



Pathways to a Human Future

The Threefold Community

FEBRUARY 2020 – JUNE 2022



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The Threefold Community

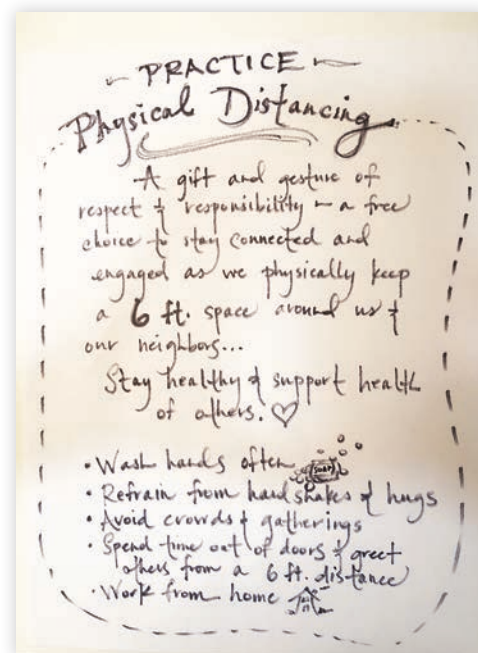
So may lightning shatter into dust our sense-built houses. We will erect instead soul houses, built on knowledge; upon its iron-firm, light-woven web. And downfall of the outer shall become uprise of the soul's own innermost.

— RUDOLF STEINER

“What is the essence of your work? How do the outer forms of your work serve this essence? If all the outer forms in which your work currently exists were to die away, how could this essence live on?” These were the questions we discussed at a Michaelmas 2019 Threefold community conversation. Just a few months later, these hypothetical questions became real-life imperatives as the global pandemic called on each of us to seek within and without for what is the essential star in our work and lives, and to seek how, in collaboration and community, to serve that star.

In March 2020, a task force representing every organization in the community began meeting by phone each morning to ensure open information flow, to address concerns, to access new and developing information, and to recommend appropriate actions. A March 13 open letter from foundation executive director Eric Silber outlined the community's responses to the public health emergency: The Fellowship's Hilltop House was closed to non-residents; Holder House stopped taking short-term guests; Sunbridge Institute began offering distance learning; Green Meadow Waldorf School developed a response plan to ensure continuity in case of mandated closures or quarantines; and so on. The paths that our community's institutions blazed to negotiate the evolving conditions of the pandemic are outlined in this report.

Early on, a Green Meadow letter to parents stated: “As we develop new ways of working together and staying connected, we will rely increasingly on one another. Through these challenging times we will get to know one another in new ways and we will develop resilience together ...” A hallmark of that period is the creativity that community members applied to maintaining traditions and connections. The 2020 Enchanted Halloween Walk was transformed into a magical drive up the Fellowship's farm road, along which were stationed the familiar vignettes of our traditional Halloween event. Festival life shifted to outdoor gatherings. Rudolf Steiner's Foundation Stone Meditation resounded from “Hill to Hill”—echoing from Threefold Auditorium's balcony to the Fellowship Community's Hilltop House lawn. Holder House residents were assigned to pods, and the dorm manager assembled wellness kits for those who needed to isolate. Green Meadow's class of 2021 performed their senior play outdoors on the Threefold campus lawn. Fifty people from all organizations participated in a three-session Zoom workshop offered by Biography and Social Arts entitled “The Art of Communication.”



The federal Payroll Protection Program worked as promised, allowing the Foundation to sustain its programs and services with very limited staffing adjustments.

During the summer of 2020, when the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police heightened awareness of racial inequity and other social justice issues in our society, many of our people and institutions took up group work and study to understand the historical roots and present-day effects of racial prejudice in our society, and to recommend institutional responses. For us, as for society as a whole, this essential work is ongoing.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all who have carried our community through this challenging time, for their steadfastness, courage, and resilience. It has not been easy to hold onto the star

in the face of varying attitudes toward health decisions, masking, and individual interpretations of freedom. Building our capacity to have conversations, to ask questions of one another, and to challenge each other in seeking truth without becoming divided is work that lies before us.

The impact of the pandemic remains difficult to grasp. In the United States alone, Covid-19 has taken more than one million lives, and many related effects remain to be seen. Locally, in our community, diligent and heroic efforts have allowed us to navigate safely so far, while differing

beliefs about the pandemic have revealed fault lines in our social fabric that remain unresolved. Uncertainties about the future call on us to draw on, cultivate, and bring out into the world the healing forces that are at the heart of all our anthroposophic endeavors: Waldorf education, eurythmy, biodynamic agriculture, spiritual striving, and the search for new social forms that will support our path toward a truly human future.



Exploring the Twelve Senses

In the summer of 1960, Camphill Communities founder Karl König gave a series of lectures on the senses at Threefold Auditorium. König's development of the twelve senses as posited by Rudolf Steiner left behind a valuable framework for understanding human development and indeed the entire human experience.

In 2017, inspired by König's work on the twelve senses and recognizing its relevance to contemporary social issues, Paige Hartsell approached Ray Manaças and Virginia Hermann about creating a conference at Threefold to mark the sixtieth anniversary of König's Threefold lectures. Early on, the core organizers reached out for help from members of the Camphill movement, where the concept of the twelve senses and its pedagogical applications are in active use.

