

Ecopoetics - An Ecological Practice in Listening and Balance
2019 Florida Conference, April 5-7, Canterbury Retreat and Conference Center,
Oviedo, Florida

Presenter Bios

Sabrina Dalla Valle, MFA, is an award-winning experimental writer, a gardener, and educator. She has practiced Anthroposophy since 1992 working as a Waldorf High School and Class Teacher for the Eugene Waldorf School in Oregon and the Vancouver High School in Canada. She has also worked as a teacher mentor and parent educator for Waldorf charter schools in California.

Coming from a long family tradition of European gardeners, Sabrina trained and practiced biodynamic herb gardening and natural plant medicine- through Wala in Echwalden, Germany and Raphael Pharmacy in Fair Oaks, CA. She is a First Class Member of the School of Spiritual Science.

Her ongoing research is in Ecopoetics, a practice of cultivating responsibility for our descriptions of the ecological worlds—visible and invisible--- in which and through which we live.

Since 2009, Sabrina has focused on bringing her Anthroposophical experience to university curricula. She currently teaches for Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota.

She has earned a BA in Linguistic Anthropology from Reed College, a Waldorf Teacher Certificate from the Eugene Waldorf Training Program in Oregon, and an MFA in Writing and Consciousness from New College of California in San Francisco.

Sabrina lives in St Petersburg, Florida.

Amie Slate grew up near Berkeley, CA where she discovered Anthroposophy in the ubiquitous local book stores. After moving to Los Angeles to work in the film business (creating visual effects), she discovered Branch activities and the Christian Community. During breaks in the notoriously demanding film production schedule, Amie immersed herself in the immensely rewarding Feldenkrais Method® training and advanced trainings. In 2013, a momentous change began when the film company went out of business: Amie launched into a Waldorf teacher training program, and moved to a small town in the mountains of Virginia. She is now exploring the qualities of teaching, and enjoying making art in many forms.

Barbara Bedingfield is a member of the Anthroposophical Society and a member of the First Class of the School of Spiritual Science. She led the initiative for founding Suncoast Waldorf School, which opened in 1998. The school, now situated on its own property in Palm Harbor, Florida, has graduated four classes of 8th graders and is tak-

ing the first step next year to expand into the upper grades since contracting to 5th grade in 2014. 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, Switzerland. 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 holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and is a former Peace Corps volunteer to Liberia, West Africa. At Suncoast Waldorf School 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.