Anthroposophical Society in America's ANNUAL 2018 Report 2018 SHARING A COMMON PURPOSE

Anthroposophy is a path of knowledge, to guide the spiritual in the human being to the spiritual in the universe. It arises as a need of the heart.

~ Rudolf Steiner, Leading Thoughts (1923)

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## From the General Secretary



## Dear Members and Friends,

The fall of 2018 marked the end of the second year of my term as General Secretary. It has been an honor to serve. I have now had enough time to develop meaningful relationships with other General Secretaries and Country Representatives from around the world, and with the leadership at the Goetheanum. Our time together twice a year is rich with learning from each other and building a certain warmth around the workings of the Society and School for Spiritual Science. I am as surprised at our differences as I am inspired by the depth of our common purpose.

Certainly 2018 marked a significant turning point in the life of the General Anthroposophical Society with the shift in the Executive Council at the Goetheanum. Much good has become of that change; a more future-oriented collaborative leadership has developed. There is something of this same sense here in the US. Our Leadership Team has had a good year plus of working together. One result is that the General Council has adopted an imagination of how the US Society can meet the future with some shared purpose, while the Leadership Team crafted the framework of a strategic plan. Some of this plan has already become visible-new websites, active online and conference programs, and more concerted annual and legacy-based resource development. The keys to the shared imagination is that as a Society, we need to be ever more engaged with membership, worthy of the gift support we need, and also understand that members, the General Council which represents the whole of the Society, the Council of Anthroposophical Organizations, and the Collegium of the

School for Spiritual Science all hold and share important and different aspects of the life of anthroposophy and live out of mutual purpose and support. This is the essence of the vision, and I have a privileged view of this as I participate in all of them.

Two highlight activities of the year: We met with Society members in Atlanta and Chicago timed with our Council meetings. These are important listening and conversation opportunities. We get a sense of the regional qualities and issues, and hope that we leave with members feeling a deeper connection to each other and to the work and leadership of the Society. Also, much has been spoken and written about our extraordinary AGM in New Orleans, but one moment among many important ones still resonates for me. It came on Sunday morning as we were invited to attend the service of the church that graciously welcomed our gathering. During his homily, the pastor looked up at us in the balcony and said the anthroposophists are forgiven too. The laughter was spontaneous, but I hold that thought because we often forget to forgive each other and ourselves as we try to uphold high standards for how we want to be in the world with the knowing that we practice.

I look forward to reflecting back on 2019 and to moving into 2020, my fourth year. Join me in continuing the celebrations of one hundred years: threefold, Waldorf education, and more coming in the next years as we approach 2023/24.

John Boom

John Bloom, General Secretary (CA)

## From the Leadership Team

#### Intention, Collaboration, Action

2018 was another busy year for the Leadership Team of the Anthroposophical Society. Together with General Secretary John Bloom, we continue to act on our intentions to bring anthroposophy more fully into the world through learning opportunities, community building, and service to you, our members and friends.

The organization is in a healthier place this year, with improved foresight and better budgeting processes and skills in place, and due to the generous bequests to support the mission. For the Leadership Team, 2018 offered some additional resources that gave us breathing room and an opportunity to sense the rhythm of our work together. This allowed new opportunities to see what is working and what else needs to be done to fulfill the ASA's mission in the United States and the world.

We continue to develop as a collaborative and geographically distributed team. We meet and

study together weekly via video conference to share news and insights, and to work together to set direction and implement strategies toward the long-term health and effectiveness of our Society. Our study strengthens our work together. Along with the Calendar of the Soul, this year we continued with *Communicating Anthroposophy* for the first part of the year, and began *Leading Thoughts* in May.

In February 2018, our annual planning retreat took place at the Christian Community in Fair Oaks, CA. The Leadership Team, plus John Beck and John Bloom, focused on high level planning and this year explicitly connected the budget to the business model, as we move toward a five-year budget and planning model for the organization. We also continued to look at how best to serve our members as well as work with membership processes throughout the year. How can we invite and engage new members, as well as inspire and keep connected with those of you who've been

members of the ASA for many years? This is an on-going question and we welcome your thoughts and feedback.

One new member contact initiative in 2018 is a postcard mailing twice a year to new members, scheduled for Valentine's Day and Michaelmas. We want new members to know that we appreciate them and want to support their journey and dreams for a better future.

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

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

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

# First Grace



Servicio Dominical, 9:00am (en la Capilla) Pastora Juanita Ramos (504) 434-2211 Clases de Inglés: Martes y Jueves, 7:00 a 9:00pm.





2018 was a rich and busy year for the ASA, with our annual conference Here and Now: Transforming Ourselves, Transforming Our World in New Orleans, our first national gathering on death and dying, The Sacred Gateway in Fair Oaks, CA, and many well-attended webinars.

#### Here and Now – Annual Conference and Members Meeting

Here and Now: Transforming Ourselves, Transforming Our World took place October 4 - 7 at the historic First Grace United Methodist Church. The event was attended by over 140 members and friends. It was filled with love, music, insight, thoughtful consideration and new ideas. As always, it was a joy to be together with friends old and new.

Themes of Water and the Mississippi, Peace, Forgiveness, Transformation, Initiation, Music, Service and Love flowed through this event.

~ Sandra Stoner, Conference participant

Keynote presenters Orland Bishop (author of *The Seventh Shrine*) and Joan Sleigh (of the Executive Council at the Goetheanum) brought strong images, deep analysis and much inspiration to conference participants. And for the first time, keynote talks were livestreamed, bringing access to members around the country as well as to the people who were present (*Livestream access available here*).

Participant research and initiative sessions enlivened the event with presentations from individuals and organizations across the country. Workshops on a variety of topics were offered, including *Exploring Transformation Through Our Own Biography* with Janey Newton and Kathleen Bowen, *Art Dispersal* with Laura Summer and Patricia Lynch, *Transforming Community* with Bart Eddy, *Strengthening Inner Work* with Lisa Romero, and *Waldorf Education in Crisis Zones* with Thea Lavin.

