

The background of the central text is a faded, light-colored illustration of the 'Hands for Peace' logo. It depicts a globe with two hands, one from the top and one from the bottom, reaching towards it. The hands are rendered in a simple, sketchy style. Below the globe, the words 'HANDS FOR PEACE' are written in a bold, sans-serif font. The entire illustration is enclosed in a rectangular border with a slightly distressed or hand-drawn appearance.

*Children
are
Worth it!*

Hands for Peace International Conference

Kiawah Island Golf Resort, South Carolina

March 1-3, 2019

Schedule of Events

Thursday February 28th

4:00pm -8:00pm Early Registration

Friday March 1st

6:30 – 8:15am Registration

8:30 - 9:00am Welcome &
Opening Ceremony

9:00 -10:00am **Keynote address** by
Barbara Coloroso

10:00-10:30am Break

10:30-12:00pm Session 1

12:00-1:30pm Lunch Buffet - with
spotlight on MEPI's TEP's.

2:00-3:30pm Session 2

3:30-4:00 pm Break

4:00 – 5:30pm Session 3

7:30 – 9:00pm Movie Night!

Join us after your dinner for a preview and
Early-bird screening of the documentary
“*Inside Montessori*”

Free popcorn will be served!

Saturday March 2nd

7:30 – 8:30 Registration

9:00 – 10:00 am General Meeting with
MEPI Graduate recognition

10:00-10:30am Break

10:30-12:00pm Session 4

12:00-1:30pm Lunch Buffet – with
“What it takes to be a Board member”

1:45pm Silent Auction ends

2:00 – 3:30pm Session 5

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

4:00 – 5:00pm Session 6

5:00 – 5:30pm Closing

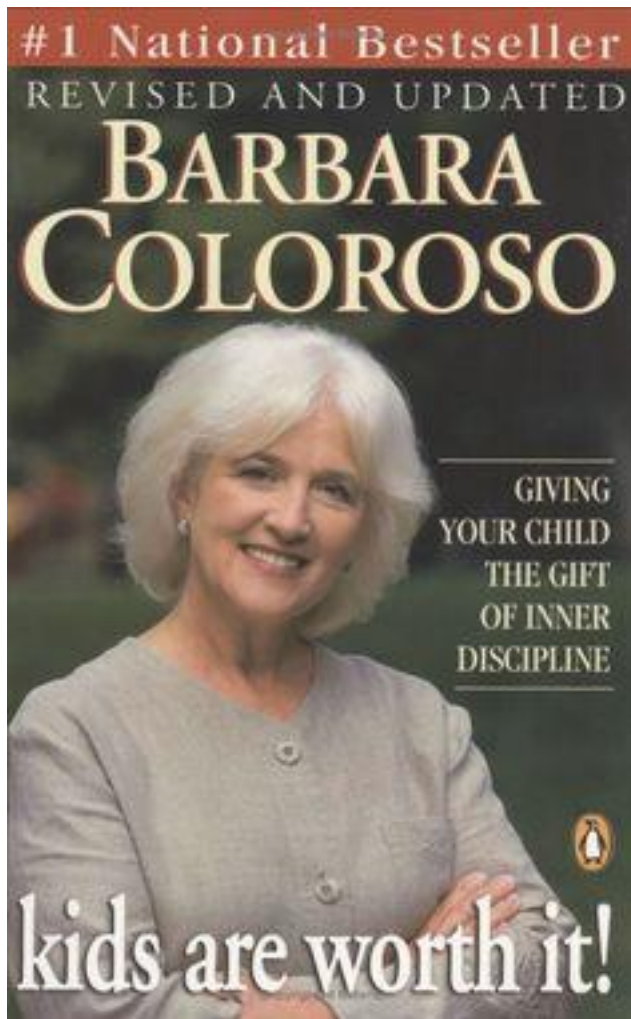
Sunday March 3rd

8:00 am Laughter Yoga
with Kristie

9:00 am Run & Ride – sign up and bike
rental is on site at the conference registration

9:45 am Beach Labyrinth
with Beth

KEYNOTE – Barbara Coloroso



Barbara Coloroso is an international bestselling author and for the past 44 years an internationally recognized speaker and consultant on parenting, teaching, school discipline, positive school climate, bullying, grieving, nonviolent conflict resolution and restorative justice.

She has appeared on Oprah, CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN and NPR and has been featured in the New York Times, Time, U.S. News & World Report, Newsweek, and other national and international publications.

Her uniquely effective parenting and teaching strategies were developed through her years of training in sociology, special education, and philosophy, as well as field-tested through her experiences as a classroom teacher, laboratory school instructor, university instructor, seminar leader, volunteer in Rwanda, and mother of three grown children.

