



The Future of Our Work

**2026 ANNUAL
HANDS FOR PEACE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

March 12-15, 2026
Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina



Schedule of Events

Thursday, March 12th.

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

Friday, March 13th.

7:00 am: Conference Check-In

7:30 am: Vendors/Exhibitors Open

8:30 am: Opening Ceremony

8:45 am: President's Welcome- Patrick McGlinchy

9:00 am: **Keynote Address by Catherine McTamanev**

11:00-12:30 pm: **Session 1**

12:30- 2:00 pm: Lunch On Your Own

2:15-3:30 pm: **Session 2**

4:00-5:00 pm: **Session 3**

5:45 pm: Vendors Close for the Day

5:30-7:30 pm Montessori Meet Up at the Solstice Bar

Saturday, March 14th.

7:30 am: New Arrivals Conference Check-In

8:00 am: Vendors/Exhibitors Open

8:00 am: Announcements on Message Board

9:00- 10:15 am: **Session 4**

10:45- 11:45 am: **Session 5**

11:45-12:00 pm: Last Call Chance Auction Tickets

12:00-12:30 pm AGM for all members with graduation

12:30-2:00 pm: Buffet Lunch (**Buffet closes at 1:30 pm**)

Plenary Lunch Speaker- Warren McPherson

2:30-3:45 pm: **Session 6**

4:15-5:30 pm: **Session 7**

5:30 pm: Closing Ceremony

Featured Guest

Keynote Speaker: Catherine McTamaney **"Democracy and Peace: Why the World Needs Montessori Now."**

A timely discussion focusing on the ways in which Montessori education affirms the dignity of the individual and demands our commitment to peaceful communities.

Catherine McTamaney is an esteemed educator, author, and Professor at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College, widely recognized for her expertise in Montessori education and her philosophy of compassionate teaching. A triple graduate of Peabody herself, Dr. McTamaney has built a distinguished career primarily at Vanderbilt, where she instructs undergraduate students in teacher licensure programs, concentrating on the social and political background of public education and integrating the arts into classroom environments.

Her influence extends far beyond the university lecture halls. As a respected Montessori lecturer, she travels internationally to speak, and she serves as a significant voice in the educational community through her books, including the reflective works *The Tao of Montessori: Reflections on Compassionate Teaching* and *A Delicate Task: Living, Learning and Teaching on a Montessori Path* and, most recently, *Only Poets and Little Children*. She reaches a global audience through her established blog, "Montessori Daoshi" (www.montessoridaoshi.com), which shares insights on living and teaching through a Montessori lens.

In recognition of her contributions to the field, she was the founding recipient of the American Montessori Society's Montessori Innovator Award in 2020. Her academic excellence and dedication to the university community were further celebrated when she received the Vanderbilt University Thomas Jefferson Award in 2023. She has also served as a visiting scholar at the MIT Media Lab, where she collaborated on designing the Wildflower Schools project, a network of decentralized Montessori micro-schools, and has consulted for the St. Nicholas Montessori Foundation in London. She was a Montessori child and is a Montessori mom to two, including one more generation of Montessori teachers.



Conference Highlights



Local School Tour

For our travelers who may be in the area on Thursday, we are partnering with Peace Rose Montessori School in Downtown Wilmington for pre-registered school tours.

Vendor Exhibits

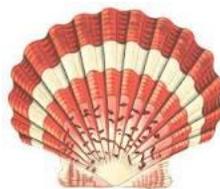
Discover unique resources, materials, and ideas for your classrooms. Exhibits are open both Friday and Saturday.

Chance Auction

Don't miss your chance to win Prizes of your choosing! Purchase Chance Auction tickets during the conference, with winners announced at Saturday's AGM. The Chance Auction supports the Shirley Plath Humanitarian Fund, providing Montessori teacher training scholarships and assistance to Montessori schools in crisis.

Reflection Room

Available throughout the conference, this dedicated space offers quiet reflection, relaxation, and inner peace. Limited space during each session, sign up to enjoy your guided experience.



Montessori Meet-Up

Friday evening at Solstice Restaurant (5:30-7:30 PM). Join us at the bar, conveniently located in the main lobby, for a "takeover". Enjoy drinks from the cash bar while mingling with MEPI Board Members and connecting with new people. Plus, each attendee will receive a free Chance Auction ticket! Don't miss this opportunity for great conversation and community-building!
Central Lobby Seating: Relax with peers in the lobby, featuring comfortable seating and an on-site coffee shop perfect for informal chats.

