

The background of the central text area is a faded, light-colored version of the 'Hands for Peace' logo. It depicts two hands, one from the left and one from the right, holding a globe. Below the hands is a banner with the words 'HANDS FOR PEACE' written in a simple, blocky font. The entire logo is enclosed in a rough, hand-drawn rectangular border.

*Discovering
the
Enigmatic
Child*

*Celebrating 25 Years of
Education*

Teacher

Hands for Peace International Conference

Kiawah Island Golf Resort, South Carolina

February 28 – March 1, 2020

Schedule of Events

Thursday February 27th

4:00pm -8:00pm Early Registration

Friday February 28

7:00 – 8:00 am Registration

7:30am Exhibitors Open

8:15 - 9:00am Welcome &
Opening Ceremony

9:15 -10:15am **Keynote address** by
Christian Moore

10:15-10:30am Break

10:30-12:00pm Session 1

12:00- 1:15pm Lunch Buffet

1:45 -3:15pm Session 2

3:15 – 3:45 pm Break

3:45 – 4:45pm Session 3

5:00 - Exhibitors close

**6:00 25 Anniversary Party
at Mingo Point**

Join us for sunset watching followed by a
festive BBQ and camaraderie!

Saturday March 2nd

7:00 – 7:30 Registration

8:00 – 8:45 am General Meeting with
MEPI Graduate recognition

8:45 – 9:00 Break

9:00 – 10:30 pm Session 4

10:30 – 10:45 Break

11:00 – 12:30 Session 5

12:30-1:30 pm Lunch Buffet

1:45pm Silent Auction ends

2:00 – 3:30pm Session 6

3:30 -4:00 Break / SA item ready for
pickup

4:00 Exhibitors Close

4:00 – 5:00pm Session 7

5:15 Closing Ceremony

Sunday March 1rd

10:30 – 11:30

Guided Nature Walk by Kiawah naturalists

Additional fee required for this event.

KEYNOTE – Christian Moore



Christian Moore is an internationally renowned speaker, licensed clinical social worker, and advocate for youth. He is the author of ***The Resilience Breakthrough***, a guide for accessing resilience in a world of increasing instability and narrowing opportunity.

Coming from a blended family of 12 children, Christian spent most of his childhood years on the streets. In a neighborhood just outside of Washington, D.C., he was exposed to a wide array of social problems, which opened his eyes to the many injustices that exist in our world today. These experiences, combined with severe learning disabilities and an inner-city volunteer experience as a youth, all contributed to Christian's eventual decision to become a social worker and help others who struggle with similar challenges. After fighting his way to receive a master of social work (MSW) and working in education, corrections, and a homeless program, Christian recognized the need for a new approach and created the WhyTry Program (www.whytry.org).

His keynote address begins Friday at 9:15am.

This conference sold out last year!

Class sizes are limited.

Register early to secure your seat in your preferred
workshop sessions.

Make sure and check out our special
25th Anniversary Party



Details are on page 9

Registration Key

IT-Infant & Toddler

EC-Early Childhood

EL – Elementary

MS-Middle School

ADM – Administration

PP – Public & Private schools

Admin-Administration

This workshop will be a discussion on dyslexia signs and ways to think about helping children in the primary classroom. During this session participants will consider how they themselves read, discuss their experiences teaching children who struggle with reading and share ideas for addressing potential problems in the Montessori primary classroom.

Patrick McGlinchy is the Children's House Director for Keystone Montessori in Chelmsford, MA. Patrick has spent over ten years teaching at Children's House and still enjoys everyday spent in the classroom. His strong connection to Montessori grew out of his own experiences of reading difficulties and dyslexia as a child.

1-B MPPI and the Carolinas

Level: ADM/All

Do you live in North or South Carolina? Do you face policy challenges in your Montessori work? If so, join MPPI staff for this presentation and work session to take a deep dive into those challenges and find out what you can do to work towards change. North and South Carolina both have Montessori advocacy organizations that you can support and a coordinated effort with many voices speaking together is most effective!

Denise Monnier is a Montessori parent, State advocate, and advocacy coach, striving for public policy that supports universal access to Montessori education. More than 15 years of teaching and leading Montessori schools made her deeply aware of the need for equity in and access to high quality education. Her work with MPPI is centered on supporting our state advocacy groups and equipping them with the tools and training they need to be effective advocates for children.

1-C Recover Safety and Respect through Stories

Level: ALL/PP

A system modeling grace and courtesy, based on Maslow's Hierarchy and Dr. Maria Montessori's words, enabling teachers to understand the "why?" of opening a world of virtues and character education using community meetings and monthly read aloud as an essential time to share actions of caring, kindness, acceptance and compassion for all students and staff. A timeline will offer resources for implementation. The climate, culture and community protect, respect and sustain grace and courtesy school wide.

LaDene Conroy has educational expertise which includes research, best practices, instructional delivery, grant writing, adjunct faculty for The Citadel and currently Montessori teacher educator for adult learners through the Houston Montessori Center and Seacoast Teacher Education Program. She is known best for her work with teachers, teacher and administrator training, providing quality professional development, children's literature and her own love of learning.

1-D Funny you should Say That: Amusing Grammar.

Level: EL/MS/PP

This workshop will review Elementary grammar with the help of cartoons, riddles, and other fun activities. From the functions of words to punctuation, palindromes, and storytelling, the fundamental elements of the English Language will be enlivened through thought-provoking activities. Montessori warns in *Spontaneous Reading and Writing*, not to, "impose upon children an arid mental effort which breeds a certain disgust towards study and all intellectual instruction". Join me in eliminating that "arid mental effort".

Rose Dorer is a previous presenter at many Montessori Conferences, on the topics of Elementary Montessori Language, and Biology. For over 20 years she taught adults at the post-graduate level as an adjunct faculty member for Saint Catherine University in Minnesota and Westminster College in Utah. Her credentials are: AMS Pre-primary, AMI Elementary, MA in Arts in Education, Certified for Educational Administration. She has taught in Children's House, Lower & Upper Elementary over the past 40 years and in private, public and charter Montessori schools.

