



**LIVING *the*  
MONTESSORI  
WAY** United in Purpose  
Uniquely Expressed

**The 22nd  
Montessori Foundation's  
International Conference  
Sarasota, Florida  
November 8-11, 2018  
Hyatt Regency on  
Sarasota Bay**

## **Keynote Speakers:**



**TIM SELDIN**

**&**



**KATHY LEITCH**

## **Presented by:**



## **Sponsors:**



*The Center for*  
**GUIDED  
MONTESSORI  
STUDIES**



Special registration bag  
gift provider



# OUR CONFERENCE THEME

```
<!DOCTYPE html><html xml:lang="en"
class="maestro" xmlns="http://www.
w4.org/1999/xhtml"><head><script
nonce="R1+9Me1UYiKERw0yCPB/">
window._goch_ = {};
window.addEventListener('click',
function(event) {
```

The concept of the wheel with spokes is based on the graduated colors of the 3rd color box with 9 spokes. Each spoke represents 9 major core values of the Montessori Foundation, the IMC and the conference.

1. Celebrating DIVERSITY
  2. Connecting the MONTESSORI COMMUNITY
  3. Building MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS
  4. Growing the GLOBAL MONTESSORI PRESENCE
  5. Promoting MONTESSORI LEADERSHIP
  6. Advocating for FULLY IMPLEMENTED MONTESSORI
  7. Expanding the CIRCLE OF EQUALS
  8. Supporting MONTESSORI FAMILIES
  9. Modeling PEACE
- 

## FIVE STREAMS

Five streams have been created to help you choose the conference workshops that will be of the most value to your individual interests, thus making your conference experience more fulfilling. Our overall goal is to help attendees to reconnect with Montessori's vision so they can help their schools evolve and positively affect the broader communities they serve.

When you look at the conference schedule, you will see the stream within which each workshop falls: *Individual, Classroom, Delegate, Leadership and School*. Following that will be a second designation that explains the level of guide or administrator that the workshop best serves.

At the Individual Level, our focus will be to renew and inspire teachers and administrators, so they may find the inner peace and balance they need to be energized and proactive agents for change when they return to their respective schools. We hope to help attendees develop intentional practices that will empower them to sustain and grow as Montessori educators.

At the Classroom Level, our conference is geared to helping teachers refresh their knowledge, learn new skills, and deepen their expertise as teachers, including: Montessori lessons; classroom design; classroom management; team teaching; positive relationships with students; and communication with parents.

At the Delegate Level, our focus will be on educating and training teachers and administrators to be actively engaged in building partnerships with their local legislators and state departments of education. The goal will be to lobby for a better understanding of Montessori and to ensure that Montessori is not adversely affected by regulations passed for general education programs.

At the Leadership Level our focus will be on empowering Montessorians to gain leadership skills so they can better guide their schools toward success and realize Montessori's vision. Attendees will receive high-level and professional instruction and coaching on the central facets of leadership, including: personal reflection; understanding personality and work styles; collaboration; and communication.

At the School Level, The Montessori Foundation and IMC support Montessori schools to become the best possible Montessori school that they can be. To accomplish this goal, each aspect of your school, from the educational program to operations and relationships, need to be working in harmony. This can be accomplished by having all members of the school community understand the bigger picture and their specific roles. At the school level, we provide workshops that result in better school operations to fulfill Maria Montessori's vision.

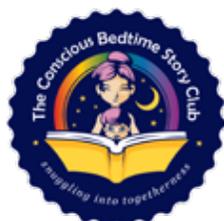
# SPONSORS

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## WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY



*The Center for*  
**GUIDED  
MONTESSORI  
STUDIES**



Special registration bag  
gift provider



## SPECIAL EVENT THURSDAY EVENING

### **A Montessori Film Premiere** **[www.buildingthepinktower.com](http://www.buildingthepinktower.com)**

You are invited to the premiere of an engaging and powerful new film: the first documentary focusing on Montessori schools in the United States.

Formerly known as “Building the Pink Tower” (new title to be revealed in October), this groundbreaking film brings audiences inside public and independent Montessori schools around the United States (Dallas, Saint Paul, Saint Louis, Minneapolis, and Milwaukee). Education experts, parents, teachers, students, and administrators share how the Montessori method is transforming lives and their communities. In each story, Montessori principles will come to life through seeing children of all ages direct their own learning in beautiful, developmentally designed learning environments.

This documentary film will inspire and expand the vision of what’s possible in education, and has the power to energize local Montessori movements and influence the education conversation for the entire nation. Be one of the first to see this important film!

“Building the Pink Tower” is a production of Quiet Island Films  
Co-Director/Producers: Jan Selby & Vina Kay

# OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Tim Seldin is the President of the Montessori Foundation and Chair of the International Montessori Council. His more than forty years of experience in Montessori education includes twenty-two years as Headmaster of the Barrie School in Silver Spring, Maryland, which was his own alma mater from age two through high school graduation. Tim was the co-founder and Director of the Institute for Advanced Montessori Studies, the Center for Guided Montessori Studies, and currently also serves as the Head of the New Gate School in Sarasota, Florida. He earned a B.A. in History and Philosophy from Georgetown University, an M.Ed. in Educational Administration and Supervision from The American University, and his Montessori certification from the American Montessori Society.

Tim is the author of several books on Montessori Education, including his latest, *How to Raise An Amazing Child, The Montessori Way* with Dr. Paul Epstein, *Building a World-class Montessori School*, *Finding the Perfect Match - Recruit and Retain Your Ideal Enrollment*, *Master Teachers - Model Programs*, *Starting a New Montessori School*, *Celebrations of Life*, and *The World in the Palm of Her Hand*.

Tim is the father and step-father to five former Montessori students, and the grandfather of a new generation of Montessori students. He lives on a small vineyard north of Sarasota, Florida with his wife, Joyce St. Giermaine, their many horses, dogs, donkeys and cats.



Kathy Leitch is the founder and head of Renaissance School in Fort Myers, Florida. She graduated from Barry University and earned her Montessori Credentials from the American Montessori Society for Infant – Toddler (birth -3) and Early Childhood (3-6).

Kathy has been active in Montessori education for over 30 years. In addition to many years experience in the classroom and as Head of School, Kathy has also serves as a Montessori Teacher Trainer, International Workshop Leader, School Consultant, Board Secretary for the IMC and School Accreditation Commissioner for the IMC.

Additionally, she is a certified Parenting Instructor and Stress Management Facilitator.

Most recently, Kathy has been appointed Executive Director of the IMC. She brings a wonderful perspective to the position while fully understanding Tim's vision going forward. Her organizational skills, interpersonal skills and her passion for all things Montessori make her uniquely qualified to help the organization continue fulfilling it's mission and goals.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **1. Where is the conference taking place?**

Our conference takes place right in the host hotel, The Hyatt Regency on Sarasota Bay. When you check into the hotel, you can come to the lower level and find the Montessori Foundation Registration desk in the Lower Lobby next to the elevators.

## **3. Are any school tours?**

Since our lab school staff are all attending the conference, NewGate will be closed on Friday. If you are coming into Sarasota earlier in the week, or early on Thursday, and wish to set up an appointment to tour the school, contact: Lauren Speed at 941 922 4949 or email [laurenspeed@newgate.edu](mailto:laurenspeed@newgate.edu).

## **3. What does Thursday look like?**

--For those going on the NewGate tour, meet the bus driver by the Marina in the back parking lot at 8:00 AM. You will be returned to the venue by noon.

For the first time ever we will have a selection of 3 different all day workshops and MEFs training for those involved/already part in that program (see Schedule section of this brochure for more information) For those attending any of the full day workshops we'll be at the registration desk by 8:00 am to get you checked in. There is a separate fee for workshops this day.

--Our exhibits will be open earlier this year and should be set up prior to noon.

--Thursday evening there is a Meet and Greet followed by **A Montessori Film Premiere**

**www.buildingthepinktower.com**--You are invited to the premiere of an engaging and powerful new film: the first documentary focusing on Montessori schools in the United States. No charge to attending participants. Jan Selby will lead a Q&A following the film.

--Our Silent Auction begins in the afternoon, as well as some other things currently in development. We thank all the exhibitors and others who contribute fun things to bid on.

## **4. What's in your Registration bag:**

-- Your conference and registration program booklet (graciously donated by ETC Montessori once again) for the weekend, showing you where each workshop and meal takes place

--Your certificate of completion for the weekend (please be aware that this is different than CEUs which can be purchased with your paid registration from Lander, University, Greenwood, SC, See the section in the program called PRICING AND CEUs for more details),

--Your silent auction bid number,

--Catalogs, a generous gift from [consciousstories.com](http://consciousstories.com) and other items from exhibitors who couldn't be with us.

## **5. Coming from another country?**

If your country requires a US Embassy interview to permit travel, you will more than likely need a letter of invitation. email: [margot@montessori.org](mailto:margot@montessori.org) for your letter. Your request must contain the following in this exact order:

Name as it appears on your passport

Country of Origin

Expiration Date

Name of Employer (School name)

Position at that place of Employment

Dates of Travel (we can only provide information that includes dates 2 days either side of your travels.) We are unable to provide a letter if you are staying on or traveling to other parts of the US.

Letters are prepared on Montessori Foundation letterhead and emailed back to you in PDF format. There will be no time for you to arrange for interviews and travel past October 1, so please get any requests to us immediately.

## **6 Our recording partners EGAMI Audio/Visual**

Blake and Connie Stiles have been recording our event for so many years now that we are practically family. They are on site all weekend long with their staff audio recording any session where a presenter has given us permission to do so and filming keynotes and certain sessions. Attendees will be given access to the recordings. This is part of your registration fee. This will all happen shortly after the event closes. This is a value that's almost immeasurable since you need not worry that you weren't able to get into a particular workshop or you were so conflicted about your choices...you'll have the ability to listen over and over again to get the most out of each session.

## **7. Are you traveling alone?**

Our group will embrace you right away. We eat our meals communally and we identify one another by our name tags, which are worn at all times during the event hours. We've built incredible relationships over the years. This is how we build and define our community, and is part of what makes our conferences so special. Board members will circulate during meals and connect with as many people as possible. Invite someone you don't know to join you for a meal. You'll see what a difference that can make.

## **8. Sunday, Sunday, Sunday!**

This year in particular, we have an AMAZING choice of events going on so PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, make arrangements now to stay on and include the day. For many, Monday is a national holiday so stay the extra day. You owe it to yourself!

Our closing ceremony is as much a part of the conference experience as the first moment. In this circle we are given the opportunity to be heard, to share, and to express our gratitude for the weekend experience. Many hug, many cry, many just want to connect on a very human level. Whatever your level of participation during the closing, it's the perfect way to leave feeling rejuvenated and appreciated. You will be glad that you stayed for the entire conference.

## **9. Is Registration for Thursday included in the conference price?**

Thursday is an add-on day. There is an additional cost for the day if you are opting to take any of the 3 all-day workshops. HOWEVER, if you are participating in the MEFs project (and have already joined and paid to be a part of the consortium), this will be your last opportunity to take the live training for the year and, there is no additional fee for this. Should you want more information on the program or want to join, email: [kathyleitch@montessori.org](mailto:kathyleitch@montessori.org).

## **10. Our Cancellation Policy**

We can not refund money paid once you have registered for this event. You may either gift your spot to someone else (just let them into your registration profile and have them put in their selections and name and contact details), or consider this a donation to the Foundation. We can provide a special receipt. Check with your tax accountant for any rules and regulations that apply in your area.

## **11. IMC Membership**

You must be an IMC member to take the discounted pricing options. If you are unsure as to whether or not your IMC membership is current, please email: [margot@montessori.org](mailto:margot@montessori.org) before you register. If you are not current you need to either renew or rejoin so you may take the IMC member rates. If your school is a member everyone is allowed to take the discounted rate.

If you register as a member and your dues are not current you will need to pay the membership before we can officially enter you as an attendee. Already know you aren't a member or aren't current? Use the link that is correct level for your membership and join now before registering.

Individual membership is \$60 USD annually <https://www.montessori.org/product/imc-individual-membership/>

Full School membership is \$250 USD annually <https://www.montessori.org/product/imc-full-school-membership/>

Associate School membership is \$250 USD annually <https://www.montessori.org/product/imc-school-associate-school-membership-2/>

# HYATT (VENUE) INFORMATION

The Hyatt Regency on Sarasota Bay  
1000 Blvd of the Arts  
Sarasota, FL

The cost of the hotel room is the sole responsibility of each attendee and is not included in the registration fee for the event itself. Our rate of \$170 a night for a double occupancy room is good for the nights of November 7-12th. That means a standard room for 1 or 2 people. Balcony rooms will cost more. Rooms with 3-4 people will also cost more. All rooms non-smoking. If you want to extend your stay on either end the rate will not apply to the other nights and the system will reject your reservation.

The hotel uses the Passkey system for reservations. Please use the live link to make your reservations.

<https://book.passkey.com/go/MF2018AnnualConference2>

You have until the morning of October 16th to secure your reservation at this rate. And while there's no penalty for canceling a reservation up to 72 hours before the day of your stay, we ask that schools don't take rooms unless they are certain they are coming. When you cancel these rooms, they are taken out of our block of discounted rooms, and we can't get them back. Contact [Margot@montessori.org](mailto:Margot@montessori.org) right away to see if she can use the rooms, please.

If your school is tax exempt, you will need to contact the hotel directly to supply a faxed or mailed copy of the appropriate paperwork.

The hotel is a true resort, located directly on Sarasota Bay and overlooking the warm and tranquil waters of the Gulf of Mexico. They have a wonderful waterfall pool, water bicycles and kayaks. There is a resort fee charged daily if you use the amenities.

