

Report on Waldorf Publications

Patrice Maynard

Waldorf Publications has accomplished its transition to the Research Institute over the past year like a replanted tree in a new garden with potentized soil. As with all such undertakings, this could be accomplished only with help from many hands:

- Generous donors poured gifts into our efforts to safeguard the whole process and to guarantee rejuvenation.
- Full member schools will continue to support publications with a new agreement, establishing “book banks” for each school, and thus helping to ensure ongoing growth with new books from new authors.
- The Research Institute board and staff provide warmth, willingness, and patience in planning to make adequate space for this new venture.
- A newly established publications committee from the board of RIWE gives ongoing light to draw the enterprise up and out.
- The Publications staff has shown continual stamina for daily tasks, while at the same time negotiating change and learning new systems within the volatile world of publishing.
- Myriad invisible and visible hands—AWSNA’s staff and board, David Mitchell from his high view, customers, friends, volunteers—have worked to build a successful new environment for this established organism developed over decades by the Waldorf school community.

Gratitude runs high around Waldorf Publications because of all this nurturing from so many.

In addition to closing our warehouse, establishing smaller storage and shipping facilities, beginning new, nimbler publishing practices, helping to organize existing research in accessible ways on the website of the Research Institute, and assisting in stimulating an international research colloquium, Waldorf Publications has established a new online store, featuring a store persona, our new “Library Lady,” as a helper in the store. She will offer recommendations for good books and pointers, for example, around storytelling at bed and meal times, and on other topics to help make parenting a little less stressful.

Seven new books from Waldorf Publications, on topics ranging from recorder music to chemistry, filled the Waldorf world this past year. Already nearing completion at this writing are two unusually important books that will herald a new year of publishing: Douglas Gerwin’s book on teaching young people about the power and pitfalls of human sexuality, *Trailing Clouds of Glory*; and a new reader for grades one through three, *The Sun With Loving Light*, an American version of Caroline von Heydebrandt’s first Waldorf reader. The plan is to help these fruits fall from the tree in increasingly widening circles, so the nourishment can be generously shared with the wider world, so ready to receive these offerings.