The Child’s Journey: NAVIGATING THE STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT

FEBRUARY 14-17 | HOUSTON, TEXAS

2014 Refresher Course + Workshops
Karin was a visionary extraordinaire! In 1972 the first AMI/USA office was established with her coaxing, following which she volunteered her services for eight years. In her capacity as the first executive director of AMI/USA she focused on clarifying the role of AMI/USA, building a sense of community and trust with an emphasis on the spiritual aspect of Montessori. During her early years she, together with her husband Richard, initiated a more open process, setting the stage for many of the activities that AMI/USA performs today.

She had an enormous understanding of what it meant to be an international movement and the fact that this validated the universal nature of the child and our hope for world peace.

Karin enjoyed the Montessori family and, in particular, was fond of Mario and Ada Montessori. This relationship served as a bridge to trust when the school recognition and consultation programs were first introduced in the USA.

She had a deep understanding of Montessori pedagogy and was very partial to the assistants to infancy work – a deep passion that she maintained until the last days of her life.

Karin was a gem – full of grace and wit – a poet and writer – fanciful and grounded in a deep respect for the child. Her skills were many and her gifts abound…

Our Montessori world has been enriched by virtue of her very being. Karin, we celebrate you and your immense contributions.
The child’s progression through the stages of development is best assisted by an informed adult, keenly aware of the preparation and guidance needed for each stage of the child’s journey. The child’s passage is marked by what Dr. Montessori described as a “continual state of growth and metamorphosis,” that exhibits itself in physical and mental changes through each stage of development. The magic is in how it all fits together.

Understanding the child’s acquisition of new powers, abilities, and sensitivities at every stage is key to optimizing the experience for the child in each Montessori setting. We must not only understand where the child in our classroom has come from, but where s/he is going. This deeper understanding of the needs of each stage will be explored from both a practical and theoretical perspective.
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SPONSORED BY:

AMI/USA, the U.S. Primary Operational Affiliate, supports AMI objectives through their work in the United States and brings the principles of Dr. Maria Montessori to the education of children, to help them attain their full potential in society. www.amiusa.org

AMI/EAA, a member-run professional association of AMI elementary teachers and trainers, provides a supportive community for the exchange of ideas and promotes the principles of Montessori education. www.ami-eaa.org

NAMTA links Montessorians with their legacy and their future. Its services include print publications, audio visuals, conferences, and research. www.montessori-namta.org

IN COLLABORATION WITH:

MAA supports the administration of Montessori schools by providing opportunities for renewal, networking, continuing education and the exchange of ideas and experiences. www.montessoriadmins.org

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This year’s refresher course will focus on the child’s journey and reinforce the importance of our role in preparing and guiding the child as s/he navigates through the natural phases of growth. It is the guide’s responsibility in a Montessori environment to understand and facilitate the necessary experience a child needs in order to confidently and spontaneously embark on the next stage of his/her journey. We will help develop the understanding of the stages of development a guide needs in order to provide that optimal support.

MODERATOR
Annette Haines, Ed.D.

PANELIST
Lynn Gulick
Assistants to Infancy

PANELIST
Joen Bettmann
Primary

PANELIST
Maryse Lepoutre-Postlewaite
Elementary

PANELIST
Laurie Ewert-Krocker
Adolescent
ASSISTANTS TO INFANCY LEVEL

The Language of Our Children:
Examining the Developmental Process of a Child
Silvia Dubovoy, Ph.D.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 – 16
9:00AM – 4:30PM

Montessori believed that children were misunderstood because adults simply lacked basic information about them. Today, many parents (and some teachers!) are under the impression that loving their children is all it takes to produce healthy, productive members of society. But we know that it is crucial to study how the complicated human organism has evolved and how our biological systems function in order to begin to fully appreciate the child’s mind. The work of assistants to infancy is to empower loving parents with sound knowledge based on scientific observation so that they may be a real help to their offspring during their most critical stage of growth.

On the first two days of lectures, the A to I course will consist of four main lectures, each with its corresponding small group discussion. We will explore how biology is related to psychology and sociology and integrate our understanding of Montessori’s highly practical approach to education by focusing on the universal, changeless principles of child development gleaned through scientific observation of babies. Particular emphasis will be placed on how assistants to infancy can improve their ability to “read” children based on a renewed understanding of the connection between body and mind. Participants will return to their classrooms with tangible ideas that will support children and their parents to adapt to this time of technology, stress, and rapid change.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17 | 9:00 – 10:00AM

Molly O’Shaughnessy and Silvia Dubovoy will explore jointly with the A to I participants the development of obedience, will, and self-discipline across the entire first plane. How does it express itself at the different levels? How do we best support it?
PRIMARY LEVEL

Freedom and Discipline: An Integrated Path
Molly O’Shaughnessy
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 – 16
9:00AM – 4:30PM

“The emphasis on freedom is for the development of individuality. The emphasis on discipline is for the benefit of the individual and of society.” Dr. Maria Montessori

The principles of freedom and discipline are distinct yet highly interrelated. How to balance these two principles has always been an educational dilemma. On the one hand, if too much freedom is granted, the result is chaos—thus curtailing creative, productive work. On the other hand, however, too much discipline oppresses the child’s will and therefore his intelligence.

This refresher course will explore the interrelated nature of freedom and discipline from both a philosophical and practical perspective. Self-reliance is the root of freedom, which in turn requires self-discipline. The combination of these two results in the formation of character that is further developed and deepened in the elementary years.

