



ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



A VIEW OF 2017-18

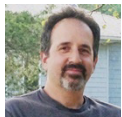
Dear Friends,

In the following pages we share Sunbridge Institute’s annual report for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

A highlight of the year, encapsulating the significance of the institution that is now Sunbridge, was the November weekend conference celebrating our 50th anniversary—a half-century of supporting and promoting Waldorf Education in North America and beyond. Since our founding as the Waldorf Institute in 1967, thousands of Sunbridge graduates, and others who have taken our classes, have shared their special light with children around the world, bringing insightful leadership to their own schools, anthroposophical organizations, and communities. Our rousing weekend celebration was a wonderful way to honor Sunbridge’s heritage and to begin to look forward towards many more years of inspiring education.

Guided by a set of strategic priorities identified in 2017 by its Board of Trustees and by the increasing demand for its services, Sunbridge has increased the number and kinds of learning opportunities available to its students. To create an important bookend to our summer intensives for Waldorf subject teachers, the Institute held its first subject teachers conference in April 2018, continuing to expand its service to teachers of language, music, art, handwork, craft, woodworking, gardening, and movement. In 2017-18 Sunbridge sponsored outreach/educational events both on-campus and off, holding Waldorf Weekends and other seminars at six Waldorf schools on the East and West Coasts. Two Open Days offered adults the opportunity to learn about Waldorf teaching and teacher education, and it is extremely encouraging to see how many Open Day attendees later return as workshop registrants or teacher education students. Also this year, the Institute launched a responsive website to keep up with today’s technology and to meet the needs of our current and future website users.

All of the successes that we can happily report on in these pages are a direct result of your friendship. Your donations nurture every task we undertake at Sunbridge; your enthusiasm and support for our work adds to the joy of the effort. We look forward to continuing bringing Waldorf Education to the world with you as our partner.



Bernard Weintraub

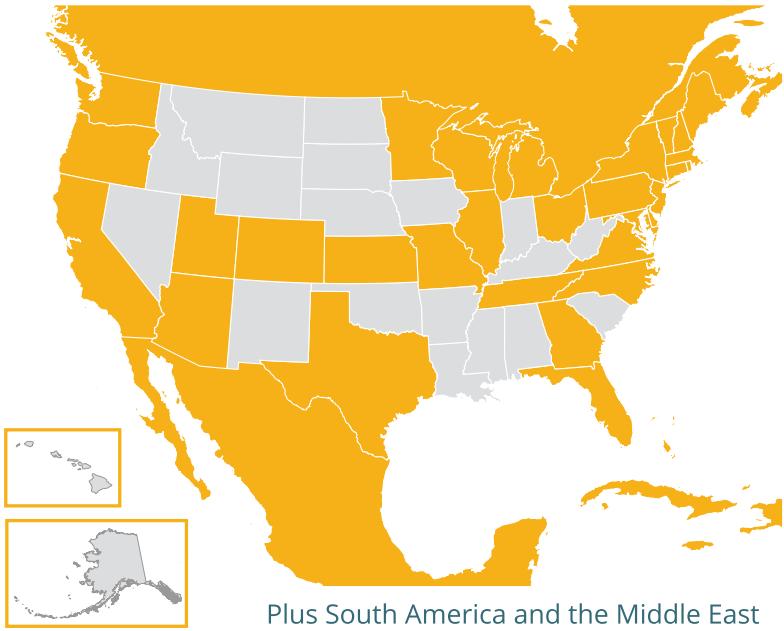
Bernard Weintraub
Board President



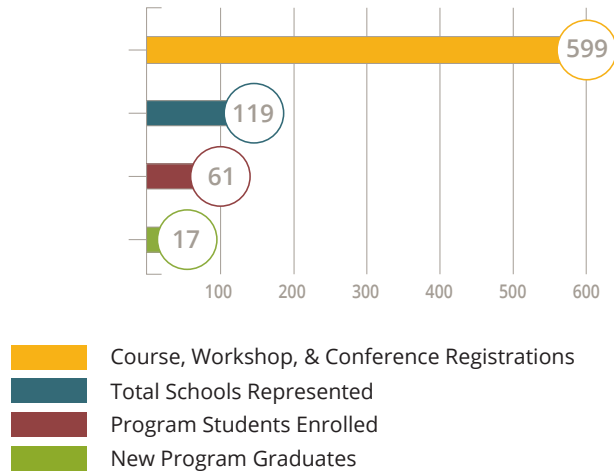
Jessica Heffernan Ziegler

Jessica Heffernan Ziegler
Executive Director

’17 - ’18 geographic regions served:



