A large, faded background image of a banner with the text 'HANDS FOR PEACE' at the bottom. The banner is held by several hands, and the overall style is that of a hand-drawn or painted poster.

*Scientist ~
Servant ~
Saint ~
The Montessori
Guide*

Hands for Peace International Conference

Kiawah Island Golf Resort, South Carolina

February 23 – 25, 2018

Schedule of Events

Thursday February 22nd

4:00pm -8:00pm Early Registration

Friday February 23th

6:30 – 8:15am Registration
7:00 – 7:45am Yoga
8:30 - 9:00am Welcome &
Opening Ceremony
9:00 -10:00am **Keynote address** by
Catherine McTamane
10:00-10:30am Break
10:30-12:00pm Session 1
12:00-1:30pm Salad Buffet
2:00-3:30pm Session 2
3:30-4:00 pm Break
4:00 – 5:30pm Session 3

Saturday February 24th

7:30 – 8:15am ~ Morning Labyrinth
9:00 – 9:30am General Meeting with
MEPI Graduate recognition
9:30-10:30am **Guest Speaker**
Dr Darlene Maxwell
10:30-11:00am Break
11:00-12:30pm Session 4
12:30-2:00pm Italian Buffet
2:15pm Silent Auction ends
2:15 – 3:45pm Session 5
3:45-4:15 Break / SA item ready for
pickup
4:15 – 5:15pm Session 6
5:30 – 5:45pm Closing

Sunday February 25th

7:30 am Laughter Yoga
with Kristie
9:00 am Run & Ride

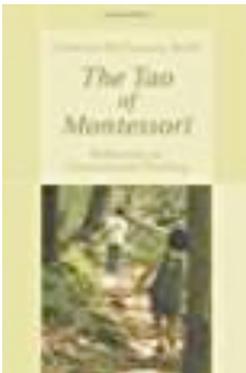
KEYNOTE – Catherine McTamaney



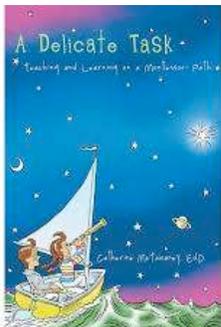
Catherine McTamaney, Ed.D., is the award-winning author of *The Tao of Montessori* and *A Delicate Task: Teaching and Learning on a Montessori Path*.

Dr. McTamaney has been a Montessori teacher, educator, and head of school. She currently serves as the Director of Undergraduate Education for Peabody College's Department of Teaching and

Learning at Vanderbilt University and is a Research Associate at the Social Computing Group in the MIT Media Lab.



The Tao of Montessori offers a quiet balance to the noisy demands of teaching and parenting through a special blend of encouraging verse. Award-winning Montessori teacher Catherine McTamaney revisits the eighty-one verses of Lao-tzu's Tao Te Ching and relates them to the life and work of teachers, parents, and children.



We are each other's navigational stars. Montessori's words, across generations, guide us.

We are working in common toward a perfection we may never individually see. But we're on the path. And we're not alone.

A Delicate Task: Teaching and Learning on a Montessori Path

Special Guest Speaker Darlene Maxwell



Dr. Maxwell is Professor Emeritus of Education at Coker College in So Carolina. She earned her Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Arizona in 1996, her M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education from Boston University in 1989 and her B.S. in Elementary Education from Presbyterian College in 1973. She is also Montessori certified for Primary and Elementary Classroom Director and a Montessori teacher educator.

At the college level, Darlene has taught graduate and undergraduate courses in early childhood curriculum, child development, educational psychology, elementary science and math methods, research methods and Montessori educational foundations. Traveling across the country, she has also served as a teacher educator for a hands-on science curriculum from the University of Hawaii and as a teacher in Montessori education.

Passionate about the need for play in children's lives, she has presented on this topic at state, national and international conferences.

Dr, Maxwell is a frequent contributor to professional journals and publications and has authored numerous books on the changing educational environment of public education and the importance of play.

She and her husband reside in Camden, SC where she enjoys reading, gourmet cooking, visiting her grandchildren and traveling.

Registration Key

IT-Infant & Toddler

EC-Early Childhood

EL – Elementary

MS-Middle School

ADM – Administration

PP – Public & Private schools

Pre-Session Offering

Friday – Feb. 23 - 7:00am – 7:45am

Enjoy an early morning session of relaxing yet invigorating yoga with Renata Faccioli ~
A great beginning to a wonderful weekend!

1-A Music & Movement for Brain Development**Level: IT /EC**

Using music and movement to aid in brain development, strengthen vestibular systems and just plain have fun.