1-E Covering Curriculum, Meeting Needs, Making it Work

Level: EL/MS/PP

Ever feel like there's too much to do? That the vision of Montessori's Cosmic Education is being lost or slipping further into the background? As a teacher, mentor, and coach, Claudia has developed systems and materials to help herself and others keep the Montessori vision of Cosmic Education. She will share systems and materials to help guide in skill development through the Cosmic Curriculum.

Claudia Mann has been enchanted with Montessori education since 1983. Certified in Elementary I, II and Secondary I, Ms. Mann has guided children and adults in classrooms and schools to be passionate learners, sustaining Cosmic Education as the heart and soul of the Montessori vision.

1-F Teaching World Religions in the non-sectarian Classroom

Level: All/ADM

This workshop will explore how teachers can teach lessons about world religions as part of cultural Cosmic Curriculum studies in the Montessori classroom. In an age where ignorance, bigotry and xenophobia are so prevalent in our society, helping students gain a deeper understanding of how others believe is of paramount importance. The workshop will show how different world religions can be taught with a focus on common elements such as sacred texts, traditional practices and core beliefs.

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!

1-G The Physical & Subtle Environments of Montessori

Level: IT/EC

Child, teacher and environment. In harmony, they make for a peaceful classroom. But when faced with challenging children, how do we remain peaceful ourselves? Are there ways to use the environment to indirectly work with the child? Join us for an exploration into the subtle inner life of the teacher and the physical environment for which they are responsible. In strengthening ourselves and "our-shelves", we will have a solid foundation for any child.

Yanick Tremblay is currently a Casa director and Supervisor of the center in Canada. He has seven years experience in the classroom and is working on his master teacher certification with The Canadian Montessori Teacher's Institute.

1-H Gender Diversity and Equity

Level: All/PP

We will address the importance of educating children, educators, and families about gender diversity and equity & promoting inclusion and acceptance. We will share how we support children of same-sex families and LGBTQA children and discuss how to incorporate gender diversity and equity into the curriculum and communication with families.

Sara Bloomberg MA.Ed, is the head of Protea Montessori Consultants. She is AMS Credentialed (EC) and founding Director at Battery Park Montessori in New York. Sara is incredibly passionate about collaborating with educators and parents to help them support and guide LGBTQA children and teachers in the Early Childhood and Lower Elementary years.

1-I I want to Serve Myself

Level: IT/EC

Afraid of spills, messes and breakage? It's not painful . . . it's fun! Use a progressive approach. Sit back and watch your toddlers "do it themselves!" We'll show you how to start and finish this mealtime journey! Also, introducing individual food preparation for toddlers.

Linda Rumsey holds a Master's Degree in Administration and Leadership, an EC Montessori Teaching Certificate and recently completed the Montessori IT Training. She has over 40 years of teaching and has started Montessori schools overseas and owned and directed several Montessori schools in the US.

12:00pm - 1:15pm.

Food will not be available after 1:15.

LUNCH BUFFET - \$25 -

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

On-site requests for attending lunches cannot be honored.
Lunch reservations are on the registration form.

SALAD BUFFET

Tomato Basil Soup

Mixed Garden Greens & Hearts of Romaine

Sliced Mushrooms, Cucumbers, Shredded Carrots

Hard-boiled eggs

Aged Cheddar Cheese & crumbled Blue Cheese

Shaved Red Onion

Grape tomatoes, Garlic Croutons and assorted dressings

Bacon Lardons

Sliced Chicken breasts

Marinated local Shrimp

Basil Pesto Tortellini Salad

Roasted potato Salad

Rolls & butter

Lemon tarts

Individual Pecan Pies

Iced tea & chilled water

Once a child comes into an elementary classroom, practical life is usually lost among the academic curriculum. But a focus of the elementary years is to help the student figure out their place in the universe. To be successful they need to apply their knowledge and be taught life skills; they need appropriate practical life activities. In this workshop, participants will interact with practical life activities and integrate it throughout the curriculum. Erica Santana is a lower EL teacher at Montessori Children's School in Jacksonville, NC. She holds a BA in Communication, an M.A.T. in Elementary Education K-6 from Montclair State University, and a Lower EL Certification from Princeton Center for Teacher Education. She has presented at numerous conferences. She has been a teacher trainer, written curriculum for ETC Montessori and articles for Montessori publications.

2-B Leading with Love: Collaborative Montessori Leaders

Level: ADM/ All

In *Education and Peace*, Montessori states: "The education that will lead the way to a new humanity has one end alone: leading the individual and society to a higher stage of development." Administrators will approach constructive and collaborative leadership based on Montessori principles of peace. Participants will engage in collaborative dialogue and group work that focuses on utilizing faculty and staff as active members of your school's sense of emotional intelligence, sensitive periods and nobility of work.

Tom Cook is the Head of School at The Christian Montessori School of Lake Norman in Huntersville, NC. He was an English teacher for 14 years before moving into administration. He has two daughters who attend CMSLN. The son of an educator, Tom values intellectual dialogue and educators passionate about their craft.

2-C Updates from the Montessori Accreditation Council (MACTE)

Level: All

The MACTE staff will share updates on all things involving accreditation in the teacher education program (TEP) world! We will share updates to MACTE policies, discuss the challenges TEPs currently face, share statistics on how TEPs have grown, and more. Discussion at the end will allow staff to address questions and concerns.

Rebecca Pelton is the President of the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education. 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 14 years. She has participated in over sixty on-site visits preparing for teacher program accreditation. She has taught in public and private schools. She earned her M.Ed. with an endorsement in Gifted Education and developed a number of programs in gifted education and gifted enrichment. She earned her doctorate in Educational Leadership. Her tenure at MACTE is based on commitment to supporting Montessori teacher preparation and thereby improving the educational experience of Montessori students.

