

Introduction
Susan Howard and Joan Almon, Co-Chairs
Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America

As we prepare for a new century, it seems that changes are arising for the Waldorf Early Childhood Association, as they are for so many other groups and individuals. Last year, we were so pleased when Nicola Tarshis became editor of this newsletter and brought a fresh spirit and new insights to it. In late fall, however, a health problem flared up, and Nicola found she had to temporarily step back from work to give herself a full rest. We are grateful to Nicola for the inspirations she brought to the Newsletter, including its new name, Gateways, and we wish her a strong recovery. For the moment, the editorship has passed to Susan Howard and Joan Almon who look forward to developing it further while seeking a new editor.

Another change is that Lydia Roberson, who has faithfully and lovingly helped develop the administration and publications of the Association over the past eight years, is stepping back from this work. It is time for a change for her and her family as her youngest turns three and her eldest is ready for first grade. We have been closely united over the years, as WECAN occupied space in Lydia's basement and kept pace with the development of her daughters. This partnership has been such a rich and full one that it will surely evolve into a next stage, although we will all miss Lydia on a daily basis.

As we began to adjust to this change, we realized it was also an opportunity for the Association to take a step forward in its growth and become a more visible member of the Waldorf community. For this reason, we have decided to move the office to Spring Valley at this time and are seeking a part time administrator. We will be able to describe the office changes more fully in the fall, but please note that after June 20 our address will be: 285 Hungry Hollow Rd., Spring Valley, NY 10977.

Our present projects were described in our annual giving letter in February, which has had a wonderful response. To date, we have received nearly \$3000 from 65 individuals, including generous gifts of \$500 and \$300. All of this and more is needed now as we develop new programs and solidify our base for future growth.

This continues to be a very active year for the Association in a number of areas. Our focus on child care is becoming more solid with the opening of Cynthia Aldinger's first Lifeways Center in Wisconsin, and with planning beginning for full time child care centers in Sacramento and several other communities. Many schools are opening parent tot programs for children under three, and we are glad that Rena Osmer and Susan Weber were able to take part in the RIE training in Los Angeles, which focuses on movement in very young children. The Alliance for Childhood is also becoming quite active after its founding meeting in February, and its first project, with a team of experts, will focus on computers in childhood. Lydia and Joan have been working hard on publications. *Spiritual Insights*, meditative material by Rudolf Steiner, compiled by Helmut von Kügelgen, is now available in an attractive, new format, and other titles will be announced in the fall.