Dr. Aja Debruyne - is a certified cognitive behavioral therapist and Montessori certified at the Infant/Toddler, Primary and Lower Elementary levels. She is the MEPI conference chair and the Secretary on our Board of Directors.

Dain Griffin is an MEPI intern and an accomplished musician in the Southwest.

1-B MACTE On-Site Verifier Training**Level: All**

Interested in becoming a MACTE on-site verifier for MACTE on-site verification visits? Or already a verifier looking to update your knowledge of the on-site verification visit process? The MACTE On-Site Verifier training is for Montessori credentialed individuals who are interested in participating as verifiers on upcoming on-site verification visits for programs going through the MACTE accreditation process..

Dr. Rebecca Pelton is the President of MACTE (Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education). MACTE serves as the national accreditor for Montessori teacher preparation programs. Aimee Fagan is the MACTE Accreditation specialist.

1-C Partnering with Parents Through Life's Changes**Level: IT/EC /PP**

Parenting is hard! It's our job as teachers to not only help children learn and grow, but support, educate, and guide parents through the many life changes of a young child. This workshop discusses how to help parents work through events, from toileting to a death in the family, and give strategies and guidance on how to bridge these events.

Sarah Galley is IT and EC certified and works at Charlotte Montessori School since 2010. She is passionate about spreading Montessori knowledge and joy of the Montessori philosophy. Lisa Howell also has her IT and EC certification and has taught for 9 years. She loves sharing Montessori with her two young children.

1-D The 10 Acre Wood Farm School**Level: MS /PP**

What started with a PowerPoint presentation has now grown into a small, sustainable farm maintained by students, including the youngest who interact and learn while working with chickens, turkeys, goats and a vegetable garden. Genetics are studied to support the Angora goat breeding program along with growing for organic seed production. In the true spirit of Montessori, our Farm Students will present part of this workshop.

Lisa McKenzie completed her NAMTA/AMI orientation to adolescent studies and works with Clay-Platte Montessori Farm Students in the education and maintenance for this program. She is presently the Adolescent Director at CPMS in Missouri.

1-E Support your Most Precious Resource – Your Staff !**Level: ADM/PP**

Our staff deserve more than a paycheck. They are our most precious resources and need our support. All schools can add an event or two that will make a positive difference. Come join us to discuss and share ideas on how to support your staff throughout the year. Bring your calendar!

Flo Hart has been involved with Montessori Children's School in Jacksonville, NC for over 24 years. She is in her 9th year as Head of School and loves her staff! Flo also serves as the Treasurer for MEPI and enjoys swimming, canoeing and going to the beach with her family.

1-F Sensorial - Math Continuum**Level: EC/PP**

This workshop will offer ideas on how to look at the connections within the math materials and group them according to concept, so that the child gains a deeper understanding of each concept. It begins by establishing those roots in Sensorial with observation, order and patterning. Participants will gain an understanding of how to view Sensorial and Math as a continuum and how to best help the child easily transition from one activity to another.

Helen DeVere is director of Orlando Montessori Teacher Education Institute in FL since 1990. She served 3 terms on the MACTE Board of Directors. She spends her time teaching with OMTEI, giving workshops and seminars along with accreditation visits for MACTE.

1-G The Many "S"ounds of Montessori – beyond Scientist, Servant, Saint**Level: All**

Maria Montessori wrote about the Montessori guide have three main qualities starting with the sound "S" – scientist, servant and saint. Come to this workshop and explore many more qualities starting with the same sound. You will be astonished by the number of qualities we cultivate and put at the service of children with our care and love. It will give you a boost of pride and an aspiration to perfect yourself as well.

Dr. Daniel Jutras is the Director and Master Teacher for the Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute, which affiliated with MEPI in 2012. He has served on the MEPI Board of Directors and developed MEPI's school accreditation program. He travels extensively giving courses and workshops across the globe. His AMI certification course was taught by Maria Montessori's student, Antonietta Paolini in Perugia, Italy.

1-H The Teacher as Scientist –Dr Montessori's Revolutionary and Transformative Standard**Level: All/PP**

"The vision of the teacher should be precise like that of the scientist..." (MMontessori). It is through observation and experimentation that the teacher becomes a scientist and puts herself in the service of children. Join us as we share a new classroom management tool that assists teachers in this transformative process.

Nancy Lindeman is the Director of the Institute for Montessori Innovation at Westminster College. She holds MEPI EC,EL I-II and Administrative level certificates and is a special educator. Cathie Mathews is an EC teacher at Montessori Community School in Salt Lake City. She's been teaching in Montessori for 12 years and is an internationally recognized Montessori blogger.

