

Report from Waldorf Publications

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In preparation for the beginning of the school year, the faculty and staff at Shining Mountain invited Ann Erwin, layout and design professional for the *Research Bulletin* and for Waldorf Publications, to talk briefly about the services offered by the Research Institute for Waldorf Education (RIWE) to all AWSNA-affiliated Waldorf schools.

Many on the faculty heard for the first time about the Online Waldorf Library (OWL), which provides numerous articles and books for free download in English and many in Spanish at www.waldorflibrary.org. Waldorf Publications has a policy that after two years in print, a text automatically becomes available on OWL. This actually stimulates sales of books that are no longer “new,” as faculty chairs and teachers can examine them before deciding to purchase for faculty study, for use in the classroom, or for support of ongoing parent education about child development and Waldorf education. Numerous books on curriculum, child development, and anthroposophy, plus many children’s readers are now available.

Dave Alsop started the Online Waldorf Library after retiring as Chair of AWSNA in 2001. He worked in collaboration with a donor whose vision coincided with his own to make this service available. Marianne Alsop has been managing this resource for the past ten years, and Dave has rejoined her in managing the OWL, completing a certain circle for us all.

At SMWS Ann also explained the “Book Bank” system that helps support Waldorf Publications while allowing schools to select resources for their libraries, classrooms, and bookstore. This arrangement is part of each school’s obligation as a full member of AWSNA, but is now open to all affiliated schools who wish to participate.

This year’s new publications promise to provide a rich offering of teacher resources: In *Learning About the World through Drawing* author Elizabeth Auer presents hundreds of examples and ideas for drawings—both blackboard and main lesson book—based on her decades of experience as a class teacher and an adult educator. Never before has such a resource been available with so many pointers on how to practice one’s own drawing as a teacher and how to develop technique with a class. Confidence and enthusiasm are bound to follow the reading of this particular book.

A second and expanded edition of Arthur Pittis’s book, *Pedagogical Theater*, now includes high school drama and many new selections of plays for classes in grades one through twelve. Arthur’s decades of class and high school teaching, combined with his knowledge of dramaturgy and the history of drama in English literature, make this a comprehensive course on the power of drama in our teaching.

Following these will come a small, refreshing shower of grammar and spelling support books, with inspiring ideas for building structural awareness for good writing skills. Also a beautifully illustrated craftsman’s delight titled *Bare Hand Knitting* is on its way to get us all involved with the texture of knitting by hand (literally!). If finger knitting is for the kindergarten, whole hand knitting is for the rest of us!

The year holds many more promises of excellent resources to enhance teaching, build sensory acumen, and prompt clear thinking: Waldorf education at its best!