

100 Years, 100 Pioneers Appreciating the past to understand the future

Lourdes Tormes



On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education, we wanted to take a retrospective look, full of gratitude, at all those who made it possible with incredible efforts, creating from nothing and with genuine enthusiasm and commitment to childhood, the birth of Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education.

What motivated those teachers to undertake such a task? They knew how to read the needs of children's souls in their eyes, and they transformed their perception into the strength of resolve to undertake a new educational and social endeavour.

Nana Göbel*, with her tireless dedication to Waldorf education, accepted the challenge of recounting some of the remarkable biographies of the pioneers without hesitation. There are many, many more to whom we owe our gratitude, and this is only a selection that represents the sacrifice and dedication of so many. We hope that no one will feel disappointed at not finding some notable figures!

This publication, in German, English, and Spanish, will be ready in time for the conference, and it will be a joy to see the history of this movement brought to all continents. It will also be available on the websites of the publishers Verlag am Goetheanum (CH), WECAN (US), and Editorial Rudolf Steiner (ES), as well as from the International Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education - IASWECE.

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to Nana Göbel, the translators, and all those who have made this book possible, and especially to those who have donated their time and money for its publication.

"When one has imparted to the child the feeling of gratitude, then one will realise that the basis for moral education has been planted. Because if one has taken care of this feeling of gratitude and gratitude is experienced as compatible with all knowledge, then the feelings of the child will easily be penetrated by the love that the human being must have for all the rest of humanity and ultimately for all the creatures of the world. One can develop love in the best possible way through gratitude."

Rudolf Steiner, GA 297a

On behalf of the IASWECE Publications Group

* Nana Göbel, 1955, a former Waldorf student in Pforzheim, studied classical Archaeology, Egyptology and Ancient History. In 1976 she helped found the Friends of Waldorf Education and has been serving on the board since 1978. In 1989 she co-founded the European Forum for Freedom in Education, and in 1993 she co-founded the *Zauberstäbchen*, society for humanitarian help and support for children in need in South-East and Eastern Europe until dissolution in 2005. She is a current member of the International Council for Steiner Waldorf Education-Hague Circle.