The organizers' research was guided by this principle: to heal the trauma and unrest of our time, we must be in authentic relationship to those around us. Just as the twelve senses can exist only in relationship to one another, human beings can only form right relationships when the healthy development of the senses is possible. This led to the question: what can we do, as individuals and collectively, to elevate awareness and understanding of the essential role of healthy senses on the path to a human future?

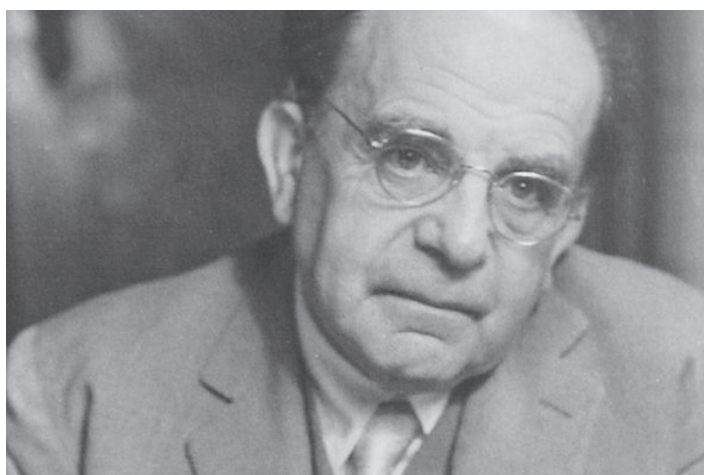
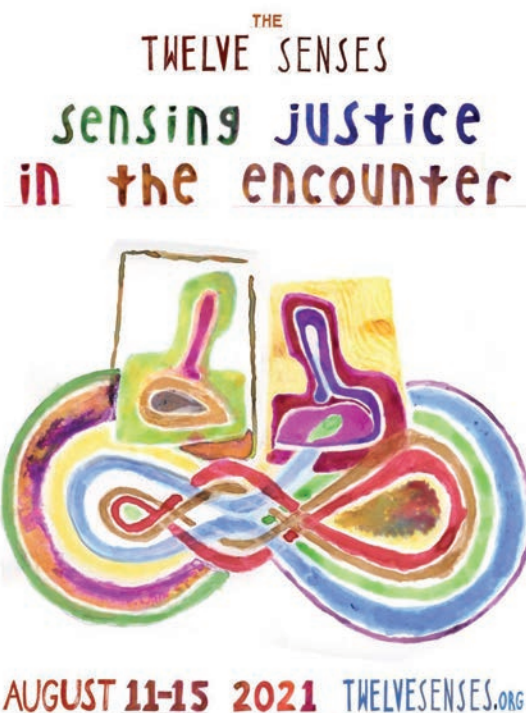
The sixtieth-anniversary conference, entitled "The Twelve Senses: Pathways to a Human Future," was set for August 6-10, 2020; the program featured speakers from North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. When the pandemic made in-person gathering impossible, and after some soul-searching about the paradox of holding an online conference on human relationships and sense perception, the decision was made to conduct the conference on Zoom.



Above and following page: Conference logos by Frank Agrama.

Keynote speakers Joan Sleight, Dr. Lakshmi Prasanna, David Schwartz, Elizabeth Frishkoff, Michael Kokinos, and Jan Goeschel set the tone for a gathering that also included workshops, panel discussions, and group artistic activities. More than 600 people from nineteen countries attended, and post-conference survey responses were very positive.

The 2020 conference aimed to increase understanding and awareness of the twelve senses and its applications as an educational, therapeutic, and developmental tool. Afterwards, the organizers, now including Becky Rutherford and Christa Lynch, immediately began planning a follow-up conference to further explore the connections between sense development and issues of social justice that they had only begun to examine together. Held on August 11-15, 2021, “The Twelve Senses: Sensing Justice in the Encounter” offered daily keynotes and thirty hours of workshops exploring questions including: “How do we encounter justice and foster a sense of responsibility as we navigate the realms of the self, the world, and our fellow human beings? How can a better understanding of the working of our twelve senses lead to insights that create a foundation for justice?” Themed, three-day workshops were skillfully facilitated by many presenters, including members of the Abenaki Nation, Otto Specht School faculty, the Fiber Craft Studio, and community organizers who are utilizing anthroposophy in their activism. The 2021 conference drew attendees from fourteen countries around the world.



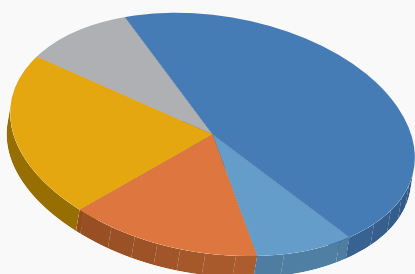
Camphill Communities founder Karl König (1902-1966).

Although the human contact that normally accompanies conceiving and conducting events like these was missing, it was inspiring to connect with so many people from all corners of the globe. The organizers’ intent was to raise awareness of a path toward authentic relationship among all people. As the conferences unfolded over two summers of unprecedented social and physical isolation, it was especially gratifying to engage in this work with so many new friends who might never have met during more normal times.

