

# Beyond Resilience: Creatively Redesigning Our Future

The 2022 Montessori Experience: Refresher Courses & More

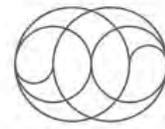
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February 18-21 • Orlando, Florida & Virtual



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Event platform: <https://ami.c3groups.com>

# HOTEL INFORMATION



The Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) was founded in 1929 by Dr. Maria Montessori to maintain the integrity of her life's work and to ensure that it would be perpetuated after her death.  
[www.montessori-ami.org](http://www.montessori-ami.org)

## 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](http://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.  
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Cover illustration by Khadijah A. Ahmed

Khadijah started her Montessori journey at age 4; she was immediately drawn to the easel and paint available to experiment on throughout the day. She continues her Montessori education as a freshman at Post Oak Montessori High School in Houston, Texas. Khadijah is a self taught artist who finds her inspiration in everyday items. Digital art is her favorite medium. Khadijah enjoys learning about biology, especially living systems. She is passionate about diversity, equity and inclusion. Khadijah spends her free time reading science fiction novels and listening to music. To see more of Khadijah's art, follow on Instagram [@kjhmd\\_art](https://www.instagram.com/kjhmd_art).

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Customers should review government travel guidance to confirm eligibility and requirements for travel. See [travelguidance.marriott.com](https://www.marriott.com/travelguidance).

The health, safety and wellbeing of our attendees are of utmost importance to us. We are keeping a watchful eye on recommended health guidelines from the CDC along with those encouraged by local schools communities around the country and in Orlando, Fla. where the event will take place. The venue for the event is the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld. [Click here](#) to learn what you can expect in terms of specific health & safety measures at the hotel.

[Click here](#) to read our COVID-19 policies and requirements. Instructions for providing documentation will be available at registration.



After a year and a half of unprecedented challenges, our commitment to the child has become more urgent as we look toward an increasingly uncertain future. Our community has demonstrated that during times of abrupt change, we can be resilient and creative. We found ways to connect with each other virtually, staying present in each other's lives. Above all, we stayed the course — continuing to believe in Maria Montessori's vision of peace achieved through unlocking each child's full potential:

*"Times have changed, and science has made great progress, and so has our work; but our principles have only been confirmed, and along with them our conviction that [humanity] can hope for a solution to its problems, among which the most urgent are those of peace and unity, only by turning its attention and energies to the discovery of the child and to the development of the great potentialities of the human personality in the course of its formation."*

Dr. Maria Montessori | From the foreword to *The Discovery of the Child*

It is with this in mind that we invite you to join us February 18-22, 2022 in Orlando and virtually for *Beyond Resilience: Creatively Redesigning Our Future*. We are excited to put the ideas of resilience and creativity into action with a new format and our first-ever hybrid event!. We hope the sessions will inspire and prepare you to continue practicing resiliency in your school community and beyond.

[Visit us online](#) for registration, hotel reservations, session info, speaker bios, and more!

# Schedule

## Friday February 18

### 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

- Opening Address

### 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- Priming the Pump
- Making an Impact Globally
- AMI/USA Neuro-Physiological Open Space: The Law of Two Feet
- Jazz and Social Justice (virtual)

### 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

- Resilience through Creativity
- See Myself and Be Myself: LGBTQ+ Inclusion in the Primary Classroom
- Climate Justice as the Critical Educational Paradigm for Montessorians
- Beloved Reclamation: Using Culturally-Centered Narratives to Support Healing and Well-Being (virtual)

### 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

- Policy and Advocacy for the Future of Montessori (virtual)
- English Learner Support presented by NCMPS

### 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Opening Keynote: Strengthening Resilience through Creative Expression\*

## Saturday, February 19

### 7:30 – 8:15 a.m.

Movement as a Foundation of Wellness in Montessori

#### Level Intensives:

A to I Refresher Course\*, Primary Refresher Course\*, Elementary Refresher Course, Adolescent Refresher Course\*, Assistants\*, Administrators\*, Open Elementary\*, Music & Movement

- 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.  
*Break*
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
*Lunch*
- 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
*Break*
- 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

### 8:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Celebrating Life & Creative Expression

## Sunday February 20

### 7:00 – 8:00 a.m.

Run, Maria, Run, Walk, Stretch and Breathe

#### Level Intensives:

A to I Refresher Course\*, Primary Refresher Course\*, Elementary Refresher Course, Adolescent Refresher Course\*, Assistants\*, Administrators\*, Open Elementary\*, Music & Movement

- 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.  
*Break*
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*Lunch*
- 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
*Break*
- 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

### 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Meet & Greet/Networking

## Monday, February 21

### 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

- Growth Mindset: A Path Towards Creativity and Resilience
- The Power of Emotions in Teaching
- Educateurs sans Frontières – A Conversation About Local Challenges and Creative Solutions
- La Preparación Espiritual del Adulto en Tiempo de Incertidumbre (virtual)

### 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- Keynote Conversation: Leveraging Creativity and Resilience in Schools\*

### 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

- Closing Keynote: Inclusive Education for a Neurodiverse World: Radically Reevaluating Your Relationships (virtual)
- AMI/USA Membership Town Hall

