



# **The 2023 Montessori Experience: Refresher Courses & More**

**Spiritual Preparation: Grounded and Growing**

**February 17-20, 2023 | Baltimore, Maryland**

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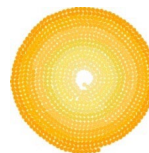
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AMI/EAA, a member-run professional association of AMI elementary teachers and trainers, provides a supportive community for the exchange of ideas and promotes the principles of Montessori education.  
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##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

The Montessori Experience: Refresher Courses & More is open to all. AMI diploma is only required for the Elementary Refresher Course. You will be prompted to select a "Refresher Course or Workshop Track" in your profile for the in-person sessions Saturday-Sunday.

- Assistant To Infancy Refresher Course**
- Primary Refresher Course**
- Elementary Refresher Course (for AMI diploma holders)**
- Adolescent Refresher Course**
- Administrator Workshop Track**
- Assistant To Infancy Assistant Workshop Track**
- Primary Assistant Workshop Track**
- Grounded and Growing Workshop Track (open to all)**

This registration includes:

- All Non-Level Intensive (Friday and Monday) Workshops (In-person)**
- WMI 60th Anniversary Celebration (Saturday evening)**
- Lunch on Saturday and Sunday**
- Keynote reception and closing (Friday evening & Monday morning)**

Refresher Courses/Workshops (Friday - Monday):

- AMI/USA Member Rate - \$568\*
- Non-Member Rate - \$653

Walk-In Registration (Friday - Monday):

- Member: \$619\*
- Non-Member: \$699

Opening Keynote pass (Friday only)

- AMI/USA Member Rate - \$125\*
- Non-Member Rate - \$175
- Friday Keynote pass and AMI/USA membership - \$224\*

*\*Membership has benefits including savings off all registration categories, starting at \$50 for Friday only passes to \$85 for full registration*

# Schedule At-a-Glance

## Friday, February 17

**8:30 - 9:00 a.m.** Welcome & Land Acknowledgment

**9:30 - 12:30 p.m.** Elementary workshop - Come Together: Transforming Teams Through Lesson Study

**10:30 - 12:00 p.m.**

- Understanding the State of Mind That Embodies Montessori's "Spiritual Preparation"
- Science of Reading: Support for Montessori Schools Impacted by State Legislation
- Cultivating Healthy Adult Relationships

**12:00 - 1:00 p.m.** Lunch

**1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

- Elementary - Collectively Renewing the Montessori Curriculum
- Practitioner Inquiry: Montessori and a Data-Informed Stance

**2:00 - 3:30 p.m.**

- Integrating the Arts to Awaken Mindfulness, Spiritual Alignment, Civic Engagement, and Social Justice in the Montessori Classroom
- Walking in Her Shoes: Dr. Montessori and the Trailblazers of The American Montessori Movement
- Allowed & Proud: LGBTQ+ Inclusion in our Schools

**3:00 - 4:00 p.m.** Advancing Research in Montessori: Round Table Discussion

**4:00 - 5:30 p.m.** MPPI session: The Future of Montessori Advocacy

**6:00 - 8:30 p.m.** Opening Celebration and Keynote Reception with Nikki Giovanni

## Saturday, February 18

**9:00 - 4:30 p.m.** Refresher Courses and Workshops\*

**9:00 - 10:30 a.m.** AMI/USA presents F.E.M.E. workshop pt.1 (open)

**10:30 - 12:00 p.m.** The Best Weapon for Peace (open)

**12:00 - 1:30 p.m.** Lunch

**1:45 - 2:30 p.m.** Indigenous Montessori material unveiling (open)

**2:30 - 4:30 p.m.** The "Baltimore Reservation" project (open)

**4:30 - 6:30 p.m.** WMI 60th Anniversary Celebration "Honoring the Past, Embracing Our Future"

## Sunday, February 19

**9:00 - 4:30 p.m.** Refresher Courses and Workshops\*

**9:00 - 10:00 a.m.** AMI/USA presents "Storytellers of Truth" pt.1 (open)

**10:00 - 12:00 p.m.** Embracing Equity workshop (open)

**12:00 - 1:30 p.m.** Lunch

**1:30 - 3:00 p.m.** AMI/USA presents F.E.M.E. workshop pt.2 (open)

**3:00 - 4:30 p.m.** AMI/USA presents "Storytellers of Truth" pt.2 (open)

**5:30 - 7:30 p.m.** Meet and Greet/Networking

\*Refresher Course Level Intensives: A to I Refresher Course, Primary Refresher Course, AMI/EAA Elementary Refresher Course, Adolescent Refresher Course, A to I Assistant Workshop Track, Primary Assistant Workshop Track, Administrator Workshop Track, and Grounded and Growing (open workshop track)

## Monday, February 20

**8:30 - 10:00 a.m.**

- How To Do What We Need to Do, With Montessori Intact
- Using Montessori Materials to Invite Meaningful Engagement and Maintain Skills for Adults Living with Dementia
- Becoming Awestruck: Igniting the Science of Transcendence in Montessori Communities
- You Too Can Do Practitioner Research
- Exploring the Montessori-Wellness Connection

**10:30 - 12:00 p.m.** Closing Keynote "Sisters in Spirit" with Pastor Jessica Jackson, Koren Clark, and Dr. Nitana Greendeer (Wampanoag)

**12:00 - 12:30 p.m.** Town Hall Meeting



# Opening Keynote Biography



Nikki Giovanni is one of this country's most widely read poets and one of America's most renowned poets world-wide. Her poem, "Knoxville, Tennessee," is arguably the single literary work most often associated with that city.

