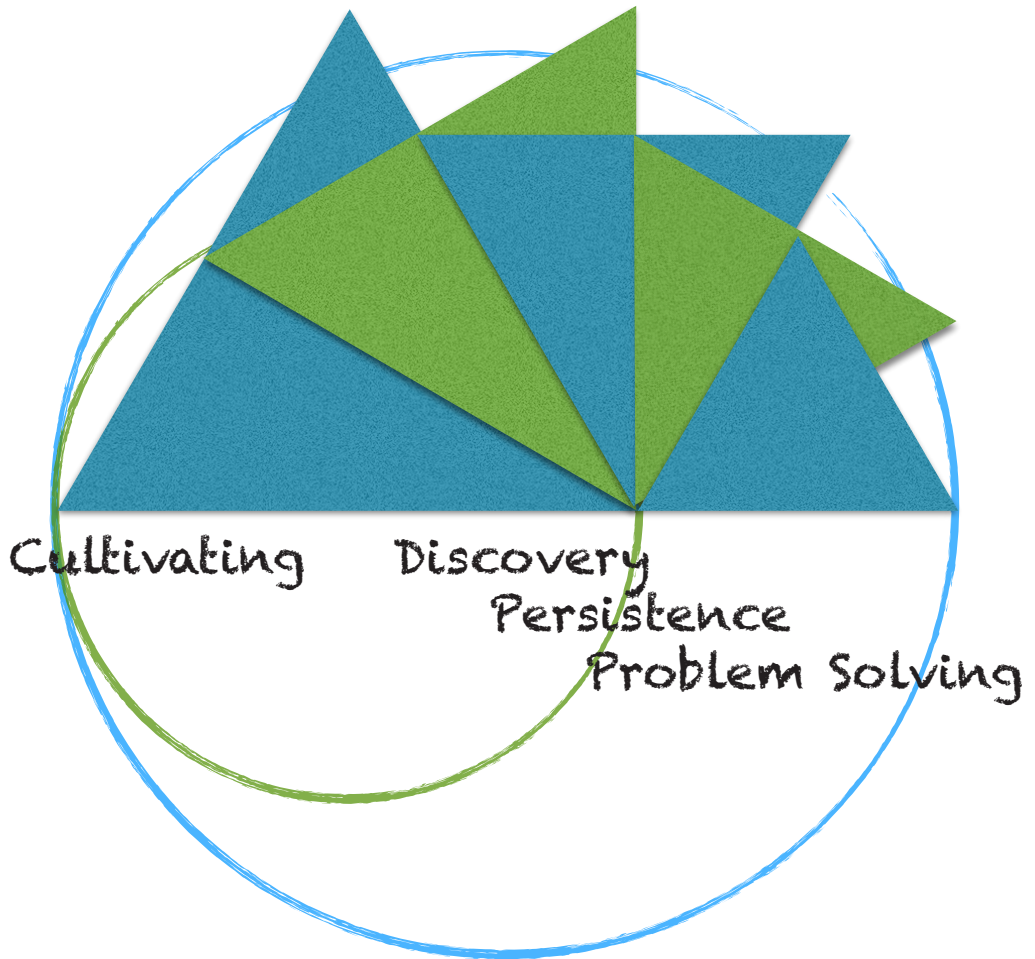


# The Calculating Mind



## Refresher Course and Workshops 2017

Renaissance Austin Hotel  
Austin, TX  
February 17-20, 2017



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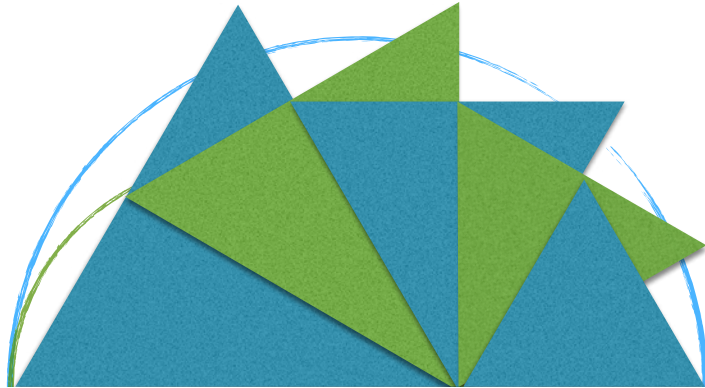
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## The Calculating Mind

*"The child...absorbs from the world about him the distinctive patterns to which the social life of his group conforms. ... He absorbs, therefore, the basic or summarized part, the precise part, which—for that very reason—is repeated in the habitual life of the people. He absorbs, in short, the mathematical part" - Maria Montessori*

Mathematics can be said to be the universal language. The universality of math reflects its natural origins. Numbers and patterns are embedded in the motion of the stars, the leaves of a plant, the waves of the ocean. Without math, humans could not understand physics, biology and chemistry, music, or architecture. Humans devised a system of numbers and math to make sense of the world. In the same way, the developing child uses order and precision to make sense of his world, to understand why things happen and how.

From the first moment the child walks into a Montessori classroom, the environment is prepared to help her make use of these tendencies for abstraction, order, and exactness. The precision of the environment helps the child understand that details matter, and helps the child orient herself in the environment. The elementary and adolescent environments make use of the second and third plane child's understanding of abstraction in order to allow her to reach beyond concrete materials and to see the world itself as a place for practice and activity.

This Refresher Course, though mathematical in foundation, is purposefully entitled The Calculating Mind. While mathematics is the language devised to read the universe, it is really *how* children learn to speak that language for the younger child, and the depth of understanding that language for the older child, that will be the focus of this weekend. Solving puzzles, reading maps, baking bread, playing music: children engage in these activities with calculation, precision, using orientation and all the tendencies that support mathematical reasoning. This weekend will revisit the underlying human tendencies and experiences that form the basis for a child's mathematical experiences and provide a refresher on ways we can continue to support or perhaps think differently about the calculating mind in our environments and schools.