### 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

- Closing General Session\*

*\*this content will be delivered to a virtual audience*

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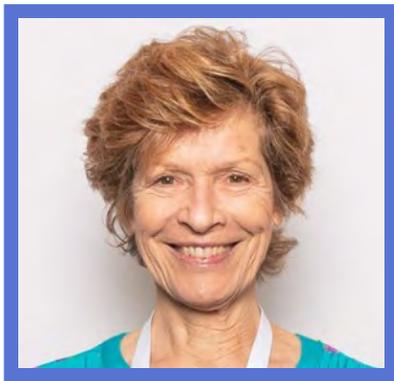
# Opening Keynote

## Strengthening Resilience through Creative Expression

Inga Sieminski • Dr. Akil Houston

How do we nurture our children's – and our own – natural propensity for resilience? Inga Sieminski and Dr. Akil Houston come together to share their diverse experience and wide-ranging research into creativity. Inga brings her 35-year background in Montessori as well as a blended multi-sensory music and movement pedagogy to the conversation. Working in conjunction with American University, she has trained public school teachers in arts-integrated education and implemented this social-emotional learning approach in underserved communities throughout the Washington, DC area. Dr. Akil Houston brings his voice to the discussion with an extensive research background in the subjects of African American Studies, Educational Philosophy, Africana Womanism and Black Feminism(s), Cinema Studies, Cultural Studies, and Hip Hop Culture. Join us to explore pathways for activating all aspects of our humanity and supporting the inner potential for resilience by centering the idea of intention with this practice. During this conversation, we will also be mindful that our students are navigating a world fraught with tensions and part of the work we do is to equip them with the necessary psychological and emotional armor/support. *This session will be in person and livestreamed to a virtual audience.*

**Friday, February 18 • 6:30 p.m. ET**



# Friday Workshops

9–10:30 AM

## Opening Address

Presented by: Sheri Bishop, Ayize Sabater, & members  
of the AMI/USA Board

*Further details TBA!*

11–12:30 PM

## AMI/USA Neuro-Physiological Open Space: The Law of Two Feet

We are experiencing increasing numbers of children being enrolled in our public and private Montessori schools with identified and unidentified developmental and learning differences. Teachers, families and administrators need professional guidance and support to serve these children. A major challenge for Montessorians is to give every family and every child that desires it an opportunity to experience our liberating pedagogy. Now more than ever, going beyond resilience is necessary. It is time to creatively redesign our thoughts and actions as we endeavor to address and meet the needs of students and adults in our midst that are neuro-physiologically diverse.

The major question to be addressed is, “What does innovative Montessori pedagogy and practice look like in the schools and classrooms when the needs of neurodivergents who may have ADHD, autism, dyslexia, down syndrome, CP, etc., are equitably addressed compared to those those that are not presenting with neuro-physiological diversity?”

Late last year Dr. Andree Rolfe facilitated some important dialogue that guided AMI/USA stakeholders to a better understanding of the real, significant, and complicated differences between Montessori education and the special education system in the United States. She challenged us to reflect on how our communities can promote neurodivergent affirming practices in training centers, schools, and professional development activities. Other exciting work is happening at the AMI/USA organizational level; however, every member and stakeholder can bring forth innovation. Join Sheri Bishop and expert facilitators as they guide participants to employ the “Law of Two Feet”– taking responsibility for what you care about and using your own two feet to move to whatever place you can best contribute and learn.

The goal of the Neuro-Physiological Open Space is to provide a safe place for all stakeholders to participate in a self-organizing collective which releases the creativity, leadership, and cognitive diversity needed to move toward transformative processes that successfully bring these thoughts to fruition.” The probable outcomes will be to build energy, commitment, and shared leadership around this issue, and to have action plans and recommendations emerge from the discussion. [Click here](#) to learn more about open space sessions.



# Friday Workshops 11 AM - 12:30 PM



## Priming the Pump

Presented by: William & Hollis Bokhout

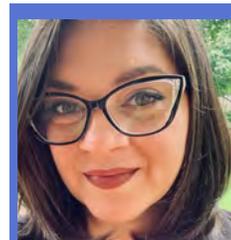
Priming the Pump: an immersive experience using music and movement to create a story of resilience

## Making an Impact Globally

Moderated by: Eleanor W. Latimer

[Montessori Global Growth Fund](#) (MGGF) has financially supported Montessori initiatives around the world. Today, we'll meet several representatives of MGGF grants:

- **Marcellina Oti**, is a retired Montessori teacher, born in Uganda, who after retirement yearned to set up a Montessori School in Gulu Uganda. She recruited local families and found resources both in Uganda and the US to build and launch in February 2020, [Mother Earth Montessori School](#). Plus she found funding to train four young adults to be primary Montessori teachers.
- **Hillary Culp** is the head of school for [Community Montessori School of Bisbee](#), in Bisbee AZ. This school serves the very small community of Bisbee (pop ~5,000), primary through elementary. An MGGF grant underwrote part of the training of their AMI primary guide, a local resident who had no educational training prior to serving as an aide to the primary class.
- **Amanda Stevens**, Head of School and Elementary Lead Teacher for [Westabou Montessori School](#) a school serving the under-resourced community of Harrisburg, Augusta, GA. MGGF gave her a very small grant to help fund the construction of high-quality Montessori shelves, tables and chairs for their second Children's House. They will talk about their efforts to bring Montessori education to under-resourced communities, some in the US and some outside the US and how their resilience and creativity enabled them to endure and/or thrive through the pandemic. Attendees will see how donations have furthered fulfilling Maria Montessori's vision of world peace one community at a time. If you serve an under-resourced community and you have a project that needs funding, please visit our [website](#), for more information and to request a grant application.



