

NAMTA Presents



From Sensitivity to Sentiment: The Joy of Being Human



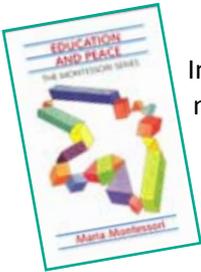
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Baltimore, MD • October 19-22, 2017
Sheraton Columbia Hotel

A NAMTA Conference Baltimore, MD



From Sensitivity to Sentiment: The Joy of Being Human



In *Education and Peace* Montessori wrote, "Love impels the child not towards the possession of an object, but toward the work he can do with it." This conference focuses on building deep sentiments within the child: love of the environment, of nature, of the world, and of one another. These sentiments are grounded in the sensorial experiences of the first plane and evolve into the second-plane child's desire to care for the world and all its inhabitants. This conference is sure to bring joy to the life of your classroom and inspire the love of work that is a hallmark of Montessori education.

Thursday, October 19, 2017

7:00–8:00 p.m. • Registration



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From Sensitivity to Sentiment: The Joy of Being Human

Friday, October 20, 2017

8:00–9:00 a.m. • Registration

9:00–10:15 a.m.

**Keynote: The Spiritual Preparation of the Joyful Adult:
Our Task Is a Joyful Task**

Mary Raudonis Loew



One of the characteristics of the normalized child is joy. What does a “normalized” adult look like, and how does that compare to a child’s experience? What are the tasks that lead to our own normalization, and how do we prepare our spirit for these tasks?

In this keynote address, we will explore these questions and consider their relationship to joy.

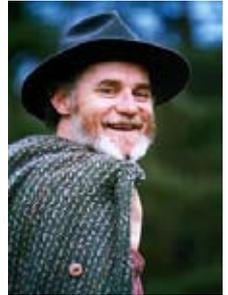
10:15–10:45 a.m. • Break

10:45 a.m.–Noon

Keynote: The Power of Storytelling

Jay O’Callahan

When a story is told there are two artists, the teller and the listener; both are creating images with a rapidity far beyond the most advanced computer. It is crucial for teachers and parents to foster creativity by telling stories.



Noon–1:30 p.m. • Lunch

1:30–4:30 p.m. (2:45–3:15 Break)

Breakout Sessions (choose one)

A. From Sense to Sentiment: Sensorial Games as a Means to Develop Love and Connection to Environment (3-6)

Mary Raudonis Loew

“To be able to distinguish, classify, and catalogue external things on the basis of a secure order already established in the mind--this is at once intelligence and culture...it is not the accumulation of a direct knowledge of things which forms the (person) of letters, the scientist, and the connoisseur; it is the prepared order established in the mind which is to receive such knowledge.”

*–Maria Montessori, Spontaneous Activity in Education
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As we look again at the sensorial materials, we will find in them rich opportunities for further exploration and discovery. As the children meet their broader world with an expanding consciousness, we see that mastery is not the end point but is an opening into another dimension of awareness.

B. Storytelling Methods for Teachers: The World Within Becoming the World Without (All Ages)

Jay O'Callahan

We are all filled with unspoken memories of places, characters, and events. Through the process of imagining, sharing, and getting a response, these memories take a new form and become part of a relationship between teller and listener. In this workshop, participants will get a chance to experience their untapped riches within and will learn tips for helping others do the same.

C. Music as a Means to Communicate an Expression of Joy (All Ages)

Marcia Perez

The term “language of music” comes from a promise I made to Margaret Stephenson to always remember that music is a language. Inspiring the child with the rich “language of music,” we explore our Montessori musical heritage through stories, listening, movement, singing, rhythm, and pitch. This workshop inspires musical experiences for all ages, primary through elementary, using the bells and tone bars as our guide.

Saturday, October 21, 2017

9:00–10:15 a.m.

Keynote: Cosmic Education, Tapping into the Universe

Greg MacDonald

“We must tear out our hearts, cleanse them of prejudices and begin again so that the theory and the practice are one and the same. But there must be faith that the theory is really true in order to apply it, to put it into practice. We must believe that all beings develop by themselves, of themselves, and that we cannot do better than to not interrupt that development.”

