

SFWS Board of Trustees 2019-20

Melissa Coleman (*Board President*) is CEO of La Puerta Originals, Inc. She has owned and operated La Puerta Originals, a custom door and cabinet manufacturer since 2004. The company designs and hand crafts custom doors and other architectural building products using reclaimed wood and architectural antiques from around the world. Ms. Coleman's professional career includes Director of Campaign and Development for the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Director of Development for the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, New York, and Campaign and Communications Manager for United Ways in New York, Chicago and Memphis. Coleman holds a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from University of Memphis, Tennessee. Community involvement includes: Foundation Board Member and Chair of Development Committee for the Institute of American Indian Arts; EmergeNM Graduate and former candidate for Santa Fe School Board; Former Vice President of Atalaya PTA; former Public Relations Chair for Buckaroo Ball, Ambassador for Earth Care International. Her daughter Story has attended the Santa Fe Waldorf School since 2010. "We chose the Santa Fe Waldorf School for its challenging and experiential learning opportunities and its emphasis on teaching the whole child – hands, heart and mind. For us, the Santa Fe Waldorf School is the most exceptional education Santa Fe has to offer."

Andy Smith (*Board Vice-President*) works in the field of communications and is the co-host and engineer of Green Knees, a radio show for children. He believes that a Waldorf education can expand the notion that a function of society is to provide a foundation to challenge young people. His commitment to this notion is strengthened each year as he observes his son's interaction with the Waldorf curriculum – a curriculum that meets children at their developmental level while providing a safe learning environment, promoting how to think beyond just learning concepts. Andy also believes that connecting to the Waldorf approach to education can lead to continued personal development as a parent and dramatically impact one's interactions with their child and the world around them.

Janine Pearson (*Board Secretary*) is a Graphic Designer and the owner of *J9design*, a small business providing print and web design services for local and national clients. She also manages the accounts and payroll for her husband's company, *Native Earth Landscaping*. Originally from New York, Janine has lived in Santa Fe for 20 years and was introduced to Waldorf education by both her husband and a former SFWS teacher.

Janine continues to be impressed with the Waldorf curriculum and how it has met the needs of her children at each stage of development. She values the Waldorf philosophy and how it provides a meaningful education that allows children to cultivate their intellectual, emotional, and spiritual

capacities while developing practical skills that ensure adaptability, resilience and resourcefulness during these times of constant change.

Janine's two children have been students at Santa Fe Waldorf School since pre-school and are both currently enrolled in the middle school. Janine was Co-Chair of the school's Parent Council for two years, has served on the Philanthropic Committee, is currently on the Marketing Committee, and has volunteered in many different capacities over the past 10 years, including being a Class Parent and Holiday Faire Captain every year. When she is not spending time with her family, working or volunteering, Janine can be found practicing or teaching yoga, hiking, or immersed in a good book.

Cheryl Slover-Linett (*Board Treasurer*) founded the non-profit Lead Feather in 2008 through it creates wilderness journeys to help people get connected to themselves, to nature and to one another. Bringing in Native American ceremony and connection to the land, Lead Feather journeys are Cheryl's expression of her own passion about nature, self, culture and home. Cheryl also founded Slover Linett Audience Research in 1997 and grew it into one of the most respected audience research firms in the arts and culture sectors. She has built long-term relationships with renowned institutions such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Smithsonian, and the University of Chicago and has become a trusted conduit to the minds and hearts of audiences for these and other leading organizations.

Cheryl first became familiar with Waldorf schools when she and her husband, Peter, were looking at parent-child programs in Chicago. They joined the Chicago Waldorf School when their twins were three and stayed there until they moved to Santa Fe in 2011, when their girls were heading into 7th grade. *At that point their girls opted to attend separate schools, so while Sophie attended the Santa Fe Waldorf School, Amelia chose Desert Academy. Having insight into two distinct educational pathways makes for interesting dinner conversations as well as challenging volleyball games when the two schools play each other.*

Cheryl earned an MBA from UCLA's Anderson School, where she was also an international management fellow at the Center for International Business and Education Research (CIBER). She earned her B.A. in economics from Yale University.

Roberto Aponte is a visionary manager and leader with more than 25 years in event production and organizational leadership, in both corporate and nonprofit settings. In addition to his expertise in business administration, Roberto has strong skills as a trainer, facilitator and coach. He has a Master of Arts in Business from the California Institute of Integral Studies, and an undergraduate degree in Communications from Emerson College in Boston. His unique master's degree was focused on bringing environmental sustainability and social responsibility to the practice of business. This orientation to having one's actions contribute to environmental and societal well-being is just

one of the reasons Roberto has chosen Waldorf education for his son Ari who is currently in fourth grade. The fact that Waldorf education places imagination and interacting with nature at the forefront of their learning model is exactly what Roberto feels his son needs in an age where society overemphasizes logic as “the” path to knowledge.

