First established in 1919, Waldorf education can be found in countries across the globe in a wide variety of cultural settings. What accounts for its spread and growth? Why is it being taken up at an increasing rate in charter and public schools in this country? What exactly is Waldorf education? Why do many educators believe that Waldorf is an ideal education for the twenty-first century learner? Are Waldorf schools art schools? What happens to Waldorf students when they graduate?

As Waldorf education becomes increasingly widespread and visible, these questions are often raised. As educators and parents consider a Waldorf education for their children, they seek answers for these, and other, questions. We encourage you to bring your questions for a lively, informative presentation that will help you understand "why Waldorf?"

About the Speaker:

Liz Beaven, Ed.D.

Born, raised, and educated in New Zealand; has lived and worked in England, New York, and Northern California. Mother of two adult sons; grandmother of two. Was a class teacher at the Rudolf Steiner School in New York City and at the Sacramento Waldorf School. Served as the school administrator of the Sacramento Waldorf School for 11 years. Current President of Rudolf Steiner College, California, a leading center of Waldorf teacher education. Active in the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America and the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education.

Liz Beaven, EdD, combines a life-long career in education with a passionate interest in childhood, schools, and the questions confronting education and parenting in our modern world. She has almost thirty years of experience in Waldorf education in North America, including classroom teaching (grades 1-8 and 12th grade), teacher education, work with parents, consulting with schools, board membership, school administration, and being the parent of Waldorf students.

Liz has been active in the development of Waldorf education in public education since the early 1990s. Her experience spans the issues and interests of both independent and public schools. She has served as a keynote speaker at several conferences, is active in research, and is the author of a range of articles on Waldorf education. She brings knowledge of current research combined with a practical understanding warmth, and humor to the topic of education.