

Anthroposophy does not only want to impart knowledge; it seeks to awaken life.

~ Rudolf Steiner, 1924

Anthroposophical Society in America

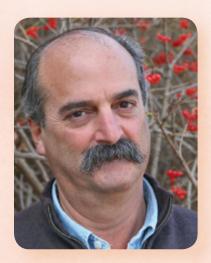
1923 Geddes Avenue | Ann Arbor, MI 48104 | www.anthroposophy.org

Contents

Letter from the General Secretary	2
Finding Our North Star	4
Message from the Leadership Team	6
Events, Activities, Community	8
School for Spiritual Science	12
being human/anthroposophy.org	16
Anthroposophical Prison Outreach	18
Council of Anthroposophic Organizations	20
Rudolf Steiner Library	21
Regional Reports	24
Treasurer's Report	27
Gratitude & Support	30
General Council and Committees	34
Current Staff and Contact Information	38

Cover art: Dwight Ebaugh

From the General Secretary



Dear Members and Friends,

First let me say that it would be almost unthinkable to serve as General Secretary without the colleagueship of a dynamic Leadership Team and an active General Council. Our working together through the year has produced a heightened engagement with each other and with members. We have come to understand just how much anthroposophy is alive at the local and regional level. My year was devoted to visiting as many branches as I could, given my work commitments. The wonder is how the character of each region is so different, and yet, the care for the core of anthroposophy is so remarkably consistent. Study groups and lectures are still the main activity, although that is transforming into more social engagement. In Milwaukee for example some branch members are meeting and working with local community organizers, a social impulse directly out of the guiding principle of interest in others, service, and a willingness to join with others to work for a more just world. In Northern California there are now regular gatherings at which members and branches from around the San Francisco Bay area engage in a range of conversations and topics, and it is also then possible for some of the initiatives such as biodynamic farms, social enterprises, and Waldorf schools to become more visible to each other.

The positive impulse that stands behind these approaches is the warming of relationships within the Society and developing an awareness of kindred initiatives. To my mind anthroposophy was birthed so that out of self-knowledge we can provide selfless care for humanity. Our discipline, if I can call it that, is to be the bridge between spirit and the world.

For me, one highlight of my first full year was to accompany Joan Sleigh from the Executive Council at the Goetheanum on a West Coast tour in September. We spoke at branch and public gatherings in San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Portland, Los Angeles. We also visited Waldorf schools along the way, Camphill California, and Filigreen Farm in order for her to get a sense of how alive anthroposophical activity is in the US West. During our time together, I was able to develop a better understanding of how the Goetheanum Leadership is working toward the future in which all the aspects of work within the Society can come together to work more consciously toward Rudolf Steiner's founding imagination for the Society. We in the US Society are also working with the same aim. About this you will be hearing much over the coming years as we head toward 2023.

With appreciation for the gifts that each member brings to the world,

John Bloom, General Secretary (CA)

olu Bloom

Finding Our North Star

From January through May 2017, the members of the General Council and Leadership Team began work to imagine our "North Star," – that is, our collective will for the current and future roles and activities of the Anthroposophical Society in America. A full description of this process and the outcomes is available in the summer/fall 2017 issue of being human.

Under the leadership of General Secretary John Bloom, we began with this verse by Rudolf Steiner:

The wishes of the soul are springing
The deeds of the will are growing
The fruits of life are ripening

I feel my destiny
My destiny finds me
I feel my star
My star finds me
I feel my goals in life
My goals in life are finding me

My soul and the great World are one

Life grows more radiant about me, Life grows more arduous for me, Grows more abundant within me.

We read and considered this verse, as it applies to us as individuals, as a

leadership group, and with regard to the Society as a whole. We related this to the first three panels of the Foundation Stone Meditation: recollecting, beholding, envisioning. Through deep conversation, artistic work and much reflection, over several months a series of core values emerged and became articulated.

The intention was to articulate the culture, "who we are trying to be," both as a General Council and as an Anthroposophical Society, as a guiding star toward which we can measure our priorities, our strategies, and our actions. A new values statement and updated mission came out of this work which was adopted by the General Council in May 2018.

Values

The Anthroposophical Society is open to anyone interested in the meditative approaches to knowledge and research, and the practical results that they lead to, which are anthroposophy. Those who are on a journey of self-discovery in service to the world and those who simply recognize the value of anthroposophically-oriented activity are welcome to join the Society.

Relationships and engagement, and the deeper aspects of the soul life, 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, spiritual 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.

Mission

The Anthroposophical Society in America supports and furthers the sharing and cultivation of contemplative and meditative research into spiritual facets of the human being and the world and their practical and social applications. It is an open membership organization that fosters self-development and inspired social engagement.

Given this focus, over 20 possible activities were identified. Each member then weighed these, and the results were tallied, resulting in the following prioritized list:

- Inspired social engagement, openness, welcome, fostering of relationships and engagement
- 2) Serve the membership
- Tend the wellspring of Rudolf Steiner's work
- 4) Encourage initiative and enterprise
- 5) Personal and cultural development
- 6) Social consciousness

Going forward, we will work to further refine and define these priorities, and to weigh priorities in light of fiscal realities. We are pleased to share these statements with you as a vision of our collective will for the Anthroposophical Society in America, and as always, welcome your feedback.

~ Dave Alsop, General Council Chair (CA)

From the Leadership Team

Vision, Collaboration, Connection

Leadership Team of the
Anthroposophical Society. We
deepened our connections with
one another and with John Bloom
in his first full year as our new
General Secretary. Together we
share a strong intention to bring
anthroposophy more fully into the
world through learning opportunities,
community building, and service
to you, our members and friends.

We continue to refine the ways we work as a collaborative, yet geographically remote, team. We meet and study together weekly via video conference, share insights and news, and work together to set direction and implement strategies toward the long-term health and sustainability of our Society.