Threefold Educational Foundation

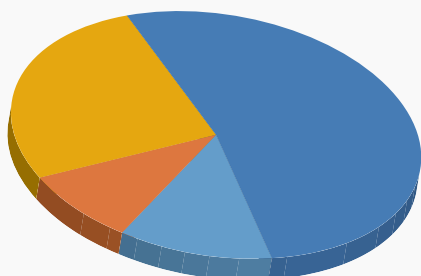
Income and Expenses, July 2021-June 2022

FOUNDATION OPERATIONS INCOME



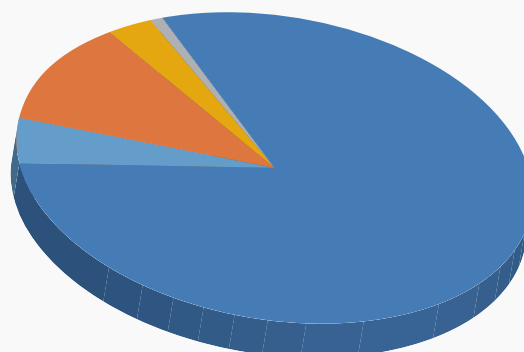
● Residential rent	\$1,077,182
● Institutional rent	\$199,032
● Administrative services	\$353,603
● Café and Pond revenue	\$518,239
● Other (conferences, programs)	\$225,533

EXPENSES



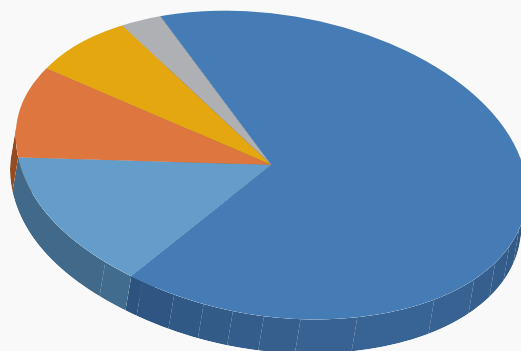
● Salaries and benefits	\$1,299,339
● Office and administrative	\$293,187
● Cost of goods / program	\$218,950
● Facilities expenses	\$647,900

EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS INCOME



● Program income	\$6,551,072
● Other income	\$394,102
● Gifts, grants, other	\$967,667
● Product sales	\$236,214
● Subsidy	\$62,000

EXPENSES



● Salaries and benefits	\$5,348,490
● Office and administrative	\$1,104,604
● Program expense	\$794,588
● Facility expense	\$594,498
● Other	\$210,047

Pre-audit data from Threefold Educational Foundation and the institutions operating under its charter.

Green Meadow Waldorf School

The year 2022 marks the seventieth anniversary of Green Meadow's inaugural first-grade class, led by Lexi Bjorness (Ahrens). Fifty years ago, Kitsy McHenry's eighth graders became the first class of Green Meadow's new high school. We honor our founders and the achievements of Green Meadow and our alumni in this anniversary year!



Green Meadow Senior Play on the Main House lawn.

The last two years have been dominated by the Covid pandemic, and by new awareness of an urgent need to address issues of race and social justice.

Green Meadow's response to Covid-19 was, first and foremost, to commit to in-person education. For us, learning happens from heart to heart, where we can see each other face to face. Thanks to herculean efforts by our teachers, staff, and families we provided in-person instruction over the entire course of the pandemic. Our international student exchange program stopped for two years, as we could not

admit international students. As borders reopened in the first half of 2022, we initiated *Verano en España*, a summer Spanish-language immersion experience in which students walked the Camino Portugues from A Guarda to Santiago. That kicked off a year that will welcome exchange students from Waldorf schools in Spain, Korea, China, Switzerland, and Chile.

Waldorf education was conceived as a force for social renewal at its founding in 1919, and Green Meadow too was founded for social renewal. Heightened awareness of social justice issues starting in the summer of 2020 led to work culminating in a September 2021 Town Hall that laid out our values regarding diversity, equity, and belonging. Teachers, parents, and students together recommitted to honoring one another in the fullness of our individual identities. Our curriculum highlights world history and world culture, as well as Rockland County's indigenous people. Our 2021-22 first grade class represented twelve different languages being spoken at home.

We remain deeply grateful to our founders and dedicated to continuing their work as stewards of the land they gifted us, the beautiful campus they developed for us, and the legacy of Waldorf Education they inspired us to carry for future students of Green Meadow.



Green Meadow Senior Play on the Main House deck.

Otto Specht School



Experiencing bubbles.

At the edge of impossibility, we find the possibility. In March 2020, when the world paused and learning suddenly went remote, we met this edge. Within a week, our curriculum had pivoted to meet the need for online learning with new courses and remote therapies. “Mr. Leopold’s Neighborhood,” a concept proposed humorously at our last in-person faculty meeting, went into production. Featuring various teachers and the unique places and characteristics of the Threefold and Fellowship communities, these short videos helped maintain connections for our students throughout our time apart. Students graduated and new ones joined us.

In summer 2020, special education programs were permitted to reopen in person. We gladly welcomed our students back to campus, a reunion that affirmed for both students and staff the importance of human connection. In the two years since then, we have faced this edge again and again, juggling financial challenges, staffing shortages, and scarce classroom spaces. The Otto Specht School has stayed open and in-person and has kept growing thanks to our dedicated faculty and the support of Threefold Educational Foundation.

One of the most significant developments over these past years has been that despite the many restrictions that the Covid-19 pandemic imposed, the Otto Specht School has found new ways to connect with the community that gives context to all we do. We hosted the 2021 Enchanted Halloween Walk, co-hosted the Fellowship Community’s 2021 Holiday Fair and Crafts Sale, and in May 2022 brought back our community 5K run.

At the edge of every impossibility, Otto Specht School has found possibility not in sweeping transformations but by adhering to the core components of our program, including: taking every opportunity to learn, work, and play outdoors; engaging in practical work; and working in meaningful service to others.