Friday Lunch On Your Own

Explore amazing local dining options and enjoy casual conversation over a meal with colleagues. Wrightsville Beach offers the charm of local eateries close to the venue. Lumina at Wrightsville Beach also hosts their premier Solstice Restaurant for lunch options.

Plenary Lunch Guest

Enjoy Saturday's lunch while listening to Warren McPherson, MEPI Council of Elders member, and his entertaining conversation regarding The Future of Our Work.

Table Talks

Learn, Collaborate, Inspire.

Table Talks are a unique feature of our conference, available in every session. Led by experts, these discussions focus on specific themes, allowing you to join conversations that match your interests. Move freely between tables to share insights, gain fresh perspectives, and connect with others who share your goals.



Accommodations



Venue:

The Lumina at Wrightsville Beach
1706 N. Lumina Ave
Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480

Located on the stunning Wrightsville Beach, The Lumina offers an inspiring and serene backdrop for this year's conference. You'll enjoy the perfect balance of professional enrichment and coastal relaxation. Take a peaceful morning walk on the beach, savor oceanfront views from your room, or recharge in the soothing coastal atmosphere between events.

Room Rates: \$189/night for Oceanfront King, Sunset View Queen, or Oceanfront Queen

- Amenities: Keurig, microwave, mini-fridge, free parking. A complimentary local shuttle is available (does not go to airport).
- Book early: Rooms are limited, so reserve soon!

Transportation:

Airport: Wilmington International Airport (ILM), 11 miles from the Lumina.
Ground Transportation Options: Uber, Lyft and rental cars are available.

CONFERENCE HOTEL WEBSITE

www.luminaresortwrightsville.com



SESSION 1

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026
11:00 AM-12:15 PM

1A-Navigating Multilingualism and Multicultural Empathy Level: ALL
Institute for Advanced Montessori Studies

Presented by [Margarita Diaz](#)

Are you curious about raising bilingual children or creating a multilingual environment in your classroom or school? In this session, I'll tackle common questions and concerns surrounding multilingualism. As an expert in language acquisition and Montessori education, I will provide practical insights and strategies for navigating the complexities of multilingual upbringing and the concept of multicultural empathy as the future of our work and legacy in Montessori education.

1B-The Coloured Beads Level: EC, TE
Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute / MEPI

Presented by [Dr. Daniel Jutras](#)

Children easily form combinations that make 10 (6 + 4, 3 + 7, 8 + 2) while building a full Snake. This mental work with number combinations can lead to two simple yet exciting activities called Associativity and Disassociativity, which may be new to you. If you are interested in learning the four steps that lead to the full Snake game, as well as these two additional activities, join us to explore how to bring them into your classroom next week and excite your children about math.

1C-Outdoor Experiences as Essential to Montessori Education Level: ALL
AMS

Presented by [Jana Morgan Herman](#)

This session examines Montessori's original vision for outdoor education, which devoted half the school day to experiences in nature. Drawing from Montessori's texts, Mario Montessori's Kodaikanal lectures, and current research from the AAP, NIH, and CDC, participants will explore how outdoor environments function as prepared spaces integral to children's development. The presentation challenges common practices that limit outdoor time and provides practical strategies for restoring outdoor experiences to their rightful place in Montessori education.

1D- Coaching for Adult Learning in Montessori Environments Level: TE
MEPI Executive Coordinator

Presented by [Carrie Allen](#)

As Montessori educators, we spend years refining our approach to observing, guiding, and supporting children. Yet when it comes to supporting adults—our colleagues, assistants, and emerging leaders—we often rely on the same tools we use with children, or we default to advising, fixing, or mentoring. In this session, you will be invited to shift that approach and explore the power of coaching as a transformative tool for adult learning in Montessori environments.

1E-Changing of the Guard Level: ADM
MEPI Board Member/Teacher Education Committee Chair

Presented by [Dr. John Moncure](#)

This workshop analyzes the dynamic forces that impact a school as it changes from one director to another.