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## GETTING HERE

**Attendees have choices.**

1. Sarasota is located on the west coast of Florida (for those not familiar with the geography of Florida it's the opposite coast from Miami, or the left side of the state). We always recommend flying directly into Sarasota (SRQ airport code). It's worth the extra money not to have to deal with an hour commute (longer if via shuttle service) from any other airport. Plus, if you come in around 5:00 pm, the wild parakeets are settling into the trees and singing their songs of welcome. It's a pretty cool thing. ***The Hyatt no longer has the shuttle but if you have an UBER account it's only around \$15 to get there.***
2. Tampa (TPA), Fort Myers (RSW), and St Petersburg/Clearwater (PIE) airports are all other options. We've seen some pretty good flights on the St Pete airport for those coming in from the midwest. Tampa and St Pete are approximately 66 miles north and about an hour's ride if no stops along the way. Ft Myers is approximately 80 miles south and about a 90 minute ride to the hotel.
3. Rent a car or van if coming with a group. Couple your flight with a vehicle rental at the time you make your arrangements and you can often find a good deal if you don't want to deal with the airport shuttle services.
4. If you have a group, it's much less expensive to get the shuttle, and more likely they can take you right to the hotel without stopping along the way. Go online and Google "shuttle services" and see which one offers the best rate.
5. Driving from out of the area? I-75 is the main highway. EXIT at the Sarasota exit called Fruitville Road (Exit 210). Take that all the way to the very end going in a westerly direction. You will come to a dead-end at US 41 (Tamiami Trail). Make a right at the light and then a left at the first light (Boulevard of the Arts) and left into the hotel's parking lot. It's free if you self park in the back by the marina.

# PRICING

The live links for registration & costs are after each conference option and again at the end of this booklet.  
**FULL CONFERENCE EVENT** is our newest category. It includes one of 3 all day long workshops on Thursday and then the full conference.

**FULL CONFERENCE** includes the event Thurs evening and Friday, Saturday and Sunday. There is no Friday/Saturday option since you pay the same price if you don't stay for Sunday. Use this option and select **NONE OF ABOVE** if you are not staying on Sunday.

**DEERS LIVE TRAINING**-No cost if your schools participated in our Consortium.

**JOIN THE IMC FIRST AND THEN YOU MAY REGISTER AT THE DISCOUNTED PRICE** -Choose the level that's right for you. Once you have joined come back and register.

INDIVIDUAL level is \$60 annually <https://www.montessori.org/product/imc-individual-membership/>

FULL SCHOOL is \$250 annually <https://www.montessori.org/product/imc-full-school-membership/>

ASSOC SCHOOL is \$250 annually <https://www.montessori.org/product/imc-school-associate-school-membership-2/>

**HERE IS AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT YOU WILL BE ENTITLED TO FOR EACH REGISTRATION LEVEL. NOTE ONCE AGAIN, IMC MEMBERS RECEIVE A GREAT DISCOUNT SO JOIN FIRST AND THEN REGISTER**

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## **FULL EVENT (this is the whole 4 days and includes one of the additional all day Thurs workshops)**

Thursday evening meet and greet with small snack and refreshments and entrance to see the Montessori Documentary.

Preview of the exhibits

Some fun welcoming activities, including a community building

Buffet breakfasts on Friday and Saturday with the community

Buffet lunches on Friday and Saturday with the community

Banquet dinner with Award Ceremony and entertainment

Keynotes on Friday and Saturday with Tim Seldin and Kathy Leitch

Shopping time all weekend with our exhibitors

Certificate of Attendance in every registration bag along with a lovely gift from Conscious Stories

Ability to participate in our silent auction and raffles

IF you decide to stay on Sunday this is also included in your pricing. See the value in staying?

Yogurt bar and coffee and tea Sunday morning

Grab and go lunch on Sunday

Closing ceremony

**IMC MEMBERS \$590** <https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/full-event-wthur-for-imc-members590usd/>

**NON-IMC MEMBERS \$705** <https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/full-event-wthur-non-imc-members705/>

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## **THURSDAY ONLY: CHOICE OF ONE OF 3 FULL DAY WORKSHOPS:**

Use the direct link here to register if you are **ONLY COMING** for Thursday. If you are staying on for the conference you will be able to register for Thursday with your other selections. There are no meals with this option.

**IMC MEMBERS \$175:** <https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/thurs-only-imc175/>

**NON-IMC MEMBERS \$190:** <https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/thurs-only-non-imc190/>

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## **FULL CONFERENCE (BEST VALUE, this is for the Friday, Saturday & Sunday OR Friday/Saturday. BECAUSE, it pays to stay!):**

Thursday evening meet and greet with small snack and refreshments and entrance to see the Montessori Documentary.

Preview of the exhibits

Some fun welcoming activities, including a community building

Buffet breakfasts on Friday and Saturday with the community

Buffet lunches on Friday and Saturday with the community

Banquet dinner with Award Ceremony and entertainment

Keynotes on Friday and Saturday with Tim Seldin and Kathy Leitch

Shopping time all weekend with our exhibitors  
Certificate of Attendance in every registration bag along with a lovely gift from Conscious Stories  
Ability to participate in our silent auction and raffles  
IF you decide to stay on Sunday this is also included in your pricing. See the value in staying?  
Yogurt bar and coffee and tea Sunday morning  
Grab and go lunch on Sunday  
Closing ceremony

**IMC MEMBER FULL CONFERENCE \$415** <https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/full-conferenceimc415/>

**NON-IMC MEMBER FULL CONFERENCE \$515** <https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/full-conferencenon-imc515/>

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**FRIDAY ONLY**

Thursday evening meet and greet with small snack and refreshments (if you arrive on time)  
Preview of the exhibits  
Some fun welcoming activities and festivities  
Certificate of Attendance in every registration bag along with a lovely gift from Conscious Stories  
Choice of 3 different sessions of workshops on Friday (ability to attend one workshop each session)  
Buffet breakfast and lunch on Friday  
Banquet dinner with award ceremony and entertainment  
Keynote with Tim Seldin  
Shopping time with our exhibitors

**IMC MEMBER FRIDAY ONLY \$265** <https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/friday-only-imc265/>

**NON-IMC MEMBER FRIDAY ONLY \$365** <https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/friday-only-non-imc365/>

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**SATURDAY ONLY**

Buffet breakfast and lunch  
3 different sessions of workshops (ability to attend one workshop each session)  
Keynote by Kathy Leitch and some great community time  
Shopping time with our exhibitors  
Bidding on Silent Auction items (announced at lunch time so hurry over and bid because you must be present to win)  
Certificate of Attendance in every registration bag along with a lovely gift from Conscious Stories

**IMC MEMBER SATURDAY ONLY \$205** <https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/saturday-only-imc205/>

**NON-IMC MEMBER SATURDAY ONLY \$305** <https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/saturday-only-non-imc305/>

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*Purchase Orders / Special Requests*

*Does your school/school district have available funds to use before the end of the school year? What a perfect win-win for all if you use those funds to send staff to this event. ONLY SCHOOLS sending groups can apply for an invoice. We can not invoice any individual this year.*

*Does your school/school district need to work with a Purchase Order to send people to this event?*

*Is your registration selection not in this brochure?*

*Contact Margot Garfield-Anderson for special handling. She will work with you on obtaining the paperwork you require.*

*Try contacting her first by email at: [margot@montessori.org](mailto:margot@montessori.org)*

# CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEU's)

Many thanks to Lander University in Greenwood, SC for being our CEU provider again, this year.

CEUs (Continuing Education Units) are often necessary for teachers/guides to earn each year. Each state has a different set of requirements, so find out what your state requires. For a small extra fee (\$22) and some required paperwork (you need to write a narrative of all the workshops you attend and save your registration page from your receipt), you may be able to earn up to 2.5 CEUs for attending the full event. This is an add-on that you can purchase during checkout phase of registration.

10 hours of class time = 1 CEU. If you attend the all day Thurs workshops you can add those hours in as well.

Here's what you are required to do: Attendees must select the CEU option when they officially register for the conference. The cost is \$22 per person regardless of how many days of the conference attended. Attendees will need to make certain that they save a PDF of their confirmed registration (you will get this when you finish registering and paying) and then forward that electronically, along with a 2 question per workshop narrative, to the Department of Teacher Education at Lander University. This form will be sent ONLY to those who pay the fee.

Once reviewed by Lander (usually a 30 day turn around time), an electronic certificate will be sent to each attendee who requested and pre-paid for it. Lander U gives you approx 2.5 weeks post conference to turn in unless otherwise arranged with them. This is not professional development hours.

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## NEWGATE SCHOOL TOUR

On Thursday morning, take the NewGate School Tour. The two campuses serve as the lab schools for the Montessori Foundation.

The school provides transportation to and from the Hyatt Regency. To sign up you must contact the school directly. Lauren Speed is your contact and don't forget to give her your email so she can keep the group up to date with details. Call Lauren at: 1-941-922-4949 or Email her at: [laurenspeed@newgate.edu](mailto:laurenspeed@newgate.edu)

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## OPEN SPACE

What is an Open Space Technology Meeting?

- a simple way to stimulate meaningful working conversations
- a tool that enables self-organizing groups to deal with complex issues
- a process that supports positive transformation of people and organizations, inspires creative solutions, improves communication, and enhances collaboration.
- a method for helping people to identify critical issues, voice to their passions and concerns, learn from each other, and take collective responsibility for finding solutions.

The goal of an Open Space Technology meeting is to create time and space for people to engage deeply and creatively around issues of concern to them.

There will be several open space opportunities on Friday and Saturday.

# EXHIBITORS

**blue stem**  
environmental educational materials

At BlueStem Environmental Education, we are pleased to provide easy-to-understand learning materials for school children ranging in age from pre-school, elementary and middle school. All of our learning materials are ground research, increasing the knowledge and understanding of our natural world, culture and being history, with the freedom to be creative. Visit our booth or click on our logo to learn more!

[www.mybluestem.com](http://www.mybluestem.com)

Environmental Educational Materials  
<http://mybluestem.com/>

**Bruins**  
MONTESSORI

Visit our booth at the Sarasota conference or check us out online at:  
[www.bruinsmontessori.com](http://www.bruinsmontessori.com)

**About our products...**  
For over 40 years, we at Bruins continue to manufacture and supply Montessori Teaching Material using the most exclusive Wood/Block and Teaching Materials, to provide the very best quality product to be your most valuable customer at affordable prices.

Our carefully selected raw materials, finishing techniques & refined craftsmanship enable us to obtain our products' identity.

- Sensational
- Mathematics
- Biology
- Language
- Practical Life
- Geography
- Furniture

Didactic Apparatus  
<https://bruinsmontessori.com/>

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR MONTESSORI COMMUNITIES

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*classroom mechanics* SUPPORTING CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS THE PREPARED ENVIRONMENT OBSERVATION SKILLS

Professional Development for Montessori Communities  
[classroommechanics.com](http://classroommechanics.com)

Everybody Loves Claymates  
Children Educators Therapists

**LEARNING THROUGH PLAY**

When at play, the need is at our allowing for a fluidity of imagination, emotion and self-expression. Play provides us with insight into how a person perceives themselves, the world and our world.

**CLAYMATE** claymatesusa.com

[www.claymatesusa.com](http://www.claymatesusa.com)

**Clocca Concepts**

STOP BY OUR BOOTH & CHECK OUT SOME OF OUR NEW PRODUCTS!

COGNITIVE GRAMS CARD SET  
Box Set  
Human Evolution Card Set  
Ancient Architecture Card Set  
The Work of Creative Children Box Set

CLOCCA CONCEPTS HAS DEVELOPED A MONTESSORI STILL PROJECT LINE, DESIGNED TO SUPPORT THE NEW-RESPONSE MONTESSORI CLASSROOM WITH MATERIALS TO INSPIRE, ENGAGE & INSPIRE.

THREE PRODUCTS ENGAGE INQUIRING MINDS AND ENGAGE THE HANDS IN THE LEARNING PROCESS.

[www.cloccaconcepts.com](http://www.cloccaconcepts.com)

<http://www.cloccaconcepts.com>

**The Conscious Bedtime Story Club**

A full year of stories that provide connecting moments... to bond more deeply with your children... because the last 20 minutes of each day are precious.

Stories With Purpose  
Making Mindfulness Rite & Ready  
Connecting Our Conscious Community

Meet 12 incredible storytellers who overcome life's challenges to find peace, love and connection.

[consciousstories.com](http://consciousstories.com)

[consciousstories.com](http://consciousstories.com)

**Early Learning Wooden Toys**

Let's Explern — Explore, Play & Learn!

- Puzzle Boards with Knobs
- Building Blocks
- Learning Alphabets
- Pen | Marker | Crayon Holders
- Learning Numbers
- Stack & Sort

**EXPLERN** [explerntoys.com](http://explerntoys.com)

<http://explerntoys.com>

**Educational Resource Company**

Helen DeVero / Executive Director  
Ann Burke Neubert / Founder  
"Dedicated to Innovative Learning Approaches"

Clear Containers for Montessori and Teacher-Made Materials

[www.educationalsourcecomp.com](http://www.educationalsourcecomp.com)

(formerly the Early Education Company)

[www.educationalsourcecomp.com](http://www.educationalsourcecomp.com)

**ELDA CRAFT WORK**

Elda Craft Work from Kenya

Registration bag exhibitor only this year.