1-I Advocacy for Montessori Education - Collaboration & Cooperation**Level: All/PP**

This workshop will explore the benefits of engaging in advocacy to support fully implemented Montessori education with regulatory agencies. Using the work of one state Montessori organization, we will share a model of collaboration and cooperation that enable us to educate and compromise with integrity.

Christine Lowry M.Ed is a consultant at Montessori NOW and has worked with a number of state Montessori organizations to create Montessori-friendly relationships with regulatory agencies. Martha Teien M.Ed owns a small Montessori school in the mountains of Colorado. She is the current President of MEPI and the Colorado Montessori Association. She has worked with Christine to support Montessori education in Colorado.

2-A Supporting Challenging Teachers & Teachers with Challenges**Level: ADM**

This workshop will help educational leaders identify common faculty challenges as well as toxic behavior, while exploring positive and proactive approaches to dealing with these issues. We will address creating school environments that are supportive of faculty development assuring a mission-consistent culture.

Kathy Leitch is the founder and head of Renaissance Montessori School. She has her AMS IT and EC credentials and has been involved in Montessori education for over 35 years. She continues as a teacher trainer, school consultant and is a certified Parenting Instructor & Stress Management facilitator.

2-B Fostering Original Thinkers in the Montessori Classroom - Pt. 1 (pt. 2 is offered during **Session 3-A**) **Level: All/PP**

Montessori's vision was to empower students to fully realize their unique potential and mission on earth. Montessori, herself, was a true "original" and a model for educators and students alike. We will explore ways to accomplish her vision and foster original thinking, activities and projects in a more intentional and systematic way. You will be invited to reflect upon your curriculum design and classroom practices and come away with an action plan for how to adjust your approach to foster originality and to be more original yourself!

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!

2-C MACTE Self-Study Writing Workshop**Level: All**

The Self-Study workshop is for Montessori Teacher Education Programs that are ready to begin working on their Self-Study document. This workshop will focus on accreditation requirements and specific compilation guidelines through MACTE's Accreditation Management Portal.

Dr. Rebecca Pelton is the President of MACTE (Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education). MACTE serves as the national accreditor for Montessori teacher preparation programs. **Aimee Fagan** is the MACTE Accreditation specialist.

2-D A Good Beach Read - and it's not a book!**Level: All**

Knowing what you are observing while walking on the beach gives one a new appreciation for this vast ecosystem beneath our feet. Learn to identify what the beach can tell us, from observing the sand, identifying tracks, to many of the wonders which appear one day and are gone the next.

A check-off list for you to take with you on your next beach outing at Kiawah will be provided.

Mary Cusack is the Executive Coordinator for MEPI. She enjoys identifying nature to become better aware of her surrounding. She lives in the woods with her husband of 45 years and enjoys being a certified Master Gardener and observer of birds, fungi, wildflowers and animals.

2-E The Elusive Process of Normalization**Level: IT/EC**

New children, new teaching partners, new obstacles...oh my! Nothing seems more elusive at the beginning of the year than the idea of normalization. This workshop details the adventure each classroom faces at the start. We will help share strategies, routines, limits, and understanding to help guide you confidently through the process of normalization.

Sarah Galley has worked at Charlotte Montessori School since 2010. She has both her IT and EC certifications. She is passionate about spreading the knowledge and joy of Montessori. **Jenny Formon** is an EC teacher at Charlotte Montessori School where she has been for 20+ years. She shares Montessori through writing and workshop presentations.

2-F Let's Get Down on the Farm**Level: EC/PP**

Do you love the "farm" but just can't seem to manage it with children using it at many different levels? We will explore a simple, effective way to get the most from this wonderful material for introducing primary students to grammar. You'll be "getting down on the farm" like you never have before!

Teresa Noble spends most of her time as a Montessori Teacher Educator and consulting for Montessori and Early Childhood. She also represents MEPI on the MACTE Board of Directors.

2-G Education, Training, and Experience**Level: PP**

Come experience the findings and process of Teresa's dissertation work as it relates to a study of establishing a Montessori school. The method of "Bricolage" and why it is so powerful in explaining Montessori and how we operate as Montessorians will be explained and discussed.

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

2-H Rejuvenate Elementary Grammar with Storytelling**Level: EL/PP**

Bring grammar to life! Make functions of words glisten with storytelling excitement. Michael will review all parts of speech, introducing storytelling for grammar as well as related areas like possessives, contractions and letter sounds. You'll acquire specific know-how in storytelling techniques and skills, while visiting many language lessons enriched through the magic of stories.

Dr. Michael Dorer is a Montessori educator consultant, speaker and author with nearly 50 years experience in Montessori education at all levels. He has a doctorate in Education and Montessori credentials for 3-6 (AMS) and 6-12 (AMI).

