

# FUNDACIÓN ARGENTINA MARIA MONTESSORI

BY CONSTANZA CARBALLO

## EVENTS

FAMM continued with the project 'Montessori Solidarity Network', which is a monthