

# RETREAT BROCHURE

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**September 25-27**

**2015**

**Estes Park , Colorado**

## Montessori in the Mountains

**Professional  
Development**

**Panel Discussions**

**Mini-Retreats**

**Recreation**



**Early Bird Registration due May 24, 2015**



**Pizza Party**

**Gala Dinner**

**Exhibit Hall**

**Schools  
Showcase**

Sponsored by Montessori Education Center of the Rockies

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## ~ Montessori in the Mountains ~

A conference retreat sponsored by  
Montessori Education Center of the Rockies (MECR)  
YMCA of the Rockies Conference Center and Resort, Estes Park, Colorado  
**September 25-27, 2015**

Dear Fellow Montessorians,

In September, the aspen will turn to gold, the elk will bugle, and we will gather at the foot of the Rocky Mountains for our second conference retreat in Estes Park.

In the following pages you will find a program of more than 70 professional development workshops and events for Montessori teachers and administrators at all age levels. Conference registrants may choose full day mini-retreats, single session, or double session workshops, and long lunch breaks allow time to relax between sessions and breathe in the magnificence of the mountain scenery.

Longs Peak Lodge is our headquarters, with guest rooms, the Exhibit Hall, and some meeting rooms. It is a short walk to the Assembly Hall and Reusch Auditorium for additional workshops, dinners and events, and to the Aspen Dining Room for other meals. Early mornings and evenings can be chilly and nights can be starry, so bring warm outside clothes and sturdy footwear, as well as your swimsuit, sunglasses, camera, water bottle, and flashlight!

Registration and lodging reservations should be made early to ensure availability and the best rates. Early Bird registration rates are in effect until May 24, 2015.

We are eagerly looking forward to this fall weekend of dialogue and renewal. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Mervie King*

Director, Montessori Education Center of the Rockies

*Dot Thompson*

dt@mecr.edu

*Jean Rashkin*

jean@montessorispecialist.com

Retreat Coordinators



**EARLY BIRD Registration Rates until May 24, 2015**

*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this brochure.  
We reserve the right to make changes due to unexpected circumstances*

## Program Overview - Thursday & Friday

*A variety of activities are available to YMCA Resort guests at no additional fee, except for a possible equipment deposit, during daytime hours throughout the Retreat. Plan to bring appropriate clothing and footwear. Activities include Sand Volleyball, Miniature Golf, Fitness Trail, Basketball, Disc Golf, and Indoor Swimming Pool. Horseback Riding may be arranged for a fee through Jackson Stables 970-586-3341 ext. 1141*

*Day Guest Passes (\$20) should be purchased at check-in by conference registrants not lodging at the YMCA.*

### Thursday September 24, 2015

3:00-10:00 pm YMCA Resort Check-in: Administration Building  
3:00-8:00 pm Conference Registration: Longs Peak Lodge  
5:00-7:00 pm DINNER buffet (3 night lodging package): Aspen Dining Room  
7:00-9:00 pm WELCOME RECEPTION hosted by Colorado Montessori Association: Longs Peak Lodge

### Friday Morning, September 25, 2015

7:00-7:30 am Early Morning Yoga: Assembly Hall Lobby  
7:00-9:00 am BREAKFAST buffet (3 night package): Aspen Dining Room  
8:00-5:00 pm YMCA check-in: Administration Building  
8:00-5:00 pm Conference Registration: Longs Peak Lodge  
8:30-6:00 pm SCHOOLS SHOWCASE  
  
8:45- 4:15 pm Friday Mini-Retreat: *Orienteering*  
8:45-11:15 am Workshop Session AB  
8:45-10:00 am Workshop Session A  
10:30-11:45 am Workshop Session B  
  
11:30-6:00 pm EXHIBIT HALL open  
11:30-1:30 pm LUNCH buffet (3 night package): Aspen Dining Room

### Friday Afternoon, September 25, 2015

1:45-4:15 pm Workshop Session CD  
1:45-3:00 pm Workshop Session C  
3:30-4:45 pm Workshop Session D

### Friday Evening, September 25, 2015 - Assembly Hall & Reusch Auditorium

6:00-8:00 pm GALA DINNER (Full conference registrants) Poetry with Tanaya Winder & Silvine Farnell  
8:00-9:00 pm International Folk Dancing with Tom Masterson

### Friday Mini-Retreat 8:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. (5 hr)

*The conference program has been designed to provide multiple and varied opportunities for professional renewal to meet the needs of all our attendees, with indoor and outdoor recreation, introductory and refresher workshops, and all day Mini-Retreats that will allow you the option of immersing yourself in a focused area for a full day of experience and dialogue.*

#### **Orienteering with Upper Elementary Students (5 hrs)**

Orienteering is great fun and also provides important context for the use of GPS devices and for appreciation of the adventures of historical explorers. In this carefully sequenced participatory workshop, you will learn how to read a topographic map, use an orienteering compass, and combine the use of both to learn how to get from point A to B. An outdoor "treasure hunt" will give you practice. Upper Elementary students love this unit of study, which can be used on school grounds, on a field trip to a nearby landmark, or during a camping or backpacking trip. *Limit of 12 registrants. Each participant will receive a packet of detailed lesson plans.*

**Carolyn Striker** has been an elementary teacher in private and public schools for 32 years, and is currently the Math specialist at Bayfield Elementary School. Carolyn is also the instructor for EI Math, Geometry, and P.E. curriculum at Montessori Education Center of the Rockies. Whenever possible she sets off into the mountains by foot, mountain bike, snowshoes, or skis. She rarely gets lost! [honeee4him@yahoo.com](mailto:honeee4him@yahoo.com)

## Program Overview - Saturday & Sunday

### Saturday Morning, September 26, 2015

7:00-7:30 am Early Morning Yoga: Assembly Hall Lobby  
7:00-9:00 am BREAKFAST buffet: Aspen Dining Room  
8:00-9:00 am Saturday Only Conference registration: Longs Peak Lodge  
8:30-6:00 pm SCHOOLS SHOWCASE  
8:30-6:00 pm EXHIBIT HALL open

8:45-4:15 pm Saturday Mini-Retreat: *Living Harmoniously with Nature*  
8:45-11:15 am Workshop Session EF  
8:45-10:00 am Workshop Session E  
10:30-11:45 am Workshop Session F  
11:45-12:30 pm Upendo Emporium  
11:30-1:30 pm LUNCH buffet: Aspen Dining Room

### Saturday Afternoon, September 26, 2015

1:45-4:15 pm Workshop Session GH  
1:45-3:00 pm Workshop Session G  
3:30-4:45 pm Workshop Session H

### Saturday Evening, September 26, 2015 - Assembly Hall & Reusch Auditorium

6:00-7:30 pm Pizza Party with salad & craft beers  
(Full conference registrants - Gluten free and vegetarian options)  
7:30-8:00 pm Classical Indian Dance - performance by Neena Massey  
8:00-9:00 pm Music for All - with Frank and Pilar Leto

### Sunday Morning, September 27, 2015 *Room check-out by 10 a.m.*

*Baggage may be brought to meeting rooms. You may also settle your YMCA bill on Saturday evening 7-10 p.m.*

7:00-9:00 am BREAKFAST buffet: Aspen Dining Room  
8:00-9:00 am Sunday Only Conference registration: Longs Peak Lodge  
8:30-10:30 am EXHIBIT HALL open

8:45-11:15 am Workshop Session JK  
8:45-10:00 am Workshop Session J  
10:30-11:45 am Workshop Session K - *PANEL DISCUSSION: Montessori Then and Now*  
11:30-1:30 pm LUNCH buffet: Aspen Dining Room

### Saturday Mini-Retreat 8:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. (5 hr)

#### Living Harmoniously with Nature

This Mini-Retreat will focus on the outdoor environment at the same time that Mother Nature begins to show her magnificent Fall colors. During this time we will rediscover nature in a way that speaks to your body, mind, emotions and spirit! This experience will provide you with tools for yourself and the children you work with. It will be a time to learn, to absorb and to reflect on the beauty of this earth and all that we have been given to share.