A Confluence of Karma, an original pageant about the life of ASA member and long-time New Orleans resident Inge Elsas (1915–2012), was performed Saturday evening. Inge was a social worker, educator, and Holocaust survivor whose inspiration as a young girl to study with Ita Wegman led her to Switzerland and to safety. Her life was colorful and full of service and adventure, and she overcame many obstacles. The pageant itself was an amazing collaboration of dialogue, movement and song, written and directed by General Council member Marianne Fieber, and featuring Hazel Archer Ginsburg, Lisa Dalton, Margaret Runyon, and many conference participants who co-created the event during the conference itself.

There were also many inspiring preconference activities this year! Joan Sleigh offered Class Lesson 10 of the School for Spiritual Science. It's always a treat to be together with friends from around the country, sharing the deep content that Rudolf Steiner has given.

*The Bayou St. John Songtrail* was a new kind of pre-conference activity for us, designed and created by Marianne Fieber. A songtrail is the weaving of songs, verses and stories from the land while walking along a chosen path. About 60 of us gathered early Friday morning under McDonough Oak, an 800 year old tree located in City Park, and walked together in the hot sun for 1.5 miles, stopping at various places to sing, recite poetry and learn about the rich history of the area.

The ASA also held its first national branch gathering: *Living in the Branches*. This preconference gathering attracted attendees from around the country, and featured content on branch best practices and history of branches in the US. Thanks to Angela Foster, Sandra Stoner and Joshua Kelberman for their volunteer service on the planning committee.

*My Heart's Vocation: Finding Ourselves Within Community*, a gathering for young people in collaboration with the Youth Section, was also offered as a preconference event. Participants toured the local area, worked with Lisa Romero and Orland Bishop on inner work and meditative practices, and prepared and presented the *Memento Mori* ritual created by Dennis Klocek, in honor of those who have crossed the threshold, incorporating music, intention and silence. As Sandra Stoner reflected:



It served as a powerful reminder of our place in the great cycle of life, death, and the spiritual world.

Many thanks to our programs assistant, Tess Parker, for facilitating this beautiful experience.

Finally, there were some wonderful post conference offerings, including *Contemplative Practices* with Lisa Romero and a workshop on the Foundation Stone Meditation led by General Secretary John Bloom and Laura Scappaticci.

See more photos and detailed conference coverage at: www.anthroposophy.org/neworleans

## The Sacred Gateway

The ASA's first national conference on death and dying, *The Sacred Gateway: Conscious Living, Conscious Dying and the Journey Beyond*, was held in April in Sacramento, CA. This is part of a 3-year series of conferences conceived by Joan Almon. Over 140 people gathered to hear from keynote speakers Dennis Klocek, Sanford Miller, and Nancy Poer. A variety of thought-provoking workshops were offered and the 2015 documentary *In the Parlor* was screened, followed by a question and answer session with director Heidi Boucher.

Eurythmists Andrew Dzedulionis and Lynn Stull

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2018 Sacred Gateway planning committee: Sandra LaGrega, Maureen Tolman Flannery, Marianne Dietzel, Linda Bergh and Laura Scappaticci. (Not pictured: Lynn Stull)

## **ASA Webinars**

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

The Society's webinar offerings continued to expand and reached audiences in both remote and densely populated anthroposophical communities, and inside and outside of the United States. Webinars continue to be very well-attended, with upwards of 800 registered for live and recorded access to ASA webinars in 2018. Some have a specified cost, while others are free or available by donation.

## 2018 offerings included:

- Strengthening Foundations of Inner Work and Meditation with Lisa Romero (3 part series)
- The Fifth Gospel with Patrick Kennedy (3 part series)
- \* The Heart of Easter with Jonah Evans
- \* St. John's; Depth of Soul and Cosmic Flight with Julia Polter
- Holy Nights Journal with Mary Stewart Adams
- The Sacred Gateway with Karen Van Vuuren, Julia Polter, Lynn Stull and Maureen Flannery
- \* Steiner and Kindred Spirits with Robert McDermott
- Who Are the Honey Bees? (cosponsored with AWSNA) with Gunther Hauke and Alex Tuchman
- Healing Forces with Dr. Adam Blanning, Dr. Carmen Hering, DO, Elizabeth Sustick, RN, and Dr. Steven Johnson

## New ASA Podcast in 2018 – The Anthroposopher

We're excited to report that the ASA's new free podcast series, The Anthroposopher launched in 2018. The first episode was The Voice of Steiner with Dale Brunsvold from Rudolf Steiner Audio, and we've added many since then, including interviews with Joan Sleigh, Ronald Koetzsch, Linda Bergh, and more. Listeners come from the US and around the English-speaking world, including Canada, Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand. We had over 10,000 plays in 2018, and the list of episodes continues to grow. Find us on SoundCloud and iTunes or learn more at www.anthroposophy.org/podcast.

## Rudolf Steiner House, Ann Arbor, MI

*Did you know?* The Anthroposophical Society's main office is a comfortable and beautiful gathering space for retreats, events, workshops, and small performances. In 2018 we hosted 12 retreats and 180 overnight guests. It is also an affordable and comfortable place to stay when visiting the area. Your visits support the Society's activities! Visit *www.anthroposophy.org/rsh* for details. Some of the events that took place at Steiner House in 2018 include:

- Educational Support Training Association for a Healing Education
- Waldorf Institute of Southeastern Michigan Teacher Training
- Multiple events sponsored by the Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society
- \* Mystech Annual Conference 2018
- This War is Not Inevitable a play by Michael Burton

#### Please join us!

The 2019 annual conference and members' meeting *Facing Each Other: Freedom, Responsibility and Love*, will be held October 11-13, 2019 in Decatur, GA. Visit *www.anthroposophy.org/atlanta* for more info and to register.

~ Laura Scappaticci, Director of Programs (CA)

# The School for Spiritual Science

At the heart of the Anthroposophical Society is the School for Spiritual Science, which Rudolf Steiner formed as an esoteric school for spiritual scientific research and study. The School is organized into departments, called "sections," for the purpose of conducting spiritual-scientific research within various professional fields.

Learn more about the School for Spiritual Science by visiting *www.rudolfsteiner.org/school*.

## From the North American Collegium

(Note: The North American Collegium is a circle of colleagues representing each of the Sections)

As an organ of the North American Anthroposophical Societies in

the US and Canada, and of the worldwide School for Spiritual Science, the North American Collegium has a unique function. It is neither formally linked to the Societies nor to the School, but is to cultivate that which permeates and fructifies both. This bridging task also includes the Goetheanum Leadership so that their efforts can inform ours in North America.

This 'all permeating' activity is described as the activity of the General Anthroposophical Section, what we have come to describe as 'that which is common to all'. This includes supporting the cultivation of an understanding of Christology, reincarnation, and karma, and



## Sections of the School for Spiritual Science

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

To learn more, please visit: www.rudolfsteiner.org/school also carries these further, seeing how they can inform the concerns living within contemporary civilization. What makes this possible is contemplative inquiry, or spiritual research, that links these fundamental areas of anthroposophical understanding to our practical endeavors, our institutions, and our Anthroposophical Societies.

Over the past year the Goetheanum Leadership has focused these all-permeating fields of deep inquiry, so that they can contribute to the significant issues we share as human beings. Last December the Leadership proposed that these fields of inquiry can be carried in three directions: Into the world, where our institutions are thriving; the threefold image of the human being can fundamentally transform human relationships; within the complex life of our anthroposophical groups and activities, awakening the interrelationship between selfknowledge and world-knowledge becomes an active working with destiny and karma. The carrying of these impulses is deepened through a meditative life, the task of the esoteric work of the School for Spiritual Science.

The Collegium is not just to hold these areas of concern, but also to recognize and support this work wherever it takes place. Two meetings were held in Spring Valley, NY in 2018. Here our meetings

were open to an active collaboration with members who have carried various aspects of these questions, sharing their impulses, and building on the indications provided by the Goetheanum Leadership.

This coming year we hope to take up aspects of this during ASA's annual conference, and with other groups of active members.

~ Bert Chase, General Secretary, Canada and Collegium Member

## From the Circle of Class Holders in North America

In June of 2018 Paul Mackay handed over the responsibility for the First Class of the School for Spiritual Science to Claus-Peter Roeh, in collaboration with Joan Sleigh for the English-speaking members and Constanza Kaliks for the Spanish and Portuguese speaking members. Together they oversee the admission of members to the School and the appointment of Class holders. They work as part of the Leadership Council at the Goetheanum.

In May of 2018 the General Secretaries of the Anthroposophical Societies in the U.S. and Canada, John Bloom and Bert Chase, wrote a letter to all members of the School for Spiritual Science. They stressed the importance of being committed to much more than just attending Class Lessons and working with the mantras. To be sure Class members are meditants who follow the spiritual practices taught by Rudolf Steiner. But they are also called upon to become active members of the General Anthroposophical Section and that includes looking after the health of the Anthroposophical Society. These issues are frequently discussed at the meetings of Class holders, both here in North America and at the Goetheanum. John Bloom and Bert Chase reminded us that the anthroposophical movement is meant to serve the good of all humanity.

The Class holders welcomed five new members: Sarah Dunbar (CA), Holly Soule Koteen (WA), Barbara Lee (HI), Barbara Renold (NY) and Maria Walker-Ebersole (NY). Suzanne Mays was reappointed for Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Philip



Thatcher announced his retirement from many years of Class holding in Vancouver, BC, Canada, and Annelies Davidson will be moving back to the Netherlands from Spring Valley, NY. During the course of 2018 three of our dear colleagues crossed the Threshold: Erika Asten (PA), Christopher Mann (WI), and Maria St. Goar (TN).

In addition to their local duties Class holders attended meetings in Spring Valley, NY; Toronto, ON and also at the Goetheanum in Dornach. It should be mentioned also that our German friends finally agreed on a new title for themselves: "Vermittler" now takes the place of "Lektor."

John Bloom and Bert Chase closed their May letter with this appeal: "Please join with us in renewing this impulse (the Christmas Foundation Meeting in 1923) and in assuring that younger people are recognized and invited into the future of the Society."

On behalf of the Circle of Class Holders we thank the Anthroposophical Society for its continued moral and financial support. We are truly grateful.

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

# being human & anthroposophy.org

New websites appeared in the summer of 2018, funded by the 2017 spring appeal. Our *anthroposophy.org* now leads to a smartphone-friendly site where the Society's work is showcased; at *rudolfsteiner.org* a new site is taking shape around Rudolf Steiner's life, research, initiatives, and current activities inspired by his work.

Two being human issues continued to showcase the spirit of initiative, the artistic wealth, and the dynamic thinking of members, friends, and the anthroposophical movement. Each issue led with an essay from US General Secretary, John Bloom. "Beyond Believing" spoke to the isolating power of belief systems even when they are "operating in the name of truth." "Division of Labor & Artificial Intelligence" took its departure from the contrast between the efficiency of narrowly specialized work and the human growth produced by a diversity of work experiences.

# anthroposophy.org rudolfsteiner.org

## Under *initiatives!* we reported

on the CAO (Council of Anthroposophical Organizations), a committee of the ASA working to strengthen the movement by workshops including "Finding Our Voice"; and on the North American Collegium of the School for Spiritual Science where professional sections share their work. We heard from YIP,



the international Youth Initiative Program in Sweden, whose young graduates have had an impact in the USA; "Exploring Waldorf-Inspired Tribal Schools" and Native American education: the Nature Institute's new year-long program in Goethean science; and the pioneers of the Christian Community in North America. Also, Sun Studio in Colorado, one of a number of fine visual arts trainings; a group aiming to repeat 2014's triumphant first staging of Rudolf Steiner's four Mystery Dramas in English at Threefold Education Center; significant Kaspar Hauser festivals on both coasts, at Camphill Ghent and Camphill California; an introduction of Waldorf education and social threefolding to Asha for Education, a major US volunteer organization working for under-privileged children in India. We heard of the Economics

Group of the ASA, the strong progress of Anthroposophic Medicine in the USA and of the Association for Anthroposophic Psychology, and youth and public projects of the Rudolf Steiner Health Center.

