

Rudolf Steiner Library and Bookshop - AGM Report March 23, 2025 for 2024

The Rudolf Steiner Library is a treasure trove of knowledge and inspiration. Having become acquainted with more titles, authors, and events over the years has increased my appreciation and value for our library and its collection. Our beautiful and very special Library is like an oasis for spiritual development in a very material city! We librarian volunteers look forward to your Thursday afternoon visits 12:00 to 3:00, Saturday afternoon visits 1:00 to 5:00, and even later! -and also times before and after Branch events.

Volunteers! We volunteers tend to a variety of tasks and projects. We offer our skills, technical, marketing, artistic, social, and of course our love of books! Eloise Krivosheia with Dan Hartjes, Aileen Leijten, and Chris Quintanar have been staffing the library this past year as the Library has been able to stay actively open greeting visitors and borrowers, even during the holidays! Volunteers are needed to assist with the variety of tasks pertaining to our library.

Visitor activity. Borrowing was active, although less than in 2023, with 47 fewer books checked out.

In 2024 a total of 119 books were checked out, compared to 166 in 2024, 42 of which are by Rudolf Steiner. 15 new members joined the library compared to 23 the previous year. Along with the first-time borrowers, there were the usual check outs to Study group members, home school teachers, longtime friends, and we, the volunteers.

Walk-In visitors. Most often walk-in visitors have never heard of Rudolf Steiner or Anthroposophy. They average in age between twenties and thirties. Most times, our first-time visitors are pedestrians simply passing by, usually stating that they never knew there was a library or bookstore here. They are told of the variety of subjects covered within our books and are invited to look at any that strike their interest. The visitors who do typically end up staying for quite a while. Not infrequently they will buy books or even join the Library. Most visitors are interested in the unique architecture of our entryway and auditorium.

The Library is "Outreach". Nearly every week people in the LA/OC area and even a few from other states and countries search us out. Visitors stay for conversation and perusal of the stacks and of course are given freebies—anthroposophical and Waldorf information, *being human*, *The Challenge of Rudolf Steiner*, and "our enthusiasm", all much appreciated they always tell us —and we are grateful to them for the joy of meeting!

New Inventory. Through new purchases and donations, the library stock new and used books for sale offer all visitors many wonderful and ever-changing choices. Listed on the Branch's website, Library tab, are the latest new library books with succinct summaries.

Updating the Collection! We keep updated our lending collection of all Steiner books published in English –including new or never before published volumes. We are fortunate to have different sources of new book recommendations from resources such as Steiner Books website, or book reviews published in periodicals we carry such as “New View”. In 2024 we received generous amounts of books donated to us from different sources, a lot of which are in great shape! A new section has been created to house the “Like New” used books. Used books seem to be very popular with first time visitors. Used and New Book sales, as well as donations, are what enable us to have the wherewithal to buy new books for the Library.

What to Buy? We keep available for purchase all Rudolf Steiner's “basic books” and gospel books— and also we have many other new books for sale. Be sure to ask for books we may have at a discount! The Addition of introductory books will serve fruitful for first-time visitors.

Our stock of used books is constantly changing—**many thanks to both donors and buyers!** These donated books make up a most “popular” section! Everyone seems to love and appreciate perusing the shelves for just the “find” or the bargain they've been looking for, including us volunteers! This year has seen a generous number of donated books, many of which are like-new quality. Be sure to check our Used Books section often as it is updated quite frequently, as well as our “Like New” section.

In-house events always bring more sales. With the resurgence of events this year, we were able to make additional book sales, both before and after events, as well as event goers becoming new members to our library, many of which have not explored our library before. We have also taken the initiative as librarians to display books that are related to the event at hand, so that attendees can easily see them before and after events. This has led to successful book sales!

Among our Freebies are many type script lectures, bookmarks, and informational packets on Rudolf Steiner and Anthroposophy. These are very popular with first-time guests.

Periodicals! We subscribe to several unique and highly interesting periodicals which I have not seen anywhere else locally. Find these in the large magazine rack in the entry way. These include **The Present Age**, from Switzerland, the **New View** from England, Lilipoh, and many others—all waiting your investigation and joy! We have even had requests to check out our periodicals in the same way our books are checked out!

Thank you all who support our library and participate in its life!

The Librarians for the Rudolf Steiner Library and BookShop
Eloise Krivosheia, Dan Hartjes, Aileen Leijten, Chris Quintanar