In 1968 she self-published her first poetry book, a nineteen-page staple-bound volume entitled, *Black Feeling Black Talk*, which sold some 2,000 copies in its first few months, which allowed Giovanni to self-publish her second book of poetry, *Black Judgement*. William Morrow & Company approached her about publishing her first two volumes together in one book, and *Black Feeling Black Talk/Black Judgement* was published in 1970.

In 1971, *Gemini: An Extended Autobiographical Statement on My First Twenty-Five Years of Being a Black Poet* was a finalist for the National Book Award. In that same year she published her first children's book, *Spin a Soft Black Song*, and released the album *Truth Is On Its Way Is On Its Way*, on which she read her poetry with and in juxtaposition to the New York Community Choir; although she made no money from it, *Truth* was an enormous success, selling some 100,000 copies in the first six months of its release.

In 1978, Giovanni's father suffered a stroke, and she and her son returned to Cincinnati to take care of her parents, and she did brief teaching stints at The Ohio State University and the College of Mount St. Joseph on the Ohio. In 1987 Nikki Giovanni began teaching at Virginia Tech, where she was named, in 1999, a University Distinguished Professor. Since she has been at Virginia Tech, she has published two collections of essays, several illustrated children's books (including the award-winning *Rosa*), and ten volumes of poetry for adults. In 2005, both her mother and her sister died of lung cancer, for which Giovanni herself had undergone successful surgery some ten years earlier. The loss of her mother was as profound a blow as she had ever experienced.

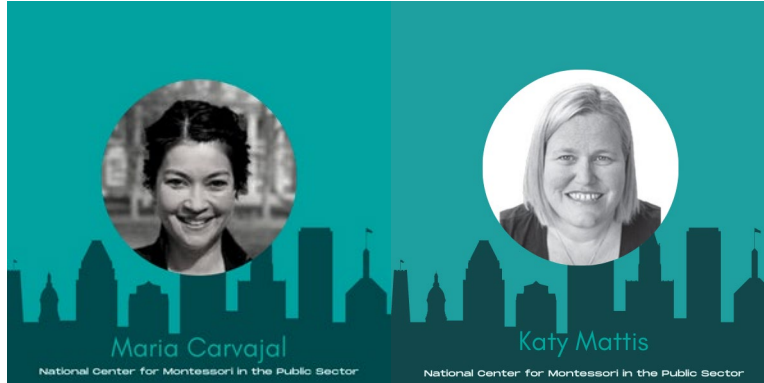
Giovanni has received numerous awards during the course of her career, including seven Image Awards from the N.A.A.C.P., more than two-dozen honorary degrees, the first Rosa Parks Woman of Courage Award, the Langston Hughes Medal for Poetry, and the Carl Sandburg Literary Award; additionally, Oprah Winfrey recognized her in 2005 as one of twenty-five "Living Legends." She continues to teach, write, and publish books, the most recent of which is *A Good Cry*. Her newest collection, *Make Me Rain*, was released in October of 2020.

# Friday Sessions and Presenters

9:30 - 12:30 p.m.

**Elementary workshop - Come Together: Transforming Teams Through Lesson Study** Presenters: Maria Carvajal, Katy Mattis

We will work together in this workshop-style presentation to understand how to use The NCMPS Montessori Curriculum to Standards Alignment to drive robust team discussions about specific lessons or lesson sequences. During the first portion of the presentation, teachers will follow the lesson study protocol to refine presentations and follow-up activities through collaborative sharing, observation, feedback, and reflection. The second portion of this presentation will focus on what to do when we, as Montessori educators, encounter concepts that are not found in our albums. Together we will design a new Montessori lesson by reflecting on the rationale for the lesson, the purpose of the lesson, and the components of a Montessori lesson at the Primary and Elementary levels.



10:30 - 12:00 p.m.

**Science of Reading: Support for Montessori Schools Impacted by State Legislation** Presenters: Dr. Susan Zoll, Dr. Laura Saylor, Dr. Natasha Feinberg

Are you aware that across the U.S., more than 30 states have either passed or are considering legislation that will influence the way reading instruction is conducted in classrooms? For Montessori schools - public, charter, and private - this can be particularly challenging if curriculum and instructional approaches mandate changes that differ from the Montessori Language materials and pedagogy. You will learn how the Montessori curriculum aligns to the Science of Reading. Participants will gain an understanding of the Science of Reading and its alignment to the Montessori Language curriculum, explore several state legislation & currently implemented school mandates, and be prepared to develop advocacy efforts where needed.



**Understanding the State of Mind That Embodies Montessori's "Spiritual Preparation"**

Presenter: Dr. Mary Verchuur

Spiritual preparation and inner transformation are fundamentally synonymous. The terms describe the essential preparation the adult undertakes in order to establish a positive, non-harmful relationship with the children in his/her care. Inner preparation involves a deep understanding of the fact that as human beings, each one of us is conditioned by the culture and the society into which we have been born and by which we have been educated. Culture and society impart values and ideals that, without our knowing it, become our own and rest deep in the sub-conscious.