We are honored to have Barbara join our MEPI conference as our Friday keynote speaker.

Registration Key

IT-Infant & Toddler

EC-Early Childhood EL – Elementary

MS-Middle School

ADM – Administration

PP – Public & Private schools

Class sizes are limited. Register early to secure your seat in your preferred workshop sessions.

Entry tickets will be issued for each session according to your registration.

Sunday ***Ride and Run*** is by sign-up **on site** at the MEPI registration table.
\$15/bike rental for 4 hours.

1-A Why can't they Focus? Supporting Sensory/Motor Education in Children**Level: ALL**

Participants will learn to understand the importance of sensory education and how a child needing more "input" may exhibit; a short attention span, hyperactivity, heightened emotions, or disorganized body and mind. This workshop will introduce you to ways to support these needs.

Holli Andrews - has been in Montessori for close to 20 years. She taught 12 of those years in Early Childhood and is now serving as a learning specialist in Montessori. In 2008 she developed a "Movement Curriculum" that helps children get the sensory input they need throughout the day.

1-B Preparation of the Administrator**Level: ADM/PP**

Maria Montessori talked about the preparation of the teacher but what about the preparation of the Administrator? This workshop will provide hands on and practical ways that administrators can prepare themselves for the difficult task of leading a school.

Rachel Buechler gained her Montessori IT certification in 2011 and taught in the classroom until 2014 when she transitioned into the role of Assistant Director. She has presented at several conferences including IMC, WMA (Wisc), SCMA (SC), and MEPI. She is currently working on her Masters of Montessori Leadership.

1-C Montessori-based Multi-Tiered System of Support for All**Level: ALL/PP**

A MTSS for your small or large school is a research-based program of leveled support for students with diverse learning and behavior needs. We will share the model, how to implement it, and best practices for supporting our students with challenges. Q&A and handouts will be shared.

Christine Lowry has a M.ED in special education and her Montessori credential. She founded 2 schools to provide an inclusive setting for students with diverse behavior and learning needs. She manages Montessori and Special Needs at "Montessori-now.com", provides consultation to schools, and designs behavior plans for their individual students.

1-D Let's Connect: Connecting Students to Others and Themselves**Level: EL**

This workshop will aid teachers & parents of Elementary students to foster the students' own construction of their intelligence and social selves.

Interactive presentations will explore community service projects inside and outside the school. We will work with sewing, art, music, hand massage, poetry, ancestral interviews and idioms to connect with others and self.

Rose Dorer holds Montessori certification for her AMS EC, AMI EL and MA in Education & Educational Administration from AMS Minnesota. She retired from the classroom in Jan of 2018 and travels to Montessori conferences as a presenter and attendee. She is a proud grandparent of 4!

1-E Soil vs Oil: Soil – our next Energy Economy**Level: ALL/PP**

This presentation is from the perspective of a blacksmith and farmer emphasizing the natural process evolvments, which always evolve both socially and agriculturally. These always coincide and there are two Stone Age natural human concepts that are changing now that will evolve us socially: Sewer-waste management and Plow and Turn agriculture.

Jeff & Sandie Wright live in Lugoff, SC where Sandie teaches at the Montessori School of Camden. Jeff is a journeyman with the American Farriers Association where his blacksmithing roots are. He builds and designs humanure compost systems. They both garden, tend bees and raise worms.

1-F Science in their Hands**Level: EC**

Make science come alive in your classroom. View creative ideas in the power point on how to incorporate science into your indoor/outdoor classrooms. We will offer suggestions to lead the children to new discoveries and deeper understanding of their relationship to plants and animals.

Helen DeVere is director of Orlando Montessori Teacher Education Institute for EC in Florida. She has a Master's degree in EC/EL Education and AMS certifications for EC and EL1. She is the founder/co-founder of 2 schools and served on MACTE's Board of Directors.

1-G Inclusion: More than just Including**Level: All/PP**

A misconception of inclusion is the idea of allowing anyone into your classroom regardless of their contrasting needs. However, true inclusion, allows everyone to be a part of the class while proclaiming their contrasting skills. We will discuss ways to create an environment where every child feels fulfilled and engaged.

Tarina Cutler has a BS degree in Engineering and her Infant Toddler certification from MEPI. April Munteer has a BS degree in Psychology and is currently completing her EC certification with MEPI. Both enjoy time with their families, Utah football and laughing!

1-H Courtesy to Cognition: American Sign Language in Infant Toddler Environments**Level: IT/PP**

In this workshop we will talk about: importance of using ASL in your IT environments; discuss ways ASL impacts the developing brain, language & social-emotional regulation; look at ways sign language creates a culture of respect in your environment; and how it connects to Grace and Courtesy.

