



RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL NEW YORK CITY

THE FIRST WALDORF SCHOOL IN NORTH AMERICA

The Gertrude J. Peter Scholarship For Students of the Rudolf Steiner School

Before Gertrude Peter (1916-2002) died, she told her daughter Irene Mantel that she would like to leave money for an institution of Irene's choice. Ms. Mantel, who has been a long-term member of the faculty and administration at the Rudolf Steiner School in New York City, asked her mother to create a fund for scholarships for deserving students at the Steiner School. Mrs. Peter did just that in honor of Irene Mantel's decades of dedicated work for that school; in honor of Irene's husband, Timothy Hoffmann, who has also been teaching at the same school since 1981; and in honor of their two children, Ian Caspar and Tristan, who each attended the school from age 3 to 18.

Mrs. Peter was introduced to the work of Rudolf Steiner by her own mother who had come to know about Steiner and Anthroposophy as a young woman of 19. Mrs. Peter's brother, trained as an engineer, switched careers in order to become a Waldorf teacher, first in high school and then as a class teacher, both in England and in Canada. Mrs. Peter, herself a faculty member at Rutgers College, New Jersey in her later years, was an intellectually gifted woman who was fiercely independent. In the 1930s, when everyone in central Europe wanted to head to London or Paris, Trude decided she would head east and make her home in Romania, where she worked for the German Embassy, a position well suited for someone who spoke five languages fluently and had working knowledge of others.

So, together with Irene Mantel, Mrs. Peter decided that the fund would be used for children with financial need who have demonstrated scholastic aptitude. The gift was given in the hope that it would foster enthusiasm for learning and the pursuit of academic excellence at the Rudolf Steiner School.