2-I 15 Science experiments for Children's House**Level: EC**

Learn how to help children in your classroom gain a scientific foundation through tactile learning experiences. This workshop will focus on teaching scientific concepts using fun and engaging experiments for children 3-6 years. As a participant in this session, you will conduct experiments and receive lesson write-ups to try at your school.

Patrick Mcglinchy is a lead teacher at Keystone Montessori School in Massachusetts since 2005. After a stint in politics for 10 years, he pursued and received his Montessori certification with AMS. Patrick is an advocate for stronger Science curriculum at the Early Childhood level.

3-A Fostering Original Thinkers in the Montessori Classroom - Pt. 2**Level: All/PP**

This is part 2 and a continuation of Andrew's workshop. Please see workshop description under 2-B

Andrew Kutt Please see his bio under 2-B.

3-B Fostering Creativity & Interest in Art & Exploration in your Infant Toddler Classroom**Level: IT**

I am not an artist! This class will offer ideas & suggestions to foster your infant & toddlers interest in the arts in an authentic way. We will, through discussion, examples, and make & take, discover new ways to fulfill the parents' desires for keepsakes while still giving the child the freedom to explore and create.

Christina Muehlbauer is a level 1 Infant teacher at the Suzuki School in Atlanta, Georgia. Prior to this, she was the infant director at the Montessori School of Camden in SC. Chrissy is a certified MEPI Infant Toddler teacher.

3-C The Visionary Leader: Leading & Empowering Staff**Level: ADM/PP**

This workshop will focus on how school leaders can create a vision for their school that promotes the collaboration of all staff and administration towards one vision. This session will provide some concrete methods to assist in making this happen in your school.

Rachel Buechler originally from England now lives in Charlotte, NC. She has a BA in Education and her IT Montessori certification. She is currently the Assistant Director at Charlotte Montessori School after previously teaching in the IT classroom. Michelle Cochran has taught for over 15 years, has her EC Montessori certification and holds degrees in EC Education and Child & Family Studies. She earned her Administrator Credential in 2012 and is current Director at Charlotte Montessori School.

3-D A Montessori TKES Toolkit**Level: ADM/PP**

This workshop presents the process one school developed to align performance expectations of a Montessori guide with the Georgia Teacher Keys Evaluation System. Outlines will be given of teacher performance standards and how these translate into a "Montessori TKES Toolkit" that can be adapted to other state evaluation systems. Small group discussions will engage in developing ideas to meet the needs of each particular environment.

Tanya Melville is originally from Ireland and discovered Montessori when she emigrated to the US in 1986. After becoming a Montessori mom, she explored the Erdkinder model at Montessori of Macon and eventually became the school's director. Now living in Savannah, she is principal at Charles Ellis Montessori, which is celebrating their 30th anniversary as a public Montessori school.

3-E Being Present – Being Mindful....A service to ourselves and to the children**Level: All**

This workshop will give you 5 mindfulness lessons that you can take to your classroom to expand and develop with your students. Each has group time presentations and shelf materials for the Peace area. Simple meditation techniques will be broken into manageable parts to use with children. Finishing up will have walking on the line meditation activities and, if time, make a personal peace banner. *This workshop is limited to 25 participants.*

Jennifer Sherman founded Oak Grove Montessori in Charleston in 1997. She holds an AMI certification and BA in Special Education.

Caroline Brennan has been practicing and teaching mindfulness and yoga for 20 years. She and her husband opened Sprout, an organic café and juice bar in Charleston and spends her extra time volunteering to teach yoga at her children's school along with family yoga classes.

3-F Confident Communication with our Parents**Level: All**

This workshop covers the "why" behind the importance of confident and clear communication between teachers and parents and will provide participants with tools and examples for creating successful and educational communication to parents.

Margaret Southerland is an IT teacher at Charlotte Montessori and has her AMS IT certification. Jenny Formon is an EC teacher at Charlotte Montessori where she has taught for 20 years. She shares Montessori through her writings and workshop presentations.

3-G Kick your Class up a Notch! Promoting Critical Thinking & Literacy in the Cosmic Curriculum**Level: EL /PP**

Come and be inspired to engage your elementary students in meaningful extension work to the Cosmic Curriculum based on their own interests and passions. Students will enhance their critical thinking skills by applying the concepts learned in each lesson and connecting them to all areas in the classroom. Learn how to integrate Bloom's Taxonomy and Depth of Knowledge to the Cosmic Curriculum

Jorge Haro is a trained 6-9 Montessori director who has been working in the Montessori classroom since 2010. Heidi Reed has her lower Elementary Montessori certification and has 11 years teaching experience at this level. Heidi and Jorge co-teach at Magnolia Montessori Academy in Florida.

