Stewart Adams, Brian Gray, Tess Parker, Abigail Dancey, and more.

The Sophia Conference Planning Group was seeded at the 2019 Annual Conference in Atlanta during an informal breakout session that attracted more than 40 participants. This group continues to meet monthly, with the intention of getting to know one another through biography, supporting one another in creating and sharing local events, learning about the divine feminine together, and planning a face-to-face Sophia conference in 2022.

2019 Webinars included:

- ◆ *The Challenges and Spiritual Gifts of Aging* with Dr. David Gershan, Dr. Renee Meyer, and Dr. Pat Hart
- ◆ *The Challenge of Evil* with Bastiaan Baan
- ◆ *Create a Compass Rose of Wind and Stars* with Mary Stewart Adams and Patricia DeLisa
- ◆ *Holistic Work with Gender and Sexuality* with Lisa Romero
- ◆ *The Origin of All Souls* with Hazel Archer-Ginsberg
- ◆ *Phases of Life: The Human Being Between Earth and Cosmos* with Chris Burke and Patti Smith (3 part series)
- ◆ *Death and Meaning: A Sacred Gateway Series* with Lisa Romero, Deana Darby, and Karen Van Vuuren (3 part series)
- ◆ *Seventh Night of the Seventh Moon* with Mary Stewart Adams

ASA Podcast, *The Anthroposopher*

Our podcast series is going strong, with listeners from all over the world. With about 20,000 listens in the last 12 months, our reach is expanding and we are excited to provide high-quality content at no charge. The podcasts are intimate conversations with guests on a variety of topics.

In 2019, we recorded 11 new episodes with guests including



Mary Stewart Adams, Nathaniel Williams, Hazel Archer-Ginsberg, Andrea De La Cruz, Joaquin Muñoz, Sergio Gaiti, Paul Chappelle, and Lynn Jericho. Topics included “Biodynamics or Bust! Reflections from the BDA Conference,” “Trauma, Resilience and Education,” “The World in 2030,” and so much more. Listen and subscribe for free at SoundCloud or iTunes or learn more at anthroposophy.org/podcast.



Rudolf Steiner House, Ann Arbor, MI

The Rudolf Steiner House is the main office of the Anthroposophical Society, and a comfortable and beautiful gathering space for retreats, events, workshops and small performances. In 2019, we hosted 6 retreats, 1 permanent resident, 7 long-term guests staying between 3 weeks and 4 months, and 185 short-term guests who stayed from between 1 night to 2 weeks.

[The Great Lakes Branch](#) of the Anthroposophical Society hosts three

weekly study groups there year round, along with festivals, a monthly lecture series and the monthly Class lessons.

Additional events that took place at Steiner House in 2019 include:

- ✧ Educational support training, Association for a Healing Education
- ✧ *The Future of the Human and the Mechanical*, MysTech Annual Conference
- ✧ Social Science Section Collegium Gathering
- ✧ *What is the Earth Asking of Us? The Human Soul and the Earth in Crisis*, Natural Science Section Conference

For now, due to health concerns and travel restrictions, Rudolf Steiner House is currently closed for events and open on a limited basis for overnight guests. Please contact Cynthia at cynthia@anthroposophy.org or visit anthroposophy.org/rsh for more information.

~ Laura Scappaticci, Director of Programs (CA)

Please join us!

The 2020 annual conference and members meeting *Willing the Good: Love, Action, Healing*, will be held online October 9 - 11, 2020. Speakers include Thea Maria Carlson, Peter Selg, Margaret Shipman, Harrie Salman and more. Stay tuned for details. Registration opens August 15th. Visit anthroposophy.org/willingthegood for more information and to register.

The School for Spiritual Science

Sections of the School for Spiritual Science

- ◆ General Anthroposophical Section
- ◆ Section for Mathematics and Astronomy
- ◆ Medical Section
- ◆ Natural Science Section
- ◆ Agricultural Section
- ◆ Pedagogical Section
- ◆ Section for the Spiritual Striving of Youth
- ◆ Section for Social Sciences
- ◆ Section for the Performing Arts
- ◆ Visual Arts Section
- ◆ Literary Arts and Humanities Section

To learn more, please visit:
www.rudolfsteiner.org/school

From the North American Collegium

As a microcosm of the School for Spiritual Science, the Collegium strives to connect research cultivated in light of the spirit with the challenges that the world is facing. How does the individual and collective path outlined through the Class Lessons not only inform but also shape the connections we make to the riddles of modern life? The daughter movements are where anthroposophy is most visible to the rest of the world, and the School for Spiritual Science can ideally serve as a beating heart for these movements through its living relationship with spiritual research.

The Class lessons, connection between the Sections, and collaboration with the leadership at the Goetheanum are three main areas where the theme of connectivity shows up in the work of the Collegium. These nodal points of connectivity have been given further shape this past year in our effort to form closer relationships with the Class holders as well as the branches that stretch across the continent. Herbert Hagens, as representative for the Class holders, has become a member of the Collegium as one example of this effort.

We continue to attempt to raise awareness of the permeating wholeness that comes from each of us being a part of the 'Section that is common to all,' or the 'General Section.' We pursued this effort by holding

one of our bi-yearly meetings in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting for the ASA in Atlanta, GA, and with the General Council for the Anthroposophical Society. We also hosted the local branch members at our meeting in the Hillsdale/Taconic region on the theme of the General Anthroposophical Section. We will continue to build upon these efforts as the coming year sees further succession on the Collegium and a recalibration of how we reconstitute members and intentions.

~ Abigail Dancey, Youth Section Representative to the Collegium (NY)

From the Circle of Class Holders in North America

The Class holders welcomed two new members in 2019: John McAlice (Harlemville, NY) and Peter Rennick (Phoenix, AZ). There are currently 131 Class holders serving in North America: 50 in the Eastern Region, 15 in the Central Region, 38 in the Western Region, 3 in Hawaii, 23 in Canada and 2 in Mexico.

With deep sadness we report that Margaret Chambers crossed the threshold in March 2020. She was 83 and lived in Wilton, New Hampshire. Her long anthroposophical career included holding First Class lessons in Wilton, NY, Cape Ann and Boston, MA and Rhode Island. We will miss Margaret as both a dedicated colleague and a gentle mentor.

In late October 2019 26 Class holders met in Menlo Park, CA. It was on that same weekend that the major fires broke out in the nearby region, causing some participants to return home early. The highlight of all Class holder meetings is to hear how each Class holder is faring in their task. These reports lead into serious discussions about the challenges, opportunities and outlook of Class work. The activities of the Class take place within the context of the General Anthroposophical Section and in relation to the other Sections of the School for Spiritual Science and its Collegium.

In November a few folks managed to attend the annual international conference of Class holders at the

Goetheanum. In February 2020 several Class holders took part in the first of four weekend Class intensives at Threefold in Spring Valley, NY. The focus was on the first four Class lessons in relation to “unbornness.” This event was accompanied by a new initiative: a festival dedicated to those as yet unborn. The second intensive will take place November 6 – 8, 2020 in connection with All Souls.

In conclusion we wish to announce that a new bilingual English/German edition of the Class lessons is near completion and should appear within the year. The three-volume set will be available to the public.

On behalf of the Circle of Class Holders we thank the Anthroposophical Society for its significant moral and financial support. This is particularly appreciated during the Covid-19 crisis that continues to overshadow the Society and the School for Spiritual Science.

