



*Steiner House, Ann Arbor, MI*

# Annual Report - 2022

*The Anthroposophical Society in America*

## **The Anthroposophical Society in America, Annual Report 2022**

*Mary Stewart Adams, General Secretary*

Before this centennial year 2023 fulfills, we invite you to a review of what came before, in 2022, by way of this annual report. What follows here is a narrative “table of contents,” as a snapshot of the various reports. You’ll see through this document that 2022 was a year of preparation, during which final decisions were made regarding the nature of the General Secretary position for the Anthroposophical Society here in the US. An articulation of the position was culled from the many years of John Bloom’s experience, as well as those who had come before; a process of nomination was defined; a committee selected; and a search launched. And all of this while in the movement worldwide attention was drawn into renewed consideration of the history of the Society, and to the fire that consumed the First Goetheanum 100 years earlier, overnight December 31, 1922 to January 1, 1923.

In the pages of this annual report you will read a review of 2022 from John Bloom, especially regarding the preparations he undertook for a meeting in 2023 of specific members of the anthroposophical movement in North America, which included two members of the Goetheanum Leadership from Dornach.

Interim Council Chair Gino Ver Ecke describes the work of the General Council, noting the dedicated and highly valued work of Helen-Ann Ireland.

The change process that began in 2022 was evident at every level of the Society’s activity in the US, and is described more fully in the pages that follow through the Regional Council reports and through descriptions of the various events hosted by the Society in 2022. A highlight of 2022 was the much-looked to return to in-person gatherings, the first of which took place in Santa Fe, New Mexico and which shined its light on the deep work of community members around the Being of Anthroposophia.

Toward the end of 2022, a terrific milestone was reached through the Anthroposophical Prison Outreach program, managed with dedication by Kathy Serafin from the Society’s offices in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The development report from 2022 reveals the enduring commitment of the membership to support the work of the Society, not only through dues payments, but through the generosity of members that participate in the Michael Support Circle, and in the Legacy Circle.

The solemn mood of 2022 regarding the Society’s history as well as an ardent sense of anticipation for its future is also evident here in the reports from the Collegium and the Council of Anthroposophical Organizations.

In its entirety, the 2022 Annual Report of the Anthroposophical Society in America reflects the striving to realize the ideal that whenever there is a harmony of hearts in the good work, then a good star shines over what is willed.



## General Secretary 2022 Report

*John Bloom, General Secretary, Anthroposophical Society in America (US) [2016-2023]*

Much of my focus in 2022 was in continuing to develop relationships across branches and initiatives, and picking up work that was formerly carried by other staff—especially the development work. The key initiative from my view was laying the groundwork for the Meeting of the Movement that happened in May of 2023. From crafting the description within the North American Collegium of the School for Spiritual Science to engaging members of the US General Council to working with members of the Council of Anthroposophical Organizations, much of my time was spent assuring the success of the gathering. Fortunately, I had the collegueship of Bert Chase, General Secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in Canada, who brought the work of the Canadian Council as well as the North American circle of Class Holders. Though the invitation was brought to existing bodies within both Societies, the call to attend this meeting was also for those who felt deeply connected to the imagination of the Society brought forth by Rudolf Steiner at the Christmas Conference in 1923/24 ~ a foundation for working together into the future. Because of our working relationships in North America, we were able to invite Class Holders from Mexico as well, as Mexico is working toward establishing a Society in the near future.

The General Secretary belongs internationally to the Circle of Country Representatives which includes all the countries where there are Societies, large and small. We continued to meet on zoom in between the two in-person gatherings held at the Goetheanum in the spring and fall of 2022. The Circle is committed to working with Goetheanum Leadership to make the General Anthroposophical Society truly a World Society. There were three working groups established: Diversity, Language, and furthering the Circle as a visible advisory body to Goetheanum Executive Council. The *Diversity* group was committed to making the true diversity of individuals working out of anthroposophy across all continents actually visible at our meetings. It was recognized that getting to the Goetheanum for meetings presents significant barriers. One recommendation was that the Circle of Country Representative Meetings with Goetheanum Leadership and Executive Council not at the time of the Annual General Meeting be held in different regions of the World. The *Language* group is taking up the question of how anthroposophy is taken up through texts in non-European cultures especially. Is there an approach to translation sensitive to “local” dialect that may not even have a word (or concept) for ego, as one significant example. These are important and interesting challenges for a Society that wants to be a World Society. Lastly, the *Working* group proposed that the Circle of Country Representatives be named in the Statutes as an advisory body, and they developed a proposal and motion to go to the Annual General Meeting in April. However, the motion was tabled in order to be considered in the light of the work being done on the Constitution of the Society. Finally, much of the fall meeting was focused on developing a membership program for the worldwide Society, which is shrinking in Central Europe, while preliminary preparations were underway for the World Goetheanum Conference and 100 year Celebration, focusing specifically on the end of 2022 commemoration event for the burning of the First Goetheanum, which happened on New Year’s Eve 1922. This 2022 event was well attended and well documented visually. There is a beautiful video of the evening and vigil available on the [Goetheanum.ch](http://Goetheanum.ch) website.