3-H Find the Beach & Look Within**Level: All /PP**

We will work as a group to construct a temporary labyrinth on the beach. Participants will also search for a symbol from nature and examine the connections as they walk the labyrinth. Taking time to be outdoors and make time for introspection is a very Montessori thing!

Beth Langley has a BA from Columbia College, is Early Childhood certified through MEPI, is a Veriditas certified labyrinth facilitator and has a love of art and all things creative. Beth shares her love of labyrinths and presents at conferences in the US and internationally for Montessori teachers, gardeners, art educators and labyrinth enthusiasts.

3-I Creating an Inclusive Montessori Classroom for ALL- supporting Challenges in Behavior and Learning**Level: All**

This workshop explores the foundation for understanding challenges and how we can create inclusive classrooms serving all children. The Montessori Triad is the basis for using a Management, Prevention, and Intervention Model that benefits all students. Participants will learn how to create specific individualized plans to address the "whole child." Workable tools and techniques consistent with best Montessori practice will be shared.

Christine Lowry M.Ed. has been committed to inclusion of all learners in the Montessori environment during her 24 years as a classroom teacher and head of school. She currently consults with schools as they serve their special needs students and presents at national and state conference along with workshops for Montessori educators.

4-A Transformation Public School Style**Level: PP**

Transformation of the adult is a requirement of Montessori teacher training. Public school teachers, often very experienced in a different education perspective, must be transformed before entering the Montessori environment. In this session, we will discuss the 3-fold effect of transformed adult, environment and child in the public school Montessori setting.

Dr. Floyd Creech is director of School Readiness in Florence School District One and has been working with Montessori teachers for over 10 years in the public school setting. He graduated from Lander University Montessori Teacher Education Program in 2004 and is a founding member of the South Carolina Montessori Alliance. He serves on the MACTE Board of Directors and is an active member of MEPI.

4-B How to Advocate for your Montessori School**Level: ADM/PP**

This workshop is focused on sharing with participants the state of affairs with numerous policy issues with knowledge on how to engage in advocacy on behalf of their school and Montessori. Together we will explore: how to advocate at every level, from neighborhood to national; what policy makers most want to know about Montessori; success stories; and ideas for getting involved. Participants will walk away with a clear idea of what they can do to amplify their voice and get involved. Emphasis at the state level is finding a unified voice across Montessori educators.

RB Fast is on the council of Montessori Public Policy Initiative (MPPI), a jointly sponsored collaborative between AMI/USA & AMS. She is a founder of the CO Montessori Association and served as VP and Advocacy Chair for 4 years. She is AMI trained and has a Master of Science in EC Public Policy & Advocacy. She serves as a school leadership coach at Bee Line Consulting.

4-C Independence – A Montessori Journey**Level: All/PP**

Join Michael as he explores the most defining mantra of Montessori education. What is independence and why does it matter? Is there a downside to too much independence? How do we encourage and teach the skills for independence? Be part of the fireworks in honor of independence!

Dr. Michael Dorer is a Montessori teacher educator, consultant, speaker, author and storyteller with nearly 50 years with Montessori education. He holds a Doctorate in Education and an AMS 3-6 and AMI 6-12 certifications. He focuses on Montessori theory, mathematics, Great Lessons & more!

4-D Caring Beyond our Community**Level: EC**

This workshop focuses on taking grace and courtesy beyond the classroom and into the local and global communities.

Christina Cruickshanks has been teaching 16 years in public schools and is in her 5th year in Primary Montessori. She is the proud mother of 3 Montessori girls. **Christina Miller** has been teaching 8 years in Montessori public schools. She is the proud mother of 2 Montessori kids and one adorable toddler!

4-E Snazzing Up Sensorial How to reconnect Sensorial Exercises to Children who need Them!**Level: EC**

By understanding the importance that sensorial lessons play in building foundations for further work in Language and Math we'll let's take a closer look at how to keep children connected to these exercises – especially the children in need of sensorial exploration. We will examine the main lessons and exciting extensions to consider as we reconnect to today's children.

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

4-F Supporting Food Allergies in the Classroom Environment**Level: All/PP**

This workshop gives an explanation of different types of food allergies and intolerances and advice on how to better manage them in the classroom setting. We will also discuss ways to empower children to advocate for their own allergies.

Meghan Redman has served many children with food allergies through her years of working. But it was through Montessori that she discovered how to help children advocate for themselves. She has her degree in Family and Consumer Studies and her 3-6 certification from Pan-Am Montessori Society.