# Schedule

## Friday February 17

- 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Special Interest Workshops
- 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.  
State Advocacy Gathering
- 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
Welcome & Keynote
- 8:30 - 10:00 p.m.  
Fruit & Cheese Reception

## Saturday, February 18

- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Lecture Sessions\*
- 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.  
Lunch
- 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.  
Lecture Sessions\*
- 5:15 - 6:00 p.m.  
Open Meeting with the  
AMI/USA Board
- 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Local School Tours

## Sunday February 19

- 7:30 - 8:45 a.m.  
AMI/EAA Annual Business  
Meeting
- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Lecture Sessions\*
- 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.  
Lunch
- 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.  
Lecture Sessions\*

## Monday, February 20

- 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
Special Interest Workshops

*See pages 5-20 for  
descriptions. Registration  
required for workshops and  
lecture sessions.*

*\*Attendance required for  
AMI course certificate*

# Keynote Address



**Dr. Ross Greene**  
**Friday | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

## Collaborative & Proactive Solutions: Fostering the Better Side of Human Nature in Kids and Adults

The skills that foster the better side of human nature -- empathy, appreciating how one's behavior is affecting others, resolving disagreements without conflict, taking another's perspective, and honesty -- must be taught, modeled, and practiced. Are the ways in which we're parenting, teaching, disciplining and interacting with our kids fostering those skills? If not, what should we be doing instead?

For more on Dr. Ross Greene, visit: <http://www.livesinthebalance.org/>

# Assistants to Infancy

**Sara Brady**

**Saturday & Sunday  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**



## **Nurturing Early Mathematical Experiences for the Child Under Three**

Come and explore mathematical concepts in the nido and infant community as we journey through the Assistants to Infancy curriculum. Discuss what to observe and how to nurture spontaneous discoveries.

There will be time for small group discussions forming ideas on how to create a stimulating and enriched mathematical environment for the young child.



# Primary

**Uma Ramani**

**Saturday & Sunday  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**



## **"The Seed of Mathematics"**

"Every thinking human, even if he does not feel it clearly, is a numerical being." Richard Dedekind

What are numbers? How do they work? How does mathematical thinking emerge and develop in children? As early as in their first week of life, newborn babies can distinguish two objects from three objects. How do number concepts emerge from these early pre-linguistic foundations? What are the connections between language and mathematics? How does the Montessori approach to math for the 3-6 year old support the development of numerical thinking in children?

Over two days of workshops, we will explore math in the casa in the context of current understanding of how children develop their number sense and how the human mind processes mathematical concepts. Building on this understanding, we will look at an organizational framework that can inform classroom practice. With this foundation, we will put into perspective the world of early learning and kindergarten math standards.

For, as Dr. Montessori says, "The seed of mathematics must be very, very carefully sown...If we plant the seed carefully, we can watch the little plant take firm root, sprout leaves and grow strong branches with pleasure." Rediscover your joy in the Montessori math materials and fall deeper in love with them. Gain a fresh appreciation of math as a means of total development of the human personality. Go back to your classrooms with a fresh understanding of the math activities and a new passion for this work.



# Elementary

**Phyllis Pottish-Lewis**

**Saturday & Sunday  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**



## **Gifts to Give our Children from the Mathematical Geniuses Who Have Shaped the World**

Come with me on a journey through genius as we visit the great mathematicians who comprised Greece's Golden Age of Mathematics. The ideas of Thales, Pythagoras, Hippocrates, Euclid, Plato, to name just a few, set the stage for one discovery after another in the world of Geometry. Their discoveries are our discoveries and become the gifts we can offer our children as they make their sojourn through Cosmic Education. As we put these people and ideas into historical context for our children we can also offer the children opportunities to experience first-hand through explorations and constructions with a straightedge and compass the very revelations that were first realized by these great geometers to whom all humanity is beholden.

Additionally, we shall visit the world of arithmetic to discover those great mathematicians, not only those from the Greek's Mathematical Golden Age, but also those from the Islamic Golden Age, whose intellects led to notions and concepts that launched the world of science into another realm. Our hope is that through working with these very ideas, our children will come to understand, appreciate and be grateful for the great gift that has been bestowed upon humankind by these unique individuals worldwide.

This refresher course is designed to provide teachers with activities and ideas to present to the children so that they may delve more deeply into and reify for themselves those foundational concepts presented initially with the Montessori didactic materials that reflect these ancient contributions.

Materials that participants should bring:

- a good compass: one with a screw wheel adjuster
- a straight edge: with no gradations is best
- pencils: both graphite and colored
- graph paper
- a pencil sharpener
- a 30:60 set square (even though it will not make the construction strictly Euclidean)

# Adolescent Workshops

**Featured Speaker:  
Michael Waski**



## **The Calculating Mind: Montessori Mathematic Foundations**

Montessori math lays a rich and complex foundation in the elementary that is continued in the adolescent work. Michael Waski, author of *Montessori Algebra for the Adolescent*, will discuss building a mathematical foundation for students. He will illustrate how the elementary math lessons are indirect preparation for adolescent math work by discussing how the calculating mind manifests itself in both planes.

For full adolescent workshops details, visit:

<http://www.montessori-namta.org/>



# Administrative Workshops

**Saturday**  
**9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

## Digital Technology, Human Culture and Learning

In this workshop, we will

- Consider the current state of digital technology in society and schools, and how it relates to Montessori pedagogy
- Identify challenges facing Montessori schools and work together to create solutions
- Discuss how digital technology can support developmentally appropriate learning at the elementary and secondary levels



**Ben Moudry**

**Saturday**  
**1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

## The Social Impact of Montessori Community Outreach

The original Casa dei Bambini was the first example of Montessori community outreach. How do we maintain that legacy and move the experiment forward to support the creation of stronger children, families and whole communities in the 21st century? What is our role in the Bold Goal challenge of increasing our social impact with high quality programs? Join the conversation and explore possible calls to action.