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Otto Specht students harvesting rye at Threefold Community Farm.

Endeavor 21+

Active throughout the Threefold community, Endeavor 21+ provides a place where young adults with special needs and all abilities can live, learn, and work. We are honored to be part of such a vibrant community that treats everyone with dignity and respect, and openly embraces differences and diversity.



Limbering up with movement activities.

Our experience of the Covid-19 pandemic began with a mandated three-month closure of our programs beginning in March 2020. In July, we jumped back into programming and have been going strong ever since. The challenges of navigating pandemic safety measures in the end allowed us to establish stronger ties with our community. As restrictions eased and the Threefold community's festival life resumed, we collaborated with the Otto Specht School to bring back the Enchanted Halloween Walk, spearheaded the Fellowship Community's Holiday Fair and Crafts Sale, and

supported the Otto Specht School's 5K run. We also deepened our relationship with Threefold Community Farm; Endeavor 21+ participants now help out with cow care in the dairy and farm chores in the fields, and participants have attended courses at the Pfeiffer Center.

The foundation of our work is acknowledging that each human being is unique, believing in continuous self-development, and grasping life-sharing opportunities. We are inspired by the anthroposophic worldview, which attributes equal importance to the physical and the spiritual aspects of human beings and the world. Our approach integrates lifelong learning with the aim of unfolding each person's potential. We are committed to caring for the land and environment by incorporating sustainable practices and engaging with the wider community.

Despite the challenges of Covid, Endeavor 21+ has experienced steady growth in the past three years. Our participant number continues to grow as families move into the community, and our program offerings are expanding to include local businesses and institutions. We are excited to announce a new volunteer partnership with Artis Senior Living, a local elder care facility. Endeavor 21+ participants will be involved in vocational programming where they can be of service to the elderly and share cultural events together. We have also launched a store where we sell organic body care products, candles, and other items made by our participants using ingredients harvested from the Otto Specht School's medicinal garden.



Planting potatoes at Threefold Community Farm.

Threefold Café

Threefold Café is the crossroads of Threefold community life. Whatever your connection to the community, sooner or later the Café becomes your go-to destination for food and coffee, conversation, and music. On March 20, 2020, the day that we had to suspend table service, we committed ourselves to doing everything possible to continue fulfilling our role as a community center. Because we already had an established take-out trade, we quickly pivoted to curbside pickup and created a menu oriented to our community's stuck-at-home reality.



A Take Home menu to keep the community connected.

As the weather warmed and restrictions eased, we could safely offer appropriately spaced seating for both daytime fare and Friday night dinners. As our community juggled working from home, isolation, childcare complications, and worse, we were happy to provide a space for people to meet one another and, of course, enjoy great food.

Since the fall of 2021 we have enjoyed a steady, if bumpy, return to normal operations, welcoming guests to our deck and dining rooms and serving students who are again traveling here for programs at Sunbridge Institute, the Fiber Craft Studio, Eurythmy Spring Valley, and elsewhere. We are committed to fostering community life at Threefold, and also to attracting customers from outside the community. Here are some recent highlights:

- ▶ In the fall of 2022 we began providing school lunch to the Village Montessori School of Waldwick, NJ.
- ▶ Each week we welcome young adults with learning differences from Endeavor 21+ into our kitchen, where they assist our baker Naomi while building valuable work and social skills.
- ▶ Chef Jen Fox completed the Pfeiffer Center's One-Year Biodynamic Training in 2021. Her kitchen garden out behind the Café has become a community talking point and a fountain of ultra-fresh herbs and vegetables that find their way into our dishes.

Since the summer of 2020, Café manager Jesse Webster has actively participated in the work of the Threefold DEI study group, which was established in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd. Our ongoing work explores both personal and social questions around issues of race and racism relative to the Threefold community. Our goal is to work toward making the community and the Café welcoming and supportive to everyone.



Distanced, masked outdoor service, summer 2021.

Hungry Hollow Co-op

February 2020 through June 2022 was a deeply transformative time for the Co-op. As we adapted to changing needs in our community, we gained insights that reshaped us in permanent ways.

Early in the pandemic we experienced a surge in demand for online ordering with delivery and curbside pickup options. At its peak, we processed 60 to 75 such orders each day, learning as we went along. We secured a third-party delivery service, and developed ordering through our website. Online ordering in turn necessitated an upgrade for our operating system and updated registers to support it! Perfecting this system took several months of refining and organizing; a side benefit of all the upgrades was increased register speed when in-store shopping returned.

Staffing was a continuous challenge. During the first Covid peak, our staff was reduced by roughly half. In the Covid wave of January 2021, several staff members fell ill simultaneously. At such times, the lack of available staff made it difficult to cover store hours. To contain the impact of Covid exposures, we began working in pods. As we learned to work with reduced staffing, we gained valuable insights into new ways of operating. We began to cross-train, making us more effective at covering the needs of both customers and the store with fewer people. Over time, the changes initiated in response to these staffing challenges evolved into a permanent new work structure.

During the pandemic, interest in our self-service food buffet plummeted. In response, we redesigned our hot food area, replacing it with full-service heated deli cases. While this change allowed us to restore our kitchen service, it came with its own learning curve and ongoing experiments!

