

Building Partnerships

In Support of the Child, Teacher, and Parents



Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel
COLUMBIA, MARYLAND
October 11-14, 2018



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

IN SUPPORT OF THE CHILD, TEACHER, AND PARENTS

Columbia, MD – Sheraton Columbia Town Center



The key partnerships that prepare Montessori teachers and schools to support children and families are developed within all of the relationships in a school community. In this conference we will explore the many ways administrators, teachers, and parents support each other to build strength in a school. Our care for developing children requires that we expect the best of ourselves, care for ourselves and others, and learn to convey our passion for our work in effective ways. In addition to a program rich with a range of notable Montessori speakers, this conference brings in two experts whose work complements Montessori administration and practice. Rich Neimand, who recently conducted parent research with AMI, will talk about the findings and lead a discussion on how schools can empower teachers as ambassadors and provide parents with the confidence to select Montessori and stay with it. Daniel Buccino, director of the Johns Hopkins Civility Initiative, will deliver a keynote on the essential skills that build the network of caring people within the home and school community and how civility is a code of decency that should be applied to everyday life. Montessori teachers and administrators will be refreshed, inspired, and empowered as they enrich their capacity to speak for children and parents by adapting to the accelerating changes in culture, community, and the individual lives of families.

THE FIRST CONFERENCE IN THE SERIES
"Connecting Montessori to Today's World"

Thursday, October 11, 2018

7:00–8:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION

Friday, October 12, 2018

8:00–9:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION

9:00–10:15 a.m.

KEYNOTE

Reaching Out for Montessori Collaboration: The Key to Mainstreaming Montessori Education

Debby Riordan, David Kahn, James Moudry, Rachel Kimboko, Laura Saylor

The strength of partnerships within the Montessori community will be critical as we build the framework for the future. Debby Riordan, AMI-USA, David Kahn, NAMTA, James Moudry, MAA, Rachel Kimboko, EAA, Laura Saylor, AMS, and an AMI trainer will launch this conference with their reflections how professional organizations can lead the efforts to connect Montessori to today's world and will each share their vision for the future.

10:15–10:45 a.m.

BREAK



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10:45 a.m.–Noon

KEYNOTE

Montessori: A Comprehensive Approach from Birth to Maturity



Guadalupe Borbolla

Life is a journey that starts with the origin of two cells that touch each other in such a way that they transform into a single fertile egg cell. This very moment of intimacy will mark the story of the individual that we will become.

We are a spiritual being on a human journey, and for this journey we need a human body. Like in any journey, there are ups and downs, mountains to climb, valleys to cross, and rivers to navigate. Join Guadalupe in this magnificent story of human development through the eyes and mind of Dr. Montessori's unique inspiration.

Noon–1:30 p.m.

LUNCH

1:30–4:30 p.m. (2:45–3:15 Break)

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (CHOOSE ONE)

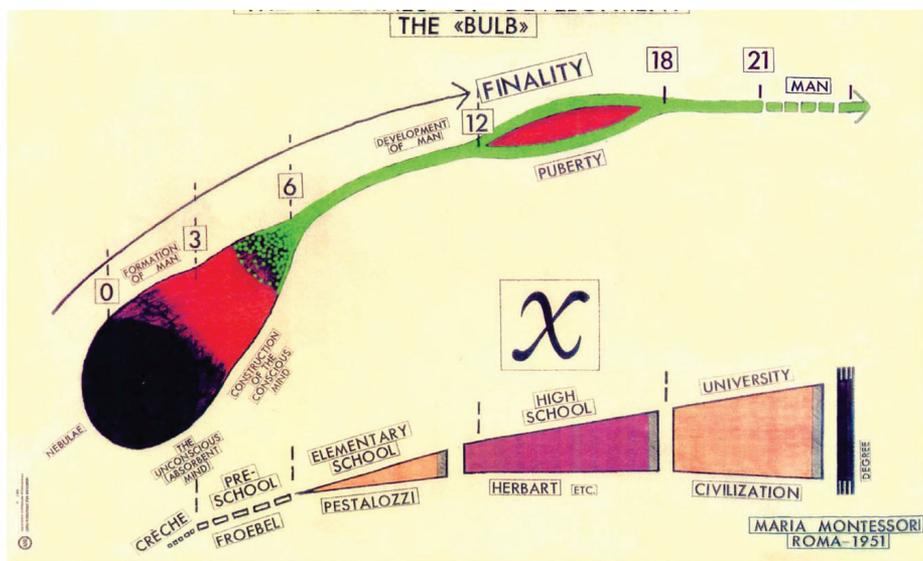
A. Supporting the Child across the Planes of Development: A Fresh Look at Transitions

