



# Fostering Peace Through Uncertain Times

2016 Hands For Peace  
International Conference

Kiawah Island Golf Resort  
1 Sanctuary Beach Dr, Kiawah Island, SC 29455

February 26-28, 2016

Establishing lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is keep us out of war.

*The Child is both a hope and a promise for mankind.*



# WELCOME!

## Annual Hands For Peace MEPI Conference

We hope to offer a place of solace and renewed spirit during our annual *Hands For Peace* conference. World events like the Charleston shootings, the Nepal earthquake and the migrant crisis in Europe affect us all.

This year's theme "*Fostering Peace Through Uncertain Times*" will be a time to renew and celebrate our passion for bettering the world through our commitment to peace education.

This year's conference is in a new location, Kiawah Island Resort, just 40 minutes from Charleston, South Carolina. We welcome Daniel Jutras, founder and director of the Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute and longtime MEPI supporter, as the Keynote speaker. Rebecca Pelton of MACTE will be a special guest sharing her

experiences and support of Montessori education at the national level.

We have an incredible variety of workshops to choose from.

Catherine McTamane, author of *The Tao of Montessori*, Christine Lowry, founder of *Montessori NOW*, Andrew Kutt of the *Oneness-Family School* and over 50 other dedicated, educated and passionate Montessorians will share their wisdom and expertise through exciting topics and hands-on experiences.

We can't wait to see old friends and make new ones as we renew our Montessori spirit through three days of learning, growing and celebrating our passion for supporting children in their journey through life.

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday  
Feb. 25, 2016  
- Sunday  
Feb. 28, 2016

## THURSDAY

4pm-6pm Early Registration

9:00am-10:30am- Workshops:  
Session Five

10:30am-11:00am- Exhibitor Hall  
and Silent Auction

## FRIDAY

6:30am-Registration Opens

8:00am-8:45 am-Opening  
Ceremony

9:00am-10:30 am-Workshops:  
Session One

10:30am -11am-Exhibit Hall and  
Silent Auction

11:00am-12:00pm – Workshops:  
Session Two

12:00pm-1:15pm- Luncheon

1:15pm-2:15pm- Exhibit Hall and  
Silent Auction

2:15pm-3:45pm- Workshops:  
Session Three

3:45pm- 4:00pm- Coffee & Tea

4:00pm-5:00pm-Workshops:  
Session Four

5:15pm-6:45pm-Keynote with  
Daniel Jutras

The Celebration – A Party for All  
following the Keynote

Food, Dancing and Fun!

## SATURDAY

7:00am-7:45am- Registration

8:00am-8:30am-General Meeting,  
Graduates & Announcements

8:30am-9:00am- Coffee & Tea

11:00am-12:00pm- Workshops:  
Session Six

12:00pm-1:15pm- Luncheon

1:15pm-2:15pm-Special Guest-  
Rebecca Pelton

2:15pm-3:00pm-Last Chance for  
Silent Auction

3:00pm-4:00pm- Workshops:  
Session Seven

4:00pm-4:15pm-Coffee & Tea

4:15pm-5:15pm-Workshops:  
Session Eight

5:15pm-5:30pm- Pick up silent  
Auction and Last chance for  
Exhibitors

5:30pm-6:30pm-Closing  
Ceremony

## SUNDAY

Bonus Sessions – details will be  
sent with registration confirmation.

- Night Heron Park Nature Center-
- 5K Fun Run with Martha Teien-
- Laughter Yoga with Kristie Norwood

## **THE SHIRLEY PLATH FUND**

***“Building peace in  
the world through  
Montessori  
education.”***

*All monies raised  
from the silent  
auction benefit the  
Shirley Plath Fund; a  
dedicated fund  
designated to  
address humanitarian  
needs affecting the  
Montessori family.*

If you have items you  
would like to donate  
for the silent auction  
contact

Tina Childress  
[tchildress@laurens55.org](mailto:tchildress@laurens55.org)

# Register Now!

# KEYNOTE

## *“The Contribution of the Hummingbird- and the Dream of Peace”*



### **Daniel Jutras, Ph.D**

*Founding Director*

*Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute*

Dr Daniel Jutras is the current Director and Master Teacher of the Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute, which officially affiliated with MEPI in 2012. Dr Jutras has served on the MEPI Board of Directors and has been a frequent and anticipated workshop presenter at many of MEPI's conferences. He developed MEPI's school Accreditation program and continues to be involved in mentoring staff through the accreditation process. His many world wide involvements include manager for the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, consultant for the Ministry of Education in Haiti, along with lecturing on child development in Nigeria, Poland, Russia, France, England and across North America.

His Early Childhood AMI certification took place in Perugia, Italy under the mentorship of Antonietta Paolini, a student of Maria Montessori. His Montessori elementary diploma was awarded from St Nicholas Centre, London, England and his doctorate in Education from University of Ottawa.



## **Special Guest** **Rebecca Pelton, Ed.D**

*Executive Director/President of MACTE*

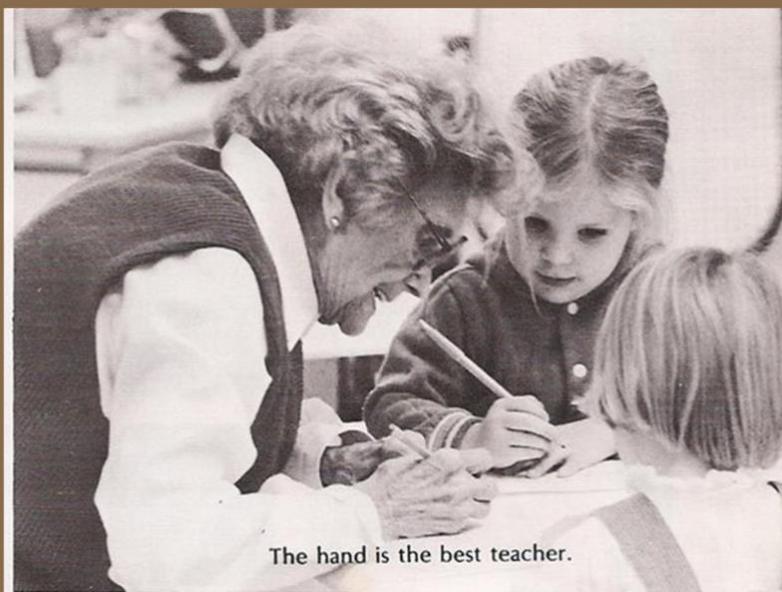
Rebecca Pelton is the President of the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE). MACTE serves as the national accreditor for Montessori teacher preparation programs and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Rebecca has been active in the area of teacher program accreditation for the past 14 years. Prior to her work with MACTE, she served as the Vice President for Membership for the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC). She has presented at many national conferences and participated in over sixty on-site visits preparing for teacher program accreditation. Rebecca earned her B.A. in Music Education from Alma College and went on to teach in public and private schools for 20 years. She earned her M.Ed. from Bowling Green State University in Education with an endorsement in Gifted Education and continued to teach, as well as develop a number of programs in gifted education and gifted enrichment. She earned her doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Delaware. Her tenure at MACTE is based on commitment to supporting Montessori teacher preparation and thereby improving the educational experience of Montessori students.