As events during the pandemic led us to contemplate the inequities within our society, we sought ways to connect with and support our underserved neighbors. General Manager Lisa Burton participated in the Threefold DEI study group, and the Co-op initiated a working relationship with the Martin Luther King Multipurpose Center in Spring Valley. We post employment opportunities at the Center, and provide regular food donations to their food pantry. Customers may contribute to the food pantry by placing donations in the shopping cart at the Co-op's entrance.





Threefold Community Farm

Not long after a well-attended Midwinter Agriculture Intensive in February 2020, Covid restrictions began to impact our work. The spring sessions of the 2019-20 One-Year Part-Time Biodynamic Training were cancelled, but a masked, socially distanced Plant Sale in May booked record sales thanks to a pandemic-spurred interest in gardening. Workshops and children's programs were halted, but we proceeded to launch our new three-month summer internship while taking measures to ensure safe outdoor education.

The pandemic gave us the opportunity to concentrate on land care and production, including getting more biodynamic preparations and homegrown cow manure compost on our fields and pastures. Consistent and carefully timed cultivation led to high crop yields and a large reduction in weed pressure. For the safety and convenience of elder Fellowship members, we created a small midweek farm stand near Hilltop House. We also collaborated with the Hungry Hollow Co-op to showcase our vegetables in place of our usual Friday produce stand. The farm road was often crowded with people seeking to experience the farm's beauty and life and enjoy a visit with the cows. Although we couldn't host groups of volunteers, we made space for Endeavor 21+ and family pods to participate independently around the farm.

In the fall, the biodynamic training resumed under stringent safety precautions, and our annual Farm-to-Table Benefit Dinner morphed into a well-attended Farm-to-Takeout event.

For the 2021 season, we increased the number of shares in our CSA, resumed our weekly produce stand, and welcomed Fellowship Community members back into the greenhouses and to help process peas, beans, tomatoes, and broccoli. Our internship expanded with a nine-month extension to the three-month summer program, and the 2021-22 biodynamic training had strong enrollment. With the support of one generous donor and in collaboration with the Nature Place, our farm educator position became full time, enabling us to increase our offerings to Green Meadow Waldorf School and to the public.

After several years of working to integrate the Pfeiffer Center's programs with the agricultural work of the Fellowship Community, we proudly introduced Threefold Community Farm at our annual Plant Sale in May 2022. We recognize that Threefold Community Farm plays an important role in our community, and needs the support of the community to be healthy. We continually ask the question of how to balance the pillars of our mission: land care, education, and production.

Considering the deep social implications of injustice towards people of color, as a farm we are also committed to broadening our understanding of racism and how it can live within us and our organizational structures. The farm leadership participated in Cory Eichman's online course, "Questions of Diversity and Race in Rudolf Steiner's Spiritual Science," to better understand the undercurrents of racism in Steiner's work and how that translates to our work as biodynamic farmers.

Threefold Branch

At the beginning of the pandemic in April 2020 all events around Threefold were cancelled, so also the Branch. However, a few people found it essential to meet and so they did in a private home carrying on through the summer. For the others, it was encouraged to continue to study while at home. We finished working with the cycle *Awakening to Community*.

We reconvened in September 2020 and met in our regular space in the Side Room of the Auditorium, but with the resurgence of illness in December we moved to the Christian Community Church to continue our meetings there. We took up the cycle *The Arts and Their Mission*. In December Jonathan Alesander gave a talk on "The Second Goetheanum: Michael's Castle." Grigory Smirnov gave talks on "The Language of Classical Music Composition" in December 2020 and April 2021. In March 2021, Daniel Perez traveled from New Hampshire to share about the "Role of the Double and the Rosicrucian Path in Our Technological Age." Also in March we looked at "Spiritual Impulses behind Political Events" with David Taulbee Anderson from New York City.

In September 2021 we started with the new cycle *Anthroposophy, An Introduction*. Kenneth Melia shared a presentation on "Michael in Art and Imagination," Brigida Balaszun brought "Ahriman on Stage," and Judith Brockway presented her findings on the "Obstacles That Prevent Us from Perceiving the Christ." In October, former Green Meadow history teacher Karl Fredrickson brought an enlivening presentation on "A Question of Destiny: The Remarkable Civil War Friendship of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass." In November, Saeko Cohn took us on a cosmic musical exploration with "Imagining Rudolf Steiner's Ideas about Ancient Planetary Evolution as an Original Image of the Human Soul: A Musical Recapitulation." In April we returned home to our regular meeting place in the Side Room of Threefold Auditorium. In May 2022, Karl Fredrickson graced us with another presentation on "Rudolf Steiner, His Life and Times: The Year 1918." In June, Robert McKay from Toronto, Canada, came to delve into "An Experiential Workshop on Anthroposophical Meditation."

The predominant feeling that remained with us throughout these challenges is that of being faithful to anthroposophy. May we continue to do so in the future.





The Christian Community

In 2019, the Christian Community Seminary left Chestnut Ridge for Toronto, and the church began a new phase of congregational life under the leadership of Rev. Paul Newton.

An intensification of feeling for the importance of our central task—celebrating the sacrament for the earth and all humanity—came with the restrictions imposed in connection with Covid-19 starting in March 2020. The ritual was celebrated daily from before Holy Week until St. John's Day. A primary consideration during that period was that the church feel like a place of sanctuary for everyone across the broad spectrum of understanding and expectations regarding Covid. For many months, two services were held each Sunday to comfortably accommodate all who wanted to participate.

