



Hands for Peace International Conference

“Our Piece of Peace”

February 17 & 18, 2023

Kiawah Island Golf Resort, South Carolina

Schedule of Events

Thursday - February 16th

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm Early Conference Check-in

Friday - February 17th

7:00 am Conference Check-in
7:30 am Vendors / Exhibitors Open
8:30 am Opening Ceremony with Daniel Scruggs
8:45 am President's Welcome –Patrick McGlinchy
9:45 am Keynote Address by Mercedes Castle
11:00 - 12:30pm **Session 1**
12:30 – 2:00pm Lunch Buffet & personal time
Buffet closes at 1:45
2:15 -3:45pm **Session 2**
4:00 - 5:30pm **Session 3**
5:45 pm Exhibitors close for the day
7:30 – 10:00pm Social gathering with cash bar

Saturday - February 18th

7:30 am New Arrivals' Conference Check-in
8:00 am Exhibitors / Vendors Open
8:00 am Day's Announcements posted on Message board
9:00 - 10:30 am **Session 4**
10:45 – 11:45 am AGM for all members with graduate recognition
12:00 - 1:00 pm **Session 5**
1:00 - 2:15pm Lunch Buffet
Buffet closes at 1:45
Silent Auction Ends at 1:45
2:15 - 3:45pm **Session 6**
3:45 Silent Auction items ready
Last opportunity to support our Vendors & Exhibitors
4:15 – 5:15 pm **Session 7**
4:30 Vendors /Exhibitors Close for the conference
5:15 Gather for Closing Ceremony



Keynote Speaker

Mercedes Castle

Mercedes is the Head of School at Portland Montessori Collaborative which was founded in 2012. She holds an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership and a B.A. in Biology from the University of California at Santa Cruz.

She received her Infant and Toddler Montessori Teaching Credential from the American Montessori Society and is an Oregon Registry Master Trainer.

Mercedes is an active member of the Oregon Montessori community and served on the Oregon Montessori Association board of directors. She is currently an OMA board member-at-large working with the state to ensure that licensing standards are aligned with Montessori practice.

Mercedes completed the RIE Foundations course in fall of 2013, and in 2014, she co-founded [Heart and Hand Montessori Teacher Education Program](#) to bring high quality Montessori teacher training and professional development to those who work with infants and toddlers.

Mercedes is also a Music Specialist - always having a passion for bringing music into the lives of children.

She is a singer and songwriter and enjoys playing guitar, making up and singing songs for all ages.

Make sure and visit the



Reflection Room

Available at all times during the conference.

A space dedicated for

Calming

Inner Peace

Relaxation

Quiet reflection





We are still at Kiawah but in the brand new

West Beach Conference Center
2 Shipwreck Rd – Kiawah Is, SC 29455

Register Early for best rates
and workshop choices.
Some class sizes are limited

*Registration information can
be found at the end of the
brochure*

Workshops Key

IT- Infant & Toddler

EC- Early Childhood

EL – Elementary

Adol- Adolescent

Adm – Administration

1-A The Hero's Journey for Personal Development Level: All Presented by [Janet Wepner](#)

Learn how to utilize the "Hero's Journey" as laid out by Joseph Campbell for our personal development, spiritual growth and inner preparation as teachers, administrators, and parents.

1-B Pt 1 Re-Thinking the Design of our Montessori Curriculum & Classroom Level: All Presented by [Andrew Kutt](#)

As we look post-pandemic for our schools, how can we apply the new perspectives we have gained, and turn the challenges we've faced into fresh opportunities. The 7 principles of nature's living systems provide us with a blueprint to enable our classrooms, leadership and community eco-systems thrive synergistically. Maria Montessori referred to this as Cosmic education. Sam Chaltain's book "Seed and Spark" provide insights which Andrew will share and invite us to think anew about what's next for our Montessori programs and environments. Music and poetry will be interwoven throughout this 2-part workshop.

1-C The 6th Sense: Making Mindfulness Part of Sensory Learning Level: All Presented by [Renata Faccioli](#)

Participants will discuss current research on and various modalities of mindfulness and how they can inform our practice in the classroom. We will explore techniques and materials to enhance the Sensorial curriculum as it is and collaborate to take new ideas and tools back to our environments While part of this content will focus on Early Childhood curricula, the research and modalities shared will be applicable to Elementary and Adolescent work as well.

1-D Connecting our World through Science Level: EC Presented by [Helen DeVere](#)

Explore facts and activities that involve children and families in learning about our world, see ways to encourage curiosity and understanding of the interconnectedness of all living things in order to help them become responsible stewards for our planet and all life. View ideas for teaching botany and zoology in a PowerPoint presentation and handout and see actual materials for ideas. Discussion for sharing ideas will be encouraged.

1-E Part 1 - Abundance as a Communal Act Level: All Presented by [Claire Salkowski](#)

Community doesn't just create abundance – community IS abundance, says renowned author and educator Parker Palmer. In both small and large group we will explore the ways to live with abundance amidst the creation of community and recognize this lesson from the natural world in the hopes that we might find ways to transform the human world in which we each exist and "give ourselves to the abiding and abundant grace of our common life." We will explore poetry, journaling and other activities with the themes: 1) Seasonal Metaphors and Lessons for our Life, 2) Abundance vs Scarcity Perspective and Positions, 3) How to live in Abundance and 4) Community as Abundance.

1-F Caring for Yourself and Your Brain Level: All Presented by [Warren McPherson](#)

The rigors of teaching demand optimal health. More recent research has led to a consensus as to what practices lead to sustained health and prevention of chronic diseases. Brain health is an important part of this new paradigm.

12:30 – 2:00 pm (Buffet closes at 1:45 pm)

Friday **LUNCH BUFFET** is included with your paid conference registration.