Adam Clark has worked in luxury hotel management in California, Arizona, and New Mexico for over 20 years. He has fond memories of his experiences at Quail Lodge, Pebble Beach, and Highlands Inn on the stunning Monterey Peninsula. Adam received his degree in hotel management from Northern Arizona University. He is a long-time advocate of Waldorf schools. Adam’s daughter Lily, a rising tenth grader at SFWS, recently completed her thirteenth year of Waldorf education. “My wife Carolyn and I like the Waldorf curriculum because it provides a strong classical education that nurtures the natural spirit of the child. We wanted Lily to fall in love with learning—and she has!” Adam has been a passionate hospice volunteer for 25 years. He currently co-facilitates a teen grief support group at Gerard’s House in Santa Fe. Adam enjoys playing his cello, reading, skiing, walking his dog Buddy, and spending time in nature with his family.

Fletcher Lathrop holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas and received his Waldorf teacher training from Rudolf Steiner College. He served as a class teacher for his first ten years at SFWS and now teaches wood carving and sculpture. He loves to be out in nature fly fishing.

Cita Riley has been a member of SFWS community since 1990 as a parent, Board member, and employee. She served as SFWS Enrollment Coordinator for eight years, and as Elementary School Coordinator for the past five years. She was the Executive Director of the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association before being hired by SFWS. Currently, Cita enjoys volunteering in the public schools, Literacy Volunteers of Santa Fe, Friends of the Library, SFWS library, and the Michael S. Currier Memorial Scholarship Committee.

Cita enrolled her children in SFWS as kindergarten students. She continues to be impressed by the engaging curriculum, the reverence for nature, the devoted faculty, and the joyful faces throughout a beautiful campus. Cita earned a B.A. in history from University of Texas, a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Physical Therapy from University of Pennsylvania, an M.S. in Health Education from University of Utah, and a Non-profit Management Certificate from UNM Anderson School of Management.

Ex Officio

Carole Cressman (*Campus Manager*) Ms. Cressman's professional experience includes corporate management, outdoor education and ropes course programs, student counseling and employment programs for special needs students, organically certified farming, homemaking, and parenting. She enjoys most outdoor activities, cooking, gardening, dancing, and riding motorcycles with her husband of 30 years. Ms. Cressman joined Santa Fe Waldorf School in 2002.

Pat Lord (*Marketing & Development Director*) joined the Waldorf community in the fall of 2014. Ms. Lord enjoys the spirit of the families and students at the Santa Fe Waldorf School, and the collaborative support from faculty and staff in providing innovative and successful development and marketing efforts. Ms. Lord earned her Bachelor's in Music and Master of Education from St. Lawrence University and has spent the majority of the last 20 years of her career helping to raise awareness and funding for educational programs. In her spare time, Ms. Lord enjoys singing, cooking and enjoying the outdoors while walking her dogs.

Karl Johnson holds a Master of Arts in Guidance and Counseling from Adams State College in Colorado and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Utah State University. He is also a certified instructor with the National Outdoor Leadership School and completed his Waldorf Transdisciplinary Therapeutic Education course in Educational Support. He enjoys mountaineering, backcountry skiing, river running, hiking, writing poetry and studying Anthroposophy.

Thomas Keppel (*Business Manager*) has been a member of SFWS since 2011. When he is not working, Thomas is an avid photographer and information designer. He enjoys producing materials that challenge reality and which can be shaped according to our vision. Thomas loves to witness our students reach their full potential in a joyful way.

Gerson Pérez earned a degree in Chemical Engineering from Guatemala San Carlos University and a Masters in Business Administration from the IPADE Business School in Mexico. After working as a business consultant for over 10 years, Mr. Pérez co-founded a Pre-K to 3rd grade Waldorf school in Guadalajara, Mexico and has worked as both a teacher and administrator in Waldorf initiatives in Mexico and Guatemala. He enjoys drawing, painting and sculpting, and is an avid amateur woodworker. He likes to invite friends home to try his cooking experiments.

Jen Warren (*Admissions Director & Social Media Manager*) holds a Master of Arts in Teaching from Sacred Heart University and received her Waldorf teacher training from Rudolf Steiner College in California. She is a Certified Wilderness First Responder and a member of the Santa Fe Search and Rescue. She is a master gardener, avid reader, and world traveler.