2-D Two Beautiful Flowers

Level: EC/EL

Two flower figures are traditional in Montessori. These are the quatrefoil and quadrilobe. Starting in the 1920s, these were called flower figures. Join Michael to examine these two figures in depth. Discover their roles as the heads of two extensive and infinite flower families. Examine their role in perimeter, area, ratio and art. You will leave with new exercises and exciting variations that can be used immediately in your class. Come watch the flowers bloom!

Michael Dorer has served for over 35 years as a Montessori Teacher Educator, and as a workshop leader, and school consultant. He holds a doctorate in Instructional Leadership, and Montessori credentials from both the AMS and AMI. He also wrote the charter for the world's first Montessori charter school. He has written and published several Montessori album textbooks and numerous books. He is retired as Director of the Center for Contemporary Montessori Programs at St. Catherine's in MN and is retired founding director of the Institute for Montessori Innovation at Westminster College in UT.

2-E Writers Workshop

Level: EC

This workshop will introduce teachers to new ways to add writing to their classroom. Students will be encouraged to make their own books, through the use of literature.

Kena Cox has been teaching for 33 years - 22 of those years in Primary Montessori. She was one of the pioneer teachers in the Laurens, SC district. She now is a teacher instructor for adult learners with MEPI's Institute for Guided Studies program.

2-F Water Physics for Little Hands

Level: EC

Discover how to expand your science curriculum and give children the opportunity to experiment and explore water physics independently. During this workshop you will be able to participate in fun activities, try out shelf-ready work that transforms abstract characteristics of water into concrete notions, and watch a couple of awesome experiments unfold. You will come away with a year's long water curriculum that your students will love!

Ingrid Fol holds a degree in Topography from Belgium, where she is from. She speaks Dutch, English, Spanish and French. Camilla Roberts earned an Associate's Degree from Northern Virginia Community College and attended Marymount College majoring in Psychology.

2-G Creating an Authentic Toddler Environment

Level: IT/ADM

If you work within a Montessori Toddler classroom, or wish to start a new one, this workshop is for you! We will discuss Montessori toddler environments, how to keep them Montessori authentic and discuss potential challenges that arise. This workshop will share a checklist for how to identify if your environment is authentic. This is an interactive workshop for all attendees to share their experiences and challenges.

Rachel Buechler discovered Montessori while completing her BA in Education. During 2010-2014 she was the Lead IT Teacher before transitioning into the role of Assistant Director until 2018. In January 2019 she founded Queen City Montessori where she currently serves as the founder, head of school and toddler teacher. She has presented at numerous Montessori conferences including MEPI's.

2-H Promoting Good Mental Health in Infants & Toddlers

Level: IT/ADM

We will discuss the concept of infant mental health-what it is and why it is important. We will discuss ways to promote good mental health in infants and toddlers and ways this is supported by the Montessori philosophy. Also, what it means to be an infant mental health informed teacher and ways to work with parents to understand the importance of social-emotional development.

Gabrielle Holt is Montessori credentialed at the IT level and has been working with infants and toddlers for 8 years. She currently works as an infant/toddler guide and parent infant class facilitator in Houston, TX. She is a lifelong Montessorian, having attended Montessori schools from birth through high school. She is pursuing her Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education at Lander University and holds an Infant Mental Health Endorsement.

2-I Discovering Nature – Expanding their World

Level: EC

The traditional science material sequences are shown along with supplemental materials and ideas to encourage more involvement and discovery by the children. A handout outlines many of these materials and ideas for leading children to new discoveries. You will also have access to 115 extra photos of projects and work in the classroom related to science discoveries.

Helen Devere has a degree in elementary education and a Master's degree in early childhood/elementary education. She has been director of the Orlando Montessori Teacher Education Institute for EC studies in Florida since 1990 and conducts accreditation visits for MACTE.

3-A Starting the Soil Age**Level: EL/ADM/PP**

We will continue the discussion from last year on how easy and practical it is to incorporate humanure composting in a school setting. Sewer is a Stone Age concept. Introducing humanure composting to our children gives them a new vision on how to manage our communities, create agricultural economy and is an exemplary demonstration of Montessori philosophy.

Jeff Wright is a Certified Journeyman Farrier, Blacksmith, Farmer and Designer. He is currently working with local health departments to create an approved composting system for humanure.

3-B Music for Infants & Toddlers**Level: IT**

Come learn how to engage the smallest of students in musical activities. Use music for gathering, transitions and calming activities in an IT class.

Dain Griffin is a registered *Music Together* educator. He holds an MEPI credential for EC and a CDA Infant Toddler certificate. He is the musical director at Mountain Heights Montessori in Las Vegas, Nevada.

3-C Challenges our Youth face in Today's Culture**Level: MS/ADM**

In this interactive discussion, we will draw upon the 21st century challenges our youth face in today's culture and how they are showing up in our Montessori Adolescent programs. Participants will share their own experiences with these challenges and together we will look at helps to transform problems into solutions.

Melody Mosby has over 30 years experience working with adolescence in the public sector and in Montessori education. She is program director and trainer for the MEPI/MACTE accredited Secondary I training, and holds an AMI advanced diploma from Washington D.C. Heather Mosby co-directs the Adolescent program at Athen's Montessori and hold Secondary 1 Montessori credentials along with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology.

3-D Field Supervision Training – pt 1**Level: All /PP**

Participants will receive instruction on how to conduct field supervision visits to Montessori interns during their practicums. This workshop is presented by instructors for MEPI's Institute for Guided Studies. Instruction on how to create an effective field supervision to be helpful for interns is relevant for any teacher education program.

Teresa Noble Teresa Noble is a Program Director and Instructor for IGS. She currently serves on the MACTE Board of Directors.

