

TEACHER EDUCATION NETWORK (TEN)



WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BECOME A WALDORF TEACHER?

Rudolf Steiner gave four answers to this question as he prepared the original circle of 12 teachers – six women and six men – to inaugurate the first Waldorf school in Stuttgart following the end of World War I. He said:

- A Waldorf teacher is a person of initiative
- A Waldorf teacher needs to be interested in every facet of life
- A Waldorf teacher can make no compromise with untruth
- A Waldorf teacher must be fresh, never sour



Some of these qualities can only indwell; they cannot be taught, though surely they can be enhanced by a lifetime of practice. Others, however, can be educated – literally “drawn forth” – with the help of a disciplined course of study and preparation grounded in anthroposophy.

In North America, eight institutes dedicated to the purpose of educating Waldorf teachers have banded together to form the Teacher Education Network (TEN) under the aegis of the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA). A further six institutes are in the process of becoming full members of this Network. Taken together, these institutes in their own distinct ways offer a variety of full-time and part-time professional programs to prepare teachers to work in Waldorf early childhood, elementary grades, or specialist high school subjects.

SO, WHO AND WHERE IS TEN?

At present the Teacher Education Network is comprised of leading teachers from eight full member and candidate institutes: seven in the United States and one in Canada. These leaders confer roughly once a month – either by conference call or twice a year, in face-to-face meetings – to collaborate on projects designed to enhance and support the training of Waldorf teachers.

In addition to representatives from each of these eight institute members, the TEN also includes four “teachers at large” (including representatives of early childhood, elementary grades, and high school), plus AWSNA’s Executive Director of Programs and its Coordinator of Loans and Grants Program.

FULL MEMBER & CANDIDATE INSTITUTES (LISTED ALPHABETICALLY) & THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN TEN:

Bay Area Center for Waldorf Teacher Training

El Sobrante, CA
Ken Smith, Director

Center for Anthroposophy (CfA) / Antioch University New England

Wilton/Keene, NH
Douglas Gerwin, Director of CfA

Great Lakes Waldorf Institute (Candidate)

Milwaukee, WI
Lori Barian, Director of Administration

Rudolf Steiner Centre Toronto

Thornhill, ON, CANADA
Warren Cohen, Director of Teacher Education & Co-Director

Sound Circle Center for Arts and Anthroposophy

Seattle, WA
Nettie Fabrie, Co-Director

Sunbridge Institute

Chestnut Ridge, NY
Jessica Heffernan Ziegler, Executive Director

Waldorf Institute of Southern California

Northridge / San Diego, CA
Alex Houghton, Co-Director

Waldorf Teacher Education Eugene

Eugene, OR
Marcia Seymour



SO, IN SUMMARY: WHY IS TEN?

The Teacher Education Network helps prospective and practicing educators to become Waldorf teachers and also supports Waldorf educators in their teaching.

To that end, the Teacher Education Network

- Oversees and reviews the quality of the programs offered by its members
- Sponsors colloquia and develops research materials for practicing teachers
- Guides new institutes along the path to full membership in AWSNA
- Mentors new teachers in schools
- Disperses scholarships through its member institutes
- Conducts research surveys



SO, WHAT IS TEN'S MISSION?

The Teacher Education Network is charged with overseeing the practice of Waldorf adult education in North America. In the words of its recently revised mission statement, the purview of TEN “encompasses the full spectrum of teacher development and professional life, including recruitment, pre-service and in-service preparation, surveying school needs, mentoring, retention, and the continuing education of Waldorf teachers.”

TO THIS END, TEN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR

- Receiving and dispersing loans and grants to help individual teachers and schools defray the tuition costs of teacher training
- Seeking funding to help finance the mentoring of prospective and practicing teachers in the classroom
- Sponsoring colloquia on “hot topics” related to teaching and teacher education
- Developing plans to recruit and retain teachers
- Supporting research into new teaching methods
- Promoting strong relationships between institutes and Waldorf schools
- Fostering a consistently high quality of Waldorf teacher education

IN SHORT, TEN IS THE VOICE OF TEACHER TRAINING IN WALDORF EDUCATION.

FACULTY AT LARGE & AWSNA STAFF IN TEN:

Early Childhood

Holly Koteen-Soule

Elementary Grades

Kristine Deason, Marin Waldorf School

High School

Frances Vig, Chicago Waldorf School

AWSNA

Melanie Reiser
Executive Director of Programs, Longmont, CO

Andrea Cooper
Coordinator of Teacher Education Loans & Grants, Amherst, MA



IN ADDITION, SIX INSTITUTES ARE IN PROCESS OF BECOMING FULL MEMBERS OF TEN:

Alkion Center (Ghent, NY)

Arcturus Rudolf Steiner Education Program (Chicago, IL)

Centro de Desarrollo Antroposofico (Cuernavaca, MEXICO)

Rudolf Steiner College (Fair Oaks, CA)

Waldorf Institute of Southeastern Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI)

West Coast Institute for Studies in Anthroposophy (Sechelt, BC, CANADA)



HOW DO I CONNECT WITH TEN?

While each institute is autonomous, AWSNA acts as a clearinghouse for TEN, which means you can start by contacting:

Melanie Reiser
AWSNA Executive Director of Programs
at mreiser@awsna.org
or by telephone at (612) 870-8310 ext. 105.

You can also contact:
Douglas Gerwin
Chair of Teacher Education Network
at douglasgerwin@earthlink.net
or by telephone at (413) 549-5934.

Individual institutes are listed on AWSNA's website:
WWW.WALDORFEDUCATION.ORG

Drop us a note or give us a call – tell us how we can be of assistance. We welcome your contact!