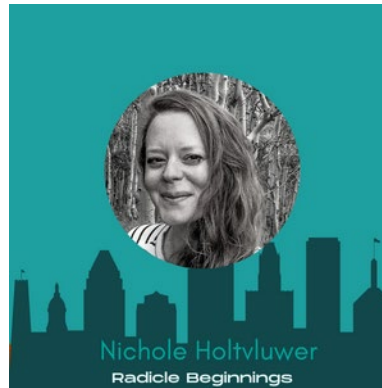


# Friday Sessions and Presenters

## Cultivating Healthy Adult Relationships

Presenter: Nichole Holtvluwer

A healthy and positive working relationship between all adults is a crucial aspect of the Montessori prepared environment, yet all too often we don't have the time, training or energy to cultivate and honor this special relationship. This workshop is focused on learning how to build a foundation rooted in respect and communication between the lead teacher and assistants. We will discuss how following the four agreements (and more!) can optimize the health and well-being of all the adults caring for the young child in an Infant or Toddler Community



1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

## Research Presentation (Part 1) "Practitioner Inquiry: Montessori and a Data Informed Stance"

Presenters: Tina Booth, Paige Bray, Bodeen Amyot, Rogie Dijk

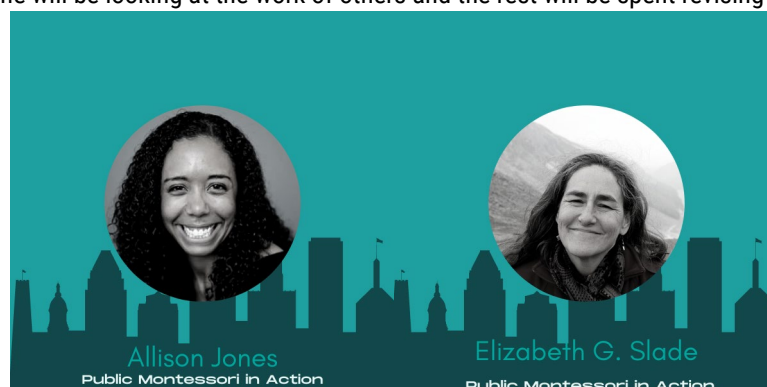
This session provides initial steps to engaging in your own data-informed knowledge documentation process to impact your daily practice. Examples of how you can create knowledge through engaging in systematic collection of data will be provided. Your knowledge contribution can also be shared with our global community through the Montessori Glossary Community Project, an open community dedicated to knowledge equity, shared authority, and the co-creation of an open access vocabulary of Montessori terms.



## Elementary Workshop (Part 2) "Collectively Renewing the Montessori Curriculum"

Presenters: Allison Jones, Elizabeth Slade

Montessori as a philosophy is revolutionary, child-centered, and based in scientific observation. With her beliefs about respect for the child and human dignity, and through her observations and experiments, Dr. Montessori developed a method of education that met the needs of the children in her care. When her pedagogy spread to other countries, the principles stayed the same but some of the practices and materials shifted to fit the new cultural context. Our aim is to contribute to a discussion of what Montessori looks like in our 21st-century classrooms with culturally and linguistically diverse learners, and how we prepare ourselves as adults to create that culturally responsive Montessori space. This open session is the middle of a conversation that is being held around the world. It is not the start, the end, nor the entirety of the conversation around diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion in Montessori spaces. It is instead an opportunity to learn about and join in the work of renewing the Montessori curriculum to include and affirm all learners. A portion of the time will be looking at the work of others and the rest will be spent revising or generating inclusive lessons, materials, and stories.



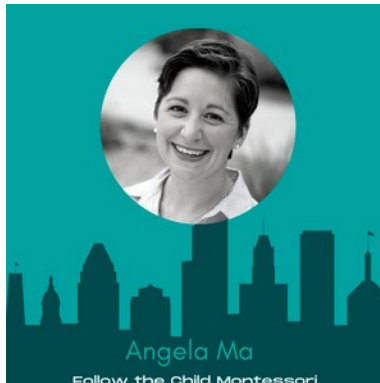
# Friday Sessions and Presenters

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

## **"Allowed & Proud: LGBTQ+ Inclusion in our Schools"**

Presenter: Angela Ma

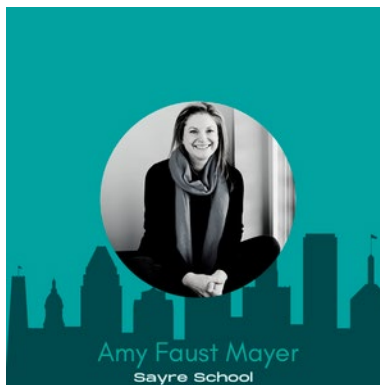
Angie will share how her experience both as a lesbian and child of queer parents shapes her practice and perspectives. She'll help frame our thinking about positive identity, gender norms, relationships, and families. In today's highly charged climate, expanding our thinking around LGBTQ+ equity is important for every family and every child.



## **"Walking in Her Shoes: Presenting...Dr. Montessori and the Trailblazers of The American Montessori Movement: Performance + Q&A"**

Presenter: Amy Faust Mayer

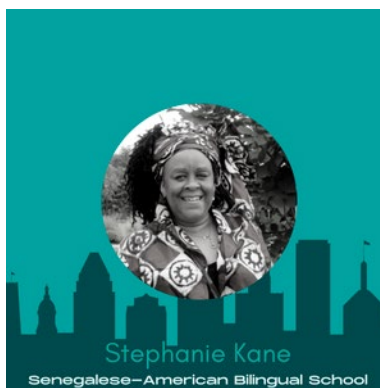
Audience members will journey through time with Amy Faust Mayer, playwright, actor, and AMI-trained guide, in an interactive tribute story honoring the life, work, and spirit of 12 educators in the United States: Maria Montessori, Anne George, Adelia Pyle, Margaret Naumberg, Helen Parkhurst, Anne Sullivan, Margaret Stephenson, Nancy McCormick Rambusch, Roslyn D. Williams, Karin Salzmann, Annette Haines, Kay Baker, and Joen Bettman. This theatrical solo performance weaves a unique tapestry of letters, diary entries, pedagogical lectures, and primary sources into a series of vignettes that highlight the spirit and legacy of Dr. Montessori and the trailblazers of the American Montessori movement in the United States.