*If weather permits we will spend some time outdoors.*

**Patricia Yonka** is a member of the AMS Peace Committee and facilitated the 2015 AMS Annual Conference Day of Service. She specializes in Music and Peace curriculum and created the CD, *Peace Through Music*.  
[patyonka@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patyonka@sbcglobal.net)

**Betsy Coe, PhD**, is the founder and principal of School of the Woods Middle and High School in Houston, Texas, and the Director of Houston Montessori Center. She is a past president of the American Montessori Society and serves on the AMS TEAC. Betsy was honored as the 2008 AMS Living Legacy. She has been a pioneer in developing the Montessori approach at the secondary level, and has helped schools all over the world to develop middle school and high school programs using Montessori's vision. [drbcoe@me.com](mailto:drbcoe@me.com)

**Sonnie McFarland**, the AMS 2011 Living Legacy, is an international speaker, consultant, and workshop leader on educating for peace, personal transformation, community building, and Montessori parenting. She received the Independent Publisher Book Award for *Montessori Parenting: Unveiling the Authentic Self*, co-authored with her husband, Dr. Jim McFarland. [sonnie4peace@aol.com](mailto:sonnie4peace@aol.com)

## FRIDAY Morning Session AB 8:45-11:15 a.m.

### AB1. Serving the Child's Inner Life: Three Montessori Essentials 2.5 hr EC

How can we best serve the developing inner life of children in modern culture as they enter the stage of the conscious absorbent mind? This session will revisit the implementation of three foundational Montessori practices, rooted in long tradition, that honor the sensitive periods of 3-6 year olds as they develop awareness of self, others, and the environment.

**Alice Renton, MA**, has been a Montessorian for four decades, with AMS and AMI credentials at the primary level.

A former instructor and academic director for Montessori Education Center of the Rockies, Alice specialized in Montessori Philosophy and Sensorial. She is currently a guest lecturer, workshop presenter, and field consultant.

Alice will also present *Say It Another Way* on Sunday morning. [alicerenton@comcast.net](mailto:alicerenton@comcast.net)

**P. Donohue Shortridge** is a consultant to Montessori schools, offering staff development sessions, administrative consulting, and parent night talks. She is a frequent conference presenter and publishes articles in several journals.

A Montessorian since 1980, Donohue holds AMS credentials at the IT and EC levels. Donohue will also present *Talking with Parents about Screen Time* on Saturday morning. [www.pdonohueshortridge.com](http://www.pdonohueshortridge.com)

### AB2. Beautiful Handwriting 2.5 hr EC/EI

This practical sequence of meaningful, patterned writing activities supports the development of beautiful handwriting. Topics include readiness, prehensile grip, posture, instructional techniques, print or cursive, brain research and positive influences on children's behavior.

**Susan Scheibenzuber** has many years of experience as an EC teacher and administrator at Montessori schools in Ohio.

She founded Park Montessori School and is the owner and designer for Laughing Star Montessori materials company.

[www.laughingstar Montessori.com](http://www.laughingstar Montessori.com)

### AB3. Supporting your English Language Learners 2.5 hr EC/EL

After reviewing some basics of language acquisition theory, we will demonstrate teaching strategies that make English more comprehensible to second language speakers. We will also explore some extensions and modifications to traditional Montessori presentations and new strategies, games, and songs that promote children's second language development.

**Karen Farquharson** is the founding head of school at Montessori del Mundo, the first public Montessori school in Aurora, Colorado. She taught a public school Montessori dual language primary class in Denver for 5 years, and is a board member of Colorado Montessori Association. Karen's focus is on furthering access to quality Montessori education for low-income families. Karen will present *Balanced Literacy* on Saturday morning. [karen@montessoridelmundo.org](mailto:karen@montessoridelmundo.org)

### AB4. Understanding Common Core Standards 2.5 hr EL

This forum examines our attitudes to Core Standards and confirms we can meet or exceed them in a Montessori setting.

We will choose one content area to review the Colorado Common Core verbiage, then identify or create some compelling lessons. Let's be confident about our work as Montessori professionals, and feel secure about our teaching methods.

**Neena Massey** has been a Montessori elementary teacher for 12 years in a bilingual setting at Escuela Tlatelolco in Denver. She has looked in depth at the alignment of Common Core Standards with Montessori scope and sequence.

[neenamassey@yahoo.com](mailto:neenamassey@yahoo.com)

## FRIDAY Morning Session A 8:45-10:00 a.m.

### A1. Igniting Passion through Writing Poetry 1.25 hr All

Each of us has a story and it is a story only we can tell. Participate in fun and interesting writing prompts to help rediscover your inner passion and voice. Using an indigenous corn teaching metaphor you will learn that writing poetry is just like a corn plant growing – both begin with a seed of inspiration and grow into something beautiful.

If you're just starting, curious, or have been writing for years, you'll rediscover the power of poetry in this workshop and take away techniques and exercises you can incorporate into classrooms for any age.

**Tanaya Winder, MFA**, is a writer and educator from the Southern Ute, Duckwater Shoshone, and Pyramid Lake Paiute Nations. Her poems have won awards and been performed, and her first book of poetry will be published in August 2015. She teaches creative writing workshops at high schools and universities internationally.

Tanaya's TED Talk is on You-Tube. <http://tanayawinder.wordpress.com> [tanaya.winder@gmail.com](mailto:tanaya.winder@gmail.com)

### A2. Partnerships in Nido and Toddler programs 1.25 hr IT

Strong preschools reflect the collaboration of teachers, assistants, parents, and managers in making decisions about time, observation, preparation, presentation, transitions between classrooms, best practices, and licensing requirements. Case studies help clarify each person's role, and we will role-play typical scenarios and steps to take when challenges arise.

**Jaclyn Greenbaum, MEd**, has worked in Montessori schools and training centers for over 10 years and holds an AMI Assistants to Infancy diploma. Her master's thesis topic was the choices parents make regarding their child's schooling.

Jaclyn is currently an administrator at Montessori Academy of Colorado. [jsgreenbaum@gmail.com](mailto:jsgreenbaum@gmail.com)

**FRIDAY Morning Session A continued 8:45-10:00 a.m.**

**A3. The Nature Based Outdoor Environment 1.25 hr IT/EC**

Expand opportunities to connect children with nature through outdoor practical life and nature oriented art activities, gardening, composting, recycling, weather study, wild animal attraction, and story-telling. A slide show with ideas from several Montessori schools will be shared.

**Gina Abegg** was the founder and first director of Montessori Children's House of Denver. She is currently director of Parker Montessori and a Montessori school consultant, offering parent workshops, staff seminars, and mentorships.

[www.compassionateway.net](http://www.compassionateway.net)

**A4. Projects and Investigations - Emergent Curriculum 1.25 hr EC**

Emergent curriculum uses the interests of the children as the primary source for units of study. The teacher turns a keen eye and ear to the ideas, questions, and experiences the children have, then uses that prompt to introduce new materials or activities into the learning environment.

**RB Fast** is an educational consultant and serves as vice-president of the Colorado Montessori Association. She is currently working toward an MS in Early Childhood Studies. RB is the author of published articles, and blogs about Montessori, early childhood education, and the joys and challenges of marriage and motherhood at

[www.vegeducationmama.wordpress.org](http://www.vegeducationmama.wordpress.org)

**A5. Timeline of Light 1.25 hr EII/SEC**

This innovative and beautiful timeline depicts the cosmological and planetary developments prior to the Cambrian. Lessons emphasize our connectedness to the Universe, and our relationship with creation and its patterns of cooperation, adaptation, and diversity.

