

SAA President's Report for the 2023 AGM

This last SAA year, the various activities of the Swedenborg Association of Australia have continued on, with slight changes in various ways. The committee, with the responsibility of running the SAA program, deciding on matters, and managing its finances, has been active in various promotions, and it has met quarterly.

There are basically two branches to SAA activity, one being the physical and the other the online, with considerable overlapping between them. Of course, the still yet higher branch is the spiritual, daring at times to look even higher toward the divine origin, influx, and purposes. The place of the SAA in all of this is to conduit the specific Swedenborgian aspect of what is spiritual and divine in creation, revelation, and human life. In our activity, admin, finances, productions and aims, this conduit is always there, guiding us. It is also, rightly, expressed outwards, hopefully into the questions, interests and lives of others wherever.

One very simple truth about an organisation such as the SAA is that it exists, and because it does, it can be contacted by someone somewhere who has come across Swedenborg in some way and feels intrigued or fascinated, (or, let's face it, hostile). In today's largely searching-online world this SAA existence is crucially important.

The great thing about Swedenborg's material is that it reaches out to people where they are at and it doesn't seek to bring them across but to provide a helpful map. This - as well as being utterly right and wonderful - allows the SAA to reach out to others and offer Swedenborg's way of seeing whatever we choose to be looking at.

So, we maintain being a balanced organisation, avoiding extremes, and as a result present a face of genuine freedom and free enquiry. We can focus on whatever it is, and give a Swedenborg 'take' on it, and include the 'takes' of others into the mix. All to our credit and even more, to the purposes of God.

The membership is in the mid-fifties with some gains and losses during the year. The SAA operates from the Swedenborg Centre and Church premises. The events - physical, online and both at once are well-established and run well and get appreciated. Some, like a series of art activity based on correspondences are offered because the talent is there to allow it to run. Some, like the Wednesday Swedenborg reading group, have a set purpose of leading on into a heavenly experience or a full-blown realisation about God. Others, more unstructured, are 'on' to let whoever with whatever take centre stage or suggest a focus. Groups of people with an 'outside' interest in someone who has drawn on Swedenborg come together to do it in yet another way. We are open to suggestions...

The Candela is issued each quarter with a range of great articles in both paper and screen versions. The Swedenborg website introduces who we are and says what's on and covers what you can get from the SAA, for free and at cost. The annual gift to members is our way of appreciating people belonging. The several online posts - YouTube, Facebook, e-News, and individual recommendations - get a growing and reasonably good number of hits. Our finances are well-managed and more than sufficient, allowing us to make occasional donations to other Swedenborg activities around the world.

In all of this and in much more behind the scenes, we thank those who actively take part in running the program and doing the work. Thank you very much to Joe Vandermeer, Michael Chester, Wayne Kasmar, Ruth Duckworth, Elizabeth Kemmis, Howard and Debra Thompson, Philip Ashton, and to each one of you out there.

We are not a club but a community, hopefully mirroring the countless heavenly communities in the spiritual world.



Julian Duckworth President