**Connie Black**



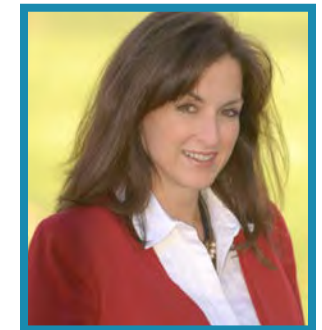
**Liza Davis**

# Administrative Workshops

**Sunday**  
**9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

## Inviting the Elephants in the Room to Tea

As leaders of a Montessori school community we must work toward acknowledging the difference between talking about a diverse community and truly embracing it. The latter takes planning, hard work and commitment. However, the results are well worth the effort when your community not only understands and supports diversity, but experiences all the joy that comes from living in a multi-layered school. How to support kids and their families in identity development requires schools to have administrators with an awareness of their own touch points, a foundation of knowledge rooted in current research, an ability to listen to and respond to families, and systems for empowering teachers in their daily work. This day long session will include large group and small group discussions, a wealth of resources made available during the session and following up resources. We will focus on how to create tangible, meaningful and sustainable programmatic policy and practices when interacting with and within the school experience. This begins the moment of seeking admission, sustains throughout the child's enrollment and continues to be fostered after the child grows through the school. Understanding we all have areas of identity which are new and often challenging, participants will develop peer groups for support on the topics difficult for them.



**Jen Cort**



# Parents' Workshop

**Alison Sherrill**

**Saturday  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**



## Life After Montessori - What Parents Can Expect Beyond the Classroom

No grades, no homework, limited testing...how will my child ever thrive beyond a Montessori school?

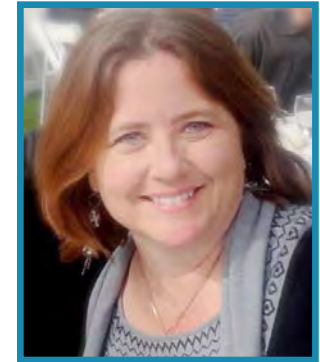
This workshop is intended for parents who wonder how their Montessori children will fare in future educational settings. We will look at and beyond the curriculum to see how Montessori prepares students to take on the challenges of grades, homework, multiple classes with multiple teachers, as well as standardized testing. The workshop will compare and contrast Montessori education to schools who have a more traditional approach and help parents understand their role in the transition.



# Assistants' Workshop

**Ann Velasco**

**Saturday & Sunday  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**



## In Support of Cultivating Discovery, Persistence, & Problem Solving

The assistant is an important part of every Montessori classroom. The Refresher Course for Montessori assistants at all levels will introduce the principles and practices in the context of the assistant's job definition. Some of these principles include Montessori's unique understanding of the power children of all ages have to direct their own work activities and the critical role observation plays in the classroom. One important aspect that will be explored is how to enhance observation skills, which will be used to support the teacher and the child. Whether working with infants or toddlers, the primary-aged child or the elementary child, assistants will gain a broader understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of the Montessori philosophy. On the second day, participants will work in groups by level, including a trained guide to work with Assistants to Infancy, to develop practical skills particular to each age group. These sessions will include discussions and activities to develop strategies for common issues assistants encounter. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will come away with a renewed sense of confidence in their roles in Montessori classrooms.





## Special Interest Workshops

FRIDAY / OPEN TO ALL / CHOOSE ONE

### **Workshop A:** **Supporting the Dyslexic Child in the** **Montessori Prepared Environment**

**Alison Awes, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Children with dyslexia need sequential, multi-sensory and explicit experience with the sounds and symbols of our language to read fluently. A richly prepared environment provides a plethora of language experiences for the Primary and Elementary aged child. This workshop will cover characteristics of dyslexia, recommendations of the U.S. National Reading Panel and how to support the dyslexic child in a Montessori classroom.



### **Workshop B:** **Integrating Anti-Bias Education into our** **Thinking and Practice**

**Debbie LeeKeenan, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

This interactive workshop will explore steps in creating a more inclusive and welcoming program. Participants will learn about the core values and goals of an anti-bias education approach and how these address children's development of identity and understanding of human diversity and bias. This workshop will offer practical and integrated approaches to anti-bias education in classrooms for children ages 2-12 and support teachers to respond thoughtfully to children's questions and make decisions about responsive environments and curriculum experiences.



### **Embracing the Possibility of Growth through Conflict:** **Finding the Third Space**

**Debbie LeeKeenan, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Participants will examine real and imagined obstacles that teachers and leaders encounter in building an anti-bias education approach in diverse settings and in transforming policies and structures to make them more equitable and inclusive. A framework will be provided for managing and negotiating different types of conflict and resistance that may come from families, colleagues, administrators and community. Practical strategies and techniques on "finding the third space" will be applied to case studies and real life scenarios.

## Special Events

OPEN TO ALL

### **Morning Yoga Classes**

**Saturday & Sunday**

**7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.**

Primary teacher and certified Yoga instructor, Sarah Dosmann, will be leading early morning Yoga sessions in the hotel to help fellow participants become focused and centered in anticipation of the busy day ahead.



### **State Advocacy Gathering**

**Friday**

**4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Join Montessori advocates from around the country at the bar for an informal discussion and gathering. Leaders from the Montessori Public Policy Initiative and representatives of state advocacy groups will be on hand to share insights and stories from their important work protecting authentic Montessori Visit <http://www.montessoripublicpolicy.org/> to learn more about state advocacy efforts.

### **Parent-Infant Class**

**Saturday**

**8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**

For the first time, a parent-infant class will be offered at the Refresher Course! Come observe a parent-infant class in session and have an opportunity to speak with A to I trained guides about how to organize parent-infant classes and the benefits for your school.

# Special Interest Workshops

MONDAY / OPEN TO ALL / CHOOSE ONE

## **Workshop A:** **Filling the Air with Music**

**Sarah Werner Andrews, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**



Montessori wrote that we don't need a "miraculous aptitude for music," in order to offer music to the children; "One might as well claim that it is the privilege only of genius to distinguish one color from another!" What we do need is an environment that will enable children to "grow into music" just as naturally as they "grow into language," - and for us to grow right alongside them.

You are invited to discover - or rediscover - your passion for music in this engaging and interactive session with Sarah Werner Andrews. Sarah will share her lifelong love of music and experience with primary and elementary children as we explore singing, music appreciation, rhythm and dance, and help you connect the children more deeply to music, and enrich the musical life of your classroom.

## **Workshop B:** **Serving Children through Our Work with Their Parents**

**Sarah & James Moudry, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**

In this session, teachers will explore the central role that their relationships with parents play in supporting children's development. Parents depend on teachers to give professional support and advice, a skill that is often underdeveloped, despite teachers' deep passion and expertise for their work with children. Attending this session will help teachers in their communication with parents in conferences and throughout the year. If you've struggled with relationships with parents or just want to improve the relationships you have, this session is for you!