~ *Penelope Baring (CA) and Herbert Hagens (NJ)*



being human & anthroposophy.org



The two printed *being human* issues for 2019 each led with an essay from US General Secretary, John Bloom. “The Character of Capitalism, Capital, & Money” spoke to real economic values that are overshadowed by “extreme self-interest and rampant materialism.” “The Temple & the Treasury” asked us to imagine moving “into the future economy in a way that is healing and deeply human.”

In the *initiatives!* section we took up Nicanor Perlas’ call for anthroposophy to meet the challenge of an artificial *super* intelligence that could overwhelm human decision making and values. We also saluted Dr. Traute Page as she reached 100 years of age, recalling the “White Rose” cultural resistance group in Nazi Germany of which she is the last living representative, and her many contributions to anthroposophical life in Chicago and the USA after WWII. Mackenzie Foy, a graduate of the Meristem program in California that offers unique support for young people on the autism spectrum, interviewed founders Maureen Curran-Turtletaub, Marc Turtletaub, and Aonghus Gordon. We celebrated 20 years of our Prison Outreach program, reported on the new Anthroposophic Council for Inclusive Social Development, shared from a conference about “bringing indigenous wisdom into Life and Education,” and shared from the second *Sacred Gateway* conference, held in Harlemville, NY.

The arts & ideas section featured poetry in one issue; Lynn Jericho’s “I AM manifesto” and three poems by Maureen Tolman Flannery were complemented by poems from John Urban, Andrew Hoy, Andrea Huff, Christina Bücking, and Michael Ridenour. Our second issue, through the tireless work of David Adams, gave an extensive report and gallery of the work of Hilma af Klint (1862-1944), who had just been presented at the Guggenheim Museum in New York City in the most-visited show in its sixty-year history. The Swedish-born Theosophist and Anthroposophist af Klint is now seen as the unrecognized and non-commercial pioneer of abstract art, and suddenly has joined Josef Beuys and Rudolf Steiner himself as globally recognized visual artists. This section also featured Charles Burkam’s musings on “Finding Our Voices” from a CAO workshop at the start of 2019 in San Francisco. Clifford Venho shared an exceptionally lucid essay on “A Path to the Word: Rudolf Steiner and the Art of Eurythmy.” Gopi Vijaya reviewed Marek Majorek’s *Spiritual Shakespeare*, and Laura Summer introduced us to Leif Garbisch’s Conduit.

Frederick Dennehy reviewed Walter Alexander's *Hearts and Minds (Reclaiming the soul of science and medicine)*. Luigi Morelli completed his overview of Rudolf Steiner's teachings on karma and reincarnation. Stephen Usher reviewed *Rudolf Steiner and the Masters of Esoteric Christianity* by Sergei O. Prokofieff, a just-published book from 2005. Educator Joaquin Muñoz shared work from a conference in Toronto on "teaching Waldorf teachers in indigenous knowledge and cultural appreciation." Craig Holdrege reviewed Wolfgang Schad's *Understanding Mammals: Threefoldness and Diversity*, two volumes from Adonis Press, Seth Jordan unfolded Steiner's *Communicating Anthroposophy: The Course for Speakers to Promote the Idea of Threefolding*, and Terry Hipolito reviewed *Unveiling the Mystery of Dante: An Esoteric Understanding of Dante and His Divine Comedy*, by Eric L. Bisbocci. Dr. Steven Johnson wrote about training in "Mistletoe Best Practices" in cancer therapy. And Boyd Collins in "Sunless Light and Wordless Logic" shared acute insights into the challenges of technology.

Each issue was rounded out with ASA activities and new members and members who have died, with remembrances of John Joseph Cronin, Jr., Maria St. Goar, Stanley A. Evans, Friedolf Michael Smits, Wilhelm Müller, Linde deRis, and Helen Holloran. You can read back issues of *being human* online at issuu.com/anthrousa and individual articles are increasingly available in a smart-phone friendly format.

We've increased our visibility significantly on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/anthroposophy.org) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/anthroposophy.org) with



frequent updates from Tess Parker, Laura Scappaticci, and Deb Abrahams-Dematte.

At anthroposophy.org the blog continued to grow with letters from John Bloom and program notices, along with a fond salute to childhood advocate and former General Secretary Joan Almon, and rudolfsteiner.org continues to add information about Steiner, his ideas, initiatives, and a calendar which covers events around the country.

We hope you enjoy our magazine and other publications. Please visit our websites, follow us on social media, post events on our online calendar, and contact me at editor@anthroposophy.org if you have questions or ideas to share.

~ John Beck, Editor, *being human* and
Director of Communications (MI)

Anthroposophical Prison Outreach

Thanks to your support, Anthroposophical Prison Outreach (APO) continues to thrive and grow! Last fall we celebrated our 20th anniversary. It is wonderful to reflect on the many lives that have changed through this program.

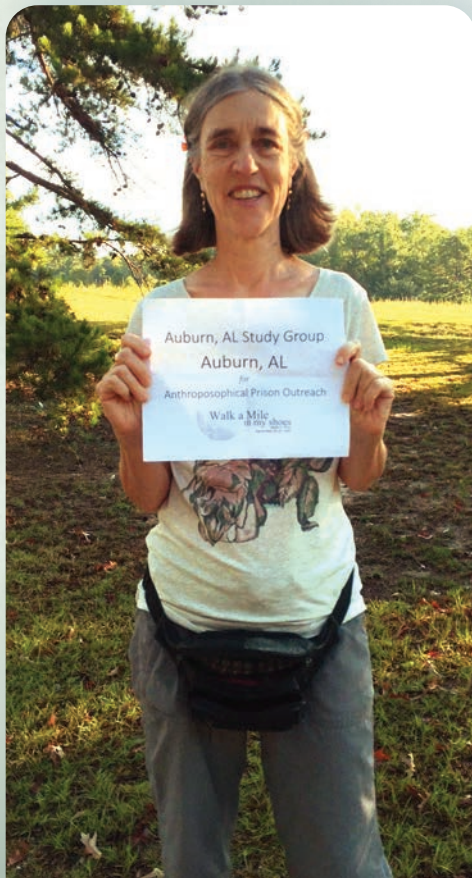
We currently serve over 1,200 prisoners in facilities across the country, bringing books, study materials and support for personal transformation. In 2019, we mailed out about 800 introductory packets and loaned out over 1600 books, averaging over 130 books per month. We receive referrals for new students via word of mouth, prisoner resource listings, and through the 600 copies of *How to Know Higher Worlds* that were placed in prison libraries across the country in 2017.

About 40 students are working with the *Self Awakening Correspondence Course*, a 26 lesson course from [EduCareDo](#). This is available to participants who have been reading for a number of years and exhibit a strong desire to continue their study of anthroposophy. Many of these participants have mentors who are studying along with them.

Our biannual newsletter *Illuminating Anthroposophy* provides prisoners with the experience that they are part of a larger community. It also provides Society members a glimpse into the world of those who study behind bars. We also received media attention in two national publications, *Lilipoh* and *New View*.

A 28 question *Survey for Individuals Studying Anthroposophy in Prison* went out to 900 participants in 2019, asking about their experiences and perceptions. Their responses help us assess what is working best in the program.

