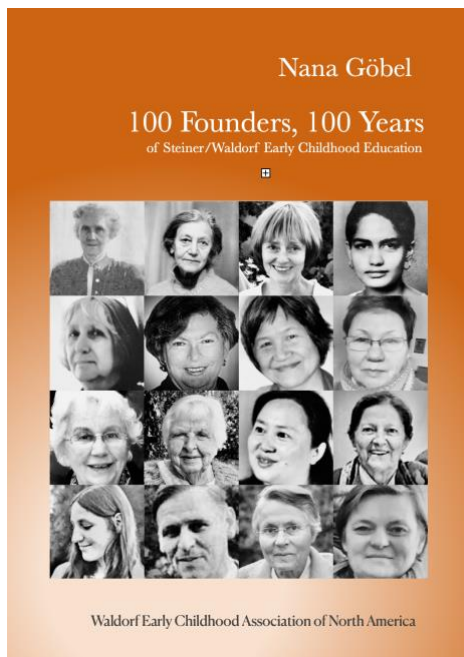


100 Pioneers, 100 Years
A story of courage and commitment to children

Lourdes Tormes



It's finally here! The long-awaited book on the history of Steiner Waldorf early childhood education, told through the lives of 100 pioneers—which we announced in the last issue of the newsletter—has now been published.

It is a fascinating journey through the past, a story that speaks of the courage, commitment, and determination with which these people paved the way for this ideal to become a reality on earth. Obviously, there have been many more people who have sown the seeds for this in many countries, and we hope that, even if they are not named, they will all see themselves reflected in this and feel our gratitude wherever they may be. These are people who nurtured this form of education almost always in difficult and precarious situations, starting from scratch: facing political and social difficulties, in times

of war, in hiding, without money or support, swimming against the tide, yet with great confidence and a clear vision of the importance and urgency of caring for children. And it is impressive to learn of the twists of fate in their biographies that made possible this great spiritual event: the founding of every kindergarten.

[..] When Rudolf Steiner spoke to the final-year class at the Stuttgart Waldorf School on 10 April 1924, he responded to a comment from a girl who wanted to be a kindergarten teacher: 'The important thing is that the little children love you; everything else will follow.'

[...] During the conference in Ilkley, and inspired by the new educational ideals, four women decided to carry out their own practical experiment. They requested a meeting with Rudolf Steiner [...]. It is said that, after they had presented their project, Rudolf Steiner replied with a 'yes'.

This is the result of nearly two years of research conducted by Nana Göbel¹ on behalf of IASWECE, and we hope it will be a source of inspiration for all of us dedicated to early childhood education. May it not be missing from the bookshelves of any kindergarten or school!

Lourdes Tormes

On behalf of the IASWECE Publications Group

This publication, in German, English and Spanish, is available via the websites of the publishers [Verlag am Goetheanum](#) (Switzerland), [WECAN](#) (United States) and [Editorial Rudolf Steiner](#) (Spain), and the International Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education – IASWECE.

¹Nana Göbel is Executive Director of Freunde der Erziehungskunst and a member of the International Council for Steiner Waldorf Education (The Hague Circle); she has been a tireless advocate for Waldorf education worldwide since 1976.