3-E The First 3 Activities of the First Day**Level: EC**

You have meticulously prepared the environment in anxious anticipation of the new school year. Everything is ready for joyful exploration and discovery, but where to begin? The cylinders? Transferring? Come and experience the wonder of the first 3 activities of the first day. We'll explore how we set the foundation of trust and security in Primary environments and share our own experiences of the beginning of the year.

Julie Armstrong has been an Early Childhood Educator for over 20 Years. She has an honor's degree in Child Studies and Psychology, Early Childhood Education, Montessori Primary and Montessori Infant Toddler Teacher Diplomas and is a Master Teacher Trainer for Casa and Program Coordinator and Master Teacher Trainer for Infant Toddler with CMTEI in Canada. She is a Consultant in the Toronto area; helping families and schools create Montessori environments from birth to 6.

3-F The Peace Table and Beyond**Level: EC/EL/PP**

This is a look at peace education and conflict resolution from teacher to student and both inside and outside the classroom. We will explore lessons found in our classrooms in the Peace area, some of our beneficial conflict resolution ideas and strategies, ways to prepare your heart and mind to nurture peace in your classroom, with scenarios and suggestions to promote and educate peace in the world.

Pamela Younger is a primary Montessori teacher in a public Montessori School within a school. This is her 5th year in Montessori and 6th in the classroom. She holds a Primary Montessori certification.

3-G Kinesthetic Science**Level: EL/MS**

A variety of kinesthetic science lessons to explain concepts and engage students. Lessons will include periodic table of elements, life cycle of stars, and others.

Teena Kyer has taught upper elementary Montessori for 20 years and is an adult learner trainer for Palmetto Montessori Institute. She holds both a lower and upper elementary Montessori credential.

3-H Trauma Informed Practice**Level: IT /EC**

Helping children through difficult transitions. We will discuss about children in our programs that are in foster care, or have just been adopted.

Meredith Hines has worked in the Montessori field for over 20 years. She has been a Toddler Assistant, Extended Day Assistant and Director. Over the years she has also worked with two other training centers as a Field Consultant. She is a Toddler Director and Head of School for the Montessori Learning Center in Camden, South Carolina.

3-I How to Follow the Enigmatic Child**Level: EC /ADM**

As Montessori guides we all train ourselves to "follow the child." But, what does that mean? Is there a line between following the child and losing the purpose of the work? What are signs that we have lost the purpose? What are signs that we are truly following the child? This presentation will explore the question Montessori guides ask ourselves daily, "what is the child revealing to me and how do I follow that?"

Sasha Malashenko was trained by Dr. Daniel Jutras and later became a Master Teacher Trainer for CMTEI. She holds a Bachelor of Science as well as a Bachelor of Arts. She owns a Montessori school in Montreal, Quebec and has a class of 24 enigmatic children!

Exhibitors will close at 5:00

25th Anniversary Celebration Gathering & BBQ

Event is sponsored by the Millennium Society - Colorado

Flash-Back Friday at Mingo Point

This is a Free Event but reservations are required

Space is limited ~ No on-site tickets will be issued for this event.

Please mark “yes” or “no” on the registration form indicating your attendance at this event.

Fresh Salad

Cole Slaw

Potato Salad

BBQ Beans

Burgers on the grill

Hot Dogs on the grill

Veggie burgers on the grill

S'mores station ~ Coffee – iced tea – chilled water

Beer & Wine cash bar

This is a theme party!



Come dressed as your favorite decade!

Enjoy dancing to musical hits.

Make sure and arrive in time for great views of the sunset at 6:45pm.

Shuttles will begin running at 5:30pm from the conference center to Mingo Point.

4-A How to Implement a Gender Diversity Curriculum**Level: All/PP**

We will lay out a ten-month gender diversity curriculum for Early Childhood and Lower EL. The curriculum can be implemented linearly, or fluidly. We will touch on how to prepare the environment, evaluate the culture, support staff, and communicate with families, so that messaging is clear and consistent. We will provide resources for supporting children, families, and staff and address current terminology, the importance of pronouns, and provide resources to help teachers and families.

[Sara Bloomberg](#) - please see her bio under 1-H.

4-B Sell Montessori to your Students**Level: EL**

This workshop will use strategies commonly applied in marketing/merchandising to create the best environment and "sell Montessori" to your students. We will entice them with Cosmic Education, literacy, and peace education. Finally, we will discuss how to design your marketing plan by knowing your class, identifying classroom values, learning from others, outlining strategies and setting a budget.

[Jorge Haro](#) is a trained 6-9 Montessori director who has been working in the Montessori classroom since 2010 and presently is lead director in an elementary classroom at Magnolia Montessori school in Florida.

4-C Movement for Brain Breaks**Level: EC/EL**

Helping our children relax and have some "brain breaks" during the day, we use yoga, music curriculum, and movement to help them center and relax in order to face the rest of their day.

[Chrissy Cruickshanks](#) has been teaching for 18 years - eleven in traditional grades and seven years in Primary Montessori. She has a BA in Early Childhood, MEd in Gifted and Talented, and a degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

4-D Normalization of Parents**Level: All**

Just as children today have become deviated from their path of natural development, so, too, have their parents. This hands-on workshop will explore some of the causes of this deviation and what administrators and teachers can do to guide families back to normalization.

[Denise Harold](#) holds an early childhood Montessori Teaching Certification from the Pan American Montessori Society and a Master of Education in Early Childhood Education with a concentration in Montessori. She is a teacher trainer with the Pan American Montessori Society, as well as a member of their board of directors and is a member of the advisory council for Montessori partnerships in Georgia.

4-E Breaking the Rules with Poetry**Level: EL**

Poetry is an amazing tool to reach all students! It helps children become better writers and readers. It's also so much fun because it breaks traditional writing rules! Participants will learn how to teach poetry for lower and upper elementary. They will get ideas about how to integrate poetry into all parts of the curriculum. They will interact with different poetry work and look at poetry books. Get ready for a playful, poetic presentation!

