



**Time, Place, and Community:**  
**Deepening our Evolving Waldorf Curriculum**

AWSNA Great Lakes/Ontario Regional Conference

Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor  
2775 Newport Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan

February 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Keynote Speakers:

**Linda Williams**

Waldorf Education for America: Finding Our Way  
in the Landscape of the Great Lakes

**Andrea Shaffer**

Awkward Adventures in School Transformation

**Joaquin Munoz**

The Circle of Mind and Heart: Integrating Waldorf Education,  
Indigenous Epistemologies, and Critical Pedagogy

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

### **Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- 12:30 – 3:00 pm      ANA Meeting  
2:00 – 4:30 pm      Pedagogical Section Meeting  
6:00 – 7:00 pm      Registration  
7:00 pm              Welcome  
7:30 – 8:30 pm      Keynote Speaker: Linda Williams

### **Waldorf Education for America: Finding Our Way in the Landscape of the Great Lakes**

### **Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- 8:00 – 8:30 am      Coffee & Tea  
8:30 – 9:00 am      Announcements and Singing  
9:00 – 10:15 am     Keynote Speaker: Andrea Shaffer  
**Awkward Adventures in School Transformation**  
10:15 am             Break and Refreshments  
10:45 am             Workshops – Part A  
12:00 – 2:00 pm     Lunch at Rudolf Steiner High School (Bus Provided)  
2:15 – 3:45 pm      Workshops – Part B  
4:00 – 4:30 pm      Early Childhood Puppet Play  
Free Evening

### **Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**

- 8:00 – 8:30 am      Coffee & Tea  
8:30 – 9:00 am      Announcements and Singing  
9:00 – 10:15 am     Keynote Speaker: Joaquin Munoz  
**The Circle of Mind and Heart: Integrating Waldorf Education,  
Indigenous Epistemologies, and Critical Pedagogy**  
10:15 – 11:00 am     Break  
11:00 – 12:00 pm     Sharing from Workshops  
12:00 pm              Conference End (Boxed Lunches Available)  
12:00 – 5:00 pm      AWSNA Delegates Lunch Meeting

## **Workshop #1**

### **CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE PEDAGOGY AND WALDORF EDUCATION**

A continuing conversation on the theme of the conference, this workshop will explore the intersection of Culturally Responsive Pedagogy (CRP) and Waldorf Education. Through a series of exercises and vignettes, participants will explore how the major tenets of CRP can be and often are practiced in a Waldorf setting. The afternoon session will focus more explicitly on curriculum.

**Linda Williams, Ph.D.** was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan and received her Waldorf training at the Waldorf Institute of Mercy College. She has over 20 years of class teaching experience, primarily serving at the Detroit Waldorf School, where her current class is in the fourth grade. She also taught for three years at the Urban Waldorf School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Dr. Williams received her doctorate from Michigan State University in 2006 and taught literacy development and urban education as an associate professor of teacher education at Eastern Michigan University from 2006 to 2014, after which she returned to class teaching at Detroit Waldorf where she also currently serves as co-chair of the College of Teachers.

**Joaquin Munoz** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Education at Augsburg University in Minneapolis. He completed his doctorate at the University of Arizona in 2016 and has experience teaching K-12 students and adults. Recently his attention has focused on critical pedagogy and literacy and its potential to respond to neoliberal policies which have restricted teachers and dehumanized students. He has pursued this research and practice through a multitude of pedagogical approaches, ranging from the use of Waldorf-inspired education methodologies to anthropological research methods.

## **Workshop #2**

### **WORKING WITH DIVERSITY IN STRATEGIC PLANNING AND HOW A DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE WORK WITHIN A SCHOOL**

All schools embrace diversity but struggle with inclusion. What is the best way to develop diversity goals for your school? What is the right way to identify and strengthen the diversity already present in your school and attract new families? In this workshop, fun activities can open up the conversation about diversity work in your school, and we will discuss more or less effective ways to work with a Diversity Committee.

**Andrea Shaffer** earned degrees in Communication and African American Studies from the University of Iowa before graduating from the Sunbridge Extension Teacher Training Program and the Spatial Dynamics Institute. She has worked for 26 years at the Chicago Waldorf School as a class teacher, gym teacher and early childhood teacher. She has served as the Chair of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee and is a trained SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) Leader, working within Chicago Waldorf and other schools to do peer-led professional development around topics of social justice, diversity and inclusion.

