

## **Crossing Thresholds in Life and Death**

**2018 Florida Conference, March 2-4, San Pedro Center, Winter Park, Florida**

### **Presenter Bios**

**Lisa Romero** is a complementary health practitioner and adult educator who has been delivering healthcare and education enriched with anthroposophy for 20 years. From 2006 the primary focus of her work has been on teaching inner development and anthroposophical meditation. Lisa is also an author of anthroposophical inner development books. Steiner Books has published Lisa's four books: "The Inner Work Path" which focuses on meditation practice, "Developing the Self" written after years of working with Waldorf teachers to support their inner work and pedagogical understanding of child development. "Living Inner Development" offers an understanding of the inner experiences and the results of various exercises, and 'Sex Education and The Spirit, presents a path of understanding our communal responsibility for the healthy development of gender and sexuality within society'.

For several years Lisa was the lecturer for Health & Nutrition and Male/Female studies at the Sydney Rudolf Steiner College. She also designed and facilitated the EduCareDo 'Towards Health and Healing' course which ran eight, year-long courses working with therapists from all modalities, as well as Waldorf teachers, to bring the depth of anthroposophical insight through practical application of therapeutic and pedagogical methods.

Lisa now lectures and presents courses and retreats for professional and personal development in many anthroposophical communities and Waldorf schools worldwide. See <http://www.innerworkpath.com/>

She is one of only a handful of anthroposophical speakers on the subject of gender and sexuality and has been working with several schools as a part of their health and wellbeing curriculum; working directly with the students, teachers and parents on this theme. In the esoteric schooling, Rudolf Steiner gave clear pictures of the need to work towards a new understanding of what it means to be a man or woman in the consciousness soul age and where we need to be heading as humanity. As a leader in this subject in the light of anthroposophy, Lisa feels a responsibility to clearly pass this work on to other educators.

Lisa's capacity to deliver esoteric wisdom with insight and understanding allows her to meet the diverse needs of a range of communities and professions. Essentially, her work springs from the inner work, meditation and exercises, together with a dedication to the path of unfolding consciousness.

**Karen Gallagher** is a freelance eurythmist, providing workshops and blocks of study to several school communities in the United States, including Sea Star Waldorf School in Boca Raton, FL. She also has ties with a Waldorf school initiative in Puerto Rico; teaches eurythmy each summer at the annual Waldorf Teacher training at the Centro de Desarrollo Antroposófico in Cuernavaca, Mexico; and most recently, looks forward to connecting with the newly formed Kindergarten in Escazú, Costa Rica.

Karen crossed paths with eurythmy and Waldorf education in Costa Rica, 1998. The tiny seed planted there would need ten years before sprouting. In 2008 she pursued formal eurythmy training at Eurythmy Spring Valley, NY and graduated in 2014. A BA degree was earned in 2015, through the eurythmy school in Oslo, Norway.

Since 2014 Karen has been traveling to various academic communities both in the U.S. and Latin America, teaching eurythmy to children and adults. Participating in the growth of Waldorf Education, in such a wide variety of venues, has opened new perspectives on the approach and further development of eurythmy in the world.

In addition to eurythmy, Karen has twenty-two years of classroom experience in a variety of subjects, including Spanish, Choir, Theater and Life Skills. She is the mother of four grown daughters, the youngest of whom was born in Costa Rica where their young family lived for nine years. Currently, Karen resides in Chico, an agricultural and university town in Northern California.

**Barbara Bedingfield** is a longtime member of the Anthroposophical Society and a First Class Member of the School of Spiritual Science. She led the initiative for founding the Suncoast Waldorf School that opened in 1998. The school, now situated on its own property in Palm Harbor, Florida, has graduated four classes of 8th graders. In 2014 it was decided to focus the development efforts on K-5 and expand the school in an organic way to 8th grade.

It must be noted that Barbara was instrumental in helping to initiate and organize our Florida Conference following a meeting with Joan Almon and Yvonne Cumming at the 2004 World Teachers' Conference in Dornach. Since that time, Barbara continues to be a primary conference organizer every year. She has also led the singing sessions for the conference from the very beginning.

Barbara graduated from the Waldorf Teacher Training Program at Antioch University New England in 1996 where she also received a Master's in Early Childhood. She has taught kindergarten and grades one through four. Currently, Barbara's primary focus is school development at Suncoast.

**Herbert Hagens** served for many years on the Eastern Regional and National Councils of the Anthroposophical Society in America and is a former editor of the Society's Newsletter. He lectures on Rudolf Steiner's Mystery Dramas in the Anthroposophical Studies Program at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland. His fields of work are adult education and audio/video production. Herbert has supported the annual Florida conference in so many ways since its founding in 2004. He has been a presenter and First Class Reader many times. His enthusiasm and overall support has encouraged us all to carry forward. Herbert and his wife, Adelaide, live in Princeton, New Jersey.

**Joseph Savage** brings a broad scope of experience in Anthroposophy and Waldorf Education to our conference. He was integral to the founding of the Great Barrington Rudolf Steiner School in Massachusetts and the Sarasota Waldorf School in Florida. He served both those schools for many years as teacher, builder, consultant, and leading board member. Joseph is committed to bringing Anthroposophy to the world at large, and has helped many innovative groups, such as the EF Schumacher Society and AWSNA. He's also been an entrepreneur in the health field with Full Circle Technologies and Rejuvenations Whole Body Energy Enhancement Center. Presently Joseph lectures on Anthroposophy and leads a study group in his home.

Joseph and his wife, Anne, were married in 1970. They have three children and three grandchildren. For 25 years they lived in an idyllic setting on a farm in Egremont, MA, where they tended a large Biodynamic garden and raised chickens, rabbits, ducks, bees, sheep, and goats. Their children all attended the Great Barrington Rudolf Steiner School.