

"To move freely you must be deeply rooted." -Bella Lewitsky, dancer

School Calendar

This Week

Thursday, Apr. 23

3rd grade play – Farming! 9:00 am

Friday, Apr. 24

3rd grade play – Farming! 8:45 am & 6:00 pm
Spring Festival at Morning Glory 4:00-5:30 pm

Saturday, Apr. 25

Parent Stage 7:00 pm

Looking Ahead

Tuesday, Apr. 28

EC Parent Evening 7:00 pm

Thursday, Apr. 30

2nd grade Parent Evening 7:00 pm
6th grade play – Joan of Arc 7:00 pm

Friday, May 1

6th grade play – Joan of Arc 7:00 pm

How to Contact Us

info@rivervalleyschool.org
lc@rivervalleyschool.org
bot@rivervalleyschool.org
pc@rivervalleyschool.org

Spring Celebration and Open House at Morning Glory Preschool in Doylestown

Friday April 24th, 4:00-5:30

We invite you to join us for our Spring Festival at Morning Glory, our Doylestown location. Join us as we celebrate spring with a potluck meal, outdoor play and springtime activities. Lady Spring herself will be visiting and bringing gifts of flowers, song and story. This much merriment is surely not to be missed!

Are you or someone you know interested in learning more about our beautiful Doylestown classroom? Are you curious about Waldorf Education? Our Spring Festival is a wonderful opportunity to tour Morning Glory, ask teachers and administration questions and learn more about our programming. We look forward to celebrating with you!

PARENT STAGE!

Saturday Night, April 25, 2015 at 7:00 pm, at school.
It's free! Pot luck, BYOB&W

We have an amazingly talented parent body. It's no wonder our kids shine so brightly. We also have a dedicated, hardworking parent body. People who are racking their brains to figure out what 20 little things to make for the pocket fairy, in addition to making dinner, filling out enrollment contracts, remembering permission slips, and working long hours to pay the costs of living a life, also need to let their hair down!

Parent Stage is the place to do it. A bunch of adults in our community perform — we've had step dancers, comedy skits, poetry, and lots of music. The performers are amateurs with some or no experience, a small smattering of pros, and always a few people who have always avoided the stage. Brave souls, all.

The audience is YOU!

Get your babysitter, arrange for your kids to be with friends who already have a babysitter - Just come!



After School Program with Josh Laker will end the last week of April.

The final dates are: Tuesday, April 28th, Wednesday, April 29th and Thursday, April 30th.

Please join us for the next Parent Council Meeting Wednesday, April 22nd

at 6:30 pm at the Ship Inn in Milford.
(Re-scheduled from April 15 due to the Community Board Meeting)

RVWS Auction – May 30th

Auction Item Donation Time is Now

Dear Friends:

The time is **now** to solicit your auction item donations and deliver them to the front lobby of the school. Attached is the item label file for your donations; please include one tag secured to each of your donations.

Many thanks, in advance, from your Auction Team!

From Administration

Pedagogical Chair Hired for Next Year

We are excited to announce that we have hired TreeAnne McEnery as part-time Pedagogical Chair for RVWS beginning in the next school year. The Faculty and the Leadership Council have felt the need for this additional support for some time and we have found a talented person whom we feel will be a good fit for the River Valley community. The Pedagogical Chair is tasked to inspire a culture of collaborative initiative and to support the faculty in addressing matters of prime importance necessary for the effective functioning and overall health of the school. TreeAnne will be working with the teachers, staff, and parent body beginning in mid-August, 2015.