# 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.



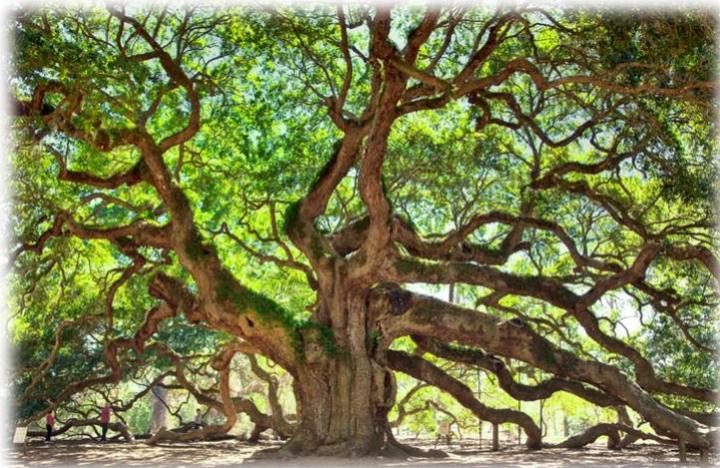
Dr. Helen Billings

## ANGEL OAK TREE

Just 20 minutes from the resort, Open 9-5  
Free admission<sup>[SEP]</sup>, 3688 Angel Oak Rd.<sup>[SEP]</sup> Johns Island, SC

Be sure to schedule some time to visit the Angel Oak. It is a must see while you're in the Charleston area.

*"The Angel Oak is an enormous live oak on Johns Island, South Carolina, just south of Charleston. It looks like something out of a beautifully illustrated children's fable. It is called a "live oak" because it is a species that stays green all year round and never appears to be without life. These trees make you smile in the winter and be glad if you are fortunate enough to live in a place where the deathly gray of the north is held at bay. The Angel Oak's branches look like they have slowly moved heaven and earth. Some are as long as a blue whale and as thick as a hippopotamus. Arborists estimate its age to be between 700 and 1000 years." H. Siegel*



# SESSION ONE

Friday 9:00am-

## **1A-Successful Steps from Concrete to Abstract in Sensorial Activities**

*Level: ALL*

Daniel Jutras, Ph.D.

Come and be exposed to the three major steps from perception to conception, from concrete to abstract, from material to idea. All these activities help the child to compare, judge, weigh, and think. Come and re-discover how you can help the child to THINK.

## **1B-Keeping It Real- Advocating for a Meaningful Montessori Education**

*Level: ALL*

Christine Lowry, M.Ed.

This presentation will offer an overview of policies having impact on high quality Montessori education. A discussion of national vs. state advocacy will lead to an outline for the process of state level advocacy engagement using The Three Components of Change.

## **1C-Incorporating STEM in the Montessori Classroom**

*Level: LE, UE*

Brook England and Jennifer Davis

Based on the book, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, by Kamkwamba and Mealer, participants will apply the Engineering Design Process to create working windmills. Awareness of the lack of clean water in third world countries will be explored and how teachers can incorporate this lesson as a springboard for a service learning project in their classrooms.

## **1D-Beyond Grace and Courtesy; Mindful Practices for Diversity and Today's Living**

*Level: ALL*

Alicia L Brady

Grace and courtesy is purposefully interwoven throughout Montessori philosophy. In today's diverse society we experience a lack of such character and respect. It is necessary to keep Maria's work and vision growing, while finding additional worthy practices to further support these important basics.

## **1E-Encompassing Peace in Daily Life**

*Level: IT, EC, LE, P*

Chrissy Sadowski

In today's unruly world, we need to teach children to live a life full of peace. Using different daily routines and ongoing projects, children can benefit from integrating peace holistically in their life with the support of their parents.

## **1F-Beautiful Handwriting in the Montessori Classroom**

*Level: EC, LE*

Susan Scheibenzuber

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.

## **1G-Classroom Alive!**

*Level: LE, UE, MS, Admin*

Stephanie Speicher

Classroom Alive! is an opportunity to experience building classroom communities in action. Participants will discover and participate in an assortment of experiential activities to build and enhance class cohesion, trust, and problem-solving ability (especially during the normalization period). This workshop will focus on ideas that span from lower elementary to adolescent programs. The concepts of experiential learning, interdisciplinary cohesion, and critical thinking will be discussed in relation to an "active" classroom. Activities will be taught that focus on how to utilize what tools are already present within the school (i.e. minimal cost).

## **1H-The Decalogue- How It Looks For Infants and Toddlers**

*Level: IT, Admin, P*

Laura LeClair

Rediscover Montessori's Decalogue and how it guides our respectful work with Toddlers. What does it really mean to "never touch the child unless invited," or, "help those who are in search of activity?" Come learn to strategize for the classroom, advance parent understanding, and bring the Montessori philosophy to life!

# SESSION TWO

Friday

11:00am-

## 2A-Finding Your Inner Peace Through Organization

*Level: LE, UE*

D.D. Crawford

Are you a public school educator new to Montessori? Are you wondering how to keep up with it all? Join D.D. as she shares her own 11 year "evolution of organization" through lesson planning, record keeping, parent communication, use of technology, and rubric based assessment.

## 2B-Creative Collaboration Across the Levels

*Level: All*

Allison Gross and Kimberly Watkins

Montessori guides encourage and create a sense of community and understanding within their environments through peer cooperation, jobs and routines. Let's expand this idea to collaborations between Primary, Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary.

