

SWEDENBORG FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

• 2011 •

Officers and Board of Directors 2011

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Finance and Strategic Planning

Stuart Shotwell
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Report of the President

MARLYN F. SMITH

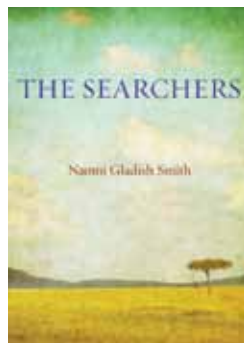
This report is being written in March 2012, just in time to be published with the annual report for 2011. In May I will be completing my fourth and final year as president and my nineteenth and final year as a member of the board of directors. As I reflect on my years of service to the Swedenborg Foundation, despite many changes, some of which I will mention hereafter, the commitment of the Foundation to keep the theological works of Emanuel Swedenborg in print and distributed to all who seek them remains constant. This commitment is reflected in the dedication to the completion of the translation and publication of the New Century Edition. Thanks to the renewed support both of the board, the New Century Edition Committee, and the donors, this work is moving forward with renewed vigor, details of which will be covered in the report of the New Century Edition Committee following.

One significant change during my tenure as president is the addition of eight new board members, whom I have had the privilege of welcoming. Except for Jim Lawrence, with whom I served on the board for several years in the 1990s (and who was reelected to the board in 2008), no one has more than ten years of service, and with my retirement in May 2012 the average age will plunge, with the oldest member being just 71. With a board membership spread across the country from California to Colorado, Ohio, New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, and with eight relatively new members having varying degrees of familiarity with the mission and work of the Foundation, the Executive Committee has recommended holding a retreat to discuss, reaffirm, or modify the mission of the Foundation and implementation of that mission. It has formed a task force to develop plans for the retreat and is recommending that the board dedicate two days for this purpose, in place of the time for committee and board meetings that would normally follow this May's annual meeting.

At the annual meeting in May 2011, we elected Sylvia Shaw, Richard Hatheway, and two new members, Tracy McCardell and Richard Smoley. Tracy has served as an associate director on the Finance and Strategic Planning Committee, and we look forward to her continuing contribution to its work. Richard Smoley has already provided valuable assistance to the work of the Program Committee. Dick Hatheway was elected as vice president by the board at the May 2011 annual meeting, in preparation for his anticipated election as Foundation's next president at the board's annual meeting in May 2012.

For the second year in a row, the Foundation's endowment received a generous gift, this time in securities valued at approximately \$365,000 from Dr. Donald Thibeault from

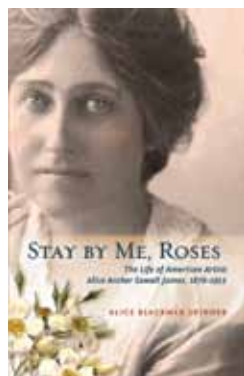




Nova Scotia in December 2011. In fact, due to a fortuitous upswing in the market after receipt of the gift, we realized, upon liquidation of the securities, approximately \$375,000 added to our endowment. In the report of the treasurer and Finance Committee chair, despite the reference to the loss in our endowment due to the pause in the nation's economic recovery, we still continue to receive good contributions in support of our work from the membership, and once again I can acknowledge contributions from 100 percent of our board.

The good work being done by our staff under the leadership of Joanna Hill, executive editor, is reflected in the report of the Program Committee, both in the number of new books published and those in progress.

In conclusion, my thanks to our executive editor, the staff, and the board members, each one of whom contributed to the work of the Foundation through the three operating committees, as well as those who served on our several other committees: Executive, Nominating, Bylaw, Human Resource, and NCE Fundraising. 🌿



Report of the Program Committee

JAMES F. LAWRENCE & JANE WILLIAMS-HOGAN
Program Committee Co-Chairs



With the restructuring of our publications program last year to consolidate all titles under the imprint of Swedenborg Foundation Press, the Program Committee this year worked on acquisitions and production of titles for the variety of audiences and uses we seek to serve via this program. Ranging from scholarly studies to theological exposition to practical spirituality, we sought to develop publications for these audiences that, in accordance with the Foundation's mission statement, will facilitate an increasingly broad and affirmative engagement with Swedenborgian thought.

