



# MOUNTAIN LAUREL WALDORF SCHOOL

INSPIRED LEARNING

Annual Report 2016-2017



# Mission Statement

*Mountain Laurel Waldorf School strives to build the foundation of a free human being. Guided by the educational philosophy of Rudolf Steiner, our teachers inspire independent and insightful thinking; empathy for all beings; and a love of meaningful work.*

**Founded: 1983 • Current Enrollment: 130**

Accredited by New York State Board of Regents &  
Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA)

## FACULTY AND STAFF

Aaron Bernstein	<i>Third Grade Strings Teacher</i>
Mark Bernstein*	<i>Orchestra Teacher</i>
Steve Bernstein*	<i>Chorus/Music/Games Teacher</i>
John Evans*	<i>Third Grade Teacher</i>
Carly Fridlich	<i>Kindergarten Assistant</i>
Bevin Gill*	<i>Sixth Grade Teacher</i>
Nancy Hoose	<i>Parent/Child Program Facilitator</i>
Judith Jaeckel*	<i>Administrator/Enrollment Director</i>
Greta Jee*	<i>Fifth Grade Teacher</i>
Donna Jensen*	<i>Handwork Teacher</i>
Carol Jordan*	<i>Business Manager</i>
Veronica Kent	<i>PM Kindergarten Teacher and Aftercare</i>
Laura Klimenchenko	<i>PM Kindergarten Assistant</i>
Patricia Kuyl	<i>Office Manager</i>
Marilyn Liebowitz*	<i>Sculpture Teacher</i>
Rachel Loshak*	<i>Second Grade Teacher</i>
Theodor Lundin*	<i>First Grade Teacher</i>
Preston Neel*	<i>Fourth Grade Teacher</i>
Aram Oarcea*	<i>Seventh Grade Teacher</i>
Lydia Pidlusky	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Marta Porras*	<i>Spanish Teacher</i>
Stacey Rosen	<i>Chorus Accompanist</i>
Frank Trapanese	<i>Building &amp; Grounds Maintenance</i>
Hans Von Moritz*	<i>Eighth Grade Teacher</i>
Rosana Workman*	<i>Kindergarten Teacher</i>

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Paul Tobin, *President*  
Vicki Arbo, *Treasurer*  
Charlene Dye, *Secretary*  
Preston Neel  
Judith Jaeckel  
Brandi Ascione  
David Gandin  
Jon Pesner  
Patty Jacobson

**\*Member of College** – The College is one of the two main decision-making bodies of Mountain Laurel Waldorf School, sharing responsibility with the Board of Trustees.

*Design by Renée Skuba Design*

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# Mandate Groups and Membership

## **GRADES PEDAGOGICAL**

### **Oversight of the Grades Program**

Preston Neel  
Mark Bernstein  
Steve Bernstein  
John Evans  
Marta Porras  
Greta Jee  
Bevin Gill  
Judith Jaeckel  
Donna Jensen  
Carol Jordan  
Marilyn Liebowitz  
Rachel Loshak  
Theodor Lundin  
Aram Oarcea  
Hans von Moritz

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD PEDAGOGICAL**

### **Oversight of the Early Childhood Programs**

Rosana Workman  
Carly Fridlich  
Veronica Kent  
Laura Klimenchenko

## **PERSONNEL GROUP**

### **Oversight of Hiring and Personnel Issues**

Mark Bernstein  
John Evans  
Carol Jordan  
Theodor Lundin

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **Parent Communication, Oversight of Personnel Policies**

Bevin Gill  
Judith Jaeckel  
Marilyn Liebowitz  
Rosana Workman

## **FINANCE GROUP**

### **Develops and Monitors the Annual Budget**

Vicki Arbo  
Judith Jaeckel  
Carol Jordan  
Aram Oarcea  
Rosana Workman

## **THREE STREAMS STUDENT SUPPORT GROUP**

### **Learning/Discipline/Social Inclusion**

Donna Jensen  
Marta Porras  
Aram Oarcea  
Preston Neel  
Bevin Gill  
Steve Bernstein

## **MUSIC GROUP**

### **Oversight of the Music Program**

Steve Bernstein  
Mark Bernstein  
Preston Neel

## **CAMPUS EXPANSION COMMITTEE**

### **Plans for the Expansion and Improvement of the MLWS Campus**

Rick Alfandre  
Vicki Arbo  
Mark Bernstein  
Judith Jaeckel  
Marc Grossman  
Stephani Moorman  
Andrew Faust

