

“Hands for Peace”

2014 Conference



MONTESSORI:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE!

HANDS FOR PEACE

MEPI'S 18TH ANNUAL

“HANDS FOR PEACE” INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

LITCHFIELD BEACH AND GOLF RESORT, PAWLEY'S ISLAND, SC ✦ FEBRUARY 21-23, 2014



LITCHFIELD BEACH & GOLF RESORT, PAWLEY'S ISLAND, SC
FEBRUARY 21-23, 2014

Make plans to attend the 18th Annual "Hands for Peace" MEPI Conference!

WELCOME

MEPI is excited to present the 18th Annual "Hands for Peace" International Montessori Conference. Join us at Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort in Pawley's Island, SC for two and a half days of professional development, training, networking and all out Montessori fun! No other conference compares with the feel of MEPI's annual conference in South Carolina. Register today for your unique Montessori experience, MEPI-style!

Join us for this event where unique and practiced Montessorians convene to share ideas and camaraderie. Presenters represent all areas of the Montessori Spectrum in fifty workshops. In addition, we hope you can stay to enjoy the Sunday Bonus Workshop at Brookgreen Gardens. *(Don't forget to ask about the "Secret Gate" to get in before the main gate opens at 9:30 am.)*

KEYNOTES

ANDRE ROBERFROID

On Friday evening, the Keynote Address will be given by André Roberfroid, President of the Association Montessori Internationale. Mr. Roberfroid will recount the ways Montessori has made a difference in the past and the role Montessori will play in our future. He has held many executive positions in UNICEF from 1974 until his retirement in 2003. In these accomplished roles, he was responsible for the formulation and implementation of many UNICEF strategic objectives and programs from Geneva, to Congo, Yemen, Jordan, Lebanon, Iran and Mali. He was particularly involved in the development and implementation of programs for children in extremely difficult circumstances; the civil war in Lebanon, the unrest in the West Bank and Gaza, and the aftermath of the genocide in Rwanda. Join us in welcoming the Belgian national, Andre Roberfroid!



ALI ROGERS

Saturday's special guest will be Ali Rogers, a graduate of Laurens County School District 55 and Montessori student through 8th grade. Ali is well known for her personal motto "Make a Difference" and her stance on education for special needs children. Ali was named Miss South Carolina in 2012 and first runner up for Miss America in 2013 and we're proud of this Montessori graduate who is beautiful inside and out.

MEPI offers a wide variety of breakout sessions from infant and toddler guides to school administration and teacher trainers. The conference will provide practical and timely programs for anyone interested in providing and promoting the Montessori Method in their homes, classrooms, and communities. Participate in activities and workshops, widen your understanding of Montessori philosophy and current research, enrich and renew your Montessori Spirit. Our speakers and presenters will enlighten and spark your imagination!

Schedule of EVENTS

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY **20** 2014

4:00 pm **Early Registration** 6:00 pm

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY **21** 2014

7:00 - 8:00 am **Registration**
8:00 - 8:15 am **Welcome & Opening Ceremony**
8:15 - 8:45 am **Ode to the Arts**
8:45 - 12: pm **Montessori School Reviews/Visits**
9:00 - 10:30 am **Session 1**
10:30 - 11:00 am **Networking, Shopping & Silent Auction**
11:00 am - 12:00 pm **Session 2**
12:15 - 1:00 pm **Lunch**
1:15 - 2:45 pm **Session 3**
3:00 - 4:00 pm **Session 4**
4:00 - 4:30 pm **Networking, Shopping & Silent Auction**
4:30 - 6:00 pm **Keynote: André Roberfroid**
6:00 - 7:30 pm **Munch & Mingle**

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY **22** 2014

7:00 - 8:15 am **Registration**
8:30 - 10:00 am **Session 5**
10:00 - 10:30 am **Networking, Shopping & Silent Auction**
10:30 - 11:30 am **Session 6**
11:30 am - 1:00 pm **Annual General Meeting,
Recent MEPI Graduates, Level 1 Schools,
Announcements, & Lunch**
1:15 - 2:15 pm **Keynote: Ali Rogers**
2:15 - 2:45 pm **Networking, Shopping & Silent Auction**
2:45 - 3:45 pm **Session 7**
3:45 - 4:00 pm **Silent Auction Results**
4:00 - 5:00 pm **Session 8**
5:00 - 6:00 pm **Closing Ceremony**

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY **23** 2014

9:00 am **Secret Gate Entrance into Bookgreen Gardens**
9:30 am - 12:30 pm **Brookgreen Gardens**

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

ANDREW KUTT

Andrew will be "instrumental" during many of our activities throughout the conference. We are pleased to have him join us in such a capacity during these few days. Founder of the Oneness-Family School in Chevy Chase MD, Andrew has nearly 30 years of experience as a Montessori teacher, administrator, teacher trainer and consultant. Andrew is the author of *Living in Harmony*, a book that offers virtue lessons based on historical heroic figures, as well as of numerous articles on education, child development and modern society. He has created curriculum materials for positive discipline, conflict resolution, diversity, happiness and other extensions to the Montessori classroom. Andrew is an accomplished poet and songwriter, with 3 CD's and hundreds of songs to his credit. His latest children's CD is entitled *Earth Songs* and his new song *Montessori Child* is dedicated to the mission of Maria Montessori.