The fee for all others is \$20. (advance reservation required for paid lunches)

We hope you will join us for a delicious buffet in a relaxing atmosphere
with your friends

Spa Luncheon

- Grilled Vegetable Gazpacho
- Field Greens with Baby Heirloom Tomatoes, Ciliegine Mozzarella balls, Balsamic Vinegar and Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- Roasted Eggplant Caponata & Garlic Crostini
- Chargrilled Zucchini with Watercress, Roasted Red Peppers & Feta Cheese
- Asian Noodles with Roasted Broccoli, Golden Tofu & Sweet Soy Ginger Dressing
- Tandoori Shrimp with Cucumbers, Tomatoes & Yogurt Dressing
- Ginger Cilantro Chicken Salad with Mandarin Oranges & Toasted Almonds
- Roasted Turkey Panini with Shaved Radicchio, Avocado & Lemon Basil Aioli
- Mojito Fruit Salad with Rum Mint Dressing & Toasted Coconut
- Fresh baked breads & butter
- Key lime tart or Chocolate Brownie
- Freshly Brewed Iced Tea & chilled water



2-A**Self Care – How to Balance our Energy** Level : All Presented by [Janet Wepner](#)

By utilizing the work of Dr Barbara A Brenna, we will find concrete ways to clear and balance our energy field (aka aura). Learn techniques to ground, to strengthen your boundaries, and to open your chakras for the purpose of overall health and wellness.

2-B**Pt 2 - Re-Thinking the Design of our Montessori Leadership & Community.** Level: All Presented by [Andrew Kutt](#)

As we look post-pandemic for our schools, how can we apply the new perspectives we have gained, and turn the challenges we've faced into fresh opportunities. The 7 principles of nature's living systems provide us with a blueprint to enable our classrooms, leadership and community eco-systems thrive synergistically. Maria Montessori referred to this as Cosmic education. Sam Chaltain's book "Seed and Spark" provide insights which Andrew will share and invite us to think anew about what's next for our Montessori programs and environments. Music and poetry will be interwoven throughout this 2-part workshop.

2-C**Training a Key Team Player: The Montessori Assistant** Level: All Presented by [Carrie Allen](#)

Discuss, collaborate, and plan how to train your assistant. Whether an assistant is starting out new to Montessori or is experienced, they will benefit from newly inspired ideas. Through discussion, learn effective professional development approaches on how to design hands-on adult learning activities that build relevant experiences for gaining greater understanding. Learn to focus an overview that discusses three major components: Philosophy & Practice, Role of the Adult, and Classroom

2-D**Resolving Conflicts with Parents** Level: / EC / Admin Presented by [Jayanthi Rajagopalan & Anahita Farooq](#)

As Montessori guides or heads of schools, often our biggest challenge is dealing with parents. A small slip up on our part could sometimes turn a somewhat minor grievance into a full-blown conflict. In such situations, we often question our professional ability as educators and our passion for teaching. Come to our hands-on workshop and walk away with some handy tips on how to resolve conflict with parents amicably and perhaps even have some fun.

2-E**Part 2 - Abundance as a Communal Act** Level: All Presented by [Claire Salkowski](#)

Continuing from Part 1 of this workshop ~ Community doesn't just create abundance – community IS abundance., says renowned author and educator Parker Palmer. In both small and large group we will explore the ways to live with abundance amidst the creation of community and recognize this lesson from the natural world in the hopes that we might find ways to transform the human world in which we each exist and "give ourselves to the abiding and abundant grace of our common life." We will explore poetry, journaling and other activities with the themes: 1) Seasonal Metaphors and Lessons for our Life, 2) Abundance vs Scarcity Perspective and Positions, 3) How to live in Abundance and 4) Community as Abundance.

2-F**Erikson, Kohlberg, and Montessori** Level: All Presented by [Daniel Howe](#)

This workshop will explore Montessori through a comparison of other developmental psychologists. More specifically, key tenets of Montessori will be addressed through the lens of Kohlberg's Stages of Moral Development and Erikson's Stages of Psychosocial Development. This presentation is meant to provide a non-Montessori support for Montessori practices as they relate to the whole child development.

3-A **Social Justice Through Bilingual Education** Level : EC / EL Presented by [Karen Simon](#)

This workshop will deepen the capacity and expertise of Montessori teachers serving Spanish-speaking children in bilingual classrooms. We will focus on language development, dual literacy, culturally relevant and globally competent teaching, and strong family connections. We will present ideas on how to develop a strong and healthy pride in heritage of Spanish-speaking children and how to involve parents and family members in this endeavor.

3-B **Why Montessori schools have become more and more popular** Level: EL / AD Presented by [Daniel Jutras](#)

We will be exploring reasons to continue in Montessori starting by recognizing the exceptionally inspirational and stubborn Maria Montessori and her approach to education. This includes the awareness of modern parents, the foundations for children to will, to think and to act by themselves, as well as the current recognition of the scientific community.

3-C **Temporary Labyrinths** Level: All Presented by [Beth Langley](#)

This workshop will offer a variety of ideas and a plethora of materials for creating temporary labyrinths for school and classroom use or for enjoying at home or in community with others. Making and using labyrinths are excellent pathways for self discovery, teambuilding, curriculum enhancement, and more! Everyone will have opportunities to learn to draw labyrinths, work in small groups, and perhaps build a beach labyrinth.

3-D **Festivals from around the World: Celebrating Diversity** Level: EC Presented by [Jyanthi Rajagopalan & Anahita Farooq](#)

We live in a world that is interconnected like never before. Our children interact with people from diverse cultures and religions. They come from a place of great compassion, tolerance and appreciation. What better way to teach young minds to embrace our oneness than by giving them a glimpse of world's several festivals and celebrations? Join us on a journey of discovery and wonder as we share some of our experiences at our schools.