[Erica Santana](#) Please see her bio under 2-A

4-F Creating Balance in the Age of Technology**Level: All/PP**

Sherry Turtle said, "Technology is not good. Technology is not bad. Technology is powerful." Did you know that a Kaiser study found that children between 8-18 spend on average 53 hours a week engaged in media, while the AAP, CDC, and WHO all suggest limiting media and encourage outdoor play? Come see what research actually says and how to help families create balance in their homes.

[Jana Morgan Herman](#), directs Kenwood Montessori School, co-founded the Kentucky Montessori Alliance, & is a co-founder of Integrating Montessori-a professional development group for Montessori educators. She has taught for over 20 years and is a teacher trainer for 5 MACTE accredited TEP's.

4-G Work Journals: Autonomy, Freedom and Responsibility**Level: EL/MS**

The work journal is a tool of an effective Montessori environment. Taking steps to move away from teacher-created work plans is a step in the right direction. When designed in response to student needs, the journal is an effective tool for organization; it also sets the groundwork for lifelong planning and organization. Using meetings, curriculum, and self-reflection, students gain the independence and the freedom to design their own plans and navigate their learning.

[Molly Moorhead](#) is an Elementary Guide and the Educational Coordinator at the Montessori School of Anderson in SC. She has her EL Montessori credential and an MFA in creative writing. In addition she has worked as a Field Supervisor, workshop presenter, curriculum coordinator, & teacher.

4-H Elaborating on Labyrinths**Level: All**

Expand your knowledge with a close look at the 11 circuit medieval labyrinth. Create a giant beach labyrinth (weather permitting) after a brief introduction to this well known symbol. Labyrinths can be used for personal introspection, group awareness and activities, and provide an array of options for curriculum development in all areas from math and art to science and culture. Fun, teamwork, and artistic expression will abound in this workshop! "Newbies" to the labyrinth welcome!

[Beth Langley](#) has a Montessori credential at the early childhood level and a BA from Columbia College. She is a certified labyrinth facilitator and has given workshops, designed and created labyrinths across the US and in many foreign countries at schools and gardens. She is a current board member of the Labyrinth Society and the South Carolina Montessori Alliance.

4-I Supporting the Sensory Needs of our Students**Level: All/PP**

This workshop will give a brief overview of the importance of an organized sensory system. We will discuss how observations of lack of focus, heightened emotions, and low productivity often have their "roots" in a disorganized sensory system. Attendees will learn activities to introduce to their students to help with sensory education. We will explore the benefits of a "movement class" as well as playground equipment designed to educate a child's sensory system.

[Hollie Andrews](#) has been in Montessori education for 20 years. She holds her Masters of Early Childhood from San Francisco State University. She taught in the primary classroom for 12 years and is currently one of the learning specialists at Omni Montessori in Charlotte, NC. She has developed a movement curriculum that helps children acquire the sensory input they need. She is an instructor at two Montessori training facilities.

5-A Yoga for Children**Level: IT / EC**

Come join in for a fun and interactive yoga session including stories, music, dancing and songs. Yoga is a healthy way for children to learn to self-regulate, express feelings and release stress.

Anahita Faroogh is a mother, Montessori educator, trained children's yoga teacher and a Montessori Master Teacher Trainer with CMTEI (Canada). She also owns 3 Montessori Schools in Toronto. Her passion is bringing joy of yoga to children's lives and has been teaching yoga for over 10 years.

5-B Infant Environment - A Deep Dive**Level: IT**

This workshop will reveal the multifaceted presentation of the elements necessary for a high-quality infant environment. We will discuss the infant as scientist, and how the environment is fine-tuned for exploration. Participants will leave with: 1) An appreciation of the necessary components of a Nido environment; 2) A clear view of infant needs and sensitive periods and how to observe them; and 3) An understanding of how activity, order, and communication are incorporated into an infant's day.

Laura LeClair is a trainer, field consultant, and postpartum Doula. She spent 23 years in Montessori classrooms, guiding children from 0-6. She has a passion for nurturing young people and tending to classrooms and the adults that guide them. Laura has a B.A. in English and holds Montessori credentials at the IT and EC levels. She received her M.Ed. in Interdisciplinary Studies of Preschool Education & Development from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

5-C Hatching the Cosmic Egg –pt 1**Level: EL/All/PP**

This strikingly original interpretation of the five Cosmic themes uses a set of originally designed nesting eggs with original art. The presentations will be accompanied by an original story written for this occasion and original children's songs, specially created for this material and presentation. Original, new children's literature created especially for this presentation will also be displayed. The workshops will alternate between presentation, song, discussion, and storytelling.

Michael Dorer Please see his bio under 2-D

5-D Art Therapy in the Montessori Classroom**Level: All/PP**

Art therapy is a creative method of expression used as a therapeutic technique. It focuses on the creative art-making process itself and on the analysis of expression. This is a psychoanalytic approach. The teacher interprets the child's symbolic self-expression. Learn about the benefits for children, with ideas and activities that you can use in the classroom to promote healthy emotional development, and help with behavioral problems or disabilities.

Sandra Pokos is the owner and director of Little Heart Montessori School of Zagreb, (Croatia, Europe). She is an Early Childhood director, Teacher trainer for 17 years, and Trainer of the trainers for International Educational Management Studies. She is on the MEPI board of directors and is the chair of MEPI's Teacher Education Committee.

5-E Addressing Challenging Behaviors in the Early Childhood Classroom**Level: EC**

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. Identify growing trends of students with special needs and define how the Montessori Method is able to meet the needs of students with varying exceptionalities. Learn how to build positive relationships, tailor the environment, and understand the role of observation.

Maria Eva Chaffiz is originally from Venezuela. She is in the process of completing her Doctoral in Organizational Leadership. She holds a Master of Science in Exceptional Student Education, a Master's Degree in Business Education, a Bachelor's in Special Education, as well as a Montessori Teacher Certification in Early Childhood. She has over 18 years of teaching experience and has been in the Montessori field for 10 years.

