Grace and Courtesy:
Civility for Life

October 9-12, 2014
Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel
Columbia, MD

Register online:
www.montessori-namta.org/Baltimore
When the pace of life and technology affect all aspects of school community life, Montessori professionals need support for imparting the core values of grace and courtesy. Portland hosted a variation of this theme in March, 2014, and the responses were all superlatives exclaiming game-changing insight. Speakers will address the history of grace and courtesy, international standards for grace and courtesy, and specific applications for primary, elementary, and whole-school dynamics. This conference provides the foundations for creating a coherent school community and for preparing children to contribute to a kinder society.

Comments from the March, 2014, conference in Portland:

Beautiful reminder on the approach to grace and courtesy. ... Really enjoyed the interactive parts, knowledge, and encouraging energy to all Montessori teachers.

... Touching and thoughtful. So much is missing in our children. Grace and courtesy is most definitely it. Thank you for being so inspiring.

I had some real “Ah-ha” moments. ... I learn so much more when different opinions are voiced; especially in the respectful manner it was done. Thank you so much!
Thursday, October 9, 2014
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. • Registration

Friday, October 10, 2014
8:00 – 9:00 a.m. • Registration

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
History and Civility as an Aid to Life
Larry and Pat Schaefer

History focuses on the lives of people through changing times. The art of civility has formed the foundation for successful democracies and global diplomacy throughout history. Civility is also a basis for personality formation and aids the formation of empathy and relational skills in children. The Schaefers will examine civility through a historical lens and in relation to the sociability of the Montessori school.

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Break

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
International Standards for Grace and Courtesy across the Planes
Jenny Höglund

Jenny’s experiences with schools in Sweden, Italy, the U.S., and England make her an ideal reference for the broad meanings of grace and courtesy. Jenny will describe the commonalities of grace and courtesy presentations among different cultures and at different ages and stages and explore how stories and demonstrations help children see the universality of different customs.

Noon – 1:00 p.m.
Lunch
A NAMTA Conference in Columbia, Maryland

1:00 – 1:30 p.m.
Update from Montessori Schools of Maryland

1:30 – 4:30 p.m. (break at 2:45 – 3:15 p.m.)
Afternoon Workshops (Choose one)

A. Grace and Courtesy in the Primary
   Joen Bettmann
   The primary prepared environment lays the foundation for moral and social development. Joen will explore the traits of kindness, patience, acceptance, and helpfulness that are all experienced by the young child as ways to live together and offer support to one another.

B. Grace and Courtesy in the Elementary
   Liesl Taylor
   Children in the second plane are in the process of refining their character with heightened sensitivities for fairness, justice, and expanding social horizons. Collectively, the teacher and children create a culture of mutual respect, compassion, and caring. Liesl will discuss ways for the teacher to partner with children to continue the child’s journey towards empathy and caring.

C. Grace and Courtesy for the Whole School
   Mary Lou Cobb
   Respect, interest, and understanding can be conveyed through every encounter, from the first phone call to the graduation ceremony. Mary Lou will explore ways for the head of school to foster and model this climate of grace through all her interactions with the teachers, staff, parents, children, and guests in the school and wider community.
Grace and Courtesy: Civility for Life

Saturday, October 11, 2014

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Grace and Courtesy as the Ultimate Foundation for Supporting the Healthy Development of Children and of Schools

Pat Ludick

Pat will journey through all four planes of development, from birth-to-six through 18-24, to derive a set of guiding principles and practices. These principles can be applied by every member of a school community for realizing the outcome of a school that is based upon the fundamental principles of Montessori education.

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m. – Noon

Breakouts (choose one breakout for morning and afternoon)

D. Living Grace and Courtesy in the Primary

Polli Soholt

Polli will bring to life the rich and varied opportunities that lay the groundwork for graceful living through movement, language, and order. Vignettes that capture the joy and enthusiasm within the Children’s House will show how this sense of living harmoniously emerges.

E. Real Life in the Elementary

Julie Comber Martin

Going out, greeting guests, planning activities, celebrating birthdays, contributing to community meetings, and resolving conflicts are just a few of the day-to-day events that develop social skills in the Montessori elementary classroom. Living gracefully with the community and beyond emerges as a character skill that is expressed in action, in how we live, and in what we do.