## 2C-10 Ways to Promote the Language and Communication Skills of Infants and Toddlers

Meredith Hines

*Level: IT*

Early language and communication skills are crucial for children's success in school and beyond. Language and communication skills include the ability to understand others (i.e., receptive language) and express oneself (i.e., expressive language) using words, gestures, or facial expressions. Children who develop strong language and communication skills are more likely to arrive at school ready to learn.

## 2D-Student Conferences Made Easy!

*Level: LE, UE, MS*

Dianne McArthur and Michelle Oliver

This session will present ideas for managing weekly student conferences in order to enhance record keeping. We will show how weekly work records keep our parents informed of progress and work habits. These conferences empower students to set and achieve goals thus keeping them accountable for their learning. We will also touch on how we manage student-led parent conferences.

## 2E-MACTE On Site Verification Team Training

Teresa Noble and Dr. Rebecca Pelton

*Level: All*

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.

## 2F-Intro to Wood Working for Montessori Classrooms

*Level: IT, EC, LE, UE, MS*

Steve McGinley

We'll talk about common tools, their uses and what projects you might want to start building. We'll take a look at some easy projects you can start with and share ideas on what you might like to try. We'll also go over how to plan out and build a project.

## 2G-Celebrate Life Through Dance

*Level: All*

Linda Brashier

Researchers from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York conducted a 21 year study funded by the National Institute on Aging. They concluded that dancing was the best activity over all for flexibility, strength, balance, and it makes a person smarter by creating new neural paths.

## 2H-Labyrinths For Beginners (Part 1)

*Level: All*

Beth Langley

This presentation will introduce labyrinths and provide a brief historical overview of the different types of labyrinths. The uses of labyrinths will be discussed and there will be opportunity to explore using finger labyrinths. The First Labyrinth Lesson, and drawing classical and celestial labyrinths will be demonstrated and practiced. Time permitting, together we will create a few temporary labyrinths.

# SESSION THREE

Friday 2:15pm-3:45pm

## **3A- Self-regulation in the Montessori Environment**

*Level: IT, EC, LE, P*

Julie Armstrong and Julie Lyras

It's what everyone is talking about. It's the goal of every parent and educator; but what is self-regulation and how do we help develop it in our children? We'll explore the who, what, when, where, why and how of self-regulation in the Montessori classroom.

## **3B-Helping Children Cope with Death & Dying**

*Level: EC, LE, UE, P*

Mary Helen Cline and Kenyon Kelly

Dealing with death and loss of loved ones can be challenging. Through children's literature, discussion of age appropriate communication, and classroom activities, we will address helping children experience grief, as well as prepare them for difficult life transitions by sharing the concept of the whole process of life.

## **3C-Conflict Resolution from Casa to Upper Elementary**

*Level: EC, LE, UE*

Katherine Schweizer and Chrissy Sadowski

This interactive workshop will explore different strategies and approaches designed to foster conflict resolution within the different classroom environments.

## **3D-Using Visualization to Improve Reading Comprehension**

*Level: EC, LE, UE, MS, Admin, P*

Teena Kyer

This will be an introduction to the Visualization and Verbalization Program by Lindamood-Bell. Information will be provided on how to help those students who can decode without difficulty, but struggle to know what was read. Techniques will be introduced along with an overview of the program.

## **3E-MACTE Self-Study Writing**

*Level: Admin*

Rebecca Pelton and Teresa Noble

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

## **3F-Wood Working for the Montessori Classroom, advanced projects and brainstorming for Inspiration**

*Level: IT, EC, LE, UE, MS*

Steve McGinley

We'll look at more advanced wood working projects. Please bring images of things you've made for your room, and we will brainstorm about projects we would like to do. We'll also discuss materials and finding new or re-purposed uses for items you may find at Goodwill or a home improvement-type store.

## **3G-Finding PEACE through Collaboration and Teambuilding in All Areas of the Classroom**

Amy Otto and Nicoletta Householder

*Level: LE, UE, MS, P*

This workshop will provide tools of different initiatives that can be used throughout the school year in the classroom of all areas- math, language, and cultural subjects. Initiatives offer guidance of collaboration and team building fostering trust within the classroom, thus creating a peaceful community within the classroom.

**Workshop Level Key:** IT-Infant & Toddler, EC-Early Childhood, LE-Lower Elementary, UE-Upper Elementary, MS-Middle School, P-Parents, Admin-Administration

# SESSION FOUR

Friday 4:00pm-5:00pm

## **4A- Every Child is Special: Montessori for All Learners**

*Level: All*

Christine Lowry, M.Ed.

We've all had that student who is a real challenge-" How do I get him settled?" " Why is she constantly disturbing others?" In this participatory workshop, focused on sensory processing and autism spectrum, we'll explore how respect, the prepared environment, and knowledge of tools and techniques can provide Montessori for all learners.

## **4B- Fostering Your Peaceful Community**

*Level: All*

Chrissy Cruickshanks and Luanne Hendricks-Taylor

How to build a peaceful classroom through peace activities. Expanding peace by building home/school connections, community meetings and community service.

Participants will learn songs, activities and examples of community meetings, and community service projects.

## **4C-Interest Based Reading Book Clubs**

*Level: UE*

Linda Brashier

The importance of reading to understand and comprehend can not be stressed enough as it is one of the most important academic skills applied to all topics. The workshop will present book ideas and teaching strategies to keep students interested and motivated.

## **4D-Partnering with First Time Parents**

*Level: IT*

Christina Muehlbauer

This session will explore options for having a positive collaborative relationship with first time parents. Often, the infant/toddler classrooms are parents' first view into the world of Montessori as well as your school, and a crucial time to build trust and mutual respect.

## **4E-Addressing State Requirements**

*Level: Admin*

John Moncure

Schools are often burdened with regulations or policies that inhibit our ability to practice Montessori properly. This round table discussion will outline real-world issues and design approaches to address them.

## **4F-Interweaving Theatre and Music into the Daily Classroom**

*Level: LE, UE, Admin*

Kitty Degler

Theatre games and music are not just fun for students, they help build awareness of each other and the necessity and desirability of working together. Come play, and take home a gaggle of games to share with your students.

