

BREAKING THROUGH TO A NEW CULTURE

*Anthroposophical
Society in
America*

2015
Annual Report

Dear Members,

On January 18, 1924 in a lecture Rudolf Steiner gave in Dornach on “The Organic Development of the Anthroposophical Society and its Tasks,” he said:

“*But something else must now be added—which, by the way, we have always striven for. Anthroposophy must now be represented before the world at large, and this requires quite another style...*”

— (from *The Constitution of the School of Spiritual Science*)

These words, and indeed the entire pamphlet cited above, come out of the Christmas Conference and his tremendous effort to redirect the work of the Society in the last few years of his life.

What does it mean that “Anthroposophy must now be represented before the world at large”—and with a new style?” I feel this work has accompanied us since 1924 and remains incomplete today.

The year 2015 brought home the lesson in full force: the old ways cannot continue.

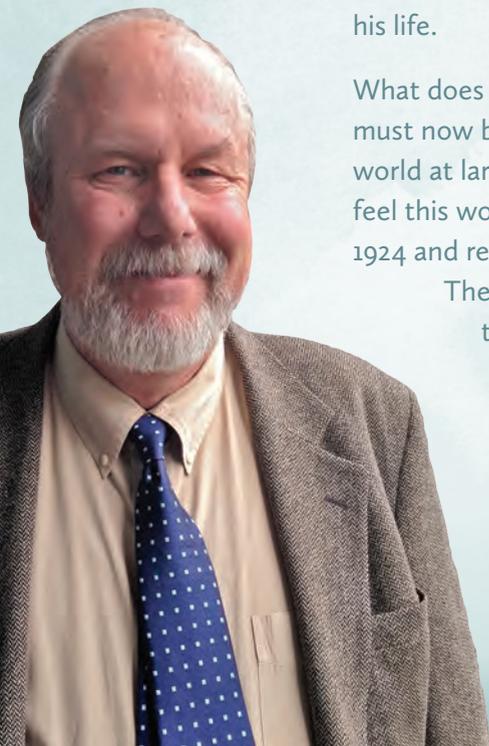
As I participated in charting a new course for our Society, I remembered often that the centennial of the Christmas Conference

is just seven years off. As we’ve seen with several recent centennials, at the turning of 100 years, a real force is there but it must be consciously renewed.

It is for this reason that the Goetheanum leadership in collaboration with the General Secretaries have planned a Michaelmas gathering next September of a thousand leaders and friends on this theme: *How can and how should we continue, as a Society, School, and as initiatives?*

In March I participated in preparatory conversations at the Goetheanum where others were very interested in the efforts made in the USA toward renewal and redirection. Our steps stimulated many conversations and impetus toward greater global collaboration. Other countries are facing serious questions on the way forward, and challenges around the world are similar. There is a loss of core anthroposophical consciousness in many initiatives inspired by anthroposophy as administrations change over time. There is a slow decrease in Society members, from 45,000 worldwide to 44,000 in 2015, mostly due to deaths.

Over the last seven years, and focused now by the wake-up call of sustainable and more adequate funding, we have



looked at everything from top to bottom. As a result there is now greater clarity and commitment. Here are some of the consequences, not always easily arrived at, that we can see coming together as of the end of 2015:

- a leadership team mandated to take initiative as well as serve
- expanded programs including webinars, conferences, and seminars, a renewed spirit of participation, and a new vision for work in the Eastern states
- development work building sustainable relationships with friends and members, individuals and institutions, the Michael Support Circle and planned giving
- streamlined operations with wonderful clarity on finances and reporting
- effective communications of our high goals, artistry, and courageous initiatives
- the Rudolf Steiner Library in a secure home and local community partnership
- strong collaboration with initiatives and the Council of Anthroposophic Organizations
- increasing awareness by members of the work of the School for Spiritual Science

- artistic creation of many kinds and on astonishing high levels including the continuation of the unique initiation stream of the mystery dramas
- extraordinary examples of community building to meet human needs.

It was of particular interest to everyone in March to see our latest issue of being human which listed thirteen deaths in the USA last year and more than ten times that many new members. We are growing again!

Yet there is still much work to be done. What do we need to do in the next seven years to be truly ready for the 100th anniversary? What do we need to do as individuals in our inner work, as members of the School and of the Society? What is the world asking of us today?

I would like to end this letter with a thought provoking comment made by another departing General Secretary, Hartwig Shiller from Germany:

“ *Anthroposophy has found its way into the world (our many initiatives), yet the world has not yet found its way into our Society.* ”

In appreciation for the opportunity to serve these questions and our members,

Torin M. Finser

Anthroposophical Society in America

**Theoretical anthroposophy
is a photograph of what
anthroposophy intends to be.
It intends to be a living presence;
it really wants to use words,
concepts and ideas in order that
something living may shine down
from the spiritual world into the
physical. Anthroposophy does not
only want to impart knowledge;
it seeks to awaken life. This it can
do; though, of course, to feel life
we must bring life to meet it.**

*~ Rudolf Steiner, Anthroposophy,
An Introduction (Lecture VI), February 3, 1924*

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Leadership Team



The Leadership Team works alongside of and in collaboration with the General Secretary and the General Council in support of the highest goals of the Society and our movement as a whole. It was formed to serve the health, development, and success of the Anthroposophical Society in America. Our intentionally collaborative form enables us to provide expertise and leadership in specific areas as well as holding the big picture of the organization at the center of all we do.

When Katherine Thivierge joined us as Director of Operations in August 2015, the imagination for the form which had long been carried by the General Council came into full being.

In addition to the specific activities and responsibilities of our individual roles, we've been hard at work creating and refining the particular ways we function as a 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.