**John Fowler, PhD**, has been an upper elementary teacher at Denison magnet school in Denver since 1992, and is an adjunct professor in the Institute for Educational Studies at Endicott College. The author of many articles on holistic education, he created the "Time-Line of Light". [jfowr@comcast.net](mailto:jfowr@comcast.net)

**A6. So Many Hats! 1.25 hr All**

Navigate the diverse and complex workplace relationships in a school setting, from being both a parent and staff member to teaching a co-worker's child, as well as relating to peers, co-teachers, supervisors, assistants, and mentors. We'll offer practical, and sometimes playful, strategies for enhancing these relationships, benefiting students and the whole school community. **Julie Bragdon, MEd**, is Assistant Head of School at the Montessori School of Denver, and serves on the executive committee of the AMS Board of Directors. [jbragdon@msd-co.org](mailto:jbragdon@msd-co.org) **Sara Knickerbocker** is Director of Student Support at MSD and a PhD candidate in School Psychology. [sknickerbocker@msd-co.org](mailto:sknickerbocker@msd-co.org)

**FRIDAY Morning Session B 10:30-11:45 a.m.**

**B1. The Ross Montessori Story - A Little Engine that Could! 1.25 hr All**

In 2005 the dream of creating an authentic, public Montessori school in Carbondale, Colorado was fulfilled when the Ross Montessori Charter School opened its doors. We will share our challenges, celebrate our decade of successes, and hope to inspire you.

**Sonya Hemmen, MA**, is the CEO (chief energy officer) and head of school at Ross. She has extensive experience in public school administration and Spanish teaching. [sonya.hemmen@rossmontessori.org](mailto:sonya.hemmen@rossmontessori.org)

**Tricia Williams, MA**, recently joined Ross as its inaugural Development [Director.tricia.williams@rossmontessori.org](mailto:Director.tricia.williams@rossmontessori.org)

**B2. The Child and Nature 1.25 hr All**

Today's children are often deprived of opportunities for immersion in nature that past generations took for granted. We will examine the benefits of contact with nature, and suggest ways that our school programs can compensate for nature deficit and assist the development of ecological awareness. There will be "hands-on" ideas for educators.

**Linda Engelhart, MEd**, earned her Montessori primary diploma in Cleveland, her elementary diploma in Bergamo, and her master's from Endicott College. She has taught in primary, elementary, and middle school programs throughout the States. [linda\\_engelhart@dpsk12.org](mailto:linda_engelhart@dpsk12.org)

**B3. Toddler Behavior is Communication 1.25 hr IT/Admin**

After identifying common "difficult" behaviors in a typical Toddler classroom, we will explore strategies for handling situations with understanding, respect, and support. By adopting the philosophy that behavior is communication we see how behavioral patterns can be approached as a mystery to be solved, so that we can more fully embrace each child for who he or she is. **Melody Patton, MBA**, holds both IT and EC Montessori credentials. She is an instructor, the IT course coordinator, and a field consultant for Montessori Education Center of the Rockies. Melody is also an AMS TEAC commissioner. [mapatton@att.net](mailto:mapatton@att.net)

**FRIDAY Morning Session B continued 10:30-11:45 a.m.**

**B4. Making Math Facts Memorable 1.25 hr EL**

Explore how the brain works when learning ready-recall facts, including the modalities that humans use to process and store information. We will then introduce teaching strategies that include engaging multiple modalities, practice time, goal-setting, measuring, celebrating, and individualizing. This is possible with little increase in record-keeping or instructional time!

**Betsy Lockhart** is the Elementary Coordinator for Montessori Education Center of the Rockies, where she also teaches Language and Classroom Leadership. She designs materials, and consults and conducts workshops for teachers and parents at schools and at AMS conferences. [www.lockhart-learning.com](http://www.lockhart-learning.com)

**B5. A Cultural Classroom 1.25 hr EC**

Be inspired to develop a year-long program of cultural studies in your classroom. Topics include how to choose a theme, locate resources, develop a flexible timeline for implementation, involve all areas of the class environment, and involve the broader community at school and beyond.

**Ruth Ann Christenson** has many years of experience as an EC teacher at Montessori School of Evergreen. She is also a field consultant for Montessori Education Center of the Rockies. [imover50now@yahoo.com](mailto:imover50now@yahoo.com)

**B6. Cultivating Our Character 1.25 hr EC**

Montessori placed great emphasis on the inner spiritual preparation needed to be ready to guide children's natural energies. This session will look at practical ways to prepare ourselves in order to nurture the lives of others in a secular classroom.

**Jennifer McConnell** is the Director and EC lead teacher at Children's Choice Montessori in Eugene, Oregon. Since 2002 she has also been a Montessori teacher education program instructor. [jennifer@mainstreetmontessori.org](mailto:jennifer@mainstreetmontessori.org)

**FRIDAY Afternoon Session CD 1:45-4:15 p.m.**

**CD1. Mindfulness Matters 2.5 hr All**

We will share information on the definition and history of mindfulness, explore how mindfulness can help children and adults calm, focus, and process emotions, and experience techniques and practices that can be effectively implemented in a classroom and among staff members.

**Sunni Zuniga, MA**, was a writing instructor and worked in educational publishing and web development before embarking on her career as a Montessori elementary teacher. She is also a certified Hatha Yoga teacher. [sunni@mariposamontessori.com](mailto:sunni@mariposamontessori.com)

**David Zuniga, PhD**, is a clinical psychologist in private practice in Austin, Texas. He was ordained in South Korea as a Zen Buddhist priest and worked for more than a decade as an interfaith chaplain in pediatric and adult healthcare. David is currently finishing a book on Zen and mindfulness for Wisdom Publications. [www.drdauidzuniga.com](http://www.drdauidzuniga.com)

**CD2. Reinvigorating Discipline Through Montessori Ideals 2.5 hr EC**

Revisit the timeless educational ideas of Maria Montessori to remind ourselves of the preventive discipline so essential to establishing a functioning, peaceful classroom. Bring your questions, experiences and conundrums, and leave inspired by new insights into the behavior of children, as well as by specific strategies to help guide them, and a renewed spirit and sense of community.

**Betsy Hoke** is a school consultant through *Mentoring Montessori and More*, an international speaker, an instructor at Montessori Education Center of the Rockies, and a master trainer for the Gurian Institute. She served as director of Montessori School of Evergreen for 29 years and is now developing the Montessori program in Upendo, Tanzania. Betsy will also present *Where Are the 5 & 6 Year Olds?* on Saturday morning. [bhoke7777@gmail.com](mailto:bhoke7777@gmail.com)

**CD3. Supporting our Children through Parent Education 2.5 hr EC**

This workshop will prepare you for your next Parent Night. Participants will discuss topics, techniques, and Montessori theories to use in the development of a parent education seminar for their school families. Through humorous examples, we can help parents make the connection between their own parenting practices and the behaviors that their children exhibit.

**Carla McQuillan** is the Director and an instructor for Main Street Montessori Association teacher education program, and Executive Director of Children's Choice Montessori Schools in Oregon. She taught in EC classrooms for many years. [admin@mainstreetmontessori.org](mailto:admin@mainstreetmontessori.org)

**C1. Learning in and for the Natural World 1.25 hr All**

Studies are revealing many remarkable ways in which contact with nature contributes to people's health and well-being. This talk reviews recent research that confirms the importance of gardens and areas for nature play and discovery on school grounds. It describes key components of an education that encourages the development of active care for nature. In a world of gathering environmental crises, it suggests how to prepare children and adolescents to respond to difficult environmental information and experiences with resilience rather than despair.