## 2022 Report from the General Council of the Anthroposophical Society in America

*Gino Ver Eecke, Interim Chair*

I would like to begin by expressing heartfelt appreciation for the leadership and dedication of Helen Ann Ireland, who served a significant term as Chair of the Council. She provided thoughtful and engaged leadership during challenging times, specifically including the years impacted by COVID-19. Helen Ann navigated the Society through these trying times while remaining true to our middle path. Helen Ann's remarkable capacity to listen and envision a path forward was truly inspiring. Her efforts set the stage for the rest of the year, and I was fortunate to pick up the momentum she had initiated when she had to step away from the Council due to personal health reasons in the middle of the year.

The year 2022 marked a significant and purposeful transition year for the Council. With stable and healthy finances as a foundation, we embarked on an organizational assessment and change process. One of the most notable outcomes of this process was the decision to transform the role of the General Secretary into a full-time compensated position. We recognized that John Bloom would conclude his term in October 2023, and this decision was made to enable someone to devote their energies to deepening engagement and expanding relationships, thereby enhancing the sense of community within the anthroposophical movement. This change necessitated a reevaluation of other leadership positions within the organization, including programs, finance, development, and communications. Adding another full-time position was not financially viable, so we had to explore new approaches to effectively manage the Society's growing membership and the associated demands. While this shift did result in some staff members stepping back from their longstanding commitments, it also liberated the Council, the current General Secretary, and the remaining staff to re-imagine more flexible working arrangements across departments, engage the Council directly in the Society's work with clear agreements and delegations, and benefit from greater operational efficiencies.

Against this backdrop of organizational change, the Council meticulously defined the job description for the General Secretary role, established a search committee with Christine Burke and Margaret Runyon as chairs, and initiated a nationwide search process that included open nominations from all members in the United States. It was understood that the appointment would not occur until mid-2023, but the Council recognized the importance of allowing sufficient time for a thorough process.

Another notable aspect of the Council's shift was a concerted effort to work more closely with the Regional Representatives serving on the Council. This collaboration aimed to establish direct connections with members and encourage membership renewals. Beyond practical considerations, the Council recognized that the regions play a crucial role in bringing the Society closer to its members, emphasizing that relationships are at the core of the Society's mission.

## 2022 Report from the General Council of the Anthroposophical Society in America

*Gino Ver Eecke, Interim Chair*

The year 2022 was a year of transition and transformation, marked by insightful decisions and a dedication to furthering the mission of the Anthroposophical Society in America. We look forward to the positive impact of these changes in the years to come.

### **Members of the General Council for 2022 were:**

John Bloom, *General Secretary & President*

Leah Walker, *Secretary*

Dave Mansur, *Treasurer*

Gino Ver Eecke, *Interim Chair & Eastern Region*

Christine Burke, *Western Region*

Hazel Archer Ginsburg, *Central Region (partial year)*

Margaret Runyon, *Member-at-large*

Mary Stewart Adams, *Member-at-large*

Helen Ann Ireland *(partial year)*



## Development Report 2022

*John Bloom, General Secretary, Anthroposophical Society in America (US) [2016-2023]*

2022 again demonstrated the generosity of members and friends. Many of you gave beyond the basic expectation of membership, and then beyond that as well. Such is the passion for anthroposophy, the expression of faithfulness, and an expectation for the future. One hundred years have passed, but anthroposophy is young as a movement and to some degree struggling to stay visible as the practical manifestations resulting from the insights of anthroposophy have become more visible and public. More than anything else your gift support has inspired us, and hopefully you as well, to renew our own anthroposophical roots and to find language and programs that invite and engage those familiar and unfamiliar with anthroposophy. While the development program went through an important transition during 2022, it also gave us a chance to reassess development's role in the life of the Society. We are not a typical non-profit in that while we have members, our members are actually the Society itself. This is a bit of an inversion from the conventional model. Our task as Society leaders is to be sure that the gifts you make continue to circulate through the movement, furthering anthroposophy's and the Society's mission, and leveraging activities that deepen spiritual scientific research and service to the world. While we present some of the gift data, it is important to remember not the number (though that matters of course) but rather the human initiative it supports.

### For 2022 we received:

End of Year Appeal	50,898
Other Unrestricted Gifts	89,276
Michael Support Circle	52,040
Bequests (See Legacy Circle)	111,950
Prison Outreach Program	99,824
Council of Anthroposophical Organizations	10,366
Regional Work	2,626
Associations and Programs	18,151
School for Spiritual Science	25,019
Goetheanum (pass through)	346,570
<b>Total Gifts for 2022</b>	<b>806,720</b>

A few contextual notes to help understand how the money flows through the movement. The End of Year Appeal, Other Unrestricted Gifts, and the Michael Support Circle are all unrestricted operating support. Collectively they support organizational capacities and activities that require greater resources than member contributions. Bequests do not go directly into operations. Rather they go into the Society's Bequest Fund for which the General Council has established a management and disbursement policy that assures that the funds have lasting value. A percentage of the balance is calculated each year. That percentage, if needed, is then credited to the operating funds.