We are grateful for a grant of \$10,000 from the Council of Anthroposophical Organizations, which makes it possible for us to meet face-to-face on a bimonthly basis through 2016. This is in addition to our weekly web-based team meetings, including one each month with John Beck, Director of Communications. Together with Torin Finser and Council Chair Dennis Dietzel, we have met monthly as the Executive Committee, setting agendas and preparing for General Council meetings throughout the year.

These face-to-face opportunities, along with our regular rhythm of connection and sharing, have been essential as we grow into our new form and simultaneously navigate the changes and challenges facing the Society

In the coming year, we will continue to develop our “sense organs” and our collaborative skills to effectively lead and serve on behalf of the Anthroposophical Society in America.

*~ Deb Abrahams-Dematte, Director of Development;
Marian Leon, Director of Programs; and
Katherine Thivierge, Director of Operations*

Events, Activities, Community

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



We have expanded our schedule of intensive retreats, hosted at the beautiful 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.

On-site retreat offerings in 2015 included:

- Life, Nature and Cultivation of Anthroposophy, a group and branch retreat
- Rosicrucian Themes in Our Times, a member retreat with Bastiaan Baan
- Rudolf Steiner's Lectures on Karmic Relationships, a member retreat

... In the Eastern Region

2015 was a year of inquiry around the shape and life of Society work in the Eastern Region. Conversations explored the form of its geographic area with the hopes of cultivating more interaction among members, groups and communities around the region.

Twenty-two communities gathered in Spring Valley, NY to discuss: *What does a thriving Anthroposophical Society look like? How can we help one another?* Over the next 7 months, similar gatherings happened in 9 other locations and by phone.

A carrying group, consisting of Jennifer Green, Herbert Hagens, Marian León, Elizabeth Roosevelt, Sherry Wildfeuer and Nathaniel Williams, oversaw the process. In October

it submitted a proposal to the General Council for forming three smaller regions — northeast, mid-Atlantic, and southeast — whose shorter distances to allow for carrying out initiatives and reflect the culture of each area.

Three regional assemblies are planned in 2016. The intention for these gatherings is to help individuals and groups *stretch* beyond local awareness; consolidate within more natural geographic areas through annual assemblies; and to enable more of the life of these regions to find its way into the work of the General Council at the national level.

... Across the Country

Engage! Meeting the Events of Our Time, the Society's annual members meeting and conference was held in St. Louis, MO, October 9-11, 2016. Annual General Meetings (AGMs) are held sometimes in areas where a stronger community is developing, and the local support was a prominent factor in this relatively small but exceptionally dynamic event. About 90 members from around the country heard presentations by three groups of individuals, vignettes on how anthroposophy had informed their initiatives in the world. Evenings featured programs from the Youth

Section, Saturday evening brought a program of classical music, poetry, and eurythmy. This was preceded by a talk on the relation of Freemasonry to Anthroposophy, especially appropriate as the performance was in the initiation room of the Masonic Lodge, and about challenges to the ideals of a free society. Two general workshop sessions offered work in biography and social arts.



Pre-conference gatherings included:

Speaking With the Stars, the Central Region Annual Retreat

- **Moral Substance and Inner Development**, the Youth Section Conference
- A Gathering for Group and Branch Representatives
- **What is the Full Picture of the School for Spiritual Science and Its Impulse?** A presentation for members of the First Class

Save the Date! The 2016 Annual General Meeting and Conference, **Representing Anthroposophy**, will be held in Spring Valley, NY on October 6-9, 2016.



Anthroposophical Society in America

Destiny Paths – Honoring the Work of Maria St. Goar and Sergei Prokofieff was held in Chattanooga, TN on February 28. More than 60 people participated, with greetings read from Torin Finser and Virginia Sease, who were unable to attend. Also, a note was read from the Midcoast Maine group, expressing their gratitude to Maria for making Prokofieff’s work available for their group study.

Friends came as far away as Atlanta and Nashville to celebrate with Maria and her family, and to express their gratitude for the strong presence of Society work and First Class work in the southeastern region through her efforts over many years.



Maria has translated into English over 50 works by Rudolf Steiner and other anthroposophical writers, including a significant number of works by Sergei Prokofieff, who crossed the threshold in July of 2014.

The day was full of wisdom, beauty and love. Frederick Amrine gave 2 talks: The Art of Translation and Sergei Prokofieff’s Karmic Biography of Novalis. Isabel Bartles performed two solo violin works: Preludio, from Partita #3 in E Major and Allemande, from Partita #2 in d minor – both by J.S. Bach. Gene Gollogly and Maurice York spoke about the importance of Maria’s work in bringing anthroposophical material to the English speaking world. A delicious meal was shared and connections old and new were

strengthened and enjoyed. Many thanks to Katherine Jenkins and Edward St. Goar for their assistance and support in the organization of this festive event.

Fred Amrine shared his wisdom and knowledge in a lecture tour around the Southeastern United States early in the year. He is a German professor and internationally recognized Goethean scholar who lectures widely. Fred visited several communities in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee, presenting on a number of topics related to anthroposophy and Rudolf Steiner.

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. Margaret Shipman has been

coordinating the program since its inception in 2007. We are grateful for her years of service and for the personal care she gives to each event.