## Jazz and Social Justice (virtual)

Presented by: Doug Goodkin

Why is racism still so prevalent in American culture some 150 years after the end of slavery? How can we finally turn it around and heal the wounds? Two of the most effective strategies involve Proximity and Narrative. Proximity means having the opportunity to work together, to play together, to talk together with people of all sorts of identities so that we arrive at the common humanity behind our perceived differences. Narrative means identifying the

ongoing story that prevents us from such simple human exchange, a story put forward by those who benefit from the privilege and power that systemic racism feeds. In this session, we will come to know select jazz artists as people both extraordinary and ordinary, as neighbors we would like to invite over for dinner. We will also see how the narrative of systemic racism runs through each of their lives and consider the multiple ways they responded to it as possibilities for our own form of resistance and healing. A special feature of the session will be examples of how to share this information with students.

# Friday Workshops 2:00-3:30 PM



## **Resilience Through Creativity**

**Presented by: William & Hollis Bokhout**

Resilience through Creativity: Using songs and music as a backdrop to a creative learning environment. Creating the Soundtrack of your Classroom.



## **See Myself and Be Myself: LGBTQ+ Inclusion in the Casa and Infant Community**

**Presented by: Angela Ma**

Angie Ma, a Primary and Assistants to Infancy trained Montessori teacher, shares the ways her personal experience as a lesbian and child of queer parents shapes her practice and perspectives. From this lens, she'll help you stretch your understanding to create more space for a young child's developing sense of self. Examine routines, language, and daily life in the classroom to demystify allyship and LGBTQ+ inclusion for families and children from birth to six years.



## **Climate Justice as the Critical Educational Paradigm for Montessorians**

**Presented by: Judith Cunningham**

We are in the midst of a unique period in human history, one in which we are forced to think much larger and more interdependently than we have ever before. This moment demands more than ever the Montessori educational paradigm, one in which systems thinking and problem-solving are integrated with science, history, social action, economics, ecology, and governance. Montessori Education is a key enabler and an integral part of creating a just and sustainable world for all.



## **Beloved Reclamation: Using Culturally-Centered Narratives to Support Healing and Well-Being (virtual)**

**Presented by: Habeebah Rasheed Grimes**

For people of the global majority, stories of generational trauma either go untold or are pathologized, in both cases, causing harm to identity formation and self-concept. Reflecting on personal and professional experiences, Habeebah Rasheed Grimes invites participants to explore the social and psychological benefits of using asset-focused, culturally-centered personal narrative development to support healing and well-being for adults and children who have experienced cultural trauma.

# Friday Workshops 4:00-5:30 PM



## Policy and Advocacy for the Future of Montessori (virtual)

Presented by: Wendy Shenk-Evans, Denise Monnier, Vyju Kadambi

Join MPPI staff for a session spotlighting updates and advancements in our policy and advocacy work over the last year. We have new projects underway and new advocacy strategies to share. Learn about the important policy issues we are currently focused on and how you can get involved. Network and strategize with other Montessori advocates while participating in hands on advocacy strategy activities.

Participants will be asked to both share information and also elicit responses from their groups, then everyone will reflect on why they were effective or ineffective at both of those activities and how personal and cultural differences affect the way we communicate and receive information, and how we can consciously work to reduce those challenges in our advocacy work. The activity will necessitate a safe space to encourage participants to share their authentic reactions to the communications they receive and for those communicating to be able to brainstorm what goes well/not and why.

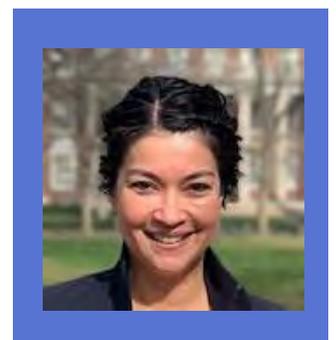
In addition to community engagement, we will present information on and lead discussion about universal preschool and where this movement is headed as we look to the future, and how to get informed and involved.

Participants will leave with knowledge of current policy landscape as it pertains to Montessori programs and will be familiar with important areas for policy work in the next year. They will learn about and practice advocacy strategies that they can put to practice when they return to their states.

## English Learner Support presented by NCMPS

Presented by: María Carvajal

This session is for Montessorians at all levels interested in supporting emergent English learners through the in-class curriculum. Participants will learn about best practices for effectively teaching English learners in Montessori lessons and classrooms as well as different ways to foster collaborative work between Montessori guides and ESL specialists.



# Level Intensives

Saturday + Sunday



## **A to I Refresher Course: The Origins of Creativity and Resilience**

Presented by Merry Hadden

Have you ever asked yourself where, how, or when creativity begins? Or what is its connection to resilience? Have you ever wondered how we can support children in this delicate process of developing their unlimited creative potential? I invite you to come as we discover these miraculous mysteries, together.

*Merry Hadden will be in person and livestreamed to a virtual audience.*



## **Primary Refresher Course: Heritages, Traditions and Culture - Children's Contribution to the Creation of a Diverse Society Embracing All Heritages**

Presented by Teng-Chien Yu

The child develops their human characteristics by absorbing all the elements in their environment without any filtration, judgements, or prejudices. Adults are responsible for the preparation of the environment, done either consciously or unconsciously. The environment we prepare for the child must be one equipped with scientifically designed and proven materials that reflect the essence of the culture enabling the children's exploration. "The child strives to assimilate his environment and from such efforts springs the deep-seated unity of his personality." (Montessori, 2017) Thus, we must look to ourselves first and examine our very own heritages and traditions. In creating a diverse culture, we must first embrace that of our own and develop the ability to appreciate and further advocate all heritages and traditions. The child is not only the creator of their personality but also the creator of culture in the future. You are invited to explore the heritages, traditions and cultures so as to help each other become more capable of supporting the child to create a diverse culture.

