

# SWEDENBORG FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

• 2012 •

## Officers and Board of Directors 2012

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Larry Conant  
*Vice President*

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*Treasurer*

Peter D. Toot  
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Curtis Childs  
*Multimedia Writer / Producer*

Matthew Childs  
*Animator / Videographer*

Alexia Cole  
*Administrative Coordinator  
and Research Assistant*

Karen Connor  
*Art Director*

Brian Mann  
*Sales and Exhibits*

Valerie McLaughlin  
*Business Manager*

Carol Urbanc  
*Marketing Assistant*

## Report of the President

RICHARD B. HATHEWAY

It has been an exciting, eventful, and challenging year of transitions at the Foundation. Those transitions are (1) a change of emphasis in how the Foundation’s message is being delivered, (2) a change in the structure of the Foundation’s staff organization, and (3) changes in the leadership on the board of directors.

Before I detail these three transitions, I want to reaffirm what has not changed. And that is the basic mission of the Foundation: To foster an affirmative, informed, and increasingly broad engagement with the theological message disclosed by Emanuel Swedenborg.

The driving force behind much of this transition was an intense, two-day, strategic planning retreat held by the board of directors immediately following last May’s annual meeting. At the retreat the board unanimously affirmed six broad “aspirations” to be implemented over the coming five years:

**Aspiration 1: Move More into the Digital World.** Develop an exciting and engaged digital community by offering materials in a wide variety of formats so that users can study, share, and communicate with each other online.

**Aspiration 2: Examine the Small Press Model in the Context of Other Models.** Explore new types of content and systems for distributing it.

**Aspiration 3: Metrics/Data Gathering.** Develop better systems of collecting data to track our progress.

**Aspiration 4: Increase Free Distribution of Products.** Work toward offering as many materials as possible for free online or in print at cost.

**Aspiration 5: Internationalization.** Encourage grassroots individuals and groups all over the world to use Swedenborg Foundation content to spread the word.

**Aspiration 6: Educational/Informational Programs.** Develop international scholarly conferences on Swedenborg-related topics.

The first transition of the past year was aimed at meeting Aspiration 1—making greater use of the digital world and electronic media—which derives from the search for “broad engagement” enjoined upon us by our mission statement. One needs only to look at the statistics of one component of this transition, our Facebook page, to confirm that the transition promises success. Every day we post a short quote or two from Swedenborg on the page, thus sharing Swedenborg’s theology in pieces that, though they look like bite-sized appetizers, offer plenty of spiritual nourishment. Many hundreds of people read, ponder, and click “like” on these posts each day, publically indicating their appreciation of Swedenborg’s thought to all their friends and connections. The online delivery

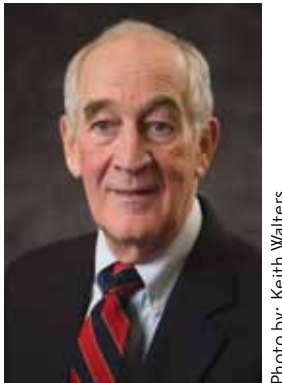


Photo by: Keith Walters

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## Report of the President

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ABOVE: Images taken from our YouTube video on the nature of the Universal Human.

platform also allows individuals to respond immediately and personally, in turn touching the lives of thousands of other people in a growing discussion. In the first two weeks of this web presence, 1,400 people indicated their approval of the site. The number of these “subscribers” has increased to more than forty-six thousand as I write this in late February 2013, and it continues to grow! Through social media we are creating more awareness of Swedenborg and making his thought the subject of a new, vibrant, online conversation.

The board has taken other steps as well to increase the Foundation’s presence in the “e-world.” It has authorized two additional staff positions, the first an online marketing specialist and the second a videographer. It is also working toward making all of its products more readily available in “e-formats” for wider, more efficient distribution. While this latter initiative is state-of-the-art and exciting, we will continue to invest in print media as well, with the goal of harnessing the powers of both digital and printed books. In other words, we are continuing to be primarily a print publisher, but we are expanding our mission reach by adding new forms of electronic distribution. (Summaries of our excellent print-media publications this past year can be found in the reports from the Program and the New Century Edition committees.)

The second transition was a reorganization of the Foundation staff responsibilities in order to further aspirations one through six. Specific plans have not been fully developed as yet, but the discussion has centered on creating teams, such as a digital team, a print team, and a managerial team, based partly on the New Century Edition (NCE) team model that has undergone thorough testing since the NCE Committee was established over ten years ago. This revisioning led very early to a realization that the position description of the Executive Editor no longer matched our needs, and thus the Board phased out that position at the end of 2012. A new position, that of Operations Manager, has been created and, as I write, a search committee (chaired by Jane Williams-Hogan) is seeking candidates. Until that search has been successfully concluded and a qualified candidate appointed, board member and Treasurer James Horigan will serve as an unpaid interim manager. Our sincere thanks and appreciation are extended to James for assuming this interim role.