4-G The Montessori Teacher as a Guide in the Garden**Level: All**

Start a new project at your school – a BioGarden! You will learn, step-by-step, how to implement this program from curriculum to hands in the dirt to harvest!

Sandra Pokos is the owner and director of Little Heart Montessori School in Zagreb, Croatia. She is an EC director and conducts a teacher preparation program through MEPI. She currently is chair of the Teacher Education Committee for MEPI.

4-H Where in the World is Koala Lou?**Level: All/PP**

This workshop is storytelling using flannel boards and other techniques to include in your continent studies.

Luanne Hendricks has been teaching 38 years – 20 of which are in Montessori. She is a teacher trainer with MEPI and a mentor teacher to traditional teachers.

4-I Oh the Wonderful World of Colored Beads**Level: EC/EL**

Come and explore the numerous activities the children can do with them from dissecting the Snake Game in four trouble-free levels to the so-cool properties of commutativity, associativity and dis-associativity without forgetting the concrete Pythagoras table of multiplication.

Dr. Daniel Jutras is the Director and Master Teacher for the Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute, which affiliated, with MEPI in 2012. He has served on the MEPI Board of Directors and developed MEPI's school accreditation program. He travels extensively giving courses and workshops across the globe. His AMI certification course was taught by Maria Montessori's student, Antonietta Paolini in Perugia, Italy.

5-A Toddlers and Challenging Behavior: Biting**Level: IT**

Let's talk about biting: why kids bite and how to handle the biter and the bitten. Before our roundtable discussion on the types of biting, there will be a brief presentation on how this guide handles biting in her environment.

Meredith Hines was introduced to Montessori in 1996 and was hired by Sherry Sweet-Miller at the Montessori School of Camden where she is still employed. She has been a Toddler Assistant, Director, Extended day Director, Summer Coordinator, Field Consultant and Teacher Trainer. She has been on her school's Board of Director and is a new MEPI Board member.

5-B How to have Hard Conversations with Employees**Level: ADM/PP**

Confrontation is tough. Many school leaders struggle with how to approach staff members about concerns. Often they let it slide or become rigid authoritarians because of their discomfort with hard conversations. We will explore the fine art of approaching tough topics with grace and courtesy while maintaining the integrity of our policies. Participants will walk away knowing how to have those hard conversations that leave both parties feeling empowered and grateful.

RB Fast is a school leadership coach committed to helping administrators realize their vision for their school with strength and grace. A former teacher and administrator, she works with school leaders across the globe as they build strong communities.

5-C Montessori Teacher – Montessori Mom**Level: All**

Many of us have our own children with us at school. Let's talk about how we handle being a teacher or administrator AND a parent !

Bobbi Brown-Flannery is the Director of Still Water Montessori School in South Carolina. Out of 23 years teaching, the last 10 have been spent in a Montessori environment. She has her Bachelor of Science in Family Studies from the U of Arizona and her Masters in EC education.

5-D MEPI Accreditation**Level: ADM**

Take your school to the next level of excellence. This workshop, presented by MEPI's Accreditation coordinators, will explain the process, the procedures, and the benefits of becoming MEPI Accredited - a Gold status school.

Dr. John Moncure serves as headmaster of the Montessori School of Camden, SC. He is an MEPI Board member and an On-Site Verifier for MACTE. John has authored three books and numerous articles. He holds a Ph.D from Cornell University. Dr. Daniel Jutras - Please see his bio under 4-I.

5-E Facing Inward. The Spiritual & Transformative nature of our Montessori Work**Level: All/PP**

Dr. Montessori believed that by directing our efforts toward helping the inner self, both the child and the adult, we might be able to save humanity and to build a better, more peaceful world. This participatory workshop is for those interested in exploring Montessori and the transformative nature of our work.

Melody Mosby hold the AMI Advanced diploma from Washington Institute in Washington D.C. and the Montessori Secondary diploma from MEPI. She currently teaches adolescents at Athens Montessori in GA and is program director for Adolescent Teacher Training. She is a lifelong Montessorian and is committed to education for peace.

5-F Mindfulness in Montessori: Bringing Awareness & Connectedness to the Elementary classroom**Level: EL/PP**

Learn activities that engage elementary children in mindfulness. Making silence and walking the line will be offered as participatory experiences, and their use in the elementary classroom will be discussed as enhancing mindfulness. You'll also see sewing, art, music and movement as helping students focus and calm their minds, spirits and bodies.

Rose Dorer is AMS EC and AMI Elementary certified with a Masters degree in Education. She has taught EC and lower and upper Elementary as well as adults at the postgraduate level for St Catherine University and Westminster College. Rose is certified for Educational Administration and has presented at many Montessori conferences on Language, Peace and Biology.