FRIDAY

Ode to the Arts 8:15 - 8:45 am

Join us for our opening ceremony (8:00 am) and an "Ode to the Arts" by Andrew Kutt. Andrew will perform some of his inspiring songs, including his anthem *Montessori Child* and also share some of his thoughts about the essential role music and art play in the development of the social, emotional, and intellectual lives of our children. Music and art not only enhance our lives they enliven our brains for greater learning. Children and adults alike need to have an outlet for creative expression as well as the opportunity to experience life through music and art.

Montessori School Reviews/Visits 8:45 am - 12:00 pm

Join us for a review and visit of two Montessori institutions that offer programs from infant to upper elementary. Meet at the registration desk at 8:45 am and we will caravan to the Montessori School of Pawleys Island (MSPI) and Coastal Montessori Charter School (CMCS). At MSPI, we will review practices in infant through Kindergarten levels. In addition, our hosts will graciously provide light breakfast munchies. Following the tour at MSPI, we will review the practices of lower and upper elementary classes at CMCS. Please be sure to wear your MEPI name badge for identification, as school will be in session!

The Montessori School of Pawleys Island tour will be led by Rachel Tomovski, B.A., B.Ed. With a background in both Human Resources and Education, Rachel moved to the South Strand in 2007 from Dallas. Her resume includes recruiter, talent agent, teacher, coach, theatre director, nutrition consultant, and writer. Rachel had a meaningful encounter with Montessori education when touring preschools in 2005, and she has never looked back. She has worked at MSPI since 2009, becoming Director in June 2012. Rachel has also served as Secretary on the CMCS Board of Directors, since its inception.

Coastal Montessori Charter School's tour will be led by Nathalie Hunt, PhD. Dr. Hunt began her Montessori journey at a public Montessori charter school in California in 2003 where she served as a Lower Elementary Teacher. In 2005, she moved to Dallas, Texas where she continued her Lower Elementary teaching, this time in a private Montessori school. After 3 years of classroom teaching Dr. Hunt began to wonder why more educators and academics, in particular, were not familiar with the Montessori pedagogy. At this time, she decided to pursue her Master of Education at The University of Texas at Austin. Her interest in teaching and learning theory grew stronger with each year of study resulting in her decision to pursue a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction. While attending graduate school Dr. Hunt served as a University Facilitator charged with supervising Interns and Student Teachers pursuing their English as a Second Language Early Childhood through 4th grade Texas Teaching Credential. In her 7 years at UT Austin Dr. Hunt personally cultivated over 200 Texas elementary school teachers. In May of this year, Dr. Hunt began her journey as a charter school leader at Coastal Montessori Charter School.

Munch N Mingle 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Join us, along with Andrew Kutt, for a lively round table and group discussion of Montessori best practices. Interact with other Montessorians and share your tips for special occasions and problem solving ideas. Several other activities will follow this as we learn more about where we've come from and where we are going.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

Reflection Room 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

The reflection Room is open for all participants during the entire conference. Enjoy a "Piece of Quiet" in the Reflection Room. This year's quiet space is devoted to "The Power of Reflection". Discover how reenergizing it can be to take some "Time-In" to reflect, refocus, journal or meditate. The "Gift" of a hand-written note is a fading and rare practice. Stationery will be available for you to honor this tradition. Write a letter to recovering soldiers, active duty military members (we will mail these), or for personal letters to friends or family. Use this time to write a letter to your mentor... or a student. Facilitators for the Reflection Room include Susan Putnam and Beth Langley. Additionally, Mercedes Stewart will be available for breath work "by chance or by schedule".

SUNDAY

Brookgreen Gardens - See page 12

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SESSION ONE

1-A Making a Difference... in Me... Prior to Making a Difference in Them

Level: All

This workshop is intended to create an awareness of the paths leading to a spiritual transformation as inspired by Maria Montessori. There will be individual and collective practical exercises focusing upon the various steps to reach a personal transformation. Everyone is welcome to participate in this reflective workshop for the preparation of the teacher.

Dr. Daniel Jutras is the founder (1989), Master Teacher and Examiner of the Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute; He received his Montessori Teacher Education certification from AMI (3-6) from Perugia, Italy(1987). His trainer was the late Dottressa Antoinietta Paolini who worked with Dr. Maria Montessori for more than 22 years as her special assistant, and from St. Nicholas Centre at the Elementary level (6-12). from England (1989). Daniel has a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Ottawa (1979)

1-B Guided by Nature: Vision Becomes Reality - Pt. 1

Level: All

Follow Dr. Montessori's vision and support the true nature of the child. Create exciting natural spaces to promote physical, social, and spiritual wellness. Learn how to incorporate simple and economical design elements for playscapes using existing resources, community labor, and ideas inspired by the presenters at the International Congress.

Lynn Nehez, B.B.A., AMI, and Michael Nehez are cofounders and owners of Oak Meadow Montessori School in suburban Atlanta, GA. They have over 20 years experience incorporating nature safely and creatively into playscapes on their 5-acre campus. Michael Nehez, Co-Owner, Director of Operations for Oak Meadow Montessori School.

1-C Kinesthetic Science Lessons! Make Them Move!!

Level: LE, UE, MS

Ideas for teaching lessons in many areas of science that require the student to physically be a part of the lesson. Kinesthetic lesson ideas will be shared for earth science, biology, chemistry, physics, and astronomy. Come to the workshop ready to move and be a part of the learning.