3-E **Who's in Charge: Managing Elementary Planning** Level : EL Presented by [Rose Dorer](#)

Rose will help you manage planning in your elementary classroom: how to follow the children's planes of development, sensitive periods human needs and tendencies; and weekly and daily scheduling. Lesson planning along with how to give good lessons and presentations and effective follow up work. Sample planning forms will be shown. Time management through organizing the Great Period, open lesson policy, group lessons, key lesson and more will all be discussed along with mindfulness activities such as making Silence on a daily basis.

3-F **Art: A Vehicle for a Peaceful Classroom** Level: EC / EL Presented by [Antoinette Ursits](#)

The past few years have solidified my conviction to include art lessons in our weekly work. Through art, children can develop and maintain quietness, peacefulness and a sense of purpose. I will share my experiences with including art in my classroom, outside of student's regular art class, and how it affects classroom management and normalization. I'll share tips, techniques, and popular activities that have been successful and that can be easily adapted to any classroom environment.

Friday **Session 1** Presenters' Bios listed in order of presentation

1-A Janet Wepner [®] is a mother of two young children and an office admin assistant and substitute teacher at Montessori at Sandy Ford in North Carolina. She is a trained healing arts professional along with many years of teaching. she first discovered Joseph Campbell's work in 2000, and began facilitating for the summer journey intensives for the Hero's Journey Foundation in 2012.

1-B Andrew Kutt is the founder of the Oneness Family School in MD. He has been in Montessori for over 30 years as a teacher, administrator, teacher trainer and consultant. He is the author of "Living in Harmony" and carries his guitar with him everywhere! He is a composer and has written many original songs which can be found on his website www.andrewkuttmusic.com

1-C - Renata Faccioli is a Montessori parent, guide and school leader. She loves coaching new assistants and teachers in training, supporting parents, sharing wonder with children, and consulting for families and schools. Certified at the Primary level, she has worked with children from toddlers to teens in home, school and community center settings for over fifteen years. She currently serves as an instructional coach & Positive Discipline instructor at ToTH Montessori in Washington D.C..

1-D - Helen Devere has been director of the Orlando Montessori Teacher Education Institute for early childhood studies in FL since 1990. She has a degree in Elem Ed from U of Connecticut and a Master's degree in early childhood/elementary education from Antioch New England Graduate School. Helen completed her AMS certification in Boston and her lower elementary training in NH. She has been in the classroom at both levels. She founded Heritage Montessori School in CA and co-founded the Montessori School of Celebration in FL. Helen also served 3 terms on the Board of Directors for MACTE. She spends her current time directing and teaching in the US, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan along with enjoying her growing grandchildren.

1-E - Claire Salkowski is the Principal Consultant for CJ Consulting and Services, an ADR (Alternate Dispute Resolution) practitioner and a Montessori educator having worked as a school founder, teacher, administrator, accreditation specialist, teacher trainer and presenter, nationally and internationally for over 40 years. She was also the Director of the Montessori Education Program at Delaware State University and Mediation and Educational Programs at the North Baltimore Center of Mosaic Community Services and currently continues serving with several Montessori and ADR organizations. She is MEPI's Accreditation Chair and the Peace and Social Justice Chair.

1-F - Warren McPherson is a lifelong Montessori educator, trainer, and consultant. He and his wife founded Athens Montessori School in Georgia for ages 3 through 15 where they both taught and directed for over 50 years. Warren is a past President of MEPI and currently served on the Board of the Council of Elders for MEPI.

Friday **Session 2** Presenter Bios *listed in order of presentation*

2-A - Janet Wepner – please see above under [1-A](#)

2-B - Andrew Kutt - please above under [1-B](#)

2-C - Carrie Allen Carrie Allen is currently the Director of the Montessori Teacher Training Program at Loch Haven in Orlando, FL; an MEPI affiliated MACTE program. She holds a BS and AA degrees in Early Childhood Education and is a credentialed Early Childhood Montessorian through the National Center for Montessori Education. Carrie is also a member of the first CGMS Leadership cohort and is excited about the new opportunities that continue to develop in the Montessori community. She is active in the early childhood and Montessori communities as a trainer, consultant, and advisor. She will be assuming the role of Executive Coordinator for MEPI in the Spring.

2-D- Jayanthi Raqaqopalan has been a trainer for over 22 years with the Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute. She is the Director of a Montessori school which serves children to upper elementary in Toronto, Canada for the past 18 years.

2-D- Anahita Farooq has been a trainer for 16 years with the Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute. She is also the Director of two school in Toronto, Canada which serves children 18 months to 6 years of age.

2-E - Claire Salkowski Please see her bio above under [1-E](#)

2-F- Robin Howe – Dr Robin Howe began his journey at 2 years of age as a student and returned to start his professional career as a Montessori educator, obtaining multiple levels of Montessori training and graduate degrees. He currently works with the Montessori Foundation as a Senior Consultant and works with other Montessori organizations such as Sarasota University, Loyola University and Bridgemont International School.

Friday Session 3 Presenter Bios *listed in order of presentation*

3-A - Karen Simon— Karen Simon has been a Montessori educator for over 25 years, teaching children 2 ½ - 12 years old, as well as adults. She was born and raised in Venezuela and has lived in the United States since the mid- 1970's. Karen holds AMS credentials for Early Childhood and Elementary I-II. She has worked in teacher education at all three levels and is currently involved in making Montessori teacher education more accessible in Spanish. She is a faculty member of several teacher education programs, Chair of the MACTE Board of Directors, as well as a Bilingual Specialist for the National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector.