–Maria Montessori, The California Lectures of Maria Montessori, 1915



Why do Montessori children so often become happy, successful adults? It is because the Montessori approach matches their developmental needs. The Montes-

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sori elementary guide embarks with children upon a sweeping expedition through the universe. On this voyage, individual talents may be found, and a lifelong love of learning is born. The vision that Montessori offers elementary children extends beyond family, school, and community and creates within them a commitment to their planet and to all humanity. This commitment will be carried with the child throughout their lives.

How is this accomplished? How does Cosmic Education enable children to “tap into the universe”? This presentation will examine some of the key attributes and outcomes of the Cosmic Education experience.

10:15–10:45 a.m. • Break

10:45–12:00 a.m.

Keynote: Bonding with the Natural World: Learning with Nature and Creating Lifelong Emotional Ties to the Natural World

Louise Chawla



This presentation reviews pivotal processes in child development that help children form a bond of connection with the natural world and learn practices of active care for other living things. It compares these research results with Dr. Montessori’s teachings and suggests how to incorporate these processes of development into teaching practices.

Noon–1:30 p.m. • Lunch

**1:30–4:30 p.m. (2:45–3:15 Break)
Breakout Sessions (choose one)**

D. Planning a Children’s Garden: Science through Hoe and Spade (3-6)

Marisa Gallagher

A children’s garden is a true extension of the Montessori classroom and functions as an outdoor environment. In the garden, children learn that careful work and tender patience are needed to grow plants. The garden is also where the child forms the understanding that most of our food comes from the earth. We will gather and discuss ways to start and plan a children’s garden that is practical, fun, and filled with opportunities for experiencing the science of gardening.

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E. Practical Use of the Indoor/Outdoor Environment to Support Social Development (6-12)

Amy Eshelby

*“There must be provision for the child to have contact with nature, to understand and appreciate the order, the harmony and the beauty in nature... so that the child may better understand and participate in the marvelous things which civilization creates.” –Maria Montessori, *The Secret of Childhood**

We will explore the many ways that the prepared environment for second-plane development meets the child’s intellectual and spiritual needs by connecting with nature. Discover how to make and use nature journals, lead a silent hike, create “sit spots” in nature, and learn how to prepare the indoor environment. Come away with games and tools to use with your community, even in an urban environment.

F. Developing Cosmic Citizens (All Ages)

Louise Chawla

This interactive workshop explores the educational implications of the pivotal events that develop young children’s appreciative attention to nature, a sense of agency in nature, and an identity as someone who cares for other living things. The practices that will be discussed include naturalizing school grounds, bringing nature indoors, creating refuges for quiet attunement to nature as well as areas for creative play, involving parents in cultivating care for nature, and providing opportunities for young children to contribute to conserving and restoring nature in their communities.

G. Montessori Botany

Greg MacDonald

The world of plants holds endless surprises and lessons for humanity and offers many captivating experiences for children. This workshop explores how to introduce botany by moving the child’s attention from Montessori materials in the prepared environment to the complex world of nature that lies on the other side of the door. We will explore how key lessons and explorations in botany can be developed to inspire sensitivity to botany as part of an individual’s unique developmental journey.

Sunday, October 22, 2017

9:00–10:15 a.m.

Conference Summary Discussion

Selected conference speakers

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Speakers

Jay O'Callahan began telling stories to his little brother and sister when he was in high school. When he had children of his own, the stories he made for them brought him to schools and that was the beginning. Since then he has told stories at festivals, in theaters and conferences in Europe, Africa, New Zealand, and across the United States. His CDs and videos have won numerous awards including the ALA/Carnegie Award and the Parents' Choice Award. Time magazine called Jay "a man of elegance, wit and poetry." Mr. O'Callahan's, *Forged in the Stars*, was commissioned by NASA. His latest work is *Falling for Emily Dickinson*.



Louise Chawla is professor emerita in the Environmental Design Program at the University of Colorado Boulder. She served for many years as associate director of the Children, Youth and Environments Center for Community Engagement (CYE) at CU and remains actively involved with its expanded form that she helped establish to serve all ages, the Community Engagement, Design and Research Center. One of the center's initiatives, *Growing Up Boulder*, has received international recognition as a model partnership between the university, the City of Boulder, Boulder Valley School District, and allied community organizations to engage children and youth in city planning, urban design, and the design of parks and housing sites. It was inspired by the *Growing Up in Cities* program of UNESCO, which Chawla coordinated from 1996-2006. Dr. Chawla has published widely on the subjects of children and nature, children in cities, and the development of committed action for the environment.



