

Celebrating 100 Years of Waldorf Early Childhood

Meggan Gill and Heather Church, WECAN Co-Directors

In our spring newsletter, we shared a seedling of the growing celebration to honor 100 years of Waldorf Early Childhood Education, worldwide. This is a very exciting and sacred time to reflect, celebrate, and look forward as we enter a new century together. We invite each of you, new, seasoned, and retired Waldorf Early Childhood teachers, to join us in celebrating this important milestone through intentional activity, study, creativity, and gatherings.

As the center of our celebrations and activities, we have chosen ***the butterfly***. The butterfly is a beacon and symbol of beauty, perseverance, and transformation. From the mighty Monarch that migrates [thousands of miles across North America](#), from Canada through the US to Mexico, to the unique regional species, butterflies inspire awe and wonder in us all. As great pollinators, they also play an essential role in the health of our ecosystem, reminding us of our interdependence and the power of small deeds. With this picture in mind, we imagine this celebration will serve to connect us all, while being unique to each community.

Activities and Conferences:

To support your participation, we are compiling a **100th Anniversary Activity Guide** that will include crafting ideas, festive recipes, stories, circle content, and more. We look forward to sharing this resource in the coming months. We hope that it will inspire you to bring the celebration to life authentically in your setting! In the spirit of the butterfly, we also encourage you to schedule visits to your regional colleagues and programs, or consider hosting a gathering!

Annual North American Conference: February 6-8, 2026, Spring Valley, NY

REMEMBER, OBSERVE: SHAPE THE FUTURE

100 Years of Waldorf Early Childhood in North America

This will be a special gathering to honor the history of Waldorf early childhood education in Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Through story, we will celebrate these beginnings, reflect on the movement in this current moment, and together take up the task of shaping the

path ahead—one that meets today's challenges with the wisdom and courage of anthroposophy.

Our shared intention is to nurture new teachers, support young families, and most importantly, serve the children of today. We also hope to spark a renewed interest in research through the third path of New Adult Learning: Creative Spiritual Research.

This conference marks the culmination of our three-year cycle, under the theme 'Creating Spaces for the Children Coming Toward Us.' As we close this chapter with Remember, Observe: Shape the Future, we will explore the path of research in Waldorf Early Childhood Education. This work calls us to deepen Steiner's invitation for educators to become active and alive to the needs of our times and the places where we work.

Keynote speakers Wahsonti:io Hill, Otsistohkwi:yo Elliot, and Heather Church, along with other special guests, will accompany us in this inspiring and forward-looking gathering.

Registration will open in December.

World Conference in Dornach, Switzerland, April 8 – 12, 2026

[CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF WALDORF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION](#)

Kindness – Strength – Love: Seeds for a Healthy Unfolding

Hosted by the International Association of Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Association (IASWECE), we anticipate a great gathering of colleagues. We hope that many of you will be among us! **Registration opens in September.**

A Solidarity Fund will be available to support our colleagues in attending the conferences in Spring Valley and Dornach. If you would like to donate to the fund, please send any amount (no amount too small) through our [donation portal](#), with a note indicating WECAN 100 Years Solidarity Fund. If you would like to receive funds, please write to **Heather Church** and **Meggan Gill**.

Study and Study Groups

WECAN and the IASWECE Council invite colleagues across North America to join in two pieces of shared study:

- [Peace Dance](#), a verse by Rudolf Steiner, will be translated by many countries around the world for use in faculty meetings or personal meditation. We have included the English, German, and Spanish versions here.
- We are encouraged to read the lecture: *The Conditions for Esoteric Schooling* in [Rudolf Steiner's How to Know Higher Worlds](#), which describes the inner qualities that support true development. Out of this work, you are encouraged to consider the following guiding questions:
 - How do I grow these qualities in myself?
 - How do we support each other as colleagues?
 - How do we help the children around us to develop these same qualities for life?

The Conditions for Esoteric Schooling Online Study Group

Using the study material and New Adult Learning, we invite you to join Meggan and Heather in a monthly study group with [Rudolf Steiner's How to Know Higher Worlds](#) - Conditions for Esoteric Schooling. We will meet once each month, on Wednesdays at **8:30 p.m. ET** (*please check your time zone adjustment based on daylight savings*), to work with each of the seven conditions, one each month. We kindly request that you commit to attending all the sessions, as each session will lead us to the next one.

1. October 1, 2025
2. November 5, 2025
3. December 10, 2025
4. January 7, 2026
5. February 11, 2026
6. March 11, 2026
7. March 25, 2025

Stay tuned for more details!

Warmly,

Meggan and Heather