Our shared study has been an important aspect of our work together. This year, we took up Rudolf Steiner's *Communicating*

Anthroposophy, and continued to read the Calendar of the Soul, through various translations as well as Sophie Bourguignon Takada's evocative and beautiful paintings.

In February, our annual planning retreat took place in San Francisco. Together with John Bloom and John Beck (Director of Communications), we considered the questions

- * How do we, as a Society, want to be in the world?
- How do we speak to what is being asked for now?

And, building off of the visioning work that started with the General Council,

- * What is our "north star?"
- What constitutes our collective will for the current and future activities of the Anthroposophical Society?

The insights and strategies generated by our work together and with the General Council inspire and guide us as we go through the rhythm of the year. This has been a time to connect, to listen and learn from one another, and to put our love into action.

Membership is a shared responsibility and a high priority for the LT as a whole. From the mechanics of reminder letters and payment processing, to the richness of programs and activities that inspire and interest you, it's our intention to make your experience positive and satisfying.

The best part of our work is the real connections we get to make with you, our members and friends, throughout the year.

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)

Events, Activities, Community



In 2017, the Anthroposophical Society offered an enlivening national conference, and eight well-attended webinars, while planning for its first annual conference on death and dying held in 2018.

Annual Conference and Meeting

Rise Up! Life as a Labor of Love took place at the beautiful Heard Museum in Phoenix, AZ October 13-15. Shepha Vainstein, of reGeneration, presented the keynote address on the timely topic, To Humanize Instead of Demonize: Embodying the Sophia During Times of Social Crisis. Her talk explored opportunities for peace and reconciliation through Waldorf education in crisis zones in the Middle East. Teri DeSario, Kim Snyder-Vine, and Rachel Schmid created artistic opportunities and Rock, Wind, Earth and Sky: Impressions of the American Southwest, the incredible multi-faceted Saturday evening performance that included eurythmy, singing, drama, and Native American ritual.

"[Shepha Vainstein's talk presented] a shining example of deeply anthroposophic work in an open and inclusive way that interfaces with the world and addresses some of the deepest needs of our times." (a conference attendee)

The Anthroposophical Prison Outreach offered the powerful and moving Enter Light, an evening program of biography and poetry of incarcerated individuals read by Society members. Participant research and initiative sessions enlivened the event with presentations from individuals and organizations across the country. Workshops addressed a variety of interests including: Love Stories biography workshop with Lee Sturgeon Day, Form Drawing with Laura Embrey, a youth-facilitated panel discussion Rise Up: The Future Isn't What it Used to Be and Communicating Anthroposophy with John Beck and more.

Pre-conference gatherings included: Rising Up with the Wandering Stars with Mary Stewart Adams, a Western Regional gathering, and How We Will Rise Up youth gathering, all hosted at Desert Marigold School. A First Class lesson with MariJo Rogers was offered just before the conference started, and all participants were offered the opportunity to explore the museum with complimentary passes.

"In the spacious auditorium of the Heard Museum of Native Cultures and Art a gathering of probably 50 members of the School of Spiritual Science heard a gentle, loving, and deeply serious reading of Rudolf Steiner's Seventh Lesson by Marijo Rogers, followed by conversation."

(Daniel Bittleston, CA)

See photos and detailed coverage of the 2017 conference and members meeting by going to www.rudolfsteiner.org/phoenix2017.

The Society's webinar offerings expanded and reached audiences in both remote and densely populated anthroposophical communities, and inside and outside of the United States. These offerings were well-attended, with upwards of 600 people registered for Hearts are Beginning to Have Thoughts with Patrick Kennedy. Approximately 1900 people registered for live and recorded access to ASA webinars in 2017.

Anthroposophical Society in America

2017 webinars included:

- Building a Space for Rest with Adam Blanning (cosponsored with AWSNA)
- * Anticipating the Eclipse: Moon Nodes (3 part series) with Mary Stewart Adams
- * The Spirit of Money (3 part series) with Gary Lamp, Kelly Buhles, Stephanie Rynas and John Bloom
- * The Art of Human Becoming
 (3 part series) with Kathleen
 Bowen, Patricia Rubano, Linda
 Bergh, Jennifer Fox, Leah
 Walker and Sarah Putnam
- Hearts are Beginning to Have Thoughts with Patrick Kennedy
- * Inner Advent with Lynn Jericho
- * Finding the New Year through the Holy Nights with Mary Stewart Adams and Patricia DeLisa



Rudolf Steiner House, Ann Arbor, MI

Did you know? The Anthroposophical Society's main office is a comfortable and beautiful gathering space for retreats, workshops and small performances. We are delighted to host intensive retreats each year at the beautiful Rudolf Steiner House, our home office. In 2017, we hosted 300+ overnight guests! It is also an affordable and comfortable place to stay when visiting the area. Your patronage supports the Society's efforts! Visit www.anthroposophy.org/rsh for details.

In 2017, we hosted variety of groups for cultural events, trainings, weekend retreats, study groups, holiday celebrations, and more, including:

- * Educational Support Training —
 Association for a Healing Education
- Multiple events sponsored by the Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society
- Interdisciplinary Astronomy The Natural Science Section Annual Conference
- Rudolf Steiner High School Mentor Workshop
- Class Holders Conference School for Spiritual Science

Traveling Speakers Program

The Traveling Speakers Program brings speakers together with groups and branches around the country. Topics and locations vary each year, and the program is currently in transition. We are grateful to Margaret Shipman (CA) for developing and coordinating this program since 2007.

In 2017, Margaret traveled to Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee, giving talks on

- * The Hierarchies
- * The 1913 Laying of the Foundation
 Stone and the Christmas Conference
- * Man as a Musical Being

And Hazel Archer-Ginsburg (Central Regional Council, IL) presented an experiential 1-1/2 day workshop on the topics What is Anthroposophy? and The Spiritual Guidance of the Individual and Humanity at the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute in Wisconsin.

