



Sitar Arts Center Early Childhood Professional Development Institute February 1-3, 2019

Meeting of Minds

***The Having of Wonderful Ideas* ©Duckworth**

Sitar Arts Center Early Childhood Professional Development Institute, Meeting of Minds will be held February 1st – 3rd at Sitar Arts Center 1700 Kalorama Road Suite 101 and is open to the Sitar community – staff, Board, volunteers, parents and partner organizations. This year's program *The Having of Wonderful Ideas* ©Eleanor Duckworth, focuses on the intersection of the science of brain development with best practices in early childhood education in the areas of visual arts, music, dance, theater, the humanities and mathematics. Our distinguished presenters will lead us to a deeper understanding of how children of all abilities and stages of development can best grow. The Institute is structured to provide experiential activities, interactive exercises and observation of a sample classroom in addition to informative presentations of up to date research that will help educators and parents better understand how to nurture creativity and growth in children.

Our knowledgeable and inspirational presenters include: Eleanor Duckworth, Professor Emerita at Harvard and a student of Jean Piaget, whose work is grounded in learning about the nature of intelligence and understanding in children; Jessica Phillips-Silver, an international speaker and the founder of Growing Brains – a brain-based approach to raising children and communities; Diane Nutting, a nationally known performing arts educator who focuses her work on inclusion in the arts; Marcia Daft, founder of Moving Through Math and the Teaching of the Music of Language; Mary Hall Surface, a playwright and theater artist and teacher; Rosary Lalik, Associate Professor Emerita at Virginia Tech and master teacher who has focused her work on literacy and done research on issue related to social justice, equity and gender issues; Sara Pleydell, award-winning author and language arts professor who has focused her work on arts integration in childhood education; Susan Fleischmann, LICSW, Director of Mental Health at Mary's Center and Sylvia Zwi, Dean and Director, Early Childhood Arts and Professional Development at Sitar Arts Center, founder of Coaching through Practice: Perfecting the Art of Teaching, LLC and Cultural Remittances Initiative, Master Teaching Artist with focus on early learning at Wolf Trap Institute, Inner-City Inner-Child and District of Columbia Public Schools.

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AGENDA

Friday, February 1: 5:30pm - 9:00pm

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| 5:30 | <i>Welcome</i>
Sylvia Zwi | Art Room 1 and 2 |
| 6:30 | <i>Standing in a Character's Shoes: Deeper Meaning Through Monologues</i>
Mary Hall Surface | Dance Studio |
| 8:30 | <i>Reflections and Getting to Know One Another</i> | |

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AGENDA

Saturday, February 2: 8:00am - 5:00pm

8:00	<i>Coffee</i>	
8:45	<i>Growing Brains: Brain Development and the Arts</i> Jessica Silver	Theater
9:30	<i>Sample Early Childhood Arts Class (0-5 years old)</i> Sylvia Zwi	Dance Studio
10:15	<i>You Don't Want to Cover a Subject, You Want to Uncover It</i> Eleanor Ruth Duckworth	Art Room 1
11:30	<i>Debriefing</i>	Theater
12:15	<i>Lunch</i>	Mary's Center
1:00	<i>"Where the Wild Things Are," Sensorial Guided Dramatic Arts</i> Sarah Pleydell	Mary's Center
2:05	<i>Exploring the children's book "Swimmy" through Music</i> Marcia Daft	Mary's Center
1:00	<i>Exploring the children's book "Swimmy" through Music</i> Marcia Daft	Mary's Center
2:05	<i>"Where the Wild Things Are," Sensorial Guided Dramatic Arts</i> Sarah Pleydell	Mary's Center
3:10	<i>Break</i>	
3:25	<i>Visual Arts</i> Sylvia Zwi	Dance Studio
4:15	<i>Panel Discussion: Meeting of Minds</i> <i>Essential Ideas in Words</i> Eleanor, Jessica, Marcia, Rosary, Sarah, Sylvia	Theater
5:00	<i>Reception</i>	

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FACULTY

Lenore B Kelner

Lenore Blank Kelner is a professional actress, director, author, and educator. Since 1981, Ms. Kelner has directed her own educational theater company, Interact Story Theatre. Interact performs in schools, museums, libraries, and theaters all over the United States. In addition, Ms. Kelner serves as an education consultant to the Maryland State Department of Education as well as school systems and schools nationwide. She has trained thousands of teachers in how to integrate drama into everyday classroom instruction. She has worked with students in all grade levels from Pre-K through college. She has written three books on drama and education.



