

Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers Inc.



March 2020

Spring Newsletter

www.PACTeachers.org

Letter from the Co-Presidents

Dear Pact Members,

As spring is just around the corner and we are enjoying the warmer days, we hope everyone is continuing to have a great school year.

We had a successful Fall Professional Development Day under our new very own training number. We are looking forward to seeing many more join us for the upcoming Spring Professional Development Day which is on Thursday, March 26th. We also have two vendors for Spring Professional Day for your shopping convenience, Usborne Books and Discovery Toys.

Looking forward to the year ahead, we have some vacant Board positions and we are hoping that some of you will volunteer to help serve the PACT members better.

The Board positions are:

Logistics and Hospitality for the Fall PDD in Falls Church, VA, Exhibits/Resource Table, Assessments and Evaluations, Legislative Contact for DC.

Just a gentle reminder that MSDE requires each participant to complete the evaluation and assessment in order to receive the certificate. As we have done in past years, we will issue the certificate at the end of the day, after receiving your evaluation and assessment.

Warmly,

Bernadine Occhiuzzo and Ellie Griffin

Co- Presidents

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Join the PACT Board!

The PACT Board is run by dedicated volunteer early childhood educators. Four positions are currently vacant, so we need members to step forward! Please check the list below and contact us at info@PACTteachers.org if you are interested in joining the Board. Information about open positions can be found in PACT's By-Laws on the website www.PACTteachers.org. The proposed slate of officers for 2020-21 will be presented for a vote of approval from members at the business meeting on March 26.

Proposed 2020-21 Board Members

President - [Scott Mitchell](#) Silver Spring Nursery School, MD

V.P. Program Co-Chairs – [Bernadine Occhiuzzo](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD

- [Doreen Bunten](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD

V.P. Membership – [Ellen Griffin](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD

Secretary - [Melissa Jordan](#) Rockville Presbyterian Cooperative Nursery School, MD

Treasurer - [Janise Allyn-Smith](#) Silver Spring Nursery School, MD

Logistics & Hospitality - VA - **OPEN**

- MD - [Rana Oriolo](#) Learning Center for Young Children, MD

Professional Development Day Administration - [Jessie Auten](#) Providence Nursery School, VA

Exhibits/Resource Table - **OPEN**

Assessments and Evaluations - **OPEN**

Legislative Contact - MD - [Bernadine Occhiuzzo](#)

- DC - **OPEN**

- VA - [Nancy Renner](#) Fort Hunt Preschool, VA

Listserv - [Jennifer DeBernardis](#) MD

Web Master - [Annette Fitzpatrick](#) MD

Newsletter editor - [Annette Fitzpatrick](#) MD

Past Co-Presidents - [Bernadine Occhiuzzo](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD

- [Ellen Griffin](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD

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Membership Renewal

PACT membership for the 2019-20 school year entitles members to participate in PACT's two professional development days – October 23, 2019 and Thursday, March 26, 2020.

Membership renewal and professional development day registration is available online at <https://www.pactteachers.org/forms.html>

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Professional Development Day – Thursday, March 26

PACT’s MSDE Approval Training number: CKO 157568

Guest speaker – Helma Irving

“Intentionally Teaching Social Emotional Skills Throughout the Day”

MSDE Approval CWO#-158168

Content Description

This workshop will demonstrate fun and practical ways to embed and intentionally teach children the social skills they will need to be ready for school and life. Through videos, conversation and hands on make and take activities, participants will leave with information to share with families, and ready to go social skills lessons to implement right away; so bring an empty tote bag to take the materials with you!

Brief Biography of Presenter

Helma Irving is the Assistant Division Director for Children Youth and Families and the Program Manager for Early Childhood Education and Training at Family Services, Inc., part of the Sheppard Pratt Health System, and has worked there for the last 19 years. She earned her Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in Family and Child Development from Virginia Tech, followed by earning a certification in Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation from the University of Maryland School of Medicine. She oversees 8 programs with County and City contracts who serve families and youth in a variety of ways. In addition, Ms. Irving trains early childhood professionals to intentionally teach social and emotional strategies and prevent challenging behaviors in a group setting and coaches teachers to help children be successful in a group setting. She is a certified early childhood trainer for the Maryland State Department of Education, has directed an Early Head Start program and taught all ages in the classroom from early childhood to college level.