## **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

### **Works to Organize Fundraising Events and Projects**

Patty Jacobson  
Charlene Dye  
Carly Fridlich

## **PARENT COUNCIL**

### **The Leadership Facilitates Meetings and Activities of the Parent Council**

Brandi Ascione  
Dana Rudikoff

# Administrator's Report

**Judith Jaeckel**, *Administrator/Enrollment Director*

The 2016/17 school year was a fulfilling and productive one for Mountain Laurel. Our AWSNA three-year accreditation visit took place in September of 2016. The team members continued their sharing of their time and expertise in supporting the growth and development of the school. We thank the College, the Board and all parents who have given so much of their time and energy to actualize this work in our school community.

Taking seriously AWSNA's principle that, "collaboration and shared responsibility provide the foundations of school leadership and governance", we moved more deeply into AWSNA's recommendation that Mountain Laurel "explore cultivating a culture of trust by releasing more decision making to mandate groups." This can be a challenging and arduous process. We had many discussions about our governance structures and how to foster shared agreements that will support the health and success of the school.

The Board and the College continued to work together to realize the potential of our recently acquired properties. This work requires the balancing of pedagogical needs, finances and the changing downtown New Paltz landscape.

Enrollment, always a priority, was brought to the forefront last year. We made significant strides in Increasing our social media presence. We began a plan for restructuring the school's website in an effort to both keep our parent body informed about the life of the school and invite prospective families to explore our community. The newly formed and very inspired Enrollment Group also initiated the school's first FaceBook advertising campaign and supported enrollment opportunities in the greater community throughout the spring and summer.

Building on AWSNA's recommendation that we "consider engaging more grades faculty, administration and committed parents to assist in outreach events focused on early childhood enrollment," the College committed, in the spring of 2017, to restore the Nursery program for the 2017/18 school year. We are pleased to announce that this program opened on January 29th of 2018. Discussions within the College also highlighted the school's need for the creation of an administrative position dedicated to admissions and outreach. The plan is for this goal to be realized in the 2018/19 school year.

The work of the Administration could not be successful without a strong, vibrant and effective Parent Council. We continue to thank the MLWS Parent Council for its efforts to ensure regular communication aimed at what parents need to know at all levels of the school in order to be involved and educated.

While there is always much work to be done, there is always an even greater amount to be thankful for. We remain grateful for each and every member of our beautiful community.

Sincerely,

**Judith Jaeckel and Carol Jordan**



# Collegium Report

Donna Jensen, *Chair*

The college meets weekly on Thursdays from 3:20 to 7:00 p.m. The meetings include a Book or Festival study, a child study, a pedagogical meeting, and a business meeting where we attend to the nuts and bolts of running a school. We started the 2016-2017 school year attending a workshop with Kim Payne. This Workshop taught us Kim's Three Streams approach to supporting children with challenges in the behavioral, social or learning realms. The previous Child Care group has now become the Three Streams group implementing what was learned from Kim Payne.

We also had members from AWSNA visit the school in September for their mid cycle AWSNA visit. Much of the business work that we did this past year was to update the school's governance document.

Our Thursday meetings include a dinner break with food provided by Mountain Laurel families. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all the families who provide such wonderful faculty nourishment throughout the year. •



# Board Report

**Paul Tobin, President**

The Board carries the overall responsibility for the financial and legal integrity of the school, and it plays a major role in long-term planning and fund development. Members actively support and promote the school's mission, vision, strategic goals, and policy positions. Together the Board of Trustees and the MLWS College are Mountain Laurel Waldorf School's governing bodies. The Board maintains a roster of interested trustee candidates from among our community of parents, alumni, alumni parents, friends, and local business and community leaders who volunteer to support the school and advance its long-term prospects. •



*“Our highest endeavor must be to develop free human beings who are able of themselves to impart purpose and direction to their lives. The need for imagination, a sense of truth, and a feeling of responsibility—these three forces are the very nerve of education.”*

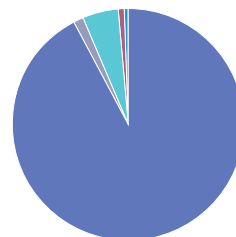
**—Rudolf Steiner**

# Finance Committee Report

Carol Jordan, *Business Manager*

## INCOME

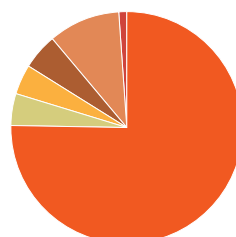
From the Income pie chart one can see that tuition, at \$1,218,729 comprises an extremely significant portion of annual school income. Annual Giving raised \$20,795 for 2016/17. The school brought in \$64,321 from Restricted and Other Funding, \$13,285 from Fees, and \$3,888 from Other Revenue.