If you would like more about bringing a Traveling Speaker to your community, please contact Margaret at shipman2oo5@slc.net. Stay tuned for more programs coming in 2018.

Please join us! The 2018 annual conference and members' meeting, Here and Now: Transforming Ourselves, Transforming our World, will be held at Grace Methodist Church in New Orleans, LA on October 5 – 7. Visit www.anthroposophy.org/neworleans for more info and to register.

~ Laura Scappaticci, Director of Programs (CA)

The School for Spiritual Science



From the North American Collegium

Since the founding of the School for Spiritual Science, there has been a tendency to identify it exclusively with the series of core meditations that make up the First Class. The Collegium was founded in North America to fill out the picture of the School and to foster its comprehensive potential. Anthroposophy is the result of methods of contemplative inquiry that open up new understandings in all areas of experience. The practical results these insights enable have been fruitful and captured attention all around the world. The Waldorf and biodynamic movements quickly come to mind as examples.

The Collegium, which gathers twice a year, consists of a circle of colleagues who represent anthroposophical work in the fields of agriculture, the visual and performing arts, pedagogy, the natural and social sciences, medicine, youth work, the humanities and the general contemplative culture that supports all of these specialized interests, including the General Secretaries from Canada and the USA. In articulating our ideals as members on the Collegium,

we have discussed the importance of cultivating the contemplative life, the importance of being a bone fide member of one's profession, of standing firmly within modern society and culture, of being in a period of life where one is taking initiative, and, very importantly, the aspiration to work collegially, especially with our colleagues at the Goetheanum.

In 2017 we reviewed the work of each Section and began to discuss the approaching centenary of the School. Our current focus is to bring together the comprehensive imagination of the School for Spiritual Science with the lively and diverse anthroposophical movement, and to integrate it into the inner structures of the Anthroposophical Society. We have begun to collaborate with the two national Society Councils and the Council for Anthroposophical Organizations (CAO) to this end.

I am heartened by the interest and good will with which the idea has been met so far.

~ Nathaniel Williams (NY)



Sections of the School for Spiritual Science

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

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

From the Circle of Class Holders in North America

The fundamental task of the Class holders is to connect First Class members with the esoteric content of the School for Spiritual Science, within the context of the General Anthroposophical Section. The Circle welcomed six new Class holders: Torin Finser (NH), Kim Hunter (BC), Donna Huston (BC), Kathy Neely (CA), Joseph Savage (FL) and Eduardo Yi-Man (NM). During the course of 2017 four of our dear colleagues crossed the Threshold: Donald Bufano (MD), Antje Ghaznavi (ON), Violet Myrvaagnes (MA), and Patrick Wakeford-Evans (CA).

In addition to fulfilling their local duties and responsibilities in the Michael School, a number of Class holders also attended meetings in Toronto and Ann Arbor. In November Herbert Hagens, Elan Leibner, Arie Van Ameringen and Chris Wilson traveled to Switzerland for the annual international gathering of Class holders at the Goetheanum. The themes there were "The Rosicrucian Stream" and "Esotericism in Collaboration with the First Class and the Sections." The Dornach conference closed with resounding tributes and heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Virginia Sease who retired from her many years of dedicated work on the Executive Council (Vorstand).

Many of us who serve as Class holders find inspiration in the insights given by Sergei Prokofieff. He often portrayed the Michael School



as the soul of the Anthroposophical Society, and saw the relationship very much like a "vessel with a spiritual content within."

"The content of the Michael School, brought down through an initiate (Rudolf Steiner), must find its home on Earth in the social vessel that is formed together and freely by all members of the Anthroposophical Society on the soul-spiritual level."

(Sergei Prokofieff, Why Become a Member of the Anthroposophical Society)

Prokofieff stressed the significance of this dynamic for both humanity and the spiritual world.

Members of the Anthroposophical Society can obtain further information about the General Anthroposophical Section and the First Class from their local group or branch. The booklet, *A Way of Serving*, published by Mercury Press under the auspices of the Collegium of the School for Spiritual Science in North America, is also recommended.

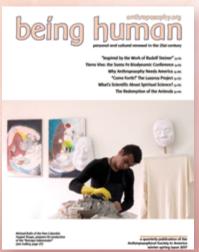
On behalf of the Circle of Class Holders we thank the Anthroposophical Society for its generous moral and financial support.

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

being human & anthroposophy.org

The calendar at <u>anthroposophy.org</u> and the front page banners continued to show the extraordinary range of North American events and activities in our movement. But our web presence is not "mobile friendly," and in 2017 members and friends generously donated funds to change that, while also separating out a new <u>rudolfsteiner.org</u> as a focus and service to our entire movement. (The new sites came online in August 2018.)





Our printed magazine being human continued with two very full issues per year. Covers and inside galleries featured the marvelous Free Columbia Puppet Troupe and spectacular watercolors of Lois Schroff. In arts & ideas came Virginia Sease's "Why Anthroposophy Needs America," "Come Forth! A Report on the Lazarus Project," David Tresemer's "Pathos & Spiritus" insights into anthroposophic psychology, and Patricia Rubano on "Biography Work: Bringing Social Artistry to Life." Tom Altgelt shared beautiful diagrams of "Being Human and the Lifecycle of a Plant"; and Neill Reilly shared a memoir of Professor Fritz Koelln, "Each Day Anew."

John Bloom wrote an introductory essay for each

issue; "Inspired by the Work of Rudolf Steiner" was followed by "Rudolf Steiner: Toward an Architecture of Social Transformation." The *initiative!* section shared "Colorado's Angelica Village," "A Call to Garden" from Sally Voris, Fiber Craft Studio's "Harvesting Fall Color," and an introduction to MysTech, an initiative to explore "moral technology."