Uma Ramani and Tricia Miller

Conversations around transitions in a Montessori school invariably begin with a consensus that these transitions are based on the psychological characteristics of the child. But then the conversation usually concludes with a laundry list of skill sets that range from an ability to sustain a longer work cycle to specific literacy and numeracy skills that the child needs. Let us look at transitions from another perspective: the child as a self-constructor. This is on-going work that results in observable, dramatic differences between each plane and sub-plane of development. Our training orients us to a particular stage of development. Critical to our practice, however, is the understanding that throughout this process of self-construction, the child is continually changing and this requires a continuous shift in our work as guides within each three-year cycle. How do we as adults grow organically with the child? How does the environment,

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the activities, and our role as the dynamic link between the child and the environment change over the three-year cycle? How can we ensure that our prepared environments themselves do not become an obstacle in their rigid conformation to the planes of education? We will explore these questions as well as the essential partnerships with parents and colleagues that ensure that our prepared environments allow the child to freely follow the natural path of self-construction.



B. A Place for Families: Creating a Whole-School Community

Mary Lou Cobb and Jacquie Maughan

Building a school community evolves over time and will sometimes reflect the three-year classroom cycle. By building traditions around staff development, parent and community events, celebrations, communications and fundraising, a school community that supports parents, teachers, staff, and administrators can flourish. Mary and Jacquie will explore the foundations that can lead to a school becoming a village that supports all of its children and families. The core values, shared responsibilities, community events, and celebrations are the framework that brings all members of a school into a shared vision and mission. Participants in the workshop will be invited to identify the elements in their schools that define core values and the ways that community is supported and developed throughout a year and across the planes of development.

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C. Moving Montessori Forward: Connecting Teachers and Parents

Rich Neimand



Montessori focuses on developing the child, but children don't select education programs, their parents do. Recent AMI research shows that while parents deeply value their child's Montessori teacher, they often feel excluded from their child's education, and this leads to unnecessary concerns about its effectiveness. In this

session, participants will learn how to create even better child outcomes by making relatively small changes in the way they communicate the role of Montessori teachers and build relationships with parents. Rich Neimand, who conducted the parent research with AMI, will talk about the findings and lead a discussion on how schools can empower teachers as ambassadors who provide parents with the confidence to select Montessori and stick with it.

Saturday, October 13, 2018

9:00–10:15 a.m.

KEYNOTE

The Refinement of a Montessori Teacher: Toward a Deeper Understanding of Ourselves and the Child



Sarah Werner Andrews

The most important task of the Montessori teacher is to connect the children with their environment. To do this well, we must go beyond simply presenting a material to a child and think deeply about how, when, and why this connection takes place. To elevate our practice, we will look at the physical, intellectual, and spiritual preparation we first learned about during our teacher training and explore what this means for experienced teachers who seek to refine their work as Montessori teachers and develop a true partnership with the child.

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10:15–10:45 a.m.

BREAK



10:45–12:00 a.m.

KEYNOTE



Civility Today: (Re)Building Community

Daniel Buccino

This keynote will explore how a renewed attention to civility can reinforce the tools of relational competence and purposeful poise that are crucial to building a “good life” where relationship and community are fostered and valued. We will consider how the home-school partnership is central in not only teaching these skills to our children but also in cultivating and sustaining civility throughout the broader community as well.

Noon–1:30 p.m.