Offerings in 2015 included:

- ***The Soul Calendar*** with Herbert Hagens (Chicago, IL)
- ***The Foundation Stone Meditation and the Fifth Gospel*** with Brian Gray (Seattle, WA)
- ***The Little Prince*** with Matthew Dexter (8 locations in southern CA)
- ***Biography*** with Signe Schaeffer (New Orleans, LA)
- ***What do the Seasons Mean?*** with Michael Ronall (3 lecture series, Kingston, RI)
- ***Festivals and the Course of the Year*** with Michael Ronall (Rhode Island)

... And Beyond

We've expanded our use of webinars to bring high-quality content and connection to members and friends around the country. Virtual and online programming is not for everyone, but it is an accessible and cost-effective way for the Society to serve the membership and the movement more broadly. Offerings in 2015 included:

- ***Trial of the Soul*** with Barbara Renold (11 weeks)
- ***Portal of Initiation*** with Barbara Renold (11 weeks)
- ***The Human Encounter: Parent-Teacher Relationships in a Waldorf School Community*** with Torin Finser (1 session, co-sponsored with AWSNA)
- ***Discovering a Genius: Rudolf Steiner's Vision for the Future*** with Fred Amrine (1 session, co-sponsored with AWSNA)
- ***Fostering a Relationship with the New Signs of the Zodiac*** with Mary Stewart Adams (4 sessions) – freely available as a recorded series at <http://www.anthroposophy.org/webinar-mary-adams/>
- ***Michael and the Being of Eurythmy*** with Ross Rentea, MD (1 session, co-sponsored with the Kolisko Institute)

~ Marian León, Director of Programs (MI)



A Sample of School Events in 2015

- The Question of Consciousness Today: A Michael School Conference with Virginia Sease, Portland, OR (sponsored by the Portland Branch)
- Finding Hope in Dark Times: An Exploration of Human Connection, Shelburne, VT (co-sponsored by the Social Science Section and the Green Mountain Branch)
- Vitality and Quality as Seen through the Picture Forming Methods, Chicago, IL (co-sponsored by the Natural Science Section and the Biodynamic Association)
- Anthroposophy and the Challenge of a Contemporary Visual Arts Practice, Portland, OR (sponsored by the Visual Arts Section)

The School for Spiritual Science

From the North American Collegium

2015 was a deeply fulfilling year for the Collegium of the School for Spiritual Science. It marked 21 years since the Interim Collegium was established in North America, with the General Secretaries of the Anthroposophical Societies of the US and Canada and representatives from the Sections. In 1997 the Collegium became more formed, meeting twice a year with Virginia Sease and often other leaders from the Goetheanum.

The task was to evolve a fuller, cohesive picture of the School for Spiritual Science, which had previously been identified primarily with the Lessons of the First Class.

Through the work of the Collegium, the content of the General Anthroposophical Section was elaborated and two of the members, Penelope Baring and Rudiger Janisch compiled the fruit of this work in the booklet “A Way of Serving,” which was distributed to members of the School on this continent. To order a copy, please visit www.anthroposophy.org/store.

The Collegium provides an opportunity for the Sections to become aware of each other’s work and challenges. The theme of spiritual research has been explored collaboratively over many years, engaging actively with the arts, and we studied the First Goetheanum as the inner “home” of the School. But until August of this year the fulfillment our wish to meet with the Class Holders of North America has not been possible. At their meeting in Spring Valley the Collegium was invited to share its history and insights and to participate in conversations to help build a common understanding of the School as a whole living organism, which includes the Lessons, the professional Sections, and the great potential of creative endeavor amongst the members within the General Anthroposophical Section. Very significantly, a way for the Collegium to communicate with the members of the School with the help of the Class Holders was established, which will allow us to serve the members of the School more actively in the future.

~ Sherry Wildfeuer (PA) for the Collegium

From the Circle of Class Holders in North America Class Holders Conference Report: August 21 – 24, 2015

The Circle of Class holders in North America met with Virginia Sease at the Threefold Educational Center in Spring Valley, New York on August 21 – 24, 2015. 65 Class holders attended from Canada and the U.S., including Hawaii. The weekend featured a special meeting with the North American Collegium of the School for Spiritual Science. The conference focused on the task and role of the Class holder within the context of the General Anthroposophical Section. Some of the key topics included: the question of evaluation and assessment, the need for training and mentoring newly appointed Class holders, establishing ongoing collaboration with the Collegium, organizing weekend workshops for Class members and discussion of other issues facing the Class holder today and on into the future.

Dr. Sease, representing the Leadership of the School for Spiritual Science at the Goetheanum, delivered an engaging lecture on the theme “Esoteric Dimensions of the Michael School: Challenges and

Opportunities Today.” Various group sessions with the members of the Collegium offered the opportunity to create an imagination of the School for Spiritual Science and its function in the modern world.

The August conference was the first meeting of the full Circle of Class holders in North America since 2009. The Class holders in Canada meet together once a year. Class holders in the U.S. meet regionally in Sacramento, Ann Arbor, and Spring Valley. We are most grateful to the Anthroposophical Society for its financial support and to the local groups and branches as well as individual Society members for their generous contributions. Many Class holders pay their own expenses. Due to current budget constraints only one regional meeting in the U.S. is scheduled for 2016.

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





Rudolf Steiner Library, Hudson, NY

The library was closed for most of 2015 while we searched for a suitable new location, following the move out of our temporary space in Philmont, NY. Volunteers Raimond Flynn and Nathaniel Williams, after many years of volunteering with the local library committee, worked with librarian Judith Kiely throughout 2015 to secure a new location. They also helped organize a successful appeal for donations toward partial cost of rent and utilities for the new facility, and raised the funds needed for lazure-painting of the new space.

The library re-opened in November in a climate-controlled, 2500 square foot, easily accessible new location in Hudson, NY. A two-year lease was negotiated and needed construction was paid for by the owner of the property. In October, noted lazure artist Robert Logsdon and a local crew transformed the new space with their beautiful painting. Robert's work was funded entirely through donations. Thank you to all who made this possible!

In the seven weeks after re-opening to the end of 2015, the library lent 210 items, renewed 760, and received 820 returns, ending the year with 3100 items in circulation. The library has 38,000 items in its online catalog, including books, pamphlets, typescripts, periodicals, and audiovisual materials. We continue to add items to the library collection. Follow this link to search the catalog online: <http://rsl.scoolaid.net/bin/home>.