We will examine how these spontaneously evolve in children when fully supported according to their nature. We will probe practical strategies to assist children in this important process, discover the critical function we play in the environment, and revisit the essential elements required for all of this to come together in a cohesive and joyful manner.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17 | 9:00 – 10:00AM

Allyn Travis will discuss what facts would be most useful to offer in the children’s house that will best help children explore cosmic education in the elementary environment and how freedom and responsibility look different in the second plane. Jenny Höglund will present her view of freedom and responsibility within the context of the farm prepared environment.
ELEMENTARY LEVEL

Maximizing the Human Potential During the Second Plane of Development
Allyn Travis & Jenny Höglund

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 – 16
9:00AM – 4:30PM

Maria Montessori said, “The teacher has two tasks: to lead the children to concentration and to help them in their development afterwards.”

What does this mean for the elementary teacher? How do we build on the foundation from the first plane of development, and how do we ensure that our children are as fully prepared for the third plane as their human potential allows? Let’s come together and explore the necessary components to this process, some of the obstacles we face, and how we can overcome them. We will address the planes of development and the characteristics particular to the second plane because these are the underpinnings of our work. While our focus will be centered on the second plane and cosmic education, we will look at both the first and third planes to better understand where the child has come from and where s/he is going. It is this understanding of the interface between planes of development that enables a whole school community to work together for the best for each child.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17 | 9:00 – 10:00AM

Baiba Krumins Grazzini, Laurie Ewert-Krocker, and Michael Waski will look at the evolving concept of freedom and responsibility for the elementary participants, and the resurgence of these characteristics as converging responsible problem solving and peace.

COURSE LIAISONS

Assistants to Infancy Level
Phoebe Yeager
phoebeyeager@postoakschool.org

Primary Level
Katherine Parker
kzimmerman@stcathmont.org

Elementary Level
Tim Snow
tsnow@stcathmont.org
NAVIGATING THE STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT

MONDAY FORMAT

Integration between the planes is key to a child’s success in Montessori. This year’s refresher course is designed to provide all teachers with a greater understanding of where the child has been before entering their classroom and where they are headed when they leave. To that end, the sessions on Monday are uniquely planned this year to provide teachers at each level the opportunity to hear from pedagogues at other levels.

10:15 – 11:00AM

What Are the Inevitable Turning Points Leading to a Unified Vision of Maturity?

David Kahn

Stages of development are as important for teachers and schools as for the children. With the increasing awareness of the adolescent plane from 12-18, and the widening number of “whole Montessori schools,” the continuity from birth to adulthood in Montessori theory and practice has reached a tipping point. As a result of this weekend’s discussions around “interface between the planes” and the “developmental continuum,” Montessori schools and teachers will be prepared to reflect a unified vision and a clearer picture of how to support the child to adulthood.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Leadership Workshop
Optional & Open to All*

10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Public School Workshop
Optional & Open to All*

1:00 – 3:00 pm
Advocacy Workshop
Optional & Open to All*

7:00 – 8:30 pm
Welcome & Opening Panel

8:30 – 10:00 pm
Fruit and Cheese Reception

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Lecture Session**

12:00 – 1:30 pm
Lunch

1:30 – 4:30 pm
Lecture Session**

5:00 – 6:00 pm
Open Meeting With the AMI/USA Board

6:00 pm
School Tours – sign up onsite

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

8:00 – 8:45 am
AMI/EAA Annual Business Meeting

9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Lecture Session**

12:00 – 1:30 pm
Lunch

1:30 – 4:30 pm
Lecture Session**

5:00 – 7:00 pm
Meet and Greet / Networking

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

9:00 – 10:00 am
Lecture Session**

10:15 – 11:00 am
Closing

* See pages 12–13 for descriptions; registration required.
** Attendance required for AMI course certificate.
ADOLESCENT WORKSHOP

From Childhood to Adolescence: Keys, Disciplines, Social Organization, and Life-Long Impact

The learning environments for childhood and adolescence will be viewed as a continuity where social life is genuine and where individuals feel that they are contributing members of a community. In that context presenters will focus on the use of keys and key lessons and on the disciplines as they converge on interdisciplinary systems thinking. The aim of this dialogue is to take the respective visions of both planes of education and evolve a set of principles and guiding practices that help clarify and strengthen whole school values and the Montessori aim of developing the human personality to its fullest. Individual mastery of skills is linked with overall shared vision and practical challenges forming the basis of adult contribution and collaboration for life.

FOR A COMPLETE SCHEDULE VISIT WWW.MONTESSORI-NAMTA.ORG
Maria Montessori transformed education by defining it as a preparation for life. As a brilliant student of human development, she designed an environment and prepared the adult to respond to the shifting needs of the child at each stage of life. Together we will consider the distinct characteristics and needs of the human being across the four planes of development and identify the essential aspects of the prepared environment that are in alignment with the child at each phase. Consideration will be given to particular challenges presented by atypically developing children. We will also look at the practical matters around the passage of the child from one plane to the next within the school setting.

Alison Awes and Janet McDonell will offer guidelines on key elements to look for in primary and elementary classrooms at various stages of development. Attention will be given to the preparation of the environment as well as using observation of individual children and the group as a whole to enhance the development of well-functioning classrooms.

Montessori Holistic Management is an organic framework of systems which work together as a whole. It:

• occurs in developmental stages (schools, parents, teachers, children)
• is interactive
• is integrated and accommodated
• encompasses from simple to complex
• has a holistic goal—the new child (composite of psychological characteristics and psychological outcomes)
• has a common variable/flow/normalization
• is a manifestation of reality in nature, the universe, and civilization

This workshop convinces that the management vision of Montessori is a pedagogical tool, the blueprint for every Montessori school, while also being a key to funds development and institutional advancement.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

P.M. SESSION - PANEL
What We Know and What We Don’t Know
Deborah Bricker, John Long, Katy Myers, Mary Zeman

This workshop was created from the results of a survey conducted by the Montessori Administrators Association (MAA) that indicated governance, parents, transitions, and staff development were the primary areas of interest to many heads of school. A panel of seasoned heads will address these topics by responding, on the basis of their individual expertise, to prepared scenarios presented by other administrators. Questions are also welcome from the audience.