### Workshop #3

#### CREATIVE SPEECH IN SERVICE OF THE TEACHER

Speech is the primary tool of the teacher. Conscious use of the elements of speech facilitates the message, be it imaginative or scientific. It is proven that Steiner's speech exercises give us much more benefit--energy, sense of well-being, balanced breath—than the effort we spend in doing them. We will play with all of these aspects. Please e-mail Katherine ([artisticspeech@gmail.com](mailto:artisticspeech@gmail.com)) with any texts that you would like to work on with the group, or receive guidance on.

**Katherine Thivierge** did her artistic speech training twenty years ago in England, with subsequent training in Anthroposophical Therapeutic Speech. She has toured internationally as a speech artist for eurythmy performances and has worked pedagogically with Waldorf teachers, students, and teacher trainees. She has been a Waldorf teacher and administrator and presently works as the Director of Operations for the Anthroposophical Society in America.

### Workshop #4

#### PART A – SINGING AND MUSICAL ACTIVITIES

This workshop will engage participants through head, hand and heart. Through singing and movement, we will experience music as a social activity and explore time, place and community through music.

**Monika Sutherland**, cellist, studied music at Indiana University (BMus) and Northwestern University (MMus). She participated in the Waldorf Music Teacher Training at Sunbridge College and has been a Waldorf teacher for seventeen years. She is currently director of music at Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School in Viroqua, Wisconsin, where she directs a full program of chorus, orchestra, and general music. Monika teaches in the Great Lakes Waldorf Institute teacher training program and is also a mentor and consultant for a number of Waldorf schools in the US and Canada.

#### PART B - THE EVOLUTION OF ENROLLMENT

Charis Calender-Suemnick has spearheaded a dramatic increase in enrollment during her six years as the Enrollment & Outreach Director at the Detroit Waldorf School. She will show how a mindful and strategic approach to enrollment cultivates interest and commitment to Waldorf Education. Participants will learn how to expand their reach into the wider community, encourage families to visit the school, and how to communicate the beauty and depth of this incredible curriculum and philosophy.

**Charis Calender-Suemnick** is the Enrollment & Outreach Director at the Detroit Waldorf School. After living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for just under a decade, she returned to her home state of Michigan and discovered the Waldorf training program in Ann Arbor. After a year in the program, she was led to Detroit and accepted the position at DWS. Charis received her Waldorf Elementary Teacher certification in 2013. Ms. Calender is a trained ballroom dance teacher, and taught private piano lessons in Milwaukee for several years.

## Workshop #5

### GLOBAL IMAGINATION: LOCAL ACTIONS

New thoughts on expanding and deepening the Waldorf main lesson curriculum: stories, histories, field trips, and more. As examples, when and how can we teach about Ruby Bridges, China, Paraguay, our own neighborhood? What has worked? What could work?

**Margot Amrine** has been a Waldorf teacher since 1978: kindergarten assistant, kindergarten teacher, class teacher, music teacher, high school History teacher, and teacher of teachers. She has also served as director of the Waldorf Institute of Southeast Michigan.

**Calisa Tucker** is the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class teacher at the Rudolf Steiner School in Ann Arbor. She is completing her second cycle through the grades. Before entering the field of teaching, Calisa earned degrees in engineering from the University of Michigan and worked for Ford Motor Company.

## Workshop #6

### THE IMPORTANCE AND PRACTICE OF LIVING ZERO WASTE

The morning session of this workshop will focus on the “zero waste” mindset. What does eliminating waste change about how we think? What systems does it call into question? How does the conscious choice to reduce waste impact how we work in the world, and most importantly, what we’re modeling for children (and others) about our values?

Our afternoon session will focus on the practice of zero waste. Most people would never consider adopting a zero waste lifestyle because it’s too difficult or radical. By the end of the workshop, participants will have identified their biggest roadblocks to significantly reducing their waste, and learned some simple strategies to either eliminate the need that underpins the roadblock, or create a workaround that is waste-free.