In September the Rudolf Steiner Library Circle of Friends formed in support of the library's operations. Collaborative efforts continue to grow among the members of the Circle and the Society, with an on-going library committee (council member Dwight Ebaugh and Director of Operations Katherine Thivierge) meeting periodically with Friends members Harold Bush, Christina Porkert, and Nathaniel Williams.

Additional members of the Circle of Friends include:

Raimond Flynn, Joyce Gallardo, Karin Haldeman, Martin Miller, Robert Oelhaf, Margaret Rosenthaler, and Douglas Sloan. The Friends support library volunteer and fundraising efforts; inform the public of library resources and events; and foster understanding of the importance of the Rudolf Steiner Library to the development of the anthroposophical movement in North America. We are grateful for their efforts!

In the context of significant budget cuts across the organization, we lost the library director's position and had to say good bye to Maurice York in October, along with transition manager Seth Jordan and preservation assistant Lisa Damian. We are grateful for their knowledge, enthusiasm and many efforts on behalf of the library over the past two years.

We are grateful to our supporters for the generous contributions and volunteer efforts which flow toward the library. Although plans from 2014 for networking local branch libraries, digitization, and preservation of historical archives have had to be suspended because of society budget cuts, library staff and volunteers are working to re-establish the library's core lending and research services, while exploring institutional partnerships for the future.

The Rudolf Steiner Library is located at 351 Fairview Ave Suite 610, Hudson, NY. Current hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10 am to 3 pm. Like us on Facebook for up-to-date news and information. Email rsteinerlibrary@gmail.com or call or text (518) 944-7007 to get in touch.

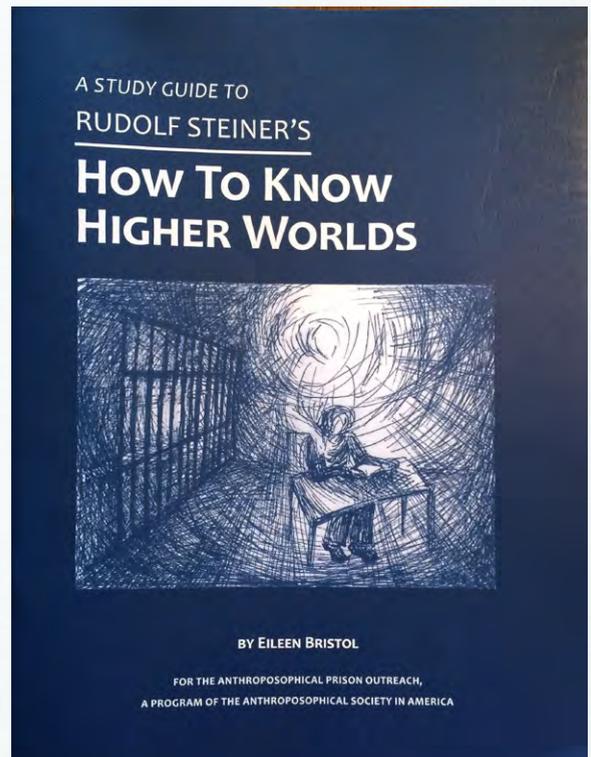
~ Judith Kiely, Librarian (NY)



Anthroposophical Prison Outreach

At Anthroposophical Prison Outreach, we undertook a number of new initiatives in 2015, expanding our services available to inmates beyond our existing lending library, newsletter, and provided correspondence courses. One of these efforts was a large mailing to each member of our program; their own copy to keep of How to Know Higher Worlds and an accompanying study guide written by Eileen Bristol. Just before Christmas, 3 vehicles stuffed with packages arrived at the post office in Ann Arbor, and from there they went to prisoners across the United States. The response to this gift has been overwhelmingly positive, and the work of those who chose to share it with us shows a deeper understanding of the subject and an eagerness to explore further.

Another focus of the year was a meditation class at Huron Valley Women's Prison, in Michigan, based on Rudolf Steiner's Six Subsidiary Exercises. It started in September, and by the end of 2015 over 150 women had completed the course, with 140 more signed up for the next session, now complete. This program continues into 2016 with a new group of women participating.



We are grateful for the on-going efforts and care of our Steering Committee: Grace Worth (MI), Eileen Bristol (TX) and Fred Janney (MI).

Please stay in touch! We are on Facebook at "Anthroposophical Prison Outreach," and we also welcome your calls, emails, cards and letters. Thank you for your warm interest and support!

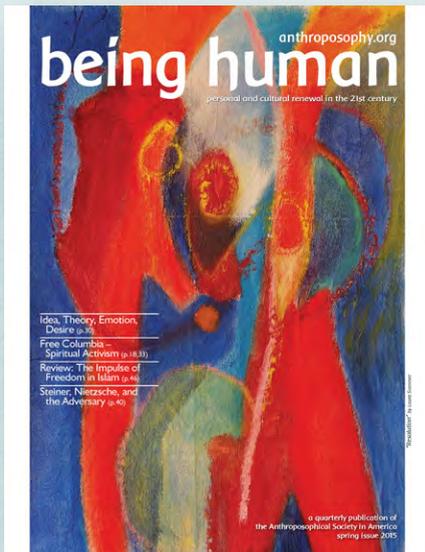
~ Kathy Serafin, Administrator (MI)

Council of Anthroposophic Organizations

Created almost 20 years ago as a committee of the Anthroposophical Society in America, the Council of Anthroposophic Organizations (CAO) brings together individuals with experience in management of initiatives and entrepreneurship. As such it brings complementary perspectives to those of the Society and the School for Spiritual Science. 2015 saw a continuing evolution of the CAO with examination of its mission, support for the work of the Society, and facilitation of cooperation among initiatives and between them and the Society.