(Breakout choices continue on the following page.)
Saturday, October 11, 2014, continued

10:30 a.m. – Noon
Breakouts, continued

F. Grace and Courtesy in Adolescence
Pat Ludick
Qualities that have been created in the first plane and that are practiced in the second plane become internalized. This scaffolding creates the foundation for the adolescents as they create their own microcosm of society that is defined by interdependence, service, and relevance.

Noon – 1:30 p.m.
Lunch

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. (break at 2:15 – 2:45 p.m.)
Breakouts (continued from morning)
D. Living Grace and Courtesy in the Primary, Polli Soholt
E. Real Life in the Elementary, Julie Comber Martin
F. Grace and Courtesy in Adolescence, Pat Ludick

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Pulling It All Together: Social Cohesion
Pat Schaefer
The model of social cohesion in the toddler community and the Children’s House becomes a metaphor for the school community as a whole. The young people who enter the fourth plane have the preparation and the capacity to engage, contribute, and live gracefully within society.

Sunday, October 12, 2014

9:00 – 10:30 am
Bringing Grace and Courtesy and Moral Development to the Home, School, and Classroom
This session provides an opportunity to reflect on the applications of the lessons at the conference.
Conference Speakers

Joen Bettmann is a primary trainer, examiner, and consultant with the Association Montessori Internationale and has over thirty years of Montessori experience. She has had training responsibilities at the Midwest Montessori Institute in Milwaukee, WI, the Montessori Institute Northwest in Portland, OR, and the Maria Montessori Training Organisation in London. She was the director of training for the Ohio Montessori Training Institute (Cleveland) and for a three-summer course in Sydney, Australia. She has given five primary courses through the Montessori Institute of Atlanta and is the director of training at the International Montessori Training Institute in Atlanta.

Mary Lou Cobb founded The Cobb School (CT) in 1974 and has been head of school for forty years. She received her primary diploma from Margaret Stephenson’s first course in 1964 and taught a primary class for over thirty years. In addition to starting The Cobb School, Mary Lou has been a founding board member of three other Montessori organizations: The Montessori Administrators Association (MAA), the Montessori Training Center of New England (MTCNE), and the Montessori Schools of Connecticut (MSC) and continues to serve on their boards.

Jenny Höglund is an AMI elementary trainer and holds AMI primary and elementary diplomas. Jenny co-founded the Montessoriskolan Lära för livet in Sweden in 1995 and has taught elementary and adolescent students for over twenty-three years as well as serving as the head of school since 2006. She has lectured at the Bergamo Centre in Italy since 2006.

Pat Ludick works as a consultant to both public and private middle school programs and is currently the humanities guide and coordinator at Hudson Montessori School (OH). She holds a degree in special education, an AMI primary diploma, and a M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction from Cleveland State University. Pat taught humanities in the middle school at Ruffing Montessori School East for eleven years and began a land school at the Montessori School of Raleigh (NC). She founded the adolescent program at Hudson Montessori School where she has served as program director for the past ten years.

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**Julie Comber Martin** is an upper elementary directress at Ruffing Montessori School (OH). She received her bachelor of science degree in elementary education from Kent State University and her MA from Cleveland State University. Julie holds an AMI elementary diploma from the Ohio Montessori Institute and is in her eleventh year of teaching.

**Larry and Pat Schaefer** are internationally recognized speakers on Montessori education and have founded three successful Montessori schools. With their experience as teaching principals of these schools, Pat and Larry have more than twenty-five years of experience in educational administration. Larry and Pat received their AMI elementary diplomas from Bergamo, Italy. Larry holds an MA and PhD in history from Fordham University and an MA in education from Fairfield University. Pat received an MA in history from Fordham University.

**Polli Soholt** is an AMI Montessori trainer at the Montessori Training Center of Northern California and an AMI consultant. She has been a primary Montessori teacher for twenty-nine years, the administrator and owner of the San Jose (CA) Montessori School for thirty-six years, and the publisher of *Point of Interest* for twenty years. Her writings on the classroom, parent education, and Montessori have been published in *The NAMTA Journal* and *AMI-USA News*.