*Teng-Chien Yu will be in person and content will be provided to a virtual audience in a variety of ways including livestream.*

# Level Intensives

## Saturday + Sunday



### **Elementary Refresher Course: Movement and Observation: A Path to Self-knowledge**

**Presented by Ana Camilla Jiménez Borbolla**

“It is often we who obstruct the child. We have to watch ourselves most carefully. The real preparation for education is a study of one’s self. The training of the teacher who is to help life is something far more than a learning of ideas. It includes the training of character; it is a preparation of the spirit.” (Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*).

Our sessions together will be comprised of exercises and activities that will guide us to self-knowledge; to reconnect with ourselves and with our colleagues. We will take the time to do some movement exercises to find a balance between our mind and body.

As Montessorians, we know that observation is the most useful tool in our work. We know that observation will give us the answers to our questions, but we can also use it for self-discovery. Through observation, we will become aware of our preconceived ideas and prejudices. This path will permit us to see the child for who she is and serve her in a noble and unique way.

I look forward to our time together, no expectations, no egos, just our true selves.

*This session will only be held in person.*



### **Elementary (Open Track): Implementing Strong Montessori Elementary**

**Presented by Elizabeth Slade & Allison Jones**

Come to the first-ever Open Elementary workshop at the AMI/USA & AMI-EAA Montessori Experience. Long-time Montessorians, Elizabeth Slade and Allison Jones will lead a two-day workshop looking at implementing strong Montessori in the elementary classroom. With observation at the core of our method, this session will address how practitioners build high-functioning classrooms where children are excited to learn and develop the balance of freedom and responsibility. The workshop leaves you with an abundance of creative ideas as well as tools and resources to support building a resilient, thriving elementary classroom.



*Speakers will be in person and livestreamed to a virtual audience.*

# Level Intensives

## Saturday + Sunday



### **Assistants: The Prepared Assistant**

Presented by Rhonda Sabater

Designed to give the assistant practical support with their task of supporting the guide in the prepared environment and includes a look at Montessori theory and practical application highlighting the importance of observation as the number one tool in the assistant's toolbox.

*Rhonda Sabater will be in person and livestreamed to a virtual audience.*



### **Special: Play, Sing and Dance: Music and Movement in the Montessori Classroom**

Presented by Inga Sieminski, with special guest Doug Goodkin on Sunday afternoon

We have been schooled to think of music and dance as special talents, but in fact they are essential human faculties we all possess. As the saying goes, “if you can walk, you can dance, if you can talk, you can sing” - and we all can remember how to play. This two-day workshop provides a comprehensive framework of developmental skills and strategies for integrating elemental music and movement in the classroom. Understanding that active music-making is as old as humankind, Carl Orff framed these primal musical instincts in a holistic child-centered pedagogy, which became Orff-Schulwerk-Music for Children. Using our original “instruments” – body and voice, rhythm emerges from natural speech patterns, singing moves from the universal two-tone childhood call to joyful singing games, and improvisation transfers from body percussion to simple percussion instruments. Movement and play evolve naturally from childlike activities and progress to more sophisticated expressions. We will also examine how these universal modes of expression can be a pathway into celebrating cultural diversity and reflect on how Orff principles can both complement and support our Montessori practice.

*This session will only be held in person.*



# Level Intensives Administrators

## SATURDAY



### Hopes and Fears: Working with Parents in Challenging Times

Presented by Dr. Rob Evans

Conversations and scenario discussions about family engagement will be facilitated by Dr. Rob Evans.

*Dr. Rob Evans will be in person and livestreamed to a virtual audience.*

## SUNDAY



### Montessori Architecture

Presented by: Ronny Cohen Piotraut

The spaces we create, are the stages of our lives. From the Montessori approach, the environment is the child's additional educator. During this lecture, we will talk about the impact of the architectural environment on learning and how significant it is. Locations of windows, walls, the child's perspectives from his surroundings to his inner world. In addition, we will discuss, how to approach an existing space and adapt it to be an important part of their education and a preparation for life itself. What are the challenges and how to overcome them and most importantly to light the inner and outer space of the child.

*The Montessori Architecture presentation will be live on Zoom and there will be a Q&A portion at the end.*

# Level Intensives Administrators

**SUNDAY**

## Leading with Levity: creating a culture of humor, joy, and play (especially when you ain't feelin' it)

Presented by Michele Shane and Lisa Thauvette

Maya Angelou's salient quote, "I don't trust anyone who doesn't laugh," takes us beyond just the 'fun' of laughter, but also its critical link to trustful relationships. Humor, comedy, and laughter are uniquely human, and bond and unite communities more expediently and firmly than most group experiences. Humor is a magical combination of surprise and truth. Incongruity elicits surprise and recognition of a shared understanding demonstrates truth; together, these build community. Cultivating a culture of levity in our schools is foundational to building relationships, establishing empathy, and maintaining trust. Our communities become more resilient, dynamic, and innovative. Some leaders shy away from levitous activities with concern of causing offense, veering into inappropriateness, or being perceived as non-serious or non-academic. On the contrary, leaders and communities are perceived as 'smarter' when humor is infused in the culture. This workshop will share techniques and insights on how to bring more levity and lightness to teams, especially and most importantly during 'rough times'. As well, attendees will participate in fun and humorous activities and games which will support the theory shared, and can also serve as activities which they can immediately implement with their home teams.