CAO participants from the Society included Marian Leon, Deb Abrahams-Dematte, John Beck, and Torin Finser. Others included John Bloom (RSF Social Finance), David Gershan (Physicians Association for Anthroposophic Medicine), Beverly Amico and Melanie Reiser (Association of Waldorf Schools of North America), Claus Sproll (Camphill Association), Alice Stamm (Eurythmy Association), Seth Jordan (youth initiatives), Robert Karp (Biodynamic Association), Gene Gollogly (Steiner Books), and Marke Levene (entrepreneur). We are grateful for their generous support and assistance.





being human & anthroposophy.org

In print, emails, and online the Society aims both to inform members and friends of its news and programs, and to showcase the diversity and impact of the work of individuals, branches, and initiatives of all kinds. In print, being human is sent to individual members and to activity centers around the country for free distribution. In 2015 we also worked with the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA) to provide copies of two issues of being human to several thousand Waldorf teachers and parents. We offered only two being human print issues in 2015 due to budget tightening, but began monthly “being human online” emails.

Amazing initiatives covered included the Lili Kolisko Institute for health research, the reGeneration project to bring Waldorf education to the Middle East, the social-spiritual-arts work of Free Columbia, and the Community Center impulse at Heartbeat Lifesharing in Vermont. Also, the personal eurythmy resource eurythmyonline.com, the Avalon Initiative for “authentic assessment in education,” APANA Services for anthroposophic psychology launched by the late William Bento, and an interview with Laurie Portocarrero on the very large personal initiative of playing Maria in Rudolf Steiner’s four mystery dramas. And Christopher Schaefer shared personal experience of three pioneers of innovative philanthropic work: Elise Casper, Dietrich Asten, and Bill Bottum.

Two print “gallery” sections showed the work of Free Columbia and gave today’s “selfie” photographs a deeper context in several centuries of artists’ self-portraits. A remarkable group of short essays reported on the welcoming approach to anthroposophy at CIIS, the California Institute for Integral Studies. Paul Gierlach wrote about teaching history in the Waldorf high school curriculum. Max DeArmon shared how his Waldorf education prepared him for involvement in work to heal the planetary environment. Frederick Dennehy reviewed new thinking from philosopher Thomas Nagel, Elaine Upton reviewed The Impulse of Freedom in Islam, Frederick

Amrine shared a brilliant essay on the evolution of consciousness, C.T. Roszell brought readers into Rudolf Steiner's "meeting of destiny" with Friedrich Nietzsche, Torin Finser led us into Rudolf Steiner's "world-affirmation," and Maureen Tolman Flannery shared three very fine poems. And we remembered Martina Mann, Georg Locher, Phyllis Phillips, Paul Margulies, Aurelia Buzato, and Ted van Vliet.

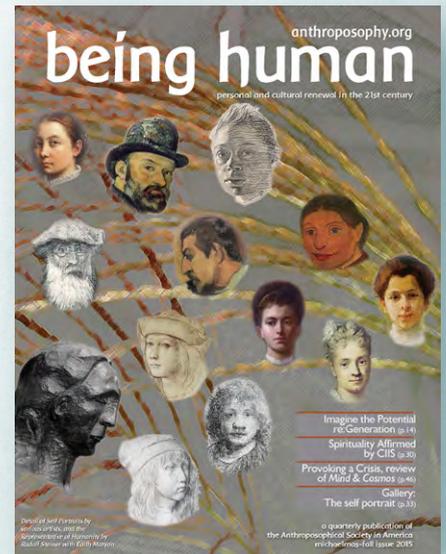
Online we shared Torin Finser's opening talk and some "vignettes" from the wonderful fall conference in St. Louis. Also, Sherry Wildfeuer wrote about the Agriculture Section, Bill Trusiewicz continued his penetrating series on the Archangel Michael, and Lessing's profound and famous "Legend of the Ring" was reborn in translation by Marianne Luedeking.

anthroposophy.org
Anthroposophical Society in America

www.anthroposophy.org, the Society's website, continues to evolve as a service and a resource for news, events and information across the movement. In 2015, over 250 events were posted promoting activities and initiatives from the Society, the Goetheanum, and across North America. The site links to groups and branch websites and contact information, and is the front-end for online membership renewal and donations. If you haven't stopped by lately, we invite you to check it out and let us know what you think.

Our communications efforts continue to reflect and share the extraordinary quality of being and goals of anthroposophy in our part of the world.

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



Treasurer's Report



I opened my 2014 report by saying that “we are at a moment of truth.” In 2015 we had to make hard choices and hope that you, our core supporters, would stand by us, and that necessary cutbacks would not damage the capacities we have been building.

Perhaps the key thoughts now are “careful management” and “staying the course.” Apart from the one-time income from sale of the library building in Ghent, NY, income was up in 2015, and much more was unrestricted. Membership contributions increased a healthy 12% and unrestricted gifts more than doubled in 2015 compared to the previous year. The development report has more details.

Meanwhile, expenses are down, as they had to be. We wrote to members last summer and fall about the painful cuts that were made. In addition to freezing all but the most essential expenses, some part-time positions were lost, other staff faced reduced hours and pay, health insurance benefits were suspended and unspent budget lines for sections and the School were

cut as well. The spending reductions we made in 2015 took effect for the most part in the third and fourth quarters, and have continued into 2016. Through conservative projections and frugal spending we will meet our commitment to paying for current operations from current income going forward.

