

TENDING THE WELLSPRING

*Anthroposophical
Society in
America*

2016
Annual Report

Anthroposophical Society in America

Verse for America



May our feeling penetrate

into the center of our heart,

and seek, in love, to unite itself

with the human beings seeking the same goal,

with the spirit beings who – bearing grace,

strengthening us from realms of light

and illuminating our love –

are gazing down upon

our earnest, heartfelt striving.



~ Rudolf Steiner, 1923

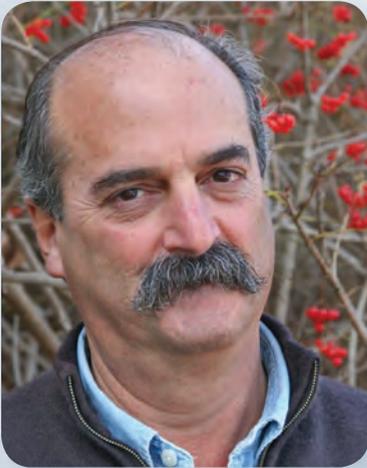
Anthroposophical Society in America
1923 Geddes Avenue | Ann Arbor, MI 48104 | www.anthroposophy.org

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Cover art: *Archangel* by Dorothea Sunier Pierce

From the General Secretary



Dear Members and Friends,

When Torin Finser, with his penchant for storytelling, handed me the ferryperson's staff at the October 2016 Annual General Meeting, he also was stepping back after ten years of critical leadership for the organization. It is with gratitude for his work and that of the General Council, and for the generosity of the Michael Support Circle and other donors, that I have stepped into the role of General Secretary at a time of fiscal and organizational stability for the Society.

The work of this transition is not complete, however. To my mind it will not be complete until the many profound aspects of Rudolf Steiner's work are connected through the Society, and further, until the work of the Society is visible and valued as tending the wellspring of all the powerful and transformative practical activities that are serving the US and the world.

2016 will also be watermarked as a year of change in the "world mood," if I may say it that way. It was a year when explicit political polarization became the lead story. It was a year that heightened the need for Rudolf Steiner's six basic exercises, a deep practice of self-development, as antidote to distraction, emotional turmoil, and hardened positions.

I asked the members present at the AGM in Chestnut Ridge to *be the invitation* so that others feel recognized and welcome for who they are. The challenge of opening the Society will require our willing engagement. We will need inner strength coupled with clarity about threefold social practices as the foundation for growing the connections between the many anthroposophical activities and kindred organizations.

Stability indicates that the Society is past a crisis. It has also freed up the capacity to look forward with positivity. Toward the end of 2016 and early 2017, the Leadership Team, General Council, and I have focused our work on “articulating our north star.” Dave Alsop reports on this in the summer-fall 2017 *being human*. This collaborative work has certainly been an inspiration for me. More will be shared about this work through the coming years, and we hope that you already experience something of this “north star” sense in the Society’s activities.

I want to close with a recent experience I had with an individual considering membership in the Society. He asked me, “Why should I join? It costs money and I don’t have much. Steiner’s works are available on line in any case, and I didn’t feel welcomed at a branch meeting I attended.” My response surprised me. I said, “There is no need to join if it is just for you. However, your membership makes it possible for others to find Rudolf Steiner’s work and each other through the activities of the Society. We may be imperfect, but this is your opportunity to be in connection with a kind of intentional network of spirit that holds at its center what it means to be human.” And for humanity, I hope he decides to become a member as a free spiritual deed. It would be an important gift.

With good will for the year ahead and appreciation for what we have accomplished,



John Bloom, General Secretary (CA)

From the Leadership Team

Transition, Inspiration, Collaboration

2016 was a year of change for the leadership of the Anthroposophical Society. Torin Finser completed nine years of service as General Secretary. His deep experience and warm, articulate representation of anthroposophy was praised across the US and at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland. We are grateful for his commitment and vision, which included formation of the Leadership Team.

A wide and inspiring search process for Torin's successor produced four finalists. After spending several June days in conversation with them, and soliciting reflections from the Leadership Team, the General Council announced the selection of John Bloom as our new General Secretary. We have enjoyed getting to know John in his new role over these past months and look forward to continuing to deepen our work with him and the General Council.

Also in June, Director of Programs Marian León, who began working for the Society in 1999 and spent many years as the administrator, left to take a new position with the University of

Michigan. The Society continues to benefit from her work with members, her support of groups and branches, and what Torin called "her wonderful artistry in connecting people, ideas, and initiatives in a rich tapestry of activity." We are grateful for our time of collaboration with Marian.

Elizabeth Roosevelt Weeks, who had been Associate Director of Programs, served as Interim Director of Programs and member of the Leadership Team between June and October of 2016. She brought extensive Waldorf school and Youth Section experience to her role. We thank her for her creative contributions in regional work, webinars, collaboration with AWSNA and others, and planning for the fall conference.

Laura Scappaticci joined the Leadership Team as Director of Programs in November, expressing a core interest in "investigating the ways anthroposophy informs and elevates today's individuals, while connecting with contemporary cultural innovations and concerns." She brings openness and enthusiasm to her new duties including work with the Council of Anthroposophical Organizations.

The mission of the Leadership Team (LT) is to serve the health, development, and success of the Anthroposophical Society. The LT works together with the General Secretary to take initiative, lead, and serve on behalf of the Society.

We continue to refine the ways we work as a collaborative team. We study regularly, share insights and news, and work together to set direction and implement strategies toward the long-term health and sustainability of our Society.

Our shared study has been an important aspect of our shared experience and vision. In 2016, we completed Rudolf Steiner's *Awakening to Community*, finding parallels and perspectives to our work in the current time, and taking heart in the knowledge that Steiner's legacy underlies our work together. We took up Steiner's *Communicating Anthroposophy* at the end of the year and it is our current shared study.

We welcome your interest and participation. 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



... At the Rudolf Steiner House in Ann Arbor, Michigan

Did you know? The Anthroposophical Society's main office is a comfortable and beautiful gathering space for retreats, workshops and small performances. We are delighted to host intensive retreats each year at the Rudolf Steiner House, our home office. It is also an affordable and comfortable place to stay when visiting the area. Your patronage supports the Society's efforts! Visit www.anthroposophy.org/rsh for details.