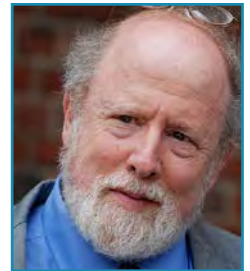
James and Sarah share their experiences as teachers and parents, and as a school administrator and parent coach with the aim of supporting teachers at all levels in their work with children.

# Special Interest Workshops

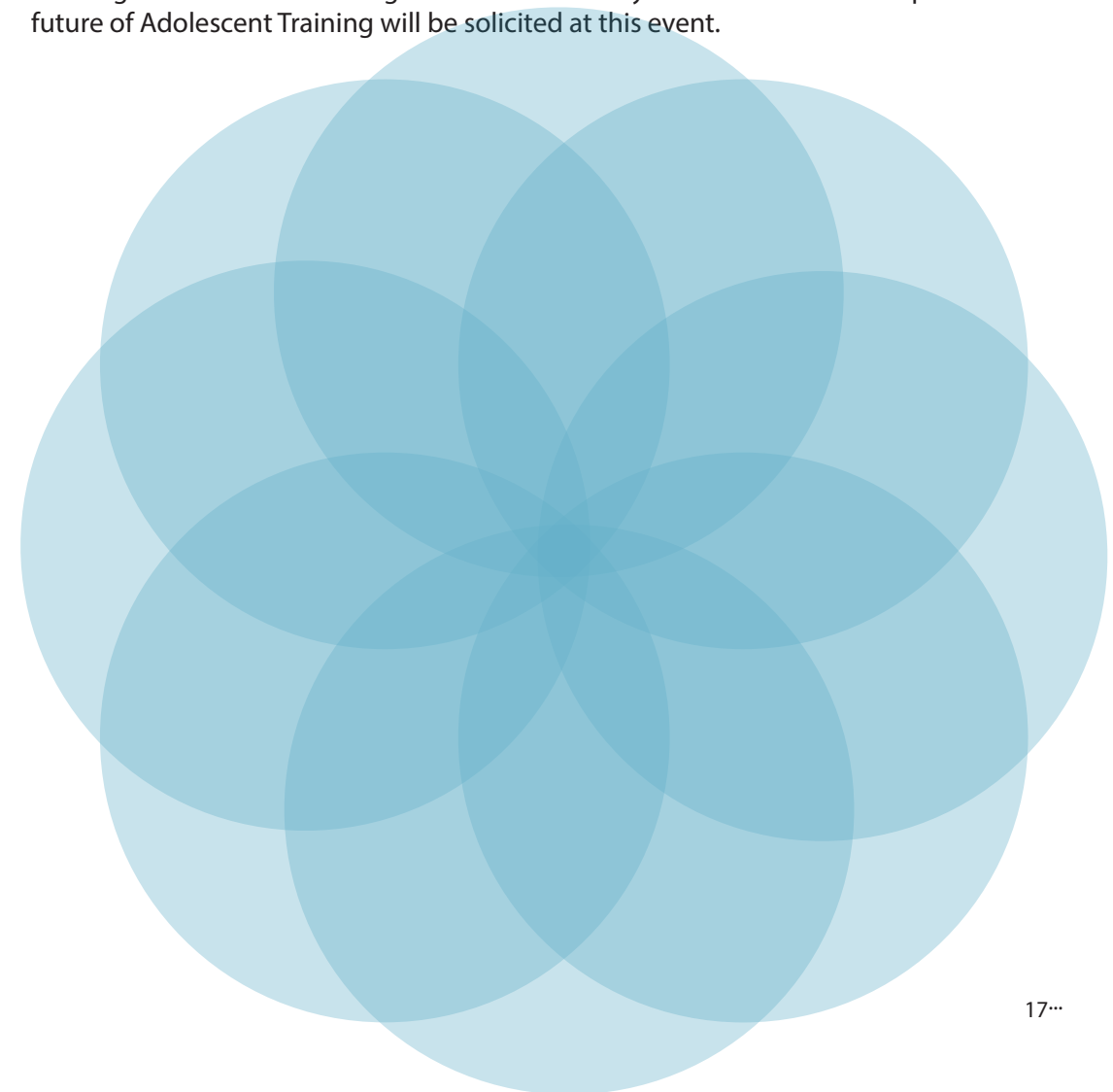
MONDAY / OPEN TO ALL / CHOOSE ONE

## **Workshop C:** **The Role of the Adolescent Program in a Whole School Vision**

**David Kahn, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**



Mr. Kahn will present how the adolescent program and studies are integrated, and in fact crucial, to the development of the whole school. He will discuss the delivery of universal Adolescent teacher preparation, appropriate for all varieties of programs from urban to rural, and all forms of Montessori pedagogy. Based on the NAMTA/AMI sixteen-year record of Adolescent teacher training, and 30 years of whole school research and design, he will discuss how an integrated Montessori design can be successfully achieved. Audience input as to the future of Adolescent Training will be solicited at this event.





## Speaker Bios

### **Sarah Werner Andrews**

Sarah Werner Andrews is an AMI Trainer, consultant, examiner, and presenter at local, national, and international conferences. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Performance, an M.Ed. from Loyola University, AMI Primary and Elementary diplomas and is an Oregon Registry Master Trainer. Sarah began her work in Montessori education in 1987, with many years teaching experience at both the primary and elementary levels, as well as experience in administration. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Oregon Montessori Association and Montessori Northwest, and is a recipient of the Susie Huston Memorial Award for Outstanding Teaching. She and her husband, Dave, have lived in Portland since 1991, and have two teenage sons, Julian and Evan, who are great reminders to listen, keep learning, and not take life too seriously. Sarah enjoys botany, music, croissants, a great book, historical documentaries, and the AMAZING story of the Bretz Floods.