Teena Kyer is AMS certified 6 to 12 teacher (2003). She has a BS in Elementary Education and a M.Ed in Learning disabilities from Frances Marion University. She has been teaching in a Montessori classroom since 1999 at the Montessori School of Florence (MSF). She is a past director of the school and serves as the Program Coordinator of the Palmetto Montessori Institute, and elementary training program through Florence School District One. She is a member of the South Carolina Montessori Alliance Board.

1-D Montessori and STEM

Level: EC, LE, UE, MS

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics for Every Child - Using stories to engage children is a time tested technique. In this interactive workshop you will learn a simple and engaging story - and a spiraling lesson sequence - that bridges explorations from the inclined plane to the gravitational acceleration for children from early childhood to the middle school level.

Katie Ibes is an adjunct professor at St. Catherine University's Advanced Montessori Programs in St. Paul, MN. She is the co-developer and co-instructor in the Montessori STEM graduate certificate program. She is also an independent consultant working on integrating the arts into Montessori and STEM at Elizabeth Academy in SLC, UT.

1-E Educating the Whole Child: Building Character, Community, and Self-Discipline

Level: All

Explore the classroom and how interaction with the environment and adults can affect the child's efforts and successes. Learn different ways to help children build good peer communication, problem solve, and understand their community and their role within it. Have each child leave your classroom working at their potential... even if that means the adults change their view of expectations.

Crystal Jones has worked within the Montessori community for eleven years. Over the past six years, Crystal Jones has also been working in a MACTE Accredited Teacher Training Centre as a Montessori Teacher Instructor; and is a Master Teacher. She has lectured at Classroom Management Seminars and has written numerous papers about discipline, parent education, and the Montessori environment.

1-F Strap and Snap: A Brain Injury Prevention Program

Level: LE

Strap and Snap brings an element of fun to a serious topic by including a variety of visual aids and exciting demonstrations. Resources provided include: lesson plans, pledge cards, and brain recipes.

Maria Bostian received her M. Ed. in Montessori Integrative Learning from Endicott College in Beverly, MA. A Montessori teacher with 10 years experience, Maria now serves as Fire and Life Safety Educator for Kannapolis (N.C.) Fire Department.

1-G Celebrate Planet Earth with Songs for the Curriculum

Level: All

The great lessons and key concepts of the Cosmic Curriculum are the foundation of Montessori philosophy. This workshop will review and explore Montessori's Cosmic Curriculum through song, featuring 12 original songs from about the formation of the universe, the creation of life and the majesty of planet earth. Learning about the web of life through song will ensure that our students remember these essential concepts forever.

Andrew Kutt See Andrew's Biography on page 4, "Special Opportunities".

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SESSION TWO

2-A Montessori 5.0

Level: All

If a generation is approximately 30 years, we can conclude that Montessori pedagogy and implementation is in its fourth generation. While we can revel in the fact that it is within this generation that our practices have been validated, the question must be asked: what are we doing to prepare for the fifth generation?

Erika Ohlhaber is a second generation Montessori professional, has worked in both private and public school Montessori programs at all age levels. Since 1992, her association as a trainer for several training programs has given her a multi-faceted perspective on Montessori in today's classrooms.

2-B Guided by Nature: Vision becomes Reality - Pt. 2

Level: All

Follow Dr. Montessori's vision and support the true nature of the child. Create exciting natural spaces to promote physical, social, and spiritual wellness. Learn how to incorporate simple and economical design elements for playscapes using existing resources, community labor, and ideas inspired by the presenters at the International Congress.

Lynn Nehex, B.B.A., AMI, and Jody Sills, M.Ed. Are cofounders and owners of Oak Meadow Montessori School in suburban Atlanta, GA. They have over 20 years experience incorporating nature safely and creatively into playscapes on their 5-acre campus.

2-C Digital Story Telling

Level: EC, LE, UE

Finding a way to integrate technology into the classroom in a purposeful, creative way can be a challenge. Using a story board program, you will see how you can provide the students with an extension activity to make their research projects come to life in a digital way.

Antoinette Ursits teaches at the Coastal Charter Montessori School in Pawley's Island. She holds credentials for primary and lower elementary and has been in Montessori classrooms since 1991.

2-D Falling in Love with a Good Book

Level: IT

This workshop will provide you with ideas and strategies to encourage a love of books & reading from the start. We will discuss & demonstrate different kinds of books, including homemade, classroom lessons that reinforce the story, and reading to entice your classes interest.

Meredith Hines & Christina Muehlbauer work together at the Montessori School of Camden. Meredith is the Toddler, Extended day & Summer Director, and is certified by MEPI at the Early Childhood & Infant/Toddler Level. Christina is the Infant Director and is currently in her internship with MEPI for Infant/Toddler.

2-E Following the Adult

Level: TEC

Follow the adult? Tired of training the same way, attending workshops designed for children, or being bored by a lecture? This session will discuss ways we can "follow the adult learner" as we passionately train future Montessori teachers.

Leila O'Neal has been teaching for 37 years, 16 in private schools and 21 years in the public schools in South Carolina. She holds National Board Certification, an Education Specialist and Masters Degree in Elementary Education. She currently teaches the only Montessori Lower Elementary class in Berkeley County School District. She is certified at the Early Childhood and (soon to be) Lower Elementary Levels.