We asked her to tell us a little bit about herself:

TreeAnne McEnery comes to RVWS as an educator and educational leader with experiences ranging from the nursery classroom to the junior college student. She was a Waldorf class teacher for eight years, and a kindergarten assistant and co-teacher for two years. After graduating her class in 2013 from Mountain Laurel Waldorf School in New Paltz, NY, TreeAnne moved to Northeast Pennsylvania. While at MLWS, TreeAnne held several long-term leadership roles, and has continued to develop these leadership capacities outside of the Waldorf community. TreeAnne has a double B.A. in Contemplative Psychology and Writing and Literature from Naropa University, a Waldorf Teaching Certificate from Sunbridge College, an M.S. in Educational Psychology and Methodology from the University at Albany, a Pennsylvania Private School Teaching Certificate, a certificate in Educational Leadership from Marywood University, and a Pennsylvania K-12 Principal License. She is also seeking a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership Studies from Wilkes University.

When TreeAnne breaks from her studies, she enjoys practicing yoga, working on projects with her partner, gardening, hiking with her dogs, and eating at restaurants that support local farms.

Grandparents and Special Friends Day Invitations

Postcards are being distributed to teachers and students and there are extra cards in the lobby on the front desk. Please take as many as you need and mail them to grandparents and friends.

This year's Grandparents and Special Friends Day is on Friday, May 8th. All are welcome.

Seedling Sale Deadline Has Been Extended to Friday, April 24th

It's finally time to starting thinking about planting seeds and once again we will be selling seedlings to help support our garden.

Order forms are attached to the Current and due back by Friday, April 24th. You may place your order by email to Christine Boston: masnieve@hotmail.com. Or place your form in the folder on the office door.

Starts will be available after May 8th.

The IT Committee wants YOU!

If you have technical skills including maintenance, management, or troubleshooting of hardware (Windows desktops and laptops, Windows Servers, printers, etc.), software (Office 365, Quickbooks, various SaaS programs), networks, or wifi, the IT committee needs you. We are a group of diverse and dedicated parents who need your HELP! If you've offered before, please offer again. You can contact Kristyn Lederer by email or phone - 267-471-2751.

Thank You

Thank you Kymm Phibbs for arranging a delivery of woodchips for the playground in time for the workday on Saturday while you were on vacation!! Your dedication is much appreciated.

And thank you to Eastern Oak Tree Service for providing the woodchips. Our children and teachers are grateful.

From the Faculty

WHAT ARE THE CHILDREN LEARNING?

First Grade: Language Arts

Second Grade: Language Arts

Third Grade: Language Arts/Class Play

Fourth Grade: Language Arts/Science

Fifth Grade: Ancient Greece/Class Play

Sixth Grade: Drama

Seventh Grade: Renaissance History

Eighth Grade: History

Donations requested for EC Woodworking Corner

The Star Room Kindergarten is joyfully anticipating the completion of a woodworking corner for their classroom home! Miss Rebecca and her students are currently searching for the following items:

- rasps (metal wood files)
- small hammers
- sandpaper/ blocks
- hand saws

And most specifically, we are hoping to have child sized saw horses built. If you or someone you know is able and willing to help in any capacity, please contact Rebecca West (bendingbirch@gmail.com) for specific dimensions. All woodworking donations can be dropped off in the Star Room! Thank so very much in advance!

Circus Club is on Hiatus

Circus Club will resume again in a few weeks. Check here for more details as soon as we have them.

From the Leadership Council

What LC is Working On

Faculty hiring for next year

Program development with EC

Pedagogical Chair position with Faculty

Site Planning with Board

Remember, we have open hours every Friday from 3:30-4. Please stop by if you have any questions or concerns.

From Parent Council

Mayfaire Announcements

The Mayfaire committee is looking for volunteers to post our beautiful festival flyers all around the area! If you'd be able to take a few with you to your local food stores, cafes and restaurants, please pass by the office, where Renee has printouts for distribution. This year's art was made by Noa Bader from 6th grade!! We're very grateful and looking forward to a lovely Mayfaire. Thanks for spreading the word!

Class Fundraiser

Sound of Music Fundraiser

There are still mugs, caps and key chains available from the Sound of Music and we would love to sell them all! Keychains \$5, mugs \$15, and baseball caps \$20! Please email louannewillard@gmail.com if you want me to pull some aside for you!!