In February 2019, the Los Angeles Branch in Pasadena, CA hosted *Enter Light, Voices from Prison*, poetry and art created by APO participants and performed by local Waldorf students. Events

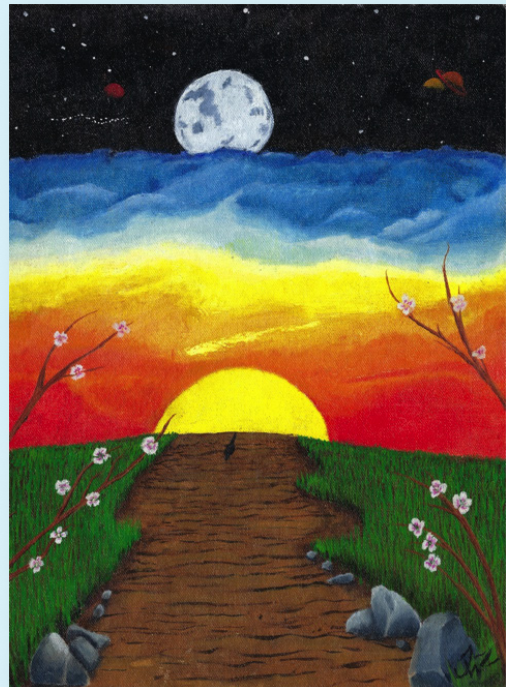


such as these call attention through art to the effects of mass incarceration, and help raise awareness and funds to support our mission. If you'd like to host an event in your community (when that becomes possible again), please contact me at kathys@anthroposophy.org.

We've worked to diversify our fundraising efforts in order to better support the program. The 7th annual APO walkathon, *Walk a Mile in My Shoes*, was held in September. We raised nearly \$25,000 thanks to 75 walkers in 20 states – our largest turnout ever! Communities around the country have come together to support local walkers and cyclists, and the success of this event continues to grow.

We appreciate the generosity of our donors and the devotion of our volunteers. In this very challenging time, we can only imagine the frustration and anxiety people in prison are feeling. Through APO, the spiritual inspiration of anthroposophy can provide some strength for many who feel powerless to protect their health, and perhaps their very lives, in crowded prison conditions. Your interest brings opportunities for self-development to those in a restrictive and chaotic environment, and gives hope to those who earnestly want to change their lives. Thank you for your on-going support.

~ Kathy Serafin, APO Program Director (MI)



Freedom of Evolution, Part 1

*Through the universe I travel
Unseen by that which is without sight
Through cosmic channels of divine color
Forming within benign spiritual evolution
In the future . . . I will be
In the past . . . I will have been
In between both . . . I will always exist
Always have been . . . always will be*

Because

*Through the universe I traveled
Unseen by that which is without sight
Through cosmic channels of divine colors
Formed within benign spiritual evolution
Without form . . . without weight
Without selfish desire
I travel in freedom*

~ Jimmy, Winnfield, LA

Council of Anthroposophical Organizations

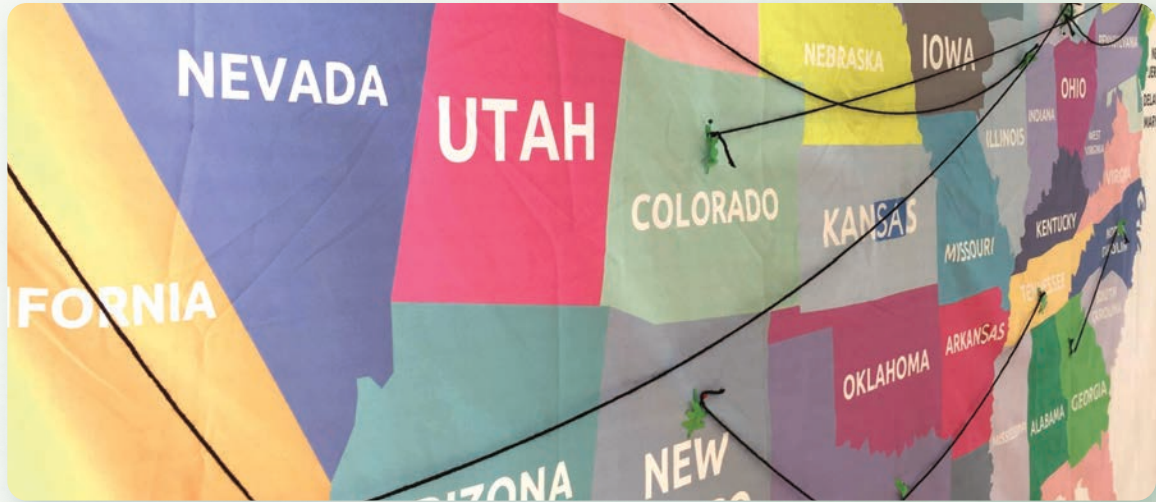
The Council of Anthroposophical Organizations (CAO) is a committee of the Anthroposophical Society in America and has been gathering since 1989. The CAO is made up of organizations, institutions and initiatives that work with anthroposophical ideas in practical ways in the context of public life.

Gathering each year in different places around the country as well as online, the CAO provides an opportunity for networking and capacity-building, and strives to be a sense organ for the health of the movement as a whole.

In January 2019, the CAO met in San Francisco, CA, starting off by hosting a 2-day session of *Finding Our Voice* at the San Francisco Waldorf School. Over 60 people attended and worked together to find their own ways of communicating about anthroposophical ideas in candid and inclusive ways. In June, 60 school personnel participated in *Finding Our Voice*, a 3-day workshop offered in connection with AWSNA's summer conference in Philadelphia.

And in May 2019 we gathered at Michael Fields Institute in East Troy, WI. We spent much of that meeting in a multi-day workshop with SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) trainers Andrea Schaffer and Jennifer Zielinski as the next step in our commitment to exploring diversity, equity and inclusion. We continue to educate ourselves and to bring resources, strategies, and a commitment to anti-racism and social justice to our organizations.

While in Wisconsin, we visited Farmer John at his farm [Angelic Organics](#), and enjoyed a tour, conversation, and a physics demonstration with Mark McKibben at [Uriel Pharmacy](#). We also hosted *Anthroposophy, Incorporated*, a dessert reception and conversation bringing together local community leaders, interested individuals, and representatives from CAO organizations to meet and discuss living questions about the work of anthroposophy in the world.



Current CAO Member Organizations:

[Alliance for Public Waldorf Education](#)

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

[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 American Youth Section](#)

[Physicians Association for Anthroposophical Medicine \(PAAM\)](#)

[RSF Social Finance](#)

[Threefold Educational Foundation](#)

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

We welcomed new members The Christian Community, Lifeways and Hawthorne Valley Association in 2019.

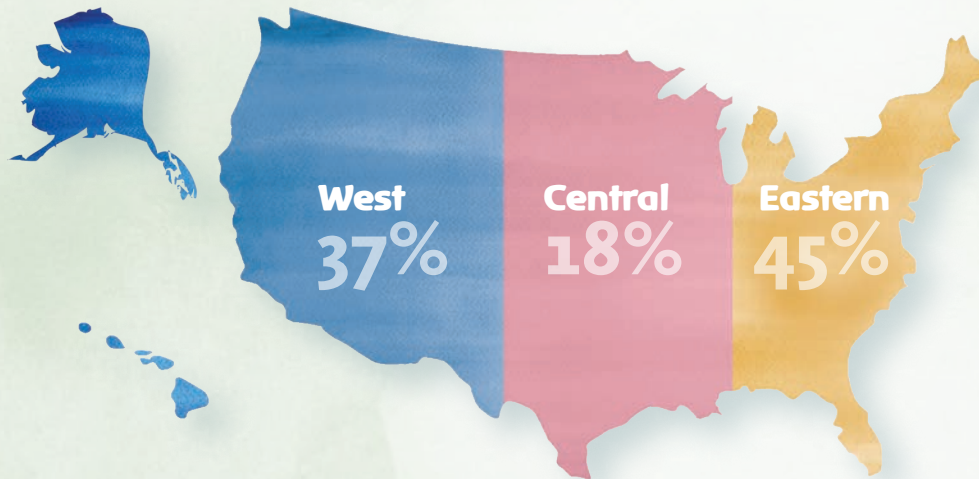
In the coming year, we will deepen our activities related to diversity, equity and inclusion, and explore other topics of interest including threefolding and social justice. We have reduced our in-person meetings to one time each year for now, and have added additional online meetings in order to stay connected and active.

