



March 27th, 2021

Gathering Waters: A Brief History

Gathering Waters Chartered Public school has been a community group effort since the summer of 2018 when the MWS High School closed its doors on School Street in Keene, NH. A group of parents, teachers, and community members, The Friends of Gathering Waters, came together with the shared vision of continuing Waldorf education for high school students in the Monadnock region. Over the next two and a half years, and after many community meetings and discussions on back porches and around dining room tables, the groundwork was set for a free chartered Waldorf high school to be born. However it also became clear that there was a growing need for affordable Waldorf Education for all ages in the Monadnock region.

Just a few short weeks before the application deadline the Friends of Gathering Waters took a huge leap and rewrote the application to include grades 1-12. On December 10th, 2020 the NH State Board of Education voted yes to Gathering Waters' Charter application.

Since December 10th, there has been a flurry of activity on the part of the Board, committee members and newly hired admin staff. As they continue to work full time jobs, and take care of their families, each individual has committed their time and energy to the formation of the school and the vision that Gathering Waters brings to this community for the future of our children.

The success of Gathering Waters is due in large part to the work of all those who have come before and have built such a strong network of support for Waldorf Education in the Monadnock Region.

Gabrielle Schuerman - Board Chair

Gabrielle was drawn to Waldorf Education because of its focus on the development of the whole child, academically, emotionally, physically, socially and spiritually. After graduating with a Bachelor's in Philosophy and Psychology she received a Master's Degree in Education and taught high school Biology at the Putney School for 8 years. Driven by a desire to dig deeper into the mysteries of the human body she moved to the West Coast and completed both a Naturopathic Doctoral Degree and Advanced Nurse Practitioner Degree. She returned "home" to the Northeast after her daughter was born and currently works as a Family Nurse Practitioner at the Cheshire Medical Center which she sees as just another form of education. She lives in Keene with her partner Michelle and their daughter and loves to hike, read and explore.



Elizabeth Hamshaw

Elizabeth comes to us with years of experience in marketing, advertising and business knowledge. She is currently the General Manager of Cheshire Horse, a family founded retail business with locations in Swanzey, NH and Saratoga Springs NY that serves the equine, pet and farm industries. Previous to that, she worked as a Web & Marketing Coordinator at the Council for Independent Colleges in Washington, DC. Elizabeth is a Waldorf school alum, class of 1992, and a 3rd generation Waldorf student. Her parents attended and grandmother taught at Garden City Waldorf School in NY before moving to NH and opening Hamshaw Lumber in Keene. Elizabeth enjoys spending time with her two children, skiing, gardening, and traveling.



Janet Gordon

Janet grew up in Miami Florida. Having spent her junior year of college in Florence, Italy, surrounded by antiquities and works of the great masters of the Renaissance, her



interest in art and architecture was awakened. Recognizing the beauty and intrinsic value of art, she sought an education that integrated the arts with an understanding of the human being. After graduating with a degree in American Studies from the University of South Florida, she received a Masters in Education from Antioch College in New England. She fell in love with the granite landscape and changing seasons of New Hampshire. Soon after

graduating, she became a founding teacher of the Monadnock Waldorf School. Over her 42 year tenure with the school, she served in multiple teaching and administrative roles. Over the last 20 years, she developed and taught in a collaborative Art, Handwork and Applied Arts Program connected to the content of the main lessons.

She is currently retired and looking forward to spending time with her grand children, traveling, gardening and working in her art studio.



Emily Sherwood

Emily Sherwood is a Waldorf educator as well as a homesteader, an explorer of wild places, and an artist. She is particularly engaged by the relationship between people and landscapes, and the narratives that shape our sense of place.

Emily lives in a multi-generational household at the end of a road in Marlow, NH, and can be found outside working on the woodpile, moving sheep fencing, admiring the moss with her toddler, or otherwise furthering her education as a student of the earth.

Daniel Kurz

Daniel Kurz is a New Hampshire native, having lived in Keene while studying for his bachelors degree at Keene State College. After moving away for many years, living in Boston, MA, Baltimore, MD then Plymouth, MA, he moved back "home" to Alstead, NH, where he currently resides with his wife Bethany Porter and two children, Elyse (8) and Zessi (9). He runs a handmade tile studio, Wet Dog Tile Co, in Alstead along with his wife. In addition to ceramics, his background includes graphic design, marketing, finance, and construction.



