

An international community

With the global exposure that comes from being online, the Reiki Association has members and Touch Magazine subscribers all over the world. It's based in the UK serving members at home, yet our international members weave a richer array of colours and textures into the fabric of our community.

Eileen Anderson is based in eastern USA:

Reiki found me as a critical care nurse at Yale New Haven Healthcare in Connecticut. Four of my co-workers and myself were invited to become Reiki practitioners by a colleague who was a Reiki master in the Takata lineage. The goal was to promote a healing environment for our patients with life-threatening conditions. We sure achieved that goal by offering treatments to patients, staff and families. I combined nursing care with Reiki practice during my last 18 years of nursing. I then started participating in various public clinics and fundraisers.

In 2017 I retired from nursing and brought my Reiki practice to community settings. I became a Reiki master in 2018, initiated by Kathie Lipinski at Healing from the Heart LLC. In 2019 I joined the Reiki Association. What influenced my decision to become an overseas member of the Reiki Association? The opportunities to learn, network, and practice with others.

Listening to different practitioners share their Reiki stories globally helped enhance my Reiki classes and treatment sessions. I find Gráinne Warner's Reiki circles on Facebook Live are a treat for both new and experienced Reiki practitioners. Being a member of the Reiki Association has deepened my practice in every way and made it possible to support each other throughout the pandemic. I was approached by students and asked if I would consider offering Reiki classes online. I felt that Reiki should be taught in person, but also asked myself, "Am I not moving with the times by refusing to teach online?" Kate Jones' blog, '*Why I am not teaching Reiki 1 & 2 classes online,*' supported my decision. I've now restarted teaching in person at my local performing arts centre with small classes following Covid-safe protocols.

Ann Schneider is a subscriber to Touch Magazine, also living in the USA. She says:

For five years now I've anticipated the welcome arrival of Touch Magazine to my studio in Texas. I enjoy experiencing the seasons of Reiki through this artful, professional publication, which has its fingers on Reiki's global pulse. My Touch subscription is a gift I give myself and one I gratefully share in a lending library with my students.

Carlos Sanchez, a Reiki master who has worked closely with Phyllis Furumoto, adds:

Living in Argentina, in a small city, I always look forward to the next issue of Touch with joyful expectation! I enjoy every article; some are written by Reiki people from the international community while other articles reflect very local experiences that I find to be also universal. Thank you for keeping me connected and nurtured. Keep going, Touch!

Yulia Sasina-Yates was born in the Ukraine and now lives on the Isle of Man. She works closely with the Russian-speaking Reiki community, offering translation and helping to keep the strands of our global community connected. She shares a little of what TRA means to her:

It was February 2018, one year since completing my teacher training and my master moving away to the UK. Our Reiki student gatherings were now my responsibility and I felt somehow compelled to go on but had no sense of direction. My lifeline at this time was my Reiki practice as well as the Reiki Association's monthly webinar offerings and the meetings of the Circle of Service.

To me as a young master, the Reiki Association webinars were a way to connect to the Reiki community as well as the source of inspiration and guidance. It was one of the webinars with Feona Gray sharing the story of Connecting Reiki with Medicine that got me thinking about becoming a CNHC registered practitioner so that I could lead a similar project on the Island in the future.

Then in early 2018 amidst all my uncertainty, I got a call from Narkess Aralova from the Reiki Association. Narkess asked if I would be willing to help interpret at a Reiki seminar. As a qualified interpreter, I immediately said, "yes". When I heard the name Phyllis Furumoto mentioned, I heard myself say another "yes". That phone call immediately set in motion a sequence of events that changed my life – from a meeting with Phyllis and a stronger connection to the system of Reiki, to many new Reiki friends around the globe. I also became aware for the first time of the sacred wounds we carry in our lineages and how much love, wisdom and connection we can find in bringing them to the light.

Now, when I look back at my Reiki story so far, I feel immense gratitude to all the people who have taken part in it. Knowing that the Reiki Association has been here for Reiki practitioners like me has kept me grounded when I felt alone and scared. The resilience and support that the Reiki Association has shown me through the years I have been a part of it resembles to me the trees in an ancient forest, where the magnificent elders and the promising young trees stand strong together, connected.

As the landscapes around us continue to shift and we each look ahead in our journeys, I wish a very Happy Birthday to the Reiki Association and celebrate all the people who have been a part of it. May it continue to bring us together for honest and open conversations, to share songs, tears and laughs in the stories of Reiki. And most importantly, let us continue sharing the wisdom and the warmth of our hearts and hands, staying connected and woven into the rich tapestry of life and Reiki. □