1F-Seeing the Unseen: Tools for Neurodivergent Kids Level: EC
Seeds of Life Montessori Academy

Presented by [Maria Chaffin](#)

This interactive workshop introduces Montessori educators to the foundational concepts of neurodivergence, with a focus on practical classroom applications. Participants will leave with a better understanding of how to recognize, respond to, and support neurodivergent students, and a clear sense of the next steps they can take to continue learning and growing in this area.

1G-Teaching After Quarantine: The New Children Level: IT/EC/ADM
One World Montessori

Presented by [Kate Lasher](#)

Does your classroom feel like it just won't normalize? Do you have children who have needs you've never had to meet before? Is the room vibrating with an anxiety that the Silence Game just can't calm? Let's talk about that! In this presentation, participants will learn what current research says about childhood after COVID quarantine and walk away with a new set of practices for their toolboxes to work with these "New Children."

Workshop Key

IT- Infant Toddler EC- Early Childhood EL -Elementary
ADM- Administration ADOL- Adolescence
PUBLIC- Public Montessori TE- Teacher Educators ALL- General



SESSION 2

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026

2:15 PM-3:30 PM

2A-Collectively Advancing Montessori Educator Programs Level: TE
MACTE

Presented by [Dr. Rebecca Pelton](#)

Collectively Advancing Quality Montessori Educator Preparation Programs (EPP) "How Does Accreditation Influence and Impact Professionals, Faculty, Adult Learners, Teachers, and most importantly the Children?" Take aways- how to be an advocate for the importance of accreditation by MACTE in the world of Montessori educator preparation. Spreading the word and the work!

2B- In Defense of the Absorbent-Minded Child Level: IT/EC
Charlotte Montessori School /MEPI Board Member

Presented by [Sarah McCowan](#)

This workshop invites educators to reexamine the inner world of the 0-6-year-old child through the lens of radical empathy. We'll explore how challenging behaviors often reflect deep developmental work, not defiance. Through Montessori philosophy, practical examples, and honest reflection, participants will gain new tools and insights for supporting toddlers and young children with greater compassion, clarity, and grace; building classrooms rooted in dignity, connection, and respect for the absorbent mind.

2C- Reclaiming Montessori's Radical Roots: Culturally Relevant Level: ALL
Charles Ellis Montessori Academy

Presented by [Jazmin Corbell](#)

This workshop explores how Culturally Relevant Pedagogy (CRP) can be integrated into Montessori classrooms to affirm student identity, support critical thinking, and challenge Eurocentric norms in traditional materials. Drawing on Gloria Ladson-Billings' framework and classroom-based examples, participants will engage with strategies for adapting lessons, fostering equity, and reimagining peace education. Attendees will leave with practical tools to align Montessori practices with anti-racist, community-rooted values and support liberatory education for all learners.

2D-Shaping the Future with Montessori Cultural Studies Level: ALL
Montessori School of Camden

Presented by [Heather Condor & Carrie Michal Mullinax](#)

Designing an Integrated Curriculum using Montessori Geography and Cultural Studies. Using cultural studies as a base for math, language, science, art, social studies, and peace in infant, toddler, primary, lower EI, and upper EI. We will go through each classroom level with pictures, bullet points, and student samples of what an integrated curriculum looks like, using North America as the base. Audience takeaway: how to use cultural and geography to teach math, reading, and science concepts.

2E-Freedom with Responsibility Level: EC
MEPI Board Member/Montessori Egyptian Center

Presented by [Marie Therese Bishay](#)

Children are cute and funny, yet they are very serious and natural biological little learners. The only thing that stops any child from learning and exploring is the challenges the child faces, the kind of challenges we don't see but affect the classroom environment. How can we utilize the classroom to help address children's challenges? What makes them much more receptive and open to what you may want to share with them?

2F-Leading in Complex and Uncertain Times Level: ADM
Oneness-Family Montessori School

Presented by [Andrew Kutt](#)

In this workshop, Andrew Kutt will explore the challenges facing Montessori schools in a climate of economic stress, dwindling resources, staff shortages, and a culture that questions our core values, principles, and purpose. Leading in the face of so much adversity means starting with ourselves as leaders and then looking at what is practically doable within the resources that we have, while also exploring new pathways and possibilities for our schools.