● Tuition (\$1,218,729)
● Annual Giving (\$20,795)
● Restricted and Other Funding (\$64,321)
● Fees (\$13,285)
● Other Revenue (\$3,888)
<b>Total = \$1,321,018</b>

## EXPENSES

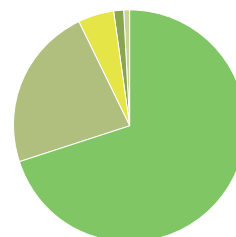
Mountain Laurel's most significant expense in 2016/17 was \$933,294 for personnel remuneration and benefits, and payroll taxes. \$55,825 was spent on our facility, \$50,208 on capital purchases and classroom furniture expense, and \$60,000 toward mortgage payments. Administrative and other, at \$121,019 represents a combination of expenses such as insurance, professional development for staff, enrollment and publicity expenses, office supplies, etc. \$21,293 was spent on classroom supplies.



● Personnel (\$933,294)
● Facilities (\$55,825)
● Capital Purchases (\$50,208)
● Mortgage Payments (\$60,000)
● Administrative and Other (\$121,019)
● Classroom Supplies (\$21,293)
<b>Total = \$1,241,639</b>

## TUITION

The Tuition pie chart illustrates how tuition and tuition reductions were allocated in 2016/17. The whole pie represents total tuition for every student without any reductions. Tuition Income at \$1,218,729 shows the amount of tuition that was billed for the 2016/17 school year. Faculty/Staff Remission \$90,072 is a reduction which is a personnel benefit, so not billed. Similarly, Tuition Aid Awards \$405,091, Sibling Reduction (or Multi-Child Discount) \$15,118 and Early Pay Discount \$12,926 are reductions which are not billed to families.



● Tuition Income (\$1,218,729)
● Tuition Aid for Families (\$405,091)
● Faculty/Staff Remission (\$90,072)
● Sibling Reduction (\$15,118)
● Early Pay Discount (\$12,926)
<b>Total = \$1,741,936</b>



# Development Report

**Patty Jacobson**, *Interim Development Chair*

The newly-formed parent-led fundraising committee worked hard all year to build community and raise money for Mountain Laurel Waldorf School. For their first event they chose a community-building outdoor concert, Music In The Field. It was an afternoon of live music at the Field of Dreams Pavilion in New Paltz. Families brought their own food, drink, blankets and lawn chairs to kick back and enjoy the sounds of traditional bluegrass and New Orleans-style brass music. There was face painting for the children and plenty of safe, green space for them to run around. The fundraising group was overwhelmed by the support of local sponsors and is proud to report they were able to cover the entire cost of putting on the event with their donations. Over 200 people attended the event and approximately \$3,000 was made. Every cent earned from admission fees, t-shirt sales and a 50/50 raffle went to Mountain Laurel, with the exception of a percentage of the proceeds the school gifted to the Village of New Paltz to help with renovations to Hasbrouck Park.

For their second event the fundraising group chose a spring gala, Spring Swing. It featured a live band with caller for contra dancing, a silent auction, dinner, wine and beer, and was held at the beautiful Belltower in Rosendale. The event raised \$4,200.

Other fundraisers include the Hudson Valley Seed Fundraiser and Ultimate Discount Card Fundraiser. Both of these fundraisers support local businesses, support Mountain Laurel and support those who participate. Truly a win-win for everybody. Combined, these initiatives made \$1,050.

The ultimate goal of the fundraising committee is to raise money for Mountain Laurel Waldorf School but just as important to us is to create engaging, unique experiences for MLWS families and the greater community to come together. We believe strongly this is an effective way to grow Mountain Laurel Waldorf School and to keep it in the hearts and minds of those in and around the school.

The Annual Giving Campaign is an integral part of the health and success of our school. Money raised goes directly into the operating budget, closing the gap tuition leaves behind. I am thrilled to report our goal of \$20,000 was reached because of the generous donations of current families, alumnae, grandparents and friends.

