

On September 3, 2024, Elizabeth Auer crossed the threshold, a week after her 74th birthday. Elizabeth was an extremely gifted and prolific person in her lifetime. AHE colleagues and Waldorf teacher graduates from the Center for Anthroposophy in New Hampshire knew her as an admired faculty member at Antioch University's Waldorf Teacher Training Program in Keene, NH. For ten years, she taught at Pine Hill Waldorf School in Wilton, NH as the manual arts teacher, and in that phase of life she joined AHE's 4th cycle of our Educational Support Program. She then took a class through eight years at Pine Hill, combining her knowledge of Waldorf pedagogy with her lifelong artistic gifts and all she had learned about the Extra Lesson and helping children to fully engage their bodies whether in play, chores, the arts or school work.

Having been born and raised in the Netherlands, she attended a Waldorf school there before moving to the US as a young adult. Her creative abilities in art, drawing, clay modeling and making things were a constant in her life. She was an author of several popular books for those wanting to bring artistic activities into their teaching. By the time she was in her sixties, her prolific output resulted in three amazing books whose titles speak volumes:

Creative Pathways: Activities That Strengthen the Child's Creative Forces, 2013

Learning To See the World Through Drawing: Practical Advice for the Classroom Grades One through Eight, 2015

Helping Children on Their Way: Educational Support for the Classroom, 2017

This latter book began to take form in 2015, when she reached out to many colleagues and AHE friends to be contributors to the book, which is a compilation of thirty chapters. Although Elizabeth wrote just one chapter, the book features articles by Mary Jo Oresti, Jeff Tunkey, Kim Payne and Bonnie River, Arthur Auer, and many others. One of the authors was Patrice Maynard, who also guided several of Elizabeth's works to fruition through Waldorf Publications. A few months after "Helping Children on Their Way" was published, Patrice received notification that the book received a "Mom's Choice Award," citing that it

was *“among the best in family-friendly media, products and services.”* Elizabeth was extremely proud of this honor and wrote to me: *“Good to know this book will find a broader audience rather than just the Waldorf teachers. Thanks again for your contribution!”*. Also of note is that Elizabeth dedicated this book to Audrey McAllen, David Mitchell, and to Brigitta Witteveen, a beloved Extra Lesson teacher at the Waldorf School of Lexington, MA, who crossed the threshold in September 2016, just before this book was going to print. Brigitta authored one of the articles.

Elizabeth also illustrated several children’s books, a cookbook, and made the illustrations for the book written by her husband of 50 years, Arthur Auer: **“Learning About the World Through Modeling: Sculptural Ideas for School and Home”**. That book came out in 2014 so we can be in awe of her creative and will-filled output after she graduated her class from Pine Hill Waldorf School. In early July 2024, as I was headed towards the main hall at High Mowing School in Wilton for a tribute to Douglas Gerwin, retired from his leadership at the Center for Anthroposophy, I saw Elizabeth walking towards the building. It was an opportune time to say hello to my Antioch drawing teacher from 25 years earlier and my AHE colleague, as we were in adjacent cycles. What I did not know was that at that time she was already ill and would be gone from this life two months later. I am forever grateful that she appeared before me on that beautiful summer evening for a last conversation.