

SECTION FOR THE SPIRITUAL STRIVING OF YOUNG PEOPLE

2025 ANNUAL REVIEW

WELCOME

"The attitude I hope to see prevail among young people is tolerance – allowing each individual to do what he or she can, without saying "Young people should not do this" or "The youth movement shouldn't be like that" We need to bring together as many people as possible, and people should act out of their own individualities to do whatever they can." Rudolf Steiner, 1924



The Worldwide Youth Section Team during the Coworker's Gathering - Dornach, January 2026

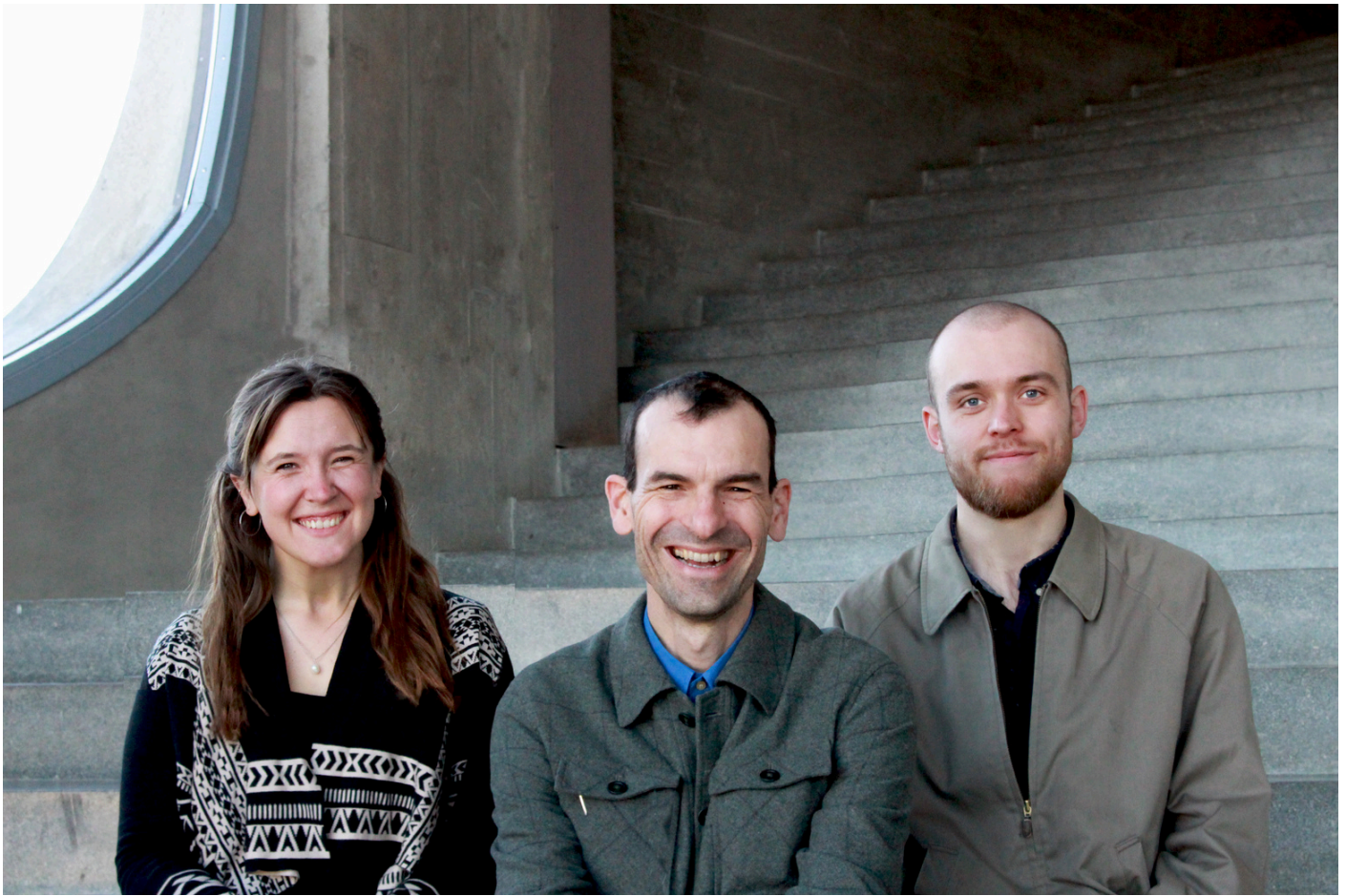
The Youth Section is dedicated to cultivating opportunities, programs and projects imbued with an awareness that young adults are animated, at heart, by what is needed in the future. This awareness arises through a contemplative approach and orientation toward what it means to be human, one that does not culminate in an intellectual understanding, but in joyful insight, in creative idealism and courage for the future. Young people are predisposed to unfold a selfless love of humanity and the earth.