## **"Integrating the Arts to Awaken Mindfulness, Spiritual Alignment, Civic Engagement and Social Justice in the Montessori Classroom"**

Presenter: Stephanie Kane

"What Happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun? Or fester like a sore-And then run? Does it stink like rotten Meat?" This artistic prose was written by Langston Hughes and is said to be one of the most famous poems penned by this twentieth century Harlem Renaissance giant of a poet. Written in 1951, this poem was the inspiration for Lorraine Hansberry's classic play, which starred Sidney Poitier, A Raisin in the Sun. Artistic poets like Hughes and so many others, like Amanda Gorman, Robert Frost, Maya Angelou, James Baldwin, have inspired us....in fact they have inspired practices to inspire the souls and spirits of the participants. Moreover, this workshop will not only seek to inspire one's heart but also challenge participants to consider what "civic engagement" action they can put their hand to advance justice within Montessori environments.





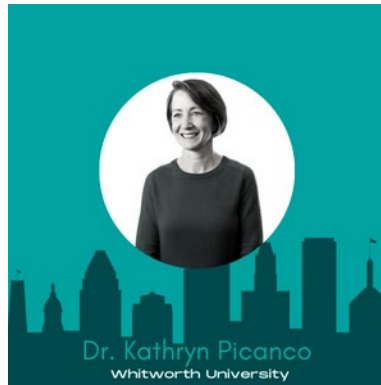
# Friday Sessions and Presenters

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

## "Advancing Research in Montessori: Round Table Discussion"

Presenter: Dr. Kathryn Picanco

Join us for a conversation to discuss the implications of current research in Montessori and to determine new areas for needed studies.

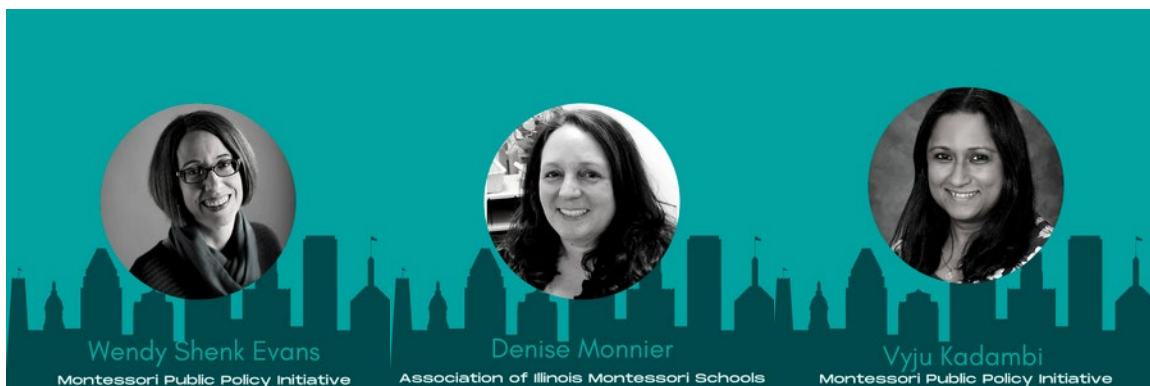


4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

## MPPI SESSION: "The Future of Montessori Advocacy"

Presenters: Wendy Shenk-Evans, Vyju Kadambi, Denise Monnier

Join the MPPI staff for a session with updates and advancements in our work over the last year. We have new projects underway and new advocacy strategies to share. Learn about the important policy issues we are focused on and how you can get involved. Network and strategize with other Montessori advocates while participating in hands on advocacy strategy activities. This session is open to everyone. Learning Objective(s): Participants will leave with knowledge of the 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 Montessori communities. After hearing a brief history of MPPI and learning about the policy areas we work in as well as the strategies we use to eliminate barriers, participants will be able to both share policy issues they face in their schools and work together strategizing and planning to address them. Through the basic advocacy steps, attendees can work to clearly articulate their policy challenges, identify potential decision makers, and strategize as to how to reach out, how to effectively communicate their needs, how to build relationships, and how to work collaboratively with policy makers to bring about positive change. MPPI staff and Montessori advocates of all levels will be present to participate in planning and discussion so that new advocates leave with steps.



# Saturday/Sunday Level Intensives Presenters

## Level Intensives: Refresher Courses and Workshops:

A to I Refresher Course, Primary Refresher Course, AMI/EAA Elementary Refresher Course, Adolescent Refresher Course, Assistants, Administrators, Grounded and Growing (open workshops)

9:00 - 4:30 p.m.

### Assistant to Infancy Refresher Course “Foundations of Personality Development”

Presenter: Ale Rosas

As we move forward in the 21st century, it is fundamental that Montessori Education remains a scientific educational method that serves as an aid to life. As neuroscience makes advances in the understanding of brain development, we continue to deepen our knowledge of the essential characteristics and needs of the child during the period of self-construction. Based on this information, which will continue to evolve and be revised as scientific knowledge makes headway, an update has been made to the 0-3 curriculum. Formerly known Child Neuropsychiatry Album, has been updated and renamed Foundation of Personality Development Album. This album includes an overview of the development of emotions, language, movement, cognition, and social skills, among other fascinating topics; and has as an aim to acquire a deeper understanding of human development, whilst offering the adult tools to deepening his understanding of his own personality. The goal of this refresher is to give participants an overview of the new album and offer them tools to make their work with children more meaningful as they transform their efforts into an authentic aid to life.