3-B – Daniel Jutras is the Director of the Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute and coordinator of eleven MACTE Accredited Montessori training centers. Author, presenter, trainer, he is the product of his own training in Italy under the special assistant of Maria Montessori herself with whom she worked with for 22 years. Such a heritage to share. Dr Jutras returns to share his special insights on Montessori as we move forward into a somewhat uncertain future.

3-C – Beth Langley – M.E. (Beth) Langley is a teacher at heart, and began presenting at conferences on a variety of subjects in 1999. After one of those conferences, about fifteen years ago, Beth was introduced to labyrinths by a Montessori exhibitor. She began studying them, walking them, and participating in workshops. Soon this calling from the labyrinth became her passion. Labyrinths are a versatile tool with adaptations for a variety of activities and purposes from peace education, self-awareness, and creative expression to conflict resolution, community building and ceremonies are easily incorporated into Montessori environments. Beth has developed and facilitated workshops, lectured, designed and constructed labyrinths in the US, as well as Mexico, Canada, and Croatia for Montessori teachers, gardeners, art educators, health practitioners, and labyrinth enthusiasts. In 2007, following years at the Montessori School of Camden, Beth began working for the Institute for Guided Studies, and became a Veriditas certified labyrinth facilitator in 2010. While that may seem like two unrelated subjects, labyrinths and Montessori are natural companions. Beth believes an important element of Montessori teacher education is the element of personal transformation. The shift from being a teacher “in charge” of a classroom to becoming the lead protector of the environment and guide to the curriculum is critical to implementation of authentic Montessori. Personal transformation begins with self-evaluation and that begins with self-examination. By sharing her love of labyrinths during presentations and ceremonies at conferences, Beth has facilitated opportunities for participants to look within, celebrate their journeys, and plan their next steps. She has served on the board of MEPI and The Labyrinth Society and currently serves on the board of the South Carolina Montessori Alliance. She holds a Montessori credential at the early childhood level and a BA from Columbia College.

3-D Jayanthi Rajagopalan & Anahita Farooq—Please see above under **2-D**

3-E Rose Dorer did Graduate Study in Administrative Licensure: Education at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Winona, MN, completed in January 2001. She received a Master of Arts in Education from Saint Catherine University, St. Paul, MN, in 1997 and also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry. Rose has been a presenter at several American Montessori Conferences, on the topics of Elementary Montessori Language, and Biology. She has presented at an Australian Montessori Conference, and the Montessori Foundation/International Montessori Council Conference, MEPI conferences, the Polish Montessori Society, the Jakarta Montessori Conference. For over 20 years she taught adults at the post-graduate level as an adjunct faculty member for Saint Catherine University in Minnesota, Westminster College in Utah, and Virginia Montessori Teacher Education Center, Chesapeake, VA.

3-F Antoinette Ursits has been teaching in Montessori for over 20 years. She hold both Early Childhood and Elementary Montessori credentials as well as a Masters in Early Childhood Education, a SC State Teaching Certificate and a SC Montessori 1 Teaching Certificate. While teaching in a Montessori school in Pawley's Island she became aware of the necessity of including Art in the classroom. In 2011, she found herself on the Founding board for Coastal Montessori Charter School where she continues teaching in a Lower Elementary classroom.

4-A The Roll of MACTE Accreditation Level Adm/ All Presented by [Rebecca Pelton](#)

The Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) is the only nationally recognized accreditor for teacher education by the US Dept of Education. What does that mean for you? For your program? For your graduates? To the Public? And why seek MACTE accreditation? Dr Pelton will help us understand the importance and the role accreditation plays in the quality of our programs. Time will be spent on the process of accreditation and how you can be actively involved in that process. In addition, time will be given to participants for an “ask us anything”. Please come and join this important conversation.

4-B The Logical Path in Montessori Math Level: AC / EL Presented by [Michael Dorer & Shanna Honan](#)

Have you ever wondered how properly setting up math shelves can help you understand scope and sequence? Join Michael and Shanna for a dynamic session decoding the various “strands” of Montessori arithmetic. Learn the secrets of the decimal system, the “five Laws”, the passage to abstraction, proficiency with basic facts, and the aims of materials that teach the four operations. Come let Michael and Shanna share the answers to these questions and many more.

4-C Having Fun with Phonetic Grammar Level: EC/EL Presented by [Bobbe Spink](#)

Beginning phonetic readers need lots of fun practice to develop reading mastery. The Montessori Phonetic Grammar Curriculum with its grammar games, verb commands, enticing reading project (think farm, cabin, etc.) and more, provide a truly fun way to get that practice and to start to absorb grammar concepts sensorially. Learn about the lessons, try them out, and leave with a detailed handout to help you implement your own Montessori phonetic grammar curriculum.

4-D Preparedness through the Fundamental Needs Level: ALL Presented by [Erica Santana & Joen Patton](#)

Recent natural, manmade, and accidental events have indicated how vital it is for children to learn preparedness for real life. Through the Fundamental Needs lessons, educators can give their students a meaningful way to connect their learning while teaching skills that will improve their everyday lives as well as preparedness for possible emergency situations. Attendees will learn how to tie several knots and participate in a few activities and games to promote mindfulness. The knowledge from this presentation will help educators teach children to become self-sufficient, prepared citizens. We are reawakening the Fundamental Needs of Humans through connections of useful, practical life activities!

4-E Sensory Needs Post-Pandemic. Let’s Get Moving! Level: All Presented by [Holli Andrews](#)

After the pandemic, it is obvious that more children are struggling to focus their attention, keep their hands to themselves, retain information, and/or regulate their emotions. Elaboration on why all these observed behaviors could have their “root” in a sensory system needing more input. We will discuss why the “post-pandemic child” may need even more adaptations. Movement ideas to incorporate in your classroom will be presented.

4-F Improvisation for the Classroom Level: EL / Adol Presented by [Warren McPherson](#)

Learn and play improvisation games for the Elementary and Middle School classroom. Improvisation teaches commitment, partnership and mindfulness.