They find themselves on an instinctive search for an approach to anthroposophy and life, for sources of inspiration that might help clarify and strengthen their striving, speaking not only to their minds, but their hearts and their creativity. In Wordsworth's famous words, the young come into life "*trailing clouds of glory*." The work of the Section is dedicated to meeting these clouds of glory through creating anthroposophically inspired programs that align with young people, developing new, creative ways of presenting anthroposophy that align with the realities of youthfulness, and developing a deepened understanding of the unique spirituality of the life phase from 14 to 28.

At the Goetheanum, our Youth Section team works to foster a *heart awareness* of activity around the world. Like the heart, the Section is not limited to its center, but strives to facilitate the lifeblood of the Section- enabling healthy activity both in Dornach and throughout the world through organizational mentoring and assistance, networking, and being a resource for young colleague's spiritual questions and strivings.

Besides initiating intercultural projects and programs, a major task the team at the Goetheanum carries is to listen to emerging themes and interests, help to carry and deepen the spirit that inspires the work, and network and connect colleagues in disparate communities and across continents. Thus, *success* of the Section is not evident only in the number of projects on conferences happening in Dornach, but also through a flourishing activity unfolding all around the world.

THE YOUTH SECTION TEAM IN DORNACH



KATRINA HOVEN

NATHANIEL WILLIAMS

SIMON DIJKSTRA

The Section work in Dornach is carried on an ongoing basis by Nathaniel Williams, Katrina Hoven, and Simon Dijkstra, along with many visiting coworkers from around the world who come live and participate in Section work for several weeks up until several months. Nathaniel is the leader of the Youth Section. Supporting the larger, international network through communication work and various carrying groups has become Katrina's primary task, while Simon focuses mainly on the managing the Youth Section house in Dornach and cultivating youth events and programs in the area.

Along with carrying several projects, and holding an overall awareness of Section activity, the Section is also connected to the Goethanum leadership at large through Nathaniel's oversight. Early in 2025, two previous long-term coworkers, Jacinta Gorchs and Gabriele Nys stepped away from the team and Katrina and Simon have taken over their roles while also bringing their own questions and initiatives to their tasks.

Along with these three team members, individuals like Keivan Azimi from *Structures for Freedom* (Germany), Tamara Mbuguni from *Youth Initiative Africa* (Tanzania), and Nikoloz Kanchaveli of *Youth Society Parzival* (Georgia) have joined the Youth Section team in Dornach through the Youth Leadership Program for longer periods of time to assist in larger Section Projects.

THE YOUTH SECTION AS A GLOBAL MOVEMENT



The Gifts of Africa Conference - Tanzania, September 2025

The Section's work is happening in a de-centralized, free association of youth groups and initiatives around the world, taking on a variety of forms. For instance, 2025 saw youth conferences, such as *The Light Between* in Upstate New York, USA – the biggest youth conference in North America this century, and *The Gifts of Africa* in Tanzania – the first youth conference of the inter-African group, *Youth Initiative Africa*. There is also fulltime youth programs, such as the *Jugendseminar* in Germany and the *International Youth Initiative Program (YIP)* in Sweden.



Music jam during The Light Between conference - New York, USA, August 2025

Additionally, some international Section groups such as the *Biodynamic Youth Initiative*, *Young Impulses in Anthroposophic Medicine (YIAM)*, and the *Future Shapers* support young people working with mentors in specific anthroposophical professional fields. This de-centralized activity is strengthened by intercultural and global collaborations and groups. This involves young people from different groups carrying tasks that are pertinent to everyone, guided by an ethos that the Section's tasks as a global, intercultural circle should not weaken local efforts but strengthen them.