**Louise Chawla, PhD**, is Professor Emeritus in the Environmental Design Program at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and co-edits the journal, *Children, Youth and Environments*. She was the UNESCO international coordinator for the *Growing Up in Cities* program from 1996-2006. Her research interests include the development of active care for the natural world, benefits of contact with nature, design approaches for integrating nature into everyday environments, and processes for engaging children and youth in urban planning. [louise.chawla@colorado.edu](mailto:louise.chawla@colorado.edu)

**C2. Essential Movement Activities –Toddler to Elementary 1.25 hr T, EC, EL**

Children are physically less active than ever. This workshop introduces gross motor activities appropriate for Montessori environments, with an overview and examples for children of all ages. Participants will make and take two activity materials ready for immediate classroom use.

**Martha Carver** is head of school at Rock Prairie Montessori in Janesville, WI, and is a board member of the Wisconsin Montessori Association. She founded the materials company, *Bluestem Environmental Ed.* [www.mybluestem.com](http://www.mybluestem.com)

**C3. Language and Math Extensions 1.25 hr EC**

Reinvigorate the children's interest in the Language and Math areas when they have forgotten the possibilities. These lessons strengthen concepts as they encourage children to practice their growing skills using Montessori materials, paper and pencil, or simple additional materials.

**Jean Offutt** has been a Montessori EC teacher for 35 years in Texas, Maryland, and Colorado. She is a field consultant for Montessori Education Center of the Rockies. [jeanoffutt@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanoffutt@yahoo.com)

**C4. Lovelight Magic 1.25 hr EC/EI**

This presentation will showcase *Lovelight Magic*, a heart-warming children's book written by the presenter, a mother inspired by her observations of the peace program in the Montessori classroom attended by her two children. Yoga, nature, and language activities will be shared.

**Colette Fischer** has a background in business and holds a certificate in yoga teacher training. She currently enjoys being a stay-at-home mom and volunteering at her children's school. [www.jasminemoonpress.com](http://www.jasminemoonpress.com)

**C5. Gardening and Harvesting with Kids 1.25 hr EC/EL**

Explore ways to utilize the garden and gardening to enhance literacy and art education. Find out more about ways to grow herbs and the art of brewing herbal teas, and learn our most popular herbal recipes. Best practices for safety in the garden will be reviewed.

**Joyce Brown** is the founder and executive director of the East Fort Worth Montessori Academy charter schools. She has extensive experience in educational horticulture. [www.efwma.org](http://www.efwma.org)

**C6. Fun with Grammar in Children's Books 1.25 hr EC/EI**

Come and play with words in early readers and read-alouds. Have fun with the nouns, verbs, and prepositions in any book a child wants to read or that you want to read aloud. We will review the introductory experiences (Functions of Words) for each part of speech and see how easy it is to keep these concepts alive whenever words are read or spoken.

**Jean Rashkin** has taught in Texas, Maryland and Colorado at the EC and EL levels. She is currently a school consultant and EI Language instructor for Montessori Education Center of the Rockies. Jean illustrated the book, *Marco, the Montessori Mouse*, written by Cathy Denney. Jean will also present *New to Montessori-Transitioning Students* on Saturday morning, and will co-present *A Timeline of Poetry* on Sunday morning. [jean@montessorispecialist.com](mailto:jean@montessorispecialist.com)

**C7. Five Habits of the Heart 1.25 hr EII/SEC**

This interactive session describes a program for 5<sup>th</sup> graders and older that encourages the practice of fresh, meaningful conversations to explore conflicts that may arise from differences of opinion based on personal beliefs or external distinctions. Inspired by Parker Palmer's book, *Healing the Heart of Democracy*, the five habits will be illustrated through movement, stories, poems and writing prompts.

**Susan Kaplan, M.S.W., M.P.A.**, has been an educator, coach, and consultant for over 25 years. She is a Courage & Renewal Facilitator®, connected to Colorado Courage Collaboration and Center for Courage & Renewal, and is also a candidate for Nonviolent Communication Trainer. Susan will also present *Leading from Within* on Saturday afternoon. [www.susankaplanmsw.com](http://www.susankaplanmsw.com)



## FRIDAY Afternoon Session D 3:30-4:45 p.m.

### **D1. PANEL DISCUSSION - Childhood Memories of Nature 1.25 hr All**

Recognizing that our memories of childhood often reflect significant life experiences with cognitive or emotional impact, our panelists will reminisce about their contacts with nature when they were very young. Enjoy hearing some very thoughtful people and a lively discussion!

**Panelists include:** Patti Yonka, Sonnie McFarland, Betsy Coe, Linda Engelhart, Donohue Shortridge, Alice Renton.

**Moderator:** Dot Thompson, past director of Montessori Education Center of the Rockies.

### **D2. Books for Building Character 1.25 hr EC/EI**

Children's fiction and non-fiction books can assist us in discussing ethical values with young children. This session introduces lessons on several concepts, including Contentment (*Story of Ferdinand*), Diversity (*Martin's Big Words*), and Creativity (*Song and Dance Man*).

**Sheila Wolfe, M.Ed.** is an administrator and curriculum director at DCS Montessori Charter School, and a board member of Colorado Montessori Association. She holds both EC and EI Montessori credentials. [sheila.wolfe@dcsdk12.org](mailto:sheila.wolfe@dcsdk12.org)

### **D3. Fostering the Conflict Resolution Skills of Children 1.25 hr EL**

As the planes of development evolve the strategies needed to foster peace and resolve conflict must evolve too.

This lecture explores strategies, concepts and techniques that support the growth of interpersonal skills for children who are struggling to develop their personal moral viewpoint as they become increasingly aware of the motivations, needs and actions of others.

**Devon Warn** has taught both EC and EI classes at Montessori School of Evergreen. [dwarn@montessori-evergreen.org](mailto:dwarn@montessori-evergreen.org)

**Hannah Ebner** teaches an EII class at Compass Montessori School. [hannah.ebner@gmail.com](mailto:hannah.ebner@gmail.com)

### **D4. Dances of Universal Peace 1.25 hr All (Location in Assembly Hall Lobby)**

Drawing on sacred phrases, scripture and poetry of many spiritual traditions, these circle dances blend chant, music and movement into a living experience of unity, peace and integration. Most Dances are only four lines long and repeated many times, so learning is quick and easy - within ten minutes dancers are moving, singing, and sharing together.

**Tajali Tolan, MS, MFT**, is a psychotherapist, educator, and artist. She founded the *Children's Global Peace Project*, and *Be Brilliant*, a parent coaching program. Tajali also leads summer spiritual camps for children and teaches yoga. [tajalitolan@gmail.com](mailto:tajalitolan@gmail.com)

## SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

### SATURDAY Morning Session EF 8:45-11:15 a.m.

#### **EF1. The Montessori Adolescent and the Shape of Society 2.5 hr EL/SEC/Admin**

There is growing interest in Montessori middle and high school programs in the USA. Montessori secondary schools have unique aspects but share common elements. We will identify these elements and also address the importance of creating a sense of community among the adults and students. Activities and discussion groups will enlighten our understanding of the value of Montessori programs for adolescence.

**Marta Donahoe, MEd**, was a founder, program facilitator and teacher at Clark Montessori Jr & Sr High School, one of the three finalists in the president's 2010 Race to the Top Challenge. She is currently the Director of Cincinnati Montessori Secondary TEP (CMSTEP) [marta@cmstep.com](mailto:marta@cmstep.com)

#### **EF2. For-Got Math? 2.5 hr EI**

If there are Math lessons you try to avoid, find help here! Watch demonstrations and refresh your memory of the following: Large Bead Frame Multiplication by 2 & 3 digits, Checkerboard Check, Test Tube Division with a 2 or 3 digit divisor and those confusing 0's, Race to Tie, Common Multiples – maybe a lesson you request.