## Development Report 2022 cont.

The Anthroposophical Prison Outreach Program is a direct activity of the Society. The APO raises its funds through the Society, and the Society has designated those funds for the operation APO program. While the APO is aggregated as part of the Society's operations it is also treated as a discrete activity with its own budget.

The Council of Anthroposophical Organizations is also a discrete activity for which the Society serves as a fund holder. The CAO raises its own funds and determines its expenditure for activities that further the movement.

The Society is organized in three regions, East, Central, and West. The gifts that come in to support the work in the regions goes directly to the regions and their regional councils to determine what they would like to do with the funds. These gifts are supplemental to what is already budgeted in operations for regional work.

Associations and Programs include the Speech and Drama Association, the Eurythmy Association, Youth Programs, and ASA Programs. These funds are designated for use by those associations and programs.

The School for Spiritual Science includes contributions for the work of the General Section, as well as Class Holders, Social Science Section, and Economics Conference. These funds are designated specifically for those activities.

The Society in the US is part of the General Anthroposophical Society worldwide. The center of the General Society is at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland. While Society budgets annual contributions to the Goetheanum, members also make additional contributions which the Society passes through directly to the Goetheanum without fees or other reductions.

### **The Michael Support Circle**

The Michael Support Circle consists of 51 members of the Society who have made a significant gift commitment and pledge for five years. Founded at a time when the Society was struggling financially well prior to 2016, the Circle has grown in numbers and in purpose. In many ways the generous support over multiple years of the MSC members has freed up initiative and leadership for the future, and in 2022 this set the stage for the meeting of the movement in May of 2023.

Two new members joined the Michael Support Circle in 2022. They join 25 individuals, 13 households, and 11 organizations who have taken a Michaelic step of support for the Society's work. It is interesting to note that organizations cannot join the Anthroposophical Society since it is conceived as a destiny path for individuals. And yet, organizations inspired by Rudolf Steiner's work can find a way to align with and support the Society through the MSC.

## Development Report 2022 cont.

### The Legacy Circle

The Legacy Circle is designed for those who would like to include the Anthroposophical Society in America and the General Anthroposophical Society at the Goetheanum, and other anthroposophical organizations, in their estate plans. It is possible to name multiple recipients of the funds, and the gifts can come to the Society in many forms in addition to cash, such as appreciated publicly-traded stock, real estate, or other assets that are convertible.

Bequests that come to the Society are immediately put into the Bequest Fund which is managed separately from the operating fund. The Bequest Fund makes an annual contribution if needed into the Society's operating funds. Gifts promised to the Society itself are deposited in the fund after other recommended distributions are made.

The Society has been honored to receive legacy gifts from 36 individuals over many years past. As of 2022, there are 28 active members who have indicated to the Society that they have included the Society in their estate plans, and an additional 19 who indicated that they were in the process of doing so.

### Membership

Because we changed and vastly improved our systems for tracking and managing membership during 2022, we recognized that even though we had grown in numbers, there were a significant number of members who had not renewed and further had not responded to notices that their membership would be lapsed. We made best faith efforts to reach out to them, yet determined that enough time had been expended and it was better to focus on our active members. We began the year with 4,156 members and ended the year with 4,080 despite lapsing 218 members. We welcomed 166 new members. In addition, we had eight who transferred their membership to other Country Societies and six who transferred in. There were 16 resignations, 34 members who crossed the threshold of death, 28 who chose to reactivate rather than lapsing.



## 2022 Annual Report: Eastern Region Holding Group

The Eastern Region Holding Group is pleased to present our annual report, summarizing our activities and initiatives in 2022. The group continues to meet regularly to study, plan, and address the needs within the Eastern Region, encompassing the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast areas.

### Membership Changes:

In 2022 we bid farewell to Dave Mansur, who has been an integral part of the group. We extend our gratitude for his dedication to the formation of this group. In his place, we warmly welcome Diane McGary as a new member. The current composition of the Eastern Region Holding Group includes Cathy Green (TN), Angela Foster (GA), Gino Ver Eecke (NY), and Diane McGary (MA). We extend an open invitation to anyone who wishes to join our work and collaborate with us. We convene monthly to plan our upcoming events and solidify our group's activities. Our meetings commence with the recitation of the 'America Verse,' and we engage in the study of the 'Letters to the Members.'

### Main Initiatives:

Our primary focus remains the presentation of bi-annual video newsletters, which highlight anthroposophical initiatives from each area within the Eastern Region. The following presentations took place in 2022:

#### Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 7:30 pm:

From the Southeast Area, the Richmond Study Group, led by Janet Clement and its members.

From the Mid-Atlantic Area, 'Anthroposophy in Pittsburgh,' featuring Martha Grib and members.

From the Northeast Area, the 'Penmaenmawr Group,' led by Barbara Richardson and its members.

#### Thursday, November 10, 2022, at 7:30 pm. ET:

From the Southeast Area, Barbara Bittles shared insights about a new initiative known as 'Sacred Undertaking.'

From the Mid-Atlantic Area, Herbert Hagens presented the 'Princeton Group.'