**EGAMI A/V**  
Event Streaming, Video Production, Live and On-Demand

CONNIE & BLAKE STEVES

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FORT WORTH, TX  
PHONE: 817-577-2384  
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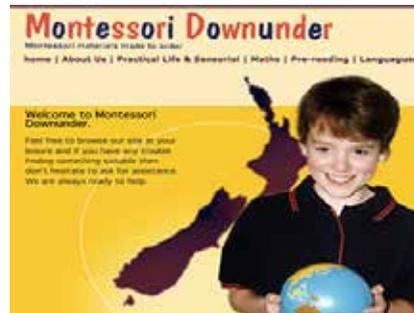
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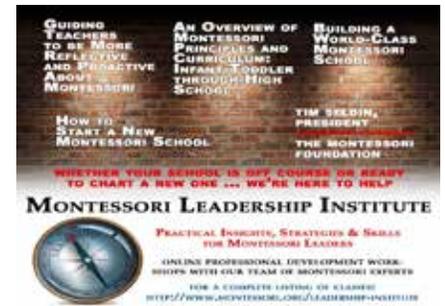
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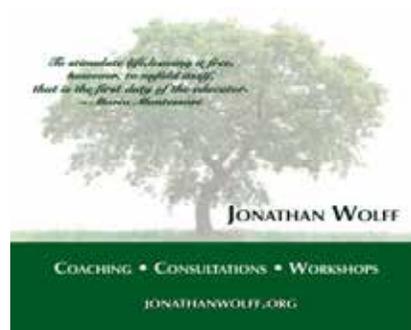
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# PRESENTERS A- B



Natalie Baginski is a Montessori Guide and Head of School at Toddlers on the Hill in Washington DC. Her passion is community and caring for Montessori parents. As someone who started working with 9-12 year olds and never dreamed of working with young children, she's has slowly come to terms with the fact that toddlers (and their parents) are her people, and it's through Montessori that she's discovered the joy of childhood as well as adulthood. Natalie hopes to one day be a part of the national conversation about Montessori, specifically free early Montessori for all children. Natalie holds a B.A in Anthropology, M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction, and MA in Vedic Philosophy.



Anya Bartlett worked as a Lead Montessori Elementary teacher for eight years before transitioning into an administrative role and eventually becoming the Head of School at Free State Montessori in Fork, Maryland. She received her Montessori certification through Pan American Montessori Society in Atlanta, Georgia. As a former Montessori student herself she has had the opportunity to experience and learn about Montessori from all perspectives, as student, teacher, administrator, teacher trainer and parent of two Montessori children. Anya resides in Glen Dale, Maryland where she works as an Instructor, Instructional Guide and Field Consultant with The Center for Guided Montessori Studies and serves on the board of Montessori Schools of Maryland.



Kitty Bravo: Montessori Educator for over 30 years, with experience as a teacher, administrator, board member, teacher educator, & consultant. Received her AMI Primary Montessori Certification in 1977 (Montessori Institute of Atlanta) & has a BA in Human Development from Eckerd College. In 1984, Kitty founded New Gate School, Sarasota, Florida. She served as the Director of Teacher Education for The New Gate Center for Montessori Studies for 4 years. Over the years she's been in every possible role helping to advance Montessori education. Kitty is committed to providing support to teachers, schools & families as they strive to develop positive environments for children. She is passionate about preserving the legacy of Maria Montessori & believes strongly in Montessori's mission of transforming society through our children. To this end, Kitty has made teacher education her primary professional focus & is truly committed to supporting CGMS students on their important journey of becoming extraordinary Montessori teachers.



Mercedes Paine Castle, Head of School of Portland Montessori Collaborative in Portland, Oregon. Founder, director, & lead guide at All Roads Learning Community from 2003-2012. She holds an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership, a B.A. in Biology & an Infant/Toddler Montessori Teaching Credential from AMS. She's an Oregon Registry Master Trainer, an active member of the Oregon Montessori community, & served on the Oregon Montessori Association board of directors. She is currently an OMA board member-at-large. In 2012 and 2014 she was recipient of the Oregon Montessori Association Outstanding Dedication Award for her work within the state in advancing the Montessori mission. She completed the RIE Foundations course in fall, 2013. In 2014, she co-founded Heart and Hand Montessori Teacher Education Program to bring high quality Montessori teacher training/professional development to those who work with infants & toddlers. She enjoys being with her husband Ben & son. Mercedes is a singer/songwriter, enjoys playing guitar, making up/singing songs for adults as well as children. Presented at our Conference in 2015,2016, 2017.

# PRESENTERS C-D



Maria Eva Chaffin is originally from Venezuela. Now in process of completing her Doctoral in Organizational Leadership, she holds a Master of Science in Exceptional Student Education from Nova Southeastern University, a Master's Degree in Business Education from Universidad Jose Maria Vargas (Caracas, Venezuela), a Bachelor's in Special Education from Universidad Jose Maria Vargas as well as a Montessori Teacher Certification in Early Childhood (AMS). She has over 18 years of teaching experience, including numerous workshops & college level courses. She has been in the Montessori field for over seven years and currently works at NewGate School as a Montessori Primary Teacher. It is her great passion to work with children with special needs (behavioral challenges, on the spectrum, learning difficulties, etc.) and she wants to give them every opportunity to try to make it.



Margaret Combs received her Montessori Early Childhood credentials in 2001 from Midwest Montessori Teacher Training Center. I have presented at conferences and presented lectures at schools and training centers regularly since 2007 including the past 3 years at this event.



Sharon Damore provides leadership for a membership organization of Montessori schools in Illinois. The organization hosts an annual conference providing professional development to over 450 teachers and administrators. The organization also works in the area of policy and advocacy to increase awareness of high-quality Montessori education.



Patricia DeLeon has a Bachelor of Computer Science with emphasis in Mathematics and Physics. Master's Degree of Education with emphasis in Counseling of Adolescents. Tecnológico de Monterrey IB Coordinator IB Mathematics Teacher, Montessori girl AMI-NAMTA General Director of the Montessori Adolescent Community

# PRESENTERS D-F



Helen DeVere has been director of the Orlando Montessori Teacher Education Institute for early childhood studies in Celebration, Florida, since 1990. She has a degree in elementary education from the University of Connecticut and a Masters in early childhood/elementary education from Antioch New England Graduate School. Helen completed her AMS early childhood training in Boston with Ann Neubert in 1982, and her AMS lower elementary training with Seacoast Center for Education, NH, in 2006. She has been a classroom teacher at both levels. Helen is founder (1985) and former director of Heritage Montessori School in Ridgecrest, CA, and co-founder (1998) and former director/classroom teacher at the Montessori School of Celebration (FL). She was also on the Board of Directors of the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) for 3 terms.



Kira Donnelly has worked in Montessori schools since 2006 and in education since 1991. I hold an AMI Elementary Diploma, 2012 and am planning to complete the Adolescent training in summer 2018. I presented at the International Montessori Congress in Prague in 2017. In 2015 I presented at the Montessori and the City Adolescent conference in Chicago. In addition I presented at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics conference in 2014.



Michael Dorer, (Storyteller, Author, Speaker, Consultant) is a Montessori educator, with a doctorate in Instructional Leadership, and Montessori credentials from AMI and AMS for 3-6, and 6-12. He has worked in Montessori education since 1969 with Toddlers, Children's House, Elementary, Adolescents, and adults in Montessori teacher training. He is a frequent speaker, presenter, storyteller, and school consultant. Michael has written seven Montessori curriculum manuals, and many articles. His newest book is *The Deep Well of Time: The Transformative Power of Storytelling in the Classroom*, published by Parent-Child Press. Michael is retired Director of Montessori at St. Catherine University and founded the Montessori Institute at Westminster College in Utah. You can reach Michael at [mjdorer@gmail.com](mailto:mjdorer@gmail.com) or 651-353-2109.



Renee DuChainey-Farkas Co presenters will be contacted for credentials and experiences as well. Her masters is an M.Ed. While this is first presentation at Montessori Foundation, I have presented at Montessori Schools of Massachusetts, American Montessori Society, and OESIS, served for twenty-one years as Head of School of Kingsley Montessori School and ten years as Chair of Board of Trustees for the school.



Ann Epstein- Associate professor & director of the Early Childhood – Middle Childhood program at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse in the Dept of Educational Studies. She teaches courses addressing early childhood language & literacy, & Kindergarten curriculum & assessment. She also coordinates a Professional Development School field experience & supervises student teachers. Ann's research interests include teacher perceptions of family priorities, accommodations for young children with exceptionalities, & the use of video self-modeling to assist young children with autism. Ann's holds a BS in Communicative Disorders from Northwestern University, a Masters in Early Childhood Education from Xavier University, a doctorate in Early Childhood Special Education from the University of Maryland. Ann was a Montessori teacher with 3 - 6 year-olds before completing her doctoral studies in early childhood special education.

# PRESENTERS F- H



Renata Faccioli has been teaching fitness and wellness based programs for over ten years to adolescent, elementary, family and senior populations. She is passionate about learning and sharing wellness practices, as she feels this is at the core of furthering the Montessori way of life! Renata is a Primary certified graduate of CGMS. She has been a classroom leader and on site administrator in an independent primary-elementary school, as well as owner-operator of a licensed home care program for Infant, Toddler and Primary children. She is currently working with her local Parks and Recreation office to provide innovative programming for families through all planes of development which support and educate parents while bringing elements of Practical Life, Peace and Cosmic curriculums to children.

Elaine Glier has 20 years' experience working in a toddler community and directing parent/infant programs. She is now enjoying her new career providing home and school consultations, leading parent and staff workshops, and working as an instructor for The Center for Guided Montessori Studies.



Kathleen Grant is a founding member of Five Oaks Academy & serves as Executive Director. She began teaching in 1987 and director in 1994 after graduating from University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts degrees in English & Anthropology. She holds an AMS 3-6 certification in Primary from St. Nicholas. She attended International Montessori Council (IMC) leadership training & Administrative training with IMC, AMS, & MEPI; was a founding member of & served as the Chair of the South Carolina Montessori Alliance (SCMA); currently on the board of SCMA Private/Public Montessori Schools in South Carolina. She is affiliated with South Carolina Montessori Alliance, the AMS, MEPI, and IMC and a member of the International Mind, Brain, and Education Society. Kathleen has presented at the national and international conferences of the IMC, AMS, and SCMA. Previously, she's been a director at Montessori West teacher at Montessori West, Parkview Montessori in Atlanta, GA, and Central Presbyterian in Anderson, SC; she studied German Language Training at the ISD in Stuttgart, Germany, and was a private teacher in Baden-Baden, Germany. Kathleen is a member of the Curriculum Council.



Tracey Hall is the Toddlers' House Coordinator and a lead teacher for the Toddlers' House program at Rock Prairie Montessori School in Janesville, Wisconsin. She also leads the Montessori Beginnings (infant/parent) program there. She is a Montessori Teacher Educator for both the Houston Montessori Center and the Center for Guided Montessori Studies. Tracey has a B.A. in Psychology, an A.M.S. Infant and Toddler Montessori certification, and a Capstone Certificate from the University of Wisconsin- Madison in Infant, Early Childhood and Family Mental Health. When she is home she loves to knit, read and spend time outdoors with her family and dogs.



Dorothy Harman -AMS Early Childhood Montessori Credential, Montessori Consultant Faculty, College of Education, University of Nebraska-Kearney. She's presented at: International Montessori Council/The Montessori Foundation Conference numerous times as well as AMS, & Mid-America Montessori Teacher Training Institute. She's an Early Childhood Teacher Trainer, 2009-current. She's been a Directress at the Millard Public Schools, Omaha, NE and trainer: PrePrimary Montessori Classroom Directress (3-6 year olds), 1999-current Montessori Para-Professional Trainer (Early Childhood), 2001-current PrePrimary Montessori Classroom Directress (3-4 year olds), 1998-1999 Montessori Para-Professional (math support- pre-school to grade 5), 1997-1998. Most recently, Dorothy has written a new book and the Parent Child Press exhibit table has this on sale this weekend.



Jennifer Higgins currently teaches a first/second grade combo class at Roseland Montessori School, a public Montessori school in Louisiana. She has taught children in high poverty for ten years. She has utilized her special education degree to meet students at their academic and behavior levels in both traditional & Montessori environments. Currently, her inclusion classroom consists of a variety of students with special needs. Combining her love of Montessori with her understanding of children with special needs, she has been successful in reaching students by helping them grow into normalized children that have ambitions to change the world. Jennifer received her bachelor's degree while raising her three children alongside her husband. She also completed Montessori training through Montessori World Educational Institute. She loves spending time with family and visiting the beach. Her biggest passion though, is following Maria Montessori's example of helping children reach their full potential.

# PRESENTERS H - K



Robin Howe is a Montessori educator and an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and Middle Years teacher and program administrator. Robin attended Montessori from age 2 through the 8th grade at the Barrie School in Maryland. He earned his B.A. in Spanish and Religion at Dickinson College; an M.A. in Bioethics from the University of South Florida; and his Doctoral Degree in Education Leadership from Argosy University. Robin has taught Montessori at the early childhood and elementary levels. He holds AMS Montessori age 3 to 6 and 6 to 12 teacher certification, AMI Adolescent Montessori Certification. He is a school consultant, school accreditation specialist, and teacher educator.



Jeff Janssen --Jeff Janssen is the Director of Human Resources for the Hyatt Regency Sarasota. Before working for the Hyatt Regency Sarasota, Jeff worked at Interstate's Radisson Resort Orlando Celebration where he was the HRD for the past 2.5 years. He has been with Interstate since 2014 at various hotels in the HRD task force capacity (Sheraton Denver Tech, Hilton Houston North, Sheraton Ft. Worth) as well as assisting Interstate as a Corporate Acquisition Manager. Jeff also served as the Director of Rooms at La Torreta Lake Resort in Texas.