**Carolyn Striker** is the Math coach at Bayfield Elementary School near Durango, where she mentors classroom teachers in the use of Montessori Math materials in place of worksheets and textbooks.

Carolyn will also present *Orienteering with Upper Elementary Students* on Friday. [honeee4him@yahoo.com](mailto:honeee4him@yahoo.com)

## SATURDAY Morning Session E 8:45-10:00 a.m.

### **E1. Cosmic Education 1.25 hr All**

Explore the grand cosmic narrative, based on the latest science, that is foundational for cosmic literacy, developmental planes and cosmic education, and ignites the imagination with storytelling. You will be inspired and thrilled to recognize the huge significance of cosmic education at this particular time in the evolution of our planet.

**Jennifer Morgan, MBA**, is an award-winning author, storyteller, speaker and educator. She is president of *Deep Time Journey Network* and advisory board member of Green Mountain Monastery, a community founded on the work of Thomas Berry. Her books include the Universe Story trilogy: *Born With a Bang* (2002), *From Lava to Life* (2003) and *Mammals Who Morph* (2006), which have received numerous awards and endorsements from scientists, educators and thinkers and are used in classrooms around the world, particularly in Montessori schools.

[www.deeptimejourney.org](http://www.deeptimejourney.org) [www.universestories.com](http://www.universestories.com)

### **E2. Spiritual Growth of the Montessorian 1.25 hr All**

Referencing the work of Eckhart Tolle, Parker Palmer and Maria Montessori, we will seek inner transformation as we delve into our spirituality in the realm of ethics and morals. Participants will craft a mission statement and professional development plan, and learn techniques to help us be more present in our work with children, co-workers and the greater community. **Teresa Ripple, MA**, is an assistant professor in the Advanced Montessori Programs and Education Department at St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN. Her background in Montessori education includes two years as a school director and nine years as an EC teacher. [tmripple@stkate.edu](mailto:tmripple@stkate.edu)

### **E3. Talking with Parents about Screen Time 1.25 hr IT/EC/Admin**

Young children live in a media-saturated world and spend more time in front of a screen than ever before. This session explores some of the research on the effects of screen time on young children, and Dr. Montessori's theory of adaptation. We will then consider ways to discuss this issue with parents, including suggestions for alternative activities.

**P. Donohue Shortridge** is co-presenter of *Serving the Child's Inner Life: Three Montessori Essentials* on Friday morning. She writes about Montessori education at [www.pdonohueshortridge.com](http://www.pdonohueshortridge.com)

### **E4. Can I Feed the Turtles? 1.25 hr IT/EC**

Animals offer unconditional love and are fascinating for children to observe. This session will describe the many benefits of having animals present in the school environment and respond to questions and concerns. We will provide lists of animals that are safe for young children to interact with, as well as some organizations that help fund pets in preschool.

**Tiffany James** is a toddler teacher at School in the Hills in Austin, Texas. [Sweetray0036@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Sweetray0036@sbcglobal.net)

**Aidee Cepeda** is co-presenter. [aidee@schoolinthehills.com](mailto:aidee@schoolinthehills.com)

### **E5. Geography Extensions 1.25 hr EC/EI**

Demonstrate the wonders of physical geography with Landforms, Layers of the Earth, Volcanoes, the transition to the Continent Globe, World Map, and cultural geography. This hands-on, interactive workshop provides many great ideas for extension materials that can be made easily and inexpensively. The presentation is enlivened by guitar and singing.

**Gisela Tilch** is the owner/director and a teacher at Giving Tree Montessori School in Colorado Springs. She has published two teaching manuals, *Geography in the Early Childhood Classroom* and *Material Guides for the Montessori Sensorial Materials*. [www.giselatilch.com](http://www.giselatilch.com)

### **E6. This workshop has been cancelled.**

### **E7. Where Are the 5 & 6 Year Olds? 1.25 hr EC/Admin**

Is your school losing children to other educational options before their final year in the EC program? Explore strategies for convincing parents to keep their 5- and 6-year olds enrolled in your program by showing how Montessori meets their changing needs and provides new experiences as they begin to move into the second plane of development.

**Betsy Hoke** also presents *Reinvigorating Discipline Through Montessori Ideals* on Friday afternoon.

### **E8. New to Montessori - Transitioning Students 1.25 hr EL**

A transition period is needed when children with non-Montessori school experiences make up part or all of the population in a Montessori classroom. We will share some structures, lessons, and activities that aid the progression toward our vision of a Montessori classroom.

**Jean Rashkin** will also present *Fun with Grammar* on Friday afternoon, and *Timeline of Poetry* on Sunday morning.

## SATURDAY Morning Session F 10:30-11:45 a.m.

### **F1. Leaf Shapes Revisited 1.25 hr EL/SEC**

Botanists have reduced the terminology/nomenclature associated with descriptions of leaves. This presentation covers the five current leaf shapes and the measurements needed to determine them, as well as the use of angles for describing the apex and base of a leaf. **Priscilla Spears, PhD**, has been providing up-to-date science information to classrooms since 1995. She founded *Big Picture Science*, authored several science education books, and has designed card materials for classroom use. Priscilla is a Montessori materials consultant and a teacher educator. [www.bigpicturescience.biz](http://www.bigpicturescience.biz)

### **F2. Reaching Out To Parents 1.25 hr All**

Parents care, but are often so busy they miss out on school events we design for them. We will propose ways to foster a vibrant culture of school/community involvement by using technology and routine communications to reach families daily, weekly, monthly, and annually in an organic manner, resulting in a growing spirit of collaboration.

**Martha Teien, MA**, is the owner/director of Mountain Montessori in Avon and serves on the boards of Montessori Educational Programs International and Colorado Montessori Association. [www.mtnmontessori.org](http://www.mtnmontessori.org)

### **F3. QRIS - How Does Montessori Fit In? 1.25 hr IT/EC/Admin**

The Quality Rating and Improvement System (Colorado Shines QRIS) is now being implemented for childcare centers in Colorado. We will share our experience at Boulder Montessori School as we prepare to be assessed and awarded a rating level based on standardized criteria for programs and teaching staff. Montessori schools can move to levels above basic licensing while maintaining core Montessori practices. **Amy Condon** is Head of School at Boulder Montessori School, an AMS accredited school. [amy@bouldermontessori.org](mailto:amy@bouldermontessori.org) **Patty West** is Director of Education at Boulder Montessori School and is the MECR instructor for EC Practical Life. [pwest303@aol.com](mailto:pwest303@aol.com)

### **F4. A Peace Curriculum Made Simple 1.25 hr EC/EL**

This lively workshop presents a program of activities, stories, and songs with guitar for EC and EL classrooms. The curriculum incorporates art, environmental, and cultural experiences, including the Peace Rose, the Council of All Beings, Family Under One Sky, and how your school can become an International Peace Site.

**Judy Feeney** has been a Montessori EC teacher for 36 years, currently at Giving Tree Montessori School in Colorado Springs. She has presented peace workshops internationally. Judy's CD, *The Ants' Dance*, is a collection of peace and environmental songs for children. [www.judyfeeney.com](http://www.judyfeeney.com)

### **F5. Sharing Art with Children 1.25 hr EC/EL**

One of the most important gifts you can give children is to inspire their creative imaginations. This workshop will enable you to prepare yourself, prepare the environment, and provide your students with meaningful and developmentally appropriate creative experiences. You will leave with a new understanding of yourself as an educator and artist.