From the Northeast Area, Alice Groh discussed the 'Anthroposophical Society in New Hampshire.'

### Special Event:

The Mid-Atlantic Area organized an in-person gathering at the Mettabee Farm in the Berkshire-Taconic Area on November 19, 2022. The event revolved around the theme of conversation centered on the Three Foundation Stone Meditation calls: 'Practice Spirit Recalling,' 'Practice Spirit Mindfulness,' and 'Practice Spirit Beholding.' During breaks in the conversations, Laurie Portocarrero led participants in drama work. The day concluded with a beautiful performance by local eurythmists and artists.

## Eastern Region Holding Group cont.

### Online Resources:

We encourage you to visit our web page on the ASA (Anthroposophical Society in America) website, which has been recently updated: <https://www.rudolfsteiner.org/easternregion> or <https://anthroposophy.org/get-involved/local-groups-regions/>. There, you will find detailed information about our meetings, the agendas of our Video Newsletters, our mission statement, and brief biographies of our members. For information on upcoming events, you can visit this site: <https://padlet.com/programs4/eastevents>

Warm regards,

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

Eastern Region Holding Group:

Angela Foster (GA)

Cathy Green (TN)

Diane McGary (MD)

Gino Ver Eecke (NY)

We look forward to another year of collaborative efforts and meaningful initiatives within the Eastern Region Holding Group. Your support and participation are greatly appreciated. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like to get involved.

## Central Regional Council Report 2022

The Year 2022 for the Central Regional Council was framed by our focus on our monthly study group, which meets the first Wednesday of the month. Our participation ranges from 12-20 devoted and collegial participants. We have been continuing a series of deeper explorations into the Parzival Saga and the Holy Grail. This culminated in a CRC gathering in Ann Arbor where we created our hybrid weekend annual conference/Regional AGM, offering a performance of the Parzival Legend live for our local colleagues and online for our regional members.

The year also could be noted as one of great transition. We officially inducted Mary Mertz, following one year of working with her. We also said goodbye to long-time council members Marianne Fieber, Hazel Archer-Ginsberg, and Alberto Loya, and we welcomed Michael Gratsch onto our working team. The year also brought the birth of the Viroqua Branch, and we fertilized the seeds for future branches such as New Orleans.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Dalton for CRC



## Report from the Western Region 2022

The Western Regional Council began the year with a council study of *The Responsibility of Man for World Evolution* (given in Dornach, 11 March 1921). In early 2022, the WRC checked in with the contacts in our region, including branches, farms, initiatives, groups and Christian Community liaisons to ask about challenges, lessons learned from the previous year or so and new and upcoming gatherings and events. Many of the reports that came back announced that most meetings were still online, with deep longing to return to in-person gatherings. Many of the Christian Community Churches stayed open and in-person through the pandemic. There were also reports of losing member connection due to not wanting or not knowing how to join online meetings. By the end of the year, more and more people were meeting in-person, with the added benefit of online gatherings for those who could not do so. Some of these online gatherings made over the time of the pandemic connected many people from around the nation – and the globe – new friends that perhaps many would not have met in other circumstances.

In April, a majority of the council members met at the Sophia Conference in Santa Fe, NM, with the remaining joining online meetings both outside of the conference and within it. Our council meetings during the Sophia Rising Conference were sculpted to include active elements of the Foundation Stone Meditation. We began with a *Spirit Recalling* of the Western Region with each member bringing in historical elements of the council in an effort to understand and research the past and connections. We then moved on to a *Spirit Sensing* that included questions of what is in the flow of time and space that surrounds us and what is alive within us that we can say is and could be of Anthroposophy in the West of the West? In our third gathering, we worked with *Spirit Envisioning* by asking the question “what is coming toward the WRC and Spiritual Science of the near future?” In our final meeting during the conference we looked at the questions of “Are we at a new *Turning Point?*,” “What turning points can we be present to?,” and “How can we support the Turning toward Truth, Beauty and Goodness in Times of separation and crisis?” Our findings are available upon request. The gifts that came from this work include our intentions to understand and connect with the Western Region in new ways, and to form practice groups around spiritual scientific research. We created a survey that we sent out (see the WRC report on anthroposophy.org for findings) to determine interest and engagement in the Western Region. From the significant number of responses received, we resolved and initiated crafting a research forum that will begin in 2023.

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

Western Regional Council: Sebastian Heycke (CA), Micky Leach (NM), Sandra Stoner (chair) (CA), Christine Burke (CA), Kirk Mills (CO), Timothy Kennedy (OR)

## Program Highlights

*Tess Parker, Director of Programs*

2022 was a year of building upon foundations, enkindling connections, and developing fruitful working relationships. Significantly, it was a year of returning to in-person national conferences, and two impactful gatherings marked the spring and fall seasons. We continued to foster relationships from east to west, both online and in-person, and found encouraging progress along the way. The year culminated in a reverent vigil commemorating the burning of the first Goetheanum. As the calendar year turned from 2022 to 2023, this marked the movement into the Anthroposophical Society's centenary year.