Due to Covid travel restrictions, the Seminary's 2021 ordination preparation course moved to Chestnut Ridge: from January to May, the Seminary returned! This change made it possible for Anna Silber to join the seven other candidates for priesthood. Anna, a former GMWS class teacher and Director of Education at Sunbridge Institute, was ordained in May 2021 and then inducted as a second priest alongside Paul Newton.

New initiatives during this time included our Saturday morning "Goethean" conversations, the Prayer Support Circle, Monday Night Music Salons, the Caring Craft Club, and a new website. In 2021 we initiated sessions on Foundations of Christian Esotericism, bringing together the sacramental religious activity of the Christian Community and the spiritual science of Rudolf Steiner. These sessions led to "Renewing the Mysteries," an August 2022 conference jointly carried with the Threefold Branch of the Anthroposophical Society. The conference marked the 1922 founding of the Christian Community, as well as the tragic destruction of the First Goetheanum.

In the midst of all this activity, a roof replacement and repainting of the church was paid for by generous donations. We are gratified to have been able to serve our congregation and our community through a historically difficult and challenging time.

Sunbridge Institute



Handwork instruction on Zoom.

When the pandemic arrived, Sunbridge jumped into action, mustering all our forces and pulling out all the stops in order to support our students—from finding ways to offer educational experiences when in-person classes were not possible, to offering regular faculty check-ins and mentoring conversations, to nearly doubling our financial aid budget to help students affected by teacher layoffs and reduced professional development budgets—while also working to address and reverse the other crisis we face: racial injustice in our communities.

When COVID-19 first appeared, we were about to welcome our Elementary program students to campus for their early March intensive; by mid-March, we were teaching our Early Childhood students over Zoom. This rapid pivot to remote instruction was enabled by our board and administration's quick decision to invest in technology, staff, and training; our program directors' and faculty's willingness to teach remotely; and our students' enthusiastic engagement.

Despite this viable classroom alternative, however, many of our students still struggled. Financial and career insecurities caused many to step away from their teacher education studies temporarily or permanently, while many who remained demonstrated a sharp increase in their need for tuition assistance. Relief for our bottom line came from a PPP loan, generous scholarship funding and financial support from our granting foundations and individual donors, and stronger-than-expected revenue from the unprecedented numbers of online course and workshop registrations we've received since summer 2020. Notwithstanding the admitted drawbacks of technology, serving the Waldorf community virtually has allowed Sunbridge to both weather the fallout of Covid-19 as well as usher in new streams of accessibility and revenue. As we head into the future, we will continue to balance in-person and online formats for professional development offerings, while our programs will remain primarily in-person.

Responding to the social justice issues pushed to the forefront of America's consciousness beginning in 2020, Sunbridge opened that September with the first presentation of "Calling It Like It Is: Uncovering and Dismantling Racism in the Waldorf Movement," a workshop that has helped hundreds of Waldorf educators, administrators, and others tackle racism in Waldorf curricula and communities. In May 2021, our new director of education and organizational culture, Meggan Gill '10, took the lead in our ongoing efforts to promote DEI in Waldorf classrooms and communities. We continue to deepen awareness and create opportunities through ongoing conversations that support all our students, faculty, staff, and board in our efforts to dismantle racism and injustice in our schools and beyond.



Returning to in-person instruction.

Fiber Craft Studio

The restrictions on travel and in-person meetings that came with the pandemic in early 2020 had a dramatic effect on the programs and activities of the Fiber Craft Studio.

In a normal year, several weeks of each summer are given over to classes for the Applied Arts Program, our training for Waldorf handwork teachers. These sessions were canceled in 2020, although we offered online lectures and workshops in order to keep connected with students. Because of the



Distanced instruction in Orchard House.

“lost” summer, the Applied Arts 10th cycle’s graduation was delayed one year, to summer 2021.

Despite the adversity, the 10th cycle’s final projects were great and it was exciting to see each student’s journey of material and self transformation, an experience that they can bring to their students in Waldorf schools. The Applied Arts 12th cycle started in the summer of 2021, and we now look forward to starting the 13th cycle on schedule in 2023.

Due to pandemic restrictions, we called off the 2020 Sheep and Wool Festival. The following spring, large public gatherings were still not possible, so we created Celebrating Handwork, a month-long series of online

and in-person handwork events and workshops. The warm, enthusiastic response to Celebrating Handwork affirmed the healing powers of handwork in a time that was isolating and stressful for so many families. In May of 2022 we joyfully brought the Sheep and Wool Festival back to life. It was delightful to see so many friends of all ages celebrating nature’s gifts together again.

Art of Clothing, our one-year course that meets monthly from September to June, negotiated pandemic restrictions thanks to the flexibility of both students and faculty. Drawing on research at the Fiber Craft Studio, and designed for all levels of experience and interest, Art of Clothing is all about connecting with nature to create spirit-filled garments with beauty and function. The fourth cycle of Art of Clothing started in September 2022 with a full roster of students.

As we emerge from the disruptions and restrictions of pandemic life, we remain grateful to all the friends and supporters who attend our courses, workshops, and events, and share our commitment to the possibility of awakening inner growth and self-development through handwork.



Student projects: crochet and embroidery.



Student projects: plant dyeing.



Eurythmy Spring Valley

For Eurythmy Spring Valley, the time of Covid-19 brought a formative process of organizational learning as we negotiated changing standards for safe in-person instruction, travel restrictions for our foreign students, and unpredictable disruptions caused by illness and exposure. The restrictions and reduction of activity during this period have had a profound impact on the ESV community, in our classrooms, on the stage, with our audiences, and on our international students.