## **4G-State History: The Montessori Way**

*Level: LE, UE*

Tracy Bankhead and Ashley Freeman

As teachers bound by state testing we put a Montessori twist on state history. We will share a variety of lessons we have created and taught in our lower elementary classrooms.

## **4H- Peaceful Circle Time Activities with Children's Yoga**

*Level: EC*

Anahita Farough

My presentation will include a demonstration of circle time activities which will help children understand inner peace. I will also demonstrate fun yoga activities for children through music and stories.

**Workshop Level Key:** **IT**-Infant & Toddler, **EC**-Early Childhood, **LE**-Lower Elementary, **UE**-Upper Elementary, **MS**-Middle School, **P**-Parents, **Admin**-Administration

# SESSION FIVE

Saturday 9:00am-

## **5A-Composing Writing and Reading: Two Beautiful, Inversely Proportional Concepts in the Mind of the Montessori Child**

*Level: EC, LE*

Daniel Jutras

Come and ponder over two opposite essential brain concepts in the Montessori language avenue. It took me seven years to decipher it through the Montessori writings and I do hope that in 1 ½ hours, you will be enlightened forever.

## **5B- Creating a Toddler Community**

*Level: IT*

Lisa Howell

Round table discussion on ideas to support the Montessori triad in order to create a stronger toddler community. We'll look at parent education workshops, newsletters, events and communication that are vital to the development of a community.

## **5C- Inspiring Minds**

*Level: All*

Joan Parkinson

We'll take a walk through art history, explore the origins of creativity and build art lessons which link us to people of other cultures and times. We'll examine the commonality of all life and appreciate how creativity builds, shapes and transforms our world, one thought at a time.

## **5D- Weather in Your Hands**

*Level: LE, UE*

Russell Long

[SEP] We all experience the weather everyday, but what do we really know? This workshop begins to elaborate on the fundamental components of meteorology with some simple and insightful explanations and experiments to spark interest in the study of weather and its causes.

## **5E - Conflict Resolution from Casa to Upper Elementary**

*Level: EC, LE, UE*

Katherine Schweizer and Chrissy Sadowski

This interactive workshop will explore different strategies and approaches designed to foster conflict resolution within the different classroom environments.

## **5F - Self-regulation in the Montessori Environment**

*Level: IT, EC, LE, P*

Julie Armstrong and Julie Lyras

It's what everyone is talking about. It's the goal of every parent and educator; but what is self-regulation and how do we help develop it in our children? We'll explore the who, what, when, where, why and how of self-regulation in the Montessori classroom.

## **5G - "You Know More Science Than You Think"**

*Level: All*

Andrea Alexander

A motivational workshop that encourages staff to conduct hands-on science experiments using simple and inexpensive materials. Learn to use open-ended questions, understand STEM standards and how the six basic process science skills are use as a guide for teaching and motivating your students.

## **5H- Step Into the Circle: Re-Connecting Your Classroom Community Through Play**

*Level: All*

Tiffany Jewell

How do students, teachers, parents, and administrators make meaningful connections with one another? Play games and activities that help to promote a more equitable and inclusive classroom and school. You will gain new tools that encourage communication, teambuilding, and empathic relationships among everyone in your school community!

**Workshop Level Key:** IT-Infant & Toddler, EC-Early Childhood, LE-Lower Elementary, UE-Upper Elementary, MS-Middle School, P-Parents, Admin-Administration

# SESSION SIX

Saturday 11:00am-

1) Professional reflection using the positive intelligence model; 2) The practice of acknowledgements and celebrating achievements; 3) A format for regular, proactive and effective team check-ins. Participants will gain a deep understanding of how modifying their own thought patterns over time can empower them to be more positive, creative and supportive professionals and teammates.

## **6B-The Distracting Universe VS The Prepared Environment**

*Level: IT, EC, LE, UE, P*

Jayanthi Rajagopalan

Can the twain meet?

Explore many ways to keep the Montessori child maintain a healthy balance between an ever-distracting universe and the prepared environment. This workshop also looks at ways to gently nudge the ones facing challenges to concentrate.

## **6C- Creative Collaboration Across the Levels**

*Level: All*

Allison Gross and Kimberly Watkins

Montessori guides encourage and create a sense of community and understanding within their environments through peer cooperation, jobs and routines. Let's expand this idea to collaborations between Primary, Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary.

## **6D-Creating a Social Justice Curriculum**

*Level: LE, UE, MS, Admin*

Sarah Hassebroek

In this session we will begin by grounding ourselves in the topics of Social Justice and the developmental planes. We will provide examples of lessons, games, and activities to do with children of elementary ages and give a framework to help you create a curriculum for your school.

## **6E-Setting Developmentally Appropriate Limits for Toddlers While Maintaining the Integrity of the Montessori Environment**

*Level: IT*

Sarah Galley and Lisa Howell

This presentation will cover all of the necessary limits to set in order to reach the ultimate goal of a normalized environment. We will move through each part of the toddler's routine in a full day program and discuss and give examples on appropriate limits. We will discuss the importance of freedom within limits as Maria Montessori indicated in her teachings. We will answer questions and allow for open discussion among the teachers in hopes of strengthening toddler Montessori programs

## **6F-Music for Peace and Community Building**

*Level: All*

Hazel Ketchum

Hazel Ketchum will present an hour of songs, movement, games and dance that will foster peace and a feeling of close community in the classroom. Singing in groups brings people closer together and helps young students feel comfortable communicating their feelings and ideas. Writing music together helps young students express themselves and their emotions. Music can be the perfect activity for times of joy and sorrow. Participants will sing, dance and have as much fun as a 5 year old!

## **6G-Beyond the Botany Cabinet**

*Level: EC*

Mary Cusack

Time to dust off the botany cabinet and explore what fun this piece of Montessori equipment can be! This cabinet is a true springboard for many extensions and tons of botany projects. Come and get re-enthused and re-introduced to this great work! You will leave with many ideas and projects ready to implement into your classroom!

# SESSION SEVEN

Saturday 3:00pm-

teachers, parents and colleagues, can strengthen our resolve and our capacity to serve the children in our care.

## **7B-Keeping Chickens**

*Level: IT, EC, LE, UE, MS*

Antoinette Ursits

Helping to foster the relationship between kids and the outdoors is a challenge that is set before all of us in education. Keeping chickens helps bridge that gap in a beautiful way.