### Series & Webinars (Online)

#### **Holy Nights: The Epic of Gilgamesh - December 2021-January 2022**

We welcomed over 1,200 people to this program centered around story-telling. A revised script of the Epic of Gilgamesh was read and contemplated by a variety of voices each day. The figure of Gilgamesh was referenced by Rudolf Steiner several times, notably during the Holy Nights of 1923 in the lecture cycle of "World History in the Light of Anthroposophy."

#### **Refined Breathing and the Counterbalances Needed for Our Technological Age**

*With Andrew Linnell*

Steiner spoke about how technology based on an incorrect concept of electricity has the ability to pull individuals into sub-nature. While this must happen, we must find counterbalances that pull us equally into super-nature. This presentation by Andrew Linnell touched on one counterbalance in particular, which Steiner called "refined breathing". Almost 400 people joined.

#### **Three Powerful Women: Michaelic Contemporaries Seen Through Star Wisdom**

*With David Tresemer, Robert Schiappacasse, Brian Gray*

This series highlighted the extraordinary lives of three contemporary Michaelic young women who are active in our global culture: Malala Yousafzai, Amanda Gorman, and Greta Thunberg. Together, we characterized and contemplated—through their birth moments and deeds—how the Michael Stream is alive in the world, working powerfully through human beings in many fields today. Over 200 people registered.

#### **Sophia Rising**

In preparation for our in-person conference in April, we hosted *Robert McDermott, Angela Foster, Michele Mariscal, Svava Carlsen, and Dennis Klocek* to help us approach Sophia from many perspectives. These sessions wove together inspiration and meaningful research from our speakers, as well as art, song, and embodiment practices.

#### **Preparing for the Future: The Healing Spirit of Whitsun** *with Lisa Romero*

700 people attended this one-time Whitsun event. In the context of our rapidly changing world, Lisa Romero offered a strengthening approach to meet challenges by aligning with guiding spiritual forces.

#### **Rediscovering the Sacred Feminine in Washington D.C.** *with Lila and David Tresemer*

In preparation for our annual conference in Washington D.C., Lila and David Tresemer brought our attention to the profound patterns in the layouts, history, geometry and star connections of the National Mall.

## Program Highlights Cont.

### **Roots and Renewal- with the Eastern, Central and Regional Councils**

This series (of almost 500 participants) was formed by the idea that without understanding the roots of the Anthroposophical movement, there can be no outward renewal. In this three-part series, we looked towards the burning of the first Goetheanum, the Verse for America, and the Movement for Religious Renewal.

### **Finding Strength in Challenging Times with Laura Embrey-Stine and Debra Spitulnik**

This workshop focused on building immunity and strength to meet the colder, darker months through the modalities of speech work and form drawing, highlighting the strength-giving power of the arts.

### **Holy Nights: Truth, Beauty, and Goodness - December 2022- January 2023**

Almost 1400 people joined this program as we worked with the series of images of the Madonna (15 images by Raphael, Michelangelo, and Donatello), created in a sequence in 1908 by Rudolf Steiner, that serve as a healing impulse for the soul. Each day a new presenter shared reflections of the image(s) and time for inward contemplation of the image was provided. *Brian Gray* provided context for the series beforehand, and *Orland Bishop* offered guiding thoughts on Epiphany.

## **Year-Long Programs (Online)**

### **Sophia Community Circle**

This year-long community circle began in 2021 and concluded in the Spring of 2022, just weeks before our in-person conference “Sophia Rising”. Community offerings and conversation groups were the focus of this monthly series.

### **New Images of the Zodiac in the Cycle of the Year with Mary Stewart Adams**

This program also began in 2021 and moved through 12 calendar months, each session focused around one of the 12 new images of the zodiac based on those in the original *Calendar of the Soul*. *Mary Stewart Adams* offered inspiring presentations and context while *Lynn Stull* helped us to work through the content in eurythmy.

### **Applied Anthroposophy- Spring semester AAC2 and Fall Semester AAC3**

Our year-long program, Applied Anthroposophy, saw its third successful year of in-depth learning and group work. We turned our attention from metamorphosis and the butterfly in year two to the bee and the communal beehive in year three. The Seed Series, a pillar of the program, highlighted individual research from a diverse array of presenters. Chrysalis Groups, the other pillar of the program, are more intimate learning groups meant to engage participants in their own spiritual striving, research and community connection. The program coordinators were *Angela Foster, Katrina Hoven, Tess Parker and Jordan Walker*.



## **Program Highlights cont.**

*In Person Conferences*

### **Sophia Rising: Unveiling the Wisdom of Being Human (120) and LIVESTREAM (160)**

*Santa Fe, New Mexico - April 21-24, 2022*

We hosted a vibrant gathering in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the 'land of enchantment', resonant with light ether and deep history, centered around the theme of Sophia. Together we felt the rising of Sophia, in her many facets and expressions, as we contemplated the deeper historical significance and violence of the nuclear era and its expression in New Mexico. We also went deeper into the significance of the Virgin of Guadalupe and the specific celestial pictures behind these themes. This conference was a multifaceted festival with story telling, biography and social art, eurythmy and movement, singing and speech, and artistic activities. We heard from speakers *Carrie Schuchardt, Mary Stewart Adams, Stephanie Georgieff* and others.