**Julie Karlonas, MA**, is a creative arts instructor at Saint Mary's College of California and a working artist, Montessori curriculum developer, and author. She lectures and conducts teacher-training workshops throughout the US and Canada. [www.art4montessori.com](http://www.art4montessori.com).

### **F6. Reading in the Montessori Classroom 1.25 hr EC/EL**

Reading enables us to connect with the thoughts and views of others from the past and the present, and in today's world literacy is essential for the full development of the child's potential. This session provides a practical overview of the development of literacy in 3-12 year olds. **Kristina Baxter, MEd**, is assistant principal and middle school dean at DCS Montessori Charter School, fulfilling varied roles as reading specialist, assessment coordinator, GT coordinator, and community outreach. She also lectures for the Principal Licensure Program at Regis University, and is a MAP Trainer. **Sheila Wolfe** also presents *Books for Building Character* on Friday afternoon.

### **F7. Balanced Literacy in the Montessori Classroom 1.25 hr EL**

Best practices such as Guided Reading, Reader's Workshop, and Writer's Workshop can be highly effective tools. The good news is that you don't have to compromise the Montessori work cycle to use these strategies in your classroom! Explore more ways to enhance literacy instruction and also meet curricular expectations of public schools.

**Karen Farquharson** also presents *Supporting your English Language Learners* on Friday morning.

### **F8. Upendo Emporium - Service Learning 1.25 hr EL**

EII students at St Vrain Community Montessori School run a non-profit school store to support their pen-pals at Upendo School in Tanzania. Responsibility for all aspects of a store provides enough breadth to include students at every ability level, allows all children to practice goal-setting and perspective taking, to master new skills and to find joy in their efforts to meet real need. Hear our story and chat with our student panel.

**Kate Goss** is the Cosmic Curriculum Coordinator and EII Lead guide at SVCMS. She taught in Lower Elementary classrooms in Alaska and Colorado before starting the SVCMS Upper Elementary program. [kgoss@svcmontessori.org](mailto:kgoss@svcmontessori.org)  
*Visit the Emporium immediately after this presentation.*

## SATURDAY Afternoon Session GH 1:45-4:15 p.m.

### **GH1. Public/Charter FORUM 2.5 hr All**

Colorado has been in the forefront in bringing Montessori education to a diverse student population as public and charter schools have been established around the state. This session is a networking opportunity for public sector administrators and teachers to share their triumphs and struggles and to brainstorm solutions to ongoing challenges, including high stakes testing, uninterrupted work cycles, and enrollment growth. Bring your questions and answers.

**Kathryn Ross, MEd**, will facilitate this session. Kathryn is President of the Colorado Montessori Association and an adjunct professor at Endicott College. She has many years of experience as a Montessori teacher, school founder, and head of school. [president@coloradomontessoriassociation.org](mailto:president@coloradomontessoriassociation.org)

### **GH2. The World Beyond Carrot Cutting! 2.5 hr EC**

Food preparation can be the star of your practical life environment! Explore 25 varied food preparation materials and learn ways to link food prep to your cultural studies, the seasons, festivities, and full day programs. Learn how to incorporate child-made breakfasts, snacks, and entire family dinners to your program. Bring your camera and refresh your joy in teaching kids how to really cook.

**Nancy Ahlstrand** is the founder and head of school at Countryside Montessori in Boulder, a preschool that is dedicated to providing a Full Day Montessori program for all its children. Nancy will also present *Meaningful Real Work* on Sunday morning. [ahlstrandn@aol.com](mailto:ahlstrandn@aol.com)

### **GH3. Poetry Out Loud 2.5 hr EL**

When children speak poetry together, they discover how much they love it, and their command of oral language improves dramatically. Four lessons will be presented and discussed, one to introduce Poetry Time for the whole class, and three for children at different reading levels. Teachers already using poetry in their classes will have time to share their experiences.

**Silvine Farnell, PhD**, became active in Montessori when she moved to Boulder, after a career as a professor of world literature. She has taught writing courses at Naropa and the University of Colorado. Silvine has facilitated poetry performing workshops in a variety of settings, including Montessori teacher education centers in California and Boulder. [www.deeperintopoetry.com](http://www.deeperintopoetry.com)

## SATURDAY Afternoon Session G 1:45-3:00 p.m.

### **G1. Original Mind and Montessori Wisdom 1.25 hr All**

Current brain research provides us with fascinating new knowledge about the workings of the human mind. This presentation will enthrall you as it connects our Montessori practices to new insights into the functions of the brain. Dee's presentations are always filled with stories that illuminate and clarify childhood behaviors and capacities at different stages of development.

**Dee Joy Coulter, EdD**, is a neuroscience educator and author with a background in special education. Her doctorate is in neurological studies and holistic education and she was a faculty member for 20 years at Naropa University. She is the author of *Original Mind - Uncovering Your Natural Brilliance*, published in 2014. [www.originalmindbrilliance.com](http://www.originalmindbrilliance.com)

### **G2. Leading from Within 1.25 hr All**

Reconnect to the values, passion, and ideals that brought you to this life of service. You will experience a safe space to explore the paradox of having voice and silence in your personal and professional roles. Reduce your sense of fragmentation, disengagement, or incongruence when you use the power of your inner life to grow your capacity for both voice and silence. **Susan Kaplan** will also present *Five Habits of the Heart* on Friday afternoon.

### **G3. Music and Movement for Infants and Toddlers 1.25 hr IT**

The developmental importance of music and movement for the youngest children is increasingly well documented. We will discuss how to effectively incorporate music and movement into the daily schedule, and demonstrate a repertoire of songs, finger plays and movement activities. **Nancy Kinney** is a lead toddler teacher at Jarrow Montessori School in Boulder and is a field consultant for MECR IT interns. [nc\\_kinney@yahoo.com](mailto:nc_kinney@yahoo.com)

### **G4. Keeping the Sense of Wonder Alive 1.25 hr EC/EL**

*How often is the soul of man, especially that of the child, deprived because one does not put him in contact with nature.*

Let's heed these words from Montessori and explore the world of plants, before we introduce technical vocabulary and the Botany Nomenclature reference cards. Observe nature and enjoy songs, poems, writings, and activities that sustain the sense of wonder in our dear students.

**Judi Bauerlein** was one of the first Montessori teachers to work in a public school. A past AMS president, Judi was honored as the 2010 AMS Living Legacy. [judi4trees@comcast.net](mailto:judi4trees@comcast.net)

**SATURDAY Afternoon Session G continued 1:45-3:00 p.m.**

**G5. School/Home Communication 1.25 hr EL/Admin**

Teachers and parents share a common goal - to meet the needs of the child. This workshop offers ideas for strengthening the cooperative school/home connection that is imperative for the child's well-being and growth.

Topics include: parent education nights, progress reports, newsletters, and tips for parent/teacher conferences.

**Christine Godfread** has been a Montessori lower elementary teacher since 2003 in Iowa, Minnesota, and Colorado. She is a field consultant for MECR. [christine.godfread@rossmontessori.org](mailto:christine.godfread@rossmontessori.org)

**G6. Yoga Anytime 1.25 hr EC**

This session is designed to help teachers with little or no yoga experience to bring yoga into the classroom, encouraging children to practice yoga in a fun and safe way. Yoga refreshes, reenergizes, refocuses, and helps children to maintain a flexible mind and body.

**Autumn Morrison** lives in Colorado Springs and holds a Montessori EC credential. [heart\\_of\\_the\\_earth@transmit.net](mailto:heart_of_the_earth@transmit.net)  
**Lenora McAndrews** is co-presenter [LenoraDegen@msn.com](mailto:LenoraDegen@msn.com)

**G7. Storytelling 1.25 hr EC**

Children learn through stories and it is not necessary to always bring a book to read out loud. In this interactive workshop participants will gain confidence in their story-telling skills, with new techniques, resources and ideas.

