

June 14, 2016

Letter to Members from the General Council and Leadership Team on the Selection of the next General Secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in America

Last week at its June meeting at Rudolf Steiner House in Ann Arbor the General Council of the Anthroposophical Society in America met with the four candidates for General Secretary proposed by the Nominating Committee. (The previously sent letter from Rudiger Janisch about the Committee's work is [linked here](#).)

With deep appreciation for the Committee's work and for the qualities and accomplishments of all the nominees, the General Council unanimously decided to ask John Bloom to take on the duties of General Secretary. John has accepted and will assume his new duties in October at the AGM and Fall Conference. Under the Bylaws, a general secretary serves an initial term of four years which can be renewed by the Council for two additional three-year terms.

The candidates met with the General Council and Leadership Team for a day and a half with opportunities for individual interviews, presentations by each candidate on their view of the future of the Anthroposophical Society in America, and small group conversations on practical steps they would take to increase membership in the Society. The Council and Leadership Team followed the lead of the Nominating Committee by balancing our outward impressions with a chance to take our considerations into sleep, which inevitably led to greater clarity and harmony. It was a joy to get to know these four individuals better and to be inspired by their past, present, and future relationships to anthroposophy and the Anthroposophical Society.

A three-person transition team including Rudiger Janisch, who served on the Nominating Committee, current General Secretary Torin Finser, and John Bloom will work with the General Council, new Council Chair Carla Beebe Comey, and the Leadership Team to ensure that the Society's work goes forward seamlessly.

The new General Secretary will serve the whole country but also add visibility to work in the Western region. Torin Finser noted that "one of the most important tasks of a general secretary is to foster connections and bring members and friends into conversation. John is very good at that. Our future sustainability depends upon the activity of our members and the human, financial, and spiritual resources we can access through our conscious activity and collaborative work."

John Bloom has been a member of the Anthroposophical Society since 1983, and a member of the School for Spiritual Science since 1992. He has also served for many years on the Council of Anthroposophical Organizations (CAO) and since 2014 as a member of the Society's Development Committee.

John lives in San Francisco with his wife Joan Calderera, a teacher at the San Francisco Waldorf High School. John has been at RSF Social Finance (formerly Rudolf Steiner Foundation) since 1998, and currently is Vice President, Organizational Culture (www.rsfsocialfinance.org). His work at RSFSF has

included developing educational programs that address the intersection of money and spirit in personal and social transformation. He has worked with numerous non-profits in the areas of capacity building and culture change. He has led workshops, lectured, and written about aspects of money, development, and governance for non-profits, and he has done much to familiarize RSFSF's growing staff with Rudolf Steiner's work. He has had a long-standing involvement with aspects of Biodynamic agriculture and agricultural land preservation, and has been an exhibiting artist with works in major collections. He looks forward to serving the Anthroposophical Society and its destiny, in collaboration with the General Council, Leadership Team, and members, and working with the North American Collegium and the many initiatives of our movement.

The General Council and Leadership Team

Deb Abrahams-Dematte

David Alsop

Carla Beebe Comey

Dennis Dietzel

Dwight Ebaugh

Torin Finser

Micky Leach

John Michael

Elizabeth Roosevelt

Katherine Thivierge