2-F Play Safe! Be Safe!

Level: EC, ADMIN, Parents

Play safe! Be Safe! Is a preschool fire safety program sponsored by BIC. BIC has provided 12 free copies of this material for the first 12 schools that register for this class. Attendees learn valuable fire safety lessons to use with their 3-5 year-old children.

Maria Bostian received her M. Ed. in Montessori Integrative Learning from Endicott College in Beverly, MA. A Montessori teacher with 10 years experience, Maria now serves as Fire and Life Safety Educator for Kannapolis (N.C.) Fire Department.

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SESSION THREE

3-A Montessori – Making a Difference in Art Education

Level: All

Inspired by Maria Montessori's words : "Imagination does not become great until a person, given the courage and strength, uses it to create. If this does not occur, the imagination addresses itself only to a spirit wandering in emptiness." Let us approach the art curriculum, lessons, time-lines...and answer the question: How is Montessori making a difference in art education? Come and make an art timeline for your school or classroom.

Sandra Pokos is the owner and director of Little Heart Montessori School of Zagreb, (Croatia, Europe). She is an Early Childhood director, Teacher trainer and Trainer of the trainers for International Educational Management Studies. She founded the Montessori school 17 years ago and has been training adults for 12 years. She is on the board of MEPI and a member of MEPI Teacher Education Committee.

3-B Creative Extensions, Thinking Beyond the Manuals

Level: LE, UE

This workshop will provide creative extensions we have developed in our classrooms to go beyond the traditional lessons-interweaving all areas of the classroom. Exciting and original material will rejuvenate your Montessori soul, and helpful hints will lead you outside the box.

Nicole Householder lives in Eden, UT. She is an upper elementary teacher at Maria Montessori Academy, charter school in North Ogden, UT. She holds an Elementary I-II credential from MEPI and is currently on the MEPI board. She has been in the Montessori community since 2005.

Linda Brashier has been teaching for 38 years. She teaches Upper Elementary students in a public school in Gray Court, SC. She has a Master's +30 in education, and is certified in early childhood, elementary, art, gifted and talented, and has National Board Certification. MEPI certified at the EC and EL I-II levels, Linda also is a teacher trainer for the Institute for Guided Studies.

3-C Baby, It's a Wide World: A Three Pronged Approach to Seeding Personal Power in Adolescents **Level: MS**

In early adolescence the psychological tendency is to become increasingly self centered. There is a responsibility on the parts of the adults who guide adolescents to provide a counterpoint through activities that increase self-awareness and acknowledgement of the wider world's events.

Peter Piche conceptualized and founded Montessori Community Schools Adolescent Community in 2005. He is trained at primary, elementary, and adolescent levels.

3-D Sensorial Lessons on a Shoe String Budget

Level: IT

This workshop will give a variety of lesson ideas to incorporate a toddler's five favorite things: Looking, listening, tasting, touching, and smelling.

Meredith Hines & Christina Muehlbauer work together at the Montessori School of Camden. Meredith is the Toddler, Extended day & Summer Director, and is certified by MEPI at the Early Childhood & Infant/Toddler Level. Christina is the Infant Director and

3-E MACTE Self Study Writing

Level: Admin

This workshop will provide Montessori teacher preparation organizations interested in achieving MACTE accreditation guidance on how to begin the process on how to begin the writing a self study and an overview of the process. Presenters will address topics related to accreditation, including MACTE office support, requirements, and on site verification team visits.

Dr. Rebecca Pelton is the president and executive director of the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE).

3-F Bells and Beyond for Non-Musicians

Level: EC

Don't be afraid of the bells. Oscar will show you simple ways to entice the children to learn to play and create melodies without reading music. We'll have fun learning, and have time for practice and some make-n-take.

Oscar Avila is a certified Montessori guide at the Early Childhood level and certified Orff instructor. He plays classical guitar and is in his fifth year at the Montessori School of Camden (SC).

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SESSION FOUR

4-A Peace and Communication With Our Parents

Level: All

Sometimes the hardest part of a day for a Montessorian is not providing an authentic Montessori education, but communicating with families. I have developed a curriculum for guides to use in creating peaceful and open relationships with families. This step by step process is a match for small and large schools. It is also flexible and can be individualized to meet the specific needs of any community.

Martha Teien is an MEPI directress who owns a school in Avon, CO. Her school is made up of 2 classrooms for 3-6. She has her Masters in Montessori Education from St. Catherine University in St. Paul, MN. This is her 18th year of teaching as a Montessori guide.

4-B Birth of the United Nations, October 24, 1945, Global Awareness

Level: EC

This study focus will help the 3-6 year old become aware of children's lives around the world. They will learn how their basic needs of shelter and food and DIFFERENT but the SAME. Using the book Wake Up World by Beatrice Hollyer, the children in the EC environment will learn about a child from each continent. The workshop will provide activities (art/food/cultural and geography) associated with the children they are introduced to in the book.

Jennifer Hales Sherman, Founder and Director of Oak Grove Montessori since 1997. Jennifer received a BA in Special education in 1984) and her Primary Montessori Training (AMI) at the Washington Montessori Institute in Washington, D.C. (1989) Jennifer has been teaching in the Montessori classroom since 1989.

4-C Preparing & Maintaining the Environment

Level: All

Order, organization and beauty must be present in a prepared environment so that the children will like the environment as soon as they enter. Dr. Montessori was clear that this is not an option for teachers, but a prerequisite. An environment of beauty is the voice that calls the child to engage with the materials.