Join this offering for a lively, interactive exchange and bring home sure-fire tools that will enhance your leadership skills.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Leadership Workshop
Optional & Open to All*

10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Public School Workshop
Optional & Open to All*

1:00 – 3:00 pm
Advocacy Workshop
Optional & Open to All*

7:00 – 8:30 pm
Welcome & Opening Panel

8:30 – 10:00 pm
Fruit and Cheese Reception

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Lecture Session, Janet McDonell

12:00 – 1:30 pm
Lunch

1:30 – 4:30 pm
Lecture Session, Alison Awes & Janet McDonell

5:00 – 6:00 pm
Open Meeting With the AMI/USA Board

6:00 pm
School Tours – sign up onsite

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Lecture Session, David Kahn

12:00 – 1:30 pm
Lunch

1:30 – 4:30 pm
Panel

5:00 – 7:00 pm
Meet and Greet / Networking

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17
10:15 – 11:00 am
Closing (optional)

* See pages 12–13 for descriptions; registration required
ASSISTANTS’ WORKSHOP

Let’s Face the Music and Dance
Connie Black

No matter our title, all of us working with children are assisting development. The ways in which the assistant supports and assists the guide in this work is nothing short of a strenuous dance performance, all made to look deceptively easy. It takes training and practice. We will explore together how to fill your pockets with assistance, at the ready to support the child’s journey through development in the graceful dance executed in the guide/assistant relationship.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Leadership Workshop
Optional & Open to All*

10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Public School Workshop
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Lunch

1:30 – 4:30 pm
Panel

5:00 – 7:00 pm
Meet and Greet / Networking

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17
10:15 – 11:00 am
Closing (optional)

See pages 12-13 for descriptions; registration required
PARENTS’ WORKSHOP
Debra Riordan

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

A.M. SESSION
I Feel a Change Comin’ On: Understanding Developmental Stages and Their Reflection in Montessori Classrooms

Leveraging the work on developmental stages is one of the key foundational principles of Montessori education. An acknowledgment and integration of this understanding serves to make this the kind of education that can truly meet children where they are in their social, personal, and academic development. So powerful is this understanding that even during what could be the most challenging of times—times of transition between stages—Montessori education provides support that promotes growth and opportunity and helps to reduce the kinds of stress and uncertainty that often accompany any kind of change. Join us for an informative presentation on the characteristics of developmental stages and the practical ways in which Montessori classrooms support your child’s individual development.

P.M. SESSION
“Help Me to Help Myself”: How to Support Your Child’s Development Through the Integration of Montessori Principles at Home

Ever wonder how to incorporate the Montessori principles that your child works within during their school day into your home? Most of us were not Montessori students and the capabilities of the children often result in parents getting only glimpses of the nuts and bolts of their child’s day. Building on the morning session, this workshop will offer practical suggestions about how to integrate Montessori principles into your home thus providing greater consistency from school to home and home to school. Included in this workshop will also be tips on how to develop an effective partnership with the teacher in working towards your common goal of optimal opportunity for your child.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14
7:00 – 8:30 pm | Welcome & Opening Panel
8:30 – 10:00 pm | Fruit and Cheese Reception

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15
9:00 am – 12:00 pm | Lecture Session
12:00 – 1:30 pm | Lunch
1:30 – 4:30 pm | Lecture Session
5:00 – 6:00 pm | Open Meeting With the AMI/USA Board
6:00 pm | School Tours – sign up onsite
SPECIAL INTEREST WORKSHOPS
OPEN TO ALL

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14 | 10:00AM – 12:00PM

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP
Leading Successful Montessori School Communities
Ginni Sackett

Montessori education can be compared to a pedagogical ecosystem where all segments of the community are harmoniously interdependent and curriculum is based in human development rather than external, adult-driven standards. In this workshop, for all trained and non-trained heads of school and teachers, we will explore how administrative leadership and policy work within that system to support best practice, effective teaching, and optimal outcomes for children, staff, and families.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14 | 10:00AM – 12:00PM

PUBLIC SCHOOL WORKSHOP
Making It Work: Strategies for Success in the Public Sector
Bonnie Beste

As the landscape of educational experiences evolves in the U.S., and as more and more schools and models are emerging, how can public Montessori classes continue to help support the child’s developmental journey while adhering to the increasingly complex sets of mandates and standards imposed in the public sector? Just as it is the teacher’s responsibility to facilitate the necessary experiences in the classroom, it is our responsibility to understand fully this changing landscape and to continue to demonstrate that Montessori education not only meets the needs of the developing child, but moreover meets the needs of this new educational environment.

This session will provide meaningful insights to teachers and administrators to better understand how authentic Montessori practice can be instituted in the public sector. It will highlight the growing need for high-quality Montessori offerings in public systems across...
the nation in both urban and rural districts; it will provide successful examples of how collaboration and alignments work to demonstrate the effectiveness of the curriculum; and it will address the universal nature of the child and how public districts and Montessori advocates can work in cooperation to ensure this value is paramount in our work.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14 | 1:00 – 3:00PM

ADVOCACY WORKSHOP
Making Advocacy Work: Leveraging the Best Practices in Montessori’s State Advocacy Work
Jaye Espy

This highly engaging session will focus on the national advocacy movement and what we have learned. In the first half of the session, participants will hear firsthand accounts and reflections from Tier II states on various issues of advocacy implementation, including collaboration with pilot states, using social media, leveraging external partnerships, building consensus, identifying initiatives, and successes and challenges along the way.