5-A Can PBIS Work at our Montessori School? Level : EL/AD/ADM Presented by [Stephanie Babcock-Wright & Katherine Morrison -Davis](#) Montessori and PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support) go hand in hand conceptually but what about in practice? Does the official PBIS framework allow our Montessori schools to remain true to their missions and operate with fidelity to the Montessori Model? We share our multi-year experience in becoming the only Montessori charter school in Georgia with a flourishing PBIS program.

5-B Montessori Alumna turned Montessori Teacher Level: ALL Presented by [Athena Reynolds & Tracie Kinder](#) A discussion based on the perspective of a Montessori student turned teacher who first became involved in Montessori at the age of 3 and now teaching at the age of 48. Come with questions to put in a jar and answers will be given randomly. Presented with this unique perspective, some interesting and perhaps surprising answers will be forthcoming.

5-C Stepping into Administration Level: ALL Presented by [Denise Harold](#) Moving our practice forward: Preparation of Self for the role of Administrator. A big step forward!

5-D The Parent Experience – Building a Culture of Community Level: ALL Presented by [Malai Roper & Dr Simone Mori-Reed](#) Community is essential to the Montessori classroom. Join us for a synergetic session where we will explore ways to build community through parent partnership. During this session, participants will engage in meaningful conversation around parent communication. Participants will also work together to develop strategies that will support creating a culture of collaboration with families in each unique classroom setting.

5-E Road Tripping Across the USA Level EC/EL Presented by [Ginny Burt](#) Grab your camera and hop in our VW bus for a trip across the country! You will leave this workshop inspired to make cultural units come alive for your students. We will share authentic and meaningful STEAM activities, research projects, and funding opportunities We will also share how to host a healthy and safe road trip festival. There will be laughter, inspiration, tools and swag bags!

5-F Big Questions: How can we use IBL in Secondary Classes Level : Adol Presented by [Tamela Mills](#) The 3-period lesson doesn't end with young children. Developing engaging lessons and units for the Adolescent classroom can blend traditional, such as Inquiry-based learning, and Montessori elements, like the 3 period lessons. Participants are invited to share their own ideas, strategies, and success stories with peers.

5-G Pre-Reading and Pre-Math for the Primary Classroom Level: EC Presented by [Melissa Reese](#) Pre-reading and Pre-math skills are a must for all young children. However, the question remains, how do we provide these skills for children before they are ready for hands-on materials? The answer is pre-reading and pre-math skills lessons. If you are struggling to give these lessons, your lessons need sprucing up, or you are looking for new ideas to present pre-reading and pre-math lessons, then this session is for you.

1:00 – 2:15 pm (Buffet closes at 1:45 pm)

Saturday **LUNCH BUFFET** is included with your paid conference registration.

The fee for all others is \$20. (advance reservation required for paid lunches)

We hope you will join us for a delicious buffet in a relaxing atmosphere
with your friends

Buddha Bowl Luncheon

- Seared Salmon Fillets
- Grilled Chicken Breast
- Marinated Tofu
- Quinoa ~ Farro ~ Brown Rice
- Marinated Chick Peas ~ Black Beans ~ Green Lentils ~ Edamame
- Roasted Sweet Potatoes
- Shaved marinated Red Cabbage ~ Pickled Carrots
- Roasted Corn Salad
- Kale Chips ~ Pita Chips
- Fresh baked breads & butter
- Bourbon Pecan Tart or Carrot Cake Bite
- Freshly Brewed Iced Tea & chilled water



Silent Auction closes at 1:45pm

- 6-A** **Fun Connections with Music & Culture** Level : ALL Presented by [Daniel Scruggs & Cynthia Swenson](#)
Music & Culture are a fun way to engage students, pique curiosity and foster a love of learning. We will explore teaching tools that utilize music, culture and story to share lessons that engage and inspire. We will learn through: Rhythms of the World, Instrument building and demonstrations, Geographical and Cultural connections, Exploration of musical, cultural & linguistic migration, Research overview of music's effect on well being., and Selecting instruments for your classroom.
- 6 –B** **Excuse Me! Grace & Courtesy at all Levels** Level: EC / EL / Adol Presented by [Michael Dorer & Robin Howe](#)
What is Grace & Courtesy? Does it really matter? Join Michael & Robin in exploring the “why’s and how’s” of grace and courtesy beginning with Early Childhood then emphasizing the elementary and adolescent students. Clear examples will be offered of how elements of grace and courtesy extend into all three planes. We will focus on how to incorporate these components to help students navigate positively in the wider world.
- 6-C** **Renew & Re-energize our Role as Montessori Guides** Level: ALL Presented by [Melody Mosby & Heather Mosby](#)
As Montessori educators, we know the importance of preparing an environment that genuinely serves the needs of the child and the adolescent. Dr Montessori also asks the adult guide to give that same attention and care to their own self-preparation. Join this workshop to renew and reflect upon our self-preparation that must precede all other work in our practice.
- 6-D** **Infant Toddler Roundtable Discussion** Level: IT Presented by [Kristie Norwood](#)
Guided and facilitated by an IT certified director, the challenges and rewards of working with Infants and Toddlers will be discussed during this interactive session. We learn best practices from our peers and gain support while we work on our classroom management, interactions, and joys and frustrations this age group presents.
- 6-E** **Introduction to MEPI Accreditation** Level: AD Presented by [Claire Salkowski & John Moncure](#)
This workshop introduces attendees to the process of school accreditation and the benefits to your administration, staff, and parents.
- 6-F** **Opening a Public Montessori Charter including Secondary** Level: All Presented by [Amy Horn & Sarah Fox](#)
Presenters will discuss the ins and outs of opening a Montessori Charter School and designing and implanting a public adolescent program that meets the needs of their unique student population. How does one go about developing a public program? What are some of the benefits of the public - school setting? What do we wish we had known before we began this journey?