Cheryl Spencer founded Columbia Montessori Children's House in 1973 and holds an AMS Teaching Credential from CMTE/NC which she earned in 1984. She has been a Primary teacher, teacher trainer and Montessori Consultant for many years and is still enjoying her students, both young and old. She has a special love of gardening with children.

4-D We Are One! Creating Community Spirit!

Level: All

This presentation will provide examples of how the Montessori program at Gray Court Owings has created an amazing sense of community and its benefits. You too can have the benefits of a successful school spirit.

Luanne Hendricks has been teaching school for 32 years. She has been teaching public Montessori for eighteen years. She is currently a teacher trainer for IGS.

4-E Renewing our Role as Montessori Guides

Level: All

Can we really make a difference in the lives of our children? Join this workshop to explore what it really means to "follow the child".

Melody Mosby is a dedicated Montessori practitioner, teacher trainer, consultant, and Peace educator. She holds an AMI elementary Advanced Diploma from the Washington Montessori Institute in Washington D.C., and a Secondary Montessori Diploma (12-15) from Montessori Educational Programs International (MEPI). She is the program director of the MACTE accredited Program of Study for the Montessori Adolescent Guide (12-15) offered through the Institute for Guided Studies. She has over 40 years of experience in education and is currently the director of the Adolescent Program at Athens Montessori School.

4-F Energy Awareness and Yoga for Toddlers and Primary

Level: IT, EC

In this workshop Mercedes will lead you through a circle time yoga session and share with you many tips on how to educate the young child on the awareness and responsibility of their own energy.

Mercedes Stewart is the owner and Directress of Mercy's Garden, Richlands Montessori Preschool and holds a MEPI certification as well as Yoga Teacher certification from Kavalyadhama, Yoga Institute in Lonavla, India. She has taught Yoga for more than 10 years.

SESSION FIVE

5-A Beautiful Handwriting In The Montessori Classroom

Level: EC, EL

Handwriting engages the child in meaningful, patterned activity that stimulates the left brain. Handwriting calms children to focus differently. Children in their sensitive period for writing trace over shaded shapes, numbers, letters and words with great awareness and joy. They work with the simple, sequenced Beautiful Handwriting method. Workshop topics include readiness, pencil grip, posture, instructional techniques, brain research, writing types, set up, writing lessons, group work and guidelines. Teacher Guidebook included. We will cover the basics of writing, results from the Beautiful Handwriting National Study and more advanced writing work.

Susan Scheibenzuber is an AMS trained Montessori teacher who has taught for over 30 years. She has been a school founder, administrator and teacher. Susan's children and grandchildren have attended Montessori schools. Susan owns Laughing Star Montessori, a Montessori materials company.

5-B Rediscovering Nature: For the Indoor Classroom

Level: EC

Offering simple solutions on how to integrate nature into all areas of the class from practical life and sensorial to art and peace to math and language.

Lindsay Brunk earned her degree in anthropology and has been working at the Parkville Children's Cottage for 2 1/2 years. She is currently working toward her Montessori certification.

5-C Transformation of Parents through their Montessori Child

Level: EC, EL

For many children in our care, life during Montessori school is dramatically different from the world that awaits them outside our front doors. Parents are rushed, oblivious, loud, busy, and often unaware of the many subtle messages and revelations that their child receives in a given moment. Even loving, attentive parents often fail to understand their child and struggle with what they label as "tantrums," "stubbornness" or "outright disobedience." As Montessori guides, we are in a position to greatly help, not only the children in our classroom, but also the parents waiting outside. In this workshop, participants will receive concrete examples and "tricks" for engaging parents, helping them understand their child, increasing their commitment to the Montessori method, your school, and ultimately transforming their own lives.

Sasha Malashenko is the owner (and teacher) of Inspiration Montessori in Montreal, Quebec. She is a new Teacher trainer being mentored by Dr. Daniel Jutras of the Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute. Prior to Montessori, Sasha earned a BS in Biology and BA in History and worked as a Wildlife Rescuer and Rehabilitator for 10 years.

5-D Re-Engaging In Your Own Spiritual Transformation

Level: All

We will dive into Montessori's essential teachings on the spiritual preparation of the adult and consider practical means to apply these inspiring teachings into a way of life. We will focus on developing our own internal peace as a force both in our classrooms and in our lives.

Mary Ellen Maunz has spent four decades in Montessori as a teacher, head of school, and teacher educator. Founder and program director of Age of Montessori, she is author of two books and speaks and trains internationally.

5-E MACTE On-Site Verification Team Training

Level: Montessorians with Credentials

This workshop will provide information and training for Montessori credentialed individuals who are interested in participating in OSVT visits to teacher education programs in the process of obtaining MACTE accreditation.

Dr. Rebecca Pelton is the president and executive director of the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE). See Teresa's bio at _____.

5-F Singing Your Way Through the Cosmic Curriculum

Level: LE, UE

Come learn the lyrics to songs covering the Great Lessons and teach rounds and chants that support our rich history and science curriculum.

Maggie Hunter has performed in bluegrass, folk, and blues bands for more than 25 years. She has been an NPR radio producer for a folk program for more than 10 years.