In 2016, events included:

- ✦ *Spirit and Revolution: Rudolf Steiner and Social Transformation*, with Abraham Entin
- ✦ *Cosmic Cycles ~ Earthly Rhythms, Working with Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul*, with Herbert Hagens and Mary Stewart Adams

And we were pleased to host the following:

- ✦ *Evolving Science*, the Natural Science & Mathematics-Astronomy Sections 2016 Conference, with Fred Amrine, Craig Holdredge, Gopi Krishna Vijaya and others
- ✦ *The Honeybee Crisis, Causes and Solutions* with Gunther Hauk



... Across the Country

Representing Anthroposophy!, the Society's annual members meeting and conference was held in at the Threefold Educational Center in Chestnut Ridge, NY, October 6-9, 2016. Virginia Sease presented the keynote address on the timely topic, "Why Anthroposophy Needs America." Eurythmy Spring Valley performed the Michael Imagination for the opening each day, setting the tone and intention for learning and conversation throughout the event, and artistic experiences and activities were woven throughout the weekend.

Torin Finser shared reflections of his experiences over the past 9 year as the Society's General Secretary, working with the General Council, helping the Society to evolve, and most importantly spending time across the country with members and friends. He warmly and formally handed over the leadership to incoming General Secretary John Bloom, who along with Joan Sleight, closed out the conference by drawing together the threads from the conference and sharing their thoughts about meeting the future. **How do we imagine ourselves as representatives of anthroposophy? What are we building together?**

Pre-conference gatherings included:

- ✦ *Emerging Initiatives*, a gathering of youth with Joan Sleight from the General Anthroposophical Society
- ✦ *The Mantras of the First Class of the School for Spiritual Science: Meetings between the Hierarchies and the Human Being* - A reflection and conversation for members of the School for Spiritual Science led by Virginia Sease.

Fred Amrine once again shared his wisdom and knowledge on a lecture tour around the Southeastern United States during February and March. He is a professor of German at University of Michigan and an internationally recognized Goethean scholar. Fred visited several communities in Alabama, North Carolina, and Tennessee, presenting 7 different lectures on topics including anthroposophy, architecture, culture, esotericism, and social justice.

Also in March, **Fred teamed with Robert McDermott to present the weekend workshop *Steiner and Kindred Spirits*** at the Waldorf School of Atlanta in Decatur, GA. Robert is President Emeritus of the California Institute for Integral Studies in San Francisco as well as Chair, Philosophy and Religion and has served on the General Council of the Society.

The Traveling Speakers Program brings speakers together with groups and branches around the country. Topics vary each year and the events that result are rich in content for inner and outer growth. Many thanks to Margaret Shipman, who has been coordinating this program on a volunteer basis since its inception in 2007.

Offerings in 2016 included:

- ✦ *Meditation* (CO) with Bernie Wolf
- ✦ *Faust* (IL) with Fred Amrine
- ✦ *Biography* (PA) with Kathleen Bowen
- ✦ *Enhancing Meditation* (OH) with Joseph Rubano

If you'd like to learn more about bringing a Traveling Speakers program to your community, please contact Margaret Shipman at shipman2005@scsglobal.net or Laura Scappaticci at laura@anthroposophy.org.

... And Beyond

In 2016 we offered a variety of webinars as an accessible and cost-effective way to bring high-quality content and connection to members and friends around the country. We continue to partner with the Association of Waldorf Schools of

North America (AWSNA) to provide timely and interesting parent education opportunities. A total of 477 members and friends participated in webinars in 2016.

Offerings included:

- ✦ *The Trial of the Soul, continued* with Barbara Renold (12 weeks)
- ✦ *Soul Journey: How the Waldorf Curriculum Unfolds Healthy Child Development* with Elizabeth Roosevelt Weeks (1 session, co-sponsored with AWSNA)
- ✦ *Soul Journey: Awakening the "I"* with John Wulsin (1 session, co-sponsored with AWSNA)
- ✦ *Working Towards the 2016 AGM* with members of the AGM planning committee (3 sessions)

Save the date! The 2017 annual conference and members' meeting, Rise Up! Life as a Labor of Love, will be held at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, AZ on October 13-15, 2017. Visit www.anthroposophy.org/phoenix2017 for more info and to register.

~ Laura Scappaticci, Director of Programs (CA)

In the Regions

Central Region

Activities within the central region are coordinated by the Central Regional Council (CRC). The CRC is a well-established initiative group with the freedom to develop projects and programs to support the life of anthroposophy in the region.

The mission of the CRC is to provide opportunities for human beings longing for the spirit to meet each other soul to soul. The region includes members in states from Ohio to Texas, Mississippi to the Dakotas. We see networking across this region, where many members live far from centers of anthroposophical activity, as one of our most important tasks.

Since the region covers a vast section of our country, the CRC has begun facilitating study opportunities using conference calls, where members and friends who are interested in our theme may call in and participate. In 2016 the theme of our activities was to build and strengthen a relationship with those who have crossed the threshold; *The Bridging Project: Between Life and Death from Soul to Soul*. Highlights include shared study, guest presenters and a conference coming up in 2017. Learn more about the Central

Regional Council and its activities by visiting our webpage: www.anthroposophy.org/groups-and-branches/central-region.

~ Marianne Fieber-Dhara, Central Region Representative to the General Council (WI)

Eastern Region

Activities and connections toward the renewal of the Eastern Region continue to evolve. In 2016, three new areas of more-than-local activity were identified and very successful meetings were held in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic areas (and in the Northeast in February 2017).

The Southeast event focused on community building and getting to know one another better. Some questions they worked with included: How do we understand the task of anthroposophy in our region? What might be our unique contribution, and how might we collaborate?

The Mid-Atlantic Gathering was a weekend-long event and included presentations, conversation groups and artistic activity. Those gathered took up the topic of “World Transformation and Self-Knowledge in the Face of Evil,” the Goetheanum’s theme of the year.

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

Western Region

The foundation for all of our activities in the Western Region are the grassroots connections that members make, sometimes across vast distances, in order to get to know one another, study together and explore what it means to consciously live in and care for this world today.

In areas where larger numbers of members live in closer proximity, these members have worked together to host events and activities for the larger community. Thanks to the support of John Beck, editor of *being human*, it is now possible to access a comprehensive list of the activities in the Western Region on the Society's website www.anthroposophy.org/groups-and-branches/western-region under 'Groups and Branches'.

Among the larger events in the west in 2016 were two major conferences:

- ❖ The Biodynamic Association conference *Tierra Viva: Farming the Living Earth*, in Santa Fe, NM
- ❖ The biennial meeting of the Association of Anthroposophic Medicine and Therapies in America, in Petaluma, CA.

Coming up next is the Anthroposophical Society's 2017 annual conference and members' meeting, *Rise Up! Life as a Labor of Love*, in October in Phoenix, AZ. We look forward to meeting you there.