In research & reviews Frederick Amrine unfolded beauty as a core quality of science in "The Beauty of Anthroposophy." Walter Alexander reviewed the important new book Anthroposophy & Science by Peter Heusser in an essay, "Anthroposophy, Quantum Physics, & Holistic Medicine's Epistemology Crisis," published to a hundred thousand holistic

healthcare professionals. Jonathan Stedall shared from his No Shore Too Far where poetry researches relationship across the threshold of death. Other fine reviews explored Lisa Romero's Sex Education and the Spirit, Douglas Sloan's the Redemption of the Animals, and Maarten Ploeger's Honeymoon of Mourning.

In news for members the Youth Section shared their questions, art, and poetry, Torin Finser's service was appreciated, and new member Christa Lynch spoke up in "Me & Anthroposophy." We heard about regional meetings, developments in New Orleans, ruminations of former General Council chair Dennis Dietzel, a future plan for the Rudolf Steiner Library, and notes from each Leadership Team member. Finally came life stories, a resonant feature in being human: Dr. Uwe Stave, Rev. Richard Dancy, Rebecca Watterson, Sheri Reiner, Patti Livingston, Dorothea Ann Pierce, Bob Monsen, Eva Kudar, Richard Hicks, Peter Clemm, DoloresRose Dauenhauer; and briefer notes on Harriet Myers, Gloria Bowman, Hartmut von Jeetze, and Carolyen Sue Getson.

Much more was shared online: "Anthroposophical Society: What Ails Thee?" by Fred Janney on the original council chosen by Rudolf Steiner; an introduction to The Ten Commandments In Evolution: A Spiritual-Scientific Study, the posthumous book by Prof. Ernst Katz; Chris Schaefer's "Re-Membering Anthroposophy: Reflections on Membership and the Renewal of the Anthroposophical Society"; Steve Usher's review of "Two Books by Paul Emberson." "The Foundation Stone Meditation as the Being of Isis/Sophia," from Bill Trusiewicz, was followed by his essay "Understanding Pauline Initiation in the New Testament as Key to Meeting Christ in the Etheric." "Adventures in Ancient and Modern Egypt" shared Linda Connell's experiences on an "Egyptian Odyssey" led by Gillian Schoemaker. An extensive "Report from Phoenix" shared our splendid October 2017 fall conference and annual meeting. And Monica Gold offered chapters from her beautiful Fairy Tales & Art Mirrored in Modern Consciousness.

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

Anthroposophical Prison Outreach



Over eighteen years, APO has expanded greatly, serving 3,700 incarcerated individuals in 48 states. We currently have 1,000 active participants studying anthroposophy, with new seekers coming on board every year. How long participants stay with the program is largely determined by their sentence, and when they find us. Many have read 20 to 30 books; and a few have read upwards of 50 book titles. Whether serving life or a few years, all have emphasized the inner change they experienced through reading anthroposophical works. This inner change radiates from within to touch the lives of everyone around them, such as other prisoners, prison staff, and family members.

"Anthroposophy has given me a chance to explore myself, my true self. It has given me such a greater perspective on my view of life, humanity, God, love, and all of the noble characteristics and connectedness we are to strive for. It has given me a renewed sense of purpose within the cosmos; that I am truly important and play a major role in everything that occurs."

(Brandon, South Bay, FL)

In 2017 we sent a survey to our participating prisoners. We do this every other year to gauge the effects of our work. The responses we receive are enlightening, and highlight the many different experiences they have while studying and pursuing self-improvement in a difficult and chaotic environment. In our most recent survey we found overwhelming interest in the topics of reincarnation and karma.

Our newsletter, *Illuminating Anthroposophy* serves as a link and support system among students spread across











the country. Prisoners' writings and artwork are included, and come from the many letters we receive.

At the AGM in Arizona, we shared the poetry event *Enter Light – Voices from Prison*. In an evening performance, young poets and society members took to the stage bringing deeply felt words of prisoners to life through their poetry.

"As each inmate was represented, and his poem recited . . . I could feel . . . these inmates have not only studied anthroposophy behind bars, but they are individuals whose lives have presented them with real, hardcore challenges and experiences. Each one, without any training or study of the craft elements of poetry, uses the tool that language provides. They each have honestly recorded on paper what they have lived through."

(Gail Langstroth, presenter at Enter Light)

This year also brought our 5th annual walkathon, Walk a Mile in my Shoes, which included cyclists as well! We had 64 participants in 20 states and 3 countries, and more than 300 of you contributed nearly \$18,000 in support of our programs. We found our Facebook page to be very helpful for walkers and bicyclists to reach out to their communities. It was wonderful to see so many photos from all over the world, and so many people walking to support the inner work of prisoners striving to improve themselves in difficult circumstances.

We are so grateful for the ongoing efforts and care of our Steering Committee: Eileen Bristol (TX), Fred Janney (MI), and Rick Ruffin (PA). We appreciate the generous support of our donors, providing designated gifts and bequests which allow us to continue our work. Thank you!

~ Kathy Serafin, Program Director (MI)

Council of Anthroposophic Organizations

Created in 1989 as a committee of the Anthroposophical Society in America, the Council of Anthroposophic Organizations (CAO) is made up of organizations, institutions, and initiatives that work with anthroposophical ideas in practical ways in the context of public life. Gathering two times each year in different places around the country, the CAO provides an opportunity for networking and communication, and it has become a sense organ for the health of the movement as a whole. At each meeting location, the CAO hosts *Anthroposophy, Incorporated*, a conversation and reception bringing community leaders and interested individuals together to discuss living questions about anthroposophy and its work in the world. In 2017, the CAO met in Denver, CO and Los Angeles, CA.

Current members include representatives from the Association for Waldorf Schools of North America AWSNA), the Youth Section, the Camphill Association, the publishing field represented by Steinerbooks, PAAM – the Physician's Association for Anthroposophical Medicine, the Eurythmy Association, RSF Social Finance, the Biodynamic Association, the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education, the Center of Biography and Society Art, and the Anthroposophical Society.