5-G Letting the Child Be Your Teacher

Level: All

Maria Montessori implored us to allow the child to be our teacher. Every day is filled with magical Montessori moments. How ready and how present are we to witness them, learn from them and be inspired by them? This workshop will take a fresh look at how we prepare for our classroom lessons each day / week, so that we have the time, bandwidth and inner readiness to observe and join our students in the wonderment of learning. By reorienting our thinking and modifying the goals we set, we can continue to meet our students' needs while we also become more joyful learners ourselves.

Andrew Kutt See Andrew's Biography on page 4, "Special Opportunities".

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SESSION SIX

6-A Special Needs, Disorders, and the Montessori Classroom

Level: ED, Admin

Every child is unique and special and some are more special than others. Specialists observe them in our classrooms and offer suggestions. Do they really work given that a Montessori classroom may not be able to accommodate the suggested implements or aids? How can we help those children without disrupting our carefully prepared structured environment?

Jayanthi Rajagopalan has been a teacher trainer with the Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute for 13 years in addition to owning two schools in Toronto, Canada. Having graduated from London Montessori Centre, UK (now known as MCI, she brings a depth of experiences and knowledge to her classrooms and training center.

6-B The Peaceful Play Yard

Level: EC

Activities for guided outdoor play, cooperative games and activities to extend the Montessori environment to the play yard.

Sarah Garibaldi studied anthropology at the University of Kansas. She is the mother of two children and completed her Montessori certification in 2008 and opened Parkville Children's Cottage in Parkville, MO, in 2009.

6-C Montessori Global Discussions

Level: All

Join André Roberfroid and John Moncure in a discussion of how non-profit entities and Montessori schools can make a difference in the future of our planet. Nurturing global citizens—even at the early childhood level—is a major component in all Montessori curriculum. Let's share ideas and brainstorm ways to create the culture of respect, tolerance, and activism that will help our students help our planet.

Dr. Moncure is Headmaster of the Montessori School of Camden (SC) and president of the Board of MEPI. A retired Army colonel, he is the author of numerous articles on topics of Montessori administration and holds a PhD from Cornell University.

André Roberfroid, a Belgian national, was the UNICEF Deputy Executive Director for Programme and Strategic Planning until his retirement in 2003. He was responsible for the formulation and implementation of the UNICEF strategic objectives and programmes. From 1974 to 1996 he served as a UNICEF field officer and representative in a variety of countries including Congo, Yemen, Jordan, Lebanon, Iran and Mali. He was particularly involved in the development and implementation of programme for children in extremely difficult circumstances like the civil war in Lebanon, the unrest in the West Bank and Gaza, the aftermath of the genocide in Rwanda. From 1996 to 1999 as director of the UNICEF office in Geneva, he was in charge of the coordination with the main humanitarian agencies. Today, Andre is President of the Association Montessori Internationale.

6-D Publication for Early Childhood? Teach Young Children to Put Thinking to Paper! Level: EC, LE, UE, MS

This workshop will provide all of the tools needed to learn how to publish children's books at the Early Childhood level through a professional publishing company. You will receive a step by step guide to successful publication at the preschool level including buy not limited to, time management, successful editing techniques, peer mediation, creativity comma, strategic analysis, oral expression, and finding happiness.

Tequila E. Howard, Ed.D. is an author, teacher, teacher educator, consultant, program director, and Montessori researcher for the past 18 years. Known for her passion in teaching, training, consulting, and leading, her dissertation is entitled, "Improving Language and Literacy Skills in Preschool Children Using the Montessori Language Approach" and her most recent children's publication is entitled, "All About Me". A board member of the Phi Delta Kappa Educational Organization, she is the founder and leading director of Omilade Montessori Academy.

6-E Custodial Care – The Roots of Social Behavior

Level: IT, EC, Parents

This workshop will focus on the brain development of children from before birth to age 6 and how it is impacted by the actions of adults in their environment. Custodial Care – feeding, touching, bathing, caring, sleeping, free choice are the foundation of the brain growth and structural change that eventually lead to concentration. Montessori said that after concentration, "it is though a connection has been established with an inner power that brings about the construction of personality." This workshop will include facts of brain growth and change, environmental factors and the impact of changes. The format will include presentation and participant inquiry. The focus of this workshop is understanding Child Development in the very early years. It is suitable for infant, toddler and preschool teachers and parents.

Floyd Creech, Ph.D., is the Program Director for the Florence School District One Montessori Teacher Education Program and the Director of School Readiness in Florence School District One. He attended the Lander University Montessori Teacher Education Program and graduated in 2006. He holds a Level 1 Resources for Infant Educators Certificate and has studied with Lakshmi Kripalani, Silvana Montanaro and Anna Tardos. He is a frequent on site leader for MACTE accreditation visits. He has 35 years experience in early childhood education.

6-F Let's Bring it Down

Level: All

Mercedes will lead you through a circle time that brings down the energy level of the wild rainy day crazies. Bringing the focus to energy awareness applying calming principles to the activities and bringing the energy level to a resting state.

Mercedes Stewart is the owner and Directress of Mercy's Garden, Richlands Montessori Preschool and holds a MEPI certification as well as Yoga Teacher certification from Kavalayadhama, Yoga Institute in Lonavla, India. She has taught Yoga for more than 10 years.