We are grateful for all of your support and love and we look forward to another great year in 2017-18 with many new initiatives! •







## Music: Orchestra, Chorus & Recorder

Mark Bernstein and Steve Bernstein

Music carries the social impulse at MLWS. Starting with recorders in First Grade, choosing a stringed instrument at the end of Second, string ensembles through Third and Fourth, then winds, brass and percussion joining us in Fifth Grade—and culminating in our Community Orchestra, where middle school players perform side by side with musicians of the greater community. The elementary school curriculum is explored by singing together and playing recorder in the classroom, progressing from unison to 2, 3 and 4 part recorders. Fifth through Eighth Grade students enjoy a more formal choral experience of singing in two, three, and four part harmony in Chorus class. After school, students can choose to join the Mountain Laurel Recorder Ensemble and the Chamber Orchestra. Our students are continuously being called to bring their best to the music, finding their place in the group - learning to express their individual voice while listening intently to the whole, a true metaphor for the practical work of life. Through striving and discipline, acting in collaboration, we harvest the joy of making music together. What a blessing!

One of the musical highlights of 2016-2017 was our annual “Waldorf Tour”. In May, the Mountain Laurel Recorder Ensemble and Chamber Group boarded a real Tour Bus and headed south to play a concert at the Philadelphia Waldorf School. MLWS class teacher from the class of 2016, Anne Stanmyer was there with her 5th grade class and grandchildren! After an electrifying performance for the school’s students and teachers, the children joined their respective Philadelphia classmates for classes and then some outdoor play activities. We then boarded the bus and toured the historic district of Philadelphia, stopping at Constitution Hall. Our group of 48, which included MLWS alumni Amelia Verderosa on viola and Henry Ferland on cello, both from the class of 2016, had dinner at a local Chinese restaurant. The following day we were back on the bus, having our “bagel breakfast,” traveling north to the Circle of Seasons Waldorf school in Fogelsville, PA. School administrator Tree Anne McKenery, MLWS class teacher from the class of 2013, was there to greet us! The two groups played another brilliant concert to conclude our two performances. We would like to thank our dedicated and helpful chaperones. Without them, the tour would not have been possible: Amy Steckel, Aram Orcea, Carol Jordan, Tricia McKloskey, and Tim Verderosa. We cannot say enough about the richness of this experience, both musically and socially. Great big love and thanks to all of the MLWS parents, teachers and administration for their continued support! •

# Campus Expansion Committee Report

**Mark Bernstein, Chair**

The CEC, or Campus Expansion Committee, had its origin 3 years ago in response to the need for a more appropriate Performing Arts space. We are a visioning, planning, fact-finding, group. Our purview is anything having to do with the physical growth of the ML campus. The present members of the CEC are Rick Alfandre, architect; Judy Jaeckel, administrator; Preston Neel, class teacher; Mark Grossman, doctor; Andrew Faust, permaculturist and myself, musician, teacher and chair of the committee. We are all either present or alumni parents of ML students. The CEC is mandated by the College and the Board and reports to both groups—we are not a decision making body.

Last year, the CEC led the capital campaign that raised over \$70,000.00 in order to purchase the 7 Innis property. During the time leading up to the purchase, we met with several Development officers and fundraisers in both private and public sectors, to inform our capital plan. This plan has 3 phases which Rick will be presenting to you shortly!

The first phase was purchase of the property, which includes the Victorian directly across the street and the carriage house behind—then renovating the Victorian to become the home of our Early Childhood. However, after the purchase, there was still much discussion that needed to happen in the College re. the use of this building—the proposals for use as a high school, middle school, music rooms, offices, all have been brought forward to be considered. Two weeks ago the College reached consensus that the building would be the new home of our EC program.

Once that the decision was made, Alfandre Architecture rendered the preliminary drawings for the first floor renovations—Rick will share these with you—the CEC will be meeting with the EC group soon to discuss their needs, as the architects move forward with completing the design for 7 Innis. Presently, we are looking at creative solutions to cut the cost of labor and building materials for this construction—also exploring some interesting fund raising options. Thank you! •





## Parent Council Report

**Dana Rudikoff and Brandi Ascione, Co-Chairs**

Parent Council reconvened in the 2016-2017 school year after a year-long hiatus, and held monthly meetings throughout the year. A renewed vision has been brought forward, along with a commitment to work together in the spirit of warmth, inclusiveness, transparency and support for our school community. The mission of Parent Council is three-fold in its intention:

**First**, that it bridge communication among the faculty, administration, board and parent body. Parent Council worked closely with the Executive Committee, the College and Bevin Gill as faculty liaison to ensure that parent initiatives were closely aligned with the needs of the school. **Second**, that it organize and utilize the gifts and energies of the parent body to initiate and support events that enrich the life of the school community.