Gabrielle Holt has been a Montessori child from birth and is working on her IT certification She is fluent in ASL and attended a Montessori School for the Deaf.

1-I Making Connections: Meeting the Needs of Belonging and Contribution**Level: All/PP**

Children ARE worth it and deserve to be treated with dignity, respect, and have opportunities to contribute and be included in decision-making. Learn how simply asking instead of telling will change your relationship with children. We will explore positive discipline tools for use in the classroom, with co-workers and parents.

Tim and Christy Chen are both Positive Discipline Trainers and Montessori teachers. They combine their passion for Montessori with principles of Adlerian Psychology and Positive Discipline practices. They live just outside of Washington DC and both work at the Montessori School of Northern Virginia.

2-A Dyslexia in the Primary Classroom**Level: EC**

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

Patrick McGlinchy is the Children's House director for Keystone Montessori in Massachusetts. He has spent over 10 years teaching at the school 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.

2-B Let's Write!**Level: EC/ EL /PP**

Good handwriting is an important life skill. But how do we effectively teach handwriting / penmanship in the classroom without boring or stressing our children? This workshop will present methods, materials, and ideas for helping children improve their handwriting skills without the moans and groans!

Teresa Noble is the Education director for the Institute for Guided Studies under MEPI. She provides training and consultation for Early Childhood schools and teachers. She designed Alison's Montessori's Pink, Blue, and Green series work.

2-C Starting Parent Communication off on the Right Foot**Level: IT**

A workshop based on beginning the year with clear parent expectations and great parent / guide communication.

Kayla Bass recently became certified through MEPI and has been a lead teacher for 4 years. She is also the mother to 3 wonderful children.

Nikki Wright joined Kayla 3 years ago after having her son at Sea Pines Montessori, SC. She is also a mother to 2 amazing children!

2-D Teaching Positive Social Development to ALL students**Level: All/PP**

Going beyond Grace & Courtesy and the Peace Curriculum, we will discuss practical ways to encourage and develop positive social-emotional growth opportunities for all your students. With a model of "prepare-manage-guide", you'll learn best practices, specific support-management, with providing ongoing guidance that can result in a "community of students".

Christine Lowry please see her bio under 1-C.

2-E Finding your Inner Saint**Level: ALL / PP**

How are you to hear what the child needs when you cannot hear yourself? This workshop will introduce skills and techniques you can use to listen to your own inner voice and develop the ability to be "saintly" in your classroom.

Sarah Galley has worked at Charlotte Montessori School since 2010. She has both her IT and EC certifications. She is passionate about the understanding and love of young children as well as an advocate for the Montessori Philosophy.

2-F Going Within to Reach Out: Contemplative Practices for the Classroom**Level: ALL /PP**

If we believe that "Peace Begins with ME", we must offer children the means for becoming self-aware and to do the work of open and honest self-reflection. This workshop offers ways you can incorporate this time in the classroom and offer techniques for having children learn to be more contemplative.

Claire Salkowski has been an educator, trainer, administrator, mediator, Circle facilitator, and professor over the past 40 years nationally and internationally. She was the founder and Head of School at Free State Montessori (MD) for 35 years, Director of Montessori Education at Delaware State University, Director of Mediation and Education Programs, and has recently returned from working overseas.

2-G Managing Crisis in Montessori Schools**Level: ADM**

This workshop mines case studies of several recent crises involving Montessori schools for lessons leaders can apply to unexpected events in their own schools.

Dr. John Moncure has been head of school at the Montessori School of Camden for 16 years. A retired army colonel, he holds a Ph.D. in European history from Cornell University and is director of the Administrator Course offered by the Institute for Guided Studies under MEPI.

2-H Embracing Error**Level: ALL/PP**

A philosophical and practical look at our relationship with error in classrooms, staff rooms, boardrooms and living rooms. Strategies for creating the space and structure to get friendly with error and the discovery in repair are presented.

Renata Faccioli is the Wellness Ambassador at Empowered Wellbeing for Success. She has her primary Montessori certification with experience as classroom leader, on-site administrator and children's house owner-operator. **Natalie Baginski** is Head of School at Toddlers on the Hill in Washington D.C. . She also has her Montessori primary certification with M.ED and 11 years in the classroom.

2-I Children's Yoga**Level: EC /EL**

Let's enjoy learning the timeline of the Universe in a new way using fun yoga poses and songs. The scientific timeline of the universe is one of the stories of how the Universe began to the advent of humankind.

Anahita Farooq is a Montessori Directress and a trained children's yoga teacher. She is also an instructor at the Canadian Montessori Teacher's Education Institute. Anahita is a mother of 25-year-old twin daughters who also share her passion for Montessori. She owns and operates two Montessori schools in Toronto.