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SESSION SEVEN

- 7-A Thinking out of the Box: a New Perspective on Report and Progress Cards** **Level: All**
Usually Report Cards pertain to showing factual abilities, mastered or not yet mastered specific to material presentations rather than looking through each child identifying individual capacities such as becoming independent, social, courteous, perseverant, organized, creative... In this workshop we will explore the broad range of capacities in order to draw a beautiful picture of each child under your care and love.

Dr. Daniel Jutras is the founder (1989), Master Teacher and Examiner of the Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute; He received his Montessori Teacher Education certification from AMI (3-6) from Perugia, Italy(1987).

- 7-B Using the Labyrinth for Looking Within and Looking Ahead** **Level: All**
A brief overview of labyrinths, the history and current uses will be followed by several activities that can be used with children of all ages (adults, too) to encourage personal reflection, problem solving skills, and positive visualizations.

M.E. (Beth) Langley has a BA from Columbia College, a MEPI credential at the Primary Level, is a Veriditas trained labyrinth facilitator. Beth truly enjoys sharing her love of labyrinths, and has presented at various conferences in the US, Mexico, Canada, and Croatia, including the 2013 International Montessori Congress, for Montessori teachers, gardeners, art educators, and labyrinth enthusiasts. She has designed and installed over a dozen permanent labyrinths. Recent installations are a Chartres-style medieval labyrinth at Christ Church Episcopal School in Greenville, SC; "Wisdom of the Heart" at Little Heart Montessori School in Zagreb, Croatia; and the Turtle Dreams Labyrinth at Gray Court – Owings Elementary School in Gray Court, SC. She lives in Boykin, SC and finds peace and contentment in country living.

- 7-C Parent Education in the Toddler Room** **Level: IT, Parents**
A confident toddler is one who feels secure, cared for and respected. Amidst their world of building relationships, establishing routines and balancing boundaries, the need for consistency at home and in the classroom environment remains critical. Hear simple, effective ways to plan, communicate and implement parent education with the families in your environment.

Sarah Forseth has guided both Infant and Toddler Montessori Environments for over 12 years, partnering with families. Currently, in addition to working with a family implementing Montessori in the home, Sarah serves as the Infant Toddler Program Director for IGS and directs Children's Ministry at her church in Columbia, SC. Carolyn Leslie has worked for the past 12 years as the Toddler directress at EC Montessori School in Beaufort, SC. Now as a stay at home mom, she teaches Montessori Parent Education and works as a field supervisor through IGS. Carolyn currently resides in Beaufort with her husband and three young children.

- 7-D Counteract Gender Stereotypes, Consumerism and Negative Media Messages** **Level: EC, EL, Parents**
Recapture childhood! Children spend an average of five hours a day in front of screens. From this media, children are sent powerful messages about violence, gender roles and consumerism. This presentation shares strategies for the classroom to get students thinking beyond stereotypes and consumerism, and reconnecting to one another and nature.

Amber Bacon, MAT, teaches Lower Elementary at Coastal Montessori Charter School in Pawley's Island, SC. She also works with parenting groups and schools advocating for quality, commercial-free learning environments.

- 7-E Give Importance Back to the Process** **Level: All**
Children need self-esteem, and we need to provide the right kind. Self-esteem built on efforts rather than on results teaches children the value of work and the joy of work. This workshop will help adults create environments where children are active self-builders, not just passive bystanders waiting for life to happen.

Pascale Quirion worked as a casa guide for 22 years. Ten of those years were as owner of a school. Currently she is the pedagogical administrator in a Montessori school in Quebec City. She is starting her sixth year as a teacher trainer.

- 7-F Movement, Music, and More!** **Level: All**
Join us for some music and movement that you can use in your classroom. We will begin with simple dance steps that can be used with primary children and advance to more challenging ones. Research indicates that mindful movement helps increase focus and concentration. Releasing energy in a positive way helps with classroom management and it's fun

Linda Brashier has been teaching for 38 years. She teaches Upper Elementary Montessori students in a public school in Gray Court, SC. She has a Master's +30 in education and is certified in early childhood, elementary, art, gifted and talented, and has National Board Certification. She has MEPI credentials at the 3-6 and 6-12 levels and is a teacher trainer for the Institute for Guided Studies.

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SESSION EIGHT

8-A Line Times --Just Do It!

Level: EC, LE, UE, Admin

Does your line time lack luster? Is it difficult to keep children attentive and engaged? Do you sometimes wonder what's the point? Attend this workshop and get ideas and strategies for making line time sparkle! Learn how to be a Line Time Star!

Teresa Noble is a 28 year veteran of SC public schools. She holds a BA in Early Childhood Education, an MA in Special Education, and is Certified as an Early Childhood Classroom Guide by MEPI. She is an Early Childhood Program Director for the Institute for Guided Studies & serves on the board of directors for MACTE.

8-B Bring Geography to Life in Your Montessori Classroom

Level: EC, EL

Join us on a journey as we travel from continent to continent in a Primary Montessori classroom. Learn resources, materials and ideas for sharing inspiring geography lessons and walk away with new lessons in hand. Lower Elementary teachers will enjoy this workshop, too.

Stacie Mandrell, M.Ed., Ed.S, is a primary Montessori teacher in Elgin, SC at Spears Creek Montessori, a public magnet program in Richland District 2. She has been teaching for 18 years and has extensive experience in teaching young children.

8-C Reaching the World – One Child At A Time

Level: IT, Parents

Learn how your toddler environment can embrace the meaning of empathy and 'lend a hand' to your immediate communities and beyond!