RVWS Seasonal Cookbook and Local Directory - Still time to submit!

We are thrilled that people continue to express interest in contributing recipes and information for our local directory, so we've extended the deadline for submission. Please email (tumas@rcn.com) or bring in your information and/or artwork ASAP. There is a manilla envelope on the table outside the 2nd grade classroom. See attachment for more details. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jean Tuma or Tracy Fly. Thank you for your consideration!

From the Community

At Yoga Loka

Kirtan with Girish

accompanied by our very own Felicia Holtz!
May 1st, 8:00 pm

Yin Yoga retreat with Sally Miller

May 10th, 3-5:00 pm

One Bite at a Time - a Journey into Mindful Eating

with Melissa Pickerall and Gail Seckrettar
May 31st, 2-6:00 pm
Online registration at www.Yoga-Loka.com

Tutor available for grades 1st-6th

Seventh grade level tutor available for German, Spanish and Math.
Contact Dominique Wander at 908-295-8385

Upper Black Eddy Fire Co

Annual PA Dutch Dinner Buffet

1717 Firehouse Lane, Upper Black Eddy, PA 18972
610.982.5710

Saturday, April 25th, 2015, 4 – 7 pm (or until sold out)

Pork & Sauerkraut, Ham & Beans, Potato Stuffing, Bacon Dressing, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Beans, Corn, Homemade Applesauce, Buttered Noodles, Cabbage with Onions, Red Beets with Eggs and a Variety of Desserts.

Adult: \$11.00

Child (6 – 12): \$6.00

Take out or Eat-in (Same price)

B.Y.O.B

Camp Glen Brook

Do you know a 3rd or 4th grader who is looking for an amazing summer camp experience? At Camp Glen Brook we offer special sessions for first time campers within our fun and caring summer camp community. What sets us apart? We are a small Waldorf-inspired camp with a family feel and wholesome farm-to-table food in the beautiful Monadnock Region of southern New Hampshire. Find out more about all of our programs for 3rd - 10th graders at www.glenbrook.org

Gap at Glen Brook, a new program for high school graduates in the Fall of 2015, is a practical education in the broadest sense. Intuit your goals and passions through community living, a farm-to-table lifestyle, outdoor adventure, and the acquisition of practical and professional skills. Visit gapatglenbrook.org to learn more.

Ottsville Traditional Arts Center

Come join us for Wednesday Night Jam Session

We host jam sessions most Wednesday evenings at 6pm; you can view the full calendar here. \$5 suggested donation! Many of the songs we sing and tunes we play are posted here before each session so anyone who wants can come already knowing a tune or two!

SAVE the DATE!

Friday, May 15th

Contradance with Raise the Roof and Melissa Taggart!

Friday, May 29th

Cardinal Direction in concert!

ottsvilletradarts.weebly.com for more details

Kissammee River Pottery Spring Student Pottery Sale

One Day Only !! Saturday May 2nd 9am-6pm

The sale will be held outside in front of the studio. Great Pots! Great Prices! Come and shop for that perfect Mother's Day gift. Look forward to seeing you soon!
Kissammee River Pottery, 50 Mine Street, Flemington, NJ
908-237-0671, www.riverpots.com

Rummage & Bake Sale

St. Luke's U.C.C. Durham Road, Ottsville, PA
Relocated to a bigger building. Now at the intersection of Routes 412 & 611 in Ottsville.

Thursday, April 30th & Friday, May 1st 10 am to 8 pm

Saturday, May 2nd - Bag Sale All Day – 9 am to 4 pm

Donated Items Welcomed! Drop items at the building at the intersection of Routes 412 & 611 from April 14-28. Any other days, drop off items on porch at schoolhouse of St. Luke's U.C.C. Church on Durham Rd.

Clothing, jewelry, books, housewares, plants, toys, & small furniture. For more information call 215-479-2724 or 484-357-5274.