2G TABLE TALKS: Administrator Community Level: ADM

Facilitated by [Ivette Kestenbaum](#)

Table Talks offer an engaging and flexible way to explore topics of interest in a collaborative setting. Led by experts, these discussions focus on specific themes, allowing participants to join conversations that align with their interests. Move between tables freely to maximize your experience and connect with others who share your objectives.



SESSION 3

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026
4:00 PM-5:00 PM

3A-Supporting Parents of Diverse Learners Level: EC, TED

Presented by [Dorothy Harman](#)

AMS/IMC

Some of the most difficult conversations an educator will have with families occur when developmental differences are observed. This workshop is designed to help facilitate the conversation and build meaningful relationships with the family before the conversation needs to take place. We'll delve into delicate word choice, parents' developmental needs, navigation of difficult discussions and ongoing support. This workshop is designed to provide the educator with transparency, empathy, and preparation for uncomfortable conversations.

3B- Drama without the Drama Level: EC/EL

Presented by [Michelle Casey](#)

Montessori School of Camden

This workshop will provide instruction on how to audition, rehearse, and perform short plays in one to two weeks. These plays are geared toward Primary and Lower Elementary learners, but can be adapted for Upper Elementary and Secondary. The plays are simple, fun, engaging and can help build confidence with reading skills.

3C- Normalizing Neurodiversity: ADHD Focus Level: ALL

Presented by [Suzanne Tipton](#)

Institute of Montessori Training

In this interactive session, we will explore how Montessori educators can support children with ADHD by reframing the diagnosis as a key to understanding. Through experiential activities, participants will feel the challenges ADHD learners face, then examine practical Montessori strategies that normalize neurodivergence, harness strengths, and foster regulation. Grounded in humility and observation, this talk highlights how removing ego allows us to truly see—and nurture—the child before us.

3D-Shark Tank, Secondary and the Quest for Valorization Level: ADOL

Presented by [Lee Westbury](#)

Montessori School of Camden

During this presentation, I will be leading the group through how MSC Secondary learners seek and create business plans and budgets for their new inventions, which in turn translates into a budding business for the community. Also, I will show how it contributes to self-valorization of the learner themselves.

3E-Extensions for Children's House Science Level: EC/EL

Presented by [Shanna Honan](#)

VMTEC

This workshop will explore the horizontal and vertical approach to teaching science in the early childhood classroom. We will touch on lesson planning for units of study. We will explore extension work for Botany and Zoology that will take the attendees off the typical path of follow up work. We will step away from the nomenclature cards and demonstrate a variety of hands-on activities for science. The attendees will see a variety of crafts and activities to bring their science studies alive. We will also have some make and take activities.

3F-Reflection Room Experience Level: ALL

Presented by [Beth Langley](#)

Lasting Labyrinths

Come experience the activities in the reflection room designed to offer you a time to reflect on your Montessori Journey, enjoy a finger labyrinth meditation, or other quiet activities you can use in your classroom's peace corner or art space.

LIMITED TO 10 PARTICIPANTS

3G TABLE TALKS: Infant Toddler Community Level: IT

Facilitated by [Kristie Norwood](#)

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SESSION 4

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026
9:00 AM-10:15 AM

4A-Mural of Life Level: ALL
VMTEC

Presented by [Shanna Honan & Alexis Markley](#)

We will take people through the Mural of Life. This mural, designed by Dr. Michael Dorer, is a precursor to the Timeline of Life. This is an impressionistic look at the inception of life in the waters of earth through the introduction of humans. This mural is often used for the second Great Lesson. We will also include the Cosmic Egg and how that plays into the Great Lessons.

4B- Collaborative Teaching, Collective Strength Level: ADM
Sarasota University and Peace Rose Montessori

Presented by [Julie Small & Elena Rosemond](#)

This session explores how coteaching can transform diverse classrooms through a strengths-based model. Participants will learn strategies to identify and leverage each learner's unique assets, design flexible instruction, and cultivate inclusive, respectful classroom cultures. Drawing on real-world examples, we'll highlight how teacher collaboration amplifies student engagement, fosters belonging, and supports academic growth. Attendees will leave with practical tools to co-plan, co-teach, and celebrate the collective strengths of their learning communities.