5-F MACTE On-Site Verifier Training (OSVT)**Level: All**

This workshop will provide information and training Montessori Credentialed Individuals who are interested in participating in OSVT visits to Teacher Education Programs in the process of obtaining MACTE accreditation.

Teresa Noble Please see her bio under 3-D

5-G Feed Forward – not Feedback**Level: EL/MS/PP**

Today's Montessori teacher faces many pressures: We work to meet the child, meet the standards, meet the school and community needs, and more! When juggling daily challenges, managing the process to review student work can be muddy, and weigh us down. In this workshop, we will learn strategies to 'Feed-Forward' our feedback to propel students towards self-regulation, self-management, and self-improvement.

Sarah Hassebroek has 15 years of experience in Montessori elementary settings. She taught for 10 years in Lower and Upper EL, and an additional 5 years as an instructional coach in Public Montessori schools. She is currently an Assistant Professor at St. Catherine University with a focus on teacher development and Public Montessori education. She is on the board of the Minnesota Montessori Network and Minnesota Reading Assoc.

5-H Organizing Tips and Tricks for Material Storage**Level: All/PP**

Learn organizational tips and tricks to help manage Montessori materials and limited storage options. DIY ideas and space saving strategies to help rotate and store seasonal, thematic, conversational materials and resources in your classroom. Make the most out of limited storage space and remember where items are when you need them in a hurry.

Carrie Allen is an experienced Early Childhood Educator with over 25 years of field experience. She has received her degree in Early Childhood Education and is an NCME Montessori Early Childhood Educator. Carrie is a life learner and strives to understand how to better "follow the child".

5-I Self Care for the Teacher's Soul - pt 1**Level: All**

Self-care is often a neglected area in the life of teachers, administrators, and parents. Yet it is so important if we wish to combat the stress of daily work that is joyful and rewarding but often emotionally and physically taxing. This intensive workshop will help you recognize the need and value for self-care in order to bring your best to your work each day.

Claire Salkowski is the Principal Consultant for CJ Consulting and Services, an ADR 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 No Baltimore Center of Mosaic Community Services and currently continues serving with several Montessori and ADR organizations.

12:30pm - 1:30pm.

Food will not be available after 1:30



LUNCH BUFFET - \$25 -

Plan to join us for a Taste of Italy!

On-site requests for attending lunches cannot be honored.
Lunch reservations are on the registration form.

EXPERIENCE ITALY BUFFET

Tuscan White Bean & Garlic Soup

Traditional Caesar Salad
Parmesan Cheese & black Pepper Croutons

Charcuterie & Cheese Presentation with Traditional Accompaniments

Eggplant Parmesan
Wood Roasted Tomato Sauce, Melted Provolone & Garden Herbs

Wild Mushroom Ravioli
Crispy Prosciutto & Gorgonzola Cream

Chicken Alfredo
Broccoli Florets, Penne Pasta, Sundried Tomatoes

Warm Focaccia Bread
Sweet Cream Butter and Olive Tapanade

Chocolate Dipped Biscotti
Fresh Fruit Tarts

Iced tea & chilled water

Silent Auction closes at 1:45

6-A Building Resilience through Positive Discipline**Level: All**

In this workshop, we will explore the foundation of a horizontal relationship between an adult and the child, gaining an understanding of the belief behind the child's behavior, and ways to empower the child. Come join two Positive Discipline Certified Trainers for a session of thought provoking and practical experiential activities.

Tim & Christy Chen Tim is a Primary Teacher and a Positive Discipline Certified Trainer. He is learning how to write children's songs for his classroom in his spare time and trying new cooking recipes. Christy was a Primary teacher for more than 20 years and now is in the process of completing her Infant Toddler credential. She also is a Certified Positive Discipline Trainer.

6-B Hatching the Cosmic Egg – pt 2**Level: EL/All/PP**

Please see the description of this workshop under Session 5-C

Michael Doerr Please see his bio under Session 2-D

6-C Conundrums of Circle Time**Level: IT/EC**

Does circle time intimidate you? Are you looking for new ideas? Come learn how to make circle time fun, engaging and a time of community! Let's make it simple! This workshop will give you some ideas to make circle time simple, fun and interesting for the children.

Anahita Farooq Please see her bio under Session 5-A

6-D Imagine That! Montessori's work on Art & Imagination**Level: EC**

In this session, we will review Montessori's writings on art and imagination and learn how to bring it into our classrooms in a purposeful way. We will explore the seven elements of art and how they are built into the Montessori materials you already have. There'll be many examples of art lessons with instructions on how you can set up your environment in ways that will promote true artistic expression as well as creative storytelling.

Jana Morgan Herman Please see her bio under Session 4-F

6-E On-going Preparation of the Adult**Level: EL/MS/PP**

Teachers are the biggest factor for student success. In this workshop, we will dive into how administrators and instructional coaches can use observation and feedback cycles to support the ongoing professional growth of the Montessori Guide. We will address the concepts of Collective Efficacy and Observation to support teachers on their path to resiliency to engage and recover when facing the everyday challenges of Public Montessori education

Sarah Hassebroek Please see her bio under Session 5-G

6-F Beyond Bottles & Bins**Level: IT/A**

This session will explore the importance of sensorial materials for infants and toddlers. We will talk about the brain research and Montessori perspective on sensory development and experiences. We will look at the benefits of sensorial materials and walk through the different senses and materials at both the infant and toddler levels. And we will talk about the importance of leaving traditional 3-6 materials in primary and ways you can meet older toddler's needs without them.