Her most recent book, *A Dramatic Approach to Reading Comprehension*, which she co-authored, was published by Heinemann in 2006. She is the recipient of the 2004 Creative Drama Award from the American Alliance for Theatre and Education

Marcia Daft

Marcia Daft is the Founder of Moving Through Math and Teaching the Music of Language. Marcia's unique teaching methods have been energizing classrooms, performing arts centers, and school districts across the United States for over twenty-five years. Ms. Daft produces award-winning children's books, instructional materials, and videos that bring arts-integrated learning to life in the classroom. Ms. Daft is a national workshop presenter for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. She has traveled nationally and internationally as a Master Artist with the Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts. And she serves as Arts Integration Consultant for school



districts and performing arts organizations in every state. Ms. Daft has developed museum exhibitions and educational programs for the Smithsonian Institution. She has written more than twenty children's educational booklets with CD's for The Smithsonian Institution and the National Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Daft graduated Phi Beta Kappa in bio-medical engineering from Duke University. She was a Century Fellow at The University of Chicago, where she earned a master's degree in music. She studied piano performance at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, and holds both a Certificate and License in Dalcroze Eurhythmics - a technique of integrating music and dance. Ms. Daft presents her work in both Spanish and English.

Eleanor Ruth Duckworth, PhD

Eleanor Ruth Duckworth (born 1935) is a teacher, teacher educator, and educational theorist, earned her Ph.D. (Docteur en sciences de l'éducation) at the Université de Genève in 1977, and grounds her work in the work of her teachers Jean Piaget and Bärbel Inhelder, and their insights into the nature and development of understanding and intelligence and in their clinical interview method. Currently Professor Emerita at Harvard University and President of Critical Explorers <criticalexplorers.org>, Dr. Duckworth also has been an elementary school teacher. Her participation in the 1960s curriculum development projects Elementary Science Study and African Primary Science Program was germinal for her insights and practices in exploratory methods in teaching and learning. She has conducted teacher education, curriculum development, and program evaluation in the United States, Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia and her native Canada. Duckworth is also a coordinator of Cambridge United for Justice with Peace and a performing modern dancer.



Susan Fleischmann, LICSW

Susan Fleischmann is a Licensed Social Worker. She joined Mary's Center in June 2011 and is based at the Ontario Road site in Adams Morgan, Washington, D.C. Ms. Fleischmann is particularly interested in adult psychotherapy (relational and psychodynamic). She holds an MSW from the University of Maryland at Baltimore and a Certificate in Adult Psychotherapy from the Baltimore Washington Center for Psycho-analysis. She



was born in Baltimore and is of German heritage. She enjoys the outdoors, going to the theater and making mosaics. Ms Fleischmann says: "I chose to work in mental health because I think that mental health determines our ability to function in life at our maximum potential as well as to experience higher levels of life satisfaction. Find ways to get support and enjoy yourself. Do one thing each day that makes you feel good or at least better."

Rosary V. Lalik, Ed.D

Rosary V. Lalik, Associate Professor of Education in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech, was recently conferred the "associate professor emerita" title by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors during the board's quarterly meeting. A member of the Virginia Tech community since 1982, Dr. Lalik was a dedicated teacher of literacy, and her teaching excellence was evidenced by the fact that she earned consistent 4.0 overall student evaluation scores for all 26 years, across all courses — the maximum overall rating that an instructor can earn. Dr. Lalik provided outstanding leadership of the School of Education programs in her role as director of the Northern Virginia Center School of Education, using her collaborative and supportive strategies to bring faculty and students together in positive, creative, and intellectual ways. Dr. Lalik made contributions to the university and academic community nationwide in terms of her research on issues related to social justice, equity, and gender issues, and provided leadership in the literacy program and in the Department of Teaching and Learning for 18 years. Dr. Lalik extended this leadership to integrating literacy with the disciplines, in particular science, with her expertise in reading in the content areas. She received her bachelor's degree and master's degree from the State University of New York College at Oswego, and an Ed.D. from Syracuse University.