The second half of the session will focus on “looking ahead.” Interactive scenarios will be utilized to demonstrate best-practices approaches to advocacy. Participants will be invited to be a part of the conversation to develop a centralized message and vision of Montessori advocacy and to learn from the experiences of those already engaged in this important work.

Jaye Espy is the Public Policy Project Manager at AMI/USA. She earned a B.A. from Howard University and an M.A. in educational leadership from the University of Mississippi. Her credentials include positions at the U.S. Education Delivery Institute and The College Board.
SPEAKER BIOS

ALISON AWES
Alison Awes is the director of elementary training at the Montessori Center of Minnesota and co-director of elementary training at the Maria Montessori Institute, London. Alison holds AMI diplomas for primary and elementary levels, a B.A. in art history from Smith College, an M.A. in Latin American studies from Tulane University, and an M.Ed. in Montessori education from Loyola University Maryland. She has taught in both six-to-nine and nine-to-twelve classrooms. Ms. Awes is an AMI examiner and has served on the boards of private and charter Montessori schools, as well as other organizations including the AMI Elementary Alumni Association.

BONNIE BESTE
Bonnie Beste holds an AMI primary diploma from the Montessori Teacher Training Center of Northern California and a B.A. in English literature from the University of California, Davis. Bonnie worked extensively as an associate director for a large research organization in marketing and member relations before beginning her career in Montessori education. She subsequently served as a primary guide and parent education liaison at a private AMI school in Northern Virginia until 2010. Since that time, she helped to establish an integral position with the District of Columbia Public Schools as the Early Childhood Montessori Specialist for their public Montessori program. Bonnie oversaw the AMI recognition of all primary classes, as well as forging professional partnerships and gaining experience collaborating with government agencies and other education associations.

JOEN BETTMANN
Joen Bettmann is a primary trainer, examiner, and consultant with AMI and has over 30 years of Montessori experience. She has had training responsibilities in Milwaukee, Portland, London, Islandia, New York; and Sydney, Australia. After 17 years as director of training at the Ohio Montessori Training Institute, she relocated to Atlanta to continue primary training through the Montessori Institute of Atlanta and is now the director of training at the International Montessori Training Institute. Ms. Bettmann frequently speaks at national and international Montessori conferences and has published articles in AMI Communications and the NAMTA Journal. She has extensive classroom experience in both private and public Montessori schools. Ms. Bettmann has a B.A. in sociology and
Connie Black

Connie Black serves as director of outreach at the Montessori Center of Minnesota. In that role she leads the Montessori Partners Serving All Children initiative, whose mission is to bring high quality, authentic, early childhood Montessori experiences to children who are usually denied access due to a lack of resources. Connie holds a B.A. in English and theatre from the University of Tennessee Martin as well as an M.Ed. from Loyola University Maryland. She brings to her role more than 15 years of experience in Montessori children’s houses, as well as eight years in public school settings working with children with special needs. Connie is an AMI primary trainer, examiner, guest lecturer, and consultant.

Deborah Bricker

Deborah Bricker has been the head of school at Chesapeake Montessori School in Annapolis, Maryland since 2008. Prior to that she served as head of school at Hershey Montessori School in Concord, Ohio and guided the school through its expansion to an adolescent program and the Hershey Montessori Farm School. Deborah holds an AMI primary diploma from the Washington Montessori Institute and taught for twenty years at Mater Amoris Montessori School in Washington, DC and Maryland. She has served on the board of the North American Montessori Teachers Association (NAMTA) since 1979 and is currently the vice president. Deborah has led workshops on language, gardening and science, and quilting for children. She is a Montessori teacher, administrator, board member, parent, and grandparent.

Silvia Dubovoy, Ph.D.

Silvia Dubovoy has been active in Montessori work since 1965, first as a parent, then as a member of the board of directors and coordinator of the first Montessori school in Mexico City. She has been a member of AMI for nearly 30 years and is also a past member of the AMI and AMI/USA board of directors. Dr. Dubovoy holds both an M.A. and Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Barcelona and is currently the director of training for 0-3 and 3-6 at the Montessori Institute of San Diego in La Jolla, California. She is also a lead clinical faculty at the University of San Diego, an associate professor at Loyola University Maryland,
SPEAKER BIOS

and a professor at Universidad de Vic in Spain. Silvia is both an AMI assistants to infancy and primary trainer, holds an AMI special education diploma, and has worked as a lecturer, trainer, examiner, and consultant. She served previously as a director of training at the AMI training center in Mexico City and co-director of the Foundation for Montessori Education in Toronto.

LAURIE EWERT-KROCKER

Laurie has been with the Hershey Montessori School adolescent program since it began in 1996. She was the upper elementary teacher before that and helped to design the farm environment and program. Her original degree work was a B.A. and M.A. in English, and she taught college writing for nine years. She has AMI training at the 3-6 and 6-12 levels. Laurie guides humanities projects as well as workshops in writing, grammar, and literary analysis. She hikes, plays the guitar, sings, and enjoys theater and Native American history and culture. She is married to Jim, The Farm School farm and facilities manager, and they live in a house on the school property.

BAIBA KRUMINS GRAZZINI

Baiba Krumins Grazzini is director of training at the Fondazione Centro Internazionale di Studi Montessoriani in Bergamo, Italy. She entered the field of Montessori education in 1972 and holds the AMI 3-6 diploma (London) and 6-12 diploma (Bergamo). She has been involved with the Bergamo course since 1975 and, as part of her training of trainers, she attended the 1987/88 WMI elementary course. Baiba became an AMI elementary trainer in 1988 and co-directed the Bergamo course together with Camillo Grazzini during the years 1992-2004. She continues the Bergamo tradition through her work for courses in Italy (and elsewhere) and by contributing to Montessori events of different kinds throughout the world. In addition to working as an AMI lecturer and examiner, Baiba has been working as a member of the AMI Scientific Pedagogy Group since 2004.

