

Changing of the Guard

Joan Almon

I have before me a folder full of our Kindergarten Newsletters beginning in Fall 1981. Even before we decided to start a Waldorf Kindergarten Association, a group of teachers decided we needed a newsletter to link us all together and provide us with articles and stories. At that time there were almost no books available for Waldorf kindergarten teachers. Just how I became editor is no longer clear to me, but I know that editing the Newsletter has been a wonderful opportunity for growth for me, and I am very grateful to have been able to do it.

Several times over the years it seemed time for a new editor. I would put out feelers, but it was hard to find someone, and then a new wave of enthusiasm would come, and I would happily continue. Last fall, however, it became clear that it was time for a change. Ideally our newsletter needs an editor who is in the kindergarten or in a kindergarten training and therefore very close to today's children and the issues facing parents and teachers. I have spent most of this decade visiting kindergartens but not teaching in them, offering courses but not full time in a training center. I've had a chance to broaden my perspectives and look forward to sharing thoughts and experiences in the newsletter, but it was definitely time for a new editor. Thus, I was so grateful when Nicola Tarshis, board member of the Waldorf Early Childhood Association and kindergarten teacher at the Toronto Waldorf School, offered to take on the editor's position. I've enjoyed co-editing this issue with her and look forward to reading next year's newsletters with her in charge.

Perhaps one could say that old editors never die, they just take on another publication. In my case it is the newsletter of the Anthroposophical Society in America which I now edit. This task along with my general work for the Society has kindled a very deep appreciation in me for the 25 years I've spent working with Waldorf kindergarten teachers. You all are an amazing group! I hope I have another 25 years to continue our collegial working together.

Introduction

Nicola Tarshis

This issue marks a new beginning. Our name has changed to the Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America and our mission statement has broadened. At the end of the century we have recognized the paramount need to protect young children all over the world. Consequently, we as early childhood teachers must look increasingly towards developing curative work so that we can meet the young child's ever increasing and varying needs. We have also changed the name of the newsletter to GATEWAYS. Look for this change in our Fall 1998 issue. (Many thanks go to Margret Meyerkort for her support and permission to use Gateways as the name for our newsletter.) We are passing through the gateway into a new century. Daily we guide children through the portals of day and night. We are also participants at the threshold of birth and death. The articles in this issue cover many aspects of our "New Beginning": research articles, international work, gardening, parent-tot work and conference reviews.

Future articles for the newsletter should be sent directly to Nicola Tarshis, 82 Castlerock Drive, Richmond Hill, Ontario, JAG 5K4, Canada, (905) 770-5431.