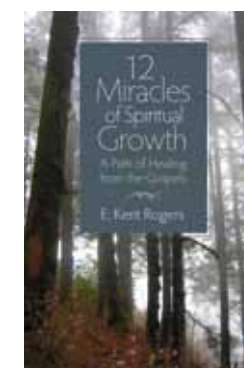
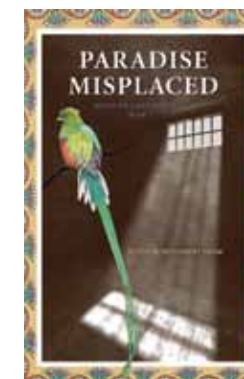
In spring 2011 we published two works presenting Swedenborgian ideas via the genre of fiction: *The Searchers* by Naomi Gladish Smith, which was the final volume of her popular trilogy set in the afterlife, and *The Guardian Angel Diary* by Grant Schnarr, which proved to be our bestseller for the year. Through the capable talents of longtime Helen Keller scholar Ray Silverman, we also published a newly discovered small treatise by Helen Keller, *How I Would Help the World*. This work ran a close second behind *The Guardian Angel Diary* in total sales for the year. In addition, for the spring 2011 season we

released an immensely useful introductory anthology of key passages from Swedenborg's theological works, *A Swedenborg Sampler*. This manageably sized book presents translations by Lisa Hyatt Cooper, George Dole, and Jonathan Rose taken from the New Century Edition volumes.

In the fall 2011 season we published: *Stay by Me Roses*, a moving biography of Swedenborgian artist Alice Archer Sewall James by the late Alice B. Skinner; *The Hidden Levels of the Mind: Swedenborg's Theory of Consciousness*, a compelling presentation of Swedenborg's work on human brain and mind by Douglas Taylor; *Creating an Orange Utopia* by Patricia Ortlieb and Peter Economy, a delightful account of Johnny Applesseed's female Swedenborgian counterpart in early California, Eliza Lovell Tibbets, who planted the first navel oranges; an exquisite presentation and explanation of *Tiffany's Swedenborgian Angels* by Mary Lou Bertucci and Joanna Hill; and a reprint of the classic intellectual biography of Swedenborg, *Emanuel Swedenborg: Visionary Savant in the Age of Reason* by world renowned church historian Ernst Benz. We also brought Anita Dole's classic six-volume Bible study program, *Bible Study Notes*, back into print.

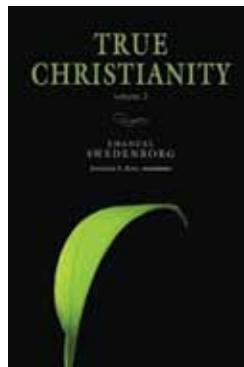
In addition, during the 2011 publishing year the Program Committee also worked on a large number of future acquisition possibilities. As this report was being written in early 2012, two of these had already been released: *It's a Deal! Dynamic Transactions*, edited by Carol Lawson and Robert F. Lawson, the eighteenth release in the Chrysalis Reader series, and a new novel, *Paradise Misplaced: Book 1 of the Mexican Eden Trilogy* by Sylvia Montgomery Shaw. Three other books that were acquired in 2011 are also slated for release in the spring 2012 season: *The Swedish Prophet: Reflections on the Visionary Philosophy of Emanuel Swedenborg*, a translation of a book originally written in Spanish by scholar José Antonio Antón-Pacheco; *12 Miracles of Spiritual Growth: A Path of Healing from the Gospels*, a book by E. Kent Rogers that explores the healing power of the Gospels; and *Getting into Heaven—and Out Again*, a humorous tour of the afterlife by Albrecht Gralle, translated from the German by his daughter Friederike Gralle and illustrated by well-known artist Sally Blakemore.