Alejandra Rosas  
Montessori Stoppani Institute



Elise Alevro  
Montessori Northwest

### Assistant to Infancy Assistant Workshop “Foundations of Emotional Regulation”

Presenter: Elise Alevro

Discover ways that early life experiences organize the developing child’s foundation for emotional regulation. Learn about how simple caring and attentive interactions with the children in our communities build their capacity to trust the environment and form healthy attachment styles. Explore emotions and ways to move through dysregulation into states of calm. Practice strategies to support emotional regulation in both children and adults.



Sarah Werner Andrews  
Montessori Northwest

### Primary Refresher Course “Filling the Air with Music”

Presenter: Sarah Werner Andrews

Music is the language of the soul, and has the power to nurture and enliven the spirit of children and adults alike. The Montessori approach to cultivating music in young children is part of our Montessori heritage, and integrates the eye, the ear, the hand, the voice and the soul - leaving an indelible impression of joy and grace. This refresher course will offer a holistic exploration of the Bells, introductory music theory, reading and writing music, as well as singing, rhythm, and movement. Following the path that the musical collaboration of Maria Montessori and Anna Maccheroni created, we will work together to cultivate the “spiritual inheritance that humanity bestowed upon children”, and have a great time together in the process!



M. Nia Seale  
AMI Primary Trainer

### Primary Assistant Workshop “The Spiritual Preparation of the Assistant: Exploring the Intangible”

Presenter: Mary (Nia) Seale

The Spiritual preparation of the adult in Montessori environments is an all important aspect of our work with children. How do we prepare ourselves to work with children? How do we personify the qualities we want to foster in children? Who is this child? What do they need? As we explore these questions, we will delve into both theoretical and practical aspects of our role in supporting the optimal development of the 3 to 6 year old child.

# Saturday/Sunday Level Intensives Presenters

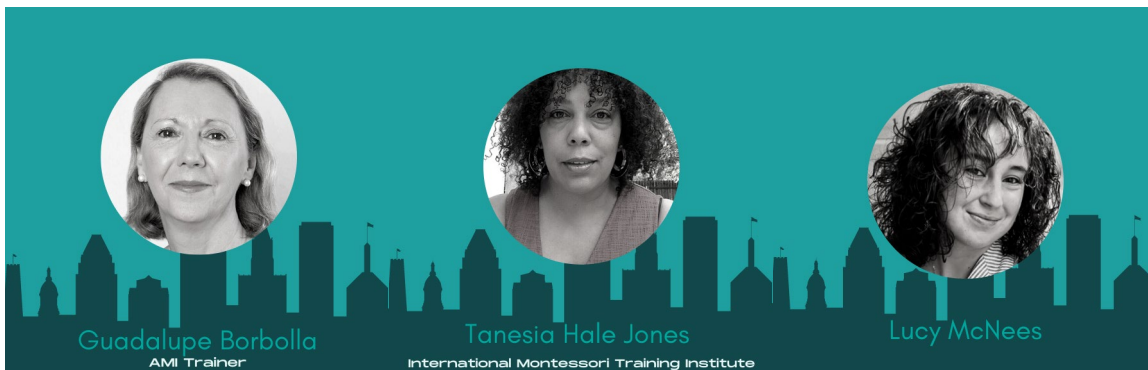
## Elementary Refresher Course “A Spiritual Preparation for Second Plane Guides” (for AMI-diploma holders/EAA members) Presenter: Rebecca Dallam

What does it mean to be a spiritually prepared adult for the Second Plane? We know our role as a generalist calls for many different understandings to support children’s social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development. Maria Montessori observed and wrote about many of those topics, which we use as guideposts in working with children. But what about more recent scientific research, which also helps us to better understand classroom challenges? We’ll survey factors that might affect children’s ability to develop and maintain the focus needed to engage in meaningful activity; each component will be examined as a separate session. Take away the accompanying slides to use as a sequence of parent education programmes within your school! “Our teachers thus penetrate the secret of childhood, and have a knowledge far superior to that of the ordinary teacher who becomes acquainted with only the superficial facts of the children’s lives.” Maria Montessori, Education for a New World, chapter 13



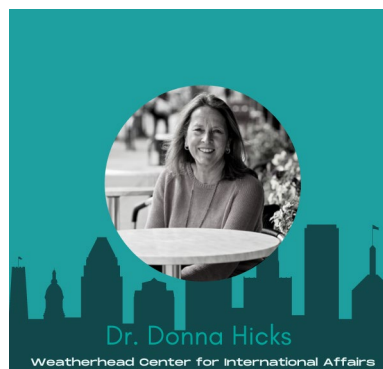
## Adolescent Refresher Course “The Spiritual Preparation of the Adult” and “The Art of Observation”; session 2 “The Adult’s Journey of Self-Discovery” Presenters: Guadalupe Borbolla, Tanesia Hale Jones, Lucy McNees

There are many aspects of preparation necessary for the professional and personal journey of the adult who works with children and adolescents. There is intellectual preparation, preparation in the scientific approach of Montessori pedagogy, and spiritual preparation of self-awareness, self-regulation, and strategies for finding equilibrium in our lives and work. The 12-18 session for the Montessori Experience will focus on Preparation of the Adult in all of these ways including lectures, workshop activities, seminar discussions, presentations by seasoned practitioners, and hearing the voice of a Montessori graduate.