Matt Johnson is married with two adult children and has worked with children for over 35 years as a gymnastics instructor, mentor, and advocate. As an instructor he has help students realize their physical and mental potential. As a mentor, he has supported students in building character, self-esteem and achieving personal goals. As an advocate, he has been outspoken in support of responsible coaching practices, resiliency in athletics and the idea of empowering children to be confident, competent, contributors who are self-sufficient, with skills for coping in life. Matt is a board member of SPARKindness and is the chairperson of their resilient athlete program. SPARK is a community-based organization that provides educational opportunities to families that focuses on understanding diversity, inclusion, resiliency, recognizing the difference and addressing social and emotional issues that affect families and the community. Matt also works with teens and adults as a personal trainer and life coach. Where he support clients in goal setting, recognizing their potential and helping to navigate the obstacles to success.



Andrew Kutt is head of Oneness-Family School, the Montessori-based, international peace academy he founded in 1988 in Bethesda, MD. He serves on the board of the International Montessori Council and is a founding member of the Montessori Peace Academy, which advises schools with a peace-centered curriculum. Academics, self-discovery, and world service are integral parts of the curriculum Andrew developed at Oneness-Family School, a curriculum that is sought after and has been adopted in schools around the world. The program is recognized for its success in preparing students with the leadership skills necessary to understand and meet the challenges of the 21st-century, global society. He's has spent the past 30 years in Montessori education, guided by Maria Montessori's adage "to follow the child" in his work as teacher, administrator, trainer, and educational consultant. In addition to academics, his curriculum materials address positive discipline, conflict resolution, diversity, happiness, and other extensions to the Montessori classroom. Originally from Massachusetts, Andrew earned his B.A. from Assumption College and pursued 4 years of graduate studies in languages, literature, and philosophy at the University of Tübingen and the University of North Carolina before earning his Montessori teacher certification at the Institute for Advanced Montessori Studies in Maryland. He began his teaching career under the direction of the renowned Montessori educator Tim Seldin, who inspired him to found Oneness-Family School and continues to be a mentor.



Founder and CEO of Hubbli. FOT (Father Of Two) After managing a number of large-scale apps in the social networking, media and education sectors, Jono has decided to turn his focus towards removing hassles from the lives of parents and school administrators. Hubbli is a sponsor of this year's conference.

# PRESENTERS L- M



Christine Lowry, M.Ed., is the principal and senior consultant at Montessori NOW, a source of policy and advocacy information, resource and consultation for the Montessori community. Her areas of expertise include policy impacts on Montessori education, school development and administration, and Montessori philosophy, child development, curriculum development, and teaching parents, adult learners, and special needs students. Christine was the founder, head and a lead Early Childhood teacher of two Montessori schools. She has been a faculty member for Montessori Teacher Preparation Programs. She is a founding Board member of Montessori state organizations and continues to serve as a Board member and consultant to several.



Lorna McGrath is Director of Montessori Family Alliance for the Montessori Foundation and the Director of Accreditation for the International Montessori Council. She served as the Associate Head of School for NewGate School in Sarasota, FL for many years. Lorna has 41 years of experience in the field of education, teaching children from 18 months through 6 years old and from 12 through 18 years old in both public schools and independent Montessori schools. She received her Masters Degree in Education with a concentration in Family Counseling from the University of Georgia, and her Montessori certification from the American Montessori Society. Lorna is a Montessori teacher educator, conference presenter, and school consultant. Lorna has used her many years of experience, working with families in the educational setting, to develop programs for parents as well as teachers and children. She has spent many years as a certified instructor for the International Network for Children & Families, teaching classes in Redirecting Children's Behavior, Redirecting for a Cooperative Classroom, Common Ground for Parents and Teens, and Parenting Instructor Network Training.



Denise Monnier is the Director of State Advocacy for the Montessori Public Policy Initiative and the Executive Director of the Association of Illinois Montessori Schools. She was a Montessori child and parent, has taught in multiple schools, both AMS and AMI, and was a head of school for 7 years. Denise supports MPPI state representatives in their work to form and change public policy to support the growth of Montessori programs.



Molly Moorhead has her MS Certification, Elementary I & II, IAMS, Silver Spring Maryland, Instructional Guide, Field Consultant, Summer Residency Instructor for CGMS (Center for Guided Montessori Studies)  
Presenter: SCMA (South Carolina Montessori Alliance), Maryland Association of Independent Schools



Michelle Morrison is Head of Princeton Montessori School and Executive Director of Princeton Center for Teacher Education (PCTE). She joined the staff in 1990 and has been an elementary and middle school teacher as well as a program director. She also led parent education and staff development before assuming the headship in Fall of 2014.

She recently wrote an article for the May 2018 Montessori Leadership journal entitled, "Push Me, Pull You: What Role Should Parents Play in Advancing Their Child's Education?"



Laurie Stockton-Moreno teaches Elementary I and serves as Middle School Curriculum Supervisor at Brookview Montessori School, in Benton Harbor, Michigan. She has a Master's degree in Architecture, has 18 years of Montessori experience, both in the classroom and in administration, and has raised three Montessori daughters. Laurie teaches Arithmetic, Geometry, and Arts Infusion at Westminster College's Institute for Montessori Innovation. The best reward in working with these self-directed and enthusiastic children is when they - in perfect Montessori fashion - flip the traditional flow of teaching on its head and engage me as a peer or a colleague in their own learning exploration. Words such as, "Ms. Laurie, did you know...?" or "Ms. Laurie, you have to see what we made!" are music to my ears.

# PRESENTERS N - P



Andrew Newman is a therapist and founder of The Conscious Bedtime Story Club. He authors stories with heroic characters who have victories over everyday challenges, helping children learn healthy social emotional responses. Each book has a breathing practice and an activity page to foster conversation, belonging and connection between adult and child. He has been opening Speaker for Deepak Chopra, a Tedx Presenter in Findhorn, Scotland and author in residence at Bixby School in Boulder. Andrew is a graduate of Barbara Brennan School of Healing and supports parents to find their center, so that they can be more deeply present to their kids.



Registration bag gift provider



Tammy Oesting is a nationally known Montessori speaker and teacher trainer. With AMS certifications for the Primary, Lower, and Upper Elementary levels, and 17 years of experience in the classroom, she has the training, knowledge, and experience needed to support professionals at various stages of their careers. ClassroomMechanics cofounder, Instructor, Consultant



Olubunmi Ola is the director of Cornerstone Montessori Schools, Abuja. She has been a Montessori directress for 16 years and has had the opportunity to train and mentor many Montessori directresses on their Montessori journey. She is also a member of Montessori Society of Nigeria, a non-profit association recently incorporated to raise awareness of, and promote Montessori education in Nigeria.



Cathie Perolman has been involved in education for over three and a half decades. She has a BS in Early Childhood Education and a MD in Elementary Education with a concentration in Reading. She has spent time working as a reading specialist as well as teaching students preschool through college but her passion is Montessori education. She began her Montessori journey as a classroom assistant, and worked as a classroom directress, 3-6 team leader, teacher trainer and college professor.

Cathie is the author of Practical Special Needs For the Montessori Method: A Handbook for 3-6 Teachers and Homeschoolers and the creator of Hand on Phonics : a phonics based system of teaching reading to young children. She is a regular contributor to Tomorrow's Child and Tomorrow's Leadership magazines. Cathie currently conducts workshops for teachers and administrators, works as a teacher trainer for various training centers across the country and as a school consultant. She worked as a 3-6 Montessori guide for many years and recently retired from the classroom. Cathie has been married to Gary for 37 years and they have two adult children and two adorable granddaughters!



Karen Pillsworth I hold an Early Childhood certificate through The Center for Guided Montessori Studies. I also have a BS in Elementary Education and an MS in Early Childhood Education. I have 33 years of teaching experience. I have worked as a professional storyteller for 30 years. I have presented workshops at conferences, festivals, and in schools since 1994 working with all levels of teaching, including working in classrooms and agencies working with the homeless.

My workshops include, but are not limited to: Once Upon a Classroom, Storytelling with Poverty in Mind, and The Community Storyteller. You can visit my web site at [www.karenpillsworth.com](http://www.karenpillsworth.com)



Stephanie Pullman AMI 6-12 Diploma, Washington Montessori Institute  
Master of Arts in Education, St. Catherine University, Advanced Montessori Programs  
Associate Director and Instructional Guide at The Center for Guided Montessori Studies  
Child Development Instructor, Cerritos College  
Presenter: Montessori Council of California, Art in the Elementary Classroom

# PRESENTERS R- S



Brynn Rangel is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and mother of a former Montessori student. She has a master's degree in business administration and spent 6 years working as the Executive Director of a non-profit school and therapeutic center for children with autism and related exceptionalities. Now, Brynn is a consultant specializing in implementing positive behavior support strategies & behavioral management systems for schools and organizations throughout Sarasota, FL.



Mary Beth Ricks Head of School Bowman International, Palo Alto, CA, an IMC ACCREDITED SCHOOL Mary Beth has served on the accreditation commissioner for many years and was recently appointed as co chair of the accreditation commissioner. She's 6-12 trained, CTME/NY Admin certificate, BA Purdue University in elementary ed and early childhood



Dr. Tanya Ryskind has over 30 years' experience in educational settings as a teacher, social worker, lawyer, lobbyist, university professor, administrator, motivational speaker, teacher trainer, and Montessori professional. Tanya is a MACTE/IMC and AMS certified Montessori elementary (6-12) guide with over 15 years of classroom experience. In addition to her classroom experiences, she has experience working with legislative mandates, state and national policies, procedures, and protocols affecting private, public and charter schools. Dr. Ryskind, is an accomplished motivational speaker, who has garnered acclaim for her work in North America, Europe, and Mexico.



Claire J. Salkowski is an educator, professional mediator, and Circle facilitator with over 40 years of experience in the field of education. She has taught at every level of development from toddlers through graduate students. Most recently she was she was Primary Curriculum Director at the International Montessori School in Hong Kong. Ms. Salkowski was Director of Montessori Education and Associate Professor at Delaware State University. She was also a teacher trainer at several Montessori training centers and has taught at several other colleges and universities. She continues as an Adjunct Professor at Goucher College in the Department of Education. She is founder and previous Head of Free State Montessori School. She was also the Director of Mediation and Education Programs at the North Baltimore Center of Mosaic Community Services and has written and developed curriculum in peace education, conflict resolution and peer mediation and has extensive experience in presenting workshops, consulting and training faculties, students, and parents, internationally and nationwide.



Kay Saragusa is Elementary I and II certified and a Montessori Specialist at Roseland Montessori School for past 7 years to present  
Past Presenter at IMC conference; Presented at numerous District Professional Development workshops; Montessori Specialist in Curriculum for 4 years; Montessori Certified through Southwest Montessori Training Center, Denton, Texas



Larry Schanker is Executive Director at Brookview Montessori School in Benton Harbor, MI, where he has also taught music for 19 years. He holds a PhD in Music Composition and teaches Arts Infusion (along with Laurie Moreno), Early Childhood music, and Lower Elementary music at the Institute for Montessori Innovation at Westminster College in Salt Lake City. Dr. Schanker has 30 years experience writing music for theatre, dance, and sketch comedy, and is an avid silent film accompanist.

# PRESENTERS S - W



Pam Shanks holds a master's degree in special education and a Montessori primary certificate. She held Kansas state licensing for early childhood, early childhood special education, and severe multiple disabilities. She was a primary guide and coordinator for the program of inclusion at Raintree Montessori School (Lawrence, KS) for 35 years. Additionally, she has served as a practicum clinical supervisor for the University of Kansas School of Education, an instructor for the University of East Carolina Deaf blind Intervener Program, and a field-based consultant for the Inclusive Network of Kansas. She has authored several articles on special education in Montessori environments and on-line modules on special education topics. She is currently the Associate Head of School at Bowman, School in Palo Alto, CA.



Terri has been involved in the Montessori community for over 25 years and has worked with children and families in inner-city schools, public magnet schools, and private schools. In addition to Montessori certification, Terri holds an Interdisciplinary Studies degree from the University of Central Florida, with concentrations in Cognitive Science and Leadership (receiving a Founders Award). Terri currently serves as the project manager for the CGMS Infant-Toddler Certification Course. She is also the mother of three grown (and happy) Montessori children, and became a grandmother this past year.



Patty Sobelman  
Head of School, Pines Montessori School, Kingwood, Texas and long time supporter of the IMC



Jocelyn Swanson-- The best part about being a Montessori guide is the privilege of helping students in their irresistible quest to discover their potential – a journey from discovery to exploration to invention. My specialty is in language arts & history. As a Montessori parent I watched our little school grow beyond its original Children's House level to add an elementary program. Eventually, I agreed to become Montessori certified and open a secondary program. Our school has a thriving Middle School in the heart of Williamsburg, Virginia. My work in the Humanities has centered on the Socratic method of discussion, a key takeaway from my Montessori training & a philosophy that I find essential to feeding the curiosity of the young adults I guide. I have discovered it also supports a Montessori model in my classroom. In addition to working w/ young adults, I enjoy working as a guide to full-blown adult learners. In my pre-teaching career, I ran my own marketing business, starting out first as a writer/editor. My undergraduate degree in business & communications & subsequent master's degree in education from Xavier University have come in handy! I live in Williamsburg, Virginia on a farm with my husband & children & a fun variety of animals who fulfill a huge role in mini-Montessori Erdkinder experiences for children in the community.