3-A Differentiated Instruction for Students with Diverse Learning & Behavior Needs**Level: All/PP**

Discussing and demonstrating how we can use classic Montessori materials to adjust our instruction will give you tools for working with all your students. Observation, planning, and progress monitoring provides the needed framework. A Q&A will give participants ideas for working with their students. Handouts provided.

Christine Lowry Please see her bio under 1-C

3-B Peace Off the Table**Level: EC / EL**

Where is the peace? Often we look to the table in the Montessori environment to help our students regain their inner peace. Participants in this workshop will be introduced to additional means of incorporating peace inside and outside the classroom environment.

Karen Tolliver is the Director of Education for the Montessori School of Camden, SC. She has worked there as a Primary Director for 17 years.

3-C Water – A Montessori Way**Level: EC/PP**

Water is a challenge for our planet. This water curriculum that we have used for many years allows children to experience the properties of water.

Children love it! We will start with a brief introduction followed by hands-on experience of the shelf ready works, a group discussion and a water cycle game.

Ingrid Fol is a Belgian native and graduated in Topography. She speaks Dutch, English, Spanish, and French. **Camilla Roberts** earned an Associate's Degree from No. Virginia Community College and attended Marymount College, majoring in Psychology. Both Ingrid and Camilla have their Early Childhood Credential and are co-teaching at the Montessori School of Northern Virginia.

3-D A Special Breed: Identifying / Assisting Children with Special classroom Needs**Level: ALL/PP**

What do we do for the child who isn't progressing or behaving the way we think they should? Learn how to identify and assist those children with possible special needs. Explore a comprehensive referral system and ways to modify and accommodate for those children who "don't fit the text book".

Claire Salkowski Please see her bio under 2-F.

3-E Pt 1 – You Can Teach it All**Level: EL/ADM /PP**

Are you exhausted and frustrated trying to cover the entire Elementary curriculum? Good News! There are real solutions; many will work for you!

You can teach successfully, offering elementary Montessori children the whole curriculum. In this workshop, Michael will explain eight steps to allow you to teach it all successfully.

Dr. Michael Dorer has worked with children in Montessori since 1969 and with adults in Montessori education since 1978. He has a doctorate in Instructional Leadership, and credentials from AMS and AMI. His latest book is "The Deep Well of Time: Transformative Power of Storytelling in the Classroom"

3-F Updating our Worldview for the Cosmic Curriculum & Cultural Studies**Level: EL /AD /**

Borrowing on the works of Fritjoff Capra, Hans Riseling and Stephen Pinker, this session will examine the common misconceptions and outdated perceptions that plague teachers' and societies' portrayal of the current state of affairs in the world and the trajectory of progress according to science.

Warren McPherson is Director of the Athens Montessori School in GA serving 250 students ages 3-15. He has been a Montessori educator for over 45 years. In addition, he has served as a teacher trainer, consultant and conference present for over 30 years. **Andrew Kim** teaches at the Montessori School of Athens, GA and has his 6-12 Montessori certification.

3-G Celebrating International Diversity Through United Nations Day**Level: ALL/PP**

This workshop will explore the ways international diversity can be celebrated at your school, culminating with a UN Day Festival. When children learn about the unique gifts of other cultures, and celebrate those gifts through art, music, dance, special projects and lessons, their learning will last a lifetime.

Andrew Kutt is the founder of the Oneness Family School in Maryland. 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!

3-H T.E.D. Talks: Establishing a Successful Toddler Extended Day Program**Level: IT /PP**

Are you looking for a more exciting extended day curriculum? Do you want to "wow" toddlers and parents with amazing and creative activities?

Are you struggling to find age appropriate crafts? Look no further as I have a binder full of one year of activities to share!

Michelle Cochran is an Assistant Teacher in a toddler classroom at Queen City Montessori School. She is in charge of the Toddler Extended Day. She loves to be outdoors, travel to new places and going anywhere with live music!

3-I Using Musical Instruments & Culture to Augment Core Curriculum**Level: All /PP**

An interactive learning journey that offers fresh ways to bring your classroom subjects to life using musical instruments, rhythms of the world and different cultures. We will also look at how music is a unique and effective way to reach the most hard-to-reach individuals and at-risk populations.

Daniel Scruggs loves musical instruments and is fascinated by the different cultures that created them. He has spent substantial time in other countries learning from different cultures and traditions and shares this knowledge through his RhythmMoves holistic educational program. Daniel is based in Charleston, SC. RhythmMovesLive.com

4-A Improvisation for Elementary and Middle School Students**Level: EL/MS/PP**

Learn a series of improvisational and theater games, which teach focus, build confidence in performance, and spark creativity.