### **Alison Awes**

Alison Awes holds Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) diplomas at the primary (ages 3–6) and elementary (ages 6–12) levels, a bachelor of arts in art history from Smith College, a master of arts in Latin American studies from Tulane University, and a master of education in Montessori education from Loyola University Maryland. Extensively knowledgeable, Awes has served as an elementary guide (teacher) in both lower elementary (ages 6–9)

and upper elementary (ages 9–12) classrooms. Following many years of studying and working with children, Awes completed the rigorous AMI Training of Trainers Programme to become a teacher trainer. She is director of elementary training at the Montessori Center of Minnesota as well as co-director of elementary training at the Maria Montessori Institute, London. She further uses her expertise in her role as external examiner on AMI courses at other institutes and as an AMI consultant. Awes works to advance the philosophy and spirit of Montessori as a board member for both private and charter Montessori schools, as well as other organizations including the AMI Elementary Alumni Association. An international lecturer, she has given numerous workshops on a wide variety of topics including dyslexia, the psychological and physical prepared environment, and inspiring meaningful work in the elementary child. Awes attended Montessori school until the age of twelve.

### **Connie Black**

An AMI 3-6 Trainer, Connie currently serves as Director of Outreach programs at the Montessori Center of Minnesota. In that role she oversees their Montessori Partners Serving All Children initiative, whose mission is to provide exceptional, quality early childhood education experiences for underserved and culturally rooted communities. Connie also serves as Director of Training for the Montessori Training Center Northeast satellite three-summer course, to be offered in Boston 2017-2019.

Connie holds a B.A. in English and Theatre from the University of Tennessee Martin and a M.Ed. from Loyola University of Maryland. She has 15 years of experience in Montessori Children's Houses, as well as 8 years in public school settings working with children with special needs. With over ten years of experience implementing "Montessori Year Round" as well as "Montessori All Day," Connie is interested in seeing Montessori education being made more broadly available to all children. Her three children are now grown, and she finds great joy in being "Grand" to four grandchildren. Connie lives with her husband, Lynn, in Duluth, Minnesota.

### **Sara Brady**

Sara holds AMI diplomas at both Assistants to Infancy and Children's House levels. She has a Masters in Education from Loyola College in Maryland. Sara has worked extensively in a variety of Montessori settings: long-day care, pre-school and Montessori in the home. She has enjoyed working in Nido and Infant Communities as well as parent-infant classes. Sara lives in Sydney, Australia with her husband and three children. Sara is qualified as an AMI Assistants to Infancy trainer.

### **Jen Cort**

Jen Cort's career blends her experience as a clinical social worker and educator. Her educational administrative experiences are as an assistant head of lower school, head of a middle school and senior administrator. Jen's therapy background includes serving as a counselor in lower, middle and upper schools as well as private practice. Jen went into consulting after seeing

a need for supporting schools to live out their missions regarding diversity and inclusion such that students can be seen and heard while learning to be visible and use their voices in productive ways.

### **Liza Davis**

Liza Davis serves as Director of Special Programs at the Montessori Center of Minnesota. Previously, she served as a Primary guide in Minnesota and internationally before becoming head of school at Cornerstone Montessori School. She helped found a school in Germany and was the founding head of school of Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School. She is currently in the Training-of-Trainers Programme.

### **Dr. Ross Greene**

Ross W. Greene, Ph.D., is the originator of the innovative, empirically-supported approach now known as Collaborative & Proactive Solutions (CPS), as described in his influential books *The Explosive Child*, *Lost at School*, and *Lost & Found*, and in his forthcoming book *Raising Human Beings*. Dr. Greene served on the teaching faculty at Harvard Medical School for over 20 years, and is currently adjunct associate professor in the Department of Psychology at Virginia Tech. He is also the Founding Director of the non-profit *Lives in the Balance*, which provides vast, free, web-based resources on the CPS model; provides support and advocacy for behaviorally challenging kids and their caregivers; takes a strong stand against the use of corporal punishment at home and school, the use of restraint and seclusion in schools and restrictive therapeutic facilities, and the use of detention, suspension, and



expulsion in schools, preschools, and daycare settings; and advocates for interventions that are non-punitive and non-adversarial for all kids. Dr. Greene lectures and provides consultation to families, schools, and restrictive therapeutic facilities throughout the world and lives in Portland, Maine, with his wife and two kids.

### **David Kahn**

David Kahn has been the executive director of the North American Montessori Teachers' Association for more than forty years. He is currently working to establish a public-private partnership for a Montessori school that will serve ages eighteen months through eighteen years in Cleveland. He holds a BA in fine arts and classics from the University of Notre Dame (IN) as well as the AMI elementary diploma from Bergamo, Italy. He has seventeen years of Montessori teaching experience, twelve of them as teaching principal at Ruffing Montessori School (Cleveland Heights). Mr. Kahn was the founding program director of the Hershey Montessori School at University Circle (OH). He also developed the AMI Montessori Orientation to Adolescent Studies, a summer institute designed to help teachers specializing in working with students ages twelve to eighteen.

### **Debbie LeeKeenan**

Debbie LeeKeenan is a Visiting Professor in Early Childhood Education at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. She was director and lecturer at the Eliot-Pearson Children's School, laboratory school for the Department of Child Study and Human Development at Tufts

University from 1996-2013. Past professional experience includes over 40 years of teaching in diverse university, public schools, and early childhood settings. She is a published author in numerous journals and books including *Young Children* and *The Hundred Languages of Children*, Edwards, C., Forman, G. & Gandini, L. 1993. Her most recent book written with Louise Derman-Sparks and John Nimmo, is *Leading Anti-Bias Early Childhood Programs: A Guide for Change*. Her areas of expertise include anti-bias education, early childhood education, teacher preparation, inclusive special education, curriculum development, project based learning, teacher inquiry, family engagement, professional learning communities and public school partnerships. Debbie is an active international, national and local consultant and workshop presenter. Debbie was awarded the Tufts University Arts and Sciences Multicultural Service Award in May 2003 and the Building Bridges Tufts Distinction Award in June 2009 for her work with diversity. She was the recipient of the 2015 Abigail Eliot Award from the Boston Association for Education of Young Children. This award is given to honor outstanding commitment to young children and the early childhood profession not only through the work on behalf of BAEYC, but also through a record of distinguished professional achievement. More information can be found on her website <http://www.antibiasleadersece.com>

### **Sarah Moudry**

Sarah received her AMI Assistants-to-Infancy Training at The Montessori

Institute in Denver, Colorado and her AMI Primary Training at the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota. She holds a M.Ed. in Montessori Education and a B.A. in Environment, Textiles, and Design. Sarah is the author of many books and educational videos and keeps a blog about parenting and Montessori education and interior design at [www.familyfriendlyhome.com](http://www.familyfriendlyhome.com). She is also the founder of Studio June, an active parent and child-learning environment offering weekly classes and workshops for families [www.thestudiojune.com](http://www.thestudiojune.com). As a Parent Education and Early Childhood Consultant, Sarah helps parents take a developmental approach to parenting and see their homes as learning environments. She draws on her experience as a designer, educator, and mother of three to inspire parents to see their child's potential and find their own comfort in parenting.