4C- Shaping the Future of Montessori Education Level: All
Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute / MEPI

Presented by [Dr. Daniel Jutras](#)

In line with the conference theme, "The Future of Our Work," come and explore how we can shape the future by drawing on Aristotle's four causes of being, as found in The Laws of Nature, and translating them into the world of education: causa materialis – the material or matter, reflected in the curriculum; causa formalis – the form, reflected in the way and the method; causa finalis – the end, reflected in the aim; causa efficiens – the agents, reflected in the learners: teacher-guide and child. Coupled with a simple management model – Is; Should; Could; Can; Shall – we, as Montessorians, can explore today and create for tomorrow the future of Montessori in our classrooms in a very practical way. Perplexed? Come and see!

4D-Teaching Diverse Learners: Responsive Guidance for Success Level: ALL
Montessori-Now

Presented by [Christine Lowry](#)

Using evidence-based practices aligned with Montessori philosophy & pedagogy, participants will gain practical solutions for serving the wide range of learning & behavior needs of today's students at every level.

4E-Navigating Current Events at the Secondary Level Level: ADOL
International Montessori Council

Presented by [Adele Bovis](#)

As adolescents prepare to enter an ever-changing world, they must do so in an informed, empathic way. This interactive workshop explores important aspects of navigating current events at the secondary level and offers practical advice for designing and delivering a current events curriculum tailored to participants' school communities. Additionally, this workshop will guide anticipating and responding to stakeholders' concerns about the subject matter while also positioning students' learning within a framework of peace.

4F-Quilling in the Classroom Level: ALL
Lasting Labyrinths

Presented by [Beth Langley](#)

Using the Reflection Room as a conference-long learning center, Beth Langley will introduce the old art of Quilling, or filigree paper art. We're in a revival of this craft, and it offers an opportunity for exercising fine motor skills and concentration as well as creative expression. You'll learn many of the basic shapes and forms and create a sampler as well as complete little projects.

LIMITED TO 10 PARTICIPANTS

4G TABLE TALKS: Elementary Community Level: EL

Facilitated by [Lorna Cohen](#)

Table Talks offer an engaging and flexible way to explore topics of interest in a collaborative setting. Led by experts, these discussions focus on specific themes, allowing participants to join conversations that align with their interests. Move between tables freely to maximize your experience and connect with others who share your objectives.



SESSION 5

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

10:45 AM-11:45 AM

5A-Future of Montessori: Innovation and Connections Level: ALL

Presented by [Dr. Lindsey Pollock](#)

Sarasota University/MEPI Board Member

Join us for an engaging and thought-provoking workshop that explores the dynamic future of Montessori education both in the United States and around the world. As Montessori philosophy continues to evolve, we have an incredible opportunity to innovate and adapt our practices, addressing the changing needs of our students and communities.

5B- Peace for a Better World Level: EC/Public/ADM

Presented by [Melissa Anne Camuti](#)

The Springs, A Montessori School

Join us for an inspiring session on bringing peace to life in the classroom. Together, we will explore creative and practical ways teachers can strengthen their peace practices- through meaningful use of the peace area, engaging peace projects, and the power of art, music and children's books. We will also look at ways to build global connections that help students see themselves as part of a peaceful, interconnected world.

5C- Striking the Imagination-Creative Minds & Tech Roundtable Level: EL/Public

Presented by [Rebecca Bishop](#)

Montessori School of Camden

Sparking a dialogue, through the lens of Maria Montessori, of the connection between imagination and creativity to academic achievement, while having to combat new-era technology and media. Join the discussion on the effects of technology and imagination as we identify together ways to touch children's imaginations and sense of inquiry so as to enthrall them to their inmost core.

5D-Nourishing Independence Level: EC/EL

Presented by [Christina Miller & Kaitlyn Prince](#)

Food preparation is more than a practical skill in the Montessori environment—it is a pathway to independence, responsibility, and community building. This workshop will guide participants in understanding the philosophy behind food preparation in Montessori, provide practical strategies for classroom implementation, and highlight ways to partner with families.

5E-Democratic Meetings for Leadership and Collaboration Level: EL/Public

Presented by [Dakota Prosch](#)

Courageous Montessori Coaching

In Montessori classrooms, student-led democratic meetings nurture leadership, collaboration, and mutual respect. Students learn to listen to differing viewpoints, appreciate differences, and engage in constructive dialogue. By providing a space for student-led problem-solving, these meetings reduce daily conflicts and foster accountability. The skills developed—agency, empathy, and responsibility—carry into work time, strengthening cooperation and independence. This session offers strategies and examples for implementing meetings that enrich classroom culture and student growth.