The CAO has developed strategic priorities over the past year to focus and increase the impact of their efforts. These are:

- 1) Bridge anthroposophy and public life
- 2) Understand the reach of the

- anthroposophical movement in North America
- Strengthen our community
- 4) Enhance the visibility of the CAO

In November 2017, the CAO hosted its first *Finding Our Voice* conference in Spring Valley, NY. This pilot event was designed to foster conversations about the wellspring of anthroposophy amongst those working with the practical movements. We intend for *Finding Our Voice* to take place in communities across the country over the next few years.

~ Laura Scappaticci, Director of Programs (CA)



Rudolf Steiner Library, Hudson, NY

In June 2017, the Rudolf Steiner Library said good-bye to Judith Kiely after 16 years of exemplary service. Since 2015, Judith served as Head Librarian and the Library's steadfast anchor during the transition following the Carriage House sale, the temporary move to the Stone Church in Philmont, New York, the book restoration project, and the move to the Library's present location in Hudson, New York. A professional librarian since 2011, she always carried her dedication to the members and friends of anthroposophy highly in her work. We are grateful for her many years of service. Judith was succeeded by Librarian Jennifer Locke, who has been instrumental in heading the team and keeping service to the public certain and steady.

From the Librarian

Here are some of the highlights of 2017 at the Rudolf Steiner Library:

Lending and Research: We lent 3067 items in 2017 in total, serving 269 individuals and 24 study groups. In addition, we made 151 interlibrary loans to libraries all around the country. The staff receives and

- answers research and reference questions daily from all the United States and around the world.
- * Cataloging: The library added 1672 items to the online catalog in 2017. This total includes both new acquisitions, and periodicals and articles added through the library's ongoing cataloging projects. Go to http://rsl.scoolaid.net/bin/home to access the Rudolf Steiner Library's online catalog.
- *Outreach: Free library membership for the Waldorf community continued through June 2017, funded by a generous grant from the Waldorf Educational Foundation. 260 new members were served through this program including teachers, teacher training students and parents.
- hundreds of hours volunteering for the library, joined the staff in September. A jack-of-all-trades, Martin brings years of IT experience in addition to his knowledge of the library's history and collection. Kathleen Bradley joined the library in October. A Waldorf mother of two (now adult) children, Kathleen has been a student of anthroposophy

Anthroposophical Society in America

for 20 years. Trained as a scientist and seamstress, Kathleen brings her attention to detail, curious spirit and enthusiasm for the library's mission. They have proved both invaluable to the library's success in 2017.

- * Volunteers: Volunteer duties have decreased in 2017 due to scheduling and other challenges. However, some volunteers continued to contribute to the library efforts. Their tasks mainly revolved around collection cataloging and processing. We are grateful for their hard work.
- * Donations: Book donations increased as a generation of anthroposophists are "downsizing" their living accommodations and some are crossing the threshold. The library has received collections as large as 1900 volumes and as small as 30. We are grateful for these gifts, which make continuing study of anthroposophy possible for others.
- We appreciate the **Rudolf Steiner Library Circle of Friends'** continued and enthusiastic support. They held fundraising events and programs, including concerts, lectures and poetry readings, and have contributed a substantial amount of financial support to the operations of the library.

~ Jennifer Locke, Librarian (NY)

From the Library Committee

By the end of 2016, discussions were under way to explore a transfer of the Library's assets to a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization formed by then-active participants in the Rudolf Steiner Library Circle of Friends. A significant step in the transfer exploration was taken in early May of 2017 when the General Council sent a survey to Society members regarding the future of the Rudolf Steiner Library. 363 members responded with more than 90% supporting the proposed transfer. Accordingly, the Council and the entity-to-be-formed moved forward with the legal, financial, and business details of the proposed transfer. The new entity has since been incorporated as the Rudolf Steiner Cultural Foundation (RSCF) and its application for tax exempt 501(c)(3) status is pending.

How did we get to the Library's transitional status in 2017? The Society was incorporated in New York in 1933. As early as 1972 a library and bookstore were housed in the Society's headquarters at 211 Madison Avenue in New York City. When the Society's headquarters moved upstate to Harlemville, New York, the Library also moved, as did its founding director, Fred Paddock

(1929 - 2012). Through Society transitions to Chicago and Ann Arbor, the Library remained in the "Carriage House" in Harlemville until it was sold in 2014. Upon Fred Paddock's death, Judith Soleil served as head librarian until she was succeeded by Judith Kiely.

Other Library resources did not keep pace with the heroic efforts of the Library's librarians. The Society's budgeted annual Library funding is currently \$50,000, which is less than one-half of the cost of minimal library operations for one year. Annual library funding is currently split between funds from the Society's budget, funds raised and donated by the Rudolf Steiner Library Circle of Friends, miscellaneous grants, and designated donations from Society members.

The RSCF has been formed to operate the Rudolf Steiner Library of the future. The RSCF will be independent of the Society and the Rudolf Steiner Library Circle of Friends, though it will work cooperatively with both groups. Going forward, the RSCF will seek support from a broader user and donor group than just the members of the Society. The founders of the RSCF recognize the important and historic cultural contribution of anthroposophy to life in the United States, and formed the foundation to support the movement.

The Council, the RSCF, the Rudolf Steiner Library Circle of Friends, and the dedicated employees and volunteers of the Rudolf Steiner Library are all looking forward to a successful transfer in 2018.

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





Regional Reports

Report from the Western Region

Two events of particular note were held in the Western region in 2017:

- * How We Will; Threefolding our Cultural Revolution, in Los Angeles, CA, initiated by the Threefold Elderberries Café,asked that each participant engage with each other and the presenters to form in a coworking conference and forum. General Secretary John Bloom was among the many inspiring speakers and leaders present.
- * Rise Up; Life as a Labor of Love: the ASA's annual conference and members meeting held in Phoenix, AZ, took its second step outside the usual form of an AGM; asking members if they would like to share their research out of anthroposophy. This allowed for a number of concurrent breakout sessions throughout the conference.