## **7C-Celebrating Diversity "a project in process"- Introducing Montessori into a Judaic cultural school environment**

Karen Kissell and Laura Rossey

Using authentic Montessori principles to enhance independence and mutual respect among children of different cultures. We will also discuss the many Montessori practices that helped create a wonderful cooperation among our faculty and parent body.

## **7D-What is Parent Education in the Montessori World?**

*Level: All*

Martha Teien

Empowering and fostering global citizenship with our students starts with empowering our parents. We can do this through knowledge of our pedagogy! But what do we want our parents to know and understand? I would like to share my method of parent education. I have a monthly program called Parent Network that has an 85-90% attendance rate. Parents actually send apologies if they cannot attend! Learn HOW and WHAT I present to these eager learners to make them want to come back for more!

## **7E- Responding To The Song of The Soul**

*Level: IT, P*

Sarah Anne Forseth

"Music is the universal language of mankind" (Longfellow). Young children respond to music in a way that is "inner-directed." Interact with hands-on techniques incorporating music, rhythm and moving in your Infant and/or Toddler Environment...and "take and make" a simple musical instrument to bring back to your environment!

## **7F-Let's Talk about Screens**

*Level: EC, LE, P*

Pascale Quirion

We're all conscious of how much place the technology screens have taken in our daily routines. Let's look at the impacts of the screens on the children. Why are we, the children and us adults, better off and what can we suggest to parents and teachers for replacement for screen time.

## **7G- Bringing the Outside In!**

*Level:IT*

Toni Joseph and Lindsey Johnson

Air, Land, Water creatures, animals and life brought into the classroom! Toddlers are fascinated by animals and love exploring the world around them. Experience science lessons through the eyes of your toddlers and let Toni Joseph show you how you, too, can bring the outside in.

# SESSION EIGHT

Saturday 4:15pm-

years. As a participant in this session, you will conduct experiments and receive lesson write-ups to try at your school.

## **8B-Parent Education and Communication in the Infant/Toddler and Early Childhood Communities**

*Level: IT, EC*

Nikki Bidell and Jenny Forman

There are three important roles in the Montessori classroom: the child, the teacher and the parent. In order to serve all three components in useful and productive ways, communication is highly important. In this workshop, you will discover why communication is important between the parent and teacher as well as effective ways and examples of various forms of communication. The partnership between the parents and teacher will benefit the child, the teacher and the parent as well as the Montessori community.

## **8C-Peaceful Reflections**

*Level: UE, MS*

Tina Childress

How do we inspire our students' reflective nature? Follow the spirit of Henry David Thoreau using the natural environment as a tool to inspire reflective writing through the practice of journaling. In this workshop, you will use your skill of observation in nature to enhance your own creative spirit.

## **8D-"It is LOVE that makes the Impossible, Possible"**

*Level: All*

Sasha Malashenko

In our quest for peace, in the classroom and out to the world that our children will inherit, Love is the force that will make the impossible, possible. Our most "impossible" child, our "impossible" parents, our "impossible" Ministries of Childcare, can all be appeased, calmed, tamed with our love. Love is the force that is immediately recognized by the spirit and mind of every child. It is the force that connects us to the mysteries of childhood and their immense potential and power. But how do we cultivate this love within ourselves. How do we feed and nurture it so that it remains the dominant power in our classroom? This is the heart of my seminar.

## **8E-Fostering Your Peaceful Community**

*Level: All*

Chrissy Cruickshanks and Luanne Hendricks-Taylor

How to build a peaceful classroom through peace activities. Expanding peace by building home/school connections, community meetings and community service. Participants will learn songs, activities and examples of community meetings, and community service projects.

## **8F-Labyrinths for Beginners (Part II)**

*Level: All*

Beth Langley

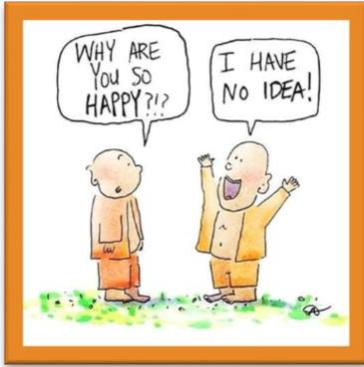
This workshop will be open to people who took Part I, or who have taken another labyrinth workshop in previous conferences. A \$5 material fee will be accepted at the door. Participants will create a finger labyrinth using air dry clay and embellishments. Finger labyrinths are an excellent addition to the Peace Table or Corner.

## **8G-A School Leader's Guide to Montessori**

*Level: Admin*

RB Fast

This engaging workshop perfectly blends Montessori theory with the daily practices of administrators. Together we will actively work to discover how we can apply the wisdom of Montessori to our everyday interactions with parents, teachers, and ourselves. Individual reflection and lively conversation are both featured in this workshop.



## Laughter Yoga with Kristie

- E**asy and fun exercise for health and happiness
- R**educes stress instantly, strengthens the immune system
- K**eeps you in a good

mood and cheerful throughout the day

**O**xxygenates your brain and makes you feel more energetic

**K**eeps positive mental attitude in difficult times

+

# Sunday Bonus Sessions

(Registration Unnecessary)

Opening daily at 8:30am, the Nature Center is located in Night Heron Park adjacent to the pool and the Night Heron Pavilion. It is the heart of the resorts Nature Program and is a great first stop to get information on recreation activities and recent nature sightings.



## Heron Park Nature Center Self-directed Tours

## 5K Fun Run with Martha

If running is your thing, you won't want to miss the opportunity for a run through Kiawah!



# REGISTER NOW!

# Presenter Biographies

## **Alicia L Brady**

Alicia taught and presented at schools in Utah, Colorado, North Carolina and Tennessee for over 24 years. Holds accreditations in early childhood and elementary Montessori programs, B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies and currently working on a Masters of Education. Alicia lives in the Appalachian Mountains enjoying the life of homesteading.

## **Allison Gross**

Allison has been a Montessori teacher for 16 years in Charleston.. She taught for 11 years at a small private Montessori, Oak Grove. Five years ago she left the nest to help start Charleston's Public downtown Montessori. She has a BA in Early Childhood and is AMS trained at Florida Institute of Montessori Studies, 2000.