Prepare to have fun incorporating storytelling into your day.

**Carla McQuillan** also presents *Parent Education* on Friday afternoon.

**SATURDAY Afternoon Session H 3:30-4:45 p.m.**

**H1. Making and Learning about Music 1.25 hr IT/EC/EI**

A music program is more than singing. Learn how to present everyday classroom lessons that introduce basic musical concepts, including a series of games and exercises that utilize *sofeggio* (do re mi), hand bells, rhythmic notation, rhythm band instruments, and an introduction to the musical staff, so that children can make music in many ways.

**Frank Leto** has been a popular musician, composer, and Montessori EC teacher for over 40 years, and is currently an Artist in Residence for the Albuquerque Public Schools. He has made seven interactive, multicultural CD's of music for children, two of which have won educational awards. [musicalventures@gmail.com](mailto:musicalventures@gmail.com) [www.frankleto.com](http://www.frankleto.com)  
Frank and his wife, Pilar, will also entertain us on Saturday evening.

**H2. PDIS - How Does Montessori Fit In? 1.25 hr IT/EC/Admin**

Colorado's Early Learning and Professional Development System Plan (PDIS) was created to align training for early childhood professionals with EC workforce competencies and provides an interactive web-based registry for early learning professionals. Staff enrollment in the PDIS is a school requirement for qualifying for the higher levels of QRIS. We will discuss enrollment in PDIS and the new standards for the Colorado Early Childhood Professional Credential.

**Amy Condon** and **Patty West** also present *QRIS* on Saturday morning

**H3. Supportive Language for Communication 1.25 hr All**

Interactions with co-workers, parents, and children can easily be misinterpreted. We may intend to give one message, and the listener's interpretation may be entirely different. Learn to identify "confirming" and "destructive" messages, and how to incorporate positive supportive language into our daily communication.

**Lucas McQuillan, MA, CPLP**, is a Technical Trainer and Course Developer in Oregon. He holds a master's degree in speech communication. [lmquillan@comcast.net](mailto:lmquillan@comcast.net)

**H4. Seven Lessons for Parents 1.25 hr IT/EC/Admin**

It is important to show parents how to nurture their child's natural learning drives. Based on an observational study, seven pedagogical principles for nurturing the development of executive functions were identified which are helpful for caregivers of young children to understand.

**Ginny Trierweiler, PhD**, is a child psychologist, speaker, author, and coach. Her *Born for Brilliance* approach allows parents and caregivers to go beyond love and affection to release the native intelligence and potential of the child.  
[www.bornforbrilliance.com](http://www.bornforbrilliance.com) [drginnyt@gmail.com](mailto:drginnyt@gmail.com)

## SUNDAY WORKSHOPS

SUNDAY Morning Session JK 8:45-11:15 a.m.

### JK1. Creating Meaningful Real Work for your Full Day Montessori Program. 2.5 hr EC

Come back to the original intention of the Children's House and be brave enough to turn over the care of the environment into the hands of the children. Teach children to make materials and participate in the creation of their environment. No need to "make up" practical life work when the cooking, cleaning, gardening and animal care can be done by the kids.

**Nancy Ahlstrand** will also present *The World Beyond Carrot-Cutting* on Saturday afternoon.

### JK2. Say It Another Way - Second Languages in the Classroom 2.5 hr EC

Designed for Montessori environments, this approach emphasizes oral language development and cultural awareness, integrating the second language into the total environment. Learn more about second language acquisition and participate in a model lesson and sample activities, including songs, games, and movement. The focus is on Spanish, but these principles apply to any language and it is not necessary to be a native speaker.

**Alice Renton, MA**, is a specialist in bilingual/multicultural education and created the Spanish language program, *In Other Words*. Her experience as an educator includes lecturing, training Montessori teachers, and school consultation throughout the US and Latin America. She has also been active in migrant education, Head Start training, and cross-cultural educational projects. She co-presents *Serving the Child's Inner Life: Three Montessori Essentials* on Friday morning. [www.inotherwordsamr.com](http://www.inotherwordsamr.com)

### JK3. Positive Discipline 2.5 hr EC/EL

It makes no sense to try to make children behave better by first making them feel worse. Instead we will use children's misbehaviors as a clue to finding solutions to discipline challenges. The well-established Positive Discipline approach creates real change in classroom/school climate, builds resiliency in teachers and students, facilitates learning success, and reduces bullying.

**Deborah Owen-Sohocki, MS, LPC, CPDLT**, has been an educator since 1972, teaching at all age levels. She is a certified Positive Discipline lead trainer and co-author of *Positive Discipline: a Teacher's A-Z Guide*.

[deborahmowensohocki@gmail.com](mailto:deborahmowensohocki@gmail.com)

**Amy Malik**, co-presenter, is the assistant principal at Compass Montessori Charter in Golden. [amalik@compassk12.org](mailto:amalik@compassk12.org)

SUNDAY Morning Session J 8:45-10:00 a.m.

### J1. How We Learn 1.25 hr All

When do humans learn best? What conditions prevent learning? Is it possible to retain or regain any characteristics of the Absorbent Mind of the first six years of life? How do we learn throughout our lifespan? To answer these questions, we will take a good look at sensitive periods for learning, in childhood and adulthood.

**Susan Tracy McDaniel, MEd**, is the founding director of *Learning Together Education*. She is an international consultant and presenter with a focus on Montessori Parent-Infant programs, parenting classes, Emotional Freedom Techniques, Respiratory Autogenic Training (Montessori childbirth education), and teacher education. Susan is currently pursuing a PhD in Clinical Pastoral Counseling. [www.learningtogethereducation.org](http://www.learningtogethereducation.org)

### J2. Cooking for Celebrations 1.25 hr EC/EL

Celebrations in every culture may involve crafts, stories, and dancing, but usually center on cooking and sharing meals together. We will present cooking projects and recipes for cultural celebrations in the classroom and include tips for proper food handling.

**Nancy Clarke, MSc**, has a background in home economics and developed a school nutrition program that includes growing, harvesting, and cooking. She is the owner, head of school and elementary teacher at Rocky Mountain Montessori Academy. [rmma@mindspring.com](mailto:rmma@mindspring.com)

### J3. Timeline of Poetry 1.25 hr EL

This unique timeline was designed specifically for Lower Elementary classrooms; it includes poems for each time period with picture and definition cards. Breaking into small groups will allow everyone to enjoy hands-on use, and we will provide resource materials to enable you to re-create this timeline for your classroom.

**Jean Rashkin** presents *Fun with Grammar* on Friday afternoon and *New to Montessori* on Saturday morning.

**Silvine Farnell** will also present *Poetry Out Loud* on Saturday afternoon.

## SUNDAY Morning Session K 10:30-11:45 a.m.

### **K. PANEL DISCUSSION - Montessori Then and Now 1.25 hr All**

The panelists have each dedicated more than 30 years of teaching and service to the Montessori community and they will share their personal perspectives on the growth of Montessori education.

Join us for a final note of celebration for an amazing weekend in the mountains!

**Panelists will include:** Judi Bauerlein, Merrie King, Jean Rashkin, Kathryn Ross, Betsy Hoke, Nancy Lindeman

**Moderator:** Dot Thompson

## ***Music and Movement during the Retreat***

**Early Morning Yoga** - Friday and Saturday 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. with Patty Moore *Bring a yoga mat if you own one.*

**Dances of Universal Peace** - Friday 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. with Tajali Tolan [tajalitolan@gmail.com](mailto:tajalitolan@gmail.com)

**International Folk Dances** - Friday 8 to 9 p.m. with Tom Masterson [www.danceophile.com](http://www.danceophile.com)

Tom Masterson is a physics professor, mountaineer, runner, dance choreographer and performer. Expect an exquisite bouquet of joyous dances from around the world that everyone can do, even those with “two left feet”!