LYNN GULICK

Lynn Gulick graduated from Sonoma State University with a degree in liberal studies and completed her assistants to infancy (A to I) training under the guidance of Judi Orion and Maria
Teresa (Chacha) Vidales. She was certified as a doula through the National Association of Postpartum Care Services (NAPCS). For eighteen of her twenty years working with young children and their families, Lynn split her time between her work as the A to I guide at Marin Montessori School and working as an independent doula within her community. For the last two years Lynn has directed her energies towards the creation of the school’s first parent/infant series. During the summers Lynn serves as a course assistant at the A to I course in San Diego, under the support and guidance of Dr. Silvia Dubovoy.

Jenny Höglund
Jenny Höglund is an AMI elementary trainer. She holds an AMI primary diploma from the Ohio Montessori Training Institute and an elementary diploma from Washington Montessori Institute. Jenny co-founded the Montessoriskolan Lära för Livet in Sweden in 1995 and has taught elementary and adolescent students (ages 12 to 15) for over twenty-three years as well as serving as head of school since 2006. Jenny is an auxiliary trainer in the AMI Training of Trainers Programme at the elementary level. As part of her training of trainers course she served at the Fondazione Centro Internazionale di Studi Montessoriani in Bergamo, Italy from 2004 to 2006, and since 2006 she has been a lecturer at that center.

Annette Haines, Ed.D.
Annette Haines, Ed.D. holds both AMI primary and elementary diplomas as well as a bachelor’s degree in English literature from Washington University, an M.Ed. from Cleveland State University, and a doctorate from Southern Illinois University. Annette is the director of training at the Montessori Training Center of St. Louis, the chair of the AMI Scientific Pedagogy Group, and a member of the AMI Global Research Committee and Materials Committee. Annette has written extensively and is an internationally recognized speaker on Montessori subjects.

David Kahn
David Kahn has been executive director of the North American Montessori Teachers’ Association (NAMTA) for more than thirty years. He has seventeen years of Montessori teaching experience, twelve of them as teaching principal at Ruffing Montessori School (Cleveland Heights, Ohio). Mr. Kahn was founding director of the Hershey Montessori School adolescent program on the farm in Huntsburg, Ohio,
SPEAKER BIOS

John Long
John Long became head of school at The Post Oak School (Bel-laire, Texas) in 1995. His career as an educator began with the United States Peace Corps in Kabul, Afghanistan. In Montessori schools he worked first as a classroom assistant and then as a lead teacher in lower elementary, upper elementary, and middle school. He has served as head of two large Montessori schools, written for professional journals, spoken at national conferences and workshops, and writes a blog titled Education by Design. John graduated from Yale University with a B.A. in English literature, earned an M.Ed. from Cleveland State University in curriculum and instruction, and received his AMI elementary certification from the Washington Montessori Institute. He was a founding board member of the Montessori Administrators Association (MAA) and just completed service on the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS) board of directors.

Janet McDonell
Janet McDonell is the director of primary training at the Washington Montessori Institute at Loyola University Maryland. She also holds the AMI elementary and special education diplomas. Her educational background includes a B.A. in comparative literature and an M.Ed.

Maryse Lepoutre-Postlewaite
Maryse has been an elementary guide at Santa Cruz Montessori for more than 30 years. She attended Loyola University Maryland and graduated with a B.A. in education and certificates in elementary education and special education. She received her AMI training in Bergamo, Italy in 1978-79 with her husband, Tom. Over the course of her years at SCM, she co-taught with Tom in the junior class, initiated the Evergreen class in 1983, and opened the Cypress class in 1999. Maryse serves as a mentor teacher for various AMI teacher training centers nationwide, supervising observers and student teachers. In the early 1980s Maryse was the publication editor and served on the charter board of AMI-EAA (Elementary Alumni Association). Through the years she was a presenter for various workshops on conflict resolution and peace education.

Janet McDonell
Janet McDonell is the director of primary training at the Washington Montessori Institute at Loyola University Maryland. She also holds the AMI elementary and special education diplomas. Her educational background includes a B.A. in comparative literature and an M.Ed.
in Montessori education. Janet has served as the chair of the AMI Training Group and remains a member. She also serves on the board of directors of AMI/USA. Ms. McDonell had over 20 years experience in teaching and administration in Montessori schools across the nation before she became involved in training Montessori teachers.

KATY MYERS
Katy Myers is currently the founding principal of Denver Montessori Junior/Senior High School located in Denver, Colorado. In addition, Katy consults with schools throughout the U.S. Katy was a founding parent of Compass Montessori, a pre-K through 12th grade public Montessori charter school in Golden, Colorado, where she served as the business manager and assistant head of school for four years and head of school for six years. Katy’s educational background includes elementary Montessori diploma (AMI), adolescent Montessori certification (NAMTA), a B.S. in speech and economics from Northwestern University, and an M.Ed. from Arizona State University in education administration and supervision.

MOLLY O’SHAUGHNESSY
Molly O’Shaughnessy is an AMI teacher trainer, international lecturer, and Montessori consultant. Since 1996 she has served as the director of training at the Montessori Center of Minnesota. Molly is deeply committed to working at a grassroots level to increase access to quality Montessori programs for children living in poverty. Cornerstone Montessori School, a program of the Montessori Center of Minnesota, fosters a broad community of multicultural and economically diverse families who share the mission to nurture the child’s natural desires to learn and adapt to their culture. Additionally, through her outreach efforts, Montessori Partners Serving All Children was initiated with the mission to open ten high-quality Montessori schools in the state of Minnesota for underserved communities. This effort is one of AMI’s division Educateurs sans Frontières projects dedicated to assisting children through the Montessori approach to education. Molly is a member of the AMI board, the North American Montessori Teachers’ Association (NAMTA) board, and the AMI Training Group, the committee that oversees and nurtures the training of new teacher trainers.
SPEAKER BIOS

DEBRA RIORDAN
Debra Riordan is the founding director of Montessori360, an educational consulting firm grounded in the AMI Montessori philosophy of education. She has 24 years of marketing, communications, and management experience, and she has spent the last 19 years developing relationships and fostering collaboration within the AMI Montessori community. Among her roles, Debra has served as associate head of school and lower elementary lead guide at The Clariden School in Southlake, Texas, and as a board trustee and the parent organization president at The Barbara Gordon Montessori School in Colleyville, Texas. Debra has a B.S. in psychology and an M.A. in developmental psychology from Ohio State University. She received her AMI elementary diploma from the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota.