Amy Eshelby currently guides a 9-12 community at Child-peace Montessori School, an urban school in Portland, Oregon. She also taught at the Montessori School of Beaverton, a six acre school with outdoor extensions to every room. Amy received her AMI elementary diploma from WMI in 2001 and has an M.Ed from Loyola University, Maryland. Amy grew up in the central Oregon woods with no running water or electricity. She is an intense lover of nature and shares this with her family.

Marisa Gallagher is the head of the primary division at The Cobb School, Montessori (CT) where she has been teaching for the past 25 years. After graduating from AMI Montessori training, Marisa set her roots in a primary classroom and has been a mentor to students in training and to new teachers. Marisa started the Spanish program in the elementary classrooms at Cobb, directed both the before and after school programs, and assisted in primary and elementary classrooms.

Greg MacDonald is a seasoned elementary trainer who has led courses in the United States, Canada, Italy, Japan, Switzerland, Germany, and Mexico for the past 20 years. He holds AMI 3-6 and 6-12 diplomas, a teaching diploma from his native Australia, and an M.Ed from Loyola University Maryland, where he worked as an AMI elementary trainer with Dr. Kay Baker from 1998-2008. He is also an AMI-USA consultant and a regular speaker at Montessori workshops, parent evenings, and conferences. Greg is known for his hands-on, practical approach to training that focuses on the specific skills, techniques, and systems that support success in a Montessori elementary environment. His work is informed by 19 years of teaching experience as a public school elementary teacher, AMI primary and elementary teacher, and principal of both mainstream and Montessori schools.

Marcia Perez is currently teaching upper elementary at Mater Amoris Montessori (MD). She holds an AMI elementary diploma and a master's degree from Loyola University (MD). She has presented the Montessori music curriculum most recently at the AMI Refresher Course in New Zealand, April 2015. She has also lectured at the Washington Montessori Institute, Montessori Center of Minnesota, AMI Teacher Training of Dallas and the Montessori Institute of San Diego and enjoys guest lecturing throughout the United States, Canada, and Sweden. She taught primary for ten years before becoming an elementary teacher.

Mary Raudonis Loew is currently the director of training for Montessori Northwest's primary course and has been an AMI primary trainer since 1971. Mary attended Clarke College, Georgia State University, and has a BA degree from Goddard College. She has conducted primary training courses in Atlanta, Cleveland, and Dallas and has given numerous workshops in all areas of Montessori pedagogy and practice.

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Hotel

Sheraton Columbia Town Center
10207 Wincopin Circle
Columbia, MD 21044
Reservations: 1-888-627-8318 or 1-410-730-3900



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.

The Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel is pleased to offer all guests and visitors complimentary parking.

Complimentary shuttle service within a five mile radius of our hotel, running every half hour is available through the hotel concierge, or the hotel front desk at 410-730-3900.

Register at the Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel by **September 19** to receive the NAMTA room rate of: Lodge—\$126 or Tower—\$144.

Please mention NAMTA when making your reservation.

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:

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Register by October 5 for early conference registration rates!

NAMTA member tuition fee: \$325 (\$340 after October 5)

Non-member tuition fee: \$390 (\$405 after October 5)

Tuition fees include Friday and Saturday luncheons.

Choose one: Non-Vegetarian Vegetarian

Friday workshops (Choose one):

A. Sensorial Games

B. Storytelling Tips

C. Music

Saturday workshops (Choose one):

D. Indoor/Outdoor Science

E. Calming Effects

F. Place-Based Learning

G. Montessori Botany

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Not a NAMTA member? It's more economical to purchase a registration and a membership than it is to pay the non-member rate. Become a NAMTA member today by sending in the membership form along with your registration and enjoy all the benefits of NAMTA membership!

Join NAMTA and register for the conference online at www.montessori-namta.org!

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This information is used for our mailings. Please furnish your home mailing address.

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You must provide your complete and correct email address to receive The NAMTA Bulletin and other member communications.

If you are Montessori trained,
please give your training information:

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Membership Prices:

- U.S. Resident \$55
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- Lifetime \$650
- NAMTA Directory \$20
(Not included with membership)
- NAMTA Online
Archive* \$10
*(Not included w/membership;
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Return by January 17, 2018, to have your name listed in the member section of
The NAMTA Directory.

Check here if you do not
want your name listed.

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