In March 2020, our training, performing, and normal host of spring workshops and performances were cancelled en masse. With school buildings closed, we finished the term navigating the challenges of eurythmy instruction on Zoom from May 18 to July 3, 2020. As restrictions persisted into the late summer, we also kept our longstanding Summer Eurythmy Week tradition alive with another unprecedented virtual offering.

The School of Eurythmy was very fortunate to be among the few movement programs allowed to reopen in person in September 2020. This upheld a vital continuity for our students and their training. Amidst the continuous adjusting to outer conditions, we witnessed the steady, unhindered wellspring that comes from working in eurythmy, in the resilient striving of our students, in the virtuoso pieces developed by our ensemble members, and in the strength of our community of colleagues that all took part in turning a very challenging tide.

While the Ensemble was only able to resume group rehearsals in August 2021, Ensemble members made the pandemic restrictions into a prolific time of building individual repertoires for future programs. By implementing advance purchase and restricted seating, the Ensemble was able to begin performing solos for small gatherings in Threefold Auditorium as early as November 2020.

When the first pandemic restrictions took hold, the institutions of the Threefold community began a daily call to offer mutual support and share solutions for managing the shutdown. Threefold Educational Foundation secured PPP loans (since forgiven) that provided an essential financial bridge when we could not conduct our normal work. Augmenting these loans was the financial and moral support provided by the many devoted friends of eurythmy who helped us keep our work alive through the uncertainties of the pandemic.

While the challenges of safely conducting instruction and performances persist, Eurythmy Spring Valley joyfully greets the 2022-23 school year with strong enrollment and newfound appreciation for the healing powers of our art.

Steiner School of Speech Arts

March 2020: Our one student, then in her third year, continued her training in Canada and England when Covid restrictions stopped in-person instruction in New York. She worked in a hybrid situation, alternating Zoom lessons and live blocks, and graduated in London in October 2021. She has begun her career with performances in Switzerland, England, and the US, and is offering workshops for parents of young children.

September 2021: One student began her full-time on-campus training with us. Being at Threefold makes a reasonably broad anthroposophical artistic training available, even to a single student, because we can collaborate with other institutions, primarily the School of Eurythmy. This student entered her third year in fall 2022, joined by two schoolmates, experienced lovers-of-speech who are diving into a year of artistic immersion with a first-year curriculum.

In 2022 we inaugurated Speech 101, a series of one-week intensive blocks that offer an introduction to the artistic forming of speech through Rudolf Steiner's exercises in articulation and breathing. The first Speech 101 weeks were offered in February and April, aiming for school holidays to accommodate teachers. The second series will be offered in the winter and spring of 2023.

End-of-term speech recitals continue to be a highlight in the life of the school. Some recitals have overlapped with the speech work of the eurythmy students, but each term has borne rich fruit in the performances of the speech students and faculty.

Whenever possible, we expand the Speech School curriculum by involving our students in community artistic work. This has included the annual Christmas production of *The Shepherds' Play* (still on pandemic hiatus in 2021) and the May 2022 community production of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. The Threefold Speech Chorus has also resumed its community-based work; each block of Speech Chorus culminates in a festival recital.

Having only one full-time student in 2020-22 helped us comply with Covid restrictions while providing a training in the full and free breathing that Speech Formation requires. As pandemic precautions ease, we look forward to continuing to expand our course, workshop, and community-based offerings.



The Threefold Community Players present As You Like It.

The Waldorf Early Childhood Association

During the past two and a half years, WECAN has undergone a period of great soul-searching, exploration, stretching, and learning as we have met the challenges of the pandemic and the need to commit ourselves to active work on diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, early childhood educators in our member schools and programs exercised tremendous courage, flexibility, and dedication in their work, and WECAN reached out to offer support. We formed a WECAN Community Hub to facilitate communication and exchange, and it now has more than a thousand participants who are actively sharing questions, resources, and inspiration.

We discovered that online communications—the Community Hub, Zoom meetings, and conferences—can bring together educators from throughout North America in ways we never had imagined. Our annual February conferences, which have always taken place at Threefold, moved online for two years. This was a great challenge, but also made it possible for 900 early childhood educators to participate in our work on inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. Our theme for 2021 and 2022 focused on “Toward a Kinder, More Compassionate Society—Working Together toward Change.” We are planning to return to Threefold in February 2023 to continue our work on this theme, and are publishing a book on the conference theme to serve as a resource for this ongoing work.

Other steps we have taken in the past two years include the hiring of two Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Coordinators, the formation of an active IDEA Committee, and work with Alma Partners on a Diversity, Equity, Access, and Justice (DEIJ) Audit, in which our board, staff, and members are engaged.

WECAN membership in 2022 includes 185 Full and Associate Member programs, 17 registered initiatives, 11 Teacher Education institutes, and 520 individuals throughout North America.

WECAN books published in 2021-22 include *Eurythmy in Kindergarten*, *The Picture Language of Folk Tales*, *Loving Care for the Child from Birth to Three*, *Movement Journeys and Circle Adventures*, and *Birth to Three in Education and Care: Rudolf Steiner, Emmi Pikler and the Very Young Child*.



Staying connected with Zoom.

The Nature Place



Three generations of the Nature Place.

Given the circumstances in early 2020, we looked ahead to the summer unsure if we could safely operate camp at all. After considerable research and reflection, we designed a program with greatly reduced numbers and enhanced safety precautions, including masking, distancing, and cohort-ing. This modified version of camp provided a beautiful experience for staff and campers, but the related expenses left us in significant debt.