COWORKER'S GATHERING

In January '26, 30 coworkers from 18 youth groups came together in Dornach for an annual gathering to strengthen and determine the global tasks we carry together. In addition to art, intercultural exchange, and study of Rudolf Steiner's presentation of sources of spiritual inspiration and how they are connected and the virtues of freedom, equality and fraternity, the gathering was a chance for coworkers to create and reassess existing working groups, which emerged during previous Gatherings, which support and facilitate ongoing worldwide tasks.



Presenting initiatives during the Coworker's Gathering - Dornach, January 2026

Worldwide working groups include:

1. **Global Access and Project Fund** – carried by coworkers from Georgia, Switzerland, the US, and Latvia allows for travel scholarships to attend the coworker's gathering where they are needed, as well as small youth project grants that are distributed through a shared giving process. The fund is an attempt to work in a spirit of fraternity with resources. At the recent gathering, representatives from four selected youth projects went through a 3-day process that involved learning about the four projects and their contexts and distributing 8,700 CHF through a mutually supportive gifting process.

Read the GAPF '26 report on our website: youthsection.org

2. **Communications activity** in our Section involves quarterly *Global Network Calls* - organized by a team from the US, Georgia, Brazil, and Switzerland and allow all coworkers to connect, become aware of impulses on other continents, and share inspirations and challenges around specific youth themes. This work is also supported by sharing global, intercultural youth work through the Section's e-news, the biannual zine *The Thinking Heart*, social media platforms, the *Questions of Courage* podcast and the website.

3. **Fostering intercultural gatherings and conversations about contemplative work and meditation.** This takes the form of gatherings that are explicitly dedicated to engaging with meditations of the *First Class of the School for Spiritual Science* as well as introductions to meditation in seminar form. This summer, young Class Members came together for the 7th annual international *Worldwide Class Lesson Gathering for Younger Members of The School of Spiritual Science* in which participants completed all nineteen lessons. A new group, with members from the Netherlands, Switzerland, the US, New Zealand, Australia, Columbia, and the UK has formed to carry a new cycle of gatherings for the coming years. International class work is also carried by a newly formed *Inner Work Group* which hopes to support young coworkers in their spiritual strivings. All these efforts are intended to address a crucial question: "How can original, firsthand experience, spiritual experience, emerge in oneself?"

COWORKER'S GATHERING



Conversation about our work during the Coworker's Gathering - Dornach, January 2026

4. **The Youth Education Association** is a working group comprised of individuals who are leading anthroposophical programs, projects and courses for young adults from *Thoreau College* in the USA, *Ruskin Mill* in the UK, *Leiden University* in the Netherlands and the *Youth Seminar* in Germany. The seed for this association was sown at the Youth Education gathering in the Netherlands in 2024, organised in collaboration with the *Iona Foundation*. Over the past half a year, during 2025, these individuals met regularly to learn about their youth initiatives and to share from the pedagogical approaches. They have set the goal of an in person gathering for educators and youth workers in 2026, with the intention of annual or biannual events and publications to follow.

5. **A new Coworker's Gathering** planning team has formed with coworkers from the Netherlands, Italy, the US, Brazil, and Mexico to begin planning the next Gathering- to be held in Georgia or Brazil in the next year or two.



Presenting the Youth Education Association during the Coworker's Gathering - Dornach, January 2026

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS AT THE GOETHEANUM

“The Youth Section will not publish “programs”, nor will it provide explanations of the “essence of youth.” It will attempt to allow life to arise from its young founding members’ sense that something is missing. The result will be a “wisdom of youth” that can continue to unfold each day.” -Rudolf Steiner to younger members, 1924

Along with carrying and supporting these various working groups of the Section, the Youth Section Team at the Goetheanum also creates youth events, conferences and projects, that can speak to the transnational and global tasks of the Section. In 2025 these included:



Creating a Community Art Work - Dornach, February 2025

In February of 2025 the February Days youth conference *A Quest for a Pictorial Understanding of Anthroposophy* took place at the Goetheanum. It was an event dedicated to a creative and artistic approach to experiencing and understanding anthroposophy, especially Rudolf Steiner’s book “The Philosophy of Freedom”. It involved performances, artistic and creative working groups as well as lectures and discussions.