### **James Moudry**

James Moudry is an advocate for responsive education for children of all ages. He concentrates on professional development and personal transformation for adults working with children. His focus is on supporting professionals serving teenagers in school environments. James has worked in adolescent programs as an administrator, faculty member, and athletic coach. He presents on adolescent program design and community-centered education nationally and internationally including at the North American Montessori Teachers Association's colloquia and Montessori Orientation to Adolescent Studies. His current position is High School Director at The Post Oak School

in Houston, Texas. He also serves on the Board of the Montessori Administrators Association and as a member of the AMI Global Research Group.

### **Ben Moudry**

Benedict Moudry, Head of School, The Grove School, Redlands, CA. He holds an AMI primary diploma, certificate from the NAMTA Orientation to Adolescent Studies, a BA in Sociology and Masters of Education. He previously was the project manager, founding teacher and Montessori Director of Great River School, a Montessori middle and high school in St. Paul, MN. He is also an educational consultant for schools, parent groups, and organizations interested in creating environments and systems to support adolescents in their development. He is a strong advocate for the development and spread of high quality public Montessori education in order to make it available to all people.

### **Phyllis Pottish Lewis**

Ms. Phyllis Pottish-Lewis holds a Bachelor's Degree in Zoology from UCLA and a Master's Degree in Education from Loyola College in Maryland. Also, she holds both primary and elementary diplomas from the Association Montessori Internationale. She received her AMI primary diploma with Francesca Claremont from the Montessori Institute of Los Angeles in 1971 and her AMI elementary diploma with Margaret Stephenson from the Washington Montessori Institute in 1977. She has over 37 years of teaching experience with children and 36 years of lecturing on AMI elementary courses. To complement



her years in the classroom, she also has two years of experience administering an AMI school. Ms. Pottish-Lewis has been the Director of Training for the founding AMI Elementary Training Courses held at the Montessori Institute of San Diego and the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota. Currently she is an active lecturer on national and international AMI Training Courses. As the incorporating Chairperson of the newly-formed AMI-Elementary Alumni Association, a position she held for eight years, a frequent presenter or participant at National and International Conferences and Refresher Courses, and a long-standing member of AMI-USA's Consultation Committee, Ms. Pottish-Lewis has been actively involved in the larger AMI Montessori community consistently throughout the years. Presently she is active consulting AMI schools and teachers world wide, giving international seminars and refresher courses, and is a long-standing faculty member at the Montessori Institute of Milwaukee.

### **Uma Ramani**

Educated and trained in India and in the USA, Uma holds her AMI diplomas at both the Primary and Elementary levels. She has several years experience as Primary guide in schools in New York and Connecticut. She is Director of Training for the Summer Primary Course at the Montessori Institute of North Texas in Dallas. During the year she works as consultant to Annie Fisher Montessori, a Public Montessori school in Hartford, Connecticut and Elm City Montessori, a newly founded local charter school in New Haven, Connecticut. She is in classrooms on a regular basis

and enjoys working with staff and administration to build strong school communities that serve children and their families.

### **Alison Sherrill**

Alison Sherrill has served as an AMI guide and administrator for over twenty years. She is currently the Elementary Coordinator for AMI recognized Arbor Montessori School in Decatur, Georgia (18months – 14 years). Alison earned a BS in Early Childhood Education from The University of Georgia as well as a diploma from Association Montessori Internationale at the Elementary (6-12) level. She is also certified by the Children and Adults with ADHD Disorder (CHADD) organization to lead parenting classes. Alison is the past president and current Board member of the Montessori Institute of Atlanta, an AMI teacher training program. In addition to Alison's work with families in a school setting, she serves as an officer with her national sorority, Sigma Kappa, in the mentoring of college age women at both the University of Texas at San Antonio and the University of North Georgia. Alison is the proud parent of two Montessori daughters.

### **Ann Velasco**

Ann Velasco is an AMI Primary Trainer and the Director of Training at the Southwest Institute of Montessori Studies, located in Phoenix Arizona. Ann conducts both Academic Year and Summer format courses. In addition to teacher training responsibilities, she coordinates community outreach, conducts parent education sessions and offers professional development for

Montessori teachers. Ms. Velasco is a co-trainer for the AMI training center in San Jose, Costa Rica. Ms. Velasco holds both Primary and Elementary Diplomas from the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI). She holds a M. Ed degree from Loyola University in Baltimore. Ms. Velasco brings a strong background of classroom experience having taught for 12 years in both primary and elementary classrooms. She was a Montessori student herself as a young child.

### **Michael Waski**

Michael Waski is a math teacher at Montessori High School at University Circle in Cleveland, Ohio. He holds the AMI elementary diploma from Bergamo, Italy, a BS from Kent State University (OH), and an MA in educational administration from California State University, San Bernardino. Michael has been teaching for fifteen years, eleven of which have been at the adolescent level. In addition, Mike is a member of the visiting faculty on the NAMTA/ AMI Montessori Orientation to Adolescent Studies program as well as a frequent NAMTA presenter. If you have been fortunate enough to see him speak, you know that his passion for math is infectious and his knowledge of how to teach it is inspiring. Mike is also the author of Montessori Algebra for the Adolescent, truly the holy grail of advanced Montessori math for the adolescent. This book is available for purchase through the NAMTA website, [www.montessori-namta.org](http://www.montessori-namta.org).



# WHAT TO DO IN AUSTIN

AMI/USA is excited to hold the Refresher Course in Austin, the “live music capital of the world.” Austin boasts great music, a growing restaurant scene, and a unique culture. Whether you enjoy museums, shopping, or beautiful outdoors spaces, there is sure to be something to pique your interest. The Renaissance Austin hotel offers a tranquil environment surrounded by nature trails, yet enjoys proximity to downtown, University of Texas, 6th Street, Austin Bergstrom International Airport and The Domain Shopping.