The third transition occurred at the officer level of the board of directors. Marlyn Smith, the longest-standing member of the board, first elected in 1993, retired from service. Over the years he had not only served as secretary and most recently as president, but was a pillar on the Foundation’s Executive Committee. We cannot deny that he has thoroughly earned his retirement, but we deeply miss his attention to detail, his expertise, and his legal advice. Following Marlyn’s retirement in May, I was elected president; the other officers elected at that time include Larry Conant as vice president, James Horigan as treasurer, and Pete Toot as secretary. One of the pleasures of working

with this team, and the rest of the board, is the level of commitment and dedication each member shows. It is a truly remarkable feat to be able to gather a full board together on a Saturday morning and “not let them out of the room” until late Sunday afternoon. That was essentially what happened at the strategic planning retreat we had last May. The result of that gathering was a bonding of the board into a cohesive unit with a new vision and a reaffirmation of purpose.

I would be remiss if I concluded without paying particular tribute to the Foundation staff. They have exhibited admirable forbearance and patience through the year, while the board has pondered various possible means to go forward in implementing its aspirations. The team approach that is being introduced will give the members of our staff an opportunity to blossom and excel in a mutually collaborative environment. They deserve our utmost gratitude for their professionalism, dedication, work ethic, and understanding through this lengthy process. 🌿

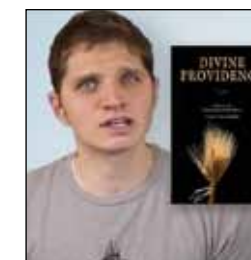
## Report of the Program Committee

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

This past year has been one of deep soul-searching in our publishing program as we have both produced some excellent new releases and also participated in a strategic planning process that has involved the beginning of an analysis of how we might adjust our publishing program to help carry forth the Foundation’s new vision and direction.

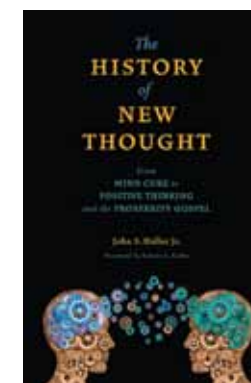
Thanks to the always-superb efforts of our staff, we issued several new titles during the year. Our most popular new release this year was *12 Miracles of Spiritual Growth: A Path of Healing from the Gospels* by E. Kent Rogers, a book that examines twelve stories of Jesus’s miraculous healings and gives practical advice for how we can apply those lessons to our own lives. Each chapter includes meditations, exercises, and questions for reflection, making it a handy book for either individual or group work.

Our second most popular book was a more scholarly tome, *The History of New Thought: From Mind Cure to Positive Thinking and the Prosperity Gospel* by John S. Haller Jr. This is one of the only books on the history of New Thought to undertake a complete history of the movement from its earliest days up to modern times. It is unique in that it not only discusses the visible New Thought churches and organizations but also explores the movement’s influence on popular culture.



TOP: The *Heaven and Hell* Facebook page.

ABOVE: An image taken from one of our YouTube videos.



## Report of the Program Committee

continued



Another popular entry this year was *The Core of Johnny Appleseed: The Unknown Story of a Spiritual Trailblazer*, a short but well-researched work by Ray Silverman that's aimed at countering some of the less-than-flattering portrayals in recent books such as Howard Means's *Johnny Appleseed: The Man, the Myth, the American Story* and Michael Pollan's *The Botany of Desire*. We also released two books that explore Swedenborg's ideas through the medium of fiction. The first was *Paradise Misplaced*, the first in a trilogy by Sylvia Montgomery Shaw about a pair of lovers who are challenged both emotionally and spiritually by the Mexican Revolution in the early 1900s. The second, *Getting into Heaven—and Out Again* by Albrecht Gralle, is a tongue-in-cheek look at the afterlife that also addresses some serious spiritual questions.

Rounding out our new releases for the year were *Ghost Brother Angel*, a spiritual memoir from author Grant Schnarr; *The Swedish Prophet: Reflections on the Visionary Philosophy of Emanuel Swedenborg* by José Antonio Antón Pacheco, an expanded edition of the work previously released in English as *Visionary Consciousness*; and the eighteenth installment of the Chrysalis Reader, *It's a Deal! Dynamic Transactions*. We also released a paperback reprint of Signe Toksvig's classic biography of Swedenborg entitled *Emanuel Swedenborg: Scientist and Mystic*.

One of the requests that the Foundation often receives is for audio versions of Swedenborg's works. These have been a challenge to produce in the past because of the expense involved in production and in the bulkiness of physical media like compact discs—even the shortest of Swedenborg's works, *Divine Love and Wisdom*, would require more than ten discs for a full edition. That's why we were so pleased when volunteer Gordon Meyer offered to produce audio versions of Swedenborg's works that we could make available for download through our website. The first of these, *Divine Love and Wisdom*, went online in late 2012. The next in the series, *Divine Providence*, is in production as we speak and is slated for a 2013 release.