Beauty and Strength: Empowering Young Children to Talk About Race and Ending the Cycle of Colorblind Racism

Saturday, May 2, 2:00 pm, Flemington DIY, 90 Main St, Flemington, New Jersey 08822

A workshop for parents, guardians, educators, and anyone who works with or lives with young children.

Have you found it difficult to talk to your children about race? Hunterdon County Anti-Racism Coalition (HCARC) is pleased to announce this very special event during which Jennifer Burke will offer assistance with these conversations. Jennifer Burke has taught for 11 eleven years at Van Derveer Elementary school in Somerville, New Jersey. She is currently a doctoral student at Rutgers University investigating how young children construct their understanding of race, ethnicity, and gender in the context of a first grade classroom.

Lawn Mowing Available

Aaron's Mowing (Aaron Dringus), 267-987-9904 / afd8073@hotmail.com. Call, text, or email for pricing and availability. Serving Upper Bucks County.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Take Center, LLC

Outpatient Rehabilitation Services and Equine Therapy Program in Kintnersville, PA

Are you looking for an opportunity to learn more about horses and work with people with a disability? Take Center Outpatient Rehabilitative Services provides physical therapy with the use of a horse. Hippotherapy, as it is called, is used to treat people with various disabilities including physical and cognitive challenges. By putting the patient on the horse, the horse's movement is transferred to the patient, which helps improve strength, posture, balance and gait. There are many ways to help!

Working as a leader or a side aide in the riding ring, grooming the horses, cleaning tack, tacking up the horses for riders, leading horses to and from the riding ring, feeding the horses and making sure they have fresh water, cleaning the stalls and barn, riding ring maintenance, making light repairs...and more

We are looking for volunteers of all ages to help. Prior experience working with horses is not required – training is offered. Minimum age to assist in the riding ring is 13. We do ask that youth under the age of 10 are accompanied by an adult.

Our comprehensive volunteer training sessions will begin in mid-March and go through April. Please visit us at www.takecenter.com for more details. Without you, we cannot provide the quality services we strive to achieve. By volunteering at Take Center, you are sure to walk away with unforgettable, valuable experiences from your connections with amazing people – and horses, too! Please contact us with any questions or interest. We'd love to hear from you!

Terri K. Long, MPT ph: 610-346-9446 e: tlong63@verizon.net

web: www.takecenter.com 1300 Woodcock Lane, Kintnersville, PA 18930

Join us for the 2015 Philadelphia International Children's Festival, May 7-9!

Theater, dance and music performances for the whole family. Plus, a free outdoor FUN ZONE with interactive activities!

Pilobolus (Dance) What happens when contemporary dance, gymnastics, technology and playful props combine? Find out when the wildly creative troupe Pilobolus Dance Theater takes the stage.

Playing By Air (Circus) Traditional theatricality meets absurd comedy in this joyful fusion of music, juggling and circus. Playing By Air captivates their audiences with their playfulness, high energy, creativity, and breathtaking feats.

Lifeboat (Theatre) An extraordinary true tale of survival told with humor and adventure. A moving and uplifting play about two teenage girls who board a ship to escape the dangers of World War II.

Orchestra of Life (Music) Rock star violinist and composer Daniel Bernard Roumain pays tribute to Bob Marley. The audience will join together to create "An Orchestra of Life" using their hands, feet and voices to express themselves musically.

Circo Comedia (Circus) Following in the tradition of the Quebec Circus, duo Jean Saucier and Patrick Côté perform acrobatic tricks, daredevil stunts and magic, offering thrills and comedy.

Watermelon Magic (Movie) The charming story of Sylvie and her garden as she watches a patch of watermelons grow from seed to fruit. Audiences will enjoy the science and marvel of plant life.

Tickets for individual shows are \$10 and include access to the FUN ZONE.