Frederick Amrine's "The (Mirror-)Image of Thought" led off the summer-fall *arts & ideas* section; his essays evaluate anthroposophic insights against the orthodoxies of today. Gary Lamb shared "Spiritual Science and Technology," a developing concern for humanity which needs American insights. David Adams reviewed Cognitive Yoga by Yeshayahu Ben-Aharon, a dramatic advance in conscious human evolution. The spring *gallery* showcased NYC-based work with Steiner's sketches for artists, "The Growing Imagination." And summer-fall brought a unique gallery-plus-essay by painter-sculptor-thinker Michael Howard, "Art & Humanity in Metamorphosis."

2018 saw reviews by Stephen Usher of Sergei Prokofieff's And the Earth Becomes a Sun; by Michael Vode of Swan's Wings, the first part of the autobiography of Judith von Halle; by Dwight Ebaugh of Steven Usher's *Conversations with Saul Bellow*; by Dan Mackenzie of Lisa Romero's *Living Inner Development*; and by Fred Dennehy of Frederick Amrine's *Thresholds*. Research presented was Luigi Morelli's "Piercing Through the Veil of Karma, part 1"; "The Story of the Concord School" by Stuart-Sinclair Weeks; and "Approaching the Sacred Gateway" by Marianne Dietzel. Finally, we shared ASA activities and new members and members who have died, and we offered recollections of Dr. Basil Williams, Kundry Wilwerth, Marion Bruce, Christopher Michael Mann, Erika Asten, Jane Martindale, Mary Rubach, Bill Toole, and Thomas Forman. You can read all back issues of *being human* online at *www.issuu.com/anthrousa* and, with a free registration, download them.

> ~ John Beck, editor, being human and Director of Communications (CA)



by email: **info@anthroposophy.org**, or go to: **www.anthroposophy.or**g

# Anthroposophical Prison Outreach



Anthroposophical Prison Outreach (APO) brings the wisdom of anthroposophy to seekers in prison, thanks to your caring support. We currently serve nearly 1,000 people on a regular basis with library books, newsletters, and correspondence study, and receive requests for information daily. Many of the new inquiries come as a result of copies of *How to Know Higher Worlds* that we placed in prison libraries. New students see our address inside the cover and write to learn more. What a gift to connect with Rudolf Steiner through a prison library, and with this great book about human potential!

In 2018, our two issues of *Illuminating Anthroposophy* included articles by APO participants released from prison who wished to express gratitude and share how their anthroposophical studies continue after release. In #28 John writes,

The teachings of Rudolf Steiner have given me divine knowledge, and with practical application this divine knowledge will transform you. Study, absorb every word, and if you want to have an awakening, you must apply it to your daily walk, moment by moment. This is what I have learned from the Anthroposophical Society and my prison cell.

The annual September *Walk a Mile in My Shoes* walk-a-thon provides essential funding for APO. Each year the event has grown, and this year 75 participants walked in 19 states. Participants gather pledges through personal connections and social media. In 2018 we raised nearly \$20,000, an important boost as we work to replace a long-time annual gift. Susan Starr, a longtime Waldorf early childhood teacher, who has participated for 3 years, shared:

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This third year deepened my contemplations and interests for the inmates... While walking, I could sense that it is more than books and workbooks these inmates are receiving... The work of APO extends further than just this lifetime for many... It is all a larger classroom, isn't it, where walls and bars dissolve? Even here on earth, in all circumstances, transformations are happening, and the APO has taken up this specific task and classroom with love and care.

Facebook has promoted the idea for people who would like to support a nonprofit to have a "Birthday Fundraiser." In 2018, we were supported by eight of these and we hope to see that number grow!

If you visit us in Ann Arbor, you will see that each day we receive and send out tubs of mail! With the arrival of each book, we imagine Rudolf Steiner walking into the cell where a prisoner is studying anthroposophy and speaking to him or her through the printed words. While these individuals do not have freedom to come and go, or create a tranquil environment, they do have freedom to study, meditate, and reflect. Many report an inner change from reading anthroposophical works that radiates to touch the lives of everyone around them: other prisoners, prison staff, family members. Charles in IL writes:

I once lived in darkness—that is, living the life of drugs, alcohol, and not having the love and truth that I need to set myself free of bondage. But anthroposophy has helped me through these dark, sinful times, by way of love, peace, truth, meditation, prayer. I have come out of darkness and into the light. It has initiated me in the sacred truths of life, overcoming guilt, lust, greed, temptation, etc., to become a better man.

Thank you for your on-going interest and support.

~ Kathy Serafin, APO Program Director (MI)

# Council of Anthroposophical Organizations



The Council of Anthroposopical Organizations (CAO) was created in 1989 as a committee of the Anthroposophical Society in America. It is comprised of organizations, institutions, and initiatives that work with anthroposophical ideas in practical ways in the context of public life. Gathering each year in different places around the country, the CAO provides an opportunity for networking and communication, and serves as a sense organ for the health of the movement as a whole. Focused study and a community gathering, are part of each CAO meeting. In May 2018, the group took up the topic of diversity, equity, and inclusion as the beginning of a commitment to exploring this topic as anthroposophical organizations.

At each meeting location, the CAO hosts *Anthroposophy in the World* (formerly Anthroposophy, Inc.), a conversation and dessert reception bringing community leaders and interested individuals together to

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discuss living questions about anthroposophy and its work in the world. In 2018 the CAO met in Kimberton Hills, PA, with over 25 people gathering for the evening reception.