The CAO is beginning to build a shared picture for celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Christmas Conference, coming in 2023/24. We are deeply interested in understanding how best to extend the reach of the movement across North America and develop new ways to strengthen this community.

~ Beverly Amico, AWSNA (CO) and Laura Scappaticci, ASA (CA), Co-Chairs of the CAO

Work in the Regions

2019 US Membership by Region



Report from the Western Region:

Imagine three vertical swaths of land running north to south in the western continental United States and the state of Alaska. This is the diverse geographic image of the Western Region which helps to shape much of the anthroposophical work of the west.

The Pacific Coast: Here the anthroposophical work of the Society is focused in the large metropolitan areas. Branches formed which led to Waldorf schools, Biodynamic farms, medical and social initiatives. These initiatives stemming from the Anthroposophical Society have become integrated in their communities, touching many lives.

Between Mountain Ranges: The work of the Anthroposophical Society is not as easy to find here. The land is beautiful, barren, arid desert. Scattered throughout this part of the region, an initiative would begin to grow; a Waldorf school in Idaho, a biodynamic farm in northern New Mexico, a statewide Branch networking all of the initiatives in Arizona.

The High Plains East of the Rockies: Again the Society work takes on a different form. A Branch in Colorado, a Waldorf school in New Mexico, a small group in northern Colorado and individuals in Montana and Wyoming.

Alaska: Here too the work grew around two Waldorf school initiatives in Anchorage and Fairbanks, hundreds of miles apart.

Today, through the use of technology, it has become easier for our members in rural communities to connect with the work of Groups and Branches in the Western Region and around the United States. The Western Regional Council is continuing to look at ways to foster this coming together for future work in this region.

Sandra Stoner and Sebastian Heycke joined the Western Regional Council in 2019.

On another note, the WRC would like to acknowledge and appreciate the work and dedication of Joan Treadaway and Daniel Bittleston, who after many years stepped back from Council work this year. We are grateful for their service and wish them all the best.

~ *Micky Leach, Western Region Representative to the General Council (NM)*

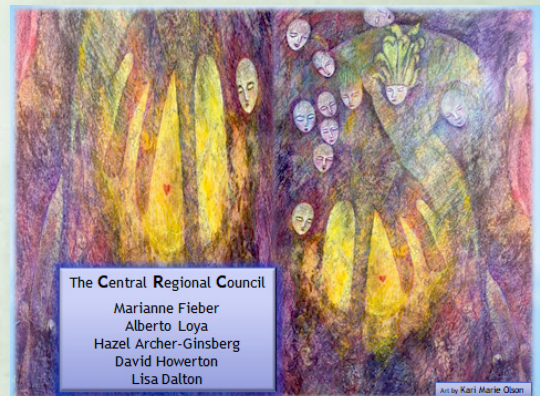
Western Regional Council:

Sebastian Heycke (CA), Micky Leach (NM), Kirk Mills (CA), Rebecca Soloway (OR), Joan Treadaway (AZ)

Report from the Central Region

The Central Region is expansive in geographic area: from the Dakotas to Michigan, through Ohio, Kentucky, parts of Tennessee, Alabama and across to Texas and back north. We host 25 or more Waldorf Schools and initiatives, many biodynamic initiatives, Anthroposophic doctors, therapeutic communities, artistic and study groups and Branches.

Throughout 2019 the Central Regional Council (CRC) continued to host monthly online study calls* focusing on Rudolf Steiner's The Karma of Anthroposophy lectures. We have a good rhythm and attract members and friends from beyond our region. We also participated in the regional Branch gathering at the AGM in Atlanta and brought a regional contribution to the online Holy Nights gatherings.



The Central Regional Council
Marianne Fieber
Alberto Loya
Hazel Archer-Ginsberg
David Howerton
Lisa Dalton

* Presentations and recordings available at: rudolfsteiner.org/central-region/

Anthroposophical Society in America

These few highlights offer a sense of the life breathing through the Central Region:

Great Lakes Branch, Ann Arbor, MI

There are ongoing study groups, festivals, and the First Tuesday Lecture Series (October - May). Other special events included discussions with members of the Social Science Section and later the Natural Science Section of the North American School for Spiritual Science. 2019 also included a lecture and workshop with Nicanor Perlas, events with MysTech and a benefit concert for the APO.

Cincinnati, OH

There are two longtime study groups. The St. Michael Group has recently finished St. John's Gospel in relation to the other Gospels. The other group is a Foundation Studies group serving primarily Waldorf parents and staff who are new to anthroposophy

New Orleans, LA

In 2019, longtime member Patti Carbajal crossed the threshold. She was a pillar of the Holy Nights studies and this was the first year of celebrations after she had crossed the threshold.

Maitreya Branch, Dallas/Fort Worth, TX

Festivals with gatherings that involve a variety of artistic activities are celebrated. There are four study groups that meet regularly. The newest group is at High Hope Ranch, focusing on the Agriculture Lessons.