Performances will take place at the Annenberg Center, 3680 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 //

AnnenbergCenter.org // 215.898.3900

Art in the Library

Spring Watercolors: Keeping Flowers Fresh with Doris Ettliger

Saturday, April 25 1:00p.m. – 4:00p.m.

All levels welcome Open to ages 16 – adult

In this hands-on watercolor workshop, Doris Ettliger will demonstrate painting a still life of flowers, discussing composition, making a color sketch, applying fluid color, and allowing the medium to do the rest. After a warm-up exercise, each student will have their own small arrangement to paint.

Please see flyer or check website for complete list of supplies needed

Please bring a bagged lunch or snack

Please see flyer or check the website for complete list of supplies needed.

* Materials can be supplied if students are not able to bring their own. Please contact the library for assistance.

Art in the Library is made possible with a grant from the Erwin J. & Gertrude K. Neusch Fund of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation. This program offers classes and workshops for beginner, intermediate, and established artists—from children to adults.

The workshops are held in the Community Room at Riegelsville Borough Hall, 615 Easton Road.

To sign up for workshops and our mailing list, please contact the Riegelsville Library, 610-749-2357 or

Riegelsville.Library@gmail.com or 610-749-2158

Doris Ettliger received her BFA in Illustration from the Rhode Island School of Design, and attended the University of Wisconsin – Madison, where she earned her MFA. She has illustrated over 30 picture books, using watercolor as her primary medium; Doris teaches watercolor classes in her home, a 19th century gristmill, on the banks of the Musconetcong, near Hampton, NJ. She is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and the Hunterdon Watercolor Society. You can view her work at <http://dorissettlinger.com/> or on www.facebook.com/MusconetcongWatercolorGroup

Oil Painting – with a Palette Knife with Yelena Piatigorsky

Tuesday, April 28 11:00a.m. – 2:00p.m.

All levels welcome Open to ages 15 – adult

Enjoy learning new methods and effects you can achieve when painting with a palette knife. Students will learn color combinations, mixing techniques and application of oil paint on canvas in a variety of ways. Palette knife texturing will be demonstrated as well. Bring your inspirational images or objects to the class to paint.

Please bring a bagged lunch or snack

Please see flyer or check website for complete list of supplies needed.

* Materials can be supplied if students are not able to bring their own. Please contact the library for assistance.

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Riegelsville.Library@gmail.com or 610-749-2158

Yelena Piatigorsky BA, Moscow University; MFA, Mason Gross School of Art, Rutgers has had her pieces in over 20 exhibits in the tri-state area, including shows at the Trenton City Museum, Audubon Artists, and the Nabisco Gallery. She is an award-winning artist in oil and ceramics and her works are in many private collections.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

Welcome All Adults to an ongoing weekly gathering of artists who would like to individually pursue their craft in the company of other creative people in a friendly, supportive, and relaxing atmosphere. These are not lessons. You will be working independently within the group for your own enjoyment.

We will meet in the main floor Community Meeting Room of the Riegelsville Borough Hall every Thursday morning from 10 – 12 am, except the first Thursday of the month. All mediums are welcome. Please bring a sheet of plastic to cover the table and please leave your workspace clean. Any questions? Call Karen on 973.876.0401.

From Mother Nature Network

4 ways to help your child appreciate the outdoors

Parents can help their kids become healthier and happier by making sure they spend time in nature.

By: Chanie Kirschner

Nowadays, with screen time at all-time high and kids spending much of their free time indoors, growing our kids' appreciation for nature is more important than ever.

Children who spend more time outside are just plain healthier. And if we want them to care about the environment and do their part to preserve the world, they first have to experience it — even fall in love with it.

I remember spending hours at a time outside: building the main street of a town out of dirt and rocks in our front yard, jumping in the puddles in the driveway after a rainstorm and lying in the grass staring at the clouds moving by. Not so today.

One study suggests that even the books our kids read lack the same connection to nature that they used to. Especially in the winter, kids can easily go days without spending more than five minutes outside.