## Administrator Workshop “Leading with Dignity” Presenter: Dr. Donna Hicks

The need has never been more urgent for people in leadership positions to be educated in matters related to dignity. The desire to be treated as something of value is universal; it is our highest common denominator. At the same time, we are all vulnerable to having our dignity violated, creating conflicts wherever human beings cluster - in families, communities, in the workplace and among nations. It is one of the root causes of conflict, yet it is rarely addressed when attempting to manage and negotiate a resolution to disputes. How can something so fundamental to the human experience have been neglected for so long? The Dignity Model, an approach to understanding the role dignity plays in our lives and relationships, addresses this critical yet unexplored aspect of our shared humanity. This workshop will make explicit what it takes to create a culture of dignity where everyone becomes aware of the spiritual power that is released when we are treated as if we matter.



# Saturday Grounded and Growing Open Track

## 9:00-10:30 a.m. "The New AMI/USA Family Engagement and Montessori Empowerment (F.E.M.E.) Project - Bringing Montessori Into the Home and Everyday Life" part 1

Presenter: Dr. LaNail Plummer, Dr. Ayize Sabater, Sheri Bishop, Janet McDonell

Montessori schools can serve as a space for healing, empowerment, and community building for families. The Montessori approach can be a learning compass that directs children to use education as an aid to life and a way to model how to create peace and social cohesion in our society. When parents are informed of the basic precepts of the Montessori philosophy, when adults in the school view the caregivers' knowledge about the child's home culture a vital component of the education, and when all members of the school community are welcoming and invested in the building of inclusive anti-bias and anti-racist school cultures, all children will be able to thrive and reach their full human potential.



Dr. LaNail Plummer  
Onyx Therapy Group



Dr. Ayize Sabater  
Association Montessori International/USA



Sheri Bishop  
Association Montessori International/USA



Janet McDonell  
Association Montessori International/USA



Dr. Erica Moretti  
Author

## 10:30 - 12:00 p.m. "The Best Weapon for Peace"

Presenter: Dr. Erica Moretti

Professor Erica Moretti's talk reframes Montessori's pacifism as the foundation for her educational activism, emphasizing her vision of the classroom as a gateway to reshaping society.

## 1:45-2:30 p.m. Indigenous Montessori Material Unveiling Presenters: Trisha Moquino (Cochiti, Kewa, Ohkay Ohwingeh), Marcus Trujillo (Laguna Pueblo), Joe Campbell, and Jane Campbell

Join us in celebrating the newest offering of Indigenous Montessori materials. Learn about the connections made, the process to create, and be there for the unveiling! Question and answers to follow.



Trisha Moquino (Cochiti, Kewa, Ohkay Ohwingeh)  
Keres Children's Learning Center



Marcus Trujillo (Laguna Pueblo)



Jane Campbell  
Montessori Services



Joe Campbell  
Montessori Services



Dr. Ashley Minner (Lumbee)  
Baltimore Reservation Project

## 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. The Baltimore Reservation Project

Presenter: Dr. Ashley Minner (Lumbee)

In the mid-twentieth century, thousands of Lumbee and members of other tribal nations migrated to Baltimore City, seeking jobs and a better quality of life. Here, they created a vibrant, urban, intertribal American Indian community and affectionately referred to it as their "reservation." Today, most Baltimoreans are surprised to learn the reservation ever existed, but this is changing. Join this session to hear the story of an intergenerational team's process to reconstruct the reservation and reactivate heritage through oral history, archival research, mapping, and walking. Consider their methods for adaptation in your own communities.

# Sunday Grounded and Growing Open Track

## 9:00-10:00 a.m. "Storytellers of Truth" part 1

Presenters: Siobhan Juanita Brown (Wampanoag), Marina Sáenz

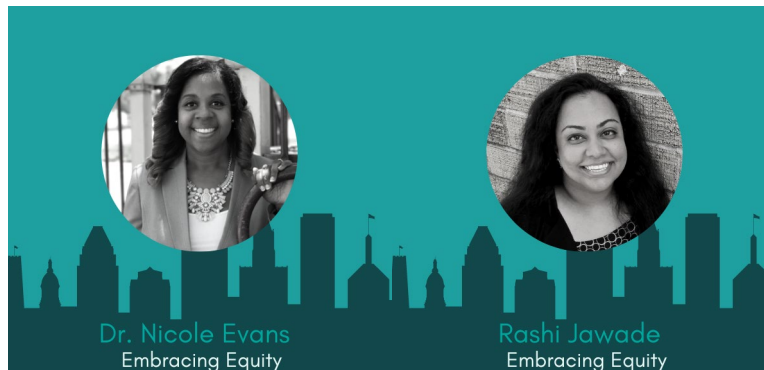
AMI/USA-Mario Montessori described his mother as a "Storyteller of Truth". Indigenous People around the globe have long told stories as a central grounding practice for teaching and learning. Join AMI/USA COO, Siobhan Juanita Brown (Wampanoag) and AMI/USA DoC, Marina Sáenz as we explore what this means for us. What role did storytelling play in our Montessori environments? How do we effectively tell our stories? Storytelling is an invitation to bring our whole selves and we invite you to do the same in your practice.