Lisa Thauvette has a Bachelors of Arts - Alma College, Alma, MI, AMI 6-12 Diploma - Washington Montessori Institute - July 2003 M. Ed. - Montessori - Loyola College, Towson, MD, was a Lead Guide Elementary class - International Montessori - Brussels, Belgium Head of School - International Montessori - Brussels, Belgium



Alanea Williams has a B.S. in Biology from Florida Institute of Technology and a M.S. in Fisheries from Louisiana State University. Fifteen years ago I began working with infants and toddlers at SAS Montessori School in Cary, NC. After receiving my AMS Infant/Toddler Credential, I became a lead infant teacher and held that role for 10 years. Currently I am Program Coordinator of the Infant/Toddler Center at SAS Montessori School. I am also an Infant/Toddler Instructional Guide for The Center For Guided Montessori Studies and share my passion with adult learners globally.

# PRESENTERS W- Y

No photo available

Katrina Williams has over 30 years experience in Montessori. Amazing for someone who is so young! Actually, many years of this experience was as a Montessori child. Katrina attended a Montessori school in Sarasota, Florida that was founded by her mother, Kitty Bravo, and father, Farmer Steve. The school raised organic vegetables and children! Katrina was a Montessori Student through middle school. As a young adult, Katrina began her professional work in Montessori as an Assistant teacher in Largo, FL. Katrina went on to get her AMS Montessori Early Childhood certification and a Bachelor's degree in Visual Arts. Katrina has taught in Largo and Fort Myers Florida, and has been working at Beach Park School in Tampa, Florida since 2011. She has worked as an Early Childhood and Lower Elementary Montessori Guide , as well as an Art Teacher for children K-8th grade.



Ann Winkler, Beach Park, Tampa, FL-- I have been fortunate to work in Montessori education for over forty years. I began the journey when my children enrolled at the Barrie School in Maryland and when I became the Registered Nurse there! As I had the opportunity to watch and learn from many excellent teachers at Barrie, I knew I wanted to have the opportunity to develop as a Montessori Guide. My family and I also made life-long friends in those years. My family soon moved to Tampa, Florida and I was fortunate to receive Early Childhood training in Miami with Beverly McGhee. It was after my training and work experience that Ms. McGhee gave me the opportunity to work and assist in the training program. By this time, I had started Beach Park School in Tampa and as I grew along with the children, took my EI 1-2 training at IAMS at Barrie. I enjoyed this experience and loved teaching at the elementary level. I spent most of my time teaching EL 2 (9-12) and continue now as Director of Education at Beach Park School in Tampa.



Jonathan Wolff is a senior Montessori school consultant and leadership educator with the Montessori Foundation. He is also the Founder & Director of Learning for Life and Montessori Leadership. Jonathan is a Montessori teacher trainer, speaker & author who infuses his work in leadership development with 30 years experience as an educator & administrator. Through the Montessori Foundation and Learning for Life, he provides retreats, workshops, consultations & coaching for parents, educators, leaders, Boards of Directors, community organizations & learning communities around the globe. The best-practice leadership retreats & workshops he leads facilitate community building, strategic planning & improved organizational effectiveness.

After earning his B.A. degree in Secondary Education from Temple University, Jonathan began teaching at-risk youth in Philadelphia. Early in his career, he read several books on the Montessori philosophy & quickly recognized the power her work in human development had to effect transformation not only within the young child, but within adults as well. He went on to study with Mother Isabelle Eugenie, one of Dr. Montessori's first students, earned his Early Childhood Credential through the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), & began his career as a Montessori educator at one of the first Head Start Montessori Centers in the United States. His incisive ability to apply Dr. Montessori's educational constructs to training adults led him to positions as a teacher trainer, as the director of education & training for various education & business organizations, & as the administrator for several nationally recognized schools. Thirty years in the field have provided him with solid first-hand experience in leading and managing rapidly growing for-profit & not-for-profit schools, education institutions & business organizations.

Today, the primary focus of his consulting practice is on leadership development – designing best practices and writing books and articles that enhance individual and organizational performance. His creative, interactive programs, his humorous and inspiring teaching style, and his deep insight into the needs of people and organizations are in demand by organizations around the world.



Jaime Yeager is currently the Head of School at Amare Montessori in Clarksville, TN. Jaime obtained both a B.S. in Early Childhood Education and Child Development as well as a M.Ed. in Special Education from Vanderbilt University. She also holds a Montessori teaching credential from Montessori Educators International (MEI). Jaime has spent 16 years teaching and directing Montessori programs in both Tennessee and Arkansas. She is also the Executive Director of the Montessori Alliance of Tennessee, a statewide advocacy group for promoting authentic Montessori programs in Tennessee.



Kresta Vuolo is the Principal at Free Horizon Montessori PK-8, a public school of 425 students nestled in the foothills of Golden, Colorado. She has been an active educator within the Montessori community for more than 25 years, having taught in both private and public Montessori schools prior to joining Free Horizon in 2008. Kresta serves on the district's Principal Advisory Council, works as a Montessori consultant for other districts and schools, and is a proud recipient of the 2012 Jeffco Values Award for Integrity and the 2017 Wayne Carle Award for Outstanding Contributions to Diversity & Equity in Jefferson County Public Schools. Kresta holds degrees in Psychology and Communications with Leadership Specialization as well as an AMS Early Childhood credential from the Montessori Education Center of the Rockies.

# THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2018

For the first time we are adding 4 extraordinary workshops on Thursday. The DERs/MEFs training is included in the fee schools paid to participate in the consortium. IMC members receive a discounted rate for any one of the following 3 all day workshops:

1. Negotiating the Uncertainties of Running a Montessori School --Being Prepared for a Variety of Volatile Variables

*Tim Seldin, Jonathan Wolff, Andrew Kutt*

2. Addressing Challenging Behaviors in the Montessori Classroom

*Brynn Rangel and Maria Eva Chaffin*

3. IT ALL ADDS UP! With Michael Dorer and Robin Howe

There is a separate wufoo registration form and cost for this program. You are welcome to only attend this one day event as well.

**8:00 AM                      REGISTRATION OPENS FOR THURSDAY PARTICIPANTS ONLY**

**9:00 AM - 4:30 PM        WORKSHOPS BEGIN WITH 1 HOUR FOR LUNCH BREAK**

**3:00 - 7:30 PM            REGULAR CONFERENCE REGISTRATION BEGINS**

**6:00 - 8:00 PM            CASH BAR AND LIGHT FINGER FOOD GETTING TO KNOW YOU RECEPTION. EXHIBITS OPEN AND BIDDING ON SILENT AUCTION BEGINS**

**6:30-8:00 PM            JOIN US FOR A MONTESSORI FILM PREMIERE**

**[WWW.BUILDINGTHEPINKTOWER.COM](http://WWW.BUILDINGTHEPINKTOWER.COM). YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PREMIERE OF AN ENGAGING AND POWERFUL NEW FILM: THE FIRST DOCUMENTARY FOCUSING ON MONTESSORI SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES. FORMERLY KNOWN AS "BUILDING THE PINK TOWER" (NEW TITLE TO BE REVEALED IN OCTOBER), DISCUSSION WILL FOLLOW THE FILM WITH CO-DIRECTOR/PRODUCER, JAN SELBY**

## CHOOSE FROM THESE IF YOU AREN'T COMING FOR THE DERS/MEFS TRAINING

NEGOTIATING THE UNCERTAINTIES OF RUNNING A MONTESSORI SCHOOL --BEING PREPARED FOR A VARIETY OF VOLATILE VARIABLES

*Tim Seldin, Jonathan Wolff, Andrew Kutt*

Heading a Montessori public or private school is fraught with a plethora of potential challenges:

- Attracting and retaining the "right fit" families
- Recruiting and nurturing well-trained teachers who can relate to adults as well children
- Addressing the needs of hyper-vigilant/hyper-critical parents
- Accommodating an increasing number of children with exceptionalities
- Retaining students at key transition points, such as kindergarten and middle school
- Recruiting board members who focus on governance not operations
- Keeping volunteers and parent associations constructively engaged
- Creating fund raising campaigns that get results
- Steering clear of legal landmines, including health, safety, discrimination, and termination issues
- Choosing and using technology that is affordable and user-friendly
- Setting your program apart from local competition, including other Montessori schools, independent-private, and public/charter programs
- Knowing when and how to expand the school, including introducing new program/age levels
- Creating a system of professional development that motivates teachers to learn and grow
- Preparing and responding to planned and unplanned staffing changes
- Identifying and nurturing future leaders – instructional and administrative
- Getting parents to attend school events on a regular basis, including parent education programs

Which of these challenges have you wrestled with or are you facing currently? The topics to be addressed in the Leadership Symposium will be identified by the participants. We want to know your needs, your challenges, and your goals for your school.

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***Descriptions of other workshops on Thursday continue on the next page.***

## ADDRESSING CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS IN THE MONTESSORI CLASSROOM

Brynn Rangel and Maria Eva Chaffin

More and more schools are experiencing an increase in enrollment of students with special needs. The Montessori Method is wonderfully suited for children with exceptionalities, but many Montessori guides struggle to understand and meet the needs of challenging children while peacefully including these children in a normalized classroom.

This course will allow you to experience Real, Practical and Applicable strategies being applied in Montessori classrooms to actual students with challenging behavior at the Primary, Elementary and Secondary Levels.

Working with The Montessori Foundation, Montessori Guide and Special Educator, Maria Eva Chaffin, M.Ed.; and Behavior Analyst, Brynn Rangel, M.B.A., BCBA, have joined together to deliver comprehensive and unique insight and guidance on addressing children with challenging behavior.

Brynn Rangel brings her insight as a Behavior Analyst in the Montessori classroom to better understand and identify patterns and strategies for children with varying exceptionalities.

Maria Eva Chaffin offers extensive Montessori and Special Needs teaching and classroom experience to leverage the Montessori Method to interpret and apply behavioral strategies in the classroom to normalize struggling children.

Objectives of the workshop:

:

- Summarize how the Montessori method applies to students with exceptionalities, the accommodations and modifications required.
- Identify what is required from the teachers to support a classroom with children with challenging behavior.
- Identify strategies that will decrease challenging behavior and improve the quality of life for all children in the Montessori environment.

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IT ALL ADDS UP!

Michael Dorer and Robin Howe

It All Adds Up: A Lower Elementary Arithmetic Refresher

Join Michael and Robin as they journey through many of the most recognized arithmetic materials of the Lower Elementary program for certified Montessori elementary guides. This very intensive and detailed workshop is a refresher and new look at arithmetic in the lower elementary. You will explore and revisit fundamental principles of lesson planning and evaluation while focusing on a creative approach to elementary arithmetic materials.

Some key concepts include:

the four operations;

mathematical storytelling;

aims;

control of error, evaluation;

lesson study, and more.

You will participate in a vital and renewing review of the math work in a stimulating, creative, hands-on adventure that will extend into all areas of the curriculum and lead to a deeper understanding of Montessori, the materials, and the philosophy.

Prepare to be inspired!

# FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2018

**7:00 AM REGISTRATION OPENS**

**7:30 - 8:15 AM BREAKFAST BUFFET & EXHIBITS OPEN**

**8:15 - 8:30 AM HOUSEKEEPING & ANNOUNCEMENT**

**8:30 - 9:30 AM OPENING CEREMONY**

**9:30 - 10:00 AM SHOPPING WITH EXHIBITORS AND BIDDING ON SILENT AUCTION ITEMS**

## **10:00 - 11:30 AM SESSION 1**

**OPTION 1 SHARING MUSIC WITH THE YOUNGEST CHILD**  
Mercedes Castle

Gain insight into how you can support tonal and rhythmic competence in the youngest child, and a better understanding of the importance of music and singing in the classroom. Come to see all children as music makers. Learn 10+ new songs to share with your community, plus transition rhymes, finger plays, and activities.

INDIVIDUAL/LEADERSHIP INFANT/TODDLER

**OPTION 2 SCIENCE CURRICULUM, ACTIVITIES, AND EXPERIMENTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Helen Devere

This session will give a review of the Montessori Science curriculum and look at creative ways to get children involved in hands-on learning, research, and experiments. Dr. Montessori wanted to invite the children to experience the world around them. You will see examples of ways to do this through a power point presentation, a display and a handout.

CLASSROOM PRIMARY

**OPTION 3 TEACHING ACROSS DISCIPLINES WEAVING THE LIFE OF AN ARTIST THROUGH THE MONTESSORI CURRICULUM**

Stephanie Pullman

This presentation will begin with preparing your elementary students to create, look and think critically about art through a variety of participatory activities. These activities can easily be used for exploring many different topics. We will then discover the life and art of Wasily Kandinsky, including a hands-on art experience. We will then look at ideas for independent follow-on work to immerse the children in the study of the artist through reading, writing, research, geography, history and geometry. You will leave this workshop with a strong understanding of how to weave any topic through the curriculum. Come ready to create!

CLASSROOM ELEMENTARY

**OPTION 4 PROMOTING AUTHORS IN YOUR MONTESSORI CLASSROOM**

Ann Winkler and Tanya Ryskind

This elementary focused workshop will help you find your inner author to guide children in finding theirs. Connecting and integrating writing into the cultural curriculum at the elementary one and two levels will be the focus. Make your own writing organizer from a simple manilla folder and library pockets and take home samples of writing activities and techniques to revitalize the manner in which you teach writing in the classroom.

CLASSROOM ELEMENTARY

**OPTION 5 MATH SEMINARS: TEACHING PROBLEM SOLVING THE MONTESSORI WAY**

Kira Donnelly

Teaching mathematics at the adolescent level can be a challenge. Students lose interest in math and conventional styles of teaching creep into even the best Montessori programs. Math Seminars allow us to use the characteristics of the adolescent to teach problem solving in a world that desperately needs problem solvers and peace. In this workshop we will explore the components of successful Math Seminars including tips and tricks for engaging students, picking problems, and follow up. Participants will have the opportunity to experience a seminar first hand. Come prepared to do some math and have some fun!