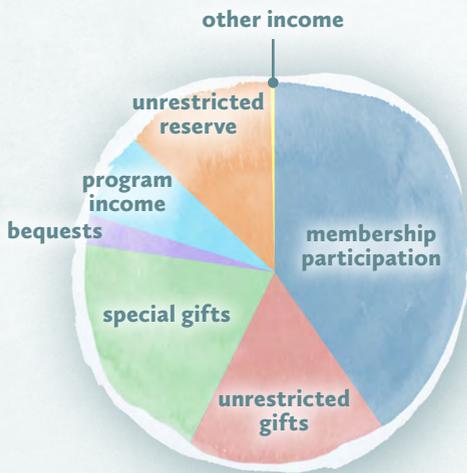
Our friends at the Goetheanum have been understanding about our transitional needs, and have accepted a reduced contribution from the USA during this time. They were heartened, as we are, to see a longer list of new members from our region last fall. Our emphasis on membership as a broad act of participation, and not just a financial relationship, feels right. Members who can make a larger contribution are doing so, and the way that a wider group of friends and members carries the Anthroposophical Society in their thoughts and hopes is spiritually powerful.

We look to grow in an appropriate and sustainable way. The Society has large responsibilities, including support for the North American Collegium and Sections of the

School for Spiritual Science. The USA has a population roughly equal to Western Europe. We are also in the forefront of human expectations because of our cultural, economic, and political weight and the second-language status of English worldwide. Anthroposophical initiatives are strong in North America, and need a strong core to relate to. The cooperation and support of the Council of Anthroposophic Organizations has been very important.

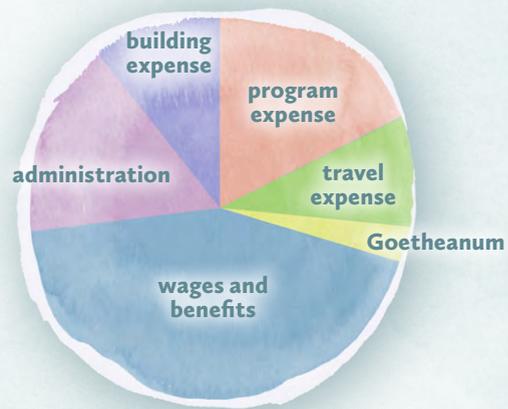
In 2015 a Leadership Team came together for our US Society, the result of several years' effort by staff and General Council. Financial reporting has improved greatly, along with operational efficiencies, and the developments you read about on other pages. In the coming year, we will continue growing from a solid base, strengthening this great initiative in service to humanity. Thank you for your active participation!

~ John P. Michael, Treasurer (OH)



Resources & Support

membership participation	\$429,129
unrestricted gifts	\$182,745
special gifts	\$211,750
bequests	\$27,384
program income	\$76,158
unrestricted reserve	\$135,386
other income	\$2,887
total	\$1,065,439



Expenses

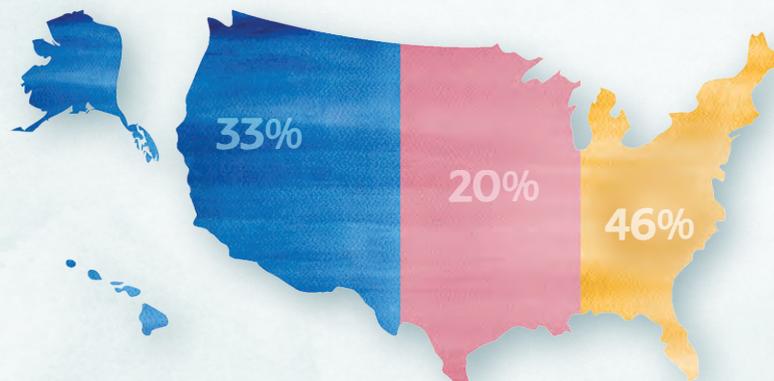
program expense	\$187,310
travel expense	\$95,881
Goetheanum	\$31,940
wages and benefits	\$463,241
administration	\$174,128
building expense	\$112,939
total	\$1,065,439

Thank YOU for your Membership and Support

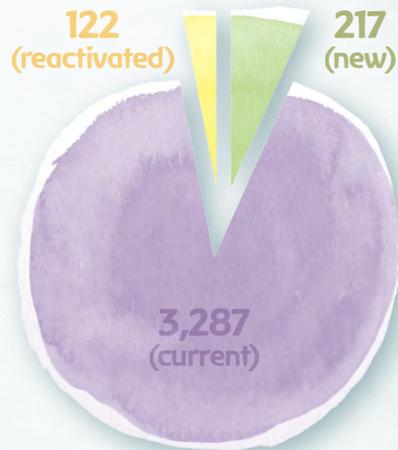
On behalf of the General Council, Leadership Team and staff, we are so very grateful for your membership, interest and generous support. In 2015, we raised \$421,879 in restricted and unrestricted gifts, and received \$429,129 in membership contributions, ending the year with 3,287 members. We extend a warm welcome to our 217 new members!

Your gifts and participation are an investment in 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.