*The presenters will be in person and content will be delivered to virtual attendees in a variety of ways.*



## Open Space Discussion on the Teacher Shortage & Recruitment

Facilitated by Alan Preece

We welcome administrators to this open space discussion on the teacher shortage & recruitment in order to share effective strategies.

# Level Intensives

## Adolescent Refresher Course - Saturday



### Adaptation and the Human Brain

Presented by: Guadalupe Borbolloa

How counterintuitive thinking can help us confront adversity. How the driving force of the Home can help us to transcend hardship.



### Creativity and Math (virtual)

Presented by: John McNamara

“The role of education is to interest the child profoundly in an external activity to which he will give all his potential.” Maria Montessori. How do we learn to let go of what we want for our students and instead watch for what they are passionate about?



### Self-Expression as Creative Self-Construction

Presented by Laurie Ewert-Krocker

Montessori observed “creative tendencies” in adolescents and recognized the significance of activity that leads to the formation of the adolescent’s identity, role in community, and deepening relationships. How do these “creative tendencies” play out in development? How do they build strength confidence, and resilience? How do we support them in our prepared environment for adolescents?



### The Resilience of the Human Spirit (virtual)

Presented by Pat Ludick

Montessori speaks clearly of both the challenge and the wonder of living out our lives with a sense of purpose and meaning. We need worthy struggle on our journey as well as purpose, noble work, and a true engagement with the world. Pat will discuss how the prepared environment for the adolescent serves life but also invites us to examine our own ability to develop awareness, nurture insights, cultivate understanding, and discern judgement as we guide young people into adulthood.

# Level Intensives

## Adolescent Refresher Course - Sunday



### The Adolescent Project in Kodaikanal (virtual)

Presented by Zorian Patrick

In the Hill Station of Kodaikanal, a prominent location for Montessorians because of Dr. Montessori's work there while she was interned during World War II, we have decided to set up a project with the goal to propagate Montessori work in India—specifically, work on development of Adolescent communities in India and Montessori training with a focus on reaching all communities in line with the guidelines for Educateurs Sans Frontieres.



### Spiritual and Social Dimensions of Purposeful Work

Presented by Patricia Pantano

The adolescent drive to be engaged in purposeful work carries within it potential for deep spiritual and social connection, both for individual adolescents themselves and for the future of the human community. We will explore these connections and how they are developed in an adolescent community.



### Adolescent Activism - The Intersection of Creativity and Resilience

Presented by Tina Booth

The adolescent is an interesting creature with the unique characteristic of having one foot in childhood and one foot in adulthood. Adults working side-by-side with adolescents are able to observe the emergence of the great values of optimism, empathy, humility, and introspection. Adolescent-driven action research and activist activity provide an opportunity for the expression of these values. How can the adult collaborate with adolescents as they engage in the work of building a more sustainable and equitable world?

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### Montessori Adolescents and Alumni Speak (virtual)

Panelists: Alex Camarillo, Ivana Casis López, Nick Downer, Cole Wilson

Four young adults who are in the last years of their Montessori education or who spent formative years in Montessori education speak to the impact of Montessori on their lives, their perspectives, and their work. They come from private, public, land-based, urban, residential, and day-school Montessori adolescent communities located in Ohio, California, and Mexico. They reflect on the questions: *How has your life in Montessori nurtured your ability to be creative and adapt?* Alex, Ivana, Nick, and Cole share their stories with us, and will be part of an interactive panel where they will collectively reflect and answer your questions.



# Monday Workshops 9–10:30 AM



## **Growth Mindset: A Path Toward Creativity and Resilience**

**Presented by: Michelle Becka**

Do you believe that intelligence is a fixed trait, or do you think you can always learn new things? Do you typically give it your all when attempting something new, or do you avoid exerting strong effort? What is your reaction to failing after attempting something new? Your response to these questions can influence your Mindset, a way of thinking that includes attitudes about learning, views on effort and failure, and recovery from setbacks.

Please join Michelle Becka, AMI Primary Director of Training, to explore this interesting and contemporary topic. In this session, you will be offered a tool for self-reflection and assessment, helping you to understand which type of Mindset you currently embrace. Participants will investigate the current research about Growth Mindset, including what it is and what it is not. We will then discover the variety of ways that Montessori adults can foster a supportive Growth Mindset for themselves, for their colleagues, and for the children and students with whom they work. Discussion and questions will follow, as time allows.



## **The Power of Emotions in Teaching: Increasing Resilience and Creativity**

**Presented by: Dr. Lisa Sanden**

Every day, teachers experience a wide range of emotions, from joy and love to sadness, and even anger. Yet, many emotions are not appropriate to show or to express in the classroom. Unfortunately, suppressing them increases our levels of stress and burnout, is known to increase stress in those around us, and takes a toll on our resilience and creativity. This session will focus on learning the practical, day-to-day skills of emotional intelligence so that we can be more resilient, present, and creative with ourselves and with the children.

## **Educateurs sans Frontières – A Conversation About Local Challenges and Creative Solutions**

Maria Montessori started her work with children from the under-resourced Rome San Lorenzo district. She advocated for the social mission of education and created a method able to support any child in their development, regardless of their background, place of birth or financial situation.