His strong connection to nature is what attracted him to Waldorf education for

his children. They have been in Waldorf education since pre-school, and are thriving. His motivation in joining the Gathering Waters board is to be able to offer this rich learning experience to the broader community.



Jonny Norris

Jonny is a Board-Certified Pediatric Dentist and co-owner of Montshire Pediatric Dentistry here in Keene. He completed his dental education at Virginia Commonwealth University-Medical College in Richmond, Virginia. During dental school he was awarded the Health Profession Scholarship from the United States Air Force; he was selected to attend the United States Air Force Academy where he ascended to the rank of Captain.

During his active duty service, Jonny organized and promoted numerous community health outreach events for children and volunteered many hours to provide dental care to the under-served pediatric population. Through his volunteerism, Jonny found his calling and passion to work with children. He went on to complete his Pediatric Dental Residency through NYU Lutheran at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Jonny is happy to call Westmoreland his home with his wife, Sara, and 2 daughters.



Holly Gibson

A former Waldorf student herself, Holly credits her personal and professional success to her early Waldorf experience and immersion in the arts. In fact, she took her first dance class at MoCo Arts, where she is presently the Director of Development. Holly is a graduate of West Virginia University, where she got her start in the nonprofit arts world wearing many different hats at the West Virginia Public Theatre. Upon returning to the Keene area, she spent many years as the Director of Audience Services at The Colonial Theatre (now The Colonial Performing Arts Center). Before joining the MoCo Arts family, Holly took a few years off from nonprofit work to support the commercial lending team at Savings Bank of Walpole, a local bank with strong community focus, where she continued to build and deepen the business relationships that support her work at MoCo Arts today. In addition to her many years in the nonprofit sector, Holly has a wealth of experience in banking/finance and in customer service. Holly is passionate about the power of the arts, believing

strongly in their transformative nature for individuals and communities alike, and in the necessity of the arts in fostering a healthy society. Holly also sings and plays the 37-string lyre, which she learned during her years in Waldorf school. She resides in Peterborough, NH with her family, where she can often be found curled up in the sun with a good book and a cup of coffee.

Melanie Everard

Melanie comes to us with a long career as a music teacher and talented musician. She plays classical piano, harpsichord, Irish harp, hammered dulcimer and guitar. She studied classical piano with Eric Stumacher, from The Apple Hill Chamber Players, and also attended the Kodaly Musical Training Institute to learn the teachings of Zoltan Kodaly. Melanie lives in Marlborough NH with her husband and two dogs. She has three children, two foster children, one grandchild and one foster grandchild.



Melanie graduated from Keene State College with a BA in Music Education and went on to earn a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction as well as a Masters in Music Education. Melanie first experienced Waldorf Education as a teacher at Tomte Guben, the beginnings of the Monadnock Waldorf School, and fell in love with it's wholistic approach and curriculum. More recently Melanie has led an after school opera program sponsored by The New York Metropolitan Opera and the Colonial Theater, as well as co-hosted a weekly after school social program for 3rd through 5th graders to connect with older students and adults through projects and supportive friendships. She is excited at the possibility to continue both of these programs through Gathering Waters.



Eliza Murphy

Eliza is an early childhood educator with a focus on nature-based, Waldorf, and trauma-informed practice, and is currently finishing a Master's of Education at Antioch University. In addition to 15 years in practice as an educator, Eliza also co-owns and runs a small downtown business, Brewbakers Cafe and Terra Nova Coffee, where her passion for design thinking and organizational development have helped to grow and transform the business over the last 10 years. She is the mother of three, a Waldorf alum, and believes that her Waldorf education laid the foundation for a lifelong love of learning and an open,

curious mind. Eliza is excited to help Gathering Waters launch a new chapter of accessible, updated, inspired Waldorf education for this moment and for the future.



Anny Hamshaw

Anny was first introduced to Waldorf education by her husband, who is a member of the 8th Grade graduating class of '95, his siblings and parents who all attended a Waldorf school (The Waldorf School of Garden City and Monadnock Waldorf School). As well as his late grandmother, who was a teacher at The Waldorf School of Garden City. As a result, Anny has come to learn and appreciate the many benefits of a Waldorf education. She has also witnessed the benefits of a Waldorf education through her daughter, who attend the Early Childhood Education program at Monadnock Waldorf School for two years.

Anny holds a Bachelors Degree of Arts and Humanity in History from Keene State College and a Master degree in Business Administration in Human Resources Management from Franklin Pierce University. She is an experienced Human Resources professional. She lives in the Keene area with her husband and two children.