**Liesl Taylor** is the head of school at Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School in St. Paul, MN. She received her Montessori elementary diploma from the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota and an elementary teaching license with a specialty in middle school science from the College of St. Scholastica in St. Paul. Liesl has worked as a guide in lower elementary and holds a BA in psychology and family studies from St. Olaf College.
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Hotel

Sheraton Columbia Hotel
10207 Wincopin Circle
Columbia, MD 21044

Reservations:
1-888-627-8318 or
410-730-3900 or online at
https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=1312117508&key=10119

Centrally located between Baltimore’s Inner Harbor and Washington D.C., the Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel has everything you need for work and for play. This hotel is situated on 12 wooded acres in Columbia, MD, overlooking the serene Lake Kittamaquandi.

Register at the Sheraton Columbia Hotel by September 25 to receive the NAMTA room rate of:
Lodge - $124 or Tower - $144

Mention NAMTA to receive the discounted conference rate.

Transportation

The closest airport to the Sheraton Columbia Hotel is Baltimore/Washington International (BWI).

Transportation options from the airport to the hotel include airport shuttle or taxi. For airport shuttle reservations, please call 1-800-776-0323 or visit www.theairportshuttle.com. The average cost is $30 each way.

Taxi service from BWI ranges between $50-$65.

Driving directions can be found on the hotel website:
http://www.sheratoncolumbia.com
A NAMTA Conference in Columbia, Maryland

Register by September 25, 2014 for early registration rates!

NAMTA member conference fee: $300 ( $315 after September 25)
Non-member conference fee: $360 ( $375 after September 25)

Conference fees include Friday and Saturday luncheons.
Choose one: Non-Vegetarian Vegetarian

Friday workshops (Choose one):
- A. Primary/Bettmann
- B. Elementary/Taylor
- C. Whole School/Cobb

Saturday workshops (Choose one):
- D. Primary/Soholt
- E. Elementary/Martin
- F. Adolescent/Ludick

Name: ________________________________________________________
Phone : ________________________ Email: _________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________________________________________
State/Province:_____________________Postal Code: _________________
Country: ______________________________________________________
Name of Your School: ____________________________________________

Payment Options
- Check or money order: payable in U.S. currency and drawn on a U.S. bank.
- Visa □ MasterCard □ AmEx □ Discover (complete the information below)
Card Number: _________________________________________________
Name on Card:  _________________________________________________
Expiration Date (month/year): ____________________________________
3- or 4-digit Authorization Code: _________________________________
(found on front of AmEx, back of other cards)
Address: ______________________________________________________
   Street Address where credit card bills are sent.
City: ____________________________ State/Province: _____________
Postal Code: ________________________ Country: ________________

Register online at www.montessori-namta.org/Baltimore-Registration
Use this form to join NAMTA or renew your membership.

Membership is for individuals only. No schools, please. Please furnish your home mailing address. You must provide an e-mail address to receive The NAMTA Bulletin and member mailings.

U.S. Resident ........................................................................................................ $50
Outside U.S. .......................................................................................................... $60
Lifetime ................................................................................................................ $600
The NAMTA Directory (not included with membership) ................ $18
NAMTA's Online Bibliography (see description below) ................ $10
Total Enclosed ................................................................................................... $______

- Return by January 15, 2015, to have your name listed in The NAMTA Directory.
- Check here if you do not want your name listed.
- The NAMTA Online Montessori Bibliography is a searchable database of Montessori articles. Copies of articles are available for a fee.

Last Name: ___________________First Name: __________________
Address: ______________________________________________________
City: __________________________________________________________
State/Province: _______Postal Code: _______ Country:___________
Name of Your School: ___________________________________________
Phone : _____________________ Email: _______________________

If you are a new member, please list your Montessori training information:
Location: ______________________________ Affiliation: _______
Date of Diploma: ______________________ Level of Course: _______

Current Montessori Status:                                  ☐ Administrator ☐ Guide (Teacher) ☐ Trainee
                                                                  ☐ Assistant ☐ Parent ☐ Program Coordinator

Payment Options
☐ Check or money order: payable in U.S. currency and drawn on a U.S. bank.
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover (complete the information below)
Card Number: __________________________________________________
Name on Card: __________________________________________________
Expiration Date: ___________ 3- or 4-digit Authorization Code: ___________
(month/year)                  (found on front of AmEx, back of other cards)
Address: ______________________________________________________
Street Address where credit card bills are sent.
City:_______________________________ State/Province: ___________
Postal Code: ______________________ Country: ___________________
Make your hotel reservations by **September 25**
to receive the NAMTA conference rate!