So how do we foster our kids' love and appreciation for the outdoors? Read on for some tips.

Garden with your kids.

Here in Florida, gardening is a year-round sport. Although I'd sometimes rather be inside in my air-conditioned house sipping coffee, my kids love any excuse to get down and dirty. Kid-sized gloves and shovels make the process even more fun (and save me from having to clean dirt out from under everyone's fingernails afterward). If your ground isn't quite ready yet, why not grab some seeds, a planter and soil to get your kids into an indoor garden? You can go to your local nursery for recommendations on the best plants to grow indoors. Be sure to bring your kids with you to get them involved, and invested, in the process.

Make outdoor time an integral part of family vacations.

Next time you all have a day off from school, why not go on a family hike instead of seeing the latest flick? If you're motivated, take the family on a camping trip instead of a regular hotel. It's less expensive and you don't have to worry about bed bugs (though other critters might be a different story). You can even do a campout in your own backyard, a great idea if your kids are still too little for the real deal. While you're at it, you can work on their outdoor survival skills.

Recognize teachable moments.

Every time you're outside with your kids — on the way to the grocery store, getting the mail or even just heading to the car — be sure to talk about being outside (and not something negative like "I hate this weather"). Comment on the shape of the clouds, the caterpillar making his way up the mailbox pole or the snow looking like a white blanket on your lawn. If you can get into the habit of doing this, it'll help your kids be more cognizant and appreciative of the simple beauty of the world around them.

Play outside every day.

This one is probably the most important. You don't have to take your kids all the way to a park. The backyard or front stoop will do just fine, or even just go for a walk. If you've got a toddler, let him lead the way (as long as it's not into oncoming traffic). Toddlers have an innate sense of wonder at the world around them. Watch them stoop down to look more closely at ants building an anthill on the sidewalk or a caterpillar on a leaf. Bend down and peer with them. You'll be surprised at just how many details they notice.

Just like plants, kids need sunlight and fresh air to grow. For every moment they're spending outside, your kids are growing healthier bodies, positive habits and clearer, calmer minds.

Educating for a Democratic Society

This article was originally published in the Winter 2015 RSF Quarterly.
by Joan Calderera, Ed.D.

What kind of education is needed for forming the minds, hearts, and hands of the next generation who will have to cope with and transform the ecological, social, and economic issues of today, issues that transcend political boundaries, cultural constructs, and economic realities?

I will start with some historical context for American education. Thomas Jefferson articulated the American ideal of education when he stated that to protect against tyranny it is necessary "to illuminate, as far as practicable, the minds of the people at large." While the struggle since has been to expand in a truly democratic way the definition of "people at large" so as to do away with the anti-democratic legacy of classism, racism, and sexism, the purpose of education itself remains essential to a democratic state. The Constitution has no provision for education, but the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 made clear that the new government would be committed to supporting education: "Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools as the means of education shall forever be encouraged." During the first half of the 19th Century schools grew from being subordinate to family, church, and community to being the foremost means of education under the common-school movement.

As the country moved forward, so did the schools, and they came to be seen more and more as the shaper of culture.

The causes to which education, especially public education, could be put in the United States continued to grow. Waves of immigration aroused new thinking on the purposes of education: it should provide for assimilation; it should allow each group to flourish; it should lead to replication of society as we know it; it should give rise to new ways of looking at democracy. Industrialization made its presence felt as schooling became more mechanized and a "product" was called for—trained workers. One influential approach was the reform movement known as progressive education, which dominated into the 1950s and held at its core the effort to use education to improve the lives of individuals.

The paramount voice of progressivism was that of educational philosopher John Dewey. In *Democracy and Education*, Dewey lays out his conception of education as essential to life. Multifaceted in its purpose, education was for him an introduction to humanity and nature, guidance in social life and mores, an avenue for individual development, and a means of building capacities for one's future.