During this session, we will hear from a number of EsF initiatives from all over the world that apply Montessori principles in innovative ways and diverse contexts. Resilience and creativity are inherent to their work as they adapt to changing circumstances and needs of the local community. The initiatives show the importance of involving communities to achieve sustainable change, and the need for creative solutions to diverse challenges.

Following these presentations, we will continue with a conversation about the application of Montessori principles to address a need or challenge in our own local context or community. What challenges do we observe and how can our creativity and knowledge of Montessori principles help to address some of these challenges? Participants of the session will be divided into smaller break-out groups to facilitate active participation and in-depth conversations.

## **La Preparación Espiritual del Adulto en Tiempo de Incertidumbre (virtual)**

**Eder Cuevas, Cristina A De Leon Medina, Jinny Gonzalez**

Educación en tiempos de incertidumbre requiere de un adulto preparado con un alto grado de creatividad y resiliencia. Acompáñanos en una charla amena y reflexiva, sobre las necesidades y recursos que necesita el adulto, guías y padres, para ser ayuda para la vida en las condiciones que el presente nos otorga.



# Monday Keynote Sessions

## Keynote Panel: Leveraging Creativity and Resilience In Schools 11 AM – 12 PM

**Presented by: Ken Williams and Michelle Becka**

**Hosted by: Dr. Ayize Sabater**

Join Ken Williams of Unfold The Soul, and Michelle Becka, AMI Primary Director of Training, for a panel discussion hosted by our very own Ayize Sabater. Together we will explore how to engage teacher teams in high-leverage equitable practices, and discover how to create a culture of Growth Mindset for all. Paraphrasing the words of Dr. Howard Thurman, “Above the heads of their students, great teachers hold a crown they challenge them to grow tall enough to wear.” We will link this vision to the topic of Growth Mindset, and delve into how to embrace this type of mindset amongst the entire community of adults and children. Engaging in this practice is a critical element that should be embedded in the DNA of every school’s culture. Let’s discover how teachers can “Start With The Crown” and incorporate strategies which create a creative and resilient mindset for the entire community of children and adults.

*The speakers will be in person and livestreamed to a virtual audience.*



## Closing Keynote: Inclusive Education for a Neurodiverse World: Radically Reevaluating Your Relationships

**12:30 – 1:30 PM (virtual)**

**Presented by: Dr. Silvia C. Dubovoy**

In this inspiring talk, Dr. Dubovoy will explain why now is the time to radically reevaluate your relationships with children, parents, and colleagues. As a foundation, she will explore how in order to provide functionally inclusive Montessori environments, we need to create sacred, unshakable habits of introspection that can periodically chip away at our own prejudices, whether conscious or unwittingly acquired through

exposure to media and culture. For Dr. Dubovoy, the possibility of an all-inclusive education for children begins in the heart of their caregivers. She will also propose that Montessori classrooms incorporate additional healing modalities within art, music, mindfulness practices, breathing work and outdoor activities in order to compensate for the psychological stress that children are experiencing at this moment in history. Throughout the talk, she will return to her central theme: the importance of focusing on strengths rather than weaknesses as a way to build healthy relationships based on love and respect. And finally, she will discuss the transformative power of approaching life and your relationships with others from a solution-oriented rather than a problem-oriented mentality.



# Monday Workshops

## AMI/USA Membership Town Hall 12:30 – 1:30 PM (in person)

Hosted by: Dr. Ayize Sabater

2021 has been particularly stressful. Join our AMI/USA Membership Town Hall so that members can share questions, concerns and ideas about how we can pull together, as a community, to weather these challenging times.

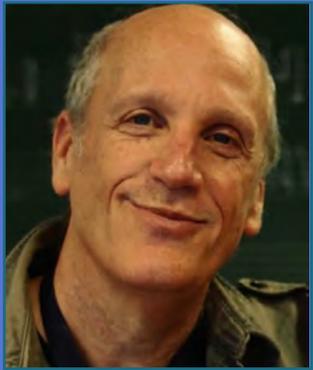


## Closing Session 2 – 3 PM

Presented by: Doug Goodkin

Join AMI/USA and EAA as we celebrate the close of the conference and reflect on our collective creativity and resilience. During the course of the weekend we explored how music is so much closer to us than we think. Come discover how you are more musical than you think you are as we make exciting music from simple structures.

*Stay tuned for special guests TBA!*



# Special Events

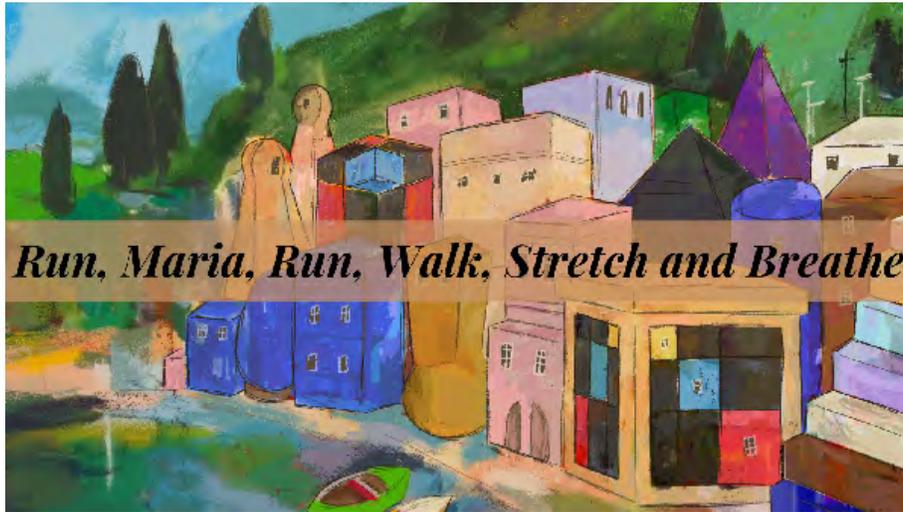
Saturday 7:30–8:15 a.m.