~ Rebecca Soloway, Western Regional Council member (OR)



The School for Spiritual Science

From the North American Collegium

The Collegium consists of representatives from each of the Sections of the School for Spiritual Science, the General Secretaries of the United States and Canada, and Virginia Sease from the Goetheanum. The task of the Collegium from its inception has been to evolve a fuller, cohesive picture of the School, which had been previously identified primarily with the Lessons of the First Class. The theme of spiritual research has been explored collaboratively over many years, as well as the articulation of the activities that belong to the General Anthroposophical Section (see, for example, the booklet “A Way of Serving”). This year we have taken up several challenges.

During one of our meetings Virginia Sease had asked the members of the Collegium to consider seriously how Rudolf Steiner’s statement that anthroposophy is a renewal of the ancient Mysteries related to our respective Sections. As the representative of the Agricultural Section, I took this up by delving into the Demeter/Persephone Mysteries. Some of the results of this research are appearing in the 2018 Stella Natura Calendar. Other members likewise took this up, and Marguerite Miller, from the Section for the Literary Arts and Humanities, shared her research on the Hibernian Mysteries at our most recent meeting. As during every session, time was also dedicated to focus on the ongoing meditative work. This was accompanied by guided explorations in movement, sculpture and speech.

There were discussions on cultivating consciousness of the manner in which the School for Spiritual Science evolves and manifests itself worldwide, and especially on our continent.



Sections of the School for Spiritual Science

- General Anthroposophical Section
- Section for Math and Astronomy
- Medical Section
- Agricultural Section
- Pedagogical Section
- Section for the Spiritual Striving of Youth
- Section for Social Sciences
- Section for the Arts of Eurythmy, Speech, Music, Puppetry, and Drama
- Visual Arts Section
- Literary Arts and Humanities Section

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



The future of the Collegium was also discussed, and the need for anthroposophy and the School for Spiritual Science to become more visible and accessible to the world where it is so needed, especially as we approach 2023 and 2024. How can the Collegium connect with others, within the Anthroposophical Society and beyond, to find the most fruitful avenues to accomplish the task? The other side of this discussion involved a recognition of the modesty of our circumstances: each of us occupied full time in our field, coming together only two weekends/ year with a budget which cannot even support these two meetings.

The Henry Barnes Fund for Anthroposophical Research, which, largely through the generosity of an anonymous donor, was able to give out many grants to support anthroposophical research over a period of years, is currently inactive until the funds are replenished.

Nevertheless, we are grateful that there is a forum to gain an overview of the School as a whole, and we look forward to working more intensively on the task of representing anthroposophy in the coming years. We intend through our work to create spiritual substance to support anthroposophical life in America.

*~ Sherry Wildfeuer (PA),
on behalf of the Collegium*

From the Circle of Class Holders in North America

Within the Anthroposophical Society, at its heart, is the esoteric School for Spiritual Science. This is open to members who have committed themselves to the work of anthroposophy by dedicating their meditative life to the needs of the world. After two years of Society membership, during which the basics of anthroposophy and its meditative path have been established, a member can apply to join.

“Class holders” are responsible for monthly work with the esoteric content of the School. They are directly responsible to Dornach for the integrity of this work. There are about 125 Class holders in North America, including the United States, Canada and Mexico. They hold Class lessons in at least thirty-five states and five provinces.

Over many years, it has been the practice to hold bi-annual regional Class holders meetings for on-going education and support. In October 2016,

24 west coast Class holders, including one from Hawai'i, held a weekend retreat in Fair Oaks, California. Those who needed it had help from the Society Class holder budget, which also paid for our meals. The group was able to share burning questions and work on them together. One question that is always with members of the School for Spiritual Science is that of continually enlivening the Society itself, so that essential anthroposophy is available to those who seek to find it through living human beings. This is the task of the General Anthroposophical Section. We also explored some aspects of meditative work and esoteric conversation, in order to support the Class holders with their responsibility and ongoing work in their local Class groups. Also in October, Herbert attended the Canadian Class holders meeting in Toronto.

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



Rudolf Steiner Library, Hudson, NY



The year 2016 at the Rudolf Steiner Library saw the staff's continued efforts at re-establishing core lending and research services, while continuing to progress on the preservation and cataloging projects despite significant reductions in the Anthroposophical Society in America's operating budget. Some highlights of the year include:

Membership: Thanks to a grant from the Waldorf Educational Foundation, we were able to offer free one-year library memberships to 260 new members affiliated with Waldorf schools in the USA.

Lending: We lent a total of 3300 items to 440 users. This represents a 25% decrease in usage compared to lending prior to our move from the carriage house in 2013. Lending to other libraries however increased from 30 loans per year to 220.

Research: We assisted 90 members with their personal and professional inquiries.

Digitization: We have continued to scan items for both preservation and on-demand access, subject to copyright restrictions. We digitized 50 sources for members for their personal study.

Cataloging: We added 3700 items to the online catalog in 2016. This total includes both new acquisitions, and periodicals and articles added through our ongoing retrospective cataloging project.

We received a \$2,000 grant for our cataloging project from our library consortium, the Capital District Library Council in Albany. Funds are provided through the New York State Regional Bibliographic Databases program, and enable our catalog records to be included in WorldCat, the largest global network of library content and services.

Volunteers worked a total of 580 hours at the library, not including the time contributed by the Rudolf Steiner Library Circle of Friends for fundraising work. Library volunteers unpack returned books, re-shelve books, list donated books for sale on amazon.com, catalog books and periodicals, and maintain the library's computer network.

We also held preservation project weeks in August to re-box our German periodical collection into archival-quality boxes, and repair damaged paperback books using the Japanese stab-stitching method. The repair workshop was led by Hawthorne Valley School Waldorf teacher Lisa Damian.

Donations of equipment and books to the library included an air purifier; a set of six upholstered chairs; original paintings; and a custom-built, ADA compliant service desk attachment; and hundreds of books, periodicals, and audio recordings.

Library staff We said goodbye to library assistant Nadia Bedard in July

who left to attend graduate school at the University for Peace in Costa Rica. Nadia will be returning to work at the library for the summer of 2017.

We welcomed part-time librarian Jennifer Locke to the staff in late September. Jennifer has much experience not only as a professional librarian, but also as a Camphill co-worker and graduate of the Waldorf certificate program at Antioch.

As announced in *being human* online, I will be leaving my position at the end of June 2017. It has been a privilege to serve members and friends over the past 16 years.

Future: As of June 2017, plans are underway for the library to become independent of the Anthroposophical Society in America. Our work throughout 2016 has stabilized library operations after the numerous transitions of the past four years, and hopefully will provide a foundation for the library's newest incarnation.