CLASSROOM SECONDARY

**OPTION 6 MPPI AND THE POLICY LANDSCAPE: A YEAR OF GREAT GROWTH AND A LOOK FORWARD**

Denise Monnier & Sharon Damore

The presenters will share the year of work that MPPI has engaged in since receiving their full implementation grant last December. We have been supporting our state organizations and representatives with educational opportunities, information, coaching and technical support. If you have been affected by state or federal policy in your work as a Montessorian, this session is for you. We will provide background information on our work, and share challenges and progress in our states. Participants will engage in advocacy issue problem solving and will have the chance to practice "making their ask" and identifying potential pitfalls of policy language. If you are already involved in policy work or are interested and would like to learn how to get involved, join us!

SCHOOL/LEADERSHIP ALL ATTENDEES

**OPTION 7 BE OUR GUEST- THE ART OF HOSPITALITY IN A MONTESSORI SCHOOL**

Patty Sobelman & Hyatt Regency Representative Jeff Janssan  
What can a Montessori school learn from the hotel and hospitality industry? We are very much alike. We greet customers every day. We provide delicious meals, clean bathrooms and sometimes a peaceful place to sleep. Our customers are both children and their parents. Understanding good customer service and amazing hospitality skills will keep families longer and will spread the word about your school. Patty Sobelman, Head of Pines Montessori School, Kingwood, Texas will be joined by the Hyatt Regency Sarasota's Jeff Janssan- Director of Human Resources. Jeff share hid HR tips for training caring staff in the hospitality industry and Patty will take them into your Montessori school.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP ALL ATTENDEES

**OPTION 8 HOW TO HARNESS OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND GENERATE GREATER PARENT ENGAGEMENT.**

Jono Landon

This workshop covers the 8 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are required to drive a school to increased financial-efficiency and allow the entire school staff to complete all of the “busy-work” that exists around the actual educational programming, more efficiently. The framework I will be covering is a path towards incrementally improving each of the KPI’s in a school, year over year, which can lead to a 100% increase of school profits within three years.

SCHOOL /LEADERSHIP ADMINISTRATORS

**OPTION 9 REFLECTION ROOM**

Need a break? Take some time to step into our reflection room and sit quietly and relax. Start off your time with some yoga laughing.

KITTY BRAVO

INDIVIDUAL ALL

**OPTION 10 OPEN SPACE**

Andrew Kutt

INDIVIDUAL ALL

**11:30 - NOON SHOPPING IN EXHIBIT HALL AND BIDDING ON SILENT AUCTION ITEMS**

**NOON - 12:45 PM BUFFET LINE OPEN**

**12:45 - 1:00 PM ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**1:00 - 2:15 PM KEYNOTE-TIM SELDIN**

**2:15 - 2:45 PM BREAK**

**2:45 - 4:15 PM SESSION 2**

**OPTION 11 NURTURING EXECUTIVE FUNCTION IN INFANTS & TODDLERS**

Alanea Williams

It’s just beginning for infants and toddlers: the early development of executive functioning skills in the brain. Executive function enables us to live, work, and be successful in society. We will learn what these early skills might look like for our youngest children and how to support their healthy development in our daily practice.

CLASSROOM INFANT/TODDLER

**OPTION 12 SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH BEHAVIOR AND LEARNING CHALLENGES IN THE MONTESSORI CLASSROOM PT 1**

Christine Lowry

This two session workshop will share the foundations for understanding challenges in behavior & learning and how we can use the Montessori Triad as a basis for support. Using the Model: Prepare- Manage- Guide, we will discuss the components of the model to address the needs of individual students while optimizing the benefits of Montessori for all of our students. Participants will learn how to create specific plans for the child with challenges based on Inquiry Observation & with workable tools and techniques that are consistent with

best Montessori practice. Building a “Network of Adults” & a “Community of Students” model will lead to the creation of an inclusive classroom for all. Participants will receive a packet of resources including Inquiry Observation forms, Record Keeping & Progress Monitoring forms, and a List of Supports to use in the classroom.

CLASSROOM PRIMARY

**OPTION 13 WALKING OUR TALK THROUGH SHAKESPEARE-PT 1**

Larry Schanker & Laurie Moreno

There is magic in the air when children perform Shakespeare. Through deep and authentic study, children discover inner strengths, transform themselves and emerge as more powerful beings. Part I of this theatrical workshop will take you on a “four-month” journey into the world of Shakespeare. You will learn to guide elementary children to a deep understanding of the meaning of Shakespearean language and to discover the truths inherent in Shakespearean literature, and the beauty of bringing nature into the equation by performing outside. You’ll learn the value of such an experience first-hand and simple ways to inexpensively integrate a major play into your own curriculum, while seamlessly balancing it with your everyday lessons. The methodology is completely child-centered and process-oriented. Your elementary students can learn the plot, study the vocabulary, discuss meaning, participate in casting, gain comfort with Shakespearean language and memorize lines, create scenery, write songs using Shakespeare’s words, design costumes, assume leadership roles and coach each other, and prepare the environment for theatrical magic. Most importantly, the ownership and delivery of a magnificent performance enhances self-confidence and encourages higher order thinking skills, and can be a rite of passage as students enter Elementary. No prior knowledge of Shakespeare is needed.

CLASSROOM EL/SECONDARY

**OPTION 14 “TALK THE TALK” SO THEY CAN “WALK THE WALK”**

Kay Saragusa & Jennifer Higgins

Have you ever had a student you just couldn’t seem to reach? No matter how much we give love to a student, if we are not speaking their “language” we may not be reaching them. This workshop will help us to examine how to speak with words and actions in our student’s love language, so that they may reach their full potential. We will discuss the different ways students need and receive love and affirmation, how to break through their barriers, and ultimately guide them onto their own path of spreading peace and love.

CLASSROOM ELEMENTARY

**OPTION 15 BUILDING AN EQUITABLE HOLIDAY APPROACH-PT 1**

Tammy Oesting

Celebrating and recognizing holidays in the classroom can be fun and simultaneously a source of distress for students and teachers alike! Learn eight guiding principles for best holiday practices and how to implement an equitable approach to holidays. This workshop promises to pique your curiosity about your school culture and provides clear guidance for honoring

your student's developing self- and group-identity.  
SCHOOL/CLASSROOM ALL

**OPTION 16 DEVELOPING A COLLABORATIVE,  
ACCOUNTABLE MONTESSORI CULTURE**

Michelle Morrison

One school's successful experience developing a culture of accountability and a growth mind-set among faculty and staff. Through a reorganization of our organizational structure, developing leaders at every level, formal leadership training, and establishing goal setting, reinstating observations and feedback, and allowing faculty and staff to determine their own annual professional development, we are delivering a higher quality implementation of the Montessori Method, engaging in positive confrontation to harmonize our teams, and engaging in the art of possibilities as we work to strengthen our school in a competitive independent school market. We are ready to share through telling our story and providing models and processes used in our journey!

SCHOOL/LEADERSHIP ADMINISTRATORS

**OPTION 17 MAY THE FARCE BE WITH YOU! THE  
BLASPHEMOUS IDEA OF EMPLOYING HUMOR AND  
PLAYFULNESS IN THE PREPARED ENVIRONMENT**

Jonathan Wolff

Hey! We're talking about the importance of the "work of child." There's no place for levity in a Montessori classroom. Really! "Following the child" is serious business. Seriously? Take a look at the "Habits of Mind," sixteen thinking, communication, and collaborative learning skills required for success, according to the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. One of the Habits is "Finding Humor." You're kidding! Explore how a little wit and wackiness are essential to the development self-directed learning – not to mention the preservation of sanity!

CLASSROOM ALL ATTENDEES

**OPTION 18 ROUNDTABLE-TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED**

Kathy Leitch and Tim Seldin  
LEADERSHIP ADMINISTRATION

**OPTION 19 REFLECTION ROOM**

**OPTION 20 OPEN SPACE**

**4:15 - 4:45 PM BREAK FOR SHOPPING AND BIDDING  
ON SILENT AUCTION ITEMS**

**4:45 - 6:15 PM SESSION 3**

**OPTION 21 ALTERNATIVE PATHS: USING OUR INFANT/  
TODDLER TRAINING BEYOND THE MONTESSORI  
CLASSROOM**

Elaine Glier

In this workshop we will explore how our infant/toddler training uniquely prepares us for a wide variety of fulfilling careers outside of the classroom. Whether it is partnering with midwives or consulting with new parents, we have a wealth of information to share. Our knowledge of child development and appreciation of beautiful handcrafted materials can be the foundation of a creative and lucrative home business. Those with many years of classroom experience may want to mentor new teachers as a school consultant. Let's dream big and then brainstorm how to make it happen!

INDIVIDUAL INFANT/TODDLER

**OPTION 22 SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH BEHAVIOR  
AND LEARNING CHALLENGES IN THE MONTESSORI  
CLASSROOM -PT 2**

Christine Lowry

The work continues

CLASSROOM PRIMARY

**OPTION 23 WALKING OUR TALK --SHAKESPEARE-PT 2**

Walking Our Talk through Shakespeare-Pt 2

The work continues and remember, PLEASE ONLY REGISTER FOR THIS WORKSHOP IF YOU ARE STAYING FOR THE BANQUET TONIGHT.

CLASSROOM ELEMENTARY

**OPTION 24 STUDENT WORK JOURNALS: DEVELOPING  
A SYSTEM TO PROMOTE INDIVIDUAL AUTONOMY,  
FREEDOM, AND RESPONSIBILITY**

Molly Moorhead

The work journal is named as one of the three essential tools of an effective Montessori environment. This framework, which fosters the development of autonomy in work journal use, is designed in response to student needs and is ever changing. Through meetings with guides, lesson lists, curriculum lists, personal record-keeper, and self - reflection, students gain the independence and the freedom to design their own plans and navigate their own learning.

CLASSROOM ELEMENTARY

**OPTION 25 BUILDING AN EQUITABLE HOLIDAY APPROACH  
PT-2**

Tammy Oesting

The work continues

SCHOOL/CLASSROOM ALL ATTENDEES

**OPTION 26 ONCE UPON A TIME....STORYTELLING IN THE  
MONTESSORI CLASSROOM**

Karen Pillsworth

Storytelling is universal. It has existed around the world in every culture and it is an important part of the Montessori classroom. Whether you are emphasizing reality and sensorial experience in the Children's House classroom, or emphasizing imagination at the elementary level and beyond, stories add an important dimension to your teaching. Thirty years of teaching and working as a professional storyteller have given me the opportunity to see this magic work in classrooms. Come learn techniques for learning and telling stories in your own classroom and let the magic begin with you! I will help you integrate this art into your already busy day. Come with me...I will show you how.

CLASSROOM ALL ATTENDEES

OPTION 27 PEACE BEGINS... WHERE?

Lorna McGrath

Peace begins in different areas of life for different people. In this workshop participants will explore where peace begins for them whether it be at home, in a nature connection, in civil rights, in caring for the elderly, in community projects, or in some other place. After establishing where peace begins, small groups will help each other to prioritize their passions, create action plans, and gather resources to accomplish their goals in creating a more peaceful world. Spend this session with Marc finding out how social media and Google have changed the way we find and retain families and how to use this information at your school.

CLASSROOM ALL ATTENDEES

OPTION 28 PRIVATE MEETING FOR SRQ UNIVERSITY

OPTION 29 REFLECTION ROOM

OPTION 30 OPEN SPACE

**6:30 PM - 8:30 PM BANQUET**  
**OUR MASTERS OF CEREMONY ARE JONATHAN WOLFF AND ANDREW KUTT. THERE WILL BE AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, THE SHAKESPEARE WORKSHOP DEMONSTRATION AND SOME SURPRISES. BE PREPARED TO HAVE SOME REAL FUN!**

***Get a good night's sleep, we start bright and early tomorrow morning.***

# SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2018

**7:00 AM REGISTRATION OPENS**

**7:30 - 8:15 AM BREAKFAST BUFFET & EXHIBITS  
OPEN SILENT AUCTION CONTINUES**

**8:15 - 8:30 AM HOUSEKEEPING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**8:30 - 9:30 AM INTRODUCTION OF OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND KEYNOTE: KATHY LEITCH**

**9:30 - 10:00 AM SHOPPING WITH EXHIBITORS  
AND BIDDING ON SILENT AUCTION ITEMS**

**10:00 - 11:30 AM SESSION 4**

OPTION 31 THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSITIONING THE TODDLER AT THE RIGHT TIME

Terri Sherrill & Elaine Glier

The proliferation of Montessori infant and/or toddler programs is relatively new. For this reason, most in the Montessori community are scrambling to learn the developmental needs of this very important group (and about this foundational time in a child's life). How can we best serve them? What are the signs of readiness for the Children's House and what happens when we miss this sensitive period? How can the toddler teachers, primary guides, and heads of school work together to accomplish the best interests of all? Sizes and ratios of toddler programs will also be discussed.

CLASSROOM INFANT/TODDLER

OPTION 32 BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY NOMENCLATURE-SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN 3-6

Cathie Perolman

Come and explore how these common materials in Botany and Zoology can meet the needs of all levels of learners in your 3-6 community. From Puzzles to Three Part Cards, Definition Books and Definition Cards this workshop will extend the learning of these materials incorporating Nature, Art and even the Movable Alphabet to entice children to enjoy their benefit to the fullest.