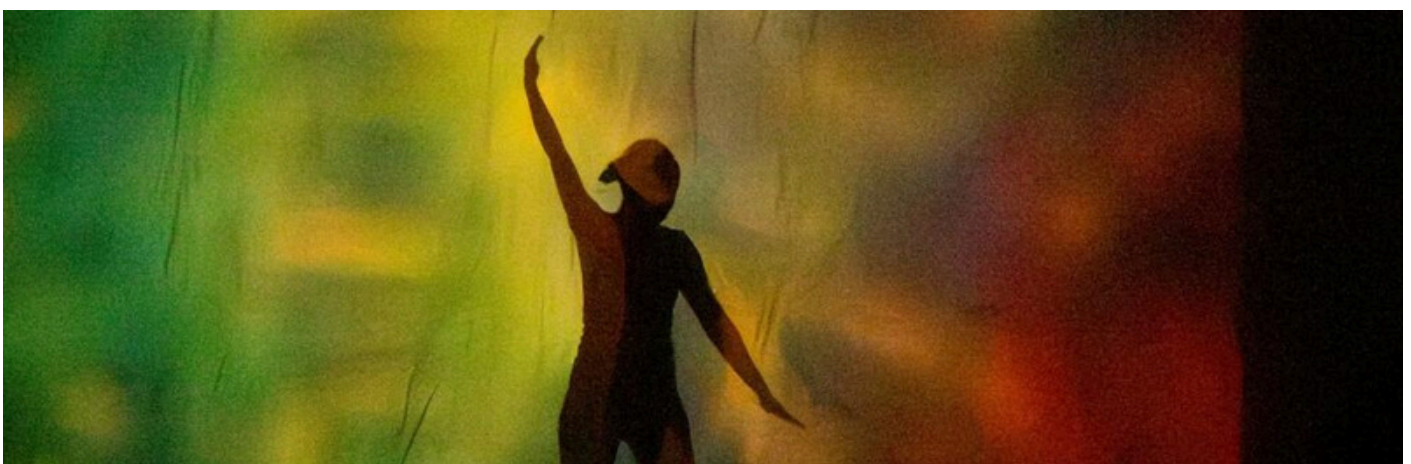
EVENTS AND PROGRAMS AT THE GOETHEANUM

The New Pegasus Project, which arose from an impulse to find active ways to engage with screens and to start conversation around the presence of screens and media in our modern world. It involves an ensemble of eight young artists: four singers and four light artists, who have been learning to play a new suite of projection instruments for live screen performances.



Rehearsal for the New Pegasus Project - Dornach, fall 2025

The ensemble will be touring in March of 2026, with a performance and workshops which have so far ignited meaningful conversations about the passive relationship some young people experience with conventional forms of screen culture. In addition to these workshops, Frank Stikma, a presenter at the upcoming International Students' Conference, will be part of the tour in March, offering workshops on the realities of e-waste, the importance of repair and the hopeful ideas of associative economics and a less wasteful, circular economy.



Performance "I am the night full of colours to come" - Dornach, February 2025

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS AT THE GOETHEANUM

Structures for Freedom is an international effort to host open conversations about the meaning of education with young people, and which involved a gathering at the Goetheanum in July 2025. Structures for Freedom is carried by a core team comprising of members from Germany, Switzerland, Argentina, and the Netherlands, who have created conversation materials and exercises implemented during the July gathering, as well as smaller events and workshops at youth events and schools around the world. The heart of this project has been to encourage open, simple conversations between young people about education and its greater meaning. It is carried by a conviction that, asked in the right way, there is a great source of wisdom young people can bring to bear on questions of education. The next phase of the project will culminate with a presentation of these ideas at the International Student's Conference in April, 2026.



