

Community Building as a Foundation and Ongoing Process **- Annual Report for 2025 of the Karl König Institute, Berlin Office -**

Once again, we look back on an eventful, diverse, and packed year. In our collaboration with the Camphill institutions in Central Europe, we focused particularly on issues of community building this year. Among many topics and activities, community building is a recurring—one could even say always present—underlying theme. The members of the board (Regine Bruhn, Jan Göschel, Christoph Hänni, Anita Pedersen, Cornelius Pietzner, and Brigitta Waldow-Schily) all have a Camphill background, as does Richard Steel, the managing director, but they are also all active beyond that. Community building is partly a practical foundation within the institute, as we regularly meet in larger and smaller groups, both in person and online; but it is also a work objective in many different ways. A project supported by the Institute aims to further explore the questions of community building in the Camphill tradition for the present day, and regular discussions – including international ones – take place. However, it is also among our goals to promote, support, and research community in all its contexts. Our question is: How can we support the community ideals in Camphill during times of external and internal challenges? And how can we connect them effectively with other community initiatives?

The forms of collaboration directly within the Institute are also important to us. In November 2025, we held an interesting “Future Workshop” with guests. We want to involve new friends to be inspired by new perspectives and ideas for the further development and direction of the Karl König Institute and, in the long term, to initiate a generational shift.

The various locations

Berlin-Kleinmachnow:

We are delighted to welcome two new members to our existing, closely collaborating "secretariat group" (which includes Angela Stintzing, remotely): Ellen Roberts and Luke Stintzing. They will be introduced in more detail in the summer newsletter. Ellen grew up in Camphill in North America and has lived in Potsdam for many years. She has already been a great help with English texts and will be working part-time in the new year. Since Fiona Mentzel had to step back from her work developing our social media presence, Angela's son, Luke, has taken on this task as part of his school project. Both have already become integral members of our team!

Camphill Hudson, New York State, USA:

The Karl König Institute's North American branch is affiliated with the Camphill community in Hudson, New York State. The office there will continue to be managed by Deborah Grace and will be financially supported by the Camphill Foundation and the region (Association). Changes are, however, coming soon: a successor (and possibly a team) for Deborah is being actively sought. The director of Camphill Hudson, Onat Sanchez-Schwarz, supports us and is in daily contact with Deborah. A small Advisory Council is addressing questions about the future. Onat is a member, as are Karen Murphy from the Camphill Foundation, Mary Wildfeuer from the Camphill Association, Andreas Schuschke from the school community in Beaver Run, and Robyn Hauenstein, one of the leading figures at the Front Range Anthroposophical Café in Boulder, Colorado.

(<https://frontrangeanthrocafe.org/about-us/>) Aside from other events, one of the important areas of work in the USA at present is the preparation of audiobooks, which are scheduled to be offered starting Easter 2026.

Karl König Archive in Aberdeen, Scotland:

In Scotland, Christoph Hänni (who is also on the board) is usually alone in the archive of our original documents. Some helping hands are there regularly, and at least once a year our "Archive Week" takes place: Richard was there this year with a small group (Gillian Withrington and Frauke Römer from Lehenhof, Cherry How from Ireland) – and many tasks were completed again. We

always report on this in the Newsletter. Anyone interested in such work in the future is welcome to contact us!

Ambassadors

This extensive group has supported us in many ways this year. In June 2025, there was another meeting at Lake Constance with eleven people. Specifically, two new working groups were formed, which meet regularly: one on the topic of advertising/marketing and one on how the institute can integrate pressing contemporary issues into its work. Another meeting of the Ambassadors is planned for June 2026.

UK and Ireland

A conference was held in Stroud, England, in April, where the original intention was to launch an ambassador initiative for the UK and Ireland. It became clear that, given the disintegration of regional connections there, more preparation is needed first. A smaller, more focused conference was able to take place, which is to be continued in April 2026. Peter Bateson is assisting with the organization.

The Nordic Region:

Malle Vogelsang is our new contact person for the Camphill Northern Region Association. The region is interested in our work and has supported us financially for many years. We have also organized events, especially in Norway, and been part of regional meetings. Regional archival work has also begun.

Collaborations

Together with the Camphill training programs, we developed and produced a commemorative publication for the 60th anniversary of the Camphill training programs on Lake Constance. In addition, the Karl König Institute created an exhibition, "85 Years of Camphill," an expansion of the "80 Years of Camphill" exhibition with supplementary panels about the training programs. Regine Bruhn was able to present her new Karl König biography. We will develop further areas of collaboration.

A new collaboration is in preparation with the company "Sonett".