## 10:00-12:00 p.m. Grounded and Growing with Embracing Equity

Presenters: Dr. Nicole Evans, Rashi Jawade

At Embracing Equity, racial justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion are at the core of who we are. They are central to our mission and to our impact. We know that having varied perspectives helps generate better ideas to solve the complex problems of a changing and increasingly diverse world. As a developmental organization, we aspire to practice our anti-oppression values and celebrate multiple approaches and points of view. We take a holistic approach to building a culture of belongingness and mattering. As we strive to grow our network of people, programs, and tools, we intentionally apply an analysis of intersectionality as a way to build alliances in organizing for social change and honoring our multifaceted identities. Come learn how you too can center equity, inclusion, and belonging in your work and school.



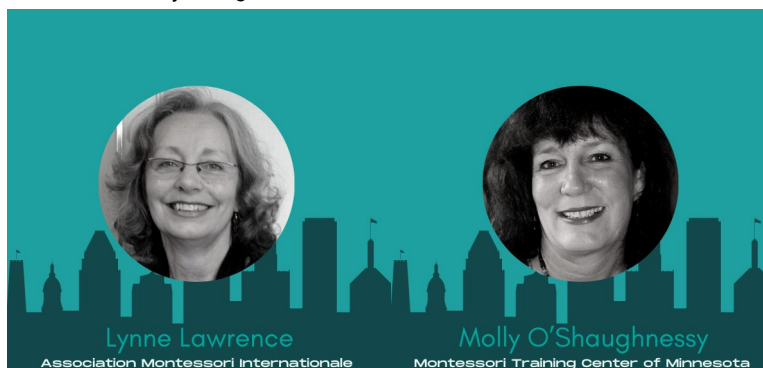
## 1:30-3:00 p.m. "The New AMI/USA Family Engagement and Montessori Empowerment (F.E.M.E.) Project - Bringing Montessori Into the Home and Everyday Life" part 2

Presenters: Dr. Ayize Sabater, Sheri Bishop, Janet McDonell

## 3:00-4:30 p.m. "Storytellers of Truth" part 2

Presenters: Lynne Lawrence, Molly O'Shaughnessy, Marina Sáenz

In the afternoon session, we'll hear about Educateurs sans Frontières (EsF) and inspirational Montessori stories through the "Montessori Talks" series. AMI/USA will share how you can share Montessori stories through our publications including our monthly newsletter and Fall/Spring Journal as well as the StoryCorp project. Come to the Montessori Storytelling Circle.



# Monday Sessions and Presenters

8:30 - 10:00 a.m

**“How To Do What We Need to Do, With Montessori Intact”** Presenters: Phyllis Pottish-Lewis, Paula Lillard Preschlack

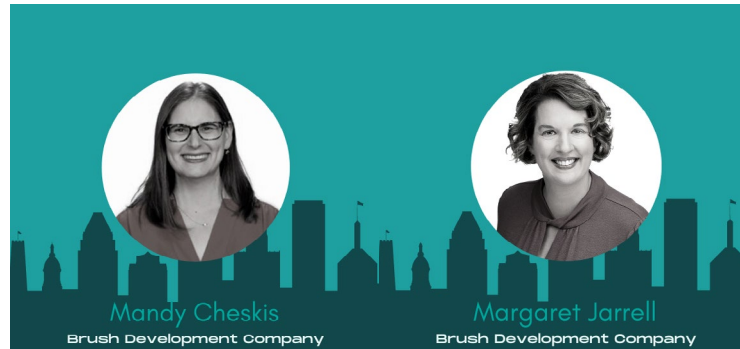
Our aim as Montessori educators is to bring genuine Montessori principles and practices to life to serve children, and ultimately, to make this world a better place. This dream is not without its challenges. To persist in our classrooms, we must continually develop our fundamental understanding of Dr. Montessori’s principles, why they work, and how to put them into practice. Drawing on years of experience as an AMI trainer and an elementary teacher, and as a primary teacher and head of school, Phyllis and Paula will explain how we can deepen our Montessori practices in a variety of situations and why it matters that we do so. Montessori matches human development by interweaving the intellectual and spiritual aspects of children’s experiences. Our work as educators must be approached, therefore, as both intellectual and spiritual.



**“Using Montessori Materials to Invite Meaningful Engagement and Maintain Skills for Adults Living with Dementia”**

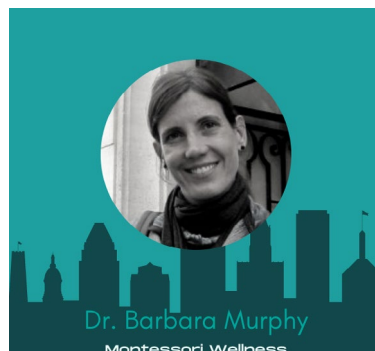
Presenters: Mandy Cheskis, Margaret Jarrell

Montessori for Aging and Dementia combines the Montessori philosophy with person centered care and best practices for people living with dementia. Just as in a Montessori classroom, a Montessori community for adults invites individuals with a wide range of abilities and interests to choose from an array of hands-on activities. While some activities are created or adapted specifically for adults, other materials are the same ones used in Montessori classrooms around the world. Join us for an introduction to how Montessori materials can be used with older adults and people living with dementia - at all stages - to invite meaningful engagement and maintain skills critical to preserving independence.