CAO Member Organization in 2018: (click on the links to access these sites)

- \* Alliance for Public Waldorf Education
- \* Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA)
- \* Biodynamic Association
- \* <u>Camphill Association</u>
- \* Center for Biography and Social Art
- \* Eurythmy Association
- \* <u>SteinerBooks</u>
- \* <u>Physicians Association for</u> <u>Anthroposphical Medicine (PAAM)</u>
- \* <u>RSF Social Finance</u>
- \* North American Youth Section

Members of the CAO continue to develop the curriculum for *Finding Our Voice*, an experiential workshop on speaking about anthroposophy with the public for those working in the practical movements. During 2018, a San Francisco workshop was planned which took place in January 2019. There are more opportunities to share this resource coming up, so stay tuned or email *community@anthroposophy.org* to find out more.

~ Laura Scappaticci, Director of Programs (CA)



# Rudolf Steiner Library, Hudson, NY

## Highlights of 2018 from the Library Staff

- Lending: 3002 items in 2018 in total, serving 433 individuals and 12 study groups.
- Loans: 315 to libraries all around the country, including 25% of books sent out by the Capital District Library Council.
- \* Recovery: 440 past-due books.
- The staff answers research and reference questions daily from across the US and around the world.
- The library hosts several research projects during the year. Gary Lamb and assistants used the facility over several weekends for his upcoming compendium on technology.
- A number of rare and unpublished lectures of Steiner and several hardto-find English and German language journals going back to the early 1900s are in the library's collection. These have been invaluable for various research projects.
- 605 items were added to the online catalog in 2018: new acquisitions, and periodicals and articles. Access our online catalog at <u>Rudolf Steiner Library Catalog</u>.

Interim Librarian Jennifer Locke left in June 2018 after serving the library diligently. Since then, Kathleen Bradley runs the circulation desk and handles most of the administrative tasks, while Martin Miller handles cataloging and research requests.

- Volunteers' duties were still reduced in 2018, their tasks mainly revolved around book maintenance. We are grateful for William Furse, a stalwart volunteer for over 25 years, who plans on continuing his assistance for years to come.
- We are grateful for book donations as a generation of anthroposophists downsize living accommodations or cross the threshold. They make continuing study of anthroposophy possible for others.

We appreciate the Rudolf Steiner Library Circle of Friends' continued and enthusiastic support in 2018. They held fundraising events and programs, including concerts, lectures, poetry readings and exhibits, and contributed a substantial amount of financial support. The Circle financed and carried through installations of two book drop boxes in the community, and picture



rails in the library that have been well used to display works of art.

> ~ Kathleen Bradley and Martin Miller, Library staff (NY)

## From the Library Committee

Effective May 31, 2019, the ownership and operations of the Rudolf Steiner Library were transferred from the Anthroposophical Society in America to the Rudolf Steiner Cultural Foundation (RSCF). Transfer negotiations took place in 2018 between the Board of the Foundation and the Council of the Society. Katherine Thivierge, ASA Director of Operations, provided oversight of library work described above. Thank you Jennifer, Kathleen, Martin, and Katherine for jobs well done!

RSCF was incorporated as a New York not-for-profit corporation in December, 2017, and its 501(c)(3) tax exemption was issued in August 2018. Harold Bush provided the energy, vision, and resources to

Here We Connect Listen Love Laugh Etemel Possibilities Non

organize the Foundation; toward the end of 2018, Harold withdrew from RSCF and now devotes much of his striving to his role as Archivist/Editor of the works of Paul W. Scharff, MD. At the close of 2018 and continuing through the date of transfer, RSCF's board members are Raimond Flynn (President), Patrice Maynard (Secretary), and Linda Park (Treasurer).

Under the terms of the transfer agreement, the Society will continue Library financial support for at least three years and Society members will enjoy borrowing privileges at no charge other than shipping costs. After three years, Society members will continue to receive such privileges if the Society and the Foundation negotiate a mutually satisfactory level of continuing Society financial support.

Thanks to the people who worked conscientiously for many months to establish an even-handed, detailed transfer agreement. These people include Dwight Ebaugh and Katherine Thivierge on behalf of the Council, and Harold Bush, Patrice Maynard, Raimond Flynn, and Linda

Park on behalf of the Foundation.

Thanks also to the Rudolf Steiner Library Circle of Friends (notably, Christina Porkert, Karin Haldeman, and Nathaniel Williams) whose financial and volunteer support helped bridge the gap between the Library's move from Philmont and its current stable circumstances in Hudson, NY. The Society, the Friends, and the Foundation now look with hope and good will to the future of the Rudolf Steiner Library.

> ~ Dwight Ebaugh, General Council and Library Committee member (MI)

# Work in the Regions

## Report from the Western Region

It was a year of connection, reconnection and initiative throughout the Western Region. Many Branches along the West Coast held conferences and events attended by friends and members in their surrounding communities. The Portland Branch hosted two events with members of the Collegium, past and present. The Language of the Heart Branch held their second Wellsprings Conference. Other Branches held conversations about social concerns and how anthroposophy and the Anthroposophical Society are able address these issues now and in the future.

Two major conferences:

- In April the ASA sponsored The Sacred Gateway Conference: Conscious Living, Conscious Dying, and the Journey Beyond in Sacramento, CA.
- In November the Biodynamic Association conference Transforming the Heart of Agriculture: Soil. Justice. Regeneration was held in Portland, OR.

Through the Rudolf Steiner Charitable Trust, the Western Regional Council received a grant, which helped defray travel and lodging costs for a number of youth in the Western Region to attend the Fall Conference and AGM *Here and Now: Transforming Ourselves, Transforming Our World* in New Orleans. The experiences of those who were able to attend the conference resounds in this response from one of the recipients:

I had the opportunity to significantly deepen my connection to some old and close friends, as well as to open new connections that are sure to be lasting and bear good fruit...