Warren McPherson Please see Warren's bio under 3-F. **This workshop does not qualify for SC-DSS credit

4-B Common Sense Parenting Today**Level: ALL/PP**

This workshop will explore ways to support parents in defining their parenting priorities and to help them develop skills and routines that support those priorities which are consistent with Montessori philosophy.

Denise Harold has a M.Ed. in Montessori Early Education and her Montessori teacher credential from PAMS (Pan American Montessori Society). A lead guide for 10 years and a school director for 5, she is currently a teacher trainer with PAMS. She also heads up Common Sense Parenting, LLC.

4-C Pt 2 – You Can Teach it All**Level: EL/ADM/PP**

This workshop will complete what was introduced in Part 1 (3-E). He will complete the Eight Strategies for Success and will introduce the Ten Components of Effective Lessons, and the CORA plan. Take heart, it can be done! You actually CAN teach it all!

Dr Michael Dorer Please see Michael's bio under 3-E.

4-D Take the Teacher out of the Middle: Learner-centric Adolescent Environment**Level: MS/PP**

To support the independence of the adolescent learner, the prepared classroom has "micro-systems" throughout the environment used as conduits for development to replace the Montessori materials. This workshop examines micro-systems intended to keep the teacher more fully in the role of guide and observer, rather than "in the middle".

Colleen Carlson is an Educational Consultant and is credentialed through AMS for Early Childhood and Elementary I and Secondary I-II. of School and Middle School director at Montessori Family School in Berkeley, CA. She is credentialed through AMS for Secondary I-II.

**This workshop does not qualify for SC-DSS credit

4-E Gardening Across the Curriculum: The Beauty of the Outdoors**Level: EC/EL/ADM/PP**

We will be taking a look at utilizing the outdoor environment as a learning classroom through gardening experiences and touching on all areas of the classroom.

Dr Teresa Turner is a Montessori Director of a school in Reynolds GA. She works with Dr. Feland Meadows at Kennesaw State University and has a Master Montessori Teacher Certificate from Pan American Montessori Society (PAMS)

4-F Labyrinths for Beginners**Level: All/PP**

Enjoy an introduction to labyrinths and learn ways to use them in classrooms, communities, and schools. You'll learn the types of labyrinths and how to draw many of them, from seeds. Labyrinths can be used as a tool for increasing focus and concentration and for art and group activities.

Beth Langley has a BA from Columbia College, a MEPI credential at the Primary level and is a Veriditas certified labyrinth facilitator. Beth shares her love of labyrinths with Montessori teachers, gardeners, art educators and labyrinth enthusiasts. She has designed and installed over a dozen permanent labyrinths.

4-G The 5 Golden Keys: Embracing Developing Life with Small Children under 7**Level: EC/PP**

Participants will learn about a public awareness campaign in Florence SC that can easily be adapted to any location at little or no cost. The campaign encourages parents to embrace Sleep, Nutrition, Movement, Routine and Love as the 5 Golden Keys, which open the world to children. The ideas of Helle Heckmann, Danish Kindergarten teacher and worldwide speaker, will be shared. Free materials will be distributed. Come learn how to change parent's perspectives and embrace a life that supports their children.

Floyd Creech is the Early Childhood specialist for Florence, SC school district and is a member of the MACTE Board of Directors after serving as President of International Association of Montessori Educators (IAME) for a number of years. Dr. Creech was a classroom teacher for 14 years and is currently a President-elect candidate for SECA 2019 (Southern Early Childhood Association).

4-H Singing the Montessori Curriculum**Level: All**

In this workshop Andrew will share original songs and activities that illustrate key concepts of Montessori's Cosmic Curriculum, including the web of life, the solar system, caring for the planet, friendship & building peace. These songs and activities are also excellent tools for teaching grammar, math, vocabulary and more.

Andrew Kutt Please see Andrew's bio under 3-G

4-I Toileting Toddlers**Level: IT/ADM**

An in depth discussion of the toileting process, beginning with an overview of stand up diapering, working toward building independence and signs of readiness. We will describe the process we use for toileting in our classrooms, and the parent communication involved. We will also hold a Q&A at the end.

Maggie Southerland & Meghan Redman have been teaching in the toddler environment for the past three years. They have encountered many toileting challenges in that time. Together they have worked with over 40 toddlers in this process.

5-A Fun with Cultural Artifacts: Making the World Come Alive**Level: EC**

Children begin to learn about culture from home. As they start to experience the world, their views grow bigger. Join us as we make their world come alive through enriching cultural artifact fun. Learn how culturally responsive a primary Montessori classroom truly is.

Carrie Allen is an NCME Primary credentialed Montessorian who has been in early education for over 25 years. She is currently the Director of the Montessori Teacher Training Program at Loch Haven in Orlando FL under MEPI.