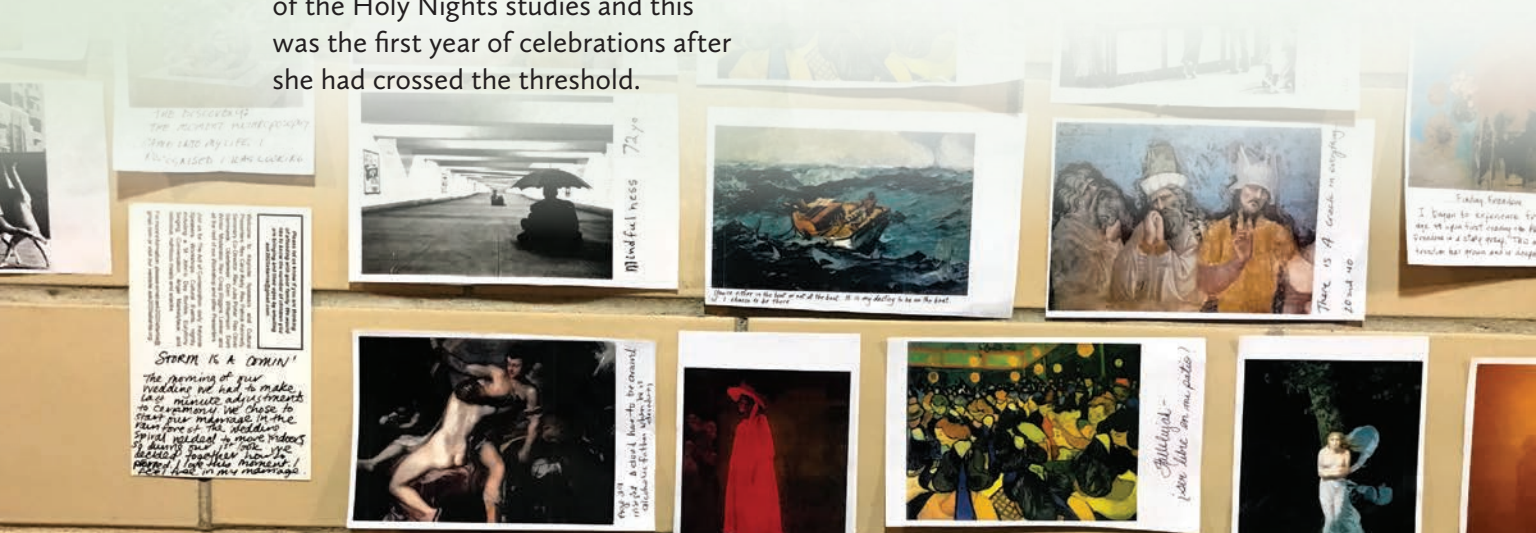
Rudolf Steiner Branch, Chicago, IL

A rich, art-filled festival life is a cornerstone in Chicago's anthroposophical community. Special events drew speakers such as Rudiger Janisch, Ross Rentea, Margaret Shipman, Fred Janney and others. The Elderberries initiative is taking root and transforming under the direction of Dottie Zold, Frank Agrama and others.

~ *Marianne Fieber, Central Region Representative to the General Council (IL)*

Central Regional Council:

Hazel Archer-Ginsberg (IL), Lisa Dalton (TX), Marianne Fieber (IL), David Howerton (MO), Alberto Loya (MI)



Report from the Eastern Region

2019 saw a further strengthening of the structure of the Anthroposophical Society in the Eastern Region. The Eastern Regional Council has been re-imagined as the Eastern Region Holding Group, consisting of six committed members from all across the Eastern Region. We held a very well-attended video newsletter in September (before video conferencing was part of the “new normal”) that gave voice to members and initiatives who are taking up the work of anthroposophy.

The Northeast and Mid-Atlantic areas held face-to-face gatherings, also well-attended, that served to inspire all who attended. The Southeast area hosted the profoundly successful Annual General Meeting of the national Society, centered on the theme of “Facing Each Other.” This well-attended



meeting, which brought together the spiritual guidance of Rudolf Steiner, Martin Luther King Jr. and Marjorie Spock, was joyfully held outside of Atlanta in Decatur, GA.

This year we look forward to building on the lines of communication that we have established, to tend this growing vine that it may be fruitful for years to come. As with anything, the work of building a consciousness around the Eastern Region relies on the commitment of individuals. Special thanks go out to those who have consistently shown up and are carrying this work deeply.

Northeast Connective Tissue Group

Paule Bezaire
Anne Bingham
Eileen Jones
Cordelia Lane
Cecilia Leigh
Dave Mansur
Amy Rippe
Regine Shemroske

Mid-Atlantic Area

Sheena Ifkovitch
Melissa Lyons
Sherry Wildfeuer
Virginia Hermann
Eileen King
Joyce Reilly
Franz Eilers
Eric Silber
Ray Manaças
Gino Ver Eecke

Southeast Area

Angela Foster
Cathy Green
Barbara Bittles
Kathleen Wright
Katherine Jenkins
Linda Brooks Cooper
Hélène Burkhart
Barbara Beddingfield

~ *Dave Mansur, Eastern Region Representative to the General Council (MA)*

Eastern Region Holding Group: Angela Foster (GA), Cathy Green (TN), Sheena Ifkovitch (PA), Dave Mansur (MA), Luigi Morelli (VT), Gino ver Eecke (NY)

Treasurer's Report

This report looks at the Society's financial results for calendar year 2019. In short, it was a positive period of time in terms of income, expenses, bequests, and preparing for 2020 and beyond. These conclusions are based on unaudited financial reports but they are unlikely to change significantly in the audit process.

Our budget for 2019 called for the use of \$145,000 of bequest reserves to boost our total spending capabilities to \$853,000, well beyond the level we could afford with expected levels of normal operating income (membership contributions, gifts, program income, Steiner House rent, and miscellaneous). Our actual income fell short of our budgeted income by \$23,000 but was more than offset by the fact that actual expenses were \$39,000 less than budgeted. The net result in 2019 was positive net income of \$16,000. In other words, we expected to spend \$145,000 of our accumulated bequest reserves to achieve our spending goals in 2019, but we required only \$129,000 of those reserves to complete the year.

We were also blessed in 2019 with new and generous bequests, and with the prospect of additional bequests in 2020. With necessity being the mother of invention, the Council's Finance Committee began exploring a long term policy to responsibly handle bequest reserves in the face of competing priorities:

- ◆ using the reserves to meet immediate human needs within the anthroposophical movement
- ◆ using the reserves to augment ongoing annual Society budgets

- ◆ saving the reserves to cover financial needs in "rainy days"
- ◆ investing reserves in socially responsible ways for the longer term production of income
- ◆ integrating our bequest policy with our budget policy to create an overall cash management strategy with built-in limits on over-spending

The new long-term policy took shape by the end of 2019 and was adopted by the General Council in February 2020. It will be outlined in next year's Annual Report. It gives us all a firm financial framework to move through the years ahead with balanced priorities.

The Society's only real estate asset and the Society's primary non-financial asset is the Rudolf Steiner House in Ann Arbor. In 2019, on the eve of the 100th birthday of the House, the Council commissioned a "reserve study" to anticipate the House's major repair and replacement expenses and develop a prudent Reserve Funding Plan to pay for these expenses (such as roof, parking lot, flooring, windows, kitchen equipment, hot water heater, and interior painting). In 2019, we began to experience leaks in the piping of the House's 100 year old hot water heating system.

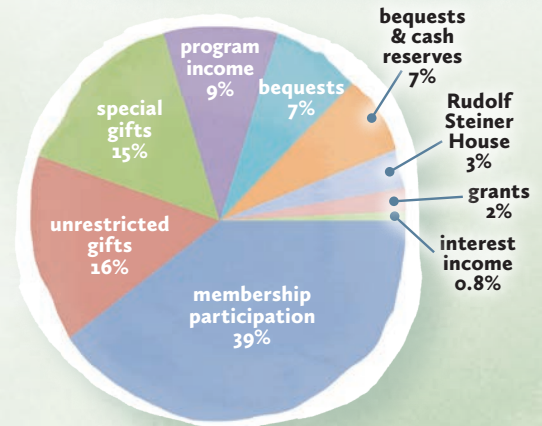


These were addressed on a whack-a-mole basis which proved to be expensive and disruptive. Therefore, after exploring the alternatives, the Council resolved at its May 2020 meeting to replace the entire heating system. This expense will appear in the 2020 financial reports.

As members and friends, we see our Anthroposophical Society from many different points of view. Allow me to make several observations that I see from the point of view of the Society's Treasurer. First, I see each year the size and continuity of total contributions and donations to the Society. These include contributions from member renewals, other voluntary donations such as "appeal" donations, and gifts through the Michael Support Circle. Each year I total these categories, compare them, and am struck by how consistent they are! Although there are typically variations in single categories from year to year, the total is quite steady. This speaks to the strength and commitment with which we (the members and friends of the Society) express our ideals in the anthroposophical movement. Second, I see each year that a different set of people make up the total group of contributors, and that people move in and out of this annual group from year to year. That is, some people contribute each year like clockwork, while others skip a year or two and then resume for a year or two, and so on. For those of you who recognize yourselves in the latter group, please consider a conscious effort to move into the "clockwork group." This would be a service to the movement since we would not have to allocate resources to identifying and contacting so many "lapsed" members. However, if moving in and out from year to year works for your particular situation, so be it.