2015 US Membership by Region

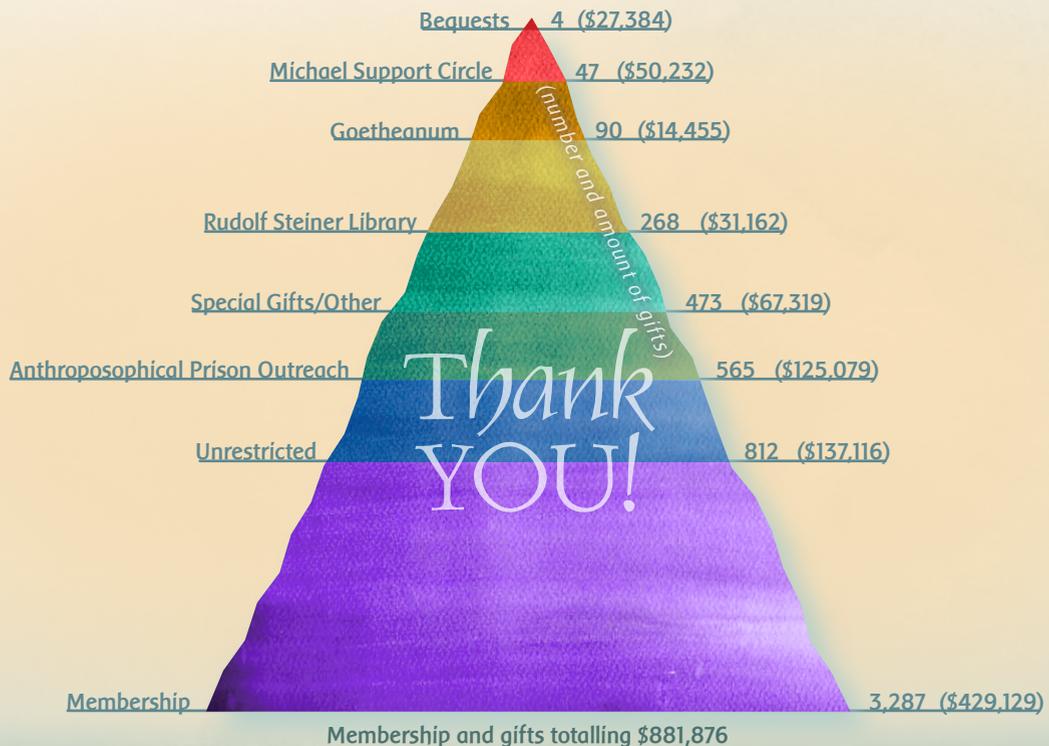


2015 Memberships



3% increase over 2014

A Breakdown of Gifts in 2015:



Michael Support Circle

Thank you to our Michael Support Circle members! Together you have contributed \$50,232 in 2015, and we are grateful for your sustaining and generous support.

The Michael Support Circle is our major donor group and a critical component of the Society's resource development efforts. It began in 2009 as an initiative of Ernst Katz and Torin Finser and includes individuals and organizations who commit \$500, \$1000 or more annually as a recurring, unrestricted gift for five or more years. In 2015 we reached 50 members in total, including 39 individuals and couples, and 21 organizations, and we continue to grow.

Why become a part of the Michael Support Circle? We asked several founding members:

At its inception, I was given the opportunity to become a member of the Michael Support Circle. It occurred to me that my responsibility to support the Anthroposophical Society was a spiritual obligation which I could not deny. How better to reciprocate the many blessings received, than to give to the furthering of this urgent task of community building around our common striving? This joining together contributes to all kinds of healthy outcomes for myself as an individual and for the group as a whole.

~ Katherine Jenkins (GA)

I support the Michael Support Circle as my way of staying engaged and involved in the Anthroposophical Society. Being in the anthroposophical hinterlands makes it difficult to be engaged in group work and conferences, but I can support them and hope for all to be more involved, including myself, in the future.

~ Gary Davis (NC)

I have been a member of the Michael Support Circle since its inception and am happy to have the opportunity to support the work of the Anthroposophical Society in America in this way. Although I have been living in the US now for some 17 years, I retired here from the UK. I feel very connected to the work here, and I see the value of the 'American way' of doing things as it is a gift to the wider movement.

~ Jim Willetts (CA)

We extend a special welcome to our growing list of organizational members, including:

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



Karine Munk Finser

Leaving a Legacy of Will – Planned Giving

Legacy and planned gifts have been an important source of support over many years, providing resources for programs and activities of the Society. We are deeply appreciative to those who have contributed to the Society in this way.

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, Lotte Emde and Ralph Neuman. We send warm blessings and much gratitude to them and their families.

Our Legacy Circle continues to grow. We are so very grateful to the 19 members who have let us know that they've included the Anthroposophical Society in their estate plans.



Helen-Ann Ireland

Special Gifts

The Society also welcomes restricted 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 capital improvements, regional programs, and the Eurythmy and Speech & Drama Associations.

For questions or further information about giving opportunities, please be in touch at deb@anthroposophy.org. To make a gift, use a remittance envelope or visit www.anthroposophy.org and click on “make a gift.”

Thank you for your generous support!

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

The General Council — 2015

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 groups are limited to six years' consecutive service.

Torin Finser, General Secretary (NH)

Dennis Dietzel, Chair, Central Region Representative (MN)

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

Carla Comey, Secretary, member-at-large (CO)

Dave Alsop, member-at-large (CA)

Dwight Ebaugh, member-at-large (MI)

Micky Leach, Western Region Representative (NM)

Welcome to our new members!



Dave Alsop joins us from northern California, where he has worked for many years in leadership roles throughout the Waldorf movement. He served as the Chairman of AWSNA for eleven years, established the Online Waldorf Library, worked at RSF Social Finance and now is the Assistant Director at the Bay Area Center for Waldorf Teacher Training, where he also teaches courses on the Threefold Nature of Social Life and Philosophy of Freedom.



Micky Leach is a multifaceted educator and a former board member of two Waldorf schools, who has trained in Goethean Studies and Rhythmical Massage. She has given courses on Parzival, biography and basic anthroposophy, is active in the Sangre de Cristo Branch, and with her husband has hosted a weekly study group for the past ten years. Micky served on the recent General Secretary Nominating Committee, whose work began in the winter of 2015.



Dwight Ebaugh is a recently retired attorney with a deep love for the work of Rudolf Steiner. He met anthroposophy in 1990, eventually meeting and studying with Ernst Katz for a number of years. He joined the board of the Great Lakes Branch in 2000 and has been active ever since. Dwight joined the Council in January, and his work has focused on budget matters and the Rudolf Steiner Library.