Those in the Western Region are working to develop a more optimal use of our communication networks, to become more inclusive of the rural areas of the region. This will be a conversation with the members about the 'what and how' that would most benefit their communities.

#### ~ Micky Leach, Western Region Representative to the General Council

Western Regional Council: Daniel Bittleston (CA), Micky Leach (NM), Kirk Mills (CA). Rebecca Soloway (OR), Joan Treadaway (AZ); **www.anthroposophy.org/westernregion** 

## **Report from the Central Region**

Throughout 2018 the CRC continued to utilize video conferencing to host a regional study group augmented with three presenters connecting the theme of karma with their field of study. In March we heard from Fred Amrine\*, in May we were led by Linda Bergh\*, and Dr. Ross Rentea presented in December. We are grateful for their generosity in offering insightful, engaging presentations for our group.

In October, the national AGM and conference was held at the southern border of our vast region: New Orleans, LA. The Central Regional Council (CRC) took the opportunity to plan and host a gathering prior to the AGM specifically for our regional members. Our gathering furthered the themes of reincarnation and karma, which we had been working with throughout the year. The event, entitled Geo-Karma Artistic Playtime, drew over 35 members and friends to share a meal, participate in a short business meeting and then artistically explore the karma of our places in trios and with the larger group. During our business meeting, we confirmed Lisa Dalton as our newest colleague on the CRC and we are delighted to have her perspectives and contributions, which were significant for our event.

Kari Olson, a visual artist from Minnesota, provided the artwork used in the materials for the AGM. Kari has shared her paintings previously during a *Speaking with the Stars* event.

Confluence of Karma, the pageant\* presented Saturday evening, was written, edited and prepared by members of our region and beyond. It was a celebration of two powerful women, Inge Elsas and Dr. Ita Wegman, woven amidst the backdrop of the political and human struggles in Europe during the 1930s and 40s. Many of those assembled at the AGM from across the country participated in this artistic collaborative event.

The pre-AGM event was made possible due to the generous contributions from members in our region and beyond, as well as a grant from the Rudolf Steiner Charitable Trust. These sources of funding and other contributions beyond event fees make our work possible in our region. Many thanks.

> ~ Marianne Fieber, Central Region Representative to the General Council

Central Regional Council: Hazel Archer-Ginsberg (IL), Lisa Dalton (TX), Marianne Fieber (WI), David Howerton (MO), Alberto Loya (MI)

\* These presentations and recordings are available at: <u>www.anthroposophy.org/centralregion</u>

## Report from the Eastern Region

In 2018 the Eastern region continued to solidify its identity as a service and communication network. We now have three active and engaged areas that are providing a vehicle for people working out of anthroposophy to meet each other and share their experiences and research. The three areas are the Northeast, which consists of the New England states; the Mid Atlantic, which spans New York through Maryland and DC; and the Southeast, which stretches from Virginia to Florida. Each area is working autonomously to find communication vehicles and activities that best serve their needs.

The Northeast area has published a page on the ASA website that we encourage everyone to visit (at *www.anthroposophy.org/easternregion-ne*). The Mid-Atlantic area held their third annual area gathering working with the theme *Toward a Deepening of the Christmas Foundation Impulse*. And the Southeast area has galvanized around the task of consciously preparing the spiritual vessel for the AGM in to be held in Atlanta in 2019. In all cases, opportunities have been provided for members who would not otherwise meet to share their experiences working in anthroposophy. A group of representatives from each of the areas met six times in 2018 by video conference call, to build relationships and share information about their local areas. The group—informally named the Eastern Region Holding Group, consisting of Angela Foster and Anne Nicholson from the Southeast; Gino Ver Eecke and Dominic Ngito, from the Mid-Atlantic; Cecilia Leigh and Dave Mansur, from the Northeast—continues to imagine together what form would best serve the needs and geography of our region. It is clear that the region will continue to evolve in terms of activities and human connections.

There is a growing impulse to formalize an Eastern Regional Council that will serve as a communication link between the three areas and the national organization. The Eastern Region Holding Group looks forward to updating members on our progress at the AGM in Atlanta. The work of re-imagining and re-creating the structure of the eastern region has been admittedly slow, but the work that is getting done appears to have a lasting quality which will serve the movement well in the coming years. We are excited to see what the future will bring.

#### ~ Dave Mansur, Eastern Region Representative to the General Council

Eastern Region Holding Group: Angela Foster (GA), Cecilia Leigh (NH), Dave Mansur (MA), Dominic Ngito (PA), Anne Nicholson (TN) , Gino Ver Eck (NY)

## Treasurer's Report

This report answers the question, "What were the significant 2018 events in our Society's financial picture?" On a pre-audit basis, we ended 2018 with net income of \$250,000. We showed a substantial increase in program income due to the growth of our high quality schedule of webinar offerings and other activities. We also note small decreases in membership participation and unrestricted gift income, and an increase in designated gifts. Thanks to generous bequest gifts of nearly \$300,000, we not only experienced positive net income but also have resources to enhance the 2019 budget beyond its predictable base level. Given this picture, we are in a much healthier condition than we've been in the past, with the opportunity to plan strategically for the future.

In 2018 the General Council adopted safeguards, including a bequest policy and multi-year forward budgeting, to put bequest income responsibly to work in service to anthroposophy and the Society, while avoiding the financial "tipping point" of the past. Bequest (or legacy) gifts represent the heart-inspired donations of members and friends toward the strivings of our Anthroposophical Society in America. We are grateful for the intention and generous foresight of our legacy donors.