7-A **Drum as One** **Level: ALL** **Presented by [Daniel Scruggs](#)**

An interactive journey in rhythm that celebrates the richness and uniqueness of different cultures throughout our world. Participants are provided professional grade “djembe” style drums and introduced to different traditional rhythms from various ancient and contemporary cultures of the world. This fully facilitated drumming experience includes components of team building, mindfulness, group empowerment and self expression. This activity is inclusive for all populations & appropriate for individuals with no prior musical experience.

7-B **Going Up! The Montessori Elevator Pitch** **Level: ALL** **Presented by [Deb Cryier](#)**

We know Montessori education. When someone says, “I work at a Montessori school”, we know what that entails and what to expect as the conversation develops. But, in order to move Montessori forward, we have to be able to define our programs or roles as Montessorians quickly and in common terms to ANYONE who inquires.

7-C **Montessori Adolescent Education –How are we Doing?** **Level: Adol** **Presented by [Melody Mosby](#) & [Heather Mosby](#)**

The 4th Plane of Development has its own joys and frustrations. Come with your questions, challenges, and successes as we strive to meet the needs of today's adolescent in our Montessori Environments. Montessori Adolescent Practitioners Melody Mosby and Heather Mosby will facilitate the discussion.

7-D **Make a Joyful Sound with Finger Plays & Rhymes** **Level: IT** **Presented by [Meredith Hines](#)**

Finger plays are valuable activities that help children acquire skills that are essential to their development and learning. They help improve and advance memory and language skills, while also aiding in the development of eye-hand coordination and enhancing their gross and fine motor skills. This workshop will provide a refresher on how to deliver fun and exciting finger plays and rhymes for your younger students.

7-E **Hmm – Hummus? Health and Nutrition in the Montessori Classroom** **Level: ALL** **Presented by [Bobbi Brown-Flannery](#) & [Jane Miller](#)**

Modeling and teaching nutrition in the Montessori environment, this workshop will be all about discussing ways to incorporate a 3 part snack into the 3 hour work cycle. Ideas and examples of food experiences will be offered. We will demonstrate ways to introduce children to foods like hummus, using positive language and encouragement

7-F **Filling in the Missing Piece with Community Meetings** **Level: ALL** **Presented by [Christina Miller](#)**

Parent participation and knowledge of Montessori is essential for a high quality Montessori program. Come explore how one public Montessori program implements community meetings to increase parent involvement.

7-G **How to Become a Confident School with a Confident Mindset** **Level: EC / EL/ Adm** **Presented by [Victoria Righter](#) & [Namita Prasad](#)**

In a post-pandemic world, our students need quality social and emotional learning programs now more than ever. Unlike traditional, reactive SEL programs, A confident mindset provides PreK – 8th grade student with a proactive and systemic approach to becoming confident by approaching new opportunities with a “why not” attitude. Learn about this program that cultivates a culture of confident throughout the entire school and community.

Saturday **Session 4** Presenters' Bios *listed in order of presentation*

4-A Dr Rebecca Pelton is the President of the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE). MACTE serves as the national accreditor for Montessori teacher preparation programs and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Rebecca has been active in the area of teacher program accreditation for the past 16 years. Prior to her work with MACTE, she served as the Vice President for Membership for the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC). She has presented at many national conferences and participated in over sixty on-site visits preparing for teacher program accreditation. Rebecca earned her B.A. in Music Education from Alma College and went on to teach in public and private schools for 20 years. She earned her M.Ed. from Bowling Green State University in Education with an endorsement in Gifted Education and continued to teach, as well as develop a number of programs in gifted education and gifted enrichment. She earned her doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Delaware. Her tenure at MACTE is based on commitment to supporting Montessori teacher preparation and thereby improving the educational experience of Montessori students.

4-B – Michael Dorer Ed.D., is a Senior Consultant in the Montessori Foundation and Executive Director of Sarasota University's Montessori programs. He is AMI, AMS and Independent credentialed. His pedagogical interests include imagination, holism, classroom leadership, cosmic education, mathematics, storytelling and more. He has authored "**The Deep Well of Time: The Transformative Power of Storytelling in the Classroom**" and his latest, "**Hatching the Cosmic Egg**". Michael recently received the International Montessori Award for 'Outstanding Contribution to Montessori in Practice' from Montessori Center International (MCI). This is Michael's 50th year of activity in Montessori.

4-B – Shanna Honan is owner of Chesapeake Montessori School and Program Director for the Virginia Montessori Teacher Education Center. She holds a Masters of Art in Education and is Montessori certified in Early Childhood through upper elementary.

4-C – Bobbe Spink founded her 1st school in TN in 1973 and has since taught at early childhood through upper Elementary levels. She has been a head of school for over 40 years and a teacher trainer for St Nicholas Center and for the Institute for Guided Studies under MEPI. Since 2017, she has enjoyed working in private and public Montessori schools and serving on the board of Montessori Association of NC. She is also a field consultant for the Center for Guided Montessori Studies.

4-D - Erica Santana has been an educator in the Montessori field for more than a decade; working with toddlers and primary with the main focus being in lower elementary. She is passionate about making sure each child is getting an authentic Montessori experience and enjoys observing the Montessori process at each level. After overseeing an elementary program, she was excited for bigger overview projects. She began to consult as an accreditation coordinator and then as an education director. She has founded The Montessori Journey LLC to create unique and comprehensive material and assist with accreditations and program bridge building. She's presented at multiple conferences, created and designed curriculum, trained teachers, and written articles. She loves storytelling – especially when dressing up and inspiring everyone around her.