The echoes of Dewey still resound in the work of reformist educators like Deborah Meier, founder of the alternative Central Park Elementary School in Harlem, based in large part on involving the students in decision-making in a democratic way. For Ms. Meier, one fundamental purpose of schools is to "inspire a generation of Americans to take on our collective task of preserving and nourishing the habits of heart and mind essential for a democracy, and, as we now see, the future of the planet itself." She insists on a fundamental change in the way people relate to each other in schools, emphasizing that student "voices are heard and taken into account." For Meier, then, educating for a democratic people means educating democratically.

Waldorf education, inspired by Rudolf Steiner, recognizes that democratic principles are an essential but incomplete imagination of the purpose of education. It is possible to formulate the characteristics of a larger conception of education under the rubric of three essential categorical features: critical thinking, civic engagement or social responsibility, and the cultural/institutional features of schooling.

In 1919, Steiner articulated a new social theory in which he outlined revolutionary principles for practices in three sectors of social life: cultural/spiritual, rights and agreements (political), and economic. The principles had their origins in the ideals of the French Revolution: *Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité*. Steiner put forward the following: In the realm of the spiritual/cultural the guiding principle is freedom; in rights and agreements, equality; in economics, brotherhood or interdependence.

(Continued on next page.)

This expansive view keeps clarity between political systems and governing principles with the presence of human individuality and its attendant capacity for self-knowledge and the in-born capacity for altruism. Steiner posited that out of educated self-awareness, each citizen could know how and when to exercise spiritual freedom, hieratic in nature; a sense of rights, egalitarian in nature; or economic action, based on an awareness of material needs and the circulation of goods and services.

In the center of the diagram is placed the individual in recognition that it is the single "I" who must implement the ideals of democracy, along with each other I. The I, then, radiating through its education reaches the three primary fields—rights --> equity, spiritual/cultural --> critical thinking, and economic --> social responsibility—each of which in turn has its complement opposite it: relationships, civic engagement, and morality respectively.

If one sees democracy as the atmosphere in which this threefold educational ecosystem lives, then one can also see that civic engagement, relationship, and morality—the three mediators—along with the three points, form the ground of ethical life without which democracy cannot thrive. Education becomes the means whereby the individual can fully inhabit the democratic/ethical world thus formulated.

In this way, it is possible to use Rudolf Steiner's view of the threefold commonwealth as a framework for understanding and designing an educational system that cultivates the three key domains with their principles as a basis for a morally/spiritually informed democratic society. Such an education would encourage more conscious cultivation of economic life based on altruism, and a rights life which highlights how we create our agreements—two key aspects of life that often remain unaddressed in current educational practice.

Waldorf education is only one of what could be many possible forms of social education that can be developed based upon Steiner's ideas around threefoldness. The effectiveness of any education derives from its leaders' and teachers' willingness to share a vision of the aims of education, a common and constantly-renewed image of students and their development, an inspiring curriculum that respects teachers' professionalism and autonomy, and a common method of teaching democratic aims.

A socially just world requires that its citizens have the flexibility of thinking that respects the capacities and freedom of each individual, understands that true equality is essential in governing and in the creation of policies and laws, and sees that the economic world will be sustaining when self-interested behavior is transformed into a more altruistic practice. I recognize that this is no small undertaking given our current educational system—yet, unless we attempt such change, our democratic future is at risk.

Joan Calderera is the director of Rudolf Steiner College—San Francisco, a teacher training center. She is also a humanities instructor at San Francisco Waldorf High School. She has taught at every level in Waldorf education from kindergarten through high school, as well as serving in the administration as both High School Chair and Head of Administration for San Francisco Waldorf School. Dr. Calderera's doctoral research has been published under the title, Through the Lives of the Teachers: How Waldorf Class Teachers Think about Morality, Waldorf Education, and the Arts in the 21st Century. She has also published articles on aspects of Waldorf education in numerous education journals.

- See more at: <http://3blmedia.com/News/Educating-Democratic-Society#sthash.CNNYvnba.dpuf>