Thank you for your stalwart and generous support. Please reach out to your Treasurer (treasurer@anthroposophy.org) if you have financial comments or questions.

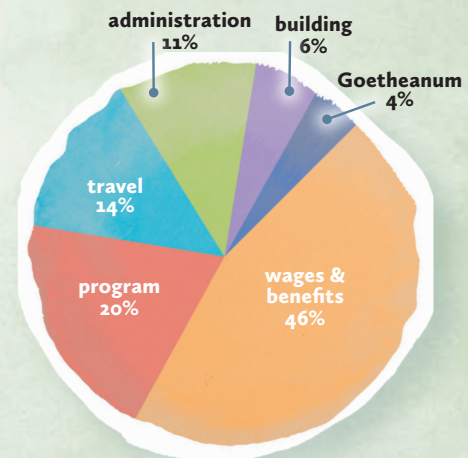
~ Dwight Ebaugh, General Council Treasurer (MI)



Resources & Support

Membership Participation	\$ 400,049
Unrestricted Gifts	\$ 162,429
Special Gifts	\$ 150,956
Bequests	\$ 75,734
Program Income	\$ 95,462
Rudolf Steiner House	\$ 33,744
Bequests/Cash Reserves	\$ 67,174
Grants	\$ 20,000
Interest Income	\$ 8,398

Total \$ 1,013,946



Expenses

Program	198,464
Travel	137,510
Goetheanum	44,454
Wages & Benefits	461,433
Administration	116,181
Building	55,904

Total 1,013,946

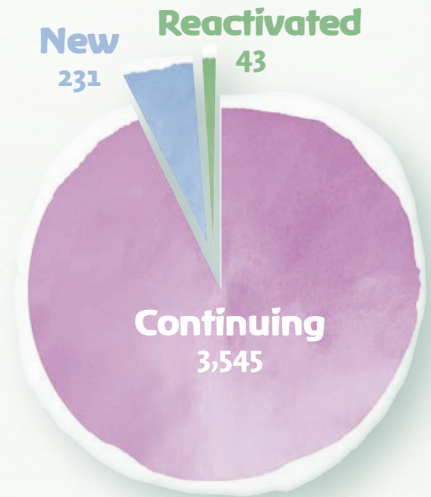
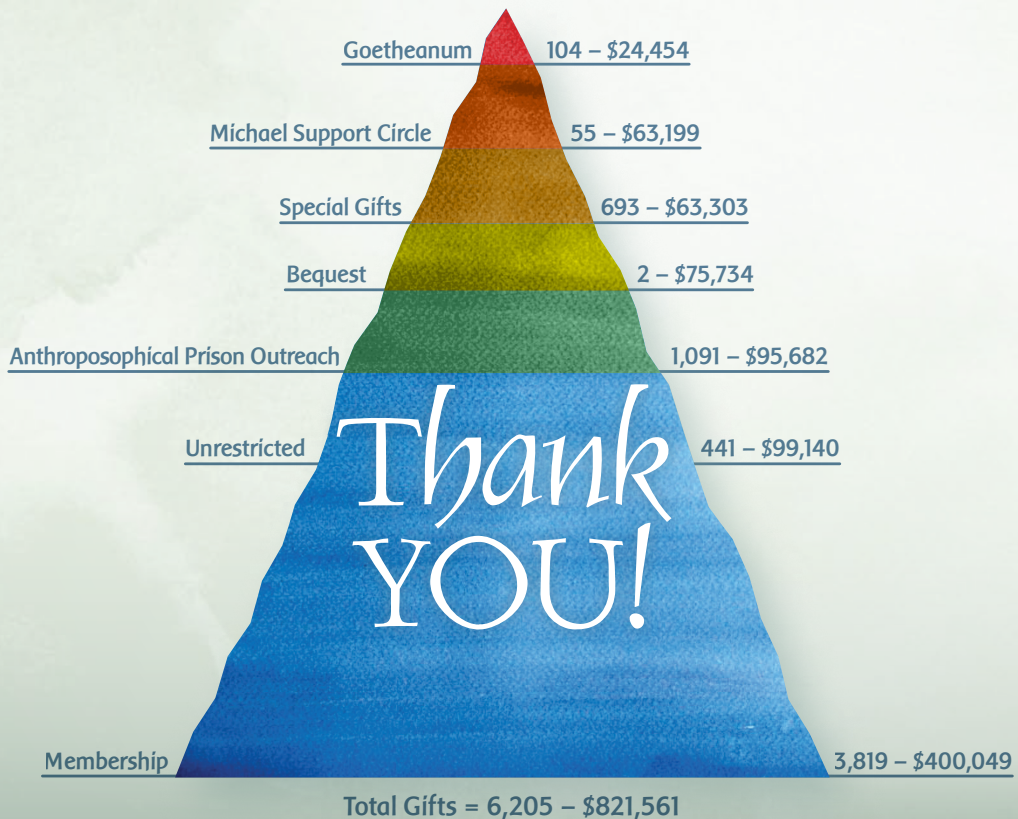
(unaudited)

Thank YOU for your Membership and Support

On behalf of the General Council, Leadership Team and staff, we are **so very grateful** for your membership, interest and generous support. In 2019, we raised \$330,107 in unrestricted and special gifts, and \$400,049 in membership contributions, ending the year with 3819 members. We extend a warm welcome to our 231 new members. And, we continue to 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 can work to bring deep insight and effective action to bear on the challenges of our time, now and in the future.

Here's a breakdown of gifts in 2019:



7% membership increase over 2018

Michael Support Circle

Thank you to our Michael Support Circle members! Together you have contributed \$63,199 in 2019, 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 annual recurring, unrestricted gift for five or more years in addition to a person's annual membership contribution.

In 2019 we had 71 members in total, including 50 individuals and couples, and 21 organizations. We welcomed Carah Medical Arts as a new member in 2020.

Are you the next Michael Support Circle member? Visit anthroposophy.org/msc or contact Deb to learn more.

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

Anthroposophical Society of Cape Ann
Anthroposophy NYC
Association of Waldorf Schools in North America
Bay Area Center for Waldorf Teacher Training
Biodynamic Association
The Camphill School
Carah Medical Arts
Cederwood Waldorf School
Center for Anthroposophy in NH
Council of Anthroposophical Organizations
Elderberries Threefold Café
Gradalis Waldorf Consulting & Services
Great Lakes Branch
Heartbeat Lifesharing
High Mowing School
House of Peace
Monadnock Waldorf School
Oakwood Lifesharing
RSF Social Finance
Rudolf Steiner College
Rudolf Steiner Fellowship Foundation
Shining Mountain Waldorf School

Leaving a Legacy of Will – Planned Giving

Throughout the history of the Society, many caring members have provided legacy gifts for the Anthroposophical Society through their estate planning. Since 1992, we have received gifts from more than 20 dear friends, whose resources support our shared goal of bringing Rudolf Steiner's work more fully into the world. In 2019, we received generous gifts from the estates of Robert S. Miller and Catherina Vanden Broek.

We are humbled and deeply grateful for these generous gifts.

The ASA's Legacy Circle is composed of those who have shared their intention to make a bequest or other planned gift to the Anthroposophical Society, as well as the many generous legacy donors of the past. The magic of this circle is that it can only continue to grow, no matter which side of the threshold one is on.