4-D – Joen Patton has a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Prior to pursuing a career in Montessori, she worked as a paralegal with a focus on immigration. Her roots as a Montessori child led her away from the legal field to becoming a Montessori teacher. Initially beginning as an assistant in a Primary class then moving to teaching Lower Elementary. She currently homeschools her 2 children.

4-E Holli Andrews MEd, has been in Montessori education for over 20 years. She has directed a school, worked as a teacher trainer, and recently was the Keynote speaker for the SC Montessori Alliance Conference. She currently lives in Charlotte, NC and works as a Learning Specialist at Omni Montessori School.

4-F– Warren McPherson Please see above under 1-F

Saturday Session 5 Presenters' Bios listed in order of presentation

5-A Stephanie Babock-Wright & Katherine Morrison-Davis serve as Head of Montessori Curriculum & Instruction and Executive Director, respectively, at Coastal Empire Montessori Charter School, the only Montessori charter school in Georgia. Both are certified educators who continue to teach while heading the school's instructional leadership team. Both are enthusiastic Montessorians; Katherine has a MACTE accredited certificate in Early Childhood, Lower Elementary and Leadership, and Stephanie has engaged in numerous and varied Montessori professional development over the years. They have worked together for almost a decade and both remain intensely committed to advancing the reach of public Montessori in their community and beyond.

5-B – Athena Reynolds was a Montessori student at the school in which she became certified and subsequently taught. She has been involved with Montessori for 44 years and became certified under MEPI in 2011 at the Early Childhood level.

5-B – Tracie Kinder is an Early Childhood director and received her MEPI EC certification in 2011.

5-C – Denise Harold has worked in Montessori education for nearly 20 years as an assistant, lead teacher, teacher trainer, parenting coach and school director. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing and Management and a Master of Education Degree in Early Childhood Education with a concentration in Montessori Education. She earned her EC teaching credential from the Pan American Montessori Society (PAMS) and became a trainer for PAMS to help others become Montessori teachers.

5-D – Malai Roper holds a Montessori, MACTE accredited Elementary certificate from MEPI. She has a Master's degree in Elementary education and an Education Specialist degree in Educational Leadership from Cambridge College.

5-D – Simone Mori-Reed has her Montessori Elementary certification from MEPI, a MACTE accredited course. She has her Master's degree in Divergent Learning from Columbia College and a Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of South Carolina.

5-E Ginny Burt is celebrating her 18th year of leading a Montessori environment in a public primary school in South Carolina. She holds 3-6 credentials from CMT/NY, and 6-9 credentials from IMC. She enjoys creating elaborate charcuterie boards and hosting dinners. Bicycling at charity bike rides with her husband and with the youth mountain biking league takes up some of her spare time.

5-F Tamela Mills is an Instructional guide for secondary programs of CGMS and an Adolescent Lead Teacher for Harbour Oaks Montessori School in Georgia. She is certified in Adolescent/Secondary through MEPI and AMI and holds a Master degree in Montessori Leadership.

5-G – Melissa Reese is a 12 year public school educator, with the last 6 years spent in Public Montessori in Charleston. She completed her undergraduate and postgraduate work at Penn State, with a focus on Early Childhood and Curriculum. In 2019, she was an honor role member and runner-up for Charleston County's Teacher of the Year. She is a believer in Public Montessori and helping families advocate for their child. She currently works at Frierson Elementary School.

5-G – Heather Grant has taught Kindergarten, 1st grade and was the Early Childhood lead teacher for the Gifted and Talented Department. She decided to become Montessori trained because it is a philosophy she truly believes in. She, too, works at Frierson Elementary School.

(con't) Saturday Session 6 Presenters' Bios *listed in order of presentation*

6-A Daniel Scruggs created Peace Culture Music to share his interactive cultural enrichment programs featuring artifacts, dozens of drums and over 150 rare musical instruments from around the world. All Peace Culture offerings are aligned with state and national standards of learning in music, history, and social sciences. Workshops have been shared in schools and communities throughout and world for 20 years across the US as well as Canada, Ghana and Egypt.

6-A Cynthia Swenson is the founder and director of Project OKURASE in the US. She received her PhD in clinical psychology from FL State University in 1971. Currently she is Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in the Division of Global and Family Health at the Medical University in So Carolina. She and other passionate Montessorians founded Sundrops Montessori in Okurase Village in Ghana. She is a longtime friend and mentor of Daniel Scruggs working with him to augment portions of his presentation.

6-B- Michael Dorer Please see above under 4-B

6-B- Robin Howe Please see above under 2-F

6-C - Melody Mosby is a lifetime Montessorian with 40+ years experience as a practitioner for the young child and the adolescent in Montessori education. She holds the AMI advanced elementary diploma and Secondary Montessori Certification from MEPI. She is the program director for MEPI's Secondary Adolescent training. She has been a frequent presenter at our conferences facilitating workshops that specializes in the transformation of the Montessori Guide.

6-C - Heather Mosby holds a bachelors in Sociology and has her MEPI Secondary Adolescent Certification. She is the lead teacher in the Adolescent program at Athens Montessori School in GA and co-directs MEPI's Secondary Adolescent training program.

6-D - Kristie Norwood - has been involved in Montessori environments since 2003. She worked at the Institute for Guided Studies as Director of Student Affairs and has completed the Infant Toddler Montessori training under MEPI.

6-E- Claire Salkowski Please see above under 1-E.

6-E- John Monciure was head of school at the Montessori School of Camden for 16 years until his retirement. A retired army colonel, he holds a Ph.D. in European History from Cornell University and is the director of the Administrator Course offered by the Institute for Guided Studies under MEPI.