Gabrielle Holt Please see her bio under Session 2-H

6-G Self Care for the Teacher's Soul - pt 2**Level: All**

Please see the workshop write-up under Session 5-I

Claire Salkowski Please see her bio under Session 5-I

6-H CHAOS vs KHAOS**Level: All**

An interactive workshop designed to address the barriers kids, parents, and educators face as a result of intergenerational and environmental trauma. During this workshop participants learn how to identify toxic behavior within self and others along with coping skills and strategies to transition from Can't Help Acting Out Severely (CHAOS) to Keep Healing And Overcoming Struggles (KHAOS)

Candice Cox has provided licensed clinical counseling and consulting services to children and families in both Rural Arkansas and Saint Louis areas. In 2012, she began her own private practice and in 2014, founded KHAOS, Inc. a nonprofit organization formed to introduce and implement skills to deal with toxic stress and trauma within individuals, families, and systems. Her motto is, "life happens but that doesn't mean it has to stop" as we all have the ability to *Keep Healing And Overcoming Struggles*.

6-I Music & Movement & Folk Dances for Children**Level: All**

Yes, you have "Dancing feet"! Come explore these pleasant, rhythmic activities and folk dances for children compiled from many countries of the world. Our goal is to help you import them in to your own classroom. Music and video recordings of the dances will be made available on a USB key on site. Come with your dancing shoes and sunny smiles.

Daniel Jutras is the founder of CMTEI. He holds a Ph.D. in Education, and EC Montessori Diploma from Perugia, Italy. He has Elementary Montessori credential from St Nicholas Centre in England. Since 1989, he has prepared thousands of Montessori teacher candidates, tutored Montessori teachers, and conducted Montessori Education Diploma Courses in Europe, Africa, Asia and North America. He gives lectures regularly at international Montessori conferences. Jayanthi Rajagopalan joined the Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute in 2000. She holds a Master's degree in Sociology and obtained her Montessori Diploma from London Montessori Centre. She is the Founder/ Director of Abacus Montessori. Jayanthi also regularly conducts parent seminars and presents at Montessori conferences in the US.

7-A Sensorial on a Budget for Infants and Toddlers**Level: IT**

No need to break the bank to have an enriched sensorial area for your IT environment. Finding treasures at the resale shop, local bargain stores, and your own home and backyard will expand the opportunities for exploration in your classroom. Participants will learn points of interest for sensorial “lessons”, see many examples of simple sensorial activities, and leave with inspiration to enhance your sensorial shelves.

Chase Butterbaugh is currently serving as the lead guide for the Toddler Classroom at the Montessori Day Academy of Hartsville. She began her Montessori studies in 2018 when she joined the Academy. She is currently in the intern stage of her certification through Institute of Guided Studies. Chase is perusing a degree in Psychology at Coker University and in her free time, enjoys spending time with her five year old daughter.

Kristie Norwood began her Montessori journey in 2003 while serving as a primary assistant at the Montessori School of Camden. Later she served as a Toddler classroom director at Palmetto Montessori of Ridgeway and fell in love with this stage of childhood. In 2009 she began working at the Institute for Guided Studies and now is Director of Student Affairs and the IT Administrator. She is currently working towards her IT credential

7-B Field Supervisor Training - pt 2**Level: All**

Participants will receive instruction on how to conduct field supervision visits to Montessori interns during their practicums. This workshop is presented by instructors for the Institute for Guided Studies (MEPI). Procedures and information will be introduced with instruction on how to make a field supervision effective and helpful for interns..

Teresa Noble Please see her bio under Session 3-D

7-C Montessori & Autism**Level: EC**

This workshop is a personal reflection from a mother and educator who learned first-hand how the Montessori approach can provide a valuable conceptual and practical framework through which one can unlock the secrets of the enigmatic child.

Julie Lyras is a Montessori educator with over twenty years of experience teaching in Casa and elementary classrooms. She is now a trainer of Montessori teacher guides. A graduate of the McGill School of Architecture, Julie would eventually go on to discover her true passion: awakening the love of learning in children.

7-D Manage the Classroom and not have it Manage You**Level: EL**

Plan for an interactive discussion on the different types of classroom management skills used in the Upper Elementary Classroom. Come with scenarios from the classroom, and we will discuss strategies and share experiences.

Meghan Brunson is a first year Upper Elementary Director at the Montessori School of Camden. She previously worked at the Montessori School of Florence as a Lower Elementary Director for five years.

7-E The Enigmatic Montessori Teacher Guide**Level: All**

If we can portrait the Montessori child as "enigmatic", we can certainly explore the nature of the Montessori teacher guide as special, enigmatic, mysterious, paradoxical, controversial,.... Come and explore who we are or shall be: multi-task, busy but not tired, calm and cool, seemingly invisible, measurer of the necessary help, resistant to unnecessary help... This is who we are; you will fulfill your heart and mind by this presentation.

Daniel Jutras Please see his bio under Session 6-I

7-F Enhancing Language and Literacy Development**Level: IT/EC/PP**

In this session we will discuss the importance of enhancing language and literacy skills in children at a young age. We will do a mock circle time for both levels. You will walk away with ideas for read alouds, sign language, music, information to share with parents, and ways to begin enhancing literacy and language in your classroom. We will also have raffles for books to take home.

Amy Webb has spent the majority of her teaching career in a Montessori classroom. She has her Primary Montessori Certification and taught 1 year in a public primary Montessori classroom before completing her elementary training and transitioning into a public lower elementary classroom. She is currently a lead primary teacher at Christian Montessori School of Lake Norman.

7-G Peace & Wellbeing beyond Early Childhood**Level: EL/MS/PP**

A practical guide to implementing activities and experiences for the elementary and adolescent communities. We will discuss how to connect curriculum and lessons from Early Childhood into the upper levels of your program, how to get parents and coworkers on board, and what these practices actually look like on a daily, weekly, and seasonal level. We'll move, we'll rest, we'll sign, we'll write!

Renata Faccioli is Montessori certified at the EC Level. She is passionate about supporting children and parents in her community working with the Boys & Girls Club in Nevada. Her latest endeavor is leadership training in *Empowered Wellbeing for Success* which combines ancient wellness techniques with cutting edge research in health and education.