The great bulk of work behind the development and production of these handsome books is executed by a skilled and devoted publication staff: Joanna Hill, Morgan Beard, Karen Connor, Carol Urbanc, and Alexia Cole. We wish to recognize and thank them for their hard work and excellent results. We would also like to thank the members of the Program Committee: Stephen Larsen, Lewis Shaw, Sylvia Montgomery Shaw, Richard Smoley, and board associates Robin Larsen, Carol Lawson, Trish Lindsay, and Page Morahan. 🌿



Report of the New Century Edition Committee

STUART SHOTWELL
New Century Edition Committee Chair



The most tangible indicators of the progress of the New Century Edition (NCE) this year were two new volumes in Portable Edition and e-book format: *True Christianity*, volume 2, and *Secrets of Heaven*, volume 2, released in April and December, respectively. On both launch dates, the translators gave a talk that was streamed over the Internet to celebrate the event. The response to these publications demonstrated again that the Portable Edition and the e-book volumes are an increasingly popular addition to the NCE lineup. They make our translations available while we are developing the annotations and other scholarly material for the Deluxe volumes, which remain central to our mission.

Other milestones during the year included the following:

- ✿ Lisa Hyatt Cooper completed her draft translation of *Secrets of Heaven*, volume 11 (out of fifteen).
- ✿ George Dole made his final revisions to several translations and completed drafts of several translator's prefaces. By year's end he was within three months of wrapping up his main tasks as a translator.
- ✿ Our editorial team did a vast amount of the necessary reference checking that is involved in the publication of future volumes. It also compiled tables of parallel passages and Scripture passage indexes for forthcoming titles, to say nothing of the index to both volumes of the *True Christianity* translation.
- ✿ Our senior copy editor completed her work on several volumes in advance of the main editorial read.
- ✿ Our new annotation editor compiled a master database of the notes in the published works and drafts, about twelve thousand in all, and produced many more notes for current and future use. He also assigned annotations in advance to other writers so that they will be ready when they are needed.
- ✿ Our consultant wrapped up the check against Latin for all translations but the last few volumes of *Secrets of Heaven*.

As the committee reported last year, a generous sum has been given to the project specifically with a view to accelerating the actual publication of volumes. The main obstacle to publication has continued to be the fact that the series editor and managing editor must play multiple roles. Both are responsible for the core tasks of editing the texts

and developing annotations. But they are also required to perform many other non-core tasks, such as managing the project, raising funds, and promoting the series. These non-core tasks take a considerable amount of time away from the core work. This is a key reason that sixteen translated volumes are still in draft form awaiting editorial review.

During 2011, the editors took steps to address this problem. They reduced their core work assignment as much as possible by bringing in a new editor dedicated to writing and editing annotations, and they reorganized the team in order to delegate as many non-core tasks as possible to a combination of existing personnel and new assistants. By the end of the year this acceleration plan was in place and was promising an improvement in pace.

In a reflection of a continuing downward trend in the book industry, sales remained flat in 2011: the number of all volumes sold in 2011 was 1,513. A bright spot could be seen in e-book sales: in 2011 we sold 167 units, up from 107 in 2010. Though the increase in units is not impressive in itself, the percentage increase of 64 percent strongly suggests that there will be continued growth in this format.

In response to the overall sales trend, toward the end of the year the NCE launched a new marketing campaign specifically intended to create awareness of *Heaven and Hell*, especially in the community of people interested in near-death experience (NDE). The focus of this campaign, a new Facebook page, was created on October 28; by December 31 it had received 5,831 "likes," a number that by the end of February rose to 8,171 and shows every indication of continuing to grow. (A "like" is an indication by an individual that he or she is willing to be publicly associated with the content of the page and to receive updates concerning it.) Every day our team posts quotes from *Heaven and Hell* or another NCE volume on the page, sometimes generating as many as a hundred responses or more.