~ Judith Kiely, Librarian (MA)

Anthroposophical Prison Outreach

Anthroposophical Prison Outreach (APO) has been active for 17 years, touching more than 3,400 prisoners in over 600 prisons across the US. Over 16,500 books have reached prisoners directly; they are often shared, studied together, and discussed, reaching many more. We encourage study in groups and have included a step-by-step guide with discussion, summary, and visualization.



APO supports self-rehabilitation and transformation through meditation, study, and exercises for self-control of thoughts, moods, and actions. Every day we receive letters of thanks. We continue to provide a lending library, mentors, a 26-lesson Self Awakening Correspondence Course, and twice-yearly newsletters. *Illuminating Anthroposophy* lets prisoners experience that they are part of a larger community, and provides Society members a glimpse into the world of those who study behind bars.

In 2016 we served over 800 incarcerated individuals, with 400 new inquiries in the last quarter. 1537 books were loaned out – an average of over 130 books per month! APO covers its expenses through designated donations from individuals and foundations. For many years one major donor covered a large portion of our operating expenses, and we thank her for her many gifts! In 2016 this donor stepped back, so we are expanding our fundraising and will be balancing available resources with the great need for our services. We welcome your support.

In October the Pasadena Branch of the Society hosted a poetry and art evening highlighting the creative works of APO participants. *Enter*

Light – Voices from Prison won a warm reception and we were humbled by the young poets and society members who gave their all to performances to bring the words of prisoners to life. Such local events raise funds for APO and engage the community in a creative way. They call attention, through art, to the effects of mass incarceration in this country. We hope to have many of these events across the country. If you have interest in bringing *Enter Light – Voices from Prison* to your community, let us know.

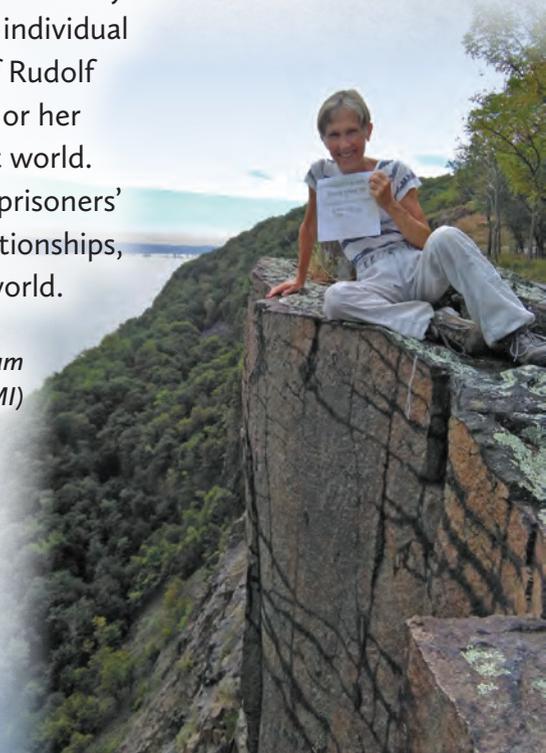
Our fourth annual walk-a-thon, *Walk a Mile in My Shoes*, took place in September. Participants gathered pledges and support through personal connections and social media. We raised \$15,000 and had 60 walkers across the US with three members walking in China, one for 50 miles! Thank you to all who participated!

In 2016 we continued work in Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility in Michigan, completing our

meditation class called *Mastering Your Self*, based on Steiner's Six Supplementary Exercises and "Self Development in the Penitentiary" by APO founder Fred Janney. We added a second series with local anthroposophists sharing different aspects from the twelve senses, physiology, music, and eurythmy, to how anthroposophy made a difference in one man's life. We can imagine such classes replicated in other prisons with the help of local branches.

The social climate of our country is facing challenges. Each individual who meets the work of Rudolf Steiner strengthens his or her connection to the spirit world. This inspires change in prisoners' actions and human relationships, radiating out into the world.

~ Kathy Serafin, Program
Director (MI)



Council of Anthroposophic Organizations

Created in 1989 as a committee of the Anthroposophical Society in America, the Council of Anthroposophic Organizations (CAO) is made up of organizations, institutions, and initiatives that work with anthroposophical ideas in practical ways in the context of public life. Gathering two times each year in different places around the country, the CAO provides an opportunity for networking and communication, and it has become a sense organ for the health of the movement as a whole. At each meeting location, the CAO hosts *Anthroposophy, Incorporated*, a conversation and reception bringing community leaders and interested individuals together to discuss living questions about anthroposophy and its work in the world.

Current members include representatives from the Association for Waldorf Schools of North America, the Youth Section, the Camphill Association, the publishing field represented by Steinerbooks, PAAM – the Physician’s Association for Anthroposophical Medicine, the Eurythmy Association, RSF Social Finance, the Biodynamic Association, and the Anthroposophical Society. In 2016, new organizations, including the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education, and The Center for Biography and Social Art were invited to join the group.



A more refined focus on service to the movement has been emerging in 2016. Upcoming activities include an anthroposophical initiative mapping project and a review of the financial health of the movement through the lens of organizations and associations. As the CAO continues to refine its focus of service to the movement, members can look for a greater CAO presence through the website, and educational programs related to finances and anthroposophy in the world.

~ Laura Scappaticci, Director of Programs (CA)

being human & anthroposophy.org

Printed, online, and emailed communications continue to be important in the Society's work. They connect members across our large country and explore anthroposophy's amazing range across sciences, arts, ethics, and humanities.

being human is printed and mailed to all member households and PDF copies are available a few months later online at anthroposophy.org and on at issuu.com. In 2016 we also tested a PDF format sized for smartphones and tablets; a future *being human* app could size to any mobile device.

In the two print issues budgeted for 2016 there were remarkable essays, great initiatives out of anthroposophy, and impressive art. Print allows for a visual art gallery as well as striking front covers. Robert Logsdon's lazure work was featured with its vibrant interior building spaces; the fall issue presented Elizabeth Lombardi's "Metamorphosis of Fear: An Exploration."

Every issue continues a long tradition: recalling members who have died. These life stories illuminate the reality of karma or destiny in human



biographies. Remembered this year were architect Joan de Ris Allen, Camphill pioneer Ursel Pietzner, eurythmist Ruth Finser, Nancy Dow Anniston, and anthroposophic doctor Mark Eisen. These obituaries are true labors of love, in these cases by David Adams, Cornelius Pietzner, Siegfried Finser, Michael Ronall, and Kathleen Wright.

Initiatives profiled in 2016 included the Rudolf Steiner Health Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan; 90 years of

the Threefold Educational Center in Chestnut Ridge, New York; the group work of the school initiatives in Arizona; the Paul Scharff Archive online; Los Angeles' branch in Pasadena and Elderberries Café in Hollywood; a huge performing arts initiative being led by Marke Levene; forty years of Eurythmy Spring Valley; and the entry of CIIS in San Francisco into the field of integral teacher education.