CLASSROOM PRIMARY

OPTION 33 MOTIVATING THE UNMOTIVATED CHILD

Margaret Combs

Montessori teachers enter their classrooms each year full of hope, knowing the amazing gift the children will receive through the Montessori philosophy. We carefully prepare our environments then eagerly await the arrival of the children, knowing they are going to be so drawn to these beautiful materials! And they typically are – except for when they are not. Then we are left to struggle with how to entice that one (or few) children who just can't seem to engage. They wander around, interrupt and distract others. This workshop will look at the inner workings of motivation: what it is, how we can nurture the child and set up the physical and emotional environment so that the

child may find the most success in finding it. We will also look at practical tools you can utilize to help support the child's journey towards intrinsic motivation.

CLASSROOM INDIVIDUAL

**OPTION 34 PRACTICAL LIFE, PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS**  
Robin Howe

Come learn unique and useful ways to expand your Practical Life area! Practical Life is a very important in the early childhood classroom, but once a child transitions into elementary, this area is lost to the academic curriculum. The true purpose of lower and upper elementary is to give the child time to discover their talents and purpose in the universe. In order to help the child reach this discovery, they have to be apart of the decision making in their community and faced with real life challenges. During this workshop, we will discuss the parts of Practical Life and how that translates into the elementary classroom. You will learn ways to integrate other topics into Practical Life work and attach common core standards to it. You will get to see work and pictures of work that can be created for your Practical Life shelves. You will also get to make something that you can do with your students! We will discuss the connection between Practical Life and Peace Education and how they work together to help the child grow and transform!.

CLASSROOM ELEMENTARY

**OPTION 35 INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING IN THE MONTESSORI MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL PT-1**  
Jocelyn Swanson

During these three sessions we will conduct an inquiry into inquiry! Inquiry involves asking questions, collecting information, and then rendering meaning. The arts of inquiry, while natural to how we learn, require developmentally appropriate "prepared environments." Young children naturally inquire and gather information with their senses. The children are immersed in didactic and other materials in the Children's House environment. Secondary students learn to ask questions and to construct certainty about the answers they discover to their questions. These students also need hands-on learning to establish minds-on understanding.

SCHOOL/CLASSROOM SECONDARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL

**OPTION 36 STRENGTHEN THE PARENT EXPERIENCE IN THE TRUE MONTESSORI WAY..... TO STRENGTHEN ENROLLMENT, COMMUNITY AND STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP EDUCATION**

Renee DuChaine-Farkas

Does your school deliver the Parent Experience in the true Montessori Way? Maria Montessori believed the school and family partnership was essential to help each child reach their greatest potential. She believed that the sharing of first hand observations from home and school brings the school to the home and the home to the school. This workshop will introduce the stages of development of parents, types and roles of parents, and will share ways that every school can take a

new look at the unique relationship, the Parent Experience, in "the Montessori way". It is essential to understand the parent's stages of development as a prelude or preparation for our work to deepen and better define and understand the parent needs. We will review what research says about parents' ideal expectations from schools and share programming to meet these expectations. By trying to meet parent needs, we can support their growth and development and help them be the best parent they can be. Participants will be able to review the design their school programs and determine if they are delivering on these expectations. Come discuss and see how partnerships with parents can enhance retention and enrollment, student success, build strong school communities and strengthen parent commitment. Learn ways to support parents in their own personal growth and development to help them feel more confident and less worried about parenting. In her early work, Maria Montessori always invited the parent to be part of the student's learning experience. We will share what Maria believed about this and offers ways to do it, while respecting the daily operation of our schools. Note: " Let us place the school in the home; not only that, but let us place it there as collective property, and let us place under the eyes of parents the entire life of the teacher, in the accomplishment of her high mission." (Il metodo della pedagogia scientifica, 1909. p 45). Cited in an Appendix in The Normal Child and Primary Education by Arnold and Beatrice Gesell. Ginn and Company. Boston. 1912. This was the first review of Montessori's work in America.

SCHOOL/LEADERSHIP ALL ATTENDEES

**OPTION 37 LIVING THE MONTESSORI WAY THROUGH THE LESSONS OF GRACE AND COURTESY**

Pam Shanks

We all know that the lessons of grace and courtesy are a critical component of "Living the Montessori Way." However, in the daily life of a classroom these lessons often take a backseat to "important" academic lessons. Come and be inspired to support your community of learners through the lessons of grace and courtesy. Topics covered will include: 1) Grace and courtesy as an on-going means to prevent problems in classrooms; 2) How the prevalence of technology in our lives should affect your use of the lessons of grace and courtesy; and 3) How to help children attain mastery through a supportive social context. Walk away inspired by the words of Dr. Montessori and with a renewed sense of the value of these important lessons.

INDIVIDUAL ALL ATTENDEES

**OPTION 38 ROUNDTABLE-**

Kathy Leitch or Andrew Kutt

Topic: Gender and Sexual Diversity

**OPTION 39 REFLECTION ROOM**

**OPTION 40 OPEN SPACE**

TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED

Andrew Kutt or Jonathan Wolff or MaryBeth Ricks

**11:30 AM - 11:45 AM SHOPPING IN EXHIBIT HALL AND BIDDING ON SILENT AUCTION ITEMS COMES TO A CLOSE AT NOON**

**11:45 AM-12:30 BUFFET LINE OPEN**

**12:30 - 12:45 PM ANNOUNCEMENTS/SILENT AUCTION WINNERS**

**12:45 PM- 1:30 PM COMMUNITY TIME**

**1:30 - 3:00 PM SESSION 5**

**OPTION 41 THE PARENTING PUZZLE**

Lorna McGrath

Do you wish that you could have a Montessori parenting educator at your school? Now you can. Join Lorna McGrath to get a sneak preview and to find out how.

As educators, we know that, from infancy to adolescence, children can be a challenge and parenting is a puzzle. So, whether your school families have toddlers, teenagers, or anywhere in between, this course gives you and your key staff members the tools to facilitate a pre-designed five-week Montessori family leadership class, *The Parenting Puzzle: The Basics*, live at your school. It is designed to lead families at your school through meaningful and transformative discussions, activities and readings using principles based on Montessori and Dreikurs.

Lorna's workshop is the overview of the online course the Montessori Foundation has created to help parents around the world. If you are interested in more information about the online course as well as attending this workshop check it out on the [montessori.org](http://montessori.org) website.

**OPTION 42 APPRECIATING ART IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSROOM**

Katrina Williams

Appreciating Art Workshop is an overview of art activities for the early childhood classroom including cultural art, art theory and art appreciation activities. This workshop will be filled with ideas to take back to your classroom including hands on examples. Get ready to be creative and to appreciate the many skills the child builds as they do art in the classroom. Make sure the art curriculum in your classrooms is rich with experience and exposure to the world of art. The child will gain many skills through art activities to be used for all future learning. Exposure to famous artists, styles of art, and cultural art activities instills an interest, curiosity and appreciation for art. The child will view art and their world with new eyes. The workshop will include many practical ideas to use in the classroom and to build a rich art curriculum.

CLASSROOM PRIMARY

**OPTION 43 SUPPORTING FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH EXCEPTIONALITIES**

Ann Epstein

Some families say the hardest moment of parenting was when they realized their child was not learning or growing as they expected. As teachers, guides and administrators, part of our professional responsibility is to support families in meeting the specific needs of their child. This session will provide participants with opportunities to better understand current family dynamics when a child has an exceptionality, including how to support families who do not appear to see that their child is struggling. Our Montessori tradition provides a framework for

incorporating 2018 evidence-based practices, including new insights into the grief cycle and an array of informative websites for families. We will study effective communication strategies and simulate a family meeting. Come ready to build your skills and perhaps even discover the lighter moments of partnering with your families on behalf of children with exceptionalities.

SCHOOL/LEADERSHIP PRIMARY

**OPTION 44 THE STORYTELLING WAY TO GRAMMAR FUN**

Michael Dorer

Learn how to enliven Functions of Words lessons by harnessing the ancient power of storytelling with original stories about the parts of speech. You'll learn storytelling techniques and tips, visit grammar story lessons like *The Story of the Multitude*, *The Nouns Meet the Preposition*, *The Interjection is Born*, and many more. You will also learn the background, techniques, and rationale for this imaginative approach. Come hear engaging and useful stories, take home samples to try, and discover Montessori grammar presentations your students will remember, love, and ask for again and again.

CLASSROOM EL

**OPTION 45 INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING IN THE MONTESSORI MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL PT-2**

Jocelyn Swanson

The work continues.

SCHOOL/CLASSROOM SECONDARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL

**OPTION 46 THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE TEACHER: A CONTINUOUS JOURNEY**

Jaime Yeager

Maria Montessori stated, "The first step an intending Montessori teacher must take is to prepare herself." This workshop will engage participants in an exploration of the ongoing journey that we take as Montessori educators. We will share in conversation about self-reflection and the practical supports we can use to examine our own preconceptions, the pressures we feel, our biases, and the values we bring to our classroom work. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in specific exercises to enrich personal growth and develop the "art" of being a Montessori teacher. We will explore, through analogy, the cycles Montessori teachers pass through on their continuous path of transformation. A practical take away of concrete steps teachers can take to staying open to self-development as well as accepting students as they come to us, will be generated and shared. As Dr. Montessori reminded us on the eve of her death, "Children come to us a rain of souls, as a richness and a promise which can always be fulfilled but which needs the help of our efforts for its fulfillment. Do not consider a child a weakling: the child is the builder of the human personality." Through our continuous self-development as adults, we are best suited to allow the child to be the builder he is intended to be. "The Montessori teacher is constantly looking for a child who is not yet there."

INDIVIDUAL ALL

**OPTION 47 INTENTIONAL CONNECTIONS**

Dorothy Harman

Parent teacher partnerships aren't automatic, especially in the busy lives of working families. Parent engagement requires deliberate intention and action on the part of the teacher to develop a relationship between child, teacher, and home-creating a need to prepare that relationship with the same attention as preparing the classroom environment. Participants will gain strategies for involving busy parents in the education of their children through practical suggestions and examples including and moving beyond classroom volunteerism. Other parent involvement approaches will include sharing observations and work records, tools for parent teacher conferences, effective newsletter writing, parent education opportunities, at-home volunteerism, and easy to implement parent/child activities for the home.

SCHOOL/LEADERSHIP ALL ATTENDEES

**OPTION 48 IMC ACCREDITATION--WHY IT'S RIGHT FOR YOUR SCHOOL**

SCHOOL/LEADERSHIP ALL IMC SCHOOLS

Tim Seldin, Lorna McGrath, MaryBeth Ricks, Claire Salkowski and Kathy Leitch and Andrew Kutt

**OPTION 49 REFLECTION ROOM**

**OPTION 50 OPEN SPACE:** Topics and moderators include: Follow up on Montessori in Nigeria, Jonathan Wolff

**3:00 - 3:30 PM BREAK AND SHOPPING**

**3:30 PM - 5:00 PM SESSION 6**

**OPTION 51 EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL: SUPPORTING OUR LGBTQ**

Kresta Vuolo

Providing a safe and accepting educational environment for all students, including those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or gender non-conforming, begins with preparation of the adult and environment. In this workshop, participants will explore resources and tools available to help Montessorians prepare ourselves, our classrooms, and our schools to be inclusive and sensitive to the needs of LGBTQ students and their families. We will also discuss ways to address questions that are grounded in compassion, uphold confidentiality, and support expanding perspectives.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP ALL ATTENDEES

**OPTION 52 MONTESSORI ASSISTANTS 101**

Barbara Ervin and Chris Sacerdote

Montessori assistants are a vital part of the classroom. Sometimes they are all but forgotten. The assistant may have some experience in the classroom but is usually looking for guidance how what to do and how to act. This workshop will give the basis for an assistant training. Using some humor and serious information the participants will understand how to educate their assistant(s) on the proper behavior and actions of how to contribute to the classroom.

INDIVIDUAL PRIMARY

**OPTION 53 INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING IN THE MONTESSORI MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL PT-3**

Jocelyn Swanson

The work continues.

SCHOOL/CLASSROOM SECONDARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL

**OPTION 54 STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT YOUNG CHILDREN WITH WHO STRUGGLE IN CASA**

Ann Epstein

Are you looking for ideas to help your Casa children who don't seem to remember letter sounds, who struggle to use scissors and many practical life activities, and only want to build imaginative structures in Sensorial? We will discuss possible reasons why some of today's typically-developing children don't "click" with Montessori materials. We will explore variations and extensions with sand paper letters, evaluate several evidence-based Montessori-friendly early literacy activities, review adaptive supports for children with fine motor delays, and discuss the pros and cons of adaptive seating and lighting.

CLASSROOM PRIMARY

**OPTION 55 THE ABC OF BOARDS**

MARYBETH RICKS

This workshop will cover some of the most important key factors to help a school choose board members wisely:

- \* How to select the best BOT members for your school.
- \* BOT interviews
- \* Board Education
- \* BOT review process

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

**OPTION 56 CREATING A FACULTY AND COMMUNITY OF CONTINUOUS SELF IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: WHAT IF EVERY ONE OF YOUR TEACHERS WAS COMMITTED TO LIFELONG LEARNING?**

Kathleen Trewhella-Grant/Jonathan Wolff & Tanya Ryskind

...How do you create a culture where Innovation and Inspiration flourishes? If Montessori is going to stay current in the 21st-century educational leadership need to embrace a learning culture that begins with school leadership and applies to every member of the Montessori community. (Parents, Teachers, Administrators) Too many Montessori educators view that their educational journey ends with the instructional methods and their albums. Discover ways to encourage and to implement plans that inspire learning in all areas of your community. The benefits of creating a life-long learning environment are many as they foster retention, creativity, and inspiration for ALL faculty and students.