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



Virginia McWilliam



Joan Treadaway

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

Committees

AGM 2015 Planning Group

Megan Durney
Laura Iturralde
Robert Karp
Marian León
Rafael Manacas
Elizabeth Roosevelt
Leah Walker

Development Committee

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

Executive Committee

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

Finance Committee

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

Library Committee

Dwight Ebaugh
Katherine Thivierge

Current Staff

Torin Finser, General Secretary

Leadership Team

Deb Abrahams-Dematte, Director of Development

Elizabeth Roosevelt, Interim Director of Programs

Katherine Thivierge, Director of Operations

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

Judith Kiely, Librarian

Kathy Serafin, Administrator, Anthroposophical Prison Outreach

Nadia Bedard, Library Assistant

Diana Carlen, Development Assistant

Cynthia Chelius, Administrative Assistant and Manager, Rudolf Steiner House

Linda Leonard, Bookkeeper



We are so very grateful to Marian León, who has served the Anthroposophical Society well since 1999. She has stepped down from her role as Director of Programs as of early June 2016. We wish her all the best in her new position at the University of Michigan.

Thank you to 2015 Staff...

Maurice York, Director of Research and Library Services; **Seth Jordan**, Library Transition Manager; and **Lisa Damian**, Library Preservation Assistant.

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: **Elizabeth Roosevelt**, elizabeth@anthroposophy.org

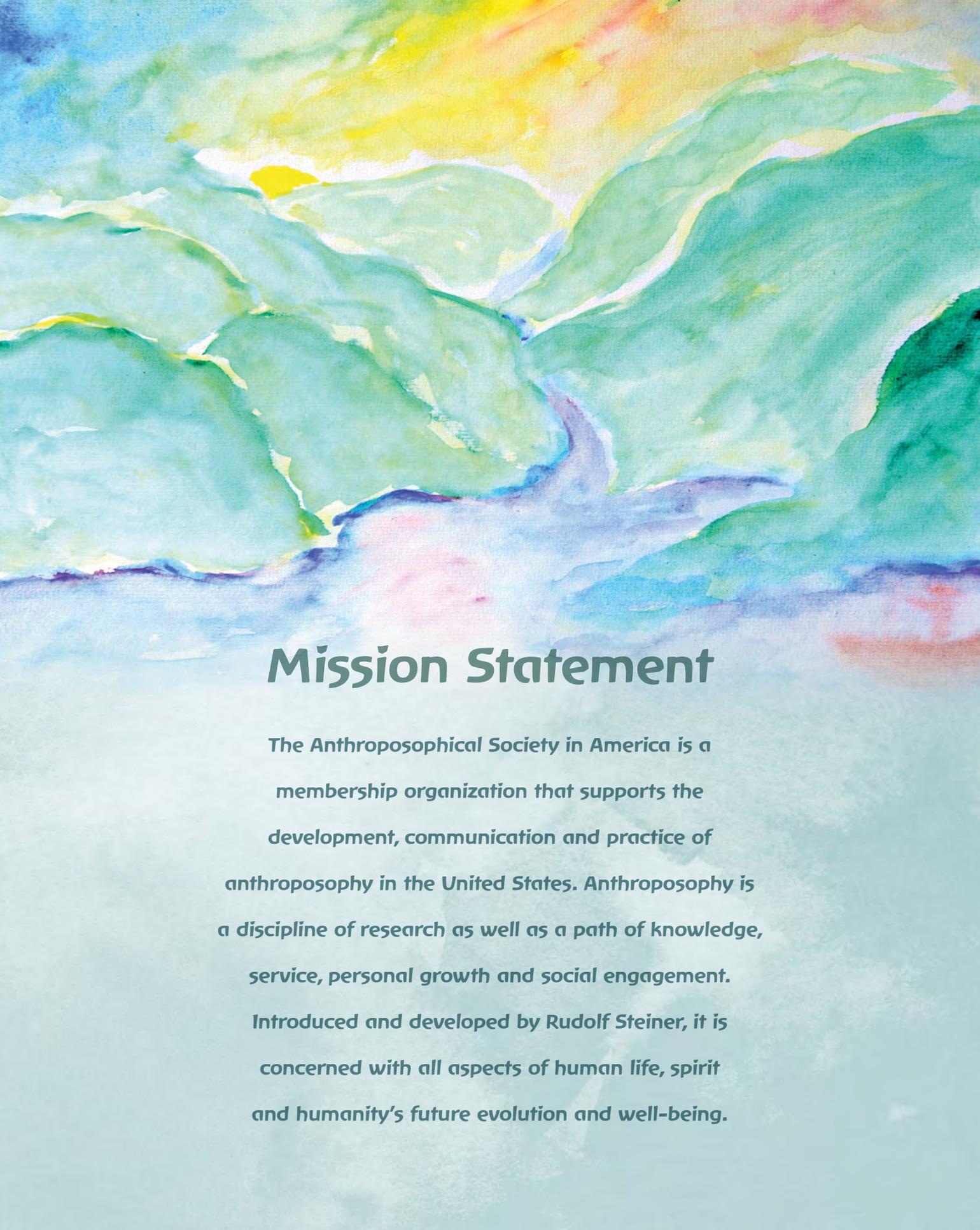
Finance: **Katherine Thivierge**, katherine@anthroposophy.org

Governance: **Torin Finser and General Council**, generalcouncil@anthroposophy.org

Anthroposophical Society in America
anthroposophy.org

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Photos by Richard Swerling and Deb Abrahams-Dematte, Design by Calliope Creative

A watercolor painting of a landscape. The sky is a mix of yellow, orange, and light blue. The mountains are painted in various shades of green and blue. A river or stream flows through the center of the landscape, with a pinkish-purple hue. The overall style is soft and painterly.

Mission Statement

The Anthroposophical Society in America is a membership organization that supports the development, communication and practice of anthroposophy in the United States. Anthroposophy is a discipline of research as well as a path of knowledge, service, personal growth and social engagement. Introduced and developed by Rudolf Steiner, it is concerned with all aspects of human life, spirit and humanity's future evolution and well-being.