

Ralph Waldo Emerson, the great American sage, tells us our highest human virtues are the most delicate and most easily spoiled, therefore we must support the higher virtues of our humanity if we are not to end up unable to think and create a future with inspired and exalted vision. In today's pervasively irreverent and cynical culture of self-serving egotism such crude thinking abounds and the precious light of childhood is far too often harshly and harmfully prematurely lost. To raise a caring, connected, engaged, informed and healthy child requires consciousness, commitment, and inspiration for both the parents and the children so that they may be positively aided in their own 'becoming' as human beings.

People bring their children to a Waldorf school for a variety of reasons. Here we nurture respect for life, wonder for the world, and joy in learning. Parents are impressed with the attention to beauty in the classrooms and the children's work and to the devoted commitment of the teachers to their work and to the children. They welcome being in a community of loving acceptance and healthy values. It makes a world of difference whether a growing child is viewed by teachers and adults as simply a 'descendent' of apes to be academically programmed, or is seen as a 'unique spiritual individuality' as we do in Waldorf education. This is not about formal religious indoctrination. It is about honoring and supporting the higher nature of the human being. My hope is to aid in helping us remember our true spiritual roots, our unique life missions, and who we really are.

*Financial support for this endeavor is both needed and profoundly appreciated. Donations can be made through Paypal on Nancy's website: [www.nancyjewelpoer.com](http://www.nancyjewelpoer.com) or via a tax-deductible contribution through [www.novainstitute.org](http://www.novainstitute.org)*