

Board Report

Anjum Mir, WECAN Board Member

“I live my life in widening circles that reach out across the world.”

— Rainer Maria Rilke

As WECAN prepares to celebrate 100 years of Waldorf Early Childhood Education, we are reminded that each of us, as we work in our own spaces, holds the spirit of this beautiful impulse and, like a collective beacon, sends it outwards into the world.

Our 100 Years planning committee has been hard at work envisioning a celebration that will stimulate the imagination of our schools throughout North America. This milestone comes at a time when we invite transformation in order to meet the needs of the time. Honoring our past, engaging with the present, and observing actively what comes towards us from the future, we hope to find the new in the wisdom of what has been. The centennial festivities will be an opportunity for us to honor and reinvigorate the work that takes place daily in classrooms, to celebrate pioneers, and for Waldorf children and families to experience the vastness and commitment of our community worldwide. We will be integrating our efforts with IASWECE, the International Association of Waldorf Early Childhood Education, which is organizing a worldwide acknowledgment of this anniversary at the World Conference, to be held in Dornach in April 2026.

We continue to strengthen our board work, inviting growth and change as a reflection of the complex needs of our time. This July, we had a transition in leadership as Susan Howard, our steadfast leader for many years, passed the torch to Meggan Gill, who stepped in as Co-Director alongside Heather Church. Our Board circle will expand this November as both Meggan Gill and Amber Chavez take up their membership. They each bring skills and experience that will enrich our work and efforts to meet the needs of our membership and our movement at large.

Widening our efforts beyond our own Waldorf schools, we continue to build our capacity for collaborative work and advocacy for childhood with partner organizations in the larger educational landscape and in public policy with organizations like the Trust for Learning that focuses on education in publicly funded settings and Fairplay for Kids, driven by the mission to protect childhood from the effects of screens and digital media.