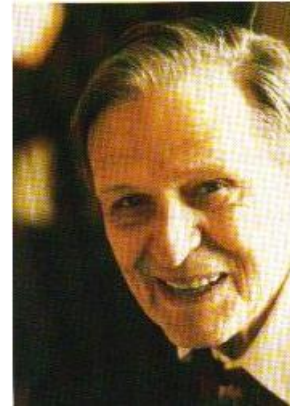
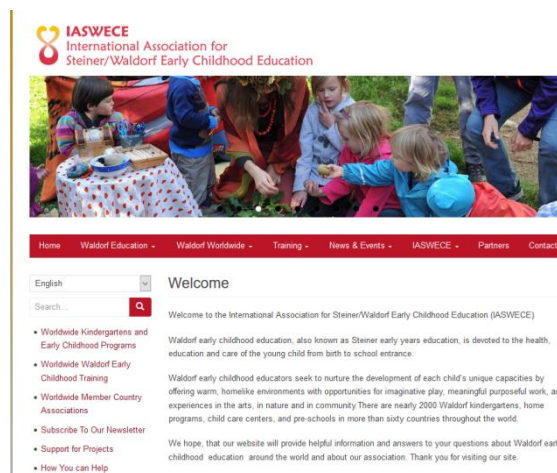


Since the October meeting of the IASWECE council in Israel, the council members, working groups, coordinating group and board members have continued their activities. Here are a few updates:

- 2016 is the 100th anniversary of the birth of Helmut von Kügelgen, who founded our association in 1969 and whose courageous advocacy for childhood continues to be a source of inspiration for our world movement. We are planning several activities this year that are focused on him and his valuable work, culminating in a celebration in his birthplace of Estonia, in October, when the IASWECE council will meet in Tartu with our colleagues in the European Council for Waldorf Education and our Estonian Waldorf colleagues.



- We are working on the final stages of a new re-designed IASWECE website, which we hope will be more attractive, informative and easier to use. It will also include more detailed reports on Waldorf early childhood education and IASWECE projects around the world. We will send you an announcement as soon as it is ready.



- Our Birth to Three Working Group has prepared a description of 'Essential Characteristics for Waldorf/Steiner Birth to Three Caretakers' which will appear soon on our website with other resources for birth to three caregivers.
- An international early childhood trainers meeting, planned and hosted by our Working Group on Training, will take place October 16 - 19 in Tallinn, Estonia. The focus of this working meeting will be to share research and practices regarding the learning experience of the adult student.

- IASWECE is now formally registered in Switzerland, with a new address for our legal seat, and a new bank account, shown at the bottom of the e-newsletter. This new location allows our bi-lingual organization to work with greater transparency and efficiency, and we are pleased that the transition is going smoothly. Our work will continue to be done on a decentralized basis in our offices in Belgium, France, Germany and the USA.

And finally, we are making preparations for the next council meeting, which will take place April 20 - 24 in Krakow, Poland. This will be the first council meeting in Poland, and council members have also been invited to participate in a Polish kindergarten conference in Warsaw.



Webpage of Związek Szkół i Przedszkoli Waldorfskich w Polsce, the association of Waldorf schools and kindergartens in Poland
www.zspwp.pl

At this upcoming council meeting we will continue our exploration of burning issues in the international Steiner/Waldorf early childhood movement, and will focus our study discussions on issues around gender, sex education, and how to support the healthy development of children in our kindergartens. In some ways, this is a continuation of our work with diversity awareness and the inner aspects of the social question. Our statement on The Universal Spirit of Humanity in Waldorf Education articulates our striving in this way:

"Through this ongoing study and research we deepen our appreciation of the spiritual individuality of all human beings, as distinct from but working within and through the sheaths of their given gender, temperament and personality, as well as through the traditions and values of their particular family and cultural community."

For the full statement click [here](#).

If you have questions about any of the activities described above, please contact s.howard@iaswece.org.

Susan Howard from Amherst, MA, USA, is a member of the IASWECE coordination group.