

## Meeting of the IASWECE Council

Louise deForest

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The recent IASWECE Council meeting was, for the first time, held outside of Europe. In October 2015 representatives from 22 countries met in Kfar Tikva, near Tiv'on, Israel. Kfar Tikva, which means "village of hope", was founded in 1964 as a community for disabled adults. Today, there are 217 adults living and working here, along with 120 staff members (35% of them are Arabs) and many volunteers from around the world.

For several years now, the Council has been working with the burning issues of our times: fear and building an understanding of true diversity. To direct us in our study, we worked with *Facing Karma and the Inner Path*, by Rudolf Steiner (GA 130) and *The Peoples of the Earth in the Light of Anthroposophy*, a lecture given by Dr. Steiner on March 10, 1920. During our meeting, Stefanie Allon (the representative from Israel) shared with us the growth of Waldorf education in Israel – there

are now 20 schools and 6 high schools, 5 of which have double classes and long waiting lists! Approximately 4,900 children in Israel are receiving a primary or secondary Waldorf education and there are over 3,000 children in Waldorf Early Childhood programs. Nana Goebel, a guest for several days, also gave us an overview of the Waldorf movement throughout the Middle East and the Mediterranean countries, and Silvia Jensen, the representative from Brazil, and Louise deForest, from the US, gave a general picture of the Waldorf movement in South America and Mexico.

Several important decisions and actions were taken during this meeting; thanks to the hard work of the Board and Coordinating Group, IASWECE is now officially registered in Switzerland and is applying for a not-for-profit status there. Our Swiss Association will officially begin its activities in January 2016 and the Association in Sweden will subsequently be dissolved.



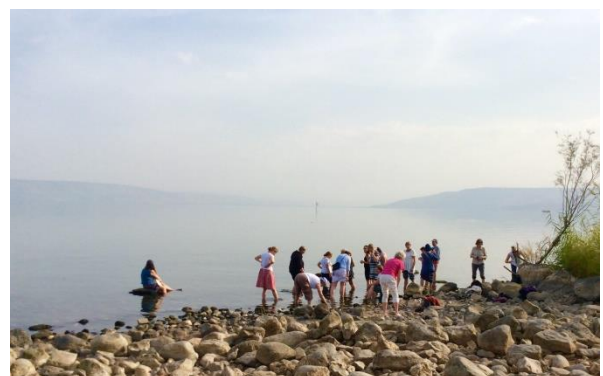


The council also approved financial support for projects in 25 countries and mandated working group activities in the areas of Early Childhood Training, Birth to Three, and Hand Gesture Games.

2016 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Helmut von Kügelgen, who did so much for the Waldorf early childhood movement and who founded our association. In October 2016 the IASWECE Council meet in Estonia, his birthplace, and we are making plans to honor him there. We also look towards the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Waldorf Education in 2019 with the question, what can we do in each of our countries and what can we do as a whole, worldwide movement? We will keep you abreast of all these happy occasions.

Our next IASWECE Council meeting will be held in Krakow, Poland, in April 2016.

*Louise deForest was a kindergarten teacher in New York for many years. She is working now as a mentor, lecturer and trainer in various countries, and is a board member of WECAN and an IASWECE Council member.*



*Members of the IASWECE Council at the Sea of Galilee*