## **The Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center**

Explore the wildflowers and native plants of Texas in the beautiful gardens at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Just a stone’s throw from downtown Austin.

## **Bullock Texas State History Museum**

This museum has three floors of interactive exhibits that explore Texas history as well as a theater that uses multimedia special effects to take viewers on an epic journey through the state’s past.

## **Blanton Museum of Art**

Located on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin, the museum features American and contemporary art, Latin art, European paintings, prints, and drawings.

## **Texas State Capitol**

The Texas Capitol Visitor’s Center is located in the restored 1856-57 General Land Office building - the oldest state office building in Texas. You can also arrange guided and group tours of the Capitol.

## **Paramount Theatre**

Catch a performance at the Paramount Theatre! Built in 1915, it is an example of early and distinctive theatrical architecture and is a central part of the community and cultural landscape that makes Austin unique.

## **George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center**

This museum and cultural center is dedicated to the collection, preservation, research, and exhibition of African-American historical and cultural material, offering exhibits, programs, classes, theatre productions and a genealogy center.

## **Check Out the Live Music Scene!**

There are more than 250 live music venues that feature everything from rock and blues to country and jazz every night of the week.

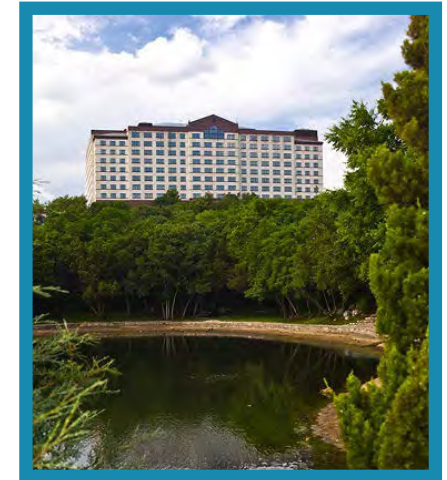
Check [www.austintexas.org/visit/music-scene/venue-guide](http://www.austintexas.org/visit/music-scene/venue-guide) for a full list of live music venues.

# Accommodations

## **Renaissance Austin Hotel**

9721 Arboretum Boulevard  
Austin, TX 78759  
(512) 343-2626

Featuring newly renovated rooms, Renaissance Austin Hotel features the distinct style and diverse personality of the Lone Star State. Nestled in the picturesque Texas Hill Country, the hotel provides a tranquil environment surrounded by nature trails, yet enjoys convenient proximity to downtown.



### **Hotel Amenities:**

- Complimentary Wi-Fi in common areas
- Access to 24-hour gym
- Complimentary self-parking

### **Group Rate:**

\$159 (single/double, executive suite, luxury suite)

### **Reservations Cut-Off Date**

The last day to reserve rooms at the group rate is January 23, 2017.

## **Make Your Reservations**

To receive the group rate, register online using the information provided below:

**Name of Event:** AMI/USA - 2017 Refresher Course

**Web Link:** <http://bit.ly/2chpYx5>

# Registration Information

## Options

### KEYNOTE

Open to all. An AMI diploma is not required.

### REFRESHER COURSE

**(A to I, Primary, Elementary)**

An AMI diploma is required at the level attending.

### 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](http://www.montessori-namta.org) or call 440-834-4011.

### ADMINISTRATIVE WORKSHOP

Open to all administrative staff and school board members. An AMI diploma is not required.

### ASSISTANTS' WORKSHOP

Open to classroom assistants at the primary, elementary, and A to I 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.

### SPECIAL INTEREST WORKSHOPS (Friday & Monday)

Open to all. An AMI diploma is not required.

## REGISTRATION DEADLINES

**Friday, December 16, 2016**

### Early Bird Deadline

Registrations must be postmarked (or time stamped for online registrations) by December 16 to receive the early bird rate.

**Monday, January 16, 2017**

### Regular Deadline

All advance registrations must be received by January 16th. After this date, registration will only be accepted on-site\*.

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

## Registration Times

Friday, February 17  
8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 18  
7:15 – 8:45 a.m.

To avoid delays, walk-in registration closes 30 minutes before the keynote on Friday evening.

RATES	EARLY BIRD*	REGULAR	WALK-IN	SPECIAL RATES
REFRESHER COURSE	\$420	\$450	\$500	\$200 (TRAINER/CONSULTANT)
ADMINISTRATIVE WORKSHOP	\$420	\$450	\$500	\$200 (TRAINER/CONSULTANT)
SINGLE DAY ADMINISTRATIVE	\$300	\$350	\$375	
ASSISTANTS' WORKSHOP	\$420	\$450	\$500	\$300 (TRAINEE)
ADOLESCENT WORKSHOP	Please register for the adolescent workshop through NAMTA.			
MONDAY WORKSHOPS	No Cost			
FRIDAY WORKSHOPS	\$200			
PARENTS' WORKSHOP	\$75 (workshop) / \$125 (workshop, lunch) / \$175 (workshop, lunch, keynote, and reception)			

## Discounts

**AMI School Discount:** AMI recognized schools sending three or more staff members may deduct \$25 from each registration. For Refresher Course, full Administrative Workshop and Assistants' Workshops only.

**School Volume Discount:** Non-AMI schools submitting five or more registrations may deduct \$20 from each registration. For Refresher Course, full Administrative Workshop and Assistants' Workshops only.

**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 discounted rate. Please include the name of your training center on your registration form. AMI school discount cannot be deducted from the trainee rate.

**\*\*Only one discount may be applied per registration\*\***

# Registration Information

## POLICIES

### Cancellation/Refund Policies

75% of the registration fee paid, excluding non-refundable deposits, will be refunded if the following procedures are followed:

- requests must be made in writing (includes e-mail);
- all requests must be received by Monday, January 16, 2017.

### 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 Monday, January 16, 2017.

### Meal Preference

Changes to meal preference are permitted until Monday, January 16, 2017.

### Certificates

Certificates will be available by request at [amiusa.org](http://amiusa.org) following the conclusion of the Refresher Course & Workshops. Refresher Course attendees must attend the full day on both Saturday and Sunday to receive a certificate.