6-F- Amy Horn is Director of Lowcountry Montessori School She has a BA and MA in Health Promotion and Behavior from UGA and an add on credential in Educational Leadership, a Lower Elementary Montessori credential and has completed her Montessori Administrator Credential from HMC.

6-F- Sarah Fox is currently one of the Assistant Directors at Lowcountry Montessori School, a state public charter school in Beaufort, South Carolina serving students 3 years through high school. She has an AMS Montessori Administrator's Credential and a BS in Psychology with a minor in Sociology.

(con't) **Saturday Session 7 Presenters' Bios** *listed in order of presentation*

7-A – Daniel Scruags Please see above under **6-A**

7-B - Deb Cyrier is Head of School at the Montessori School of Camden in South Carolina. She holds a Masters Degree in Education from Xavier University , Principal Licensure from Indiana Wesleyan University and AMS Early Childhood and Elementary I-II credentials. She has presented at AMS, United Montessori School of Indiana and Magnet Schools of America Conferences among others. Prior to moving to South Carolina, she was actively involved in advocacy work for Montessori education as a board member of United Montessori Schools of Indiana and was instrumental in getting the MACTE Montessori credential recognized by the Indiana Department of Education as a pathway to licensure. She has taught at both the primary and elementary levels and lead the work of South Bend Community School Corporation in its establishment of a public Montessori magnet program prior to relocating. She has been involved in teacher education and is an active member of the AMS community. A Montessori child herself, she has three daughters that are also Montessori students.

7-C - Melody & Heather Mosby Please see above under **6-C**

7-D - Meredith Hines has been employed by the Montessori School of Camden since 1996. She is dual certified in both Infant/Toddler and Early Childhood through MEPI. She serves as the Early Childhood director at the school. In her spare time she has served as Guardian Ad Litem for 6 years in South Carolina and enjoys a thriving bakery business specializing in cookies and cupcakes.

7-E - Bobbi Brown-Flannery is the Director of Still Water Montessori School in South Carolina. Out of 25 years teaching, the last 12 have been spent in a Montessori environment. She has her Bachelor of Science in Family Studies from the U of Arizona and her Masters in EC education. She is a past MEPI Board member and has presented at previous MEPI conferences numerous times.

7-F - Christina Miller has been in a public Early Childhood program for 13 years. She graduated from Lander University with a Masters in Early Childhood Montessori. Her goal is to continue to create and promote authentic Montessori in the public sector.

7-G - Victoria Righter is a retired educator with over 30 years experience She served as an elementary principal, middle school principal, and teacher in Michigan. Her education includes a Bachelors Degree in Psychology and Communications, a Master's Degree in Elementary Education and an Educational Specialist Degree in Administration. As a mother of 2, she has the understanding of both a parent and an educator. Her passion is to share insight to help develop confidence in others.

7-G - Namita Prasad is a Confidence Educator, evolving mother, and entrepreneur. Possessing a confident mindset has changed her life course helping her overcome many trials and tribulations of her personal and professional life.

Registration Information

All registrations are done on-line at: <http://www.mepiinc.com/>

RATES ARE HONORED TO Jan 15th. After Jan 15th, rates increase \$100.

You need to be an individual (not school) member to register at the member rate.

Jan 16 – Feb. 1, 2023

MEPI Membership	\$60	
Full Conference – member rate	\$300	\$400
Full – non member	\$380	\$480
1 Day Conference – member rate	\$260	\$360
1 Day -non-member	\$330	\$430
Montessori Intern	\$235	\$335

Paid registrations include lunch(s)

Registration CLOSES on Feb. 1, 2023

Payments received after Feb. 1, 2023 will result in a \$25 monthly late fee.

See our [Cancellation Policy](#) at the end of the brochure.

Lodging Information

West Beach Conference Center ~ Kiawah Island Golf Resort

2 Shipwreck Rd, Kiawah Island, SC 29455

MEPI Reservation rates are good through **Jan 15, 2023 - or until filled**

Villas have full kitchen, washer/dryer, free Wi-Fi and parking

1 bedroom Scenic Villa	\$126/night
2 bedroom Scenic Villa	\$172/night
3 bedroom Scenic View Home	\$1675/night
4 bedroom Scenic View Home	\$2375/night

MEPI booking code: **16603** or mention **2023 MEPI**

Email: reservations@kiawahresort.com

Transportation Information

West Beach Conference Center ~ Kiawah Island Golf Resort
2 Shipwreck Rd, Kiawah Island, SC 29455

MEPI does not coordinate transportation.

Airport: Charleston International (CHS) – approx. 35 miles from Kiawah.

Ubers and Rental cars are available at the airport.

All villas provide free parking.

Cancellation Policy

Fees are non-refundable after Feb. 1, 2023. No exceptions please.

If you find after Feb 1, 2023 you are unable to attend, you may transfer your registration to another person.

Or – you may request a ***Letter of Donation*** from MEP for tax purposes.

All cancellations made ***prior to*** Feb. 1, 2023 will have a \$35 cancellation fee deducted . Requests should be made via email to the MEPI office:

MontessoriEPI@gmail.com

Membership dues are non-refundable.

MEPI Leadership

Patrick McGlinchy

President

Sarah McGowen

Vice President

Shirley Plath Fund

Meredith Hines

Secretary

Rachel Buechler

Treasurer

Mary Helen Cline

Education Chair

Sandra Pokos

Teacher Education Chair

Claire Salkowski

Accreditation Chair

Peace & Social Justice

Pashawn Johnson

Conference Chair

Ruth Ogaga

Ambassador Chair

Amy Rolan

Publicity

John Moncure

Membership/Nomination

Mary Cusack

Executive Coordinator

Carrie Allen

Executive Coordinator Elect

Council of Elders

Beti Wyn Holcombe

Marianne Bivins

Warren McPherson

Melody Mosby

Nouha Batshon

Marguerite Richardt