## **Amy Otto**

Amy is married to her best friend, and the mother to four wonderful children. She feels blessed to be an Upper Elementary teacher at Maria Montessori Academy in Utah. She is MEPI certified and has the privilege of working with amazing children each and everyday.

## **Anahita Farooq**

Anahita is affiliated with the Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute as a teacher trainer. She is a trained Children's Yoga instructor and the owner of two Montessori Schools. Teaching Montessori is her passion and she enjoys spending each day with the children.

## **Andrea Alexander**

Andrea Alexander has a love for teaching the exciting side of science to youngsters through their natural enjoyment of the nature, music, math and art. She holds a B.S. degree in Chemistry, Fisk University, three years of Chemical Engineering, Vanderbilt University, Master Program 2 years in Organic Chemistry. She was featured in the Atlanta Journal as "Guru of Hands-on Phenomena" March 1997. Andrea consults with public and private schools nationally & keynotes and conducts workshops. Her biggest award was being selected as two of her students' HERO (making a difference).

## **Andrew Kutt**

is 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. He is the author of *Living in Harmony*, a book that offers virtue lessons.

## **Antoinette Ursits**

Antoinette Ursits has taught in both Primary and Lower Elementary Montessori classrooms since 1996. She currently teaches at the Coastal Montessori Charter School in Pawley's Island, SC.

## **Beth Langley**

M.E. (Beth) Langley has a BA from Columbia College, a MEPI credential at the Primary Level, & is a Veriditas certified labyrinth facilitator. Beth has presented at various conferences in the US, Mexico, Canada, and Croatia for Montessori teachers, gardeners, art educators, and labyrinth enthusiasts. She has designed and installed over a dozen permanent labyrinths. She lives in Boykin, SC and finds peace and contentment in country living.

## **Brook England / Jennifer Davis**

Brook England has taught both Lower and Upper Montessori for 14 years. Jennifer Davis has been teaching Lower Elementary for 12 years. They both teach at Laurens Elementary, a public school in Laurens, South Carolina.

## **Catherine McTamane, Ed.D.**

Dr. McTamane is the author of "The Tao of Montessori" and "A Delicate Task: Teaching and Learning on a Montessori Path." She has been a Montessori kid, parent, teacher educator, community educator and head of school. She serves as the Director of Undergraduate Education for the Department of Teaching and Learning at Vanderbilt University.

## **Chrissy Cruickshanks**

Chrissy has been teaching 14 years in the classroom and 3 years in a Montessori classroom. She is currently a teacher at E.B. Morse Elementary in Laurens District 55.

## **Chrissy Sadowski**

is both a casa and lower elementary directress. She is currently focused on tutoring children who are struggling in the traditional classroom using the Montessori methodology. Chrissy is also a teacher-trainer for CMTEI's lower elementary program.

## **Christina Muehlbauer**

Christina Muehlbauer is certified in Infant & Toddler through MEPI. She worked at the Montessori School of Camden, SC for nine years and is currently an infant teacher at the Suzuki School of Atlanta Georgia.

## **Christine Lowry, M.Ed.**

Christine Lowry is the principle consultant at Montessori NOW. She provides workshops, facilitation and consultation to Montessori state groups, and schools on issues of public policy that impact the Montessori community. The focus of this work is advocacy and shared communication with state agencies. Christine has a Masters of Education in special education from UNC-CH, and her Montessori Early Childhood credential. She has founded two Montessori schools and served as both Head of School and lead teacher. She has had faculty positions at several Montessori teacher preparation programs. Christine has consulted with national and state Montessori organizations on issues of public policy and advocacy. Montessori NOW is a collective for information and resource on public policy and advocacy and consultation for the Montessori community.

## **D.D. Crawford**

D.D. is in her 12th year of public Montessori education. She has 10 years experience in Lower Elementary and is currently teaching Upper Elementary. She is a Charleston County T.I.P.S. year 1 induction facilitator for new public Montessori teachers.

## **Daniel Jutras Ph.D.**

Keynote presenter-biography on pg. 4

## **Dianne McArthur / Michelle Oliver**

Dianne and Michelle teach together in a public Montessori Upper El Classroom in Spartanburg, South Carolina. They have been teaching in Montessori for 6 years with experience at all levels. Prior to that, they both were successful traditional teachers for many years.

## **Hazel Ketchum**

Hazel is in demand as a music teacher and directs music studies for the Cooper School, Oak Grove Montessori and teaches and operates Hungry Monk Music in Charleston, SC. She has been part of the very successful collaboration with naturalist, educator and musician Ian Sanchez. Their project Science Songs Rock has produced one CD and engages children in musical science projects in schools through out the South East! Hazel also has two other family CDs "Big as the World" and "Say Darlin' Say". Hazel performs with The Hungry Monks, Banna de Dha, Corde Cantanti and The Harrows.

# Presenter Biographies

## Jayanthi Rajagopalan

Jayanthi is a Master Teacher at the Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute since 2000 and Director, Abacus Montessori & Private School in Toronto. Besides teaching, she happily "wastes" her time on her two Montessori grandchildren and in social service within her community.

## Jenny Formon

has worked at Charlotte Montessori School for 20 years. She has her BS in Mathematics from Mary Washington College in VA and also holds her Early Childhood Credentials. Jenny enjoys sharing the Montessori philosophy with others. She has had articles published in *Little Ones* magazine and is a guest blogger for *Age of Montessori*.

## Joan Parkinson

Before becoming a Montessori teacher in 2010, Joan worked in television for twenty-five years as an art director, and gravitated towards children's programming, where she discovered puppets. She began building puppets and has had the good fortune of working with some of the finest puppet companies in North America.

## John Moncure PhD

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

## Julie Armstrong

Julie Armstrong is a mother of three 'teens and tweens', a registered ECE, Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting facilitator and Master teacher trainer with CMTEI. After enjoying many years spent as a Casa Directress and Supervisor she currently marvels with toddlers at Lyonsgate Montessori in Hamilton Ontario Canada.

## Julie Lyras

a graduate of McGill school of Architecture was soon to change the course of her life forever when she discovered her true passion; awakening the love of learning in all children. With 13 years experience in Casa and Elementary she is currently in training to be a trainer with Dr. Jutras in Ottawa, Canada.

## Karen Kissell / Laura Rossey

Karen received her master's degree in early childhood education and is Montessori certified 3-12. She is a past member of the MEPI board and an AMS Teacher trainer. She currently is Head of School at Chai Tots Montessori school in Mason, Ohio.