7-H MEPI School Accreditation**Level: ADM**

This workshop provides an orientation to the MEPI school accreditation method including update to recent changes.

John Moncure is the Headmaster of the Montessori School of Camden, Vice President of MEPI, and Chair of the School Accreditation Commission. He holds a Ph.D. from Cornell University. Claire J. Salkowski –please see her bio under Session 5-I

7-I Connection & Expression Through Music & Movement**Level: EL /PP**

This workshop will explore ways to authentically engage with students through the mediums of Music and Movement. Participants will be introduced to different rhythmic, balance, dexterity and coordination games and challenges that place an emphasis on reinforcement of learning concepts and lessons, with fun, non-verbal communication and self awareness. Each tool offered will be accompanied with a cosmic accompaniment, such as a unique story or mindfulness exercise.

Daniel Scruggs has spent 25 years traveling the globe studying different forms of music and culture on five continents, He created the mobile educational program *Rhythm Moves* to develop and share his love for music, culture and learning. *Rhythm Moves* music and cultural education programs and workshops have been presented in public and private schools, community centers, hospitals, detention centers, rehabilitation centers, substance abuse treatment centers, senior centers, culture and music festivals, private parties, and corporate conferences and team building events. It is based in Charleston, SC where more information may be found at RhythmMovesLive.com

10:30 – 11:30

Guided Nature Walk

Level: All/PP

A commitment to nature preservation on Kiawah led to many innovative developments of this area, including the requirement that all buildings remain behind the secondary dune line to protect critical habitat. There are also no streetlights on Kiawah, as the artificial light could attract Loggerhead Sea Turtles away from the beach on which they nest for six months of the year.

Join us to gain some insight into this wildlife-protected area of North Carolina and Kiawah Island.

An additional \$15 fee is required for this walk.

Reservations for this event are on the Registration Form.



Registration Information

How to Register

All registrations are done on-line, through the MEPI website. www.mepiforum.org
The MEPI office will send a confirmation email when your registration is received.

Click or go to the home page at: www.mepiforum.org

Early registration rates are good through **Sunday, January 19, 2020**. Registering after this date will result in a \$100 rate increase. On site registration is **not** available.

If your school is a MEPI school, you still need to be an individual member of MEPI to register at the member rate. All memberships renew in February.

Rates & Fees

MEPI individual membership	\$50	
Full Conference – Member rate	\$230	Lunches are not included in this rate
Full Conference – non-member rate	\$310	Lunches are not included in this rate
1 Day Registration – Member rate	\$190	Lunch is not included in this rate
1 Day Registration – non member rate	\$260	Lunch is not included in this rate
Montessori Intern –full or 1 day	\$165	
Friday Salad Buffet	\$25	
Friday 25 th Anniversary BBQ	Included	
Saturday Experience Italy Buffet	\$25	
Sunday Guided Nature Walk	\$15	

Payment for your early registration must be received by Feb. 1, 2020 to avoid a \$25 monthly late fee.

The Registration Form is found on our website home page: <http://www.mepiforum.org>

Cancellation Policy

- Fees are non-refundable after **Feb 1, 2020**.
- If you find, after **Feb 1, 2020** you are unable to attend, for any reason, you may transfer your registration to another person, or receive a letter of donation from MEPI for tax purposes.
- Cancellations received, in writing, **prior to Feb 1, 2020**, will have a \$45 cancellation fee deducted.
- Memberships are non-refundable.

Additional Information

Lodging Information:

East Beach Conference Center ~ Kiawah Island Golf Resort
1 Sanctuary Beach Dr. - Kiawah Island, SC 29455

East Bedroom – *1 bedroom Scenic View Villa = \$122**

East Bedroom – *2 bedroom Scenic View Villa = \$167**

*All Villas have full kitchens and washer/dryer.

*Free Wi-Fi.

****Rates are guaranteed until Jan 28, 2020 but are dependent upon space availability - so please plan accordingly for your lodging reservations.**

Call for reservations. Please use **Booking Code 15371** (Montessori Educational Programs) to receive these rates which also gives MEPI credit for your stay.

1-800-654-2924 toll free ~ 1-843-768-2121 local & International

Transportation Information

MEPI does not coordinate transportation.

The closest airport is Charleston International (CHS) – approx. 35 miles from the resort

Rental cars are available at the airport. Free parking is available at each Villa.

Taxis run approx. \$85 Uber runs approx. \$40

We will send you information about RideShare if interested.

Check the box on the registration form for information.

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MEPI Leadership

Martha Teien - *President*

John Moncure - *Vice President*

Meredith Hines - *Secretary*

Rachel Buechler - *Treasurer*

Mary Helen Cline - *Education Chair*

Sandra Pokos - *Teacher Education Chair*

Mary Cusack - *Executive Coordinator*

Aja Debruyne - *Member*

Bobbi Brown Flannery - *Member*

Marie Therese Bishay - *Member*

Sarah Galley - *Member*

Claire Salkowski - *Member*

Beti Wyn Holcombe - *Council of Elders*

Marianne Bivins - *Council of Elders*

Warren McPherson - *Council of Elders*

Melody Mosby - *Council of Elders*

Nouha Batshon - *Council of Elders*

Marguerite Richardt - *Council of Elders*

History of MEPI

Montessori Educational Programs International (MEPI) was founded in 1995 by a group of 8 representatives of teacher education programs interested in promoting peace through authentic Montessori education and practice.

Dr. Helen K. Billings, an inspiring leader in Montessori education, was instrumental in guiding this organization's formation. Through her global network, she encouraged these 8 MEPI founders, along with countless others, to adopt the Montessori philosophy into their lives and especially in their work as educators.

To this purpose, MEPI offers education programs across the US, and in 7 foreign countries. In addition, MEPI insures cooperation with MACTE by having a seat on their board, and working in conjunction with MACTE through periodic reassessment and revision of policies, procedures, standards, and criteria.



Dr. Helen K. Billings