Sarah Forseth has guided both Infant and Toddler Montessori Environments for over 12 years, partnering with families. Currently, in addition to working with a family implementing Montessori in the home, Sarah serves as the Infant Toddler Program Director for IGS and directs Children's Ministry at her church in Columbia, SC.

Carolyn Leslie has worked for the past 12 years as the Toddler directress at EC Montessori School in Beaufort, SC. Now as a stay at home mom, she teaches Montessori Parent Education and works as a field supervisor through IGS. Carolyn currently resides in Beaufort with her husband and three young children.

8-D Community Connections

Level: LE, UE, MS, Admin

Community service is an important aspect of a Montessori education. Coastal Montessori Charter School implemented a school wide community service program this year. Come hear how it has gone: the good, the hard, and the successful.

Sarah Willson has been a Montessori teacher since 1993, working with 2 - 12 year olds at different times. She has been the director of two different schools and currently teaches upper elementary in Pawley's Island at Coastal Montessori Charter School.

8-E MEPI International School Accreditation

Level: Admin

In 2012 MEPI introduced an International School Accreditation Commission to respond to the growing requirement for substance in quality standards leading to international designation in recognition of authentic Montessori school settings. This workshop will explore the requirements and the logistics surrounding the application process and the step-by-step procedures to facilitate the MEPI International School Accreditation. Join us to familiarize yourself, as the first step is always the most demanding.

Julien Jutras is Development Manager, Early Childhood Master Teacher and Examiner for the Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute in Toronto Canada. Julien has a degree in Electronic Engineering and is the Webmaster for the Institute.

SUNDAY BONUS WORKSHOP

BG-1 Create a Vision For Your Montessori Journey

All are welcome!

Ever Changing. Simply Amazing.
BROOKGREEN
Gardens

Hear the story of one school has achieved their vision of "Green School of the Year" and becoming the first solar powered school in Georgia. Learn strategies for constructing your own visions, and continuing the work of self-transformation. In addition, a variety of activities at the Gardens will allow you to explore the gardens with a purpose. We will gather as a group to share our insights and experiences.

Warren McPherson is a lifelong Montesorian and currently directs the Athens Montessori School (3-15 yrs.) He also serves as teacher trainer, consulting, and workshop facilitator.

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REGISTRATION

MEPI Contact Info: Phone: 812-824-6366 | Email: MontessoriEPI@gmail.com | Fax: 888-708-2470

Participant Information - please print all information

Name: _____ Street address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Email: _____
A confirmation will be sent to this email address
 School you are affiliated with: _____
 Emergency contact name and phone: _____

Space is Limited! Send in your registration form in by **February 10th** to ensure you can attend!

This year's conference will include a **boxed lunch** for Friday and a **sit down plated lunch** for Saturday! Breakfasts and suppers will be on your own. A breakfast buffet is available at Webster's for \$9.99 plus tax and gratuity. They are open daily from 6:00am-10:00am. **Munch-n-Mingle** Friday night will have hors de oeuvres.

* SESSION SELECTIONS *

Friday Workshops - please circle

Session 1 — A B C D E F G *or* **School Reviews/Visits**

Session 2 — A B C D E F 9 am—12 pm _____

Session 3 — A B C D E F

Session 4 — A B C D E F

Saturday Workshops - please circle

Session 5 — A B C D E F G

Session 6 — A B C D E F

Session 7 — A B C D E F

Session 8 — A B C D E

Sunday Bonus - please check if you plan to attend

BG-1. Create a Vision _____

LUNCH SELECTIONS

FRIDAY

- Turkey Sandwich
- Roast Beef Sandwich
- Veggie Sandwich
- Not Attending Lunch

SATURDAY

- Cesar Salad
- Cesar Salad w/ Chicken
- Cesar Salad w/ Shrimp
- Not Attending Lunch

MEPI Members—circle your choice (s)

	<u>Advance</u>	<u>After Feb 10th</u>
Full Conference—Friday and Saturday	\$180.00	\$280.00
Friday or Saturday only	\$130.00	\$230.00
MEPI membership	\$45.00	\$45.00
Total Conference Fee	\$____.00	\$____.00

Non-Members—circle your choice (s)

Full Conference—Friday and Saturday	\$230.00	\$330.00
Friday or Saturday only	\$180.00	\$280.00

MEPI Interns—in good standing

Full Conference Fee	\$105.00	\$205.00
Friday or Saturday only	\$95.00	\$195.00

Checks/money orders made payable to: **MEPI** or Pay by credit card through the MEPI office or via **PayPal** at our website: mepiforum.org
 Mail completed registration form and check (if applicable) to:
MEPI, PO Box 6, Smithville, IN 47458

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Litchfield Beach & Golf Resort

www.litchfieldbeach.com

**14276 Ocean Hwy
 Pawleys Island, SC 29585
 1-888-766-4633**

Prices range from \$79.00 to \$99.00 if you mention MEPI. Room block is effective until Feb 10th. After that date, the price will increase.

CANCELLATION POLICY

A written request for all refunds must be sent to the MEPI business office no later than March 5, 2014. Requests received after this date will not be honored. Membership fees are non-refundable. Refund of registration fee less \$35 processing fee if received by Feb. 7, 2014. After Feb. 7, 2014 an additional \$45 for food and beverages will also be deducted from the refund.