Laura received her master's degree in Administrative studies and has been a teacher for 10 years. She has her Infant/ Toddler Montessori certification.

## Katherine Schweizer

Katherine has taught in Montessori education for the past 25 years. She has worked with children from Casa to upper Elementary. She owned and operated a Montessori school for ten years, and has been an Elementary teacher trainer at the Canadian Montessori Teacher Training Education Institute for the past 14 years.

## Kimberly Watkins

taught 13 years of middle school math. She is currently in her 3rd year of teaching Upper Elementary Public Montessori at James Simons in Charleston, SC. She holds a BS in Business Admin., teaching certificate from Milligan College and Montessori Education from Seacoast Center Montessori Program.

## Kitty Degler

Kitty Degler has 13 years experience teaching in the elementary and middle school classrooms at Clay Platte Montessori in Kansas City and also led the school's monthly community gathering. She has

been active in music and theatre since childhood. She currently teaches at the elementary level at Plaza Montessori Academy, MO.

## Kristie Norwood

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

## Laura LeClair

Laura has been guiding classrooms since 1994, working with children from birth through Kindergarten. She holds Montessori credentials for 0-3 & 3-6. She is currently the Learning Specialist and Director of Programs at Amherst Montessori School in Amherst, MA.

## Linda Brashier

Linda Brashier is a classroom teacher of 39 years with Montessori Certification for Primary and 6-12 Elementary. She was the first to start Montessori training and teaching in Laurens District #55 in SC. She has filled many roles including teacher trainer, mentor & friend.

## Lisa Howell

Lisa Howell has worked at Charlotte Montessori for the past 8 years. She holds her AMS infant/toddler certificate as well as her primary teaching certification.

## Luanne Hendricks-Taylor

Luanne has been teaching 34 years and 21 years in Montessori. She is a current teacher trainer for IGS, chairs the Teacher Education Committee for MEPI, and serves on the MEPI Board.

## Martha Teien

Martha is an MEPI Primary Owner/Director of a 2 classroom school in Avon, CO. She is also the current MEPI President and on the Colorado Montessori Association Board. She still guides a primary classroom fulltime and directs the school. Martha is also the mother of 5 children who all began their educational experience in a Montessori school.

## Mary Cusack

Mary Cusack is the Executive Coordinator & Board member for MEPI, and holds a 3-6 EC certification. She is a trainer for Montessori teachers, conducts parent workshops and staff in-services on Language and Cultural subjects. She and her husband of 43 years have 2 grown children and enjoy a peaceful lifestyle with gardening, beekeeping and woodland living.

## Mary Helen Cline

Kenyon and Mary Helen have been involved in Montessori education for more than 30 years. They direct Montessori at Sandy Ford in Newton, NC. Mary Helen guides Upper Elementary and Kenyon guides Early Childhood. Mary Helen, a founding member of MEPI, serves on the Board of Directors as Education Chair.

## Meredith Hines

Meredith has been employed by The Montessori School of Camden since 1996. She is dual certified in both Infant/Toddler and Early Childhood with MEPI. At MSC she serves as the Toddler Director, Extended Day Director. Meredith has now added Instructor for Institute for Guided Studies and a Field Consultant for The Suzuki School in Atlanta Georgia.

# Presenter Biographies

## **Nicoletta Householder**

Nicoletta has been working in the Montessori Community for over 10 years in private and charter schools. She received her Lower and Upper Elementary certificate through IGS. She is an Upper Elementary teacher at Maria Montessori Academy, in UT, and presently is Secretary of the MEPI Board.

## **Nikki Bidell**

Nikki is in her third year of teaching at The Charlotte Montessori School and has her AMS Infant/Toddler certification. Nikki also graduated Magna Cum Laude from Niagara University with a Bachelor's degree in Special Education, an Early Childhood extension, a minor in Literacy, and a concentration in English. She is currently pursuing her Master's of Education in Montessori.

## **Pascale Quirion**

Pascale has been around Montessori for 28 years. First involving herself in her daughter's school then as the owner of her own casa class, and now as the principal associate of her school and a trainer. She works closely with parents, reassuring them and welcoming them in the great world of parenting and works closely with her colleges who are new to this great Montessori world, accompanying them in finding peace and quiet in the practice of their profession.

## **Patrick McGlinchy**

Patrick was trained at Montgomery Montessori Institute in Rockville, MD and has been a primary teacher for 14 years, most recently in Chelmsford MA at Keystone Montessori for the past 12 years. Patrick has two Montessori educated boys.

## **RB Fast**

RB is the President & CEO of Bee Line Consulting, a firm that supports Montessori school leaders across the globe from her home in Denver, Colorado. She has an MS in Early Childhood and an AMI Primary diploma.

## **Rebecca Pelton, EdD**

Special Guest-Bio on pg. 4

## **Russell Long**

Russell Long is an AMS certified guide for 3-6 and 6-12 with over 30 years experience as a classroom teacher and teacher-trainer. He holds a MEd in addition to being a NBCT and an American Meteorological Society Resource Teacher.

## **Sarah Anne Forseth**

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 is actively involved in community Children's Ministry at her church, Christ Center, in Columbia, SC.

## **Sarah Galley**

Sarah is a graduate of the University of NC at Charlotte. She has her infant-toddler Montessori teaching certificate and has worked at Charlotte Montessori School for five years. In her spare time Sarah enjoys her friends, family and the Green Bay Packers.

## **Sarah Hassebroek**

Sarah has her MEd, and is a PhD Student at the University of Iowa Director of Montessori Education, Bright Water Schools, Minneapolis, MN.

## **Sasha Malashenko**

Sasha Malashenko is the owner (and teacher) of Inspiration Montessori in Montreal, Quebec. She is a new Teacher trainer

being mentored by Dr. Daniel Juras 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.

## **Stephanie Speicher**

Stephanie is the Director at Maria Montessori Academy. She holds a BS degree in Social Sciences/Secondary Education from Towson University and a MEd degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Maine. At this time, she is currently working on her doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Utah State University. Areas of expertise include educational methodology, outdoor/experiential education and mentoring new teachers.