Diane Nutting

Working at the intersections of disability, arts, and education, Ms. Nutting is a consultant providing training, project coordination, and strategic planning services for cultural arts institutions throughout the country. Recent projects include work with the Smithsonian Institution, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the High Museum of Art, Ford's Theatre, and the US Botanic Garden. Her experience includes over twenty-five years of working with artists and K-Adult students of all abilities as a teacher, administrator, and artistic collaborator. Ms. Nutting served for nine years as the Director of Access and Inclusion for Imagination Stage, working to provide accessible and inclusive performing arts experiences for all students, patrons, and artists. Previous positions include Director of Education for City Theatre Company (Pittsburgh), and Associate Director of Education for the New Victory Theater (NYC). She has written for several journals and publications including *Youth Theatre Journal*, *VSA Intersections: Arts and Special Education*, *TYA Today*, and *Washington Parent*.



Sarah Pleydell

Sarah Pleydell, author of *Cologne*, is a graduate of Oxford and London Universities, an award-winning writer, performer and playwright who teaches English and writing in the Honors Program at the University of Maryland. For the past twenty years, she has been a master teaching artist and arts integration specialist, working with institutions that include The Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the Luce Institute. In 2000, she won the American Association for Theatre Educators' award for best book of the year. Based on her childhood in London, *Cologne*, (October 2012, Fuze Publishing) has been twenty years in the making. It has benefited from fellowships at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and input from a number of acclaimed writers including Joyce Kornblatt, Stanley Plumly, Sarah Blake, Barbara Graham, and Molly Tinsley.



Jessica Phillips-Silver, PhD

Jessica Phillips-Silver, PhD, is an international speaker and the founder and CEO of *Growing Brains™: A brain-based approach to raising children and communities*. The mission of *Growing Brains* is to empower families and institutions by integrating evidence from brain science with core values from the arts, medicine and advocacy for social justice. Dr. Phillips-Silver is an associate researcher in the Department of Neuroscience at Georgetown University, where she developed Georgetown's first course on Music, Brain and Body. Dr. Phillips-Silver earned a Bachelor of Humanities & Arts in psychology and music from Carnegie Mellon University, a Ph.D. in auditory development and music perception at the McMaster Institute for Music and the Mind in Ontario and conducted postdoctoral research in the International Laboratory of Brain, Music and Sound in Montreal. Her research examines how 'feeling the beat' in music is a multisensory experience in infants and adults, and she documented the first case of 'beat deafness'. She currently studies music processing and cortical plasticity in early blindness, and the development of musical rhythm and executive functions in Deaf and hearing children. Jessica's work is published in esteemed journals including *Science*, *Hearing Research*, *Brain and Cognition*, *Cognitive Neuropsychology*, *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, *Frontiers in Education* and *Research in Developmental Disabilities*. She has been featured in USA Today, Time Magazine, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Men's Health, the Atlantic, NPR, and the Discovery Channel. As a registered yoga teacher, Jessica leads workshops on the brain-body connection in yoga and healing.



Mary Hall Surface

Mary Hall Surface is a playwright, theater director, and teaching artist devoted to intergenerational audiences, multidisciplinary collaborations, and innovative student and community engagement through the arts. For the Kennedy Center, Ms. Hall offers drama-based professional development workshops for teachers nationwide. For the National Gallery of Art, she has written and directed four plays for family audiences, most recently *Color's Garden: An Adventure with the Elements of Art* and is the founding instructor of the NGA's Writing Salon. She is on the faculty of Harvard's Project Zero



Classroom where she teaches expanding perspective, uncovering complexity and building empathy through drama. Nominated for nine Helen Hayes Awards, Ms. Surface received the 2002 Outstanding Director for her musical, *Perseus Bayou*. Other DC projects include working with the National Symphony Orchestra, Folger Shakespeare Theatre, and Arena Stage. She has 13 published plays, an anthology, four original cast albums, and two collections of scenes and monologues for middle school students. As the artistic director of DC's Atlas INTERSECTIONS Festival (2009-15), Ms. Surface curated over 600 all-arts performances. She received the Chorpensing Award from the American Alliance for Theatre and Education for her outstanding body of work in 2006.