The Bequest Policy addressed accumulated unrestricted donations from estates received in 2018. In basic outline, it called for \$100,000 to be added to a reserve account, bringing the balance to approximately \$130,000 for "rainy day purposes." The remaining bequest income is to be spread over future annual budgets with safeguards to avoid short falls when the bequest is all spent. The safeguards include a 5-year rolling budget process, planning for a soft landing when we return to a budget based solely on regular operating income. The budgets also focus on the difference between one-time expenses and those that permanently increase the budget, and on the difference between expenditures that should build up future operating income as opposed to those that have no impact on income. This is in addition

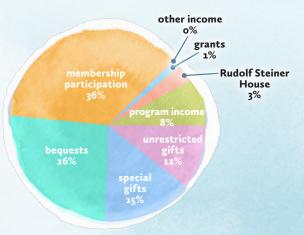
## 2018 Annual Report

to the usual care in avoiding omissions in budgeting expenses.

Toward the end of 2018, the Council began to explore solutions to two ongoing concerns. First, the Society's dedicated Director of Operations was overly burdened with work since she has been responsible for all financial matters and all operational matters. Second, the Society's auditors were calling for the modification of some of our accounting and bookkeeping practices. Both the workload and the audit issue received satisfactory solutions in 2019.

The Council is striving to budget prudently and to use wisely the donations that make possible the activities of our Society. Thank you for your unwavering and generous support. Please reach out to your Treasurer (*treasurer@anthroposophy.org*) if you have financial comments or questions.

> ~ Dwight Ebaugh, General Council Treasurer (MI)



#### **Resources & Support**

	Membership Participation \$ 418,685	
	Bequests \$ 299,296	
	Special Gifts \$ 175,151	
	Unrestricted Gifts \$ 124,390	
	Program Income\$ 90,962	
	Rudolf Steiner House \$ 36,043	
	Grants\$ 12,000	
	Other Income\$ 4,661	
Total \$ 1,161,188		



#### Expenses

Wages & Benefits	443,600	
Program	.144,932	
Administration	. 118,921	
Travel	. 70,146	
Building	. 65,624	
Goetheanum	. 49,384	
Total		
Net Income \$268,581		

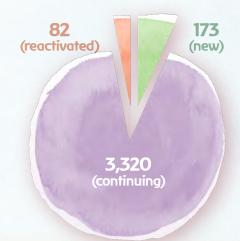
(unaudited)

# Thank YOU for your Membership and Support

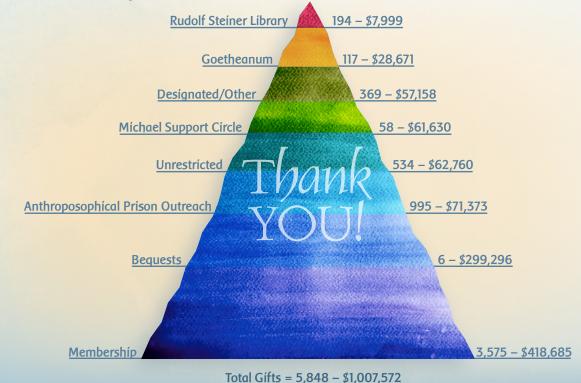
On behalf of the General Council, Leadership Team and staff, we are **so very grateful** for your membership, interest and generous support. In 2018, we raised \$299,541 in unrestricted and special gifts, and \$418,685 in membership contributions, ending the year with 3575 members. We extend a warm welcome to our 173 new members. And, we continue to hold in our thoughts those supporting the work from the other side of the threshold.

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

## 2018 Membership



## Here's a breakdown of gifts in 2018:



## **Michael Support Circle**

**Thank you** to our Michael Support Circle members! Together you have contributed \$61,630 in 2018, and we are grateful. **You are leaders in sustaining and generous support**.

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

In 2018 we had 67 members in total, including 45 individuals and couples, and 21 organizations.

Are you the next Michael Support Circle member?

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

Anthroposophical Society of Cape Ann Anthroposophy NYC Association of Waldorf Schools in North America Bay Area Center for Waldorf **Teacher Training Biodynamic Association** 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 **RSF Social Finance** Rudolf Steiner College Rudolf Steiner Fellowship Foundation Shining Mountain Waldorf School SteinerBooks

#### Thank you to these current and past members of our Legacy Circle, for their intention, love, and will.

Betty Baldwin J. Leonard Benson\* Susannah Berlin\* **Hiram Anthony** Bingham\* Mrs. Hiram A. Bingham Virginia Blutau\* Iana Questara Boyce\* Marion Bruce\* Helen Ann Dinklage\* Irmgard Dodegge\* Raymond Elliot\* Lotte K. Emde\* Marie S. Fetzer\* Linda C. Folsom\* Hazel Furguson\* Gerda Gaertner\* Ruth H. Geiger\* Ray German Harriet S. Gilliam\* Alice Groh Agnes B. Grunberg\* Bruce L. Henry\* **Ruth Heuscher\*** 

Christine Huston Ernst Katz\* Anna Lord\* Seymour Lubin\* Barbara Martin **Beverly Martin** Gregg Martens\* Helvi McClelland Robert S. Miller\* Ralph Neuman\* Carolyn Oates Mary Lee Plumb-Mentjes Norman Pritchard\* Paul Riesen\* Mary Rubach\* Margaret Runyon Ray Schlieben\* Lillian C. Scott\* Fairchild Smith\* Doris E. Stitzer\* Gertrude O. Teutsch\* Katherine Thivierge Randall Wadsworth Anonymous (8)

(\*indicates past legacy gift)

### Leaving a Legacy of Will – Planned Giving

Throughout the history of the Society, many caring members have provided legacy gifts for the Anthroposophical Society through their estate planning. Since 1992, we have received gifts from more than 20 dear friends, whose resources support our shared goal of bringing Rudolf Steiner's work more fully into the world. In 2018, we received generous gifts from the estates of Marion Bruce, Linda Folsom, Robert Miller, and Mary Rubach.

We are humbled and deeply grateful for these generous gifts.

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

Why do people choose to become part of the Legacy Circle? Society member Carolyn Oates shares her perspective:

I am profoundly grateful for the confidence, light, hope and love that has blossomed in me through Rudolf Steiner's inspired work. Including the Anthroposophical Society in my will is a way to express my gratitude for this life gift. It is a privilege to support the Society into the future through a legacy gift to continue the work to uplift individuals and heal communities in a world desperate for peace, healing and hope.