5-B Guiding Positive Behavior in Children**Level: All**

Educators who grapple with behavioral issues in the classroom know how complex it can be particularly when childhood attention is being shaped by new forces like screen time. This workshop will examine how to place boundaries on children without hurting their self-esteem and channel negative behavior to positive.

Jayanthi Rajagopalan owns a Montessori school in Toronto and is also a trainer of trainers with the Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute. She has vast teaching experience ranging from toddlers to Elementary years. Jayanthi truly believes that nurturing the inner peace amongst children will help us find our own.

5-C Back to Basics: Review of the Mathematic Materials**Level: EC**

This will be a review of Maria Montessori's approach to teaching mathematics in a primary classroom. The workshop is based on the book "Development of the Child". We will use the original wording of Montessori as we review counting, quantities, teen numbers, and math operations. Demonstrations will be offered.

Svetlana Smirnova-Johnston graduated from Herzen State Pedagogical University (Russia). She has her degree in secondary math and has worked in education about 30 years. She received her Montessori certification in 2008 and has been working at Clay-Platte Montessori (Missouri) since 2005. She has been part of the Montessori Teacher Preparation of Kansas City team since 2009 teaching math.

5-D Labyrinths for Ceremony, Ritual and Special Occasions**Level: All/PP**

Learn to set up temporary labyrinths. We will practice a few rituals that can be used with students to commemorate welcoming new students, conscious gratitude activities, and other community events. We will finish with the construction of a Baltic Wheel or double Spiral labyrinth.

Beth Langley has a BA from Columbia College, is MEPI credentialed for Early Childhood and is a Veriditas certified labyrinth facilitator. Beth shares her love of labyrinths with Montessori teachers, gardeners, art educators, and labyrinth enthusiasts. She has designed and installed over a dozen permanent labyrinths.

5-E "Music has charms to soothe a savage breast..." Pt 1**Level: EC**

Do you have bells gathering dust in your environment? Would you like to awaken that spark of creativity and fill the room with delightful Montessori music? This workshop will take you through a 3-year course in music with the Montessori bells – from handling the bells to composing original music.

Daniel Jutras is founder of the Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute and has a Ph.D. in Education, a Montessori diploma (3-6 - AMI) and his Elementary (6-12) from St Nicholas Centre, England. Since 1989, he has prepared thousands of Montessori teacher candidates, and regularly lectures in international Montessori conferences. Julie Armstrong is a mother of three children, a registered ECE, Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting facilitator and Master teacher trainer with CMTEI. After enjoying many years spent as a Casa Directress and Supervisor she currently marvels with toddlers at Lyonsgate Montessori in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

5-F MPPI: The Policy Landscape, Current Projects and How to Get Involved**Level: All/PP**

Join the Montessori Public Policy Initiative staff for an overview of the current policy landscape pertaining to Montessori. We will highlight MPPI tools and advocacy coaching available to advocates working towards Montessori teacher credential recognition or exceptions, exemptions, and crosswalks for licensing/QRIS regulations. A group activity will end this workshop.

Denise Monnier is the Director of State Advocacy for MPPI, and the Executive Director of the Association of Illinois Montessori Schools.

5-G Multilingual Montessori Environment**Level: EC**

The workshop will inspire Montessori teachers to bring in different languages to the classroom. We will cover critical periods of language development, foreign language immersion methods, and cross-cultural communications. We will learn to encourage children to explore the world through its rich linguistic and cultural heritage.

Julia Davis is a Montessori teacher and bilingual educator. She has her Master's degree in Linguistics and Cross-Cultural Communications from Udmurt State University (Russia). She worked as an ESL teacher, Church school teacher in a multicultural community and camp director before coming to Clay-Platte Montessori school in Missouri.

5-H Planting Seeds of Kindness: Compassion and the Growth Mindset**Level: All/PP**

Many people struggle with fixed mindsets and won't accept challenges. A strong correlation exists between emotional intelligence and growth mindset. When caregivers nurture compassion, the child will courageously make attempts, accept their mistakes, become more committed, and enjoy many accomplishments. This workshop explains empathy enhancing and growth mindset encouraging approaches.

Rita Cassiano & Gingi Lahera believe every person is born with the innate ability to create, and that to share our gifts is a fundamental human need. We use art, language, and music to unlock potential and help create paths to authentic self-expression, cultural consciousness, and human connection.

5-I Get the 411 on CCCC**Level: IT/EC/PP**

This workshop is specific for SC educators. Join us to find out what the Center for Child Care Career Development does, how we can support you in documenting your annual DSS training hours and to provide scholarship information if you are interested in obtaining your degree.