Frederick Amrine connected Rudolf Steiner's "East-West" work in the 1920s with today's emerging global "North-South" conversation, adding his own pithy new aphorisms in the tradition of Steiner and Goethe.

Otto Scharmer's "Paris: Shifting the Heart of the Collective" exposed the painful regression in global strategic thinking. Three writers wrestled with existential challenges of technology:

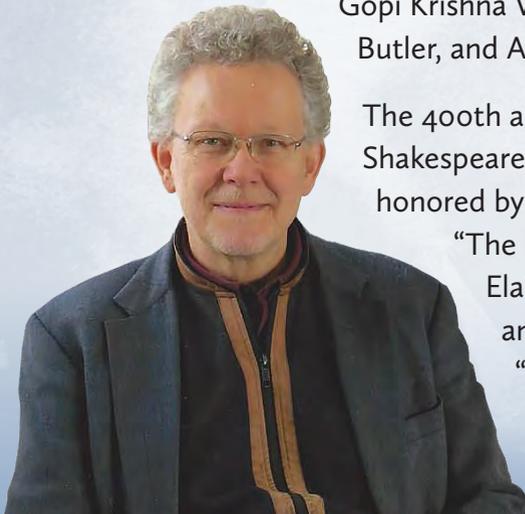
Gopi Krishna Vijaya, Benjamin Butler, and Andrew Linnell.

The 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death was honored by original poems, "The Lear Elegies," by Elaine Maria Upton, and two essays: "Shakespeare and

the Esoteric" by Frederick J. Dennehy, and "What's Wrong with Shakespeare (?)" by Bruce Donehower. We shared elegant poems by Maureen Tolman Flannery and Fred Dennehy reviewed a remarkable poetry book, *The Brain Is a Boundary*, by Alexander Dreier. Serguei Krissiouk reviewed Dr. Eben Alexander's *Proof of Heaven* and *The Map of Heaven* about "near-death experiences." Torin Finser took us "From MacBeth to Faust" and introduced thoughts on "A Path to 2023," while teacher Jessica Crawford wrote and shared a poem and drawing about "The Nine Year Change." Jon McAlice probed the uniqueness of "Reading Steiner."

Online, Bill Trusiewicz compared the Harry Potter saga with the path of initiation and the deeper moral issues of our times. Hazel Archer Ginsberg from Chicago shared highlights of the annual meeting and fall conference, "Representing Anthroposophy: Transforming the World." And in 2016, *anthroposophy.org* showcased 200 events from around the country and world.

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

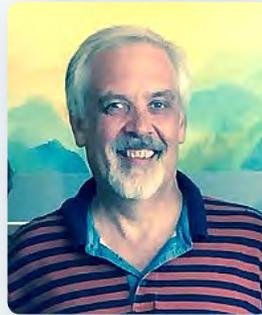


Treasurer's Report

As time passes, I look around the table at the General Council and realize that I am close to being the senior member. During my tenure as Treasurer, I have been witness to a most rewarding and at times tumultuous budget process with many changes in personnel and direction. I have been most invested in creating a steadfastness and solidity to the financial picture of the ASA.

I have by no means worked alone. Years ago, when I was installed at the AGM in Ann Arbor I said I could not accomplish the task ahead without the help and understanding of everyone in the room and those unable to attend. I have constantly been encouraged by everyone I have spoken to and I am grateful, truly grateful for your support.

So my message is gratitude, for you being side by side with us during this journey together. We have “threaded the needle” and “steadied the ship.” This year budgetary additions have been done in a prudent manner. Prudent in the sense that we have



maintained a balanced budget. The budget process begins with the Leadership Team, passes to the Finance Committee,

and finally is approved by the General Council.

In 2016 we budgeted conservatively, managed our expenses carefully, curtailed our activities and ended the year on a positive financial note. From this place of clarity and experience, we continue to manage our resources transparently and wisely. We will strive to build on our revenue streams through welcoming new members, engaging current members effectively, and creating new opportunities for individuals and organizations to make gifts and grants to the Society. We appreciate your support in this endeavor.

We do note that our programs and activities remain inadequately funded. For example, we have not

yet been able to reinstate funding to the Sections or regions and we are working on a plan to provide a sustainable future for the Rudolf Steiner Library. Our Leadership Team and General Council continue to collaborate to generate and steward the “right” level of resources to best serve our members and the movement into the future.

The Society’s financial support of the Goetheanum has changed over the past three years. In 2014 and prior years, the Society contributed between \$130,000 and \$140,000 per year to the Goetheanum, drawing on previously accumulated cash reserves and/or large bequests. The Society wanted to honor its commitment to the Goetheanum but, in hindsight, it was not fiscally responsible to make payments that depleted reserves each year. In 2015, the Society reached a “tipping point” and deep cuts were made to expenses across the board. That year the Society sent \$32,000 to Dornach (plus, as is done each

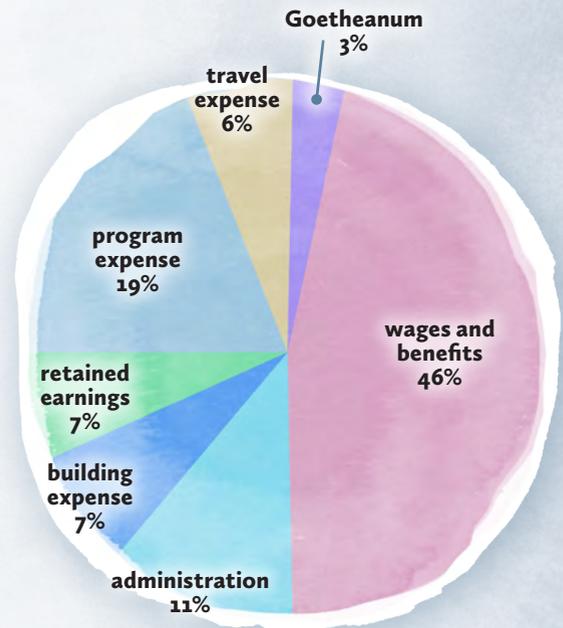
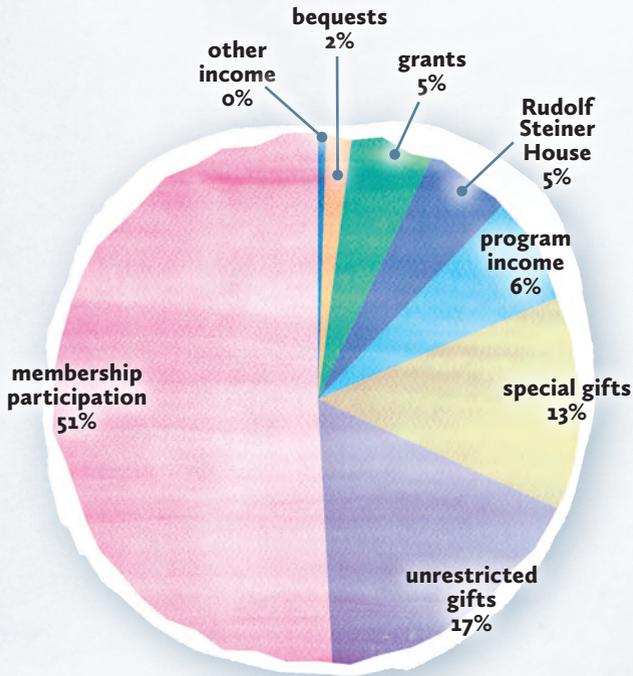
year, the designated donations of individual members). In 2016, Dornach graciously forgave 50% of the Society’s intended \$100,000 contribution and has allowed the balance to be paid as funds permitted. (At mid-year 2017, the Society’s financial support of the Goetheanum has stabilized. The balance committed for the period before 2017 has been paid down to about \$12,500. And our \$20,000 budgeted contribution for 2017 is being increased by 10% as part of an effort all the national societies to assist the Goetheanum with its own current budget difficulties.)