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Credit Hours and Core of Knowledge Area

Attend March 26th and earn 3 Core of Knowledge credit hours (1.5 hours Curriculum plus 1.5 hours Child Development). In accordance with MSDE regulations, members must attend the full 3-hour workshop, and complete a content assessment and presenter evaluation before receiving their certificate. New requirements by MSDE also stipulate that members from MD must pass the assessment with a score of 70% or higher. Further details about completing the assessment will be covered at the pre-PDD business meeting. Personalized certificates will be available at the conclusion of the Professional Development Day, also in compliance with MSDE regulations.

Registration

Registration should be submitted by **Thursday, March 12.**

Current Members (dues paid for the 2019-20 school year): There is no additional fee to attend the Spring Professional Development Day. Please complete the online registration form at <https://www.pacteachers.org/forms.html> to let us know you plan to attend, and which lunch box you would like to order.

New and returning members who have not yet paid their 2019-20 fees: \$40. Complete the online membership and registration form at <https://www.pacteachers.org/forms.html>

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

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

Schedule:

9:00 – 9:25am - Registration, refreshments, displays and exhibits

9:25 – 9:40am - Business Meeting, Service Award presentation

9:40 – 11:10am - Helma Irving's presentation, first half

11:15 – 11:45am - Lunch is served

11:45am – 1:05pm - Helma Irving's presentation, second half

1:05 – 1:15pm – Assessment and Evaluations – to be completed before certificates are issued

Light refreshments will be available during the registration period (9:00 to 9:25am).

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

Attendees are asked to indicate their lunch preference on the PDD registration form. Note that orders will not be accepted after March 23 (3 days prior to the PDD).

Vendors: Make sure you allow time to check out the vendors' tables! *Usborne Books* and *Discovery Toys* will have a wide range of items on display.

Resource Table: Want to share information about an upcoming event, training, or ECE organization? Bring 10 copies for the resource table, located in the vendors' area.

Further PDD details: see www.PACTeachers.org or e-mail info@PACTeachers.org

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Award for Devoted Service in Early Childhood Education

The deadline for nominations for this school year has been extended to **March 10**. The award committee looks forward to receiving completed forms for a potential candidate! The award will be presented at the Spring Professional Development Day. Information about the nomination process is on our website <https://www.pacteachers.org/welcome.html> Members receiving the Service Award are also inducted into the *PACT Hall of Fame*.

Hall of Fame

The PACT Board established a *PACT Hall of Fame* in 2016 to recognize members who have given exemplary service in the field of Early Childhood Education. Following are the members who have been inducted so far:

- Janise Allyn-Smith- Teacher/Director, Silver Spring Nursery School, PACT Board member (2017)
- Jennifer DeBernardis, Teacher, Silver Spring Nursery School, PACT Board member (2018)
- Annette Fitzpatrick - Director (retired), CCUMC Preschool, PACT Board member (2018)
- Edie Mossberg – Director, Glenbrook Nursery School, Board member, ECE Consultant (2019)
- Bernadine Occhiuzzo - Director/teacher, Cedar Lane Nursery School. Served on MCCC, MFN, and currently in 2nd year as Co-President of PACT (2019)
- Helene Segal-Turner – Director, Kensington Nursery School, PACT Board member (2018)
- Cindy Walsh – Director (retired) CCPC Weekday Nursery School, PACT Board member (2018)
- Fran Warthen – Director, Suburban Nursery School (2018)
- Angie Zeidenberg – Teacher, Bannockburn Nursery School (2019)

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DVD Collection

PACT maintains a collection of educational DVDs that current PACT members may borrow free of charge. Schools that have at least one PACT member on staff may borrow DVDs for training

purposes. The borrower must pay postage costs both ways, or pick up and return in person. See loan form and instructions on our web site <https://www.pacteachers.org/resources.html>. The collection, which includes nine titles, will be on display at the resource table March 26.

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Job Postings

Looking for a new teaching position in the Washington, DC area? PACT posts job openings on the website – so check it out at <https://www.pacteachers.org/resources.html> . Directors wishing to post job openings should e-mail details to info@PACTeachers.org.

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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-directorssubscribe@yahoogroups.com

SAVE THE DATES!!

PACT Professional Development Days for the 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR:

Fall: Wed., October 21, 2020 at First Christian Church, Falls Church, VA

**Spring: Mid-March, 2021 (TBA) at Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville, Rockville MD.
Members will be notified when date is confirmed.**