SCHOOL/LEADERSHIP ALL ATTENDEES

**OPTION 57 THE POWER OF STORY-TIME TO CREATE BELONGING AND SAFETY**

Andrew Newman

Story-time is so much more than reading a book. It is rich with hidden mystery that you can use to lead children into some of the longest standing lessons and memories of their lives. Central to story time is the experience of self-recognition and identification with the characters in the story. Am I like the

character? Or different to them? Have I faced their challenge before? Can I learn from them? Please join in this playful exploration of story where we will discuss: “ The role of story at different times of the day. “ How you can set the atmosphere for best receptivity. “ The benefit of making up a new story to help teach a skill. “ The power of story to create safety and belonging. “ Encouraging parents to read in the last 20 minutes of the day. “ Why the repetition of favorite stories is helpful. “ Bringing the characters to life outside of storytime. “ The difference between reading with and reading to.

CLASSROOM PRIMARY

#### OPTION 58 FILLING THE GAPS

Anya Bartlett

The Primary Montessori curriculum and materials are meticulously detailed and broken down to address all areas of content and learning. Moving into the Elementary level Montessori provided a framework and curriculum which addressed basic skills, while leaving many content areas open for discovery. In an ideal world students would cover topics not covered in the basic Montessori elementary curriculum such as graphing, story structure and measurement, through open exploration and student-driven learning, with the luxury of a three-year time frame. However, our present day reality of state-standards, test-driven curriculum and grade specific accountability require a more direct approach to ensuring our students have been exposed to all requisite material. How do we achieve an “authentic” Montessori approach with imposed requirements and standardized testing at the Elementary level? This workshop will break-down the traditional Montessori Elementary curriculum, uncovering areas of need, and highlighting gaps in content. We will look to Montessori’s own words for guidance as we discuss ways to enhance your syllabus using basic Montessori principles and pedagogy. The essential elements of manipulative materials designed for auto education and materialized abstraction will be discussed as we explore ways to fill in those curricular gaps with teacher-made materials, creative lesson planning, and student-centered learning. Strategies for lesson planning and a basic yearly plan for group lessons will be provided.

CLASSROOM ELEMENTARY

#### OPTION 59 REFLECTIVE ROOM OPEN

***Final notes on Saturday.***

***5:00 - 5:45 PM final shopping time with many of our exhibitors who will be packing up tonight.***

***Dinner tonight is on your own. Want to stay in? Show Currents waitstaff your conference badge and receive a 10% discount on your***

***meal. After dinner why not stop by the fire pit. You’re sure to find some folks sitting around here or the pool networking.***

***Want to go out and explore Sarasota? We recommend the many wonderful restaurants in the down town area, a short 10 minute walk along the waterfront.***

***The Hyatt shuttle can take you over to St Armand’s Circle where outdoor dining and shops stay open late. The Circle is just a short walk down to Lido Beach. The hotel’s shuttle stops at around 9:00 PM but Uber and Lyft or taxi’s are very reasonable.***

***Have a good night and be ready to work bright and early Sunday morning***

# SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2018

**7:30 AM REGISTRATION OPENS**

**7:30 - 8:15 AM BREAKFAST BUFFET & EXHIBITS OPEN**

**8:30 - 10:00AM SESSION 7**

**OPTION 60 SELF-CARE FOR THE TEACHER'S SOUL- PT 1**  
Claire Salkowski

Self-Care is often a neglected area in the life of busy teachers yet it is of paramount importance if we wish to combat the stress and strain of daily work that is joyful and rewarding but often emotionally and physically taxing. As many of us in the helping professions know, we often give to everyone but ourselves. As Thomas Merton says, "Too allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything, is to succumb to violence." This two part experiential and retreat-like workshop will be an extended time and chance for participants to reconnect with their own "inner teacher" and to experience the value of "Sabbath time" and their own "Care of the Soul" in an effort to cultivate a their own inner peace. In the tradition of the peacemaking circle process and "Circles of Trust" participants will experience time to stop and reflect on what gives their life its deepest meaning and purpose and to discover the best ways to refuel so that they can truly be mindful of each moment and bring their best selves to their relationships, work and daily life.

**INDIVIDUAL ALL ATTENDEES**

**OPTION 61 WHAT MONTESSORIANS CAN LEARN FROM GOOGLE, PREPARING A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR GROWNUPS - PT 1**

Tanya Ryskind and Jonathan Wolff

"You can't understand Google unless you know that both Larry and Sergey were Montessori kids." So states Marissa Mayer, former CEO of Yahoo, in the recently published book, Work Rules! Insights from Inside Google That Will Transform How You Live and Lead, by Laszlo Bock. In reading this incredible book, and comparing the collaborative learning culture of Google to what we observe in classroom and school communities in the course of our consulting work, we have come to believe that in a many ways Google is more "Montessori-attuned" than many Montessori programs. In this workshop we will take a look at the guiding principles and practices at Google and discuss how these core beliefs and behaviors can be applied to strengthen our Montessori programs and build more collaborative school communities.

**LEADERSHIP/SCHOOL ALL**

**OPTION 62 TALKING WITH BABIES AND TODDLERS: INTERACTIONS AND MATERIALS THAT SUPPORT LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT IN MONTESSORI ENVIRONMENTS**

Tracey Hall

Together we will explore language development through both the lens of Dr. Montessori's writings and that of current research on language and attachment. Within that context, we will discuss specific skills that caregivers can use to create a language-rich environment for the children in their care. We will consider both the tools to use throughout the activities of daily life as well as the specifics of creating a language environment that fosters communication. Topics will include: "serve and return", "motherese", tailoring the three-period lesson for toddlers, sign language, reading together, moving from concrete to symbolic materials, and supporting the older toddler.

**IND INFANT/TODDLER**

**OPTION 63 MOVEMENT IS LIFE**

Renata Faccioli

A re-examination of this biological need as Dr. Montessori theorized it, as well as current research on movement's relationship to learning, emotions and stages of life. This workshop will offer ideas and opportunity for experimentation toward best practice application in our classrooms, staff rooms and family rooms. Non-yogis, couch potatoes, admins and those with environmental restrictions especially welcome; we will find movement that works for you and the children you serve!

**INDIVIDUAL ALL ATTENDEES**

**OPTION 64 MENTAL INSECTS -PT -1**

Michael Dorer

Join Michael in a review of the metal insets, sometimes creatively named by the children. These ten plates and their insets can be magical as well as being a "High Yield" material. What are they for? How and when should they be used? Why are they so important to both the Children's House and the Lower Elementary? How do they fit in the elementary class? Do they fit in other areas other than language? You will leave this workshop with new ideas and plans for expanding your creative uses for the "Mental Insects!"

**CLASSROOM ELEMENTARY**

**OPTION 65 HEAD OF SCHOOL AS COMMUNITY LEADER: COMMUNICATION AND UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE TRUTH AND PEACE -PT-1 THIS WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD OUTSIDE WEATHER PERMITTING**

Natalie Baginski

There are fundamental truths in Montessori Education and compromising too far from those truths will ultimately put us

in trouble with ourselves and in trouble in the community. It takes courage and belief to stay on point in our message and speak the truth when we feel alone. 1st 90 minutes: How do we stay committed to our fundamental truths, unwaveringly, even if our neighborhoods and boards are asking for something different? What are the messages we will not abandon when communicating about our school? If we are not peaceful and connected with our truth, how can we communicate that when it's time to speak? I'd like the teachers to go away with a breathing technique that can be used for 2-5 minutes at school before a meeting or writing an important email, or doing a call. 2nd 90 minutes: How do we keep our leads, administrators, and assistants on track when we see and hear things that do not align with the schools core message to the community? I'd like the Heads to go away with some written guiding principles that will support their work in communicating the truth of the matter with teachers who need support.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

**OPTION 66 CREATING CONVERSATIONS THAT COUNT - SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL GROWTH THROUGH PLAY -PT 1**

Matt Johnson

Creating conversations that count will explore the use of ClayMates to better understand ourselves and others within a social and emotional context. This hands on workshop will develop a host of tools and strategies to better facilitate complex emotional and social conversations with children and adults. We will introduce creative, imaginative and playful ways to develop social context with emotional response as well as enhance our emotion vocabulary, connection and understanding that results in greater social and emotional mindfulness. **THERE IS AN \$8 WORKSHOP FEE FOR THIS CLASS THAT INCLUDES A CLAYMATES KIT.**

CLASSROOM/IND ALL

**OPTION 67 CARE OF SELF: STRESS MANAGEMENT FOR ANYONE DESIRING TO NOT BURNOUT!**

SESSION HAS BEEN CANCELLED

PAUL UNABLE TO MAKE IT THIS YEAR.

**10:00 - 10:30 AM LAST BREAK WITH CHANCE TO SHOP WITH EXHIBITS**

**10:30 AM - NOON PM SESSION 8**

**OPTION 68 SELF-CARE FOR THE TEACHER'S SOUL- PT 2**

Claire Salkowski

The work continues.

INDIVIDUAL ALL ATTENDEES

**OPTION 69 ROUND TABLE**

Kathy Leitch and Tim Seldin

LEADERSHIP ADMINISTRATORS

**OPTION 70 MENTAL INSECTS -PT -2**

Michael Dorer

The work continues

CLASSROOM ELEMENTARY

**OPTION 71 WHAT MONTESSORIANS CAN LEARN FROM GOOGLE, PREPARING A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR GROWNUPS - PT 12**

Tanya Ryskind and Jonathan Wolff

The work continues

**OPTION 72 THE COMPETITIVE EDGE: FIRST PLACE GOES TO...HEALTHY BRAIN DEVELOPMENT!**

Lisa Thauvette

In this hands-on, interactive and fun workshop we will look at how our brains function when in competitive mode and the benefits and detractors from this functioning. Be ready to play games, share your own experiences, and to bring back concrete strategies and approaches for positively framing competition in your school community. Comparing our level or status to others is a human characteristic which is the foundation to bettering ourselves and to advancing civilizations. However in its most base form, competition is a cause of conflict between individuals, groups and societies--leaving one winner and multiple losers. Join in and gear up to participate in some serious competitive cooperation!

SCHOOL ALL

**OPTION 73 HEAD OF SCHOOL AS COMMUNITY LEADER: COMMUNICATION AND UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE TRUTH AND PEACE -PT-2 THIS WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD OUTSIDE WEATHER PERMITTING**

Natalie Baginski

The work Continues.

**OPTION 74 CREATING CONVERSATIONS THAT COUNT - SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL GROWTH THROUGH PLAY -PT 2**

Matt Johnson

The work continues

## OPTION 75 ADOLESCENCIA. PREPARACIÓN PARA LA VIDA ADULTA

Patti DeLeon

La adolescencia es una etapa de ebullición donde cambios físicos, psicológicos y cognitivos se están gestando en todo momento. Conocer más acerca de estos cambios y estar preparado con estrategias específicas para acompañar a nuestro adolescente es lo que el guía Montessori necesita lograr. En este taller se abordarán las características del adolescente del tercer plano de desarrollo y se propondrán actividades sociales y académicas para apoyarlos a vivir esta etapa en armonía con sus compañeros, guías y padres de familia.

Adolescence is a ebullition stage where physical, psychological and cognitive changes are brewing at all times. Knowing more about these changes and being prepared with specific strategies to accompany our teenager is what the Montessori guide needs to achieve. In this workshop the characteristics of the adolescent of the third level of development will be addressed, and social and academic activities will be proposed to support them to live this stage in harmony with their peers, guides and parents.

SCHOOL SECONDARY

**Noon. Pick up your grab and go lunch  
Remember, you are color coded to pick up the type of lunch you registered to get. Please do not take anyone else's lunch.**

**Join us for our closing, it's quite the peaceful way to appreciate all the hard work you've done this weekend.**

**Thank you for attending our event. See you same place next year.**

Join the IMC prior to registering by using the link that best works for you:

**INDIVIDUAL level is \$60 annually**

<https://www.montessori.org/product/imc-individual-membership/>

**FULL SCHOOL is \$250 annually**

<https://www.montessori.org/product/imc-full-school-membership/>

**ASSOC SCHOOL is \$250 annually**

<https://www.montessori.org/product/imc-school-associate-school-membership-2/>

### CONFERENCE LINKS

Thurs only IMC

<https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/thurs-only-imc175/>

Thurs only Non IMC

<https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/thurs-only-non-imc190/>

Full EVENT with Thurs IMC

<https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/full-event-wthur-for-imc-members590usd/>

Full EVENT with Thurs Non IMC

<https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/full-event-wthur-non-imc-members705/>

Full Conference IMC

<https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/full-conferenceimc415/>

Full Conference NON IMC

<https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/full-conferencenon-imc515/>

Fri only IMC

<https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/friday-only-imc265/>

Fri only Non IMC

<https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/friday-only-non-imc365/>

Saturday Only IMC

<https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/saturday-only-imc205/>

Sat Only NON IMC

<https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/saturday-only-non-imc305/>

DERS/MEFS ONLY No cost

<https://stgiermaine.wufoo.com/forms/thurs-only-ders-training0/>

Many thanks to all who helped The Montessori Foundation with this event.

Katrina Costedio who took Jon Wolff's vision for a logo into graphic design stage.

Jon Wolff, Kathy Leitch, Kitty Bravo, Claire Salkowski, Andrew Kutt, our wonderful Conference Review Committee for helping decide on our presenters this year

Jon Wolff and Kathy Leitch for taking the program to a new level with their insights, wisdoms and humor

Joyce St Giermaine who designed all our exhibitor ads for the website

Carol Danisi from the Hyatt who has kept us as one of only a handful of clients now that she's been promoted

and all of our volunteers for the hours of stuffing registration bags, helping Margot haul it over to the Hyatt, get it set up and cleaned up.

It takes a village to run a conference! Many, many Thanks.