GINNI SACKETT
Ginni is the director of primary training at Montessori Northwest. An AMI trainer, lecturer, consultant, and examiner, she is passionate about advancing the international Montessori movement and bringing the benefits of Montessori education to children worldwide. She holds a B.A. in history from Seton Hill University, an M.A. in Asian studies from the University of Hawaii, and the AMI primary diploma through the Montessori Education Center of Oregon. After twelve years as a classroom teacher, Ginni joined the staff of the Montessori Institute Northwest as a course assistant in 1994. She achieved the status of AMI director of training in 2002. Ginni has presented topics at regional, national, and international workshops and conferences and has had articles published in AMI Communications, the NAMTA Journal and Forza Vitale. Ginni lives in southeast Portland with her husband, Jon, where they raised five children. She is a second-degree black belt in the Indonesian martial art of Poekoelan Tjimindie Tulen, enjoys exploring the charms of Portland, and loves spending time with her family, including her three grandchildren.

ALLYN TRAVIS
Allyn is an AMI elementary teacher trainer, examiner, and school consultant, previously serving as the director of training in Australia. She is currently the director of elementary training at The Montessori Institute of Milwaukee, a member of the AMI Training Group that oversees and nurtures the training of
trainers, and a past president of the AMI/USA board of directors. Allyn has a B.A. in English from Michigan State University and an M.A. in Montessori education from Loyola University Maryland. She holds both AMI primary and elementary diplomas and has over 30 years teaching experience with both children and adults.

MIKE WASKI
A native of Ohio, Mike completed his B.S. in elementary education with concentrations in music and mathematics at Kent State University. He also holds an M.A. in educational administration and is working towards an M.A. in mathematics from Cal State San Bernardino. He has completed NAMTA’s Montessori Orientation to Adolescent Studies, where he is currently a faculty member. He has also completed the 47th advanced (elementary) Montessori training course at the International Center for Montessori Studies Foundation in Bergamo, Italy. Mike has been teaching math for twelve years to students ranging from second grade to high school calculus. In addition to his years teaching, he has also served as head of school at The Grove School, a Montessori charter high school in Redlands, California. He has also been an instructor for geometry and algebra institutes for teacher trainees through Cal State and UC Riverside.

MARY ZEMAN
Mary Zeman is a parent and family coach, author, art therapist, and an avid photographer. After thirty years as head of school, Mary is on sabbatical leave from The Montessori School in Wilton, Connecticut before her retirement in June 2014. Mary is a life-long advocate for Montessori and co-authored the establishment of administrative forums as part of the refresher course. She serves on the advisory board for the Montessori Training Center of New England. Mary has two adult children and three grandchildren. The eldest, Max, began his Montessori education in Brooklyn last September.
WHAT TO DO IN HOUSTON

Houston, Texas, dubbed “Space City,” is the fourth largest city in the United States. With such national presence, it’s only fair that the southeast city is home to a plethora of activities, monuments, museums, and culinary delights. The city, which lies roughly 50 miles from the Gulf Coast, invites families and individuals alike with its local culture and entertainment. Some points of interest include:

SAM HOUSTON PARK

An oasis of greenery surrounds monuments and historic buildings in the Sam Houston Park, which lies just on the edge of the city’s hustle and bustle. Take a guided tour of the restored homes, relax under a tree, or simply stroll along the historic trails.

NASA’S JOHNSON SPACE CENTER

The blastoff point for the famous words, “That’s one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.” Johnson Space Center is home to our nation’s astronauts and training center. With rotating exhibitions, a Starship Gallery and tours, there is something for each generation to enjoy.
MUSEUM DISTRICT
The Museum District, located between downtown Houston and the Texas Medical Center, houses 19 museums and galleries. Divided into four walkable zones, there is something to please everyone from the history buff to the art lover to the child.

DOWNTOWN AQUARIUM
Built from Fire Station No. 1 and the Central Waterworks Building, the Downtown Aquarium is comprised of a six-acre entertainment and dining complex complete with a 500,000 gallon aquarium. With over 200 species including aquatic and geographic exhibits, you’re guaranteed to have a “fin”tastic time!

GERALD D. HINES WATERWALL PARK
Located in Uptown Houston, the Hines Waterwall Park is 2.77 acres and features a 64 semi-circular architectural fountain that recirculates 11,000 gallons of water per minute. Set among close to 200 live oak trees, the city centerpiece is an experience not to miss.

SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUNDD
Site of the famous Battle of San Jacinto, which granted Texas its independence from Mexico in 1836, this historical location features an observation deck with dazzling views of downtown and the harbor, along with self-guided tours and a recreation area.

KEMAH BOARDWALK
Located only 20 miles from downtown Houston, the Kemah Boardwalk is composed of rides and amusements, quaint boutique shops, seaside shows, and a variety of dining options.