Sylvia Zwi

Sylvia is a firm believer that the arts are intrinsic of our humanity and is committed to its transformative power. A native of Brazil, she has worked with institutions dedicated to the arts, arts education and teaching through the arts for the past 33 years.

Sylvia is currently Dean and Director, Early Childhood Arts and Professional Development at Sitar Arts Center as well as Teacher, Teaching Artist and Arts Integration Coach with The Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts, Inner-City Inner -Child, and DCPS (District of Columbia Public Schools).

Sylvia's past engagements also include schools such as Stecher and Horowitz School of Music and Woodmere Academy in New York and institutions such as Levine Music (The Selma Levine School of Music), Imagination Stage (Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts) and Choral Arts Society in the Greater Washington Area.

Sylvia is co-founder of "Cultural Remittances" an initiative aiming cultural change and empowerment through information, cultural arts' exchange, health education, and financial literacy, and founder of Coaching Through Practice: Perfecting the Art of Learning and Teaching, LLC



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WELCOME

The Institute deepens the understanding, evokes the spirit of inquiry, and inspires the thinking and creativity of how the intersection of the arts, sciences, and humanities enrich opportunities for learning and teaching.

A list of presenters engage our community of practice in exploration and reflection of self and the worlds around them.

Presentations on brain development and workshops on several arts disciplines, including on disability and inclusion practices, inform and guide participants' through observation of real time sessions.

Discussions on deep listening, intentionality, reflection and impact will broaden our understanding on how to nurture and nourish in our students a strong sense of self, fertile imagination and creativity.

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SESSIONS

Standing in a Character's Shoes: Deeper Meaning Through Monologues

Mary Hall Surface

This interactive workshop presents a dynamic process for deepening understanding of characters' emotions and motivations. Inspired by a poem and its accompanying illustration, participants will imagine, improvise and share monologues.

Intergenerational, Multicultural and Multilingual Expressive Arts Experience

(0-5 years old)

Sylvia Zwi

An intergenerational music experience where both children and adults discover the joys of sharing the creative arts with others in their community, while engaged in singing, moving, storytelling and play.

Growing Brains

Jessica Silver, PhD

The mission of Growing Brains is to empower families and institutions by integrating evidence from brain science with core values from the arts, medicine and advocacy for social justice.

Exploring the children's book, Swimmy through Music & Movement

Marcia Daft

The philosophy of Dalcroze Eurhythmics views our body as our first musical instrument. In this workshop, observe how young children explore and interpret the children's book, Swimmy by Leo Leoni as they move creatively in response to music.

"Where the Wild Things Are," Sensorial Guided Dramatic Arts

Sarah Pleydell

Not only are the characters and plot ready-made, but most children's stories cover themes pertinent to early childhood learning and are integrated regularly into preschool-kindergarten curricula.

You Don't Want to Cover a Subject, You Want to Uncover It

Eleanor Duckworth, PhD

Getting people to think about what they think, and asking them questions about it, is the best way I know how to teach.

Concepts of Early Learning Visual Arts Experiences

Sylvia Zwi

Summarizing through process and developing ideas for collaboration.

Inclusion Best Practices in Arts Education Settings

Diane Nutting

This workshop designed for teaching artists will help improve confidence and increase skill sets in facilitating arts education experiences for Early Learners to Teen students of all abilities in an inclusive setting.

Topics explored will include a basic overview of disability and inclusion philosophy and language, general and individual student accommodations and strategies, creating diversity of engagement, "decoding" behavior, and maintaining a culture of social inclusion that empowers all students. Participants will gain a broader understanding of both the philosophy and practice of inclusion, as well as tangible resources and strategies that can be implemented within their classroom practice.

Strengths Based Teaching

Susan Fleischmann, LICSW

With real-life stories, practical advice backed by Gallup data, and access to the Clifton StrengthsFinder and Clifton Youth Strengths Explorer assessments, Strengths Based Teaching builds the foundation for positive teaching.

Song Circle

Marcia Daft

Capturing the essential Ideas explored over the weekend through improvisational composition using spoken word, singing, melodic motifs and body percussion.