Further Education Programm

We see our task as making Karl König's work available not only through publications, but also through lectures, seminars, and exhibitions to further develop it for the present and future. To this end, we have recently established a Further Education College and developed a range of events, seminars and courses. (<https://www.karlkoeniginstitute.org/de/kollegium.asp>) The continuing course on "Professional Organization and Spiritual Community Building in Social Therapy and Special Education" concluded with a third session at the end of October 2025. A similar course is planned to be offered again. Organizers: Peter and Ute Beier, Regine Bruhn. On six evenings throughout the year, Richard Steel offered a half-day further education course (with certificate) on the anthroposophical understanding of the human being, in Kleinmachnow. The 14 participants from the surrounding area come from diverse educational and therapeutic professions and complemented each other with their experiences and questions. A follow-up project will be undertaken in 2026.

On December 12th and 13th, 2025, a retreat took place in Frickingen, Lake Constance: "Heart Thinking, a necessity of our time – Eurythmy and the Calendar of the Soul as paths of practice." (Ulrike and Guy Cornish, Richard Steel). A public lecture which was well visited, began the weekend.

Digital Forums

The weekly digital lecture series on the weekly verses of Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul, in conjunction with Karl König's corresponding illustrations, continue to be available in German, English, and Italian for a fee and have reached many people worldwide. Also many talks have been staged online this year.

Project "Living History"

The title of this now-completed documentary film is "A Light for Humanity – In the Footsteps of Karl König" in English and "Ein Leben für die Menschlichkeit – Auf den Spuren Karl Königs" in German. The two versions also differ somewhat in content. As part of the project, many interviews were conducted with people who had known Karl König. Dozens of hours of interviews, in English and German, had to be professionally edited, requiring a very time-consuming effort in terms of content and technology. Particularly gratifying is: 1. The commitment of a grant from the "Austrian National Fund for Victims of National Socialism". And secondly, the German version was broadcast on Austrian public television ("W24") in its Christmas program, December 2025. Of particular interest is the fact that we unexpectedly found a short film documentary about Karl König from West German Broadcasting (WDR) – filmed in the cowshed of Brachenreuthe! An audio recording of a BBC interview is also included. Throughout the coming year – 2026 – we will be offering screenings and events – combined with the presentation of the new biography by Regine Bruhn.

Art and the Expansion of Borders

1. We are delighted that this year our relations with Italy have been revived in a particularly special way. Karl König's Soul Calendar drawings were exhibited in October—first publicly, then for the annual meeting of the Anthroposophical Society in Italy—within sight of Florence Cathedral. In November, a conference with an exhibition was held at the Palazzo della Luce in Turin. The Italian translation of our Kaspar Hauser volume will soon be published as the 10th volume in Italian.
2. The paintings by Michael Reinardy, which he has given us for fundraising purposes, can be seen in an online exhibition as a first step, where the paintings can also be purchased. Further exhibitions of the paintings are being planned. Brigitta Waldow is currently working on a book about Michael Reinardy, his life, and his work.
3. Exhibitions of work by Greg Tricker and David Newbatt have aroused much interest and more will be taking place in 2026.
4. After extensive deliberations and discussions, the board has decided to take up the long-requested loan of Karl König's Soul Calendar drawings for a major exhibition at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art. Curator Ori Drumer is working to present art in difficult times and had long planned an exhibition on the theme of "processing trauma" during World War II. He came across König's work and proposed a special hanging arrangement of the paintings: on a huge wall in four rows, one above the other, so that the four related pictures will be displayed one below the other. König's work will be shown in the same room as paintings by Mark Rothko. Richard is preparing texts for the exhibition team. The exhibition will run from mid-March to mid-October 2026.

The Newsletter

The Karl König Institute's Newsletter is now published in separate German and English editions. From now on, the editions will be published at different times: the English newsletter at Easter and Michaelmas; the German edition at Christmas and Midsummer. The articles are not identical. One can subscribe to both. We have a modest Italian Newsletter planned, starting January 2026.

Publications

The backlog of our books, which had built up at Verlag Freies Geistesleben due to internal restructuring, is slowly clearing. There is no longer an editorial department there – we have to organize this task ourselves. Angela Stintzing has already taken this on with the help of Christiane Woltmann. The new biography, Regine Bruhn: *Karl König – A Portrait of His Life*, has already been published in German and has received good reviews. The volume *Music and Musical Experience* (edited by Katarina Seherr) and the supplementary volume on König's Jewish destiny will

unfortunately have to follow in 2026. In English, a book about Carlo Pietzner's life and work on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of his death is in preparation and will be published by Temple Lodge in March 2026.

Tried and tested books reduced: We have acquired remaining stock from Freies Geistesleben and Info 3 Verlag, which we are able to sell at a reduced price: • Anne Weise: *Alfred Bergel. Sketches from a Forgotten Life. Vienna - Theresienstadt - Auschwitz*. Stuttgart 2014. Hardcover. Reduced to €15 • Brigitta Waldow-Schily: *The Light of the Child. Leitmotifs in the Work of Greg Tricker*. Frankfurt 2022. Paperback. Reduced to €10 • Alfons Limbrunner: *The Wanderers into the Dawn. Karl König, Camphill, and Spiritual Community*. Stuttgart 2016. Reduced to €8.

For further information please see our publication and events lists.

For the Institute, Regine Bruhn and Richard Steel