### **Enkindling Connections: And the Heart Rose (50) and Livestream (150)**

*Washington D.C. October 8-10 2022*

Participants joined both online and in-person for our annual conference and member's meeting in Washington D.C. Highlights included the Foundation Stone in Eurythmy with the Eurythmy Spring Valley Ensemble, keynotes from Rev. Daniel Hafner, Rev. Emma Heirman, and Dan McKanan. We opened with a ceremony at the MLK Memorial at the National Mall. An online pre-conference series moved up and down the east coast to Maine, Massachusetts, Georgia and Florida, as we enkindled connections with various groups and branches, and heard their specific research questions and findings, charged especially with the Michaelmas mood.

2022 has established a living, vibrant framework through which to approach our centenary year of the Anthroposophical Society. Thank you for your participation!

– Tess Parker, Director of Programs (CA)

With Angela Foster and Katrina Hoven, Programs Staff

# Anthroposophical Prison Outreach 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Kathy Serafin, APO Program Director

Anthroposophical Prison Outreach continued its work sharing the wisdom of Rudolf Steiner with incarcerated individuals. Every day we received and responded to inquiries for introductory packets and books as prisoners found their way to anthroposophy—often through friends or a prison resource list. In 2022, 1,600 books were loaned out averaging 130 books per month.

Toward the end of the year, APO reached a milestone of 5,000 incarcerated individuals who have participated in the APO program since its conception. Each of these individuals has been able to support their inner development through their participation. Books found their way into over 800 prisons across the country with over 23,000 books reaching prisoners directly; they are often shared, studied together, and discussed, thus reaching many more.

It is good to highlight some of the remarkable stories we heard this year of how lives are changed for those who somehow find us! Glenn in CA writes that he no longer sees the world through the eyes of a ‘victim of circumstances’ but rather as a ‘spiritual warrior’ who has found “the best gift I can give my brothers, sisters, and all humans is that of my own self- transformation!” Another participant, Saul, shares “I had a bad habit of doing drugs and now for two years I have been sober...learning about spiritual things I find it more of a way to feel happy and joyful! I used to use drugs to do this, but now I study anthroposophy...a lot of people say they can see my peace.” We also heard from John in TX, how anthroposophy has helped him look deeper into his life and he sees the fruits in having more patience, self- control, and a sense of purpose. He writes that his dad was raised in an era that taught men to never talk about feelings. He shares that his dad recently died but lived long enough to be able to tell his son that the changes he saw in him made him cry! John shares “I can’t think of a better gift!”

## Highlights from 2022:

The summer of 2022 APO brought a moving experience of poetry to a listening audience at the Becoming the *Spirit of Detroit* conference. Brought by the *World Social Initiative Forum* and *How We Will* conference APO was invited to feature an art and poetry evening. Our event titled *Enter Light - Voices from Prison* took place Saturday evening with eighteen outside youth poets performing prisoner’s poems and became their voice while performing their poems and biographies. One by one the outside youth poets spoke prisoner’s inner experiences, struggles and new insight through their written word. This was a powerful experience for all.

Our lending Library began including with each library book request a printed form titled ‘*Spiritual Study Self Reflection Questions*’ with seven questions and room to respond about their book study. These questions appear to have deepened prisoner studies and encouraged the student to reflect on what was meaningful for them in their book study. Some of their responses can be found in the ‘*Inspired by your Reading*’ section of the APO Newsletter.

## Anthroposophical Prison Outreach cont.

*Illuminating Anthroposophy*, our biannual newsletter continued to provide prisoners with the experience that they are part of a larger community. It also provided Anthroposophical Society members and friends a glimpse into the world of those who study behind bars. In 2022, issues 35 and 36 reached many people, both on the inside and outside, expressing that the newsletter has been meaningful to them. You will find below two paragraphs from our issues this year. These and earlier NL issues can be found on the ASA website under prison outreach or at: [anthroposophyforprisoners.org](http://anthroposophyforprisoners.org)

*I'm learning how to accept responsibility for my actions and accept my future, because it is up to me to construct my own life, body, mind, and soul. I look at prison differently, the reasons I'm here, and also the reasons that led to those choices that shaped my current situation. I'm not looking to place blame anymore, nor do I complain about life being unfair anymore. I used to struggle with anxiety and depression horribly because I didn't believe my life was worth anything and the world would be better off without me. Now I realize that it takes all of us to shape one another and the events of my life were necessary due to an intrinsic need of my soul. Matthew, Ina, IL*

*I use to be an angry person. My perception and perspective were different. I couldn't see the bigger picture in things. Now I've become calmer and reserved. I enjoy learning and applying things to my daily life. I enjoy learning about new things and anthroposophy has helped me become optimistic. Jonathan, Bedford Hills, NY*

