



Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers

www.PACTeachers.org

Spring 2017 Newsletter

Letter from the Co-Presidents

Dear PACT members,

As I type this message, it is March 1st and the PACT area enjoyed a record breaking 80 degree day! Our schools haven't closed once for snow this winter and the children in our communities are reveling in a Spring that spanned November, December, January and February. I hope you've been taking advantage by spending more time outside, delighting in the early crocus, daffodils and cherry blossoms, and throwing your windows wide open. It will certainly be a relief not to worry about the possibility of snow canceling our Spring Professional Development Institute at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville on March 30, featuring Ann Lewin-Benham on the topic of intentional teaching.

I was first aware of Dr. Lewin-Benham when I read her book *Possible Schools*, the story of her time as founder and director of the Model Early Learning Center, located in the Capitol Children's Museum, unique in its partnership with the community of Reggio Emilia in Italy to bring that philosophy to an urban model right here in the DC area. She is both a gifted storyteller and dedicated educator and I went on to read many of her other books, including *Powerful Children*, and *Infants and Toddlers at Work*. We are honored to host her presentation later this month when she will address *What is teaching?*, bringing to life her book *Eight Essential Techniques for Teaching with Intention*. Ann addresses this question by focusing on the skills of being intentional and reflective, on techniques to convey “meaning” to young children, and on ways to hone children’s cognitive skills. Participants will 1) watch teachers use their body, face, eyes, voice and hands intentionally, will “play” with these expressive human capacities, and will analyze what it means to be reflective as you teach. We’ll 2) examine how teachers’ beliefs influence their actions and consider how words

impact children's behavior. We'll 3) study the hand's important role in learning how to think. We'll 4) consider ways to help children develop self-control by eliciting logical rather than emotional reactions. We'll 5) think about what it means to have brain-worthy schools. And we'll 6) examine classrooms that have been designed with the intention of helping children build relationships, classrooms that foster both social engagement and cognitive growth. Handouts include an overview, significant text from the talk, and a bibliography.

Since we're sure you'll want to add some of her books to your personal and professional libraries, PACT members are offered a 20% discount on *Eight Essential Techniques*, as well as Dr. Lewin-Benham's 5 other books through March 30, 2017. Order at WWW.TCPRESS.COM use discount code "POTOMAC2017" There will be no books for sale at the event.

Nancy and Jennifer have enjoyed their time as co-presidents of PACT and the many inspiring and dedicated people they have worked with on the PACT board who give of their time and talents so generously. It's time for someone new to take over and we'll be looking for nominations soon as our term will end on June 30. Please give some thought to what YOU can bring to PACT. The load is light and the rewards are many! We are also looking to fill the role of VP of Programming and will welcome you to the board, whatever your interests or expertise.

We are also excited to announce the recipient of our first reinstated Devoted Service Award to Early Childhood Education. Nominations are being considered now. Thanks to all who submitted candidates.

We look forward to seeing you on March 30!

Nancy Renner and Jennifer DeBernardis,
PACT Co-Presidents

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Books by Dr. Lewin-Benham, guest speaker, March 30 PDD

In her latest book, *Eight Essential Techniques for Teaching with Intention*, Ann describes techniques that foster intentional and reflective classroom practice. She presents over 70 novel exercises to help teachers learn to use body, face, hands, voice, eyes, and word choices to precisely convey meaning. Some exercises are for teachers to practice, while others build intention and reflection in children. This lively and often humorous resource is a companion to Lewin-Benham's *Twelve Best Practices for Early Childhood Education*, which explains what to teach and why. This new book explains *how* to teach.

"Whether you have never stepped into a classroom as a teacher, or whether (like me) you have taught various subjects at various ages for decades, you cannot fail to learn from this book."

—From the Foreword by **Howard Gardner**, professor of cognition and education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

“With her eight essential techniques, Lewin clearly and beautifully captures the essence of the decision-making dynamics from which effective teaching and learning environments emerge.”

—**Carol Brunson Day**, Board President 2014–2016, NAEYC

Dr. Lewin-Benham's books (listed below) are available for purchase online at a 20% discount to PACT members until March 30. Enter the discount code "POTOMAC2017" when ordering on the website www.TCPress.com. Purchase your books now and have them signed by Dr. Lewin-Benham!

Eight Essential Techniques for Teaching with Intention
What Makes Reggio and Other Inspired Approaches Effective
Ann Lewin-Benham
Foreword by Howard Gardner
Pub Date: June 2015, 208 pages
ISBN: 0807756571

What Learning Looks Like
Mediated Learning in Theory and Practice, K-6
Reuven Feuerstein and Ann Lewin-Benham
Foreword by James A. Bellanca
Pub Date: May 2012, 240 pages
ISBN: 0807753262

Twelve Best Practices for Early Childhood Education
Integrating Reggio and Other Inspired Approaches
Ann Lewin-Benham
Early Childhood Education Series
Pub Date: June 2011, 224 pages
ISBN: 0807752320

Infants and Toddlers at Work
Using Reggio-Inspired Materials to Support Brain Development
Ann Lewin-Benham
Foreword by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi
Early Childhood Education Series
Pub Date: June 2010, 192 pages
ISBN: 0807751073

Powerful Children
Understanding How to Teach and Learn Using the Reggio Approach
Ann Lewin-Benham
Foreword by Howard Gardner
Early Childhood Education Series
Pub Date: June 2008, 256 pages
ISBN: 0807748838

Possible Schools
The Reggio Approach to Urban Education
Ann Lewin-Benham
Foreword by Howard Gardner
Early Childhood Education
Pub Date: January 2006, 176 pages
ISBN: 0807746517

Professional Development Day March 30 – Registration Information

Registration:

Current PACT members (i.e. dues paid for the 2016-17 school year): let us know you are coming! RSVP to Annette.fitzp@gmail.com. Remember to indicate your lunch box choice. New members: register now by completing the form below (or download form from the link <http://www.pacteachers.org/professional-development.html>).

