



From the Executive Director

Douglas Gerwin

Two major developments this year mark the expanded organization and activities of the Research Institute for Waldorf Education (RIWE):

1. As of August 1st, the Research Institute took on the responsibility for publishing books and pamphlets previously carried by the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA). They will now appear under the new imprimatur of “Waldorf Publications.” Patrice Maynard, who for the past nine years served as AWSNA’s Leader of Outreach and Development, was appointed to a new position at the Research Institute with the title Director of Publications and Development.

In addition, the Institute created a new publications committee, drawn from its circle of trustees, to assist Patrice in selecting and publishing new titles as well as managing the existing inventory. Elan Leibner, well known to readers of this journal as its editor and regular contributor, joined trustees Frederick Amrine (whose serialized article on the philosophical roots of Waldorf education continues in this issue) and Natalie Adams to form this committee.

Patrice and her staff will manage daily operations concerning publications, including online sales of science kits and other materials, out of her office in Chatham, NY, while administrative tasks will be handled as before by the Research Institute’s headquarters in Wilton, NH.

Patrice takes over many of the tasks previously held by David Mitchell, who as founding Chair of AWSNA Publications pioneered the production of Waldorf books, pamphlets, flyers, and teaching kits for nearly three decades. The transition of Waldorf publications to the Research Institute makes

real a dream that David cherished for many years.

2. Until his death over a year ago, David was also Co-Director of the Research Institute. In light of its expanding activities and organization, the trustees of the Research Institute appointed Douglas Gerwin, who previously shared the leadership of the Institute with David, to a new position of Executive Director.

While completing these organizational changes, the Research Institute has continued to release further titles as eBooks on its Online Waldorf Library (OWL). Thanks to a generous ongoing grant from the Waldorf Curriculum Fund, more than 150 titles—including some books freshly translated into Spanish—have been converted to eBooks. All are freely available on the OWL and at the Research Institute’s own website. Further Spanish translations and English-language eBooks are in production. Marianne Alsop, as the OWL’s veteran librarian, continues to enhance the collection while answering countless enquiries from around the world. (See her separate report in this issue of the *Research Bulletin*.)

As in previous years, the Research Institute continues to sponsor its popular course “Teaching Sensible Science” led by Michael D’Aleo, a Waldorf high school science teacher familiar to regular readers of the *Research Bulletin*. Starting back in February, a new cycle of this course was inaugurated at the Waldorf School of Baltimore; a second cycle started up in March at the Seattle Waldorf School. Those interested in registering for these courses—which meet for three weeks over the course of a year—can contact the Research Institute for details. Further cycles of this course are planned.

On other fronts, the Research Institute is supporting several research projects already announced in previous issues of the *Research Bulletin* as well as preparing further ones in collaboration with our colleagues in Europe, including a new English-language edition of the beloved collection of poems, songs, and readings known to German-speaking readers as *Der Sonne Licht*. With the help of a grant from the *Waldorf Stiftung* in Germany, a special edition of this timeless classic is being readied for publication in this country. In addition to the foundations already mentioned, the Research Institute is grateful to other funders—including the Waldorf Educational Foundation, the Foundation for Rudolf Steiner Books, and an anonymous donor assisting with the transition of Waldorf Publications—who make possible our work.

Other research projects are underway in collaboration with our European and Australian partners, some of whom we met in May during a week-long international conference in Vienna of Waldorf researchers and adult educators. (One of the keynote addresses of that conference appears in this issue of the *Bulletin*.) During a meeting of researchers attending the Vienna conference, Douglas was voted onto the Advisory Group of *Research on Steiner Education (RoSE)*, a budding European online journal.

Finally, to those who responded to our annual giving campaign, we extend heartfelt thanks for your generosity. Those wishing to contribute to this year's appeal are invited to forward donations to Patrice's office in Chatham, NY, or give online by using the secure button of our refurbished website: www.waldorfresearchinstitute.org.