## Movement as a Foundation of Wellness in Montessori

Presented by: Barbara Murphy, PhD and Martin Yaconis, Eng

In this presentation, we will examine exercise as a form of self-care and a cornerstone of wellness for both children and adults. We will also see how the conscious building of physical literacy following Montessori principles constitutes the most authentic and appropriate implementation of the Montessori Movement and Physical Education Curriculum. Finally, we will explore how the further incorporation of wellness-related concepts and activities into the learning experience can help both children and educators better prepare for life in uncertain times.

This presentation will be 45 mins in advance of the start time for the level intensives to get people familiar and excited about the Montessori Wellness Corner in addition to providing content.



Sunday 7:00–8:00 a.m.

On Sunday, February 20, 2022 we will come together and celebrate Run, Maria, Run & Walk by sharing activities both in person and virtually. For those attending in person, we will come together before the sessions start in the beautiful outside space. Francoise Deristel-Leger will lead those in person with a yoga, deep breathing and mindfulness practice which will allow the group to learn to self regulate with tools that can be brought back into your school community. Consider a [donation to our Annual Giving Fund](#) to help support our goal of reaching an additional 50K in honor of the 50th.



# Celebrating Life & Creative Expression

Saturday 8:00–9:30 p.m.



Join **Judy Jones** and many within our Montessori community on Saturday, February 19 for a Celebration of Life & Creative Expression. During this event we will honor Montessorians from our community who have passed including Sanford Jones and celebrate their lives through creative expression. Get ready to sing, move and be creative as a community.



We are excited to launch the **Sanford Jones Fund for the Arts** which honors the significant artistic contributions of Sanford Jones by seeking to increase arts in Montessori schools nationally. AMI/USA Members will be eligible to apply for some portion of the funds to use for creative arts at their school community. Please stay tuned for details which will be forthcoming. [Click here](#) for the full program and more information about the speakers.



The evening will begin with **Partha Balaji**, former South Lake Montessori student opening with Mridangam, an Indian classical percussion instrument. During the celebration, we will come together to sing some of the community's favorite Sanford Jones songs with **Bill & Hollis Bokhout!** Then we will journey back in time with **Amy Mayer** to 1957 when a brilliant scientist, educator, and peace activist took to the world stage to present her vision of peace for all humankind.



*Walking in Her Shoes: Presenting...Dr. Montessori* is a solo theatrical performance that weaves a unique tapestry of pedagogical lectures, diary entries, letters, periodicals, and other primary sources into a series of dramatic vignettes that highlight the essence of Dr Maria Montessori's legacy as an agent of world peace and social change.

Next, we will enjoy **Improvisation for joy and connection!**

For the past few months Lisa and a group of playful and curious Montessorians have been meeting online once a month for an hour to play improv scenes and games for the sole purpose of joy and connection. Tonight you can experience this too! Lisa will lead us in activities highlighting spontaneity, empathy, and connection...giving us a unique, never-to-happen again experience, and also something to chuckle about at breakfast tomorrow.



The Montessori Improv Players: Meg Ackerman\*, Ryan Adams\*, Zarrin Atkins, Sheri Bishop\*, Tina Booth\*, Holly Evers, Amy Mayer\*, James Moudry, Sue Pritzker

\*These players will be on site in Orlando!



We will also be joined by **Work Release**, a local folk group with Dan Gribbin, Joel Kelley and Jan Sheldon (owner of South Lake Montessori School in Clermont, FL!



# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

## Options

### LEVEL INTENSIVES

Saturday + Sunday

#### Refresher Courses:

A to I  
Primary  
Elementary\*  
Adolescent

#### Other Intensives:

### Music & Movement

Administrators

Assistants

Elementary (open)

### WORKSHOPS

Friday + Monday

### KEYNOTES

Friday + Monday

\*Open to AMI Elementary diploma holders only.  
An EAA & AMI membership is required.

## PRICING

#### Early Bird Registration:

In-Person Member Rate: \$499  
In-Person Non-Member Rate: \$589  
Virtual Member Rate: \$399  
Virtual Non-Member Rate: \$499

#### Keynote Only Pass:

(In-Person Only)  
Member Rate: \$60  
Non-Member Rate: \$100

#### Advance Purchase Registration:

In-Person Member Rate: \$568  
In-Person Non-Member Rate: 653  
Virtual Member Rate: \$450  
Virtual Non-Member Rate: \$599

#### Walk-In Registration:

In-Person Member Rate: \$619  
In-Person Non-Member Rate: \$699  
Virtual Member Rate: \$499  
Virtual Non-Member Rate: \$599

## Registration Deadlines

#### Early Bird Deadline

Friday, December 17, 2021

Registrations must be postmarked (or time stamped for online registrations) by December 17 to receive the early bird rate.