## **Steve McGinley**

Steve's son started at Clay-Platte Montessori School when he became involved building projects at school. When his son moved to Primary, he started substituting. A year later, he took the Primary training and is currently in his fifth year teaching.

## **Susan Scheibenzuber**

Susan is an AMS trained Montessori teacher who has taught for over 30 years. She has been a school founder, administrator and teacher. Her children and grandkids have gone to Montessori schools. She owns Laughing Star Montessori.

## **Teena Kyer**

Teena has been an upper elementary Montessori teacher at the Montessori School of Florence since 1999. She does teacher training for the Palmetto Montessori Institute. She received her LE and UE AMS certification from CMTE in North Carolina. Teena is also a member of the SCMA board. When not devoting her time to Montessori, her husband and she enjoy traveling.

## **Teresa Noble**

Teresa Noble is an EC program Director and instructor for IGS. She serves on the MACTE Board of Directors.

## **Tiffany Jewell**

Tiffany has been growing as a Montessorian for over ten years. She loves teaching 6-9 year olds and sharing her passion for social justice, peace, and anti-racist work. She enjoys spending time with her family, especially her three year old!

## **Tina Childress**

Tina has worked in the adolescent environment for over thirty years. Eleven of those years have been in a public-school Montessori environment where she has taught English Language Arts and social studies. Tina presently serves as an MEPI Board member.

## **Toni Joseph / Lindsay Johnson**

Toni is the lead toddler guide at St. Andrews Montessori School, Macon, Ga. She has worked in the toddler environment for 7 years and is currently working towards her Infant and Toddler Certification with MEPI. Lindsay has worked at St Andrews Montessori for 3 years in both Early Childhood and Infant Toddler. She is currently working on her IT certification.

## **Tracy Bankhead / Ashley Freeman**

Tracy and Ashley are Lower Elementary guides in a public

# Presenter Biographies

Montessori setting. Tracy has been teaching Montessori for 5 years. Ashley has been teaching Montessori 2 years. They have both taught in the traditional setting as well.

**MEPI conferences are so successful because of the passion and dedication of our presenters. Each of us has something special to share with the world. Thank you for your excitement and professionalism.**

## Board of Directors 2016

Martha Teien – President  
Colorado  
Kacee Weaver – Vice President  
Utah  
Nicole Householder – Secretary  
Utah  
Flo Hart – Treasurer  
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South Carolina  
Karen Mangham  
Georgia  
Susan Putnam  
South Carolina  
Mary Cusack – Executive Coordinator  
Indiana

MEPI thanks our past Board Presidents for their service and continued support and insights!

## Past Presidents

Dr. Sheryl Sweet-Miller  
Beckie Hollingsworth  
Warren McPherson  
Mary Helen Cline  
Dr. John Moncure

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Marguerite Richardt  
Egypt  
Nouha Batshon  
Israel  
Warren McPherson  
Georgia  
Melody Mosby  
Georgia

## Conference Committee

Brenda Coleman, Tina Childress, Susan Putnam, Kitty Degler, Karen Mangham, Martha Teien, John Moncure

**THANK YOU FOR WHAT PROMISES TO BE  
ANOTHER INCREDIBLE CONFERENCE!**

# Our Mission

**MEPI fosters and generates authentic Montessori education by developing and offering programs to educate and certify Montessori professionals and provides continuing development and networking opportunities.**

**MEPI aims to promote the rights of all beings, particularly children, and to bring about peace in the world through Montessori education.**

# Peace Manifesto

Montessori Educational Programs International, being committed to its part in bringing peace to the world through Montessori education, deplores recent acts of senseless violence against all people, particularly children, and especially in schools. Citizens in all countries, but particularly in the United States where a culture of guns and violence is apparent, must take whatever steps are necessary to preserve the life and happiness of our children. We in the Montessori community commit ourselves to modeling peaceful behavior in our classrooms and personal lives.

We implore our political, healthcare, and religious leaders to set aside the extreme views that have contributed to inaction in our governments and to take the steps necessary to reduce the celebration of violence in the media, identify and help the mentally ill and limit access to weapons that have no purpose but to kill people in large numbers. We commit ourselves to supporting those who courageously act to limit violence and opposing those who, directly or indirectly, contribute to the culture of violence.

An organization of this magnitude can only succeed through the support of people like YOU! With each passing year, MEPI spreads its light through the stewardship of its teacher education programs, member schools, board members, committee members and other volunteers.

**Join  
Us!**

# Book Sale!

**Students are always looking for great deals on required reading books, or perhaps just looking to expand their Montessori library.**

**If you have any Montessori books you would be willing to donate, please email Mary at [MontessoriEPI@gmail.com](mailto:MontessoriEPI@gmail.com)**

**Please no Montessori albums, or children's books.**

**We would like to keep this as a Montessori resource book sale.**

**All books donated will be sold with the proceeds going to the Shirley Plath Humanitarian Fund. Any which do not sell at our conference will then be given to our Teacher Education Programs for free distribution to their Montessori interns.**

**Thanks for your support of MEPI!**

# ADDITIONAL AND HELPFUL INFORMATION

*Early registration rates are good until January 10<sup>th</sup>.*

*Registration will remain open until Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> or until capacity is reached, whichever comes first. **Space is limited so early registration is encouraged!***

*On site registration is not available.*

**Click [HERE](#) to register.**

*Questions? Contact the MEPI office at [MontessoriEPI@gmail.com](mailto:MontessoriEPI@gmail.com) or 812-824-6366*

## **Lodging**

East Beach Conference Center  
at Kiawah Island Golf Resort

East Bedroom - 1 bedroom Scenic View Villa  
\$118

East Bedroom - 2 bedroom Scenic View Villa  
\$163

*Please mention Montessori Educational Programs  
to receive these rates.*

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

## **Transportation**

Fly into Charleston International  
Airport (SC) – approx. 35 mi from the  
resort.

Rental cars are available at the  
airport.

Taxis run approx. \$85 1 way.

## Conference Cancellation & Refund Policy

Fees are non refundable after Jan 10, 2016. If you find, after Jan. 10, 2016, you are unable to attend, for any reason, you may transfer your registration to another person, or receive a letter of donation from MEPI.

All donated registration fees will be placed in the Shirley Plath Humanitarian Fund.

Cancellations received, in writing, prior to Jan 10, 2016 will have a \$40 cancellation fee deducted.

Memberships are non-refundable.