At the AGM, the Western Regional Council took the opportunity to host a meeting for the members of the Western Region. The meeting opened with these three questions to stimulate conversation:

- What is coming towards the Society?
- What lives in your group or branch?
- * What can the Western Regional Council do to help?

After a lively discussion, themes from the conversation began to arise and take on substance. Most were an aspect of the tension between the personal and the social as new forms of working into the future:

- * How to overcome our judgmental side and begin to show interest in the other?
- * How can we develop new forms that are not binary?
- * How can we understand the importance of our prenatal intention?

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

Western Regional Council: Daniel Bittleston (CA), Micky Leach (NM), Rebecca Soloway (OR), Joan Treadaway (AZ)

Report from the Central Region

The focus of anthroposophical work facilitated by the Central Regional Council (CRC) continues to be threefold. We start with a study text based on our theme of the year. We then create and hold online regional study group calls, which have included a diverse group of guest presenters on our specific themes. When possible, we gather for a regional retreat as a culmination.

One of our recent themes was working with the dead. The Bridging Project:

Between Life and Death and Soul to Soul began in August 2016 and continued through 2017, culminating in an All Soul's Festival in collaboration with the Twin Cities (MN) Branch. Members and friends far and wide participated in our monthly calls via online conference services provided by the ASA.

We seized on the connection between the time that a soul experiences between death and a new birth, with our previous theme of *Speaking with the Stars*, and worked actively with the "Great American Eclipse." Our conference, Speaking from Soul to Soul with the Solar Eclipse, was held in St. Louis, MO during the wondrous event in August 2017. It featured a pageant written by Hazel Archer-Ginsberg based on Rudolf Steiner's lecture Human Questions and Cosmic Answers (1922), which also served as our grounding study for this event. Beginning in 2017 we are working with the theme of Karma and Reincarnation.

In 2017 we welcomed a new branch of the ASA in our region: The Maitreya Branch in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas.
And we have begun working with Lisa Dalton as a possible future new Central Regional Council member. Two members of our council have stepped off; Dennis Dietzel and Raven Garland. Warm gratitude for their many gifts of service!

The CRC continues to look for new ways to grow anthroposophical life in our region. Thanks to all who support our work.

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

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

Report from the Eastern Region

2017 was a year in which the Eastern region continued its task of self-definition in a number of tangible steps. The formation of three areas was solidified as committed groups of people emerged in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Southeast.

In the Northeast a group of six individuals, one from each of the New England states, has met monthly with the specific self-directed task of creating content for a Northeast Area web page on anthroposphy. org which will be launching soon. In the Mid-Atlantic, a committed group has come together around Glen Williams' new Mystery dramas and continues to hold annual gatherings that are rich in content and community building. In the Southeast, a core group continues to plan and host meetings for the Southern branches.

In May, representatives from each of these groups came together on a teleconference with Micky Leach (the Western Regional Representative to the General Council) to share highlights from their region and, through a collaborative process, choose a representative to the Council from the region. I am honored to have been chosen for that role.

It has been my privilege to represent the Eastern region at national General Council meetings, gaining inspiration and energy to move forward to create a vibrant and resilient communication network for the Eastern region.

I liken the process to that of making a felt ball. We are gathering the fibers together and deftly handling them as the first drops of water are added. In due time, we will be able to apply the rigorous activity that will form a cohesive unit. But we must be careful not to rush things, as we risk creating a permanent wrinkle in our final product. This is all happening through conversations and relationship building over time, among the many people who are dedicated to making anthroposophy more visible in the Eastern region of the United States.

Going forward, we hope to convene a group of representatives from each of the areas to support the work around the region as well as connect in mutually supportive ways to one another and to the national landscape.

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

Treasurer's Report

This report answers the question, "Where does the money go?" The Society is a non-profit and tax-exempt charitable organization, but in many respects, it is a small business. The Society has a payroll with 12 employees and 2 independent contractors, a real estate holding as owner and landlord (Rudolf Steiner House), and a holding as tenant (Rudolf Steiner Library). There is a programs activity (the annual AGM and other conferences, Anthroposophical Prison Outreach, and a growing menu of webinars and podcasts), a development activity to manage member contributions, donations, grants and bequests; an operations activity handling accounting, bookkeeping, personnel, contracts, and management issues; communications work; a businesswithin-the-business in the form of the Rudolf Steiner Library; a very active General Secretary who meets, greets, speaks, travels, thinks, writes and generally serves as the countenance of our Society; and an indispensable and invaluable network of conscientious volunteers.

This "business" currently requires about \$700,000 per year to operate without frills. Gifts designated for special purposes brought our 2017 income up to around \$830,000, against expenditures of about \$821,000, in preliminary, unaudited figures.

A few points to note:

- * decreased rental income from the Rudolf Steiner House as a result of the departure of a long-time tenant;
- a very small increase in unrestricted contributions which may reflect increased donations toward the Spring Appeal, which was designated toward upgrading the Society's website;



Anthroposophical Society in America





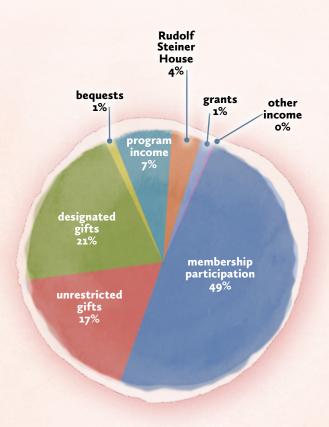
* a reasonably adequate amount of working cash at year end (over \$200,000 or more than 3 months of average expenses).

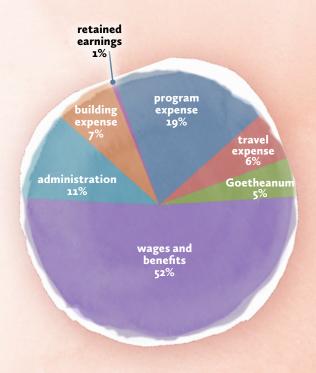
In 2017, our US Society sent just over \$40,000 to the General Anthroposophical Society in Dornach to support the work at the Goetheanum. This included funds budgeted in 2017, in addition to money to make up for short payments in 2016. The US Society also passed through to Dornach your contributions that were specifically earmarked for the General Anthroposophical Society. After the belt tightening that began in 2015, the U.S. Society is now current in its contributions to Dornach.