Number of individuals served:



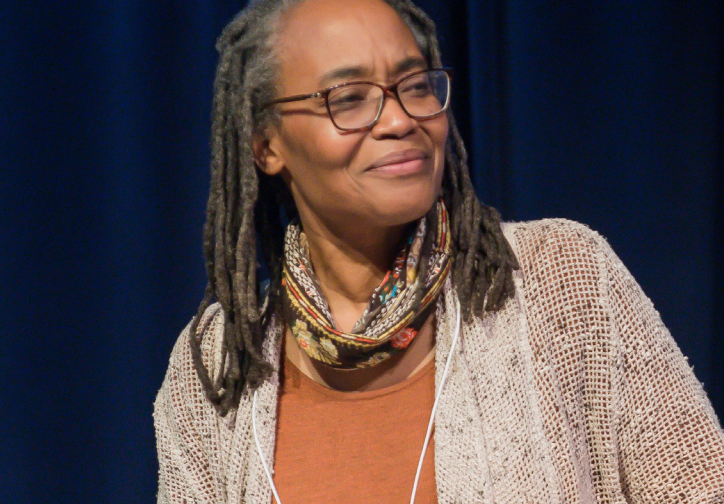
MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Sunbridge Institute to contribute to the growth and development of Waldorf Education in service of educational and cultural renewal throughout the world.

Sunbridge Institute provides higher educational offerings that stimulate and enrich the personal and professional capacities essential for adults engaged in the education of children. Sunbridge’s integrated approach—a balance of spiritual, artistic, and practical studies—fosters the development of contemplative, social, and pedagogical capacities vital to a living art of education.

Anthroposophy, the spiritual-scientific view of the human being developed by Rudolf Steiner, inspires the work of Sunbridge Institute and permeates its culture and activities.





50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

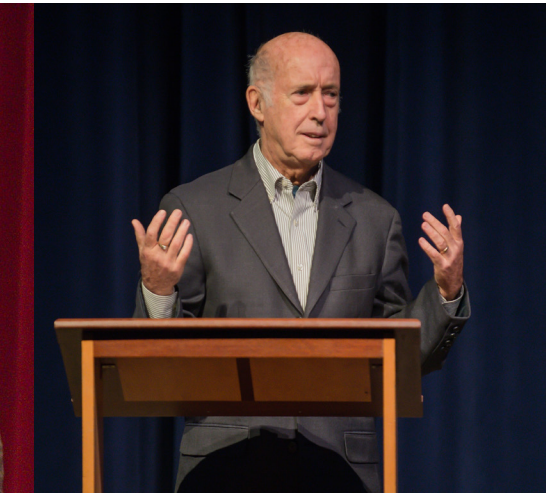
I well remember fifty years ago when the work and mission of Sunbridge was dedicated. The strength and dedication of individuals over these many years has brought it thru times of change and transformations. The educational impulses you carry have traveled the world around and touched many people and places out of the work they have done (including Sunbridge students Li Chang and Harry Wong, who shared several years of their life with us at the Fellowship Community in preparation for beginning the first school in China).

From all of us at the Fellowship Community, we send our very best wishes to you for your present and future work.

*All the best,
Ann Scharff*

This lovely note was only one of many expressions of gratitude and support Sunbridge received in the weeks and days leading up to November 10-11, when we commemorated a half century since our founding as The Waldorf Institute of Detroit, Michigan, in a celebratory 50th Anniversary Weekend Conference.

The memorable weekend was chock-full of events, including a presentation on *People, Programs, and Impulses: The Waldorf Institute, Sunbridge College, and Sunbridge Institute Through the Decades*, with remembrances by Christopher Schaefer, Signe Schaefer, George McWilliam, and Patrick Stolfo; keynote



addresses on *Higher Education and Spirituality* and *The State of Waldorf Education* given by Robert McDermott and Linda Williams, respectively, followed by a keynote panel discussion; reflections on Sunbridge founder Werner Glas by his son Ian, and the dedication of a star magnolia tree planted in Werner's memory; and workshops on a host of topics and activities led by luminaries in Waldorf and anthroposophical circles, each with connections to one—or more—of Sunbridge's several iterations over the years.

Culminating in a festive dinner and auction, the celebration brought together former, current, and future Sunbridge students, faculty, Board members, staff, supporters, and friends to rekindle connections, share memories, and look ahead to the Institute's next half-century. Notably, the event was made possible through the generous efforts of our community, which raised \$27,076 of the total \$27,461 cost.