Light refreshments will be available during the registration period (9:00 to 9:30AM).

Lunch: Served 11:15 to 11:45AM. Following are the options for lunch:

- ham, turkey or vegetarian sandwich (comes with chips and whole fruit); or
- salad with grilled chicken and gluten free dressing (** \$2 extra charge – new members should add this to their membership fee; returning members please send \$2 – details on form.)

Venue: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville, MD 20850

Directions: <http://www.uucr.org/directions.php>

Credit: Attend March 30th and earn 3 clock hours of continued training in ECE.

Schedule: 9:00 - 9:30 Registration, refreshments, displays and exhibits

9:30 - 9:45 Business Meeting

9:45 - 11:15 Presentation – first half

11:15 – 11:45 Light lunch is served * remember to indicate your lunch box choice!

11:45 - 1:15 Presentation – second half

Vendors: Make sure you allow time to check out the vendors' tables! There will be several displays, with a wide selection of goods.

Resource Table: Want to share information about an upcoming event, training, or ECE organization? Bring 25 copies for the resource table, located in the vendors' area.

Further details: www.PACTeachers.org

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Join the PACT Board!

The PACT Board is run by dedicated early childhood educators. If you would like to be involved, check the list below for OPEN positions. We especially need a volunteer to work on our Fall programming with Christine Waltz. If you are interested in learning more, please contact us at info@PACTeachers.org.

2016-17 PACT Board Members

- Co-Presidents** - Nancy Renner nlrboomer@gmail.com Fort Hunt Preschool (VA)
- Jennifer DeBernardis jennifershmennifer@verizon.net Silver Spring Nursery School (MD)
- V.P., Program** - Christine Waltz christine31@icloud.com Outdoor Nursery School (MD)
Program Shadow - **OPEN**
- V.P., Membership** - Annette Fitzpatrick annette.fitzp@gmail.com (MD)
- Secretary** - Melissa Jordan director@rpcns.org Rockville Presbyterian Cooperative NS (MD)
- Treasurer** - Janise Allyn-Smith nisey150@aol.com Silver Spring Nursery School (MD)
- Logistics & Hospitality** -
VA: Barbara Bradley bradleysix@cox.net Tauxemont Preschool (VA)
MD: Rana Oriolo ranaoriolo@gmail.com Rockville Community Nursery School (MD)
- Exhibits/Resource Table** - Dawn Matthews Dawn_matthews@juno.com Tauxemont Preschool (VA)
- Folders & Evaluations** - Kim Mahoney, director@RCNSCOOP.org Rockville Community NS, (MD)
- Legislative Contact** - MD - Bernadine Occhiuzzo bocchiuzzo@aol.com
DC - **OPEN**
VA - **OPEN**
- DVD Collection** - Cindy Walsh cindy@chevyCHASEPC.org Chevy Chase Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School (DC)
- LCD Projector Loan-**
DC: Cindy Walsh cindy@chevyCHASEPC.org Chevy Chase Presbyterian Weekday NS (DC)
VA: Nancy Renner NRLboomer@gmail.com Fort Hunt Preschool (VA)
MD: Jennifer DeBernardis jennifershmennifer@verizon.net Silver Spring Nursery School (MD)
- Listserv** - Jennifer DeBernardis jennifershmennifer@verizon.net Silver Spring Nursery School
- Newsletter Editor** – Annette Fitzpatrick Annette.fitzp@gmail.com (MD)

Web Master - Annette Fitzpatrick info@PACTteachers.org (MD)

Past President - Maureen Ingram maureen_ingram88@yahoo.com (MD)

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Listserv

PACT members' listserv: Take a moment to join the PACT members' listserv to stay up-to date on PACT information. The listserv is open to current PACT members. To join, send an e-mail to PACT-Info-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Directors' listserv: Share resources, ideas and training opportunities by joining the PACT Directors listserv. PACT membership is not required. To join, send a message to pact-directors-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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Registration Form

Registration should be completed Monday, March 20th, 2017.

Current Members (dues paid for the 2016-17 school year): There is no additional fee to attend the Spring Professional Development Day. Please e-mail Annette Fitzpatrick at Annette.fitzp@gmail.com to confirm attendance. Remember to indicate your lunch box choice (note an additional \$2 is due for the gluten-free salad).

New and returning members who have not yet paid their 2016-17 fees: \$40 fee (Check payable to PACT). Complete registration form below and mail with check to Janise Allyn-Smith, 14512 Twig Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905.

Name _____ Phone Number (home) _____

Home Address _____ Zip _____

E-mail address (will be used only for communication concerning PACT) _____

School name _____ Director's name _____ phone _____

Lunch box ___ Sandwich (Ham, Turkey or Vegetarian – circle your choice) with chips and whole fruit
___ Garden salad with grilled chicken and gluten free dressing ** (extra \$2 – please add to your payment).

Are you interested in serving on the PACT Board? Yes _____ Maybe, need more info! _____ No _____