Overall, we are pleased with the work of this year. We maintain our commitment to producing printed books, but we do foresee investing more of our time and resources into electronic publishing with a greater leeway in the design of concepts and the length of projects. We foresee more short works, more works of an introductory nature, and more works designed to engage the larger number of brand-new inquirers we believe will be coming into our program's offerings due to the new emphasis on online and social media strategies. At the same time, we do not foresee curtailing our commitment to scholarly publishing, as these works provide long-term depth and grounding in the mission of the Swedenborg Foundation. 🌿

## Report of the New Century Edition Committee

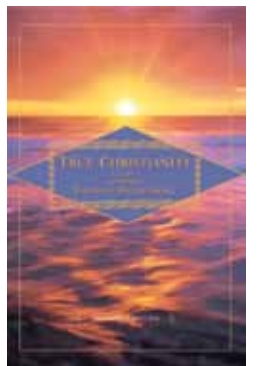
JONATHAN S. ROSE AND STUART SHOTWELL  
New Century Edition Committee Co-Chairs

As we on the New Century Edition (NCE) team look back on 2012, it seems a year of milestone events, and even of acceleration in the rate at which we pass new milestones. One of these achievements was a major new book—the second and final volume of *True Christianity* in Deluxe format, complete with volume notes and full indexes to the title. Other noteworthy events of the year include the following:

- ❁ Significant progress was made toward publication of the Deluxe version of *Secrets of Heaven* volume 2, which is to appear in 2013. The series editor, managing editor, and annotation editor focused on the scholarly aspects of the work—mainly, developing and editing the endnotes—while the creation, checking, and typesetting of other portions of the volume were accomplished by two separate editing teams.
- ❁ Similar progress was made on *Marriage Love*, thanks to the work of our annotation editor, who tracked down several new scholars to write notes for the volume. The translation received a preliminary edit, the introduction had a final edit, and most of the other elements of the front matter and back matter of the work were carried through to draft stage.
- ❁ Lisa Hyatt Cooper worked on *Secrets of Heaven* volume 12 (out of fifteen), while occasionally stepping back from translation to incorporate the feedback of her Latin consultant, who is now also working in volume 12 as well.
- ❁ The parallel passages tables and Scripture reference indexes for every volume of *Secrets of Heaven* were compiled and checked by the editorial team. They are awaiting final review by the editors.
- ❁ Our senior copy editor and her assistant ran copyediting checks on several volumes in advance of the main editorial read.
- ❁ Significant work was done on the back matter and endnotes for the shorter works of 1758 (*New Jerusalem*, *Last Judgment*, *White Horse*, and *Other Planets*, which will appear together in one volume) and for *Revelation Unveiled* (which will appear in two volumes).

In 2012 we began to reap the reward of a new approach to our publishing sequence. Both *True Christianity* volume 2 and *Secrets of Heaven* volume 2 appeared first in the Portable edition. Therefore both translations were completely finalized and typeset before we began adding auxiliary material to create the Deluxe volumes. Having well over half the volume in final form has cut down on the time and complexity of assembling the Deluxe volumes; it has been a greatly beneficial aspect of producing Portables before the Deluxe volumes.

Other developments behind the scenes also bode well for future acceleration. For example, project management was reassigned within the team. Not only did this change







## About the Auditor's Report



The financial position of the Swedenborg Foundation for the year 2012 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. 18
- ⊗ Fax a request to 610-430-7982
- ⊗ Send an e-mail to [vmclaughlin@swedenborg.com](mailto:vmclaughlin@swedenborg.com)
- ⊗ Write to:  
Swedenborg Foundation  
320 N. Church Street  
West Chester, PA 19380

All life, honorary, and annual members for the year 2012 are entitled to receive a free copy of this report upon request.

## Life Members

of the Swedenborg Foundation

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Rev. & Mrs. Mark E. Alden  
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Rev. & Mrs. Kurt H. Asplundh  
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Rev. Gladys Wheaton  
Dr. Jane Williams-Hogan  
Rev. & Mrs. Lee S. Woofenden  
Rev. Eric J. Zacharias  
Mrs. Patricia Zacharias

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### In Memoriam 2012

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

Mrs. Mary E. Crenshaw  
Dr. Elizabeth R. Gutfeldt  
Rev. Dr. & Mrs. William Ross Woofenden

## Contributors for the Year 2012

Annual Memberships and Gifts

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Ms. Vicki Bolten  
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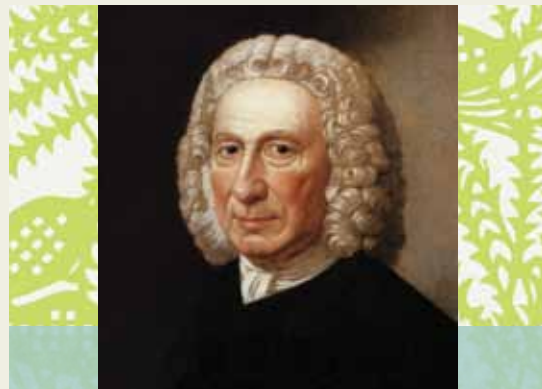
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