### College Credit

College credit from Eastern Washington University is available for Refresher Course participants (A to I, Primary, Elementary). To receive your credit, you must pay \$47.50, attend all sessions, and complete a registration form, course evaluation, and write a short paper. For more information, please contact Anna Discenzo at [publications@ami-eaa.org](mailto:publications@ami-eaa.org).

### Memberships

AMI and EAA memberships must be current through Monday, February 20, 2017.

### On-Site Registration

Fees for on-site registration will be accepted by credit card or check only.

### Special Accommodation Request

Requests regarding ADA needs must be made one month in advance. Please contact Alyssa Schwartz, [alyssa@amiusa.org](mailto:alyssa@amiusa.org), with details of your needs.

### Photo Use

Your photo may be taken during the 2017 Refresher Course and may be posted online or in printed material. Attendance at the Refresher Course is consent for photo release.

## Registration Form

REGISTER ONLINE AT [www.amiusa.org](http://www.amiusa.org)

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

- |                                     |                          |       |           |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A to I     | Early Bird Rate          | \$420 | _____ (a) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary    | postmarked by 12/16/2016 |       |           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary | Regular Rate             | \$450 | _____ (b) |
|                                     | postmarked by 1/16/2017  |       |           |

- |   |                          |       |           |
|---|--------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Select only one level. You must hold an AMI diploma for the level you select. | Walk-in rate             | \$500 | _____ (c) |
|   | AMI Trainer / Consultant | \$200 | _____ (d) |

Registration includes Friday keynote & reception, lunches on Saturday and Sunday, one Monday workshop & closing.

Diploma Information (provide this information only for the age level that you will attend)

- |                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A to I     | _____                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary    | Training Center _____    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary | Diploma Number _____     |
|                                     | Year of Graduation _____ |

Choose Monday Workshop ☐ Workshop A ☐ Workshop B ☐ Workshop C

### Administrative Workshop (AMI Diploma not required)

- |  |                            |       |           |
|--|----------------------------|-------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full workshop registration  | Early Bird Rate            | \$420 | _____ (e) |
| Registration includes Friday keynote & reception, lunches on Saturday & Sunday, one Monday workshop & closing. | postmarked by 12/16/2016   |       |           |
|  | Regular Rate               | \$450 | _____ (f) |
|  | postmarked by 1/16/2017    |       |           |
|  | Walk-in Rate               | \$500 | _____ (g) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single day registration   | Single Day Early Bird Rate | \$300 | _____ (h) |
| Registration includes breaks and lunches only on the day(s) you attend plus one Monday workshop and closing.   | postmarked by 12/16/2016   |       |           |
|  | Single Day Regular Rate    | \$350 | _____ (i) |
|  | postmarked by 1/16/2017    |       |           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sat <input type="checkbox"/> Sun  | Single Day Walk-in Rate    | \$375 | _____ (j) |

Choose Monday Workshop: ☐ Workshop A ☐ Workshop B ☐ Workshop C

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

☐ You may share my email with other attendees of the administrative workshop.



### NAMTA - Adolescent Workshop

Registration is available on the NAMTA (North American Montessori Teachers Association) website: [www.montessori-namta.org](http://www.montessori-namta.org), or contact NAMTA by phone: (440) 834-4011.

### Assistants' Workshop

Registration includes keynote & reception, lunches on Saturday & Sunday, and Monday workshop and closing.	Early Bird Rate postmarked by 12/16/2016	\$420	_____ (k)
	Regular Rate postmarked by 1/16/2017	\$450	_____ (l)
	Walk-in Rate	\$500	_____ (m)
	Trainee Rate	\$300	_____ (n)
Choose Monday Workshop: <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop A <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop B <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop C			

### Parents' Workshop

Workshop only (half day)	\$75	_____ (o)
Workshop and lunch	\$125	_____ (p)
Workshop, lunch, keynote	\$175	_____ (q)

### Friday Workshop A

Does not include lunch.	\$200	_____ (r)
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### Friday Workshop B

Does not include lunch.	\$200	_____ (s)
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### AMI Membership

Refresher course participants (A to I, Primary, and Elementary) must be current AMI members.

☐ I am a current AMI member through February 20, 2017

☐ Please add/renew my AMI membership

☐ \$75 U.S. resident (non-refundable) \_\_\_\_\_ (t)

☐ \$95 Non-U.S. resident (non-refundable)

☐ Not required

### EAA Membership

Elementary refresher course participants must also be current EAA members. Download a membership form at [www.ami-eaa.org](http://www.ami-eaa.org)

☐ I am a current EAA member through February 20, 2017

☐ Please add/renew my EAA membership

☐ \$50 U.S. resident (non-refundable) \_\_\_\_\_ (u)

☐ \$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) \_\_\_\_\_ (v)

### Volume Discount

Non-AMI schools sending five or more staff members may deduct \$20 from each registration (except as limited by policies) \_\_\_\_\_ (w)

### Payment Method

☐ I have enclosed a 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 16, 2017 unless I make other arrangements with AMI/USA before that date.

\_\_\_\_\_ Total lines (a) through (u), minus (w) or (v) ☐ full payment ☐ \$100 non-refundable deposit (see above)

Card Number

Exp.

Signature

You will receive a confirmation email within 7 days of submitting your registration.

## Announcements

### OPEN MEETING WITH THE AMI/USA BOARD

**Saturday, February 18, 5:15 – 6:00 p.m.**

Meet AMI/USA board members, discuss current board activities and initiatives, and ask questions.

### LOCAL SCHOOL TOURS

**Saturday, February 18, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

School tours are optional and available to all. Please visit [amiusa.org](http://amiusa.org) for more information.

### MEET AND GREET/NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

**Sunday, February 19, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

Visit with school heads to find job opportunities available now and for next year.

### SEND YOUR REGISTRATION TO:

AMI/USA  
206 N. Washington St. Ste.330  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Or register online at: [www.amiusa.org](http://www.amiusa.org)

Conference Coordinator: Alyssa Schwartz, [alyssa@amiusa.org](mailto:alyssa@amiusa.org)  
Assistant Coordinator: Sarah Kozicki, [sarah@amiusa.org](mailto:sarah@amiusa.org)