We do people choose to become part of the Legacy Circle? Society member Helvi McClelland shares her perspective:

My connection to anthroposophy came through music. As I studied Rudolf Steiner's ideas, the world began to make sense to me, and as the world made sense, I became more grounded, present, and focused. So that others might have the same possibility of finding answers to questions about life and purpose, I have made provisions in my Will for gifts to support the continued work of the Anthroposophical Society and its related endeavors.

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, for their intention, love, and will.

Erika V. Asten*	Marie S. Fetzer*	Christine Huston	Paul Riesen*
Betty Baldwin	Linda C. Folsom*	Ernst Katz*	Mary Rubach*
J. Leonard Benson*	Hazel Furguson*	Anna Lord*	Margaret Runyon
Susannah Berlin*	Gerda Gaertner*	Seymour Lubin*	Ray Schlieben*
Hiram Anthony Bingham*	Ruth H. Geiger*	Barbara Martin	Lillian C. Scott*
Mrs. Hiram A. Bingham	Ray German	Beverly Martin	Fairchild Smith*
Virginia Blutau*	Harriet S. Gilliam*	Gregg Martens*	Doris E. Stitzer*
Iana Questara Boyce*	Chuck Ginsberg	Helvi McClelland	Gertrude O. Teutsch*
Marion Bruce*	Hazel Archer-Ginsberg	Robert S. Miller*	Katherine Thivierge
Helen Ann Dinklage*	Alice Groh	Ralph Neuman*	Catherina Vanden Broek
Irmgard Dodegge*	Agnes B. Grunberg*	Carolyn Oates	Randall Wadsworth
Raymond Elliot*	Bruce L. Henry*	Mary Lee Plumb-Mentjes	Anonymous (14)
Lotte K. Emde*	Ruth Heuscher*	Norman Pritchard*	

(*indicates past legacy gift)

Grants

We are grateful to the **Rudolf Steiner Charitable Trust** for their grant of \$10,000 to the Anthroposophical Prison Outreach in 2019. This generous gift helps bring anthroposophical materials and hope to individuals who are striving for self-improvement while in prison.

Thanks also to the **Waldorf Educational Foundation** for their grant of \$10,000 in support of *Finding our Voice and Question of Courage*. *Finding Our Voice*, developed and offered in collaboration with the CAO, was part of a multi-year series of gatherings for people working out of anthroposophy to learn and practice becoming comfortable speaking about anthroposophy in connection with their vocation.

The Youth Conference, *Questions of Courage*, took place in August 2019 and over 100 young people, including Waldorf alums, co-created an event full of connection, art, conversation, contemplation and more.

We are grateful for the on-going and generous support of these wonderful organizations. Their generous grants 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 toward 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, use a remittance envelope from *being human* or give us a call at 734-662-9355. If you have questions or need further information about giving opportunities including the Michael Support Circle and legacy/planned giving, please be in touch at deb@anthroposophy.org.

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

Thank you for your generous support!

In Memoriam

Joan Almon (1944 – 2019)



We celebrate the life of Joan Almon, General Secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in America from July 2002 to October 2007. She crossed the threshold early July 14th, 2019 at the age of 74. She was married to the economist Clopper Almon, an ASA member, noted writer and teacher of anthroposophy.

A kindergarten teacher who discovered Waldorf, Joan was a founding teacher of the Waldorf School of Baltimore and went

on to found what would become the Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN) in 1983, and was co-founder of the Alliance for Childhood in 1999. She was a sought-after speaker, writer, school consultant, conference organizer and international activist, as well as an artist in storytelling and puppetry.

Joan understood the work with children as an urgent necessity for humanity as a whole. Joan's colleagues at WECAN speak for many more when they recall her as a "warrior with an enormous heart, tremendous will forces, and a deep understanding of the needs of the young child."

More recently, Joan was the generous donor who enabled the ASA to launch the Sacred Gateway conference series on the end of life experience. She attended, and was honored at the second of three gatherings, held in Spring Valley, NY in 2019.

Follow [this link](#) to read more about Joan's life, career, influence, and activism, and to view three videos that showcase her strong advocacy and deep caring. We are grateful to Joan for her leadership as General Secretary of the ASA, and for all that she brought to this life, including her tireless protection of the experience of the young child, and her deep support of anthroposophy and the work of the Anthroposophical Society in the U.S.

Erika Asten (1928 – 2018)



We remember with appreciation and love, Erika V. Asten, who crossed the threshold on May 5th, 2018, shortly before her 90th birthday. She was married to Dietrich Asten, ASA General Secretary from 1962 to 1974. Together and independently, they were incredibly generous and supportive of anthroposophical work in the United States. After Dietrich's death in 1984, Erika carried on their philanthropic work through the Rudolf Steiner Charitable Trust and many other activities. She lived at Camphill Village Kimberton Hills from 2003 until the end of her life.

Erika held a PhD in musicology, and was a music teacher, a public broadcaster, and later a class teacher at the Detroit Waldorf School. She joined the Anthroposophical Society in 1968 and was a member of the School for Spiritual Science, a Class holder, and a member of the Social Sciences Section.

General Council Chair Dave Alsop recalls that “Erika was wonderfully formal and informal. I always felt respect *for* her and *from* her, the beautiful soul that she was.”

Hannah Schwartz said, “Erika was a bridger. She loved Camphill and understood the importance of the Anthroposophical Society. She made the connection between Camphill and the Society and knew it was time to come together. She was a person who had a vision of connectedness.”

Follow [this link](#) to read more about Erika's life and legacy.

From the General Council

In preparing to write this brief overview of the activities in 2019 of the General Council, I was reminded of what a privilege and pleasure it is to be a member of the Council and, for a time, to hold responsibility for the Anthroposophical Society in America together with a terrific group of dedicated individuals. Serving on the Council is a significant and very rewarding commitment, and a great opportunity to deepen connections and develop friendships while working to help the Society address the present and prepare to meet the future. While the Council works on a more broad and general level, the Society is blessed to have talented and experienced people in all of our staff positions who quite capably implement what needs to be done.

As the functioning Board of the Society, the Council concerned itself in 2019 primarily with enhancing and strengthening relationships and developing vision directed toward the future. Each time the Council meets, we study together, and this year that study was also focused on relationships. We took up Rudolf Steiner's lecture cycle "How Can Humanity Find the Christ Again," and worked our way

through Signe Schaefer's book *Why on Earth?* Then we turned our attention to the intersection of biography and karma. We studied "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack," an essay by Peggy McIntosh in conjunction with Steiner's *Karmic Relationships Volume 1*. Each of these conversations gave us the opportunity to reflect upon our own biographies, our work together as a Council and our relationships with the larger anthroposophical community and beyond.

As a result of this work, in 2019 we created the first version of a diversity statement, a living document which is meant to reflect our intentions, awareness, and continued attention to issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion related to Rudolf Steiner's works and the world we live in today. We share the most recent version following this message.

The Council continued to work on strategic planning and our business model, in both of which we recognize the strengthening of relationships with and between our members as essential. Our practice has been to meet face-to-face several times each year — this year, we were

in Seattle, Boston and Decatur, GA — and to include a community gathering and conversation as a part of our work together. We earnestly hope to resume that practice once the current pandemic passes. In October, following the very successful national conference and AGM in Decatur, the Council met together with the Collegium to explore and enhance that relationship and our future work together.

Some of the major questions that informed the Council work in 2019 were: How do we best organize ourselves to serve our mission while working within available resources? How can we focus less on problem solving and more on bringing the future towards us? What about the Society will be of deep interest to youth today? What needs to be done to outwardly align the Society with others holding similar values and perspectives? Do we have the courage to speak plainly about esoterics?