**Classical South Indian Dance (Bharatnatyam)** - Saturday 7:30 to 8 p.m.

performed by Neena Massey of *Raven Speaks Performance Art* [www.NeenaExpressions.com](http://www.NeenaExpressions.com)

**Music for All** - Saturday 8 to 9 p.m. with Frank and Pilar Leto [musicalventures@gmail.com](mailto:musicalventures@gmail.com) [www.frankleto.com](http://www.frankleto.com)

**YMCA Activities** - available throughout the retreat. See the Program Overview and YMCA of the Rockies website.

## ***Exhibit Hall***

The Exhibit Hall is conveniently located on the lower level of Longs Peak Lodge and some of your favorite materials suppliers will be bringing their catalogs and items for sale.

### **Exhibit Hall Hours**

Friday	11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday	8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday	8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

## ***Schools Showcase***

Visit this exhibit to see the energy, creativity, diversity, and special features of Montessori schools in our region.

### **Showcase Hours**

Friday	8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday	8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## ***Transportation***

### **By car from the Denver area**

Take route 36 to Estes Park and follow directions to Rocky Mountain National Park. Before the Park entrance, turn left onto Spur Road 66. The YMCA Resort is on the right side of the road.

### **From Denver International Airport (DIA)**

Make prior reservations with Estes Park Shuttle Service: 970-586-5151 [www.estesparkshuttle.com](http://www.estesparkshuttle.com)

## Lodging Information

Reserve by July 15, 2015 for Montessori Retreat special rates

YMCA Estes Park Conference Center and Resort  
2515 Tunnel Road (Route 66), Estes Park, CO 80511  
[www.ymcarockies.org](http://www.ymcarockies.org) 1-800-777-9622

The Conference Center and Resort is adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park, which celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015. Resort altitude is approximately 8,000 ft.

Retreat guest rooms are in the beautiful LEEDS certified Longs Peak Lodge.

Guest rooms have 2 queen beds and one futon, accommodating a maximum of 5 people.

Rooms have Wi-Fi access, no TV. Free parking. Cell phone reception quality may be variable.

### Meals

Resort package rates include cafeteria meals in the Aspen Dining Room for Thursday dinner, as well as breakfast and lunch on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. (Friday and Saturday dinner events in the Assembly Hall are included in Full Conference registration.)

Box lunches may be ordered a day in advance for those who want to explore the area during lunch breaks.

Snacks may be purchased all day at the Café in the Administration Building.

### Policies

Check-in is at the Administration Building after 3 p.m.

Departure on September 27: Room checkout is 10 a.m., but lunch is included.

Your roommate list must be confirmed at check-in. Maximum of 5 people per room

Quiet Hours are from 11:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m.

Alcoholic beverages are not sold on the grounds and may not be consumed in public areas.

You may consume alcohol in Longs Peak Lodge during the Retreat.

Pets are not allowed in the lodges. Smoking is not permitted in any YMCA facility.

### Roommate Finder

Go to the Facebook page for Montessori Education Center of the Rockies. Tab: "Roommate Finder: Estes Park 2015"

### Lodging Rates

Reserve by July 15, 2015 for the following Montessori Retreat Rates at Longs Peak Lodge (Taxes not included):

Number of guests sharing the room	<b>THREE night lodging package w/meals</b> <u>arriving Thursday September 24, 2015</u>	<b>TWO night lodging package w/meals</b> <u>arriving Friday September 25, 2015</u>
1 (Single)	515.00 per person (515.00 per room)	358.00 per person (358.00 per room)
2	299.00 per person (598.00 per room)	204.00 per person (408.00 per room)
3	227.02 per person (681.06 per room)	152.68 per person (458.04 per room)
4	191.00 per person (764.00 per room)	127.00 per person (508.00 per room)
5	169.40 per person (847.00 per room)	111.60 per person (669.60 per room)

### Lodging Reservations

Online: <http://www.reseze.net/cassets/mkt/YMCA/landingpage/406262.html>

Telephone: 1-800-777-9622

A 35% deposit by credit card is required to guarantee the reservation.

If you cancel 30 days or more in advance, you will be refunded 75% of your 35% deposit. If you cancel within 30 days of arrival, you will forfeit 100% of your deposit.

If cancellation notice is not received, you will be charged for the full amount of the lodging portion of your stay.



**~ Montessori in the Mountains 2015 Registration ~**  
**Register online at [www.mecr.edu](http://www.mecr.edu)**

*Professional Development attendance certificates will be provided.*

*No walk-in registration. No group discounts.*

*MECR reserves the right to make program changes if necessary.*

*All conference registrants must check in at the YMCA Administration Building.*

*Daily Visitor Guest Passes (\$20) are available for registrants not lodging at the YMCA Resort.*

	<b>Early Bird Registration Due by May 24, 2015</b>	<b>Late Registration May 25 to Aug 31, 2015</b>
<b>Full conference</b> <i>15 contact hours</i>	\$350- <i>includes Friday Dinner Program and Saturday Pizza Party</i>	\$450- <i>includes Friday Dinner Program and Saturday Pizza Party</i>
<b>Friday only</b> <i>5 contact hours</i>	\$200 <i>excludes Dinner</i>	\$250- <i>excludes Dinner</i>
<b>Saturday only</b> <i>5 contact hours</i>	\$200- <i>excludes Pizza Party</i>	\$250- <i>excludes Pizza Party</i>
<b>Sunday only</b> <i>2.5 contact hours</i>	\$100-	\$150-

**To Register for the Conference Retreat**

Go to: [www.mecr.edu](http://www.mecr.edu)

On the Montessori Education Center of the Rockies home page, click on “Montessori in the Mountains”

**Information that will be requested**

1. Your Name
2. Contact info: Phone / Email / Mailing Address
3. Select Full or Single Day registration: Full / Friday only/ Saturday only/ Sunday morning only
4. Specify dinner preference (For Full Conference registrants): Chicken / Vegetarian / Gluten free
5. Your choice of the following workshops:

**Friday Sessions**

All Day: Mini-Retreat: Orienteering (12 max)

Morning: Double: AB1 AB2 AB3 AB4 Single: A1 A2 A3 A4 A5 A6; B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6

Afternoon: Double: CD1 CD2 CD3 Single: C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 C7; D1 D2 D3 D4

**Saturday Sessions**

All Day: Mini-Retreat: Living Harmoniously with Nature

Morning: Double: EF1 EF2 Single: E1 E2 E3 E4 E5 E7 E8; F1 F2 F3 F4 F5 F6 F7 F8

Afternoon: Double: GH1 GH2 GH3 Single: G1 G2 G3 G4 G5 G6 G7; H1 H2 H3 H4

**Sunday Sessions** Double: JK1 JK2 JK3 Single: J1 J2 J3; K

**Payment Options**

Credit Card: Credit card payment is preferred. It is not necessary to create a PayPal account.

Credit card receipts will reflect payment to “Rocky Mountain Teacher Training Program”.

Check: If you wish to pay by check, please register on-line, then mail the payment immediately to:

MECR, 4745 Walnut Street, Suite B, Boulder, CO 80301. Your registration will be processed after receipt of your check.

**Remember to also make your lodging reservations with YMCA of the Rockies**

<http://www.reseze.net/cassets/mkt/YMCA/landingpage/406262.html>

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Please contact the Retreat Coordinators if you have any questions.

Jean Rashkin: [jean@montessorispecialist.com](mailto:jean@montessorispecialist.com) or 719-439-5233

Dot Thompson: [dt@mecr.edu](mailto:dt@mecr.edu) or 303-494-4423