BIG THICKET NATIONAL WILDLIFE PRESERVE
With over 105,684 acres, Big Thicket contains approximately 40 miles of hiking trails and is situated on two migratory bird flyways. Located about two hours northeast of Houston, visitors can also boat, fish, and paddle in the park creek—a perfect escape from the urban life.
ACCOMMODATIONS

THE WESTIN GALLERIA HOUSTON
5060 West Alabama Street
Houston, TX 77056
1-888-627-8514

The Westin Galleria Houston is steps away from over 350 stores, including high end retailers such as Tiffany and Company, Gucci, and Neiman Marcus. The neighboring complex includes an outdoor ice-skating rink year-round, a glass atrium, and an outdoor jogging track. The AAA four diamond hotel, situated in the Museum District, caters to your every need.

HOTEL OFFERS COMPLIMENTARY:
• Self-parking
• Access to fitness studio and outdoor rooftop pool
• Running maps by Runner’s World
• High-speed wireless Internet access

GETTING TO HOUSTON
Houston offers two airport options—with similar proximities to the Westin Galleria Houston hotel—to consider when booking your travel arrangements.

• William P. Hobby Airport (HOU) / 20 miles
• George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) / 27 miles

GROUND TRANSPORTATION
For transportation to and from the airport and hotel, discount shuttle service is available through SuperShuttle. The discount provides 10% off your roundtrip reservation made and paid online.

To receive the discounted rate, please use the following link: http://www.supershuttle.com/default.aspx?GC=AMIUS and enter the discount code: AMIUS

Taxi service is also available.
RATES AND POLICIES

RATES & POLICIES*
Single/double: $129
Triple/quad: $139
Cut-off date: January 20, 2014
5:00 p.m. Central Time

- Rates will be available three days prior and three days after the event dates, subject to availability.

- Reservations must be canceled no later than 6:00 p.m. Central Time the day before your reservations commences to avoid a one-night penalty.

- An early departure fee of $75 will apply if you checkout prior to the confirmed check-out date.

*Every effort has been made to ensure sufficient sleeping room accommodations at the conference headquarters. On occasion, however, the reserved room block fills to capacity before the cut-off date.

Reserve your rooms early!
If the room block fills prior to cut-off date, rate and availability cannot be guaranteed.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS
To receive the group rate, register online using the URL provided below, or mention the group name when making your reservations by phone.

ONLINE
https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=1305309276&key=18F91

BY PHONE
1-888-627-8514
REGISTRATION INFORMATION

CONFERENCE OPTIONS

OPENING PANEL
Open to all. An AMI diploma is not required. Panel format.

REFRESHER COURSE
An AMI diploma is required.

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP
Open to all trained and non-trained heads of school and teachers. An AMI diploma is not required.

PUBLIC SCHOOL WORKSHOP
Open to all. An AMI diploma is not required.

ADOLESCENT WORKSHOP
Open to adolescent educators and those who are interested in adolescent work (an AMI diploma is not required); register at www.montessori-namta.org or call 440-834-4011.

ADMINISTRATIVE WORKSHOP
Open to all administrative staff and school board members at AMI schools and aspiring AMI schools (an AMI diploma is not required).

ASSISTANTS’ WORKSHOP
Open to classroom assistants at the primary and elementary levels, as well as support staff and AMI teacher trainees (an AMI diploma is not required).

PARENTS’ WORKSHOP
Open to all interested parents. An AMI diploma is not required.

ADVOCACY WORKSHOP
Open to all. An AMI diploma is not required.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2014
EARLY BIRD DEADLINE
Registrations must be postmarked (or time stamped for online registrations) by January 6th to receive the early bird rate.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014
PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE
All advance registrations must be received by January 27th. After this date, registration will only be accepted on-site* (see registration times on page 31).

*Please note: A higher fee will apply for walk-in registrations.
## RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Early Bird*</th>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>Walk-In</th>
<th>Trainer/Consultant</th>
<th>Trainee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Refresher Course</strong></td>
<td>$395</td>
<td>$425</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administrative Workshop</strong></td>
<td>$415</td>
<td>$475</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assistants’ Workshop</strong></td>
<td>$395</td>
<td>$425</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$295</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Adolescent Workshop</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Advocacy Workshop</strong></td>
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<td>No Cost</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Public School Workshop</strong></td>
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<td>$75</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Leadership Workshop</strong></td>
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<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Parents’ Workshop</strong></td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td></td>
<td>$130</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Half-Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Full-Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Full Day &amp; Opening Panel</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Postmarked (or time-stamped) by 1/6/14.

## DISCOUNTS

**AMI school discount:** AMI recognized schools sending three or more staff members may deduct $25 from each registration (except as limited by policies—see page 28).

**Trainer/consultant discount:** AMI trainers and consultants may register for any course/workshop at a special discount rate. Does not apply to the NAMTA Adolescent Workshop, and the AMI school discount cannot be deducted from the trainer/consultant rate.

**Trainee discount:** People currently enrolled in an AMI training course may register for the assistants’ workshop at a special discount rate. Please include the name of your training center on your registration form. AMI school discount cannot be deducted from the trainee rate.

## Membership

Participants in the refresher course (A to I, primary, and elementary) must have an AMI membership current through February 17, 2014.

Those attending the elementary refresher course must also have a current EAA membership.
REGISTRATION INFORMATION

POLICIES

Discount Policies
An AMI school discount of $25 per registration can be applied to participants of the refresher course, administrative workshop, and assistants’ workshop.

The school discount cannot be applied to the parent workshop, Friday workshops, or NAMTA adolescent workshop.

AMI school discount may be applied to full conference registrations only; single-day registrations are not eligible for the school discount.

Only one discount may be applied per registration (i.e., AMI school discount, trainer/consultant discount, or trainee discount).

Cancellation/Refund Policies
75% of the registration fee paid, excluding non-refundable deposits, will be refunded if the follow procedures are followed:
  • requests must be made in writing (includes fax and e-mail)
  • all requests must be received by Friday, January 31, 2014

Registration Transfer Policy
Registration may be transferred from one staff member to another within the same school by contacting the AMI/USA office prior to Friday, January 31, 2014.