5-G Science for Every Month**Level: EC/EL**

This workshop is designed to provide hands-on science experiments for each month. Attendees will have an opportunity to try a few experiments in a rotation style workshop. Come ready for a fun filled workshop!

Christina Miller has a Masters in primary Montessori from Lander University. She has been teaching for 8 years in a public primary classroom.

Christina Cruickshanks has her Montessori credentials from MEPI and has taught in both traditional and Montessori classrooms with Montessori being her passion!

5-H Gardening in Elementary Classrooms**Level: EL/PP**

We will focus on how to implement gardening into elementary classrooms. Teachers will receive resources of how to incorporate this into classes on a daily basis. We will discuss how to make gardening fun and interesting to instill life-long gardening passion!

Casey Moyer has a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction and is currently working on her Doctorate in School Administration. She worked for 8 years in the public Montessori sector and has, for the past 10 years, been in private Montessori education working at Montessori World School in Orlando, Florida as head of their Elementary program.

5-I Extending the Montessori Hours**Level: All**

We will focus on tips and tricks as to how aftercare is presented to students, from beginning to the end of the school year. We will look at what shelf work is used, what line times are used for ages 2 – 9, plus gardening and what we do for fun Friday's as well.

Lindsey Johnson is an assistant teacher in the toddler classroom and this year added the aftercare responsibility to her roster. She has been at St. Andrew's Montessori in Georgia for 5 years and is currently enrolled to obtain her IT Montessori certification. Meagan Laurens is an assistant teacher in the early childhood classroom and also works in the aftercare programs. Her future plans include an EC Montessori certification.

6-A Beauty of Renaissance Art**Level: EL**

Come and learn how to use Renaissance art in your classroom. We will share prints, resources and ideas from Megan's experience at the Teacher Institute of the National Gallery of Art and how we have used it in our lower EL classes.

Megan Minchener has taught Montessori lower EL for 9 years in the public Title 1 schools in SC. She was one of 50 teachers in the US accepted into the Teacher Institute at the National Gallery of Art to study Renaissance Art for 6 days. Britney Smith has been instructing Montessori since 2009. She and Megan both teach lower EL at Murray-LaSaine Elementary in Charleston, South Carolina.

6-B Essential Oils and Montessori**Level: All/PP**

This will be an informative presentation on essential oil science and use which will be followed by interactive discussion and sensory experiences to help participants understand the many opportunities for bringing beauty and comfort into their environments. We connect botany, geography and chemistry with daily use of oils and opportunities for bringing self-care to a higher level for both guide and child.

Renata Faccioli is the owner and primary guide at Starlight School in Nevada, providing Montessori education for IT and EC children. She is a wellness advocate for essential oils and a fitness enthusiast. She is passionate about sharing personal and family health through Montessori philosophy, mindful movement, and essential oils.

6-C Raising Montessori Children in a Microwave Society**Level: All/PP**

When Dr. Montessori perfected her philosophy, she had no idea what an "instant gratification" society we would become. We will discuss the art of patience in a world where waiting is becoming increasingly obsolete.

Meghan Redman Please see Meghan's bio under Session 4-F.

6-D Using World Instrument, Movement & Sound to enrich Educational Offerings**Level: EL/MS/ADM/PP**

Daniel will instruct how to use instruments and sound to increase engagement, and augment lessons in various subjects. Teachers will learn instrument making ideas, simple gathering rhythms of the world, and ways to reinforce traditional core curriculum components with music, rhythm, movement and sound.

Daniel Scruggs has studied, performed and taught music for over 25 years. He teaches at Sundrops Montessori's four campuses in and around Charleston, SC. His curiosity and love of learning have led him to study many cultural traditions throughout the world. He is the founder of the Rhythm Moves cultural education program.

6-E Why Can't they Focus? Supporting Sensory Needs of Children**Level: All/PP**

This workshop explains the importance of sensory regulation in young children. You will learn how sensory needs often lead to children who can't focus, keep their hands to themselves, or regulate their emotions. You will also learn how daily observations can serve as indicators of underlying sensory needs. Many activities will be introduced to support these children to help them focus and regulate their emotions. These can be incorporated into work time, group time and outside play.

Holli Andrews has been teaching in Montessori since 2000. After helping start a Montessori school she then became Learning specialist at another Montessori school in Charlotte, NC. She has her Master's of EC from San Francisco State University and is dedicated to helping children overcome their sensory needs and reach their individual potential.