Mickie Jennings earned a degree in Early Childhood. She was a curriculum coordinator before joining CCCC as a training coordinator

Elizabeth Bankert earned her degree in Family and Consumer Services with a specialization in Early Intervention. Before becoming a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship counselor, she worked in childcare and Early Intervention.

6-A Using Veggies from your School Garden: Meals as Practical Life Lessons**Level: All**

Our bio-garden is a great way to introduce children to wider varieties of fruits and veggies. Using vegetables that we planted allows children to explore new foods. Cooking and preparing meals using fresh produce is an important life skill for healthy living, which most children enjoy.

Sandra Pokos is owner and director of Little Heart Montessori School of Zagreb (Croatia). She is an Early Childhood director, teacher trainer and Trainer of the Trainers. She founded her Montessori school 21 years ago and has been training adults for 17 years. She is on the MEPI Board of Directors.

6-B Cultivating Positive Behavior Practices thru Gardens and Grounds**Level: MS**

The purpose of the workshop is to showcase ways in which a student centric gardens and grounds program can encourage and promote positive behavior practices among students at a large, urban, Title 1, turnaround middle school.

Christiane Schau holds a Masters of Public Health (MPH) and is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES). Currently she is the Learning Strategist at Bailey Middle School (Nevada). She serves as the Family and Community Liaison, School Wellness Coordinator and teacher leader and mentor.

6-C Risky Business**Level: All/PP**

A presentation and discussion of the shift in modern day play spaces to minimize risk and the social/emotional impact on a generation of children.

Meghan Redman has been working with children for over a decade and in the Montessori environment for the past 5 years. She has a passion for Montessori and a passion for teaching, beginning with herself.

6-D “Music has charms to soothe a savage breast...” Pt 2**Level: EC**

Do you have bells gathering dust in your environment? Would you like to awaken that spark of creativity and fill the room with delightful Montessori music? This workshop will take you through a 3-year course in music with the Montessori bells – from handling the bells to composing original music.

Daniel Jutras is founder of the Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute and has a Ph.D. in Education, a Montessori diploma (3-6 - AMI) and his Elementary (6-12) from St Nicholas Centre, England. Since 1989, he has prepared thousands of Montessori teacher candidates, and regularly lectures in international Montessori conferences. **Julie Armstrong** is a mother of three children, a registered ECE, Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting facilitator and Master teacher trainer with CMTEI. After enjoying many years spent as a Casa Directress and Supervisor she currently marvels with toddlers at Lyonsgate Montessori in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

6-E Montessori’s Philosophy in an Early Head Start Program**Level: IT**

We will describe the strategies and techniques that took place during the implementation of the Montessori philosophy in an Early Head Start program.

Gisela Rentas is a graduate from Interamerican University of Puerto Rico in Industrial-Organizational Psychology and a graduate from Capella University in EC education. Dr. Rentas has more than 15 years of experience in the areas of Education and Psychology. She is known for her passion for children, youth, pregnant women, and her true commitment to delivery of quality services.

6-F Making Science an Important Part of your Primary Classroom**Level: ALL**

Montessori believed that children should learn about real objects before they learn the names or look at pictures. This is why teaching science is so important in the primary classroom. We need to allow the child to make observations and absorb the information about the natural world through their senses.

Helen DeVere is director of Orlando Montessori Teacher Education Institute for EC in Florida. She has a Master’s degree in EC/EL Education and AMS certifications for EC and EL1. She is the founder/co-founder of 2 schools and served on MACTE’s Board of Directors.

6-G Cooking in the Classroom**Level:EL/MS/PP**

This workshop will demonstrate how to teach cooking techniques using a two burner hot plate and a toaster oven. You can create simple recipes, introduce proper nutrition and healthy eating habits. This workshop will teach safety in the kitchen, mathematics through measurement, literacy, and following instructions. .

Michelle Casey is the Lower EL director at the Montessori School of Camden (SC). This year is her 5th year as director. She earned a BA in Art, a Master’s in Elementary Education, and her 6-9 Montessori certification in 2017. She enjoys yoga, art, and musical performance.

6-H Early Childhood Hybrid Montessori Summer Camp**Level: EC**

In this workshop we will discuss how to create a hybrid Montessori summer camp for your school We will talk about themes, lesson ideas, marketing, and how to create a successful and FUN summer camp program for your school.

Hannah French & Becca Arnovich have co-taught at Mountain Montessori (CO) for 3 years. Hannah was trained at MECR and has been a lead teacher for 3 years at Mountain Montessori. Becca spent one year as an assistant before being trained at CMTE.