Meal Preference
Changes to meal preference are permitted until January 31, 2014.

Certificates
Refresher course certificates are distributed on Monday following the closing panel for those who register prior to January 27, 2014. Unclaimed certificates and certificates for those who registered after January 27, 2014 will be mailed upon written request.

A letter documenting the hours of attendance for the administrative and assistants’ workshop participants is available upon written request following the conference.

Certificates that are requested more than six months after the course will be charged a $15 processing fee.
REGISTRATION FORM

Name

Address

City              State/Province       Zip Code              Country

E-mail

Phone              Cell Phone

School/training center name (required if you are taking the school or trainee discount)

MEAL PREFERENCE:  Standard  Vegetarian

REFRESHER COURSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Early Bird Rate (postmarked by 1/6/2014)</th>
<th>Regular Rate (postmarked after 1/6/2014)</th>
<th>Walk-in Rate</th>
<th>AMI Trainer / Consultant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A to I</td>
<td>$395</td>
<td>$425</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Select one level. You must hold an AMI diploma for the level you select.

DIPLOMA INFORMATION (provide this information only for the age level that you will attend)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Training Center</th>
<th>Diploma Number</th>
<th>Year of Graduation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A to I</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ADMINISTRATIVE WORKSHOP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration Type</th>
<th>Early Bird Rate (postmarked by 1/6/2014)</th>
<th>Regular Rate (postmarked after 1/6/2014)</th>
<th>Walk-in Rate</th>
<th>Single Day Early Bird Rate (postmarked by 1/6/2014)</th>
<th>Single Day Regular Rate (postmarked after 1/6/2014)</th>
<th>Single Day Walk-in Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full workshop</td>
<td>$415</td>
<td>$475</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$235</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single day</td>
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<td>SAT</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

I am interested in learning more about the Meet & Greet / Networking Event

NAMTA - ADOLESCENT WORKSHOP

Registration will be available on the NAMTA (North American Montessori Teachers Association) website: www.montessori-namta.org, or contact NAMTA by phone: (440) 834-4011.
### Assistants’ Workshop

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payment Method</th>
<th>EARLY BIRD RATE</th>
<th>REGULAR RATE</th>
<th>WALK-IN RATE</th>
<th>TRAINEE RATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postmarked by 1/6/2014</td>
<td>$395</td>
<td>$425</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>$295</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PARENTS’ WORKSHOP**

| Includes lunch | FULL-DAY | $125 | ____ |
| Lunch not included | Select One: | HALF-DAY | A.M. | P.M. | $50 | ____ |

**ADVOCACY WORKSHOP**

Does not include lunch $0

**LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP**

Does not include lunch $100

**PUBLIC SCHOOL WORKSHOP**

Does not include lunch $75

### AMI Membership

- Refresher course participants (A to I, primary, and elementary) must be current AMI members.

- **I am a current AMI member** through February 17, 2014

- Please add/renew my AMI membership:
  - **$75** U.S. resident (non-refundable)
  - **$95** Non-U.S. resident (non-refundable)

- Not required ____

### EAA Membership

Elementary refresher course participants must also be current AMI/EAA members. Download a membership form at www.ami-eaa.org.

- **I am a current EAA member** through February 17, 2014

- Please add/renew my EAA membership:
  - **$40** U.S. resident (non-refundable)
  - **$55** Non-U.S. resident (non-refundable)

- Not required ____

### AMI School Discount

AMI recognized schools sending three or more staff members may deduct $25 from each registration (except as limited by policies) ____

### Payment Method

- Check or money order (made payable to AMI/USA)

- Charge the amount indicated in the grand total (deposit or full payment) to my credit card. I also agree that any balance due, including required membership fees, will automatically be charged to the same card on January 27, 2014 unless I make other arrangements with AMI/USA before that date.

| Total lines (a) through (v) | full payment | $100 non-refundable deposit—balance due 1/27/14 |

Card Number Exp. Signature
ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPEN MEETING
WITH THE AMI/USA BOARD
Saturday, February 15, 5:00 – 6:00 pm
Meet AMI/USA board members, discuss current board activities and initiatives, and ask questions.

MEET AND GREET/
NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY
Sunday, February 16, 5:00 – 7:00 pm
Visit with school heads to find job opportunities available now and for next year.

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP
Friday, February 14, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Administrative leadership and policy work that supports best practice, effective teaching, and optimal outcomes

PUBLIC SCHOOL WORKSHOP
Friday, February 14, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Discussion of how to institute authentic Montessori practice in the public sector—it can be done!

ADVOCACY WORKSHOP
Friday, February 14, 1:00-3:00 pm
Learn about opportunities for you to contribute to raising Montessori awareness at state and national levels

REGISTRATION TIMES
Friday, February 14
8:30-11:00 am
12:30-2:00 pm
4:00-8:00 pm
Saturday, February 15
7:15 – 8:45 am
To avoid delays, walk-in registration closes 30 minutes before the opening panel on Friday evening.

SCHOOL TOURS*
Saturday, February 15, 6:00 pm
– sign up on-site
Choose from the following tour choices:

TOUR I
• The Post Oak School
• Bay Area Montessori House

TOUR II
• St. Catherine’s Montessori
• Northwood Montessori School

*Fee to be determined and paid on-site.

SEND YOUR REGISTRATION TO:
AMI/USA
410 Alexander Street
Rochester, NY 14607-1028
Or fax to: 585-461-0075
Or register online at www.amiusa.org

On-site Coordinator
Melinda Nielsen
gigem79@gmail.com

Executive Assistant
Alison Sherrill
alisons@arbormontessori.org