5F-The Courage to Grow: Supporting Healthy Risk-Taking Level: ALL

Presented by [Dr. Robin Howe & Adele Bovis](#)

The Montessori Foundation

This workshop explores adolescent risk-taking through multiple lenses, leveraging contemporary brain science and presenters' experiences. Grounded in Montessori principles, we explore ways to design programs that harness adolescents' natural drive into safe, purposeful challenges, striking a balance between their need for valorization and their mental and physical well-being. Participants will leave the session with a robust understanding of the value of risk-taking for third-plane learners.

5G TABLE TALKS: Early Childhood Community Level: ALL

Facilitated by [Amy Rolan](#)

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Saturday, March 14
12:30 – 1:30 pm
Lunch Buffet

Saturday Lunch Buffet is included with your conference registration. For other guests, the fee is \$40 (advance reservation required). Enjoy a delicious buffet in a relaxed atmosphere, perfect for unwinding and connecting with fellow attendees.



SESSION 6

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

2:30 PM-3:45 PM

6A-Peaceful Students Peaceful Guides Level: All
Frierson Elementary School

Presented by [Melissa Reese & Alexa Leonard](#)

You have a beautiful environment, a confident guide, a strong support guide, and a classroom full of students. How do we get from classroom chaos to a calm, normalized classroom and keep our inner peace? We will review proactive strategies focusing on the importance of SEL and self-reflection to build a peaceful and engaged classroom full of meaningful relationships with students and adults in the community. We will dive into AMS's and CASEL's missions too.

6B- Supporting Students' Stress, Sensory, and Behavioral Needs Level: All
Omni Montessori School

Presented by [Holli Andrews](#)

Children express stress through both behavioral and sensory needs. This presentation helps educators interpret these signals and respond effectively. Numerous movement activities will be introduced that offer sensory regulation, help to reduce stress, and support concentration. By integrating these activities, guides can create environments that nurture self-regulation and help children reduce their stress. Guides will leave with confidence to create environments that nurture self-regulation, reduce stress, and foster greater emotional resilience in children.

6C-MEPI School Accreditation Level: ADM

Presented by [Tamela Mills](#)

Sometimes parents need affirmation of quality by outside review to encourage them to enroll. MEPI can provide that affirmation. This workshop explains the processes of the MEPI School Accreditation Program.

6D-An Empowering and Productive Professional Growth Framework Level: ADM/TE
Shrewsbury Montessori School

Presented by [Grace Yannakakis](#)

Professional Growth Frameworks in our schools are often seen as just another hoop to jump through. After all, the most important work guides do is in the classroom with the students. As school leaders, taking care of our people should be one of our highest priorities. When we do this, we empower guides to do their best work, we encourage collaboration and shared knowledge, and we focus on mission-aligned growth.

6E-Amplifying Montessori: Advocacy and Policy in Action Level: ALL

Montessori Public Policy Initiative

Presented by [Vyju Kadambi & Denise Monnier](#)

Join MPPI for a dynamic workshop on federal policy and Montessori advocacy. Learn how national decisions shape your programs, build skills to influence policymakers, and sharpen strategies to ensure every family can access fully implemented Montessori. This is your chance to strengthen your advocacy voice, connect with fellow leaders, and gain tools that make a difference. Don't miss this opportunity to turn knowledge into action for Montessori's future.

6F-Reflection Room Level: ALL

Presented by [Beth Langley](#)

Lasting Labyrinths

Come experience the activities in the reflection room designed to offer you a time to reflect on your Montessori Journey, enjoy a finger labyrinth meditation, or other quiet activities you can use in your classroom's peace corner or art space.

LIMITED TO 10 PARTICIPANTS

6G TABLE TALKS: Social Justice Level: ALL

Facilitated by [Elena Rosemond](#)

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6H-Raising Humans: Montessori Education in an AI World Level: ALL

Presented by [Vivian Eng Bendewald](#)

AI is transforming who, what, and how we exist as humans. Let's discuss how education is less technological adaptation but the development of human judgment, purpose, and ethical agency. Come learn how Montessori education engrains resilience while cultivating independence, deep concentration and intrinsic motivation. This interactive discussion will ground learning in concrete experience and critical thinking, challenging Montessorians to prepare their students to use technology thoughtfully rather than depend on it. Montessori does not resist technology, rather it strengthens the distinctly human abilities that allow people to guide it wisely.