The palpable joy, warmth, and commitment to Sunbridge's future, present throughout the weekend, can perhaps best be summed up by the stanzas longtime faculty member Steve Sagarin penned for the occasion, and sung in unison at evening's end:

(To the melody of "Moon River")

*Sun-bridge, you've made us really smile
We'll visit for a while today
Oh, spirit-waker, you care-taker
Wherever you're goin', I'm goin' your way*

*A few seekers, off to change the world
There's such a lot of world you see
We're after the same rainbow's end
Help the world to mend
My deep and karmic friends
Sunbridge, and me.*

(With apologies to Johnny Mercer and Henry Mancini)





STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

In the final year of their teacher education, and under the supervision of a program director, each early childhood program student designs and executes an independent research project, extending an area of their Sunbridge studies.

Here, selected excerpts from projects of the Class of 2018:

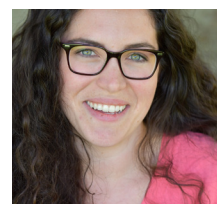


How to Speak Children's Language: Exploration in Pictorial and Imaginative Language

Rie Seo

When my former mentor, Lisa Miccio, visited me one day in our nursery, she encouraged me to use more imagination. While helping children to get dressed to go outside in winter, she suggested that I say a phrase like "a rabbit has to go down the tunnel and come out," instead of "put your legs in the snow pants," and it worked like magic. I was fascinated by its simplicity and capacity to invite children's will without us commanding them to do so.

At (first), I was trying to collect all the words and phrases that were useful to "command" children in our daily interaction with them. And I was overwhelmed. There are so many stories, songs, poems and verses to tackle... then it struck me that I was forgetting where children, and we, came from. We all came from the spiritual world... to experience the earthly world. As Steiner and many others indicated, children are still deeply connected to the spiritual world. That is why adult language often fails to reach children... This realization of the fact that we adults and children speak quite a different language was the key to my first step to open the door.



The Dynamic Life Sense

Joanna Dorman

A little one is gaining insight through her senses constantly, and the sensations she gathers go on to shape her sense of comfort and security in her body. This comfort and security that she experiences in her physical body will translate into a feeling of comfort and security in being a human being on the earth. Over time these senses will guide her to seek out what she needs to feel whole, well, and balanced. Eventually, if all goes well, the child, by the change of teeth, will have mastered these four senses enough to allow them the freedom to fully engage in the feeling world of the soul senses.



"Little Ones" One Way to Encourage Self-Directed Doll Play in a Kindergarten Classroom

Jeannette Nagel

It is a primordial need for the child to have a doll to love, care for, and carry around. With it, the child can not only carry out through imitation what he himself has experienced from the parents, but he can also entrust it with all his joys and anxieties.

With a doll's help, the child can dream itself away from a hard reality, or get ready for a new baby brother or sister. It is like a piece of himself... Rudolf Steiner states that dolls for children need to be simple, because every toy has a formative influence on the child. This means that a child's experience leaves an imprint on the child's developing body and is the basis for the spirit-soul development of a human being.



Engaging in Social Justice: How Waldorf Schools Can Live Up To Their Diversity Missions

Rosa Rodriguez

We often speak of the imitative qualities of the young child and the importance of the teacher being the best role model worthy of imitation. The research shows that as teachers we inadvertently bring our biases and misunderstandings of culture into the classroom. How can we ensure that these biases are not the ones children are taking with them? The best way to do this is through re-education of teachers before they enter the classroom. It is not enough to assume that teachers will check their biases at the door or that they will see and acknowledge each child, it is a matter of re-educating them to understand and be aware of their bias, to ensure that they are not just tolerant, but appreciative of the multitude of races and ethnicities in this country.

Preparing teachers for social justice before they enter the classroom is the first step toward reaching democratic goals of inclusion.

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

We are happy to report that 2017-18 was a strong year for Sunbridge’s development efforts. Thanks to the out-pouring of financial support from community members, Sunbridge was able to fund much-needed scholarship aid to over 80% of its students; this enabled many individuals who would otherwise not have been able to enroll in our teacher education programs the opportunity to begin their path toward becoming accomplished Waldorf educators.

This success follows an exciting upward trend in our overall development efforts of the last several years. Since 2013, Sunbridge’s donor pool has increased by 36% while donations on a whole have increased by 41%, affording us the ability to meet our budgetary projections, provide for scholarship grants and other student necessities, develop new programs, and support our general operating expenses.

