

## Changing Children's Lives for the Good

**Facilitator:** Sarnia Guiton

Supporting Courage: Can you imagine founding a Steiner/Waldorf school without assuming tuition as income? Neither can I, and yet ... the Rudolf Steiner School in Kenya is doing just that and bringing Waldorf education to underprivileged children. Most children at this school come from desperate situations, poverty, abuse, malnutrition, often with no competent or no living parents, and every other calamity you can imagine. Some need to board for safety reasons; some walk a few miles to and from school every day – some alone and some with an 'auntie'. Some are lucky enough to come on a school bus. Their young lives are changed, and they have a future ahead of them. How can we support this courage and this extraordinary school?

**Section Affiliation:** Social Science Section

**Team Members:** Sarnia Guiton, Dominic Mwaura

**Number of Participants:** 20 – 30

### *Sarnia Guiton*



Sarnia has been a registered nurse, au pair nanny, mother, active Quaker, homesteader, Waldorf teacher, and administrator for two Waldorf teacher training organizations, the Rudolf Steiner College in California and the West Coast Institute for Studies in Anthroposophy in British Columbia.

Somewhere along the way, she became a member of the Anthroposophical Society and then of the School of Spiritual Science. Sarnia also organizes and leads anthroposophical tours in Europe and beyond, and volunteers in medical clinics for the Maasai in Kenya. Sarnia has now retired, has settled in Nairobi, Kenya, and is involved with both the Nairobi Waldorf School and the Rudolf Steiner School, Mbagathi, in study sessions and finding sponsors for children so they can receive a Waldorf education.

### *Dominic Mwaura*



Dominic Mwaura was born and grew up in Kenya. He is a Kenyan citizen but also a Canadian citizen (dual citizenship). Dominic has worked and lived in a Catholic religious congregation called Brothers of Our Lady Mother of Mercy, where he underwent three stages of Catholic religious brotherhood initiation; that is, aspirant, postulant, and novitiate stages.

Later in life, Dominic trained as a Waldorf teacher in Kenya through the East Africa Association of Waldorf/Steiner Schools. After emigrating to the U.S.A. Dominic worked and studied curative education at the Camphill School of Curative Education (presently, Camphill Academy) which is domiciled in Camphill Special School (U.S.A).

Since settling in Canada, Dominic has worked with the following organizations providing services for those with special needs, mental health issues, drug addiction, or homelessness: L'Arche Winnipeg Community, Main Street Project Winnipeg, Supervisor in Fairfax Community Inc., New Directions for Children, Youth, and Adults. Dominic has also done some training in client-centered therapy counseling at the Embulbul Educational and Counseling Center in Kenya.

*Monday, August 14*

**11:30 am WTH1** The Kenya Project, Changing Children's Lives for the Good  
*Sarnia Guiton and Dominic Mwaura, Social Science Section*