SESSION 7

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

4:15 PM-5:30 PM

7A-Luv Teach Equip Level: All

Presented by [Milissa J Stooks](#)

The Citadel and Empowered Minds

Building Relationships: How to engage with children in a way that motivates and improves academic performance, focusing on problem-solving, collaboration, and adaptability. Teach: Teaching tips I have developed through studying Maria Montessori and Howard Gardner's theories of education. Equip: With the environment and the 5 senses in mind, tips to prepare students for independent, innovative, and creative work, allowing the directress to facilitate.

7B- Community Development through the Practical Life Model Level: All

Presented by [Amanda Wolf](#)

Peace Rose Montessori

Come join the presentation and discussion about the process and action of Community Development in your classroom (for educators), school (for administrators), and local community (for all leaders and Montessorians). Sustainability and the future of your Montessori collective (wherever it may be in the globe) is at the forefront of this interactive workshop. You'll be provided with practical (life) resources in Community Development to implement at micro and macro levels.

7C- Redefining Success: Preparing Children for the Future Level: ALL

Presented by [Dr. Robin Howe](#)

The Montessori Foundation

This session explores success from the context of "Montessori" as more than academic achievement or financial reward yielded from academic achievement.. Drawing on Montessori principles, participants will explore how education at every level can help children cultivate happiness, emotional health, resilience, and adaptability. This session offers practical strategies for broadening community members' understanding of success and guides the creation of educational programs that support achievement in all students.

7D-Understanding Informed Trauma Care Level: EL/Public/ADM

Presented by [Tanya Graham](#)

Montessori School of Camden

Trauma-Informed Care, or TIC, is a compassionate framework designed to understand and respond to the lasting effects of trauma experienced by individuals, families, and communities. The goal of Trauma-Informed Care is to create safe, supportive, and healing environments that promote recovery and resilience.

7E- Innovation, Culture, and Cosmic Task: The Legacy of Early Humans Level: EL/PUBLIC

Willow Oak Montessori

Presented by [Susan Johnstone and Don Henchel](#)

The story of Early Humans is more than a Great Lesson. It is the key to understanding fundamental needs, innovation, and our cosmic task. This participatory workshop invites elementary teachers to explore fresh discoveries, reconnect with the wonder of human origins, and strengthen the bridge to ancient civilizations. Participants will leave inspired with renewed perspectives and practical strategies to present this foundational story with excitement and depth.

7F-Reflection Room Level: ALL

Presented by [Beth Langley](#)

Lasting Labyrinths

Come experience the activities in the reflection room designed to offer you a time to reflect on your Montessori Journey, enjoy a finger labyrinth meditation, or other quiet activities you can use in your classroom's peace corner or art space.

LIMITED TO 10 PARTICIPANTS

7G TABLE TALKS: Family Connections Level: ALL

Facilitated by [Dr. Lindsey Pollock](#)

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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- All registrations are processed online at: <http://www.mepiinc.com/>
- **Early Bird Rates** are available through February 20th.
- After February 20th, rates will increase by \$100.
- To register at the member rate, you must be an individual member (not a school member).

MEPI Membership	\$65	
	Early Bird Registration	After Feb. 20, 2026
Full Conference - member rate	\$370	\$435
Full Conference- non-member rate	\$450	\$515
1 Day Conference - member rate	\$330	\$395
1 Day -non-member	\$400	\$465
Montessori Intern	\$305	\$370

Paid registrations include lunch on Sat.

Registration CLOSSES on March 1, 2026

Refund & Cancellation Policy:

Fees are non-refundable after March 1, 2026. No exceptions.

If you are unable to attend after March 1, 2026, you may transfer your registration to another person or request a Letter of Donation from MEPI for tax purposes.

Cancellations made before March 1, 2026, will incur a \$35 cancellation fee.

Please submit cancellation requests via email to: MontessoriEPI@gmail.com.

Membership dues are non-refundable.



MEPI LEADERSHIP

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