We continue to budget prudently and to live within our means. The support of our membership has been unfaltering: you and I and all of the members and friends of our Anthroposophical Society make our annual membership contributions and donate to support the Society. As you can see from the financial summary in this report, year after year we provide approximately 80% of the Society's total annual revenue. These funds represent an investment in anthroposophy, now and into the future. Thank you for your support!

In Gratitude,

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





Resources & Support

total \$862,064
other income\$2,233
grants\$12,200
Rudolf Steiner House \$30,423
program income \$59,835
bequests
designated gifts\$179,201
unrestricted gifts \$146,654
membership participation \$422,044

Expenses

total	\$862,064
retained earnings	\$4,738
building expense	
administration	
wages & benefits	\$446,644
Goetheanum	\$40,369
travel expense	\$51,909
program expense	

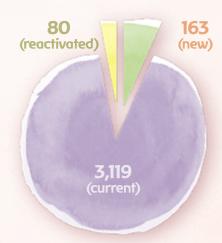
(unaudited)

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 2016, we raised \$325,855 in unrestricted and designated gifts, and \$422,044 in membership contributions, ending the year with 3,362 members. We extend a warm welcome to our 163 new members. And, we continue to hold in our thoughts those supporting the work from the other side of the threshold.

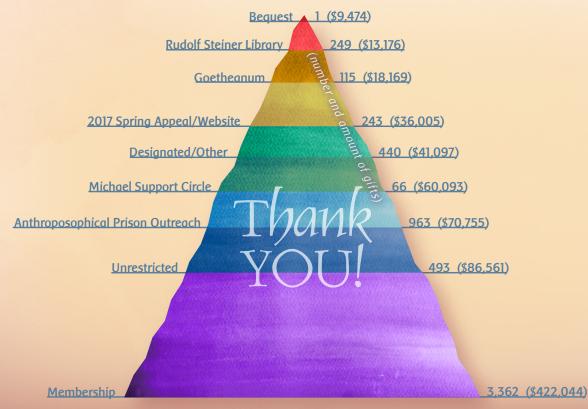
Your gifts and participation are **essential to anthroposophy's impact in the world**. Together we can work to bring deep insight and effective action to bear on the challenges of our time, now and in the future.

2017 Membership



Total Membership = 3,362

Here's a breakdown of gifts in 2017:



Michael Support Circle

Thank you to our Michael Support Circle members! Together you have contributed \$60,093 in 2017, 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 2017 we reached 66 members in total, including 42 individuals and couples, and 24 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

Camphill Special School – Beaver Run

Cedarwood Waldorf School

Center for Anthroposophy in NH

Cincinnati Waldorf School

Council of Anthroposophical

Organizations

Elderberries Threefold Café

GRADALIS Waldorf Consulting & Services

Great Lakes Branch

Heartbeet Lifesharing

High Mowing School

House of Peace

Monadnock Waldorf School

Oakwood Lifesharing

Research Institute for Waldorf Education

RSF Social Finance

Rudolf Steiner College

Rudolf Steiner Fellowship Foundation

Shining Mountain Waldorf School

SteinerBooks

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. We received a gift from the estate of Linda Folsom in 2017.

We are humbled and deeply grateful for these generous gifts.

In 2017, we announced the founding of our Legacy Circle. This group is composed of those who have shared their intention to make a bequest or other planned gift to the Anthroposophical Society, as well as the many generous legacy donors of the past. The magic of this circle is that it can only continue to grow, no matter which side of the threshold one is on.

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

As I studied Rudolf Steiner's ideas, the world began to make sense to me. So that others might have the same possibility of finding answers to questions about life and purpose, I have made provisions in my will ... to support the continued work of the Anthroposophical Society.

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

Chuck & Hazel Archer-Ginsberg

Betty Baldwin

Michael D. Beale

J. Leonard Benson*

Susanne Berlin*

Hiram Anthony Bingham*

Mrs. Hiram A. Bingham

Virginia Blutau*

Iana Questara Boyce*

Marion F. Bruce*

Helen Ann Dinklage*

Irmgard Dodegge*

Raymond Elliott*

Lotte K. Emde*

Hazel Ferguson*

Marie S. Fetzer*

Linda C. Folsom*

Gerda Gaertner*

Ruth H. Geiger*

Ray German

Harriet S. Gilliam*

Chuck Ginsberg

Agnes Granberg*

Alice Bennett Groh

Bruce L. Henry*

Ruth Heuscher*

Christine Huston

Ernst Katz*

Patricia A. Klotter

Anna Lord*

Seymour Lubin*

Fiona MacNeill

Gregg Martens*

Barbara Martin

Beverly Martin

Helvi McClelland

Donald Melcer

Robert S. Miller

Ralph Neuman*

Carolyn A. Oates

Rev. Robert Patterson*

Mary Lee Plumb-Mentjes

Norman Pritchard*

Paul Riesen*

Mary A. Rubach*

Margaret Runyon

Ray Schlieben*

Lillian Scott*

Fairchild Smith*

Doris Stitzer*

William H. Stockert

Gertrude O. Teutsch*

Katherine Thivierge

Randall Wadsworth

Anonymous (10)

(*indicates past legacy gift)

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 are connected in deep and meaningful ways with those across the threshold who share our intentions and love.

Grants

We are grateful to the Rudolf
Steiner Charitable Trust for
their grant of \$12,200. These
funds will support a Groups and
Branches retreat (October 2018);
enhanced regional connections and
community-building; and a re-design
and reprint of the Foundation Stone
Meditation brochure. The Trust's
on-going support means the world
to us, and the fruits of these projects
will reach many members and have
a lasting impact in the world.