LUNCH

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1:30–4:30 p.m. (2:45–3:15 Break)

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (CHOOSE ONE)

D. Connecting Children to the World through Sensorial Materials

Sarah Werner Andrews

Our senses are the means by which we take in all of life's beauty and richness. At no time is this more important than in early childhood when children are actually constructing themselves from what they experience in their environments. This workshop will focus on how teachers can enrich children's internal experiences with the sensorial materials and then help children turn that experience outward to more deeply connect with the world around them.

E. Keys to the Universe: Going out and Bringing the Universe In

Gerry Leonard

Dr. Montessori wrote of a universal syllabus of studies for the 6- to 12-year-old. We will discuss key experiences both within the elementary classroom and beyond the classroom in order to help the children orient themselves to the idea that "all is interrelated" and that, "the mind, then, is satisfied, and the desire to go on with research is born" (From *Childhood to Adolescence*).

F. Engagement: Building Tomorrow's Future Society

David Kahn and Guadalupe Borbolla

The engagement of the adolescent in the community and beyond will form the foundation for engaged citizens. "It is a mystery of the adolescent that the innermost calling of man is found." This workshop will focus on the school in support of adolescents as they prepare to enter their time, place, and culture. We will focus on the adolescent's engagement in the life of peers and the school community as well as how relationships beyond the school are built. We will also explore how a young person arrives at understanding that education is more than just workforce preparation.

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G. Cultivating Civility

Daniel Buccino

Following his keynote, Mr. Buccino will explore in more detail the power and pitfalls of civility in our contemporary culture and will help faculty and administrators cultivate their own civility practices at home and as school leaders.

Sunday, October 14, 2018

9:00–10:15 a.m.

CONFERENCE SUMMARY DISCUSSION

Selected conference speakers



SPEAKERS

SARAH WERNER ANDREWS is an AMI primary director of training and the pedagogical director at Montessori Northwest in Portland, Oregon. She holds a master's degree in education from Loyola University, a bachelor's degree in music performance, and AMI primary and elementary diplomas. Sarah began her work in Montessori education in 1987 and is now an international speaker, Montessori consultant, and writer.



GUADALUPE BORBOLLA is the director of Colegio Montessori de Tepoztlan, in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Her school has a full Montessori program at the early childhood, elementary, and adolescent levels, through high school, including a farm school. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science, a graduate diploma in special education, and an M.Ed from Loyola University. She is Montessori-trained at the assistant to infancy, primary, and elementary levels as well as the adolescent orientation. She is currently a director of training in Mexico and Spain for Instituto Montessori de Mexico, which is affiliated with AMI. Guadalupe has more than 30 years of Montessori experience, is an international speaker and a school consultant, has collaborated in training courses in different parts of the world, has given parent education for more than 25 years, and currently serves on the AMI board.



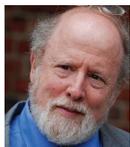
DANIEL BUCCINO was a founding member of the Johns Hopkins Civility Initiative in 1998, and in 2014 he became its director. He is the clinical manager for the Johns Hopkins Broadway Center for Addiction, the founder and director of the Baltimore Psychotherapy Institute, an associate and advisor for the International Center for Clinical Excellence, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and an associate professor at the Smith College School for Social Work and at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. He has published, lectured, and consulted widely on issues of psychotherapy outcomes, manners and mental health, the ethics and etiquette of health care, and on civility in health care, the academy, and in the workplace.



MARY LOU COBB founded The Cobb School, Montessori in 1974 and has been head of school for over 40 years. She received her primary diploma from Margaret Stephenson's first course in 1964 and taught a primary class for over 30 years. In addition to starting The Cobb School, Mary Lou has been a founding board member of the Montessori Administrators Association (MAA), the Montessori Training Center of New England (MTCNE), and the Montessori Schools of Connecticut (MSC), and continues to serve on their boards. Additionally, Mary Lou serves on the board of Sphere, a coalition of Connecticut independent schools dedicated to diversity and inclusion, and she serves on the Commission for Membership and Accreditation (CMA) for the CT Association of Independent Schools. One commitment especially close to her is helping to support a sister school in Bhutan and engaging the students at The Cobb School in the service of giving back.