6-I Family Projects**Level: EC /EL**

This workshop is designed to give you ideas for fun family projects. The goal of the family projects is to set aside time for families to be involved in their child’s education by working together on a FUN project

Christina Miller has taught in public schools for 9 years. She has a Masters in Primary Montessori from Lander University

Christina Cruikshanks has taught 15 years in a public school with the last 6 years in a Primary classroom. She received her MEPI certification last year.

8:00 – 9:00am

Laughter Yoga with Kristie

Level: All/PP

Easy and fun exercises for health and happiness to share with your classrooms! Reduce stress instantly! Strengthen your immune system! Laughter helps to keep you in a good mood and cheerful disposition throughout your day. Laughter Yoga oxygenates your brain and makes you feel more energetic which helps you keep a positive mental attitude in difficult times.

If you can experience this, then it will be easy to take this back to your classroom to help your students through their difficult transitions in life. It’s a great way to start your day in the classroom and gets everyone, adults and students, on the happy road to cheerful productivity!

Kristie Norwood has been involved in Montessori environments since 2003. She currently works at the Institute for Guided Studies as Director of Student Affairs and is an MEPI conference committee member. She has been a certified Laughter Yoga instructor since 2012 and is co-leader of the Columbia, South Carolina Laughter Yoga Club. She fully believes that laughing is the easiest, fastest, and the most inexpensive way to live a happy life



9:00am

Run and Ride

Level: All

What better way to end a fabulous and full weekend than to unwind with a healthy run on the beach!

If running is not your cup of tea we will have bikes to rent to accompany the runners on the hard-pack sand, which is perfect for beach biking.

All levels of fitness are welcome. Walkers too!! Getting outside is what is important and an opportunity to spend some down time at the rejuvenating atmosphere of the ocean before heading back to our homes and schools.

To reserve a bike (\$15 for 4 hours) sign up at the MEPI registration table at the conference.



9:45am

Labyrinth on the Beach with Beth

Level: All

Join Beth for a peaceful and centering activity on the beach. No experience with Labyrinths is necessary to participate or simply watch.

Beth Langley is MEPI Early Childhood certified and a Veriditas certified labyrinth facilitator. Building labyrinths in the sand, on the beautiful beach is one of her favorite activities!



Registration Information

How to Register

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

Click or go to: www.mepiforum.org

Early registration rates are good through **Sunday, January 20, 2019**. 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
Saturday Classic Cookout Buffet	\$25
Sunday Bike Rental	\$15

Friday Salad Buffet: *Mixed Garden Greens & Hearts of Romaine, Slice mushrooms, Cucumbers, Carrots, Hard-boiled eggs, Aged Cheddar & crumbled Blue cheese, Shaved Red Onion, Bacon Lardons, Grape Tomatoes, Garlic Croutons and assorted dressings.*

Sliced Chicken Breasts ~ Marinated local Shrimp ~ Basil Pesto Tortellini Salad ~ Roasted Potato Salad ~ Rolls & Butter ~ Lemon Tarts ~ Individual Pecan Pies

Saturday Classic Cookout Buffet: *Watermelon & Arugula Salad w/ Feta & Sweet Basil Dressing*

Grilled Angus Burgers ~ Garlic & Herb Chicken Breast

Assorted Cheeses & Condiments ~ Pepper Smoked Bacon ~ Lettuce, Tomato & Onion ~ Potato Chips

Grilled Vegetable Pasta Salad ~ Carolina Cole Slaw

Fresh baked Buns & Rolls

Jumbo Cookies ~ Chocolate Fudge Brownie

Payment for your early registration must be received by Feb. 1, 2019 to avoid a \$25 monthly late fee.

Cancellation Policy

- Fees are non-refundable after **Feb 1, 2019**.
- If you find, after **Feb 1, 2019** 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, 2019**, 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 Feb 24, 2019 but are dependent upon space availability - so please plan accordingly for your lodging reservations.**

Call for reservations (and please mention
Montessori Educational Programs – Booking Code 15370

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

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 one way.

We will send information about RideShare and Uber if interested. Check the box on the registration form.

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MEPI Leadership

Martha Teien - *President*

John Moncure - *Vice President*

Bobbi Brown-Flannery - *Secretary*

Flo Hart - *Treasurer*

Mary Helen Cline – *Education Chair*

Sandra Pokos – *Teacher Education Chair*

Mary Cusack – *Executive Coordinator*

Meredith Hines- *Member*

Marie Therese Bishay- *Member*

Aja Debruyn – *Member*

Andrea Scott- *Member*

Claire Salkowski- *Member*

Beti Wyn Holcombe - *Council of Elders*

Marianne Bivins - *Council of Elders*

Marguerite Richardt - *Council of Elders*

Warren McPherson - *Council of Elders*

Melody Mosby - *Council of Elders*

Nouha Batshon - *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.



The hand is the best teacher.

Dr. Helen K. Billings