*Reading and studying Anthroposophy has affected my life in a very profound and powerful way. It has been the light that rescued me from being lost in darkness. Self-knowledge, universal truth allowed me to transform my life from negative to positive. I found myself, my purpose, my calling and my destiny. It yielded the fruits of me discovering my talents, gifts, and abilities as an artist, teacher, and humanitarian. I now think in terms of oneness! Humanity! I now think in terms of spiritual, universal truths and reality. My feelings are more empathetic, caring, and compassionate! Being a vessel of light, love, and truth. I often feel like a natural mystic man from the ancient past living in the present to the future. Jahiro, San Luis Obispo, CA*

The fall highlighted our tenth annual APO Walk-A-Thon. Our yearly walkathon has been a way that friends have supported our major fundraiser of the year with each walker taking on their own unique walk. One walker began her walk days earlier so she could get 50 miles in and to distribute APO brochures along the way to her Waldorf community. Another couple walked with a challenge to their sponsors that they would match funds brought in to their campaign. With seventy walkers/cyclists in 18 states, we reached our goal of \$40,000. We are grateful for the many who join in an effort to be the face for those brothers and sisters behind bars who are finding new soul capacities by studying anthroposophy.

Kathy Serafin APO Program Director (MI)



# 2022 Report for the North American Collegium of the School for Spiritual Science

*John Bloom and Bert Chase*

The North American Collegium of the School for Spiritual Science was formed in the early 1980s as a reflection of and complement for the Leadership at the Goetheanum. Within the structure of the General Anthroposophical Society are members who have made a commitment to be representatives of anthroposophy in their lives, and to work with the mantras given by Rudolf Steiner in the Class Lessons as a basis for working with others in cultivating spiritual scientific research. This School for Spiritual Science consists of the General Anthroposophical Section, within which the Class Lessons are held, and eleven vocational sections: Pedagogical, Agricultural, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Natural Science, Social Science, Spiritual Striving of Youth, Literary Arts and Humanities, Medicine, and Mathematics and Astronomy. Rudolf Steiner formed these vocational and practical sections in response to those professionals who were already working out of anthroposophy and wished to carry out research in their respective fields in light of spiritual science with the goal of supporting the transformation of culture based on spiritual insight.

While the General Anthroposophical Society contains within it the various Country Societies, it is important to recognize that the School for Spiritual Science is a worldwide entity and is in no way organized or administered based on political boundaries.

The North American Collegium is a mirror of the School for Spiritual Science and the General Anthroposophical Society as they have evolved at the Goetheanum in Dornach. This mirroring is significant because beginning in 2012, the leadership for the Society and the School at the Goetheanum began a significant process of transformation. Prior to initiating this process of change, leadership for the Society flowed from the Executive Council (Vorstand) as it was established during the Christmas Conference in 1923. Leadership for the sections of the School was carried by the Circle of Section Leaders based at the Goetheanum. Over the intervening century, this resulted in a dual leadership structure with divergent priorities.

Arising out of the process of transformation initiated in 2012, these two bodies have created an overall Goetheanum Leadership which includes both functions of the Executive Council (Vorstand) and what was the Circle of Section Leaders in one collaborative working organization.

One example of this shared carrying of responsibility is how questions pertaining to the Class Lessons are carried. In the past this was the responsibility of the Executive Council. Now this task is carried by a team with one member from the Executive Council and one Section Leader. The shift to a more collaborative leadership model at the Goetheanum has been thoughtful, deliberate, and inspiring.

This background is significant for understanding some of the work undertaken by the North American Collegium during 2022 to prepare for the Meeting of the Movement in May of 2023. In turn this was a critical step for renewal in line with the upcoming centenary of the Christmas Conference (1923/24).

The Collegium focused its work arising from the recognition of the need to bring together those carrying responsibility for multiple aspects of anthroposophical activity that had developed in North America

## 2022 Report cont.

Over many years. To make this possible, the Collegium intensified its work to understand its role in helping to bring about a new coherence within the anthroposophical movement on this continent.

The Collegium also continued to deepen its work with, and explore new approaches to, cultivating the content of the Class Lessons, a task it has carried since its inception. Participants in the Collegium also continued their efforts to deepen the work with Rudolf Steiner's material on bringing the results of spiritual inquiry into specific fields that all members of the General Anthroposophical Section share: karma and reincarnation, approaches to meditation, and understanding the Christ impulse and its significance for humanity at this time. The meetings of the Collegium are also a time to share research that is going on in each of the Sections where it is unfolding.

In October of 2022, the Collegium met in person and by zoom with Class Holders and regional Class members across North America to build a common understanding of the shifts in leadership that had evolved at the Goetheanum. Two members of the Goetheanum Leadership and one member of the Executive Council guided this process. Through their shared experiences, we all gained a deeper appreciation and understanding of the significant leadership changes that have evolved in the Society's headquarters at the Goetheanum. It was inspiring to hear the struggles they went through and the inspirations that supported them in making the transitions needed. They provided encouragement in both letting go of old forms, and for developing clear imaginations for new ways of working needed at his critical point in the Society's development.

From this time together, the Collegium was able to take the first steps toward building closer working relationships with those who have been appointed to carry the holding of Class Lessons in North America.