Designated 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!

Anthroposophical Society in America



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

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

John Bloom

General Secretary (CA)

Dave Alsop

Chair, member-at-large (CA)

John Michael

Treasurer, member-at-large (OH)

Dwight Ebaugh

Secretary, member-at-large (MI)

Joshua Kelberman, member-at-large (NY)

Nathaniel Williams, member-at-large (NY)

Marianne Fieber-Dhara

Central Region Representative (MN)

Micky Leach

Western Region Representative (NM)

Dave Mansur

Eastern Region Representative (MA)

Deb Abrahams-Dematte, Director

of Development, ex officio

Laura Scappaticci, Director of Programs, ex officio

Katherine Thivierge, Director of Operations, ex officio

We are grateful for their dedication, commitment and care!

Welcome to our new members!

David Mansur



Dave has been a member of the Anthroposophical Society since 1997. He served on the Board of Trustees of the Cape Ann Waldorf

School in Beverly, MA, for six years, serving three years as Board Chair. He's on the Board of Directors of The House of Peace in Ipswich, MA, serving as Treasurer. Dave holds a certificate in Sustainable Biodynamic Beekeeping from Spikenard Farm in VA, and has completed the one-year training in Biodynamics offered at the Pfeiffer Center in NY. He

is active in the Anthroposophical Society of Cape Ann and also works occasionally as an instructor for the Center for Anthroposophy's Foundation Studies course.

In his professional life, Dave holds a bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Massachusetts, and is a Principal Project Engineer at Physical Sciences, Inc. of Andover, MA. He's member of the Inter- national Society of Optical Engineers and has published several papers in the area of optical metrology and scene generation. Dave and his wife Mary live in Ipswich, MA, where they have raised three sons to adulthood and now enjoy the company of grandchildren and honeybees.

Anthroposophical Society in America



Joshua Kelberman
Joshua grew up
in Maryland, and
graduated from
CUNY Hunter with
a double major in
Biology and Greek
& Latin. In 2014 he

began managing the Rudolf Steiner Bookstore of Anthroposophy NYC, the New York Branch, and joined its Council in 2015. He has facilitated a weekly Foundation Studies Group for two years and is involved in a number of other branch activities, including outreach with local Waldorf schools. He will begin teaching high school

science at Rudolf Steiner School in NYC beginning in September 2018.

Joshua has been a member of the ASA since 2007 and a member of the First Class of the School for Spiritual Science since 2015. His main interests are in Goethean phenomenology and holistic science, ancient mystery cults, the history of esotericism, philosophy and epistemology, linguistics, ritual and healing arts, and biography work. His bond with anthroposophy rests on a devotion to true and honest sharing of the innermost depths of experience and living in freedom and love with all beings in a recognition of the spirit.



Nathaniel
Williams
Nathaniel is
originally from
the Southeastern
United States.
He studied visual
art, marionette-

theater and anthroposophy in Basel, Switzerland, graduating in 2002, and has worked as an independent artist and educator since. In 2008, he co-founded Free Columbia, an arts and education initiative in Columbia County, New York. He was an active member of Think OutWord, the peer-led training in Social-Threefolding. For the last two years Nathaniel has been one of two Youth Section representatives on the Collegium of the School for Spiritual Science in North America. He lives in Columbia County and is pursuing a PhD in Political Theory at the University at Albany (SUNY). After completing his doctoral research into the social and political significance of aesthetics in science and art, Nathaniel hopes to develop projects that put these insights to work.

Thank you!

Carla Beebe Comey



Thank you to departing council member Carla Beebe Comey for her many years of service. Carla joined the General Council in 2011 and served as secretary for several years. Most recently she served as Council Chair, providing thoughtful leadership, facilitating effective collaboration and serving the movement with love and care.

Committees

AGM 2017 Planning Group

Charlie Burkham Daniel Evaeus Micky Leach Ray Manaças Laura Scappaticci

APO Advisory Group

Eileen Bristol Fred Janney Kathy Serafin Rick Ruffin

Executive Committee

Deb Abrahams-Dematte John Bloom Carla Comey Laura Scappaticci Katherine Thivierge

Finance Committee

Dwight Ebaugh Joshua Kelberman Jack Michael Katherine Thivierge

Development Committee

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

Library Committee

Dwight Ebaugh Katherine Thivierge

Current Staff

John Bloom, General Secretary

Leadership Team

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

Katherine Thivierge, Director of Operations

John Beck, Director of Communications and Editor, being human

Kathy Serafin, Program Director, Anthroposophical Prison Outreach

Diana Carlen, Development Assistant

Cynthia Chelius, Administrative Assistant and Manager, Rudolf Steiner House

Linda Leonard, Bookkeeper

Kathleen Bradley, Library Assistant, Rudolf Steiner Library

Martin Miller, Library Assistant, Rudolf Steiner Library

Julie Pangborn, Housekeeper

Thank you, Judith Kiely

Judith retired as Librarian of the Rudolf Steiner Library at the end of June 2017. She has worked at the library since 2001, with directors Fred Paddock until 2002, Judith Soleil until 2013, and Maurice York until 2015. A professional librarian since 2011, Judith has done extensive work in cataloging, digitization, and preservation. Judith has always carried her dedication to the members of the Anthroposophical Society highly in her work. She is missed! We are grateful for her devotion, care, and many years of service, and wish her all the best in her retirement.

Thank you to 2017 Staff

Jennifer Locke, Interim Librarian

Nadia Bedard, Interim Librarian

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**, **cynthia@anthroposophy.org**

Communications: John Beck, editor@anthroposophy.org

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

Programs: Laura Scappaticci, laura@anthroposophy.org

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

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

General Council: generalcouncil@anthroposophy.org

Anthroposophical Society in America

1923 Geddes Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
734-662-9355 | info@anthroposophy.org