

GATEWAYS REPORT

Nancy Blanning, Gateways Co-Editor

The “Invitation for Submissions” to the WECAN journal Gateways brought a gratifying response. Sharing this invitation on the Hub and through WECAN email announcements brought many new writers to step forth. It is exciting and enriching to see new authors and learn about early childhood work across the country. Thank you to all who responded.

The theme of IMITATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD drew so many responses that this subject will be carried over into the spring issue, looking particularly at the connection between imitation and play. The Invitation for Submission for the spring 2025 issue of Gateways is included in this Newsletter.

It is also a pleasure to announce that the WECAN board has invited Anjum Mir to join the Gateways staff as Co-Editor with Nancy Blanning. Anjum brings with her a wealth of experience and insight into Waldorf early childhood education, and as well as professional writing and editing expertise as well.



Anjum was born in Srinagar, Kashmir, and emigrated with her family to the US as a toddler. She discovered the work of Rudolf Steiner while earning an education degree at the University of Texas, after having already received a B.S. in Journalism and Cultural Anthropology from Boston University. She worked as editor of two small journals in Boston and Indianapolis post-graduation before pursuing an education degree. At UT, she was researching pedagogical approaches that are not parochial, but acknowledge that every child also has a spiritual essence. Waldorf education met these criteria.

Having taught in various settings for over 27 years, her focus has been on early childhood. She received her certificate in Early Childhood Education from West Coast Institute in British Columbia and holds a certificate in Simplicity Parenting. At the Westside Waldorf School in Los Angeles, CA, where she is currently School Co-Coordinator, she has led Parent and Child classes, facilitated regular parent education and enrichment opportunities and a weekly community crafting circle, and has given morning child development talks. She serves in the wider Waldorf community as a WECAN board member and member of the Birth-to-3 committee, mentor, lecturer, and family consultant. Her experience as a member of a Muslim family in the Waldorf community gives her unique insight into issues of diversity and inclusion.

Welcome to Anjum.