Many of our efforts during the school year focused on this mission. The following committees were established and prioritized based on our discussions with the Executive Committee and insights gained from surveying both the College and the parent body:

- *Publication of bi-weekly newsletter to the school community*
- *Coordination of Faculty Nourishment*
- *Establishment of Parent Council presence at public events to help support new enrollment*
- *Coordination of the Enchanted Walk*
- *Coordination of Food Drives to support Family of New Paltz*
- *Coordination of Coffee Hours for new families and those looking for greater connection*
- *Support of the Spring 2017 All School Meeting*



Two additional efforts began during the 2016/2017 year and it is anticipated that momentum will build in the 2017/2018 school year:

- *Establishment of Welcome Committee for new families*
- *Development of a How-To Binder to provide information about parent responsibilities over the course of the passage from First Grade through Eighth Grade*

In addition, Parent Council sponsored a well-attended workshop, *A Mindful and Pragmatic Approach to Creating Prosperity* with Joanne Leffeld, aka the Moolah Doula, to help school community members better understand their relationships with money and financial matters.

Parents were invited to join a committee, to attend our monthly meetings and/or to come forward with other ideas they felt passionate about which would advance our mission.

**Third**, that it encourage and support parent understanding of Waldorf education by inspiring and facilitating learning opportunities.

As Parent Council gains momentum, the group would like to invite faculty speakers to Parent Council-sponsored discussions to help engage parents and study a variety of relevant topics. As areas of interest, questions and concerns are identified, speakers will be coordinated to broaden parents' perspective on Waldorf education. As this understanding deepens, parents will be better able to support their children, the class teachers and the school community as a whole. Parent Council welcomes anyone to join our monthly meetings. However, even more important is parent interest in supporting the school. If you are unable to attend meetings but have a gift, interest or time to provide, please consider joining one of our initiatives. •



# Thank You for Your Generous Donations!

## 2016-2017 DONOR LIST

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Nathan Anderson  
Tobias Anderson  
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Gian and Brandi Ascione  
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Patricia and Pierre Kuyl  
Carol and Mark Jordan  
Nina Personius  
Poliana Danuta  
Jipala Kagan in memory of Elizabeth Hunter



## Eighth Grade Production of Les Misérables







## Congratulations Class of 2017!

**THEO LUNDIN**, Class Teacher Grades 1-8

**Elijah (Fushu) Berenzy** - Hawthorne Valley Waldorf School

**Asher Brownstein** - New Paltz High School

**Anabel Evans** - New Paltz High School

**Celeste Farhangi** - Oakwood Friends

**Aaliyha Gilbert** - Christian Academy

**Josephine Gravatt** - New Paltz High School

**Phoenix Grosell** - New Paltz High School

**Clay Gulick** - New Paltz High School

**Aidan Kirsch** - New Paltz High School

**Phoebe Ramaty** - New Paltz High School

**Joseph Richards** - New Paltz High School

**Maia Rose** - New Paltz High School

**Jaisiah Savage** - Green Meadow Waldorf School

**Arianna Scibelli** - New Paltz High School

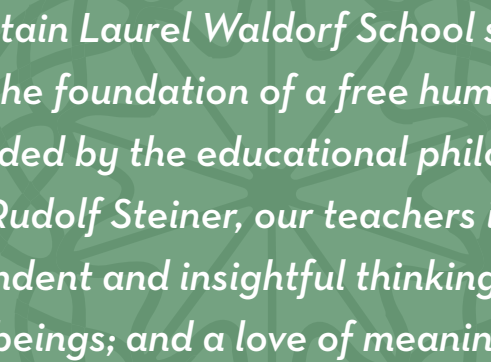
**Cyrus Spurlock** - Onteora

**JP Trapani** - New Paltz High School

**Lake Willett** - New Paltz High School

**Tsela Zoksang** - New Paltz High School

**Dove deVries** - Millenium Manhattan



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Guided by the educational philosophy  
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**MOUNTAIN  
LAUREL** WALDORF  
SCHOOL

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