### **In 2022 the Collegium consisted of the following individuals:**

John Bloom, General Secretary, Society in the US, *General Anthroposophical Section*  
Bert Chase, General Secretary, Society in Canada, *General Anthroposophical Section*  
Michael Hughes, Representative, Society in Hawai'i, *General Anthroposophical section*,  
(The Society in Hawai'i predates US statehood)  
Frank Agrama, *Section for the Spiritual Striving of Youth*  
Catarina Burisch, *General Anthroposophical Section*  
Patricia Dickson, *Visual Arts Section*  
Bruce Donehower, *Literary Arts and Humanities Section*  
Branko Furst, *Medical Section*  
Jennifer Greene, *Natural Science section*  
Herbert Hagens, *General Anthroposophical Section*  
Michael Holdrege, *Pedagogical Section*  
Kim Hunter, *General Anthroposophical Section*  
Rudiger Janisch, *General Anthroposophical Section*  
Helen Lubin, *Performing Arts Section*  
Alex Tuchman, *Agriculture Section*  
Sherry Wildfeuer, *Agriculture Section*  
Douglas Wylie, *Social Science Section*

## Council of Anthroposophical Organizations | Report for 2022

*John Bloom*

The Council of Anthroposophical Organizations [CAO] was initiated by a group of organizational leaders over 30 years ago to collaborate on common topics, as well as share research on how the practical manifestations of Rudolf Steiner's work were serving the world and meeting the challenges coming toward the organizations from the public. The original impulse included only associations of associations such as the Association of Waldorf Schools, Camphill, Biodynamics. That continues with the addition of organizations that are serving a particular field and may not yet have other purpose-aligned organizations in their respective fields. The founding CAO purpose has continued to evolve, as the world has evolved, and includes projects and workshops that are of service to all the organizations, as well as share strategic learning across organizations. As a group of peers carrying responsibility for an anthroposophical view of organizational life, the CAO carries the questions: What is an anthroposophical organization? And, how can we work to keep an anthroposophical impulse alive as the organizations have grown to serve an ever-widening public? The CAO is unique to North America in that there are no other country or regional Societies that have such a Council with whom to collaborate.

In many ways 2022, was a year of regrouping and reassessing following the covid period that put a great deal of stress on schools and other activities that are essentially social activities. Not all organizations were adversely affected, and it was amazing to hear from each of the organizations how they were able to adapt to their specific circumstances. One of the key challenges of the covid time, was the raised awareness of race in the US culture specifically.

While the CAO encouraged each organization to take up the questions as appropriate to their fields, the CAO hosted a follow up seminar on Questions of Race and Diversity with Cory Eichmann as a way to engage more colleagues to explore the complexity of the issues as leaders and those meeting public. There is no question that there many views, needs, and feelings on these issues and each person was left free to digest and work with them individually, in community and as colleagues. There was no singular outcome or position that arose, no unified statement from the CAO, though there was a drafting process to see if this was possible. In the end, it was left for each organization to take up that work for themselves out of freedom, while the collective conversation about how we serve a diverse world, especially in North America, continues. One research question that came out of the conversations in 2022 is: What is the spiritual nature of justice?

Participants of the CAO also engaged in the planning process for the May meeting of the Movement scheduled in 2023, the purpose of which is to start a process of renewal for coherence across the anthroposophical movement. It is essential that the learning that emerges from the CAO inform work in the relevant and related Sections of the School for Spiritual Science as a basis for continuing research and development of anthroposophical insight that in turn can serve the world as the CAO organizations meet it.

The CAO is financed by participant organization contributions, and its actions are guided by what would serve to further anthroposophy, the work of the Society and the inspiration of Rudolf Steiner.



## Council of Anthroposophical Organizations | Report for 2022 cont.

### Participants in the CAO for 2022 included:

Alliance for Public Waldorf Education [www.awsna.org](http://www.awsna.org)  
Anthroposophical Society in America [US] [www.anthroposophy.org](http://www.anthroposophy.org)  
Association for Anthroposophical Psychology <https://www.anthroposophicpsychology.org>  
Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA) [www.awsna.org](http://www.awsna.org)  
Biodynamic Association/Biodynamic Demeter Alliance [www.biodynamics.com](http://www.biodynamics.com)  
Camphill Association [www.camphill.org](http://www.camphill.org)  
Center for Biography and Social Art [www.biographysocialart.org](http://www.biographysocialart.org)  
The Christian Community in North America [www.thechristiancommunity.org](http://www.thechristiancommunity.org)  
Eurythmy Association of North America [www.eana.org](http://www.eana.org)  
Hawthorne Valley Association [www.hawthornevalley.org](http://www.hawthornevalley.org)  
LifeWays North America [www.lifewaysnorthamerica.org](http://www.lifewaysnorthamerica.org)  
MysTech <https://mystech.co/>  
North American Council for Anthroposophical Curative Education and Social Therapy  
North American Youth Section [www.nayouthsection.org](http://www.nayouthsection.org)  
SteinerBooks [www.steinerbooks.org](http://www.steinerbooks.org)  
Threefold Educational Foundation [www.threefold.org](http://www.threefold.org)  
Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN)  
[www.waldorfearlychildhood.org](http://www.waldorfearlychildhood.org)