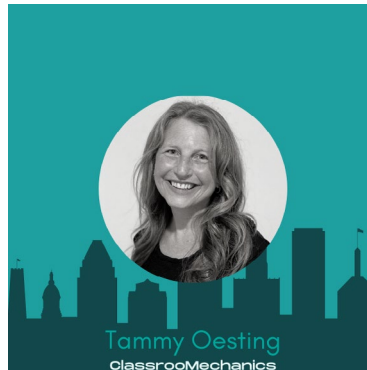
**“Exploring the Montessori-Wellness Connection”** Presenter: Dr. Barbara Murphy

“Going back to the essence of Montessori pedagogy, education is about preparing the whole child for life. From this foundational perspective, Montessori is deeply aligned with the idea of wellness. Well-being is a universal human aspiration. Yet life increasingly demands a more proactive and conscious approach to the pursuit of wellness. Healthy habits to improve physical, emotional and mental well-being can be learned, but teaching them, like building a muscle, takes intentionality. Therefore, if we want to help children build a solid foundation of well-being and resilience to better navigate life, today and in the future, we need to revisit the theory and rethink the practice, to more consciously and explicitly integrate wellness-related concepts and activities into our classrooms and beyond. In this workshop, we will revisit Dr. Montessori’s writings and ideas around notions like self-care, movement, nature and community, to uncover and explore the similarities and connections between different wellness dimensions and various areas of Montessori education. And we will see how the mindful promotion of well-being proves integral to a truly holistic and authentic Montessori learning experience.”



# Monday Sessions and Presenters

**“Becoming Awestruck: Igniting the Science of Transcendence in Montessori Communities”** Presenter: Tammy Oesting  
In the last several decades, the role of emotions in learning has made a significant impact on understanding the science of learning, salient for the Montessori guide. Oesting’s research findings have the potential to expand Montessori practices to transcend mechanical application and create a collective liberatory and ecological consciousness, furthering the mission of Montessori communities. With fidelity to Montessori, the science of learning, cosmic tendencies, and an appreciation for an indigenous worldview, this workshop weaves a case for analyzing the systems of adult education that promote spiritual transformation and preparedness to become a vitally responsive Montessori practitioner.



**Research Presentation (Part 2) “You Too Can Do Practitioner Research - An Invitation”** Presenters: Students  
Join us for a bigger bite of authentic teacher inquiry and research tools that amplify practitioner knowledge. First, you will hear directly from 3rd and 4th plane practitioner researchers then it’s your turn to explore forming your own inquiry question. Information and support for accessing resources and re-researching literature already available will be provided. Learn about upcoming opportunities on how you (and the adolescents with whom you work) can continue this work via summer workshops AND present your findings October 2023 at MAPS (Montessori Adolescent Practitioners Symposium)! Additional Presenters: Practitioners and Researchers from USA Montessori Community, MAPS/Train Montessori and Center for Montessori Studies/U Hartford.

**10:30 - 12:00 p.m**

## **Closing Keynote “Sisters in Spirit”**

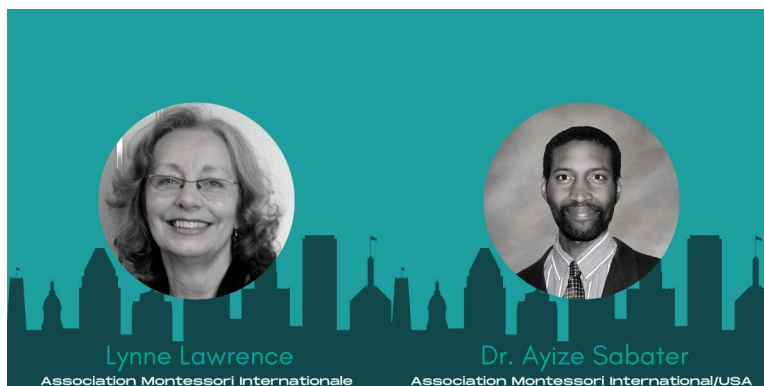
Presenters: Pastor Jessica Jackson, Koren Clark, Dr. Nitana Greendeer (Wampanoag)

Please join these dynamic women from three different faith traditions, who are also Montessorians, talk about the intersection of Montessori pedagogy and their faith tradition.



**12:00 - 12:30 p.m Conference Closing/Town Hall Meeting**

Presenters: AMI global’s Executive Director, Lynne Lawrence and AMI/USA Executive Director, Dr. Ayize Sabater



## Equity and Inclusion Resources

As part of AMI/USA's commitment to integrate racial equity action into our programming, we plan to include relevant and impactful Racial Equity Actions for participants at AMI/USA's Montessori Experience 2023 in Baltimore, MD.

### **Racial Equity Action at The 2023 Montessori Experience: Refresher Courses and More! Proposed ACTIONS:**

- Land Acknowledgement including local Indigenous elders, if possible.
- March for Our Lives Action requesting signatures to support Assault Weapons Ban
- Teaching for Black Lives Campaign - Zinn Education Project
- Donate care products
- Participate in AMI/USA's Montessori in the USA Story Project.
- Contribute to the AMI/USA Annual Fund
- Collaborate with the AMI/USA team to pen statements that are relevant to our mission and that align with the AMI/USA equity statement.

More information: <https://amiusa.org/news/ami-usa-solicits-guest-essays-on-topics-of-equity-and-inclusion/>

Submission Form: <https://amiusa.org/human-rights-social-justice-forum/>



**AMI  
USA** | **ASSOCIATION  
MONTESSORI  
INTERNATIONAL**

*Celebrating our first 50 years!*



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. 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/>

## Support AMI/USA

As we conclude our 50th anniversary, we are proud to continue with our inaugural annual fund drive that will help support pressing needs in our community. Please donate today, so we can ensure that as many children as possible experience inclusive, empowering, accessible, and transformative Montessori education in the United States. Please consider a contribution in honor of our golden anniversary! We can only move forward with your support.

[Click here](#) to make a tax-deductible gift today or mail a check made payable to AMI/USA at 1421 Prince St., STE #350, Alexandria, VA 22314.