Of the many members I have served with over the decades, I have always been reminded by their actions and deeds of the responsibility to serve humankind. I find it is incumbent on all of us, now more than ever, to act as a therapeutic antidote to what ails us. This journey we share together.

In gratitude,

*~ John P. Michael, General
Council Treasurer (OH)*

Financial Information



Resources & Support

membership participation ..	\$418,992
unrestricted gifts	\$142,742
special gifts	\$108,318
Rudolf Steiner House	\$42,129
bequests	\$12,922
grants.....	\$41,000
program income	\$53,455
other income.....	\$4,010
total	\$823,568

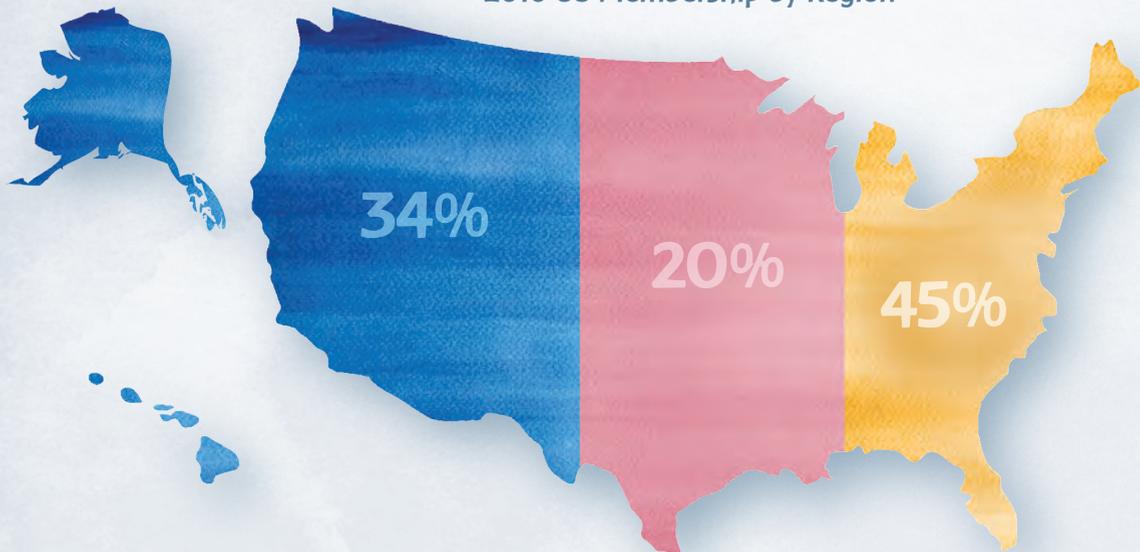
Expenses

program expense	\$156,446
travel expense	\$51,961
Goetheanum	\$25,624
wages and benefits.....	\$381,204
administration.....	\$94,220
building expense.....	\$59,061
retained earnings	\$55,052
total	\$823,568

Thank YOU for your Membership and Support

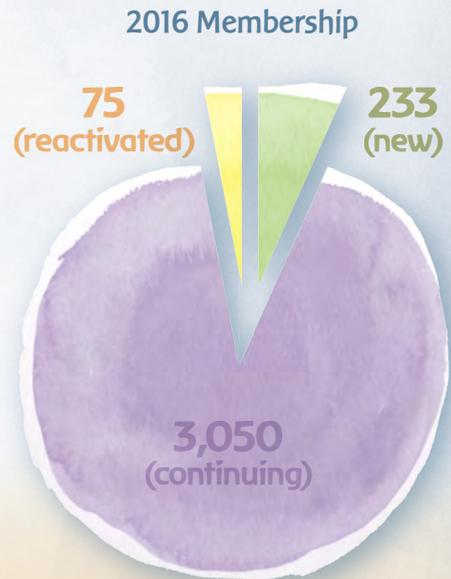
On behalf of the General Council, Leadership Team and staff, we are so very grateful for your membership, interest and generous support. In 2016, we raised \$263,982 in unrestricted and special gifts, and \$418,992 in membership contributions, ending the year with 3358 members. We extend a warm welcome to our 226 new members. And, we continue to hold in our thoughts those supporting the work from the other side of the threshold.

2016 US Membership by Region



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 2016:



Total Membership = 3,358
1% increase over 2015

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

Anthroposophical Society of Cape Ann
Anthroposophy NYC*
Association of Waldorf Schools in North America
Bay Area Center for Waldorf Teacher Training
Biodynamic Association
Camphill Special School – Beaver Run
Cedarwood Waldorf School
Center for Anthroposophy in NH
Cincinnati Waldorf School*
Council of Anthroposophical Organizations
Elderberries Threefold Café
GRADALIS Waldorf Consulting & Services*
Great Lakes Branch
Heartbeet Lifesharing
High Mowing School
House of Peace
Monadnock Waldorf School
Oakwood Lifesharing
Research Institute for Waldorf Education
RSF Social Finance
Rudolf Steiner College
Rudolf Steiner Fellowship Foundation
Shining Mountain Waldorf School*
SteinerBooks

* new in 2016

Michael Support Circle

Thank you to our Michael Support Circle members! Together you have contributed \$61,460 in 2016, 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 2016 we reached 64 members in total, including 41 individuals and couples, and 23 organizations. Are you the next Michael Support Circle member?