## Grants

We are grateful to the **Waldorf Educational Foundation** for their grant of \$10,000 in support of *The Wellspring of Waldorf*. This video production is a collaboration with AWSNA, designed to illuminate the connections between Waldorf education and anthroposophy for Waldorf parents, board members and others. It features interviews on a variety of topics, with Elizabeth Beaven, EdD and Stephanie Rynas, PhD. It will be made available at no charge on the ASA website, and will include downloadable resources. This project is just recently completed and will be released in the near future.

## We also appreciate the support of the **Rudolf Steiner Charitable Trust**.

They granted us \$2000 in unrestricted funds this year. We have recently completed and released the new Foundation Stone Meditation brochure, featuring new art work by Ella Lapointe and an updated introduction.

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

## **Special Gifts**

The Society also welcomes designated gifts toward the following groups and activities: 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 visit *www.anthroposophy.org/makeagift*, use a remittance envelope from *being human* or give us a call at 734-662-9355. If you have questions or need further information about giving opportunities including the Michael Support Circle and legacy/planned giving, please be in touch at *deb@anthroposophy.org*.

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

Thank you for your generous support!



#### In Memoriam

We remember with appreciation Jim Willetts, who crossed the threshold in July 2018. He lived in California and England, and brought much interest in the world and good energy to his many anthroposophical endeavors. Jim joined the ASA in 2000, was a member of the School for Spiritual Science, and was active in the Christian Community and the Faust Branch in Sacramento, CA. He was also a member of the Development Committee of the Anthroposophical Society in America, and was a wonderful supporter of our efforts. We send gratitude and love to Jim.



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



# The General Council — 2018

## 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.

# Thank you to our General Council Members

John Bloom General Secretary (CA)

**Dave Alsop** Chair, member-at-large (CA)

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

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

**Joshua Kelberman** member-at-large (NY)

Marianne Fieber Central Region Representative (WI)

**Micky Leach** Western Region Representative (NM) **Dave Mansur** Eastern Region Representative (MA)

Nathaniel Williams member-at-large (NY)

**Deb Abrahams-Dematte** Director of Development, ex officio

**John Beck** Director of Communications, ex officio

**Laura Scappaticci** Director of Programs, ex officio

**Katherine Thivierge** Director of Operations, ex officio

## Thank you!



## Jack Michael

Thank you to departing council member Jack Michael for his many years of service. Jack joined the General Council in 2012 and was Treasurer from 2012 to 2018. We are grateful for his attention, care and leadership in bringing healthy business practices and serving the movement with love and care.

## Committees

#### AGM 2018 Planning Group

Charlie Burkam Marianne Fieber Mason Howerton Margaret Runyon Laura Scappaticci

#### **Executive Committee**

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

## **Development Committee**

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

#### Human Resources Committee

Marianne Fieber Micky Leach Jack Michael

#### Library Committee

Dwight Ebaugh Dave Mansur Katherine Thivierge

#### **APO Advisory Group**

Eileen Bristol Fred Janney Rick Ruffin Kathy Serafin

## **Finance Committee**

Dwight Ebaugh Joshua Kelberman Jack Michael Katherine Thivierge

#### **Council of Anthroposophical Organizations**

Deb Abrahams-Dematte Frank Agrama Beverly Amico John Bloom Kathleen Bowen Kelley Buhles Charlie Burkam Thea Maria Carlson David Gershan Gene Gollogly Laura Scappaticci Eric Silber Claus Sproll Alice Stamm

# Current Leadership & Staff

John Bloom, General Secretary

### **Leadership Team**

**Deb Abrahams-Dematte**, Director of Development **Laura Scappaticci**, Director of Programs **Katherine Thivierge**, Director of Operations

John Beck, Director of Communications and Editor, being human Kathy Serafin, Program Director, Anthroposophical Prison Outreach

Diana Carlen, Development Assistant Cynthia Chelius, Administrative Assistant and Manager, Rudolf Steiner House Eddie Lederman, Accountant Linda Leonard, Bookkeeper Julie Pangborn, Housekeeper Tess Parker, Programs Assistant

**Kathleen Bradley**, Library Assistant, Rudolf Steiner Library **Martin Miller**, Library Assistant, Rudolf Steiner Library

#### Welcome, Tess Parker!



## Thank you to 2018 Staff

Tess joined the staff as part-time Programs Assistant in 2018, supporting ASA conferences, online education, and social media, and also contributes to the work of the Youth Section. She encountered anthroposophy through biodynamic agriculture, and was a cofounder of Common Hands Farm in upstate NY. She lives in southern CA now, and in addition to her work with the Society, is Garden Teacher and Camp Director at the Pasadena Waldorf School.

We are grateful to **Jennifer Locke**, who served as Interim Librarian, providing continuity and excellent service during the transition of library ownership.

## We welcome your feedback!

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

Steiner House Rental: **Cynthia Chelius**, <u>cynthia@anthroposophy.org</u>

Communications: **John Beck**, <u>editor@anthroposophy.org</u>

Development: **Deb Abrahams-Dematte**, <u>deb@anthroposophy.org</u>

Programs: Laura Scappaticci,\_ laura@anthroposophy.org Finance: Katherine Thivierge, katherine@anthroposophy.org

Treasurer: **Dwight Ebaugh**, <u>treasurer@anthroposophy.org</u>

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

General Council: generalcouncil@anthroposophy.org



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being human:	John Beck, Kelly Beekman, Robert Funk, Michael Howard, Sylvia Mandel, Natasha Wood

## Mission

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

## Values

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

Relationships and engagement are at the heart of the work of the Anthroposophical Society in America. The Society holds as core values inner freedom for the individual, and a social consciousness that recognizes authenticity and inquiry as essential to personal and cultural development.

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