We managed to stay afloat and go on to run a much fuller program in 2021. Hard work through the year enabled us to pay off all our pandemic-related debt and get the Nature Place into healthy financial shape and a good place from which to consider our future.

The Covid-19 pandemic happened to coincide with a period of reflection on next steps for the Nature Place. Created forty years ago by Ed Bieber, and always based in the Green Meadow and Threefold landscapes, the Nature Place pioneered the concept of noncompetitive, nature-centered summer camping. The world's evolution over the life of the camp had only reaffirmed the need for what we offer; but the times also were calling for fresh leadership and a new beginning. Thus, the summer of 2022 brought a big transition in the life story of the Nature Place, as we handed the keys over to a new camp owner and director, Jason Samuel.

A seasoned camp professional with nearly twenty years of experience working in youth development, Jason

has been in the camp world his whole life. He has a deep passion for the outdoors

and grew up backpacking, biking, sailing on both coasts, climbing, and camping. He got his start working at camps in his native Connecticut, and has immersed himself in the world of outdoor education. He has directed some of the most well-respected day and resident camps in the country, and we are joyful and confident to be placing the Nature Place in his capable hands.



Camping safely.



Cohort spirit.



The Fellowship Community

For over fifty-five years, the residents of the Fellowship Community have lived and worked together in service to one another and the surrounding community. Like any long-standing organization, the Fellowship has overcome many challenges on its long biographical journey, but perhaps none have compared with what we've faced over the last couple of years. In early 2020, almost every aspect of our lives was changed by the Covid-19 pandemic. As a community with a 24-hour care facility for the elderly, we didn't have the luxury to close our doors and stay home. Instead, we masked-up, cared for our elder Members and persevered. As the pandemic went from weeks to months, we were forced to innovate to keep everyone safe while striving to maintain a sense of connection and community.

A few months into the pandemic, we were thrown another curveball, losing one of our residential lodges to a devastating fire. Suddenly, layered on top of the difficulties of the pandemic, thirteen community residents of Pine Lodge lost everything they owned, including their homes. Our fundraising priorities immediately shifted to raising money to support displaced residents, and the entire community dealt with the shock and additional stress brought on by the fire. With the new Pine Lodge currently under construction, we continue our efforts to raise the remaining funds needed to complete the rebuilding project.

The challenges of the last few years have forced us to take stock of our operations and prioritize our values. This has brought out new strengths, new ways of working together, new efficiencies, skills and pathways. These tumultuous times have also empowered the Fellowship to develop a sustainable long-term vision for the future. As a result of this self-examination, we have a stronger foundation. We are expanding in new ways, providing additional homes for independent community members, and we look forward to our shared future full of hope. Recent times have also revealed that we have much for which to be grateful. We feel blessed for the opportunity to work and live together in this vibrant, intergenerational setting called the Fellowship Community.



Relaxing and gardening together at the Fellowship.



Directory of Threefold Community Institutions

The Christian Community Spring Valley

15 Margetts Road
Chestnut Ridge, NY 10952
845-573-9080
christiancommunitysv@gmail.com
www.christiancommunitysv.org

Endeavor 21+

285 Hungry Hollow Road
Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977
845-362-0743
info@endeavor21.org
www.endeavor21.org

***Eurythmy Spring Valley**

260 Hungry Hollow Road
Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977
845-352-5020 x113
info@eurythmy.org
www.eurythmy.org

The Fellowship Community

241 Hungry Hollow Road
Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977
845-356-8494
rsffoffice@fellowshipcommunity.org
www.fellowshipcommunity.org

***Fiber Craft Studio**

285 Hungry Hollow Road
Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977
845-425-2891
information@fibercraftstudio.org
www.fibercraftstudio.org

***Green Meadow Waldorf School**

307 Hungry Hollow Road
Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977
845-356-2514
info@gmws.org
www.gmws.org

Hungry Hollow Co-op

841 Chestnut Ridge Road
Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977
845-356-3319
www.hungryhollow.coop

The Nature Place

285 Hungry Hollow Road
Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977
845-356-9676
camp@thenatureplace.com
www.thenatureplace.com

***The Otto Specht School**

260 Hungry Hollow Road
Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977
845-352-5020 x130
j.rodriguez@ottospecht.org
www.ottospechtschool.org

***Steiner School of Speech Arts**

260 Hungry Hollow Road
Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977
info@steinerspeecharts.org
www.steinerspeecharts.org

Sunbridge Institute

285 Hungry Hollow Road
Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977
845-425-0055
info@sunbridge.edu
www.sunbridge.edu

Threefold Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America

34 Margetts Road
Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977
845-356-1380
gfbver@gmail.com

***Threefold Café**

285 Hungry Hollow Road
Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977
845-352-3130
cafe@threefold.org
www.threefold.org/cafe

***Threefold Community Farm**

260 Hungry Hollow Road
Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977
845-352-5020 x120
hello@threefoldcommunityfarm.org
www.threefoldcommunityfarm.org

***Threefold Educational Foundation and School**

285 Hungry Hollow Road
Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977
845-352-5020
info@threefold.org
www.threefold.org

Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN)

285 Hungry Hollow Road
Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977
845-352-1690
info@waldorfearlychildhood.org
www.waldorfearlychildhood.org

* Denotes institutions that operate under the charter of Threefold Educational Foundation and School.