In summary, despite the economic slowdown and the difficulties inherent in any major undertaking, during 2011 the NCE project continued to thrive. The many contributors to the project, whom we think of as "the broader NCE team," demonstrated their support by continuing to make significant donations toward our Completion Campaign throughout 2011. In fact, there was a 10 percent increase in the number of donors over the previous year. We are now within \$989,127 of our goal. Though we have not yet closed this final gap in our funding, we look forward to the completion of this important task with gratitude to all who have made it possible for us to serve on this mission. 🌿



Report of the Treasurer and the Finance and Strategic Planning Committee

JAMES HORIGAN, Treasurer

LARRY CONANT, Finance and Strategic Planning Committee Chair

The treasurer and the Finance and Strategic Planning Committee maintain general oversight of the business administration of the Foundation, including investments, fundraising, budgets, audits, real estate, strategic planning, personnel policies, and administrative affairs. Members of the committee are Larry Conant (chair), James Horigan (treasurer), and directors Richard Hatheway, Marlyn Smith, Pam Weldon, Pete Toot, and Tracy McCardell.

A major responsibility of the Finance and Strategic Planning Committee is managing the Foundation's endowment portfolio, which provides funding for our operations and activities. The financial markets paused during 2011. Overall, the investment fund lost \$137,691. The Foundation did receive almost \$515,000 in donations giving a starting balance for investments of \$14,706,210. We continue to move toward our goal of a sustainable drawdown of the Swedenborg Foundation's funds at a rate of 4.5 percent.

The Foundation remains invested in a mix of cash, equities, bonds, international investment funds, and commercial real estate trusts. For the year, our equity and fixed income mutual funds were invested and managed by J. P. Morgan Trust, and real estate trusts were managed by The Curry-Poole Group. We are currently working to transfer all of the assets except the real estate limited partnerships into the J. P. Morgan account.

The New Century Edition project will continue to be a major effort for the next several years. It is funded and budgeted separately from the Foundation's other activities. The fundraising program continues in support of the multiyear project that is required for this important work. The wholehearted support, spiritually and financially, of those who value Swedenborg's writings continues to be essential in bringing these new translations to life.

We continue to improve the financial reporting used in the bookkeeping system. The budget line items continue to be refined to allow the staff to focus on the things that they control and let the board handle the fundraising and visioning process for the future of the Foundation. 🌿



About the Auditor's Report

The financial position of the Swedenborg Foundation for the year 2011 has been audited in an independent auditor's report by Alan M. Thierman, certified public accountant.

The report includes:

- ⊗ Statement of financial position
- ⊗ Statement of activities and changes in net assets
- ⊗ Statement of cash flows
- ⊗ Statement of functional expenses
- ⊗ Notes to financial statements

A copy of this report is available upon request. To request a copy, you may

- ⊗ Call 610-430-3222, ext. 19
- ⊗ Fax a request to 610-430-7982
- ⊗ Send an e-mail to info@swedenborg.com

- ⊗ Write to:
Swedenborg Foundation
320 N. Church Street
West Chester, PA 19380

All life, honorary, and annual members for the year 2011 are entitled to receive a free copy of this report upon request.



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 Mr. Julio Ragasa
 Mrs. Lisa Reddekopp

In Memoriam 2011 

It is with a deep sense of loss that the Swedenborg Foundation notes the passing into the spiritual world of the following life members:

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 Mrs. Karen Elizabeth Robbins
 Mr. Charles M. Townsend

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 Mrs. Judith P. Rhodes
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 Dr. & Mrs. David S. C. Kim
 Rev. & Mrs. Solomon Young-Min Kim
 Mr. & Mrs. Bradley King
 Mr. William S. Kingdon
 Mrs. Vera Kitzelman

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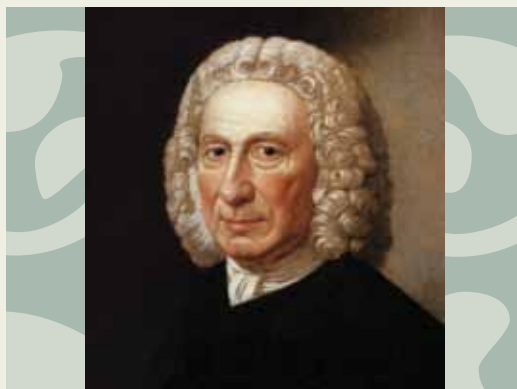
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