#### Advance Purchase Deadline

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

All advance registrations must be postmarked by January 12. After this date, registration will only be accepted on-site.

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Meal Changes/Registration Transfer Deadline

A higher fee will apply for walk-in registrations.

#### Virtual Registration Deadline

Friday, February 11, 2022

**REGISTER ONLINE AT**  
<https://ami.c3groups.com>

# POLICIES

## Cancellation/Refund Policies

Virtual conference registrations are non-refundable. Requests for refunds for in-person conference registrations made in writing (email is acceptable) and received by January 12, 2022 will be refunded 50% of the registration fee paid. Requests made between January 12 and February 9, 2022 will be refunded 25% of the registration fee paid. There will be no refunds issued for requests made after February 9, 2022. Membership fees and hotel reservation deposits are non-refundable.

## 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 Wednesday, January 12, 2022. Membership fees are non-transferable.

## Meal Preference

Changes to meal preference between standard and vegan are permitted until Wednesday, January 12, 2022.

## Certificates

Certificates will be available by request at [amiusa.org](http://amiusa.org) following the conclusion of The Montessori Experience. Attendees must attend the full session in order to receive their certificate.

## Continuing Education Credits

Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) are available through Loyola University Maryland's Center for Montessori Education for a fee. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Memberships

AMI/USA and EAA memberships must be current through Monday, February 21, 2022.\*\*

\*\*If your membership needs to be renewed in order to attend the In Person AMI Elementary Diploma Only Level Intensive, or to receive the member rate for your registration and you do not indicate this during the registration process, your card will be automatically charged for the renewal the week of January 12, 2022.

## 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 by January 21, 2022. Please [contact Samantha Levine](#), with details of your needs.

## Photo Use

Your photo may be taken during The 2022 Montessori Experience: Refresher Course and Workshops and may be posted online or in printed material. Attendance at The Montessori Experience is consent for photo release.

# POLICIES

## Speaker Policy

AMI/USA reserves the right to replace speakers who are unable to attend or to cancel presentations if necessary. Disclaimer - any views, thoughts, and opinions expressed by those making presentations are those of the speaker. Presentations made at AMI/USA events do not constitute an endorsement by AMI/USA of the views expressed or any services described or offered.

## Virtual Sessions Access

You will receive further communications on virtual conference specifics including links to the sessions closer to the event.

*Video recording of sessions is NOT permitted.*

*Not all vendors are AMI-approved manufacturers.*

**VISIT US ONLINE AT**

**<https://ami.c3groups.com>**

**TO READ OUR COVID-19 POLICIES**

## Registration Times

Friday, February 18  
8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 19  
7:30 – 9:00 a.m.

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## AMI/USA's Racial Equity Action Project

AMI/USA staff were blessed to participate in a Racial Equity Action course through [Embracing Equity](#). Part of our commitment to integrate racial equity into our programming will include a relevant and impactful Racial Equity Action for participants for AMI/USA's Montessori Experience 2022 in Orlando, Florida. Our goals are:

- to amplify current social issues that impact Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), help right historical wrongs, raise our voices to insure that the true history of our nation will be taught in a way that liberates us all, and support organizations that serve the everyday needs of the most vulnerable people;
- to capture the stories of our human experience;
- to make a positive impact within the local community;
- to provide ME 2022 participants experience with taking Racial Equity action.

## Racial Equity Action Table at The 2022 Montessori Experience

The following opportunities for action will be available to in-person attendees at The 2022 Montessori Experience:

1. Action requesting consideration for a [Presidential Pardon for Human Rights Pioneer Marcus Garvey](#) and [click here](#) to learn more about Marcus Garvey
2. [Educators Pledge to Teach the Truth](#) - Zinn Education Project;
3. Donate care products to local community - [One Heart for Women and Children](#) (Orlando);
4. Participate in [AMI/USA's Montessori in the USA Story Project](#) - see more information on the next page

*These opportunities will also be available to online attendees.*

## Montessori Wellness Corner

*Powered by Montessori Gym*

*Daily, 8:00 a.m.*

A space to move, stretch, breathe and recharge in between workshops at The Montessori Experience!



## Meet and Greet/Networking Opportunity

*Sunday, February 20, 5:30 p.m. ET*

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

Please [contact Samantha Levine](#), AMI/USA Director of Events, if your school is interested in having a table at the event. Please note: we have limited spaces available.

## Scholarships Available

AMI/USA offers a limited number of scholarships to AMI/USA Members. [Click here](#) to submit an application by Friday, December 10.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## AMI/USA's "Montessori in the USA" Story Project

What is YOUR Montessori Story? We invite all of our community partners to share your Montessori story and help celebrate the historical occasion of AMI/USA's 50th anniversary during the year of 2022!



The purpose of AMI/USA's "Montessori in the USA" Story Project is to preserve our Montessori cultural heritage for the future, to build on past successes and failures, to document the contributions of individuals to the growth of Montessori in the United States, and to celebrate the wealth of experience that exists in Montessori education.

The benefits of AMI/USA's "Montessori in the USA" Story Project include gathering insightful commentary regarding how we implement best practices in Montessori education. Other benefits include creating community within and among Montessorians in the United States, influencing the larger education community by sharing Montessori success stories, and aiding in the creation of new Montessori schools in the United States and beyond, in order to reach more children.

Please share your story and help us celebrate!!

<https://archive.storycorps.org/communities/montessori-in-the-usa-story-project/>