Each year, Sunbridge’s faculty, Board, and administrative staff carefully study the current landscape of Waldorf Education, noting prevailing issues and trends and strategizing how best to allocate our valuable resources in order to meet present and projected needs. In 2017, to help counteract the ongoing shortage of qualified Waldorf educators, while also understanding the importance of providing fledgling Waldorf teachers ample opportunities to hone their classroom skills, Sunbridge established The Norman Davidson Student Support Fund. This fund serves as a platform for funding student scholarships as well as for increasing the number of highly valuable mentor visits and apprenticeship opportunities available for developing teachers. Addressing the growing need for greater racial representation within our Waldorf classrooms and schools, the Institute also put into place plans for the summer 2018 launch of the Sunbridge Diversity Fund. The Diversity Fund will provide grants for teacher education students who are people of color, and finance projects and programs designed to promote awareness of racial differences and viewpoints within our teacher education classrooms, in the goal of ensuring more inclusive Waldorf communities in the future.

Of course, it is only through the generosity of its community that Sunbridge is able to fully fund these important projects and sustain its position as a leader and innovator in the Waldorf movement.

We send our deepest thanks to every individual, organization, and business whose names appear on the donor listings on the following pages. By making a gift to Sunbridge, these supporters play a direct role in enabling us to continue to attract and educate teachers, leaders, and researchers who will serve in Waldorf classrooms, administrations, and communities nationally and globally. Such financial support allows us to expand our programming—making Sunbridge relevant to new generations of students—and to defray our operating expenses, thus ensuring our future viability.

We greatly appreciate each and every gift we receive.

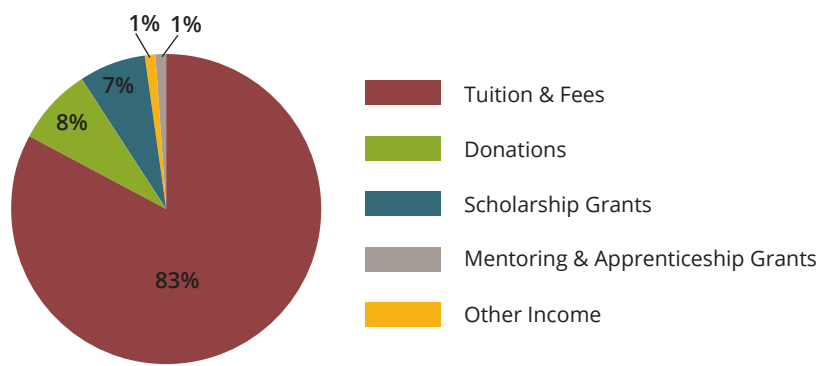
20% Increase in \$250+ donations over the past four years

41% Increase in total dollars raised over the past four years

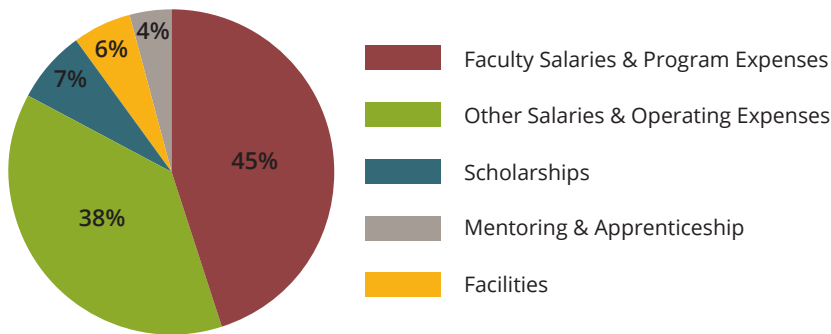
83% Scholarship recipients out of total program students

100% Qualifying program students awarded scholarships

2017-18 Budget Revenue



Expenses



Ways to Give

One-Time Gifts
Donations of any amount are welcome at any time throughout the year. Gifts may be made online at sunbridge.edu/gift or mailed to our Chestnut Ridge address.

Recurring Gifts/Multi-Year Pledges
Sustaining gifts provide Sunbridge with important financial support we know we can rely on. We hope you will consider making a regular monthly or quarterly gift.

Matching Gifts
If your company or organization offers an employee matching gift program, your donation to Sunbridge will go even further.

Bequests
We are happy to work with you in planning a bequest to Sunbridge through your will or trust.

For further information, please contact us at development@sunbridge.edu or 845-425-0055 x10.



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Our sincerest thanks to the following individuals, organizations, and companies for their generous support. Your gifts provide essential funding for our work and enable us to meet our financial goals. *Thank You.*

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The Michael Foundation
The Waldorf Educational Foundation
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