DAVID KAHN has been executive director of the North American Montessori Teachers' Association for over 40 years. Kahn was founding program director of the Hershey Montessori School's Adolescent Community in Huntsburg, (OH) and founding executive director emeritus of the Montessori High School at University Circle in Cleveland. During his history in Cleveland, he also played a significant role in the genesis of Ruffing Montessori School's elementary and adolescent programs and Stonebrook Montessori while continually serving as a formative leader in establishing authentic Montessori programs throughout the United States.



RACHEL KIMBOKO is Child Study Lead at Lee Montessori in Washington, DC where she enjoys supporting all teachers in matching interventions to student needs and coordinating formal assessments. Rachel received her BA from Dartmouth University, an M.Ed from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and received her Montessori diploma from Hershey Montessori Training Institute. Since 2010, she's taught in all three variations of elementary classroom—6-9, 9-12, and 6-12 years old—before stepping into an administrative role at Lee Montessori. While working for DC Public Schools, Rachel was involved in several initiatives that involved developing curriculum and delivering training to the broader DCPS community. This has helped her to learn how to adapt the district's standards and methods (close reading, Common Core State Standards, Eureka Math, and Next Generation Science Standards for example) to her Montessori practice.



GERARD LEONARD is an AMI trainer and currently trains elementary teachers at the Montessori Training Center Northeast in Hartford (CT). He taught for over 30 years in primary, elementary, and adolescent Montessori programs. He has consulted for elementary Montessori programs both in the USA and Mexico. Gerry has given keynote addresses and workshops for NAMTA, AMI-USA, the Maria Montessori Institute in London, and Montessori Aotearoa New Zealand (MANZ). He was a co-developer with David Kahn of the "Guided by Nature" Exhibit seen at the 2013 International Montessori Congress in Portland, Oregon, and of the NAMTA Centenary Exhibit, A Montessori Journey: 1907-2007.



JACQUIE MAUGHAN is president of the board of directors for the North American Montessori Teachers' Association. From 1985-2013, she led the growth of Pacific Crest Montessori School from one primary class to a school of 230, serving children ages 3 through 14. Jacquie also serves on the board of directors for Association Montessori Internationale and on the planning committee for Educateurs sans Frontières, a program of AMI. Currently Jacquie is director of Access Montessori, an organization that supports the implementation of Montessori birth-to-six programs in communities that have traditionally lacked access.



TRICIA MILLER holds the AMI 0-3 diploma, the AMI 6-12 diploma, and has completed the AMI/NAMTA Montessori Orientation to Adolescent Studies. She has guided both lower and upper elementary classrooms for 6 years and led a land-based adolescent community for 5 years. Tricia is a member of the AMI board and has served on The Montessori Institute of North Texas board for the past 5 years, 4 of which she has served as treasurer. Tricia is also a member of AMI's EsF Working Group, and has helped to organize international assemblies in Dallas, Thailand, India, and South Africa.



JAMES MOUDRY is the high school director at Post Oak School in Texas. Prior to that, he served as the director of administrative affairs at Montessori High School at University Circle in Cleveland, Ohio. James has worked in Montessori adolescent programs since 1999 as a teacher, program coordinator, administrator, and soccer coach. He has presented at the AMI/NAMTA Montessori Orientation to Adolescent Studies and has spoken on program design and community-centered education nationally and internationally.



RICH NEIMAND is the owner of Neimand Collaborative (Washington, DC), where he works at the intersection of politics, policy, and consumerism to market social impact. He's known for developing strategies and messages that tap into attitudes, touch shared values and unite different audiences around common objectives in human development, financial inclusion, health, and conservation. Rich's clients include Foundation for Child Development, First Five Years Fund, Mastercard Worldwide, America's Essential Hospitals, the United Nations Foundation, Natividad Medical Center, Smith Reynolds Foundation, and a variety of other great organizations, causes, philanthropies, and initiatives.