**Samuel McMullen** is the co-founder of Live Zero Waste, a nonprofit that provides resources for people living zero waste in 26 countries. He is a graduate of the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor and is currently studying Philosophy and Entrepreneurship at the University of Michigan. For questions about zero waste before, during, or after the workshop, feel free to e-mail [samuel@livezerowaste.org](mailto:samuel@livezerowaste.org).

## Workshop #7

### LOCAL AND ORGANIC—GROWING A CYCLE OF FESTIVALS FOR OUR OWN COMMUNITIES

How do we tap into the particular pulse of each community and create festivals which both fit the community and hold true to the guiding principles of Waldorf pedagogy? We will explore this exciting field. Participants will be encouraged to share their experiences.

**Sudee Taormina** holds a BFA from Michigan State University. She has taught Art classes at the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor in the elementary grades and Middle School for more than twenty years. Contemplating the mystery of the festivals consumes much of her thought and time.

**Margarete Walsh** holds an MA from the Justus Liebig Universitat of Giessen, Germany. She has taught German at the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor in Grades 1-8 for over twenty years. Margarete loves to help create festive occasions, both in her German classes and for the school at large.

### **Workshop #8**

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES**

In this workshop we will explore developmentally-appropriate ways to build a foundation for social/emotional health in middle school. As more and more young teens use social media as their main way to connect with one another, it will become increasingly important to guide them in how to interact face to face through heartfelt communication, honesty and respect. This workshop will talk about ways to build a safe environment of trust, collaboration and courage. In other words, how to deal with middle school drama!

**Carol Triggiano** has been a teacher at the Chicago Waldorf School for the past 25 years. She graduated from National Louis University and taught for several years in both public and private schools. She is a graduate of the Arcturus Waldorf Teacher Training Program, where she teaches a variety of courses. Carol taught Early Childhood before becoming a grades teacher and has completed two rounds of 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade as well as a 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> class. This year she picked up a 6<sup>th</sup> grade class. Carol regularly visits other Waldorf Schools as an outside evaluator, lecturer and mentor. She has served as the Chair of the College of Teachers, AWSNA delegate, and on numerous administrative and pedagogical committees.

### **Workshop #9**

#### **AN OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL HEALTH: DEFINITION, PLAN & TACTICS FOR SUCCESS**

This session will look at the definition of good social health in a school. It will outline a plan for including all of the major players – students, teachers, and parents. It will incorporate real stories to illustrate the potential to transform a school for the betterment of the community at large.

**Linda Teaman** has 17 years of experience teaching at the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor and as a faculty member of the Waldorf Institute of Southeast Michigan. She continues to mentor movement educators and class teachers, for movement and singing. Linda is currently the CEO of a software company that, among other things, uses movement and social inclusion techniques to encourage a healthy growing company. She is proud that she has been able to hire many Waldorf students to fill various positions in software development, customer service, bookkeeping and marketing. She is also a Waldorf grandmother!

## **Workshop #10**

### **SEEKING STORIES FOR OUR TIME**

Join us for a discussion and an experience of story through speech and eurythmy. In our workshop we will reimagine the content of the storytelling curriculum throughout the grades. Legends, local myths, and biographies for our present day.

**Susann Herb-Eddy** is the eurythmy teacher at the Detroit Waldorf School. She is also a therapeutic eurythmist and in that capacity, a member of the school's educational support program. She leads an on-going parent eurythmy class, and teaches at the Waldorf Institute of Southeast Michigan.

**Justin Trombly** has been teaching in Waldorf Schools for the past fifteen years in Chicago, Portland, and Detroit. After graduating a class in 2016 on the west coast, he returned to his native Detroit to join the faculty at DWS. He is currently teaching grade two, and is enjoying telling legends from around the world.

## **Workshop #11**

### **SUPPORTING GENDER AND GENDER IDENTITY DIVERSITY IN OUR SCHOOLS**

Transgender, gender questioning and genderqueer students can be found in every school district, county, city and town in the United States, and in our Waldorf Schools. According to some research, as many as 3% of students identify as a gender other than the one they were assigned at birth. This workshop will help teachers identify the unique challenges that transgender and gender diverse students face, and offer guidance on how to create and maintain safe and inclusive learning environments from our early childhood programs to high school.