"Leaving a Legacy of Will" – Planned Giving

Legacy and planned gifts have been an important source of support over many years; they provide resources for programs and activities of the Society. We are deeply appreciative to those who have contributed to the Society in this way and hold them in our reflections.

Legacy gifts give form to intention, and provide support in the here and now, while also serving to remind us of enduring connections with all our friends and members who are now in the spiritual world.

In 2015, we were grateful to receive gifts from the estates of Iana Boyce, Raymond Elliott, Bruce Henry and Paul Riesen. We send warm blessings and much gratitude to them and their families.

Our Legacy Circle continues to grow. Thank you to the 22 members who have let us know that they've

included the Anthroposophical Society in their estate plans.

Grants

Early in 2016 we met the 2:1 challenge posed by the Rudolf Steiner Charitable Trust and were awarded \$25,000 in matching funds for more than \$50,000 of unrestricted gifts raised from December 1, 2015 to February 18. We are grateful to the trustees for this generous contribution, and to the 433 individuals who helped us to meet this challenge! We also appreciate the \$1000 unrestricted grant received in December 2016.

In addition, we received a \$15,000 grant from the Waldorf Educational Foundation for the Rudolf Steiner Library. This grant allowed us to extend free one-year library memberships to Waldorf teachers, teacher-trainees and parents, and allowed us to acquire additional Waldorf resources to support all members. 235 new Waldorf-affiliated members joined the library in 2016 as a result of this grant. 265 items were borrowed, and 105 new Waldorf resources were acquired by the library. We are grateful to the trustees of the Waldorf Educational Foundation for their generous support in bringing knowledge and access to our larger community.

Special Gifts

The Society also welcomes designated gifts toward the following groups and activities: the Rudolf Steiner Library, 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 give us a call at 734-662-9355, visit www.anthroposophy.org/makeagift, or use a remittance envelope from *being human*. 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.

Thank you for your generous support!

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



Dorothea Sunier Pierce (1925-2016)

We are grateful to the estate of Dorothea Sunier Pierce for the use of her artwork, *Archangel*, as the guiding image for this year's annual report. The vibrant colors, bold lines, and energetic feeling of connection to the spiritual world evoke inspiration and courage as we move together into the future. Thank you to Dorothea's daughter Christi Pierce Nordoff and granddaughter Amy Inglis, both Society members, for sharing this beautiful image with our community.

Dorothea was a lifelong artist; art was her love and passion. She was also a seeker and a student. At the age of 42, Dorothea discovered her first book by Rudolf Steiner in the Santa Barbara (CA) public library. After many years of studying philosophy and religion, she felt that she had finally found what she'd been looking for. Dorothea became a devoted student of Rudolf Steiner's work, and joined the Society in 1969. Over the next years, Dorothea found many ways to combine her gifts and love for art with her interest in anthroposophy. She trained with and developed a close friendship with Liane Collot d'Herbois, and served as a mentor and art teacher in the Collot method for many years in CA, WI and Western MA, where she moved in 1994.

Dorothea's work is in public and private collections around the world, and a retrospective show took place in Great Barrington, MA in December 2016. Many of her works may be viewed online at www.artoasisgallery.com/collections/dorotheapierce. The Taconic Berkshire Christian Community Church in Hillsdale, NY will be hosting an exhibit, August to October 2017.

We are grateful for the opportunity to share her beautiful work with you.

The General Council — 2016



The General Council of the Anthroposophical Society in America carries the spiritual mission of the Society, and they are the board of directors of the non-profit organization, with responsibility for its legal and financial well-being. The Council strives to represent the Anthroposophical Society in the world, support the work of the School for Spiritual Science and the Sections, and cultivate a deep relationship to anthroposophy among members and initiatives. It is the intent and purpose of the General Council to serve as a connection to the incarnation of anthroposophy in our time.

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

John Bloom, General Secretary (CA)

Carla Comey, Chair,
member-at-large (NH)

John Michael, Treasurer,
member-at-large (OH)

Dwight Ebaugh, Secretary,
member-at-large (MI)

Marianne Fieber-Dhara, Central
Region Representative (MN)

Dave Alsop, member-at-large (CA)

Micky Leach, Western Region
Representative (NM)

Deb Abrahams-Dematte, Director
of Development, ex officio (NH)

Laura Scappaticci, Director
of Programs, ex officio (CA)

Katherine Thivierge, Director
of Operations, ex officio (MI)

We are grateful for our Council's dedication, commitment and care!

Welcome to our new members!



John Bloom is the Anthroposophical Society's new General Secretary. He lives in San Francisco, and serves as Vice President, Organizational Culture at RSF Social Finance. John is a highly regarded writer and artist who has worked with many non-profits in the area of capacity building for social transformation. He has founded and served as trustee on several boards, and was the administrator at San Francisco Waldorf School for eight years before joining RSF Social Finance in 1998. He also was part of starting the first biodynamic CSA west of the Mississippi in 1988. John has been a member of the Anthroposophical Society since 1983, and the School for Spiritual Science since 1992. He has also served for many years on the Council of Anthroposophical Organizations (CAO) and since 2014 on the Society's Development Committee. He is the author of *The Genius of Money* and *Inhabiting Interdependence*.



Marianne Fieber-Dhara is a true Renaissance woman: a teacher and administrator as well as an accomplished actress, singer and instigator of creative and meaningful artistic experience for adults and children. She lives in WI where she's currently the Public Relations Chair for the local theatre guild. Marianne was until recently the Administrative Chair at Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School in Viroqua, WI (since 2013) and has served in administrative and teaching roles at a number of other schools and teacher training institutes. She initially met anthroposophy while serving as administrative assistant at the Society's headquarters in Chicago, IL in 1986, and eventually headed to Emerson College (UK) for a Foundation Year and then toured with the anthroposophical theatre company Moving Word Theatre. Marianne has been a member of the Central Regional Council of the Anthroposophical Society since 2006. Through the activities of the Regional Council and its work with spiritual geography, Marianne's project Songtrails, which weaves songs, verses and stories from the land as an invitation to connect with Spirit of Place, has developed and spread throughout the region.

