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# Transitions

**Monique Grund**, founding teacher of the San Francisco Waldorf School, retired in June, 2014 after 35 years with the school and after 57 years overall of dedicated involvement with Waldorf education. Born in Breslau to German parents, she was sent to Dornach to live with two aunts, a eurythmist and a stage actress active at the Goetheanum, in the difficult times after the Second World War. She remained there for ten years, attending the Waldorf School in Basel. Upon graduation from high school, she moved to France to help families establish a Waldorf School in Chatou, École Perçeval. There she met René Querido, who became her mentor.

After 20 years as a class and language teacher at Chatou, she came to the US in 1978 on a one-year sabbatical and never left. René Querido convinced her that she should found a Waldorf school in San Francisco. The initial small kindergarten class expanded to two in a year's time, and 1980 saw the school with three kindergartens and a first grade. Her wide experience in so many teaching capacities enabled her to mentor class and subject teachers, but she has always remained a kindergarten teacher. In a tribute to Monique in the Fall/Winter 2014 issue of *Renewal*, Monique “describes early childhood as a time of crucial growth and development, the most important time in the life of each child, a time that requires love, dedication, and devotion. ‘I felt very strongly, having come with this conviction that I had received in France, that the kindergarten is the root. I felt that the root needed to go strongly, deeply into the soil.’”

Monique loves storytelling and puppetry. Out of this arose the founding of the Magic Lantern Marionette Theater. A short documentary film, *The Movement Art of Puppetry and Performance: The Story of the Princess Mermaid* can be accessed at <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/princessmermaid>.

If one has had the pleasure of meeting Monique, one is immediately impressed with her enthusiasm, vitality, joy in her work, and dedication to the needs of young children. Thanks to the article featuring Monique in *Renewal*, Fall/Winter 2014 for many of the above details. ♦

**Diane David**, long-time teacher at the San Francisco Waldorf School, retired in June, 2015. She began at the school first as a parent, enrolling her two oldest children in the kindergartens in 1980. Subsequently all six of the family's children have gone through the school, the youngest two through high school. She began in the kindergarten in 1987, assisting Joan Calderera and began leading her own kindergarten class four years later. Her career has spanned 28 years, and she still loves working with the young child!

During that time she was widely involved with the school, serving on the College of Teachers. Additionally she found that working with Waldorf teachers-in-training deepened her understanding of the young child, and so she has been involved with the two local teacher trainings and will continue with that work. Diane has collaborated artistically along with Monique Grund and other colleagues to create the Magic Lantern Traveling Marionette Theater, whose performances she treasures.

An unexpected theme or subject of inquiry for her in the kindergarten has been death. A little boy in her kindergarten, William, was diagnosed with leukemia at Christmas time in 1996. Diane supported him and his single mother in whatever ways she could as his teacher and as a student of anthroposophy until his death 15 months later. William's death was an opportunity to delve into questions of what is the purpose of coming to earth. What happens before and after this earthly journey and how do we help those who are left behind? Out of these questions she has looked more deeply at the kindergarten child's birthday story. This summer, two weeks after the last day of school, her own six-year-old granddaughter, Teal, died accidentally. Diane reflects that the journey into these questions around death will continue as she goes into this next phase of her life. Family will be a focus, but she will not leave the Waldorf kindergarten too far behind. ♦