6-F Opening your Montessori School**Level: ALL**

Participants will be guided through the steps of successfully starting a Montessori school and creating a business plan. Topics addressed will include: personal requirements, market analysis, forecast assumptions, school promotion, cash flow projections, site location and regulatory frameworks.

Elizabeth Hobbs is an experienced Montessori educator and financial professional. She operated, for 10 years, a Montessori school she founded and also was Head of the American International Montessori School in Hanoi, Viet Nam. She has her EC and EI certifications and currently teaches at the Montessori elementary level in Maryland.

6-G The Science behind Perseverance**Level: All**

Nowadays, to go beyond, the word "effort", to do it again, repeat and try again, are not always as easy to the ear for either the child or the parent, and not easy to accomplish. Why is it that some children will keep trying and persevere as long as necessary while others struggle? Is it because of family education? Society? Heredity? What can we propose to children and teachers to help facilitate this state of mind and this way of life?

Pascale Quirion has been a teacher for 25 years and teacher training for 9. Her passion is Montessori and loves the challenge of offering children and parents the best "keys to success". Allan Nguyen has been teaching for 10 years in Elementary. He is motivated to share his vision and belief on what he feels is the best pedagogy.

6-H The 3R's for Teachers & Staff: Rest, Renewal and Reflection**Level: All**

This workshop is designed to help teachers recognize the value and need for cultivating rest, renewal and reflection in their personal lives so that they can bring the best of themselves to their work on a daily basis. Within the framework of the Circle, participants will be guided through a series of queries and exercises to identify their own inner core and most deeply held values, which inform and guide their work so they can bring the best of themselves and truly cultivate peace within.

Claire Salkowski is an educator, professional mediator and Circle facilitator with almost 40 years experience in education. She has taught at every level from toddlers through graduate students. She was Director of Montessori Education and Associate Professor at Delaware State University and has been involved in several Montessori teacher-training centers. She founded Free State Montessori School in Maryland and continues as their educational director. Her curriculum development includes subjects on peace education, conflict resolution, and peer mediation.

7:30am – 8:30am

Laughter Yoga with Kristie

Level: All

Easy and fun exercises for health and happiness! 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.

Martha Teien owns and directs a small primary school in the mountains of Colorado where she enjoys the crisp mountain air on her daily jogs. She is the current President of MEPI and has the ability to enthusiastically get the Board of Directors up and out of our meeting chairs and into the outdoors to regroup, renew, and refresh!



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 until **Saturday, January 20, 2018**. 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 qualify for member rates. All memberships renew in

Rates & Fees

MEPI individual membership	\$50
Full Conference – Member rate	\$225
Full Conference – non-member rate	\$300
1 Day Registration – Member rate	\$185
1 Day Registration – non member rate	\$250
Montessori Intern –full or 1 day	\$150
Friday Salad Buffet	\$18
Saturday Italian Buffet	\$20
Sunday Bike Rental	\$14

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 Italian Buffet: *Caesar Salad w/Parmesan & Black Pepper Croutons ~ Charcuterie & Cheese Presentation w/ traditional Accompaniments*

Eggplant Parmesan, Wood roasted tomato sauce, melted Provolone & Garden Herbs

Wild Mushroom Ravioli, Crispy Prosciutto & Gorgonzola Cream

Chicken Alfredo, Broccoli, Penne Pasta & Sundried Tomatoes

Warm Focaccia, butter & Olive Tapenade

Chocolate Dipped Biscotti ~ Fresh Fruit Tarts

Payment for your early registration must be received by Feb. 1, 2018 to avoid a \$25 monthly late fee.

To register – go to the MEPI website access the brochure and registration from the home page.

Cancellation Policy

- Fees are non-refundable after **Jan. 7, 2018**.
- If you find, after Jan. 7, 2018 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 Jan. 7, 2018, will have a \$40 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 = \$118**

East Bedroom – *2 bedroom Scenic View Villa = \$163**

*All Villas have full kitchens and washer/dryer.

*Free Wi-Fi.

****Rates are guaranteed until Jan 24, 2017 after which rates and space are on available basis.**

Call for reservations and please mention
Montessori Educational Programs – Booking Code 12969
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.

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Memberships are non-refundable.

MEPI Leadership

Martha Teien - *President*

John Moncure - *Vice President*

Aja Staniszewski - *Secretary*

Flo Hart - *Treasurer*

Mary Helen Cline - *Education Chair*

Sandra Pokos - *Teacher Ed Chair*

Mary Cusack - *Executive Coordinator*

Meredith Hines- *Member*

Marie Therese Bishay- *Member*

LaDene Conroy - *Member*

Nicolette Householder- *Member*

Karen Mangham- *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.



Dr. Helen K. Billings