Joshua Kelberman departed the Council in June to pursue the Eurythmy training in Dornach, and Helen-Ann Ireland joined the Council at that time. In October, we welcomed Hannah Schwartz as a new member

at large. We wish Joshua all success and are grateful to have Helen-Ann and Hannah bringing their experience and considerable talents to the Council.

Thanks for your interest in the General Council, and for everything that you do in support of anthroposophy in general and the Society in particular.

~ *Dave Alsop, Chair,
General Council (CA)*



Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Anthroposophical Society in America [US] is open to every human being and supports fulfilling their potential and search for meaning. The Anthroposophical Society stands with those seeking spiritual and cultural freedom, equity and equality in rights, and interrelationship in economics. The Anthroposophical Society in America stands against any individual activities or organizations that deny or disparages the dignity and humanity of any human being or group of human beings.

As a holistic researcher of human origins, consciousness, and future evolution, Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925), founder of

anthroposophy, dealt with questions of individuality, diversity, and race in his talks and writings in the early 20th century. We recognize that some published passages characterize race and other group identities in ways that readers will find offensive. We fully empathize with that response and are working to assure that none of our current or future activities are based on or reflect those characterizations.

Throughout his life, Steiner spoke about the growing social and spiritual importance of diversity in communities of the future. A very clear statement of this view is in Lecture I of his series The Universal Human (1909):

“[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.”

We affirm these principles of common humanity. We explicitly reject any theory that can be construed to be part of Rudolf Steiner’s work that characterizes or judges any individual human being or group of human beings as superior or inferior based on racial, gender, ethnic or other group identity.

Membership in the Anthroposophical Society is open to everyone who sees the value of anthroposophy without regard to gender, national origin, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, or religion. In addition, the Society encourages a wide range of artistic, scientific, and economic perspectives and practices.

~ Updated and adopted by the General Council on June 14, 2020



The General Council — 2019

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.

Thank you General Council Members

John Bloom

General Secretary (CA)

Dave Alsop

Chair, member-at-large (CA)

Dwight Ebaugh

Treasurer, member-at-large (MI)

Marianne Fieber

Co-Secretary, Central Region
Representative (WI)

Nathaniel Williams

Co-Secretary, member-at-large (NY)

Helen-Ann Ireland

member-at-large (ME)

Micky Leach

Western Region Representative (NM)

Dave Mansur

Eastern Region Representative (MA)

Hannah Schwartz

member-at-large (VT)

Deb Abrahams-Dematte

Director of Development, ex officio

John Beck

Director of Communications ex officio

Laura Scappaticci

Director of Programs, ex officio

Katherine Thivierge

Director of Operations, ex officio

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



Welcome to new members!

Helen-Ann Ireland



Helen-Ann began exploring spiritual ideas in high school, and met anthroposophy as a young adult traveling in Australia. She became interested in educating and raising children in a wholistic way. Through her work as a Waldorf class teacher in Hawaii and New Hampshire, she continued to study and deepen her interest in Steiner's works. For seven years, Helen-Ann was Vice-Chair of the Hawai'iian Anthroposophical Society and became a member of the First Class there in 1992. After graduating her second class of children at Pine Hill Waldorf School, she pursued doctoral studies in educational leadership at UMass Amherst and co-authored a book, *Assessment for Learning in Waldorf Classrooms*. She was conferred her EdD in May 2018. Helen-Ann has been a member of the Anthroposophical Society since 1989 and in 2011 was appointed as a reader for the First Class, School for Spiritual Science.

Hannah Schwartz



In 2000, Hannah co-founded Heartbeet Lifesharing, an intentional inclusive community. For the last twenty years she has been living and working in and supporting Heartbeet in becoming a Camphill community. Born and raised in Camphill Village in Kimberton Hills, PA, she draws on her lifelong experience with social therapy. She has a deep commitment to bringing the lifesharing philosophy to community-based care for adults with developmental disabilities in Vermont. For the last ten years she has focused her energy in the work of fund-raising, developing administrative structures, and consulting worldwide.

Hannah received her BA in Women's Studies and Health Education at Goddard College in 1999, and received a MEd from Antioch New England in 2016. She is currently pursuing a MSW at the University of Vermont, with the intention of continuing to gain tools to better address the issues currently facing humanity.

Thank you!

Joshua Kelberman



Thank you to departing Council member Joshua Kelberman for his support and service. Joshua joined the General Council in 2017, bringing deep interest and curiosity to our work together. Joshua's background in humanities and natural science, as well as his devotion to anthroposophy, brought interesting context and spirited conversation. We wish him well on his future adventures.

Committees

Executive Committee

Deb Abrahams-Dematte
Dave Alsop
John Bloom
Laura Scappaticci
Katherine Thivierge

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

AGM 2019 Planning Group

Charlie Burkam
Angela Foster
Dave Mansur
Tess Parker
Laura Scappaticci

Sacred Gateway Planning Group

Linda Bergh
Joanna Carey
Marianne Dietzel
Maureen Tolman Fannery
Sandra LaGrega
Tess Parker
Laura Scappaticci

Questions of Courage Planning Group

Frank Aleph Agrama
Carley Horan
Tess Parker
Laura Scappaticci

Human Resources Committee

Marianne Fieber
Micky Leach
Jack Michael

APO Advisory Group

Eileen Bristol
Fred Janney
Rick Ruffin
Kathy Serafin

Council of Anthroposophical Organizations

Deb Abrahams-Dematte	Susan Howard
Cynthia Aldinger	Martin Ping
Beverly Amico	Elizabeth Sanders
John Bloom	Laura Scappaticci
Kathleen Bowen	Eric Silber
Charlie Burkam	Patti Smith
Thea Maria Carlson	Sea-Anna Vasilis
David Gershan	Craig Wiggins

Thank you Volunteers!

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.

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.

Current Leadership & Staff

John Bloom, General Secretary

Leadership Team

Deb Abrahams-Dematte, Director of Development

Laura Scappaticci, Director of Programs

Katherine Thivierge, Director of Operations

John Beck, Director of Communications and Editor, *being human*

Kathy Serafin, Program Director, Anthroposophical Prison Outreach

Diana Carlen, Development Assistant

Cynthia Chelius, Administrative Assistant and Manager, Rudolf Steiner House

Eddie Lederman, Accountant

Linda Leonard, Bookkeeper

Julie Pangborn, Housekeeper

Tess Parker, Programs Assistant

Welcome, Eddie Ledermann!



Eddie joined the staff as part-time accountant in 2019 and is based in Ann Arbor, bringing financial skills and expertise. He holds degrees in finance, German, and a Masters of Business Administration. Eddie works with Katherine on oversight of financial operations and reporting, and assists us in audit preparation. In addition to his work with the ASA, Eddie is a registered investment advisor with an interest in sustainable and responsible investment.

Thank you to 2019 Staff

Kathleen Bradley and **Martin Miller** have staffed the Rudolf Steiner Library since 2017. We are grateful for their devoted service. With the transfer of the Library to the Rudolf Steiner Cultural Foundation they leave the employ of the Anthroposophical Society, but continue their good work at the Library.

We welcome your feedback!

For questions or further information about this annual report, please contact Deb Abrahams-Dematte (deb@anthroposophy.org). For further information about the Anthroposophical Society, or if you have any questions or ideas to share, please contact:

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Anthroposophical Society in America



Anthroposophy changes everything

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