And to our departing council members, much gratitude for their many years of service:



Torin Finser,
General Secretary (NH)



Dennis Dietzel,
Council Chair (MN)



Marian León,
Director of Programs (MI)

Committees

AGM 2016 Planning Group

Virginia Hermann
Marian León
Ray Manaças
Barbara Renold
Elizabeth Roosevelt Weeks

General Council

Nominating Committee

Rudiger Janisch
Carla Comey
David Howerton
Micky Leach
Jannebeth Röell

Library Committee

Dwight Ebaugh
Katherine Thivierge

Executive Committee

Dennis Dietzel
Torin Finser
Deb Abrahams-Dematte
Elizabeth Roosevelt
Marian León
Katherine Thivierge

Finance Committee

Dennis Dietzel
Dwight Ebaugh
Gordon Edwards
Jack Michael
Marian León
Katherine Thivierge

Development Committee

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

APO Steering Committee

Eileen Bristol
Fred Janney
Kathy Serafin
Grace Worth

Current 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*

Nadia Bedard, Interim Librarian, Rudolf Steiner Library (summer 2017)

Jennifer Locke, Interim Librarian, Rudolf Steiner Library (autumn 2017)

Kathy Serafin, Program Director, Anthroposophical Prison Outreach

Diana Carlen, Development Assistant

Cynthia Chelius, Administrative Assistant and
Manager, Rudolf Steiner House

Linda Leonard, Bookkeeper

Julie Pangborn, Housekeeper

Thank you, Marian León



Marian resigned as Director of Programs to take a position with the University of Michigan in June 2016. She began work for the Anthroposophical Society in America in 1999 and served as Administrator for many years before helping to design and transition to a collaborative Leadership Team structure beginning in 2013. We are grateful for Marian's active connection to the members, her creative approach to programs and her deep commitment to bringing Rudolf Steiner's work more deeply into the world.

Thank you, Torin Finser

Torin completed 9 years as General Secretary, concluding his tenure in October 2016. Over that time he participated in more than 130 events and conversations with groups, branches and individuals, touching the lives of thousands of people across the country who share an interest in the work of Rudolf Steiner. We are deeply appreciative of Torin's commitment, energy, and vision in bringing health, transparency, insight and warmth to the Anthroposophical Society in America.



Thank you to 2016 Staff

Elizabeth Roosevelt Weeks, Interim Director of Programs; **Judith Kiely**, Librarian.

We welcome your feedback!

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

Steiner House Rental: **Cynthia Chelius**,
cynthia@anthroposophy.org

Communications: **John Beck**,
editor@anthroposophy.org

Development: **Deb Abrahams-Dematte**, deb@anthroposophy.org

Programs: **Laura Scappaticci**,
laura@anthroposophy.org

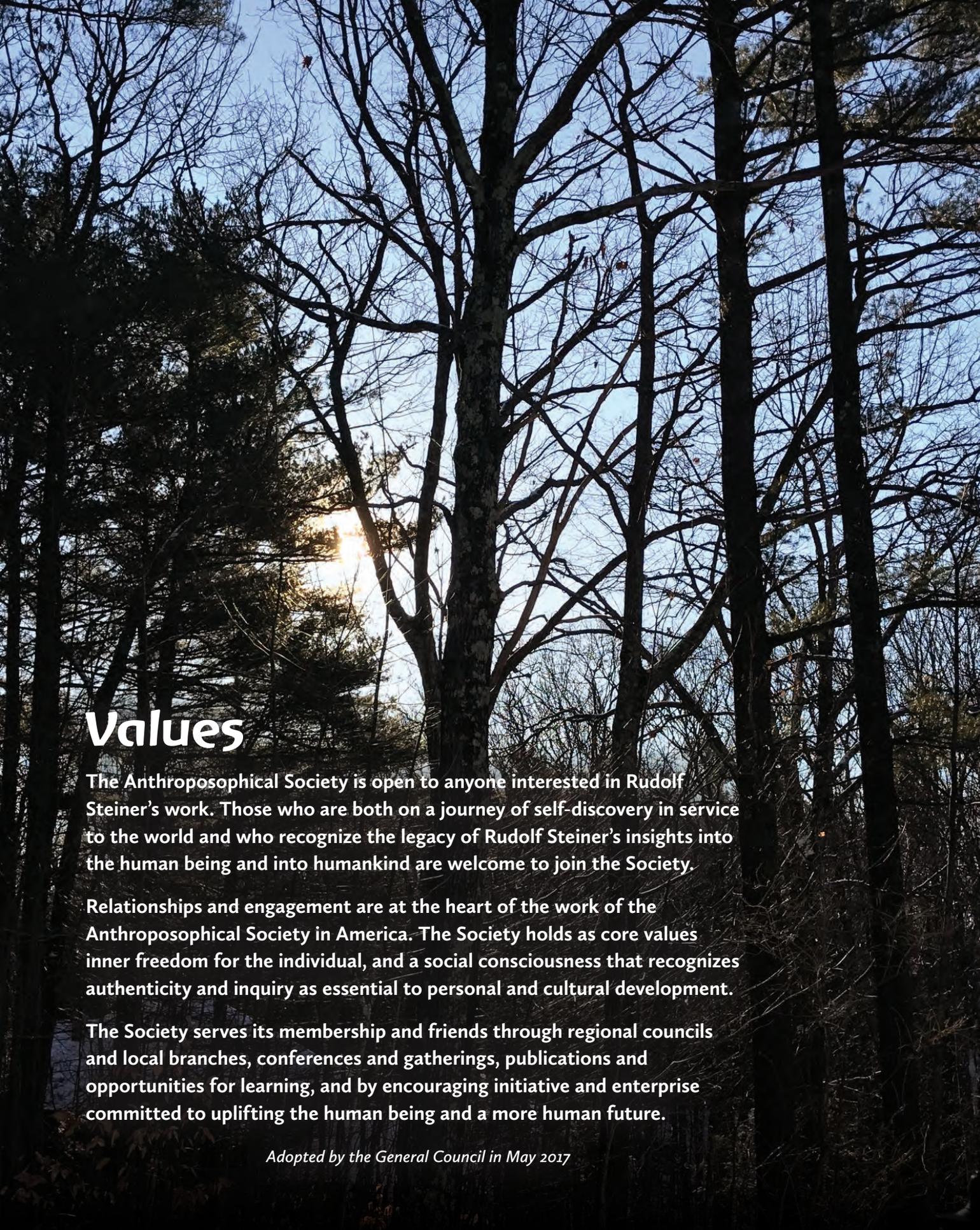
Finance: **Katherine Thivierge**,
katherine@anthroposophy.org
or **Jack Michael**, Treasurer,
treasurer@anthroposophy.org

General Secretary: **John Bloom**,
john.bloom@anthroposophy.org

General Council:
generalcouncil@anthroposophy.org

Anthroposophical Society in America
anthroposophy.org

1923 Geddes Avenue | Ann Arbor, MI 48104 | 734-662-9355



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.

Adopted by the General Council in May 2017