UMA RAMANI has been in Montessori education since 1979 and is currently a director of training at the Montessori Institute of North Texas. She has experience in 3-6 classrooms in India and in the USA and has worked closely with private, public, and charter Montessori schools in the USA. Uma has her 3-6 diploma from India, where she had the privilege of being trained by first generation Montessorians A.M. Joosten and S.R. Swamy, and her 6-12 diploma from Hartford, Connecticut. Currently living in Florida, Uma is deeply involved in EsF in India, working to bring Montessori principles to community early childhood programs.



LAURA SAYLOR Laura Saylor is the dean of education and is an assistant professor in the school of education at Mt. St. Joseph University in Cincinnati and is presently on the AMS board of directors and AMS research committee. She earned her Ph.D. in education studies from The University of Cincinnati and her M.Ed from Xavier University with a concentration in Montessori Education. Laura is AMS certified at three levels: 3-6, 6-9 and 9-12. Her 25 years of practical experience include teaching in inclusive and multi-age settings and serving as the head of school for



an independent Montessori school. Her research foci include reflective practices for educators as well as the effective preparation of early childhood teachers. Dr. Saylor's interests also extend to best practices in mathematics and science education. Her teaching expertise includes educational assessment, math and science teaching methods, and collaborative work in education.

DEBBY RIORDAN Prior to becoming executive director at AMI/USA, Debby was an AMI/USA board member as well as the co-founder and head of school at Southlake Montessori (TX). Debby has her master's degree in developmental psychology and received her AMI elementary diploma from the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota. Prior to her work in education, Debby worked as a marketing research consultant mostly for retail, healthcare, and manufacturing clients. However, for more than two decades since, she has supported Montessori education in various roles intersecting the faculty, board, administrative, training center and public policy communities.



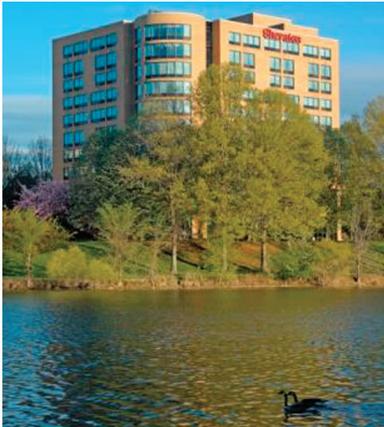
ACCOMMODATIONS

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Reserve your room by September 18, 2018 to receive the special NAMTA rate of \$126 (lodge) or \$144 (tower). Please be sure to mention NAMTA to receive the conference rate.

Centrally located between Baltimore's Inner Harbor and Washington D.C., the Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel has everything you need for work and for play. This hotel is situated on 12 wooded acres in Columbia, MD, overlooking the serene Lake Kittamaquandi.

The Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel is pleased to offer all guests and visitors complimentary parking. Complimentary shuttle service within a five mile radius of the hotel runs every half hour.

Online registration for the Baltimore conference is available now!

https://amiusa.formstack.com/forms/baltimore_conference

BALTIMORE 2018 REGISTRATION

OCTOBER 11 - 14, 2018

Member tuition fee*: \$365 (\$410 after September 27, 2018)
Non-member tuition fee: \$425 (\$475 after September 27, 2018)
Onsite registration fee: \$410 Members Non-Members \$475

***Membership tuition rates apply to any individual who is a current member of any one of the four affiliate organizations (AMI/USA, NAMTA, MAA, EAA).**

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES: FRIDAY AND SATURDAY LUNCHEONS
Choose one: Non-Vegetarian Vegetarian

FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

Choose one:

- A** Supporting the Child Across Planes of Development
- B** A Place for Families
- C** Moving Montessori Forward

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

Choose one:

- D** Connecting Children to the World
- E** Keys to the Universe
- F** Engagement
- G** Cultivating Civility

Name: _____

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Payment Options

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Must be payable in U.S. currency and drawn on a U.S. bank.

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Expiration Date: _____ 3- or 4-digit Authorization Code: _____
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Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

If you must cancel your registration, please notify us as soon as possible. A 10% processing fee will be deducted from the refund. Cancellations made after October 8, 2018 will also have meal costs deducted.



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AMI/USA, 206 N. Washington, Ste. 330, Alexandria, VA 22314 (703) 746-9919
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