Structures for Freedom - Dornach, July 2025

Between August 2025 and March 2026, Ashton Arnoldy joined the Youth Section team at the Goetheanum as a postdoctoral student to work on a research project that will culminate in a book that is scheduled to appear in 2026. *An Aesthetic Education for the Anthropocene: Rudolf Steiner, Associative Economics and Ecological Consciousness* (working title) is dedicated to the tensions that impact young people all around the world, the digital revolution and increasing ecological and economic pressures. At the heart of the book is the picture of aesthetic education that not only encompasses art, but that encourages holistic science that is more aligned with ecological consciousness, and associative economics that fosters alignment with the boundaries of the planet. In December of 2025 Nathaniel Williams presented a paper inspired by a core idea in the book at the *Rudolf Steiner 100* conference at Harvard University in the USA. This book will be submitted for peer review at a university press in the USA in February of 2026.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' CONFERENCE

Preparing for the bi-annual International Student's Conference (ISC) - the high school student conference which will next take place in April, 2026 at the Goetheanum. The organizing team, is comprised of collaborating members of the Waldorf SV (a student association of Waldorf students in Germany) and other high school students from around the world. Organizers have chosen the theme "Disconnect to Connect: The threads that hold us together." The group is preparing for 600-800 attendees, making this the biggest Section gathering of 2026.

Goetheanum Youth Section

WALDORF SV
Bundesschüler*innenvertretung der Freien Waldorfschulen

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' CONFERENCE

**DISCONNECT TO
CONNECT**

The threads that hold us together

April 1.- 5. 2026 **Goetheanum - Dornach, CH**

For young people ages 16-20

WWW.ISC.INTERNATIONAL

COMMUNITY LIFE

“Sincere human relationships are much more important than any form. If you like each other, you spend time together without looking for forms. It may even be a mistake to look for a form. It is important to be able to come together and enjoy each other’s company even when you disagree significantly. Human feelings provide the healthiest form for interaction in fact, any attempt at formal programming will disrupt the Youth Movement.” Rudolf Steiner, 1924

Since the beginning of the Youth Section over a century ago, the importance of authentic human connection has been at the center. Along with these projects, the Youth Section at the Goetheanum supports and hosts Section activity for young Goetheanum staff and students from various study programs in the area. Much of this takes place at the Youth Section House at the base of the Goetheanum. The house hosts visiting young people from around the world for conferences and visits to the area. It also hosts bigger visiting school and course groups—allowing visiting students to encounter anthroposophy from a youthful perspective. In 2025 these included a college group from the Netherlands and several visits from anthroposophically-oriented youth programs from Germany. On a weekly basis, the team at the House prepares Thursday night dinners, often with a cultural or thematic component, and weekly study or discussion groups.



The Youth Section team has taken on other projects to contribute to local needs. Several volunteer actions were held to support older neighbors with house cleaning and small renovations in 2025. The team also arranged for interim use of a house, in slight disrepair, which they recognized could address the housing crunch that many young people, especially students, experience when coming to study at the Goetheanum. Over the course of half a year, the house was lovingly worked on and after a summer “Action Week,” with some 15 volunteers, the house was brought back to life and has now become a thriving home for eight students from local courses.

LOOKING AHEAD AND GRATITUDE

"The Youth Section at the Goetheanum wants to provide young people with living insight that allows them to experience their own youthfulness in a living and vital way." Rudolf Steiner to younger members, 1924

In early 2026 we have two major projects coming to fruition (the ISC and the New Pegasus Project), but there are also new developments underway. There is a momentum building in the Section's global groups, which have expanded into new constellations, as this is the third year of work since these groups were formed. Planning is underway for the next cycle of youth grants and the next coworker meeting.

One of the new projects that has been in development is a new youth program that will take place at the Goetheanum, something young people have been keen on for over two years. After months of preparation a working group is almost ready to share about this new program with the wider network, and all the young people who will be attending the international students' conference of 2026. Another enthusiastic circle of young people has begun to gather with an interest in creating an international youth conference at the Goetheanum in the Summer of 2027.

THANK YOU

As with all the work that happens through the Goetheanum, it is only possible thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of individuals and groups. Besides support from the Allgemeine Anthroposophische Gesellschaft (General Anthroposophical Society) the activities of the Youth Section in 2025 were supported by: **Förderstiftung Anthroposophie, Iona Stichting, Stiftung Evidenz Basel, Stiftung zur Förderung der Rudolf Steiner Pädagogie in der Schweiz, Stiftung FGB Basel, Rudolf und Clara Kreutzer-Stiftung, Movetia, Hermes Trust, Bund der Freien Waldorfschulen and Anthroposophische Gesellschaft in Deutschland.**



YOUTH SECTION AT THE GOETHEANUM - SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE

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