**Siân Owen-Cruise** is the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor Administrator and the Interim High School Coordinator. Sian is also a faculty member of the Waldorf Institute of Southeast Michigan Teacher Education program, and a core faculty member of Leading with Spirit, a national Waldorf School administration development program.

**Heidi Sproull** is a psycho-therapist (LMSW), an AASECT certified sex therapist and trauma specialist in private practice. She works with the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor to bring sex education and sexuality education to students in the Middle and High Schools. She also works with faculty to help the school ensure that it is a welcoming place for all students and families. Outside of her work she is a martial artist and an Alumni Waldorf parent.

## Workshop #12

### **TAMING THE DRAGON – WALDORF EDUCATION AND YOUTH INITIATIVE HIGH SCHOOL AS HEALING COMMUNITIES FOR ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES**

Adverse Childhood Experiences (various forms of trauma experience in childhood) cause actual changes in children's brains, impacting their development, their success in the future, their health, and their whole lives. ACE's research shows that trauma causes long-term harm, but positive experiences can mitigate some of the effects of that trauma.

Many Waldorf educational practices provide a therapeutic environment. These environments, with our conscious attention, can provide the positive experiences to address the ACEs that children have experienced. Learn how Waldorf schools support children who have experienced ACEs; hear how Youth Initiative High School's programs, processes and practices support all students, especially those traumatized by ACEs. Learn what children with ACEs need in supportive communities and discover some ways to develop and identify supportive communities. What initiatives does your school practice that can support students with an ACEs score?

**Martha Buche** is a teacher at Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School and Youth Initiative High School. She is a veteran teacher, blessed with a low ACEs score, who has more than 30 years of experience working with children and families. She and her husband have two grown (or nearly grown) Waldorf-educated children.

**Pita Daniels** is a certified ACEs Trainer, with personal experiences with ACEs and the impact they have had on his own life. He is a teacher at Youth Initiative High School and a Peer Specialist at Family and Children's Center, as well as a parent of two adolescent sons currently in Waldorf Schools. He and his family live in Viroqua, Wisconsin.



## **TRANSPORTATION:**

### **Nearest Airport**

Detroit Metro Airport (DTW)

### **Ground Transportation**

Lyft - <https://www.lyft.com/cities/ann-arbor-mi> - The Lyft app matches you with friendly local drivers at the tap of a button. Just request and go. After the ride, simply pay through your phone.

Uber - <https://www.uber.com/cities/ann-arbor/> - The Uber app connects you with a reliable ride — from low-cost to premium — in minutes. Payment is automatic through the app and fares are usually cheaper than a taxi.

Taxi Service – Amazing Blue Taxi - <http://www.amazingbluetaxi.com/> - 734-846-0007

## **ACCOMODATIONS:**

**Steiner House** – \$60 for a double room, \$40 for a single (limited availability) – 734-662-9355

**Holiday Inn Express** – 323 N. Zeeb Road Ann Arbor, MI 48103 – To make reservations call 734-827-1100 (group name is AWSNA) or online at [www.holidayinnexpress.com/annarborwest](http://www.holidayinnexpress.com/annarborwest) using the group code “AWS” - \$85.00/night

**Holiday Inn Express** – 600 Briarwood Cir, Ann Arbor, MI 48108 – To make reservations call 734-761-2929 or 1-800-344-7829 (group name is AWSNA) – \$109.00/night

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

FOR CANADIAN CITIZENS traveling by air to, through or from the United States must present a valid passport or a valid Air NEXUS card at kiosks at participating airports. This applies to all travelers, regardless of age, including children.

Canadian citizens traveling to the U.S. by land or sea must present one of the travel documents listed below:

1. Canadian Passport - This is an internationally recognized travel document that verifies a person's identity and citizenship. It is accepted for travel by air, land and sea.
2. Trusted Traveler Programs - NEXUS, FAST/Expres and SENTRI enrollment cards can speed your entry into the U.S. and are issued only to pre-approved travelers. FAST/Expres cards are valid for use at land or sea ports of entry; the NEXUS card can be used at land or sea ports of entry and at kiosks at participating airports.
3. Enhanced Driver's License/Enhanced Identification Card - Canadian provinces have begun issuing these documents that denote identity and citizenship that are WHTI-compliant for cross-border travel into the U.S. by land or sea