

Introducing “Network M” A New Website for Waldorf Graduates and Teachers

Douglas Gerwin

*A*ll too often, a student graduates from a Waldorf high school and heads off to college or some other walk of life filled with fresh ideas and boundless enthusiasm for changing the way we live, but with barely an idea of how to connect with others of like mind. Sometimes these graduates do indeed find each other—at a convention on alternative sources of fuel, perhaps, or at the checkout counter of an organic grocery store—but often they struggle to link up with those of similar vision and appetite for change.

Recently the Research Institute learned of a new venture intended to help facilitate these connections. Matthew Temple, a graduate of the Summerfield Waldorf School in Santa Rosa, California, has spent the last ten years forging informal connections with fellow Waldorf students and others interested in bringing about social change. Now he is creating a new initiative he has christened “Network M” to help Waldorf school alumni find each other and make common cause in fields of research and social reform. This initiative, he says, will serve three purposes:

- Build a network of Waldorf school graduates and teachers, including those studying to become Waldorf teachers.
- Link Waldorf alumni and teachers with others of similar interests and pursuits.
- Widen the base of support for Waldorf schools.

Eventually Temple hopes to expand Network M (the “M” stands for “Micha’el”) so that Waldorf graduates and others begin to share their thoughts, dreams, and common endeavors through forums, chat room exchanges, bulletins, and research papers. In this way, he hopes that a broader and more far-reaching community can be formed to support the work both of individual Waldorf school alumni and the schools from which they graduated.

Matthew compares this venture to the network “MoveOn.org” that was created after the 2000 presidential election to bring together activists across the country who otherwise would not have been able to find one another. “We need the same type of network,” he says. “There are many people doing work related to the anthroposophical movement who are looking for a community to support them in their social, political, economic, and artistic endeavors,” he says. “There are many more who would gladly take part, if only they knew, or if only they had access to one another.”

Those interested in this new venture, whether Waldorf school graduates and teachers or friends of Waldorf education, are invited to visit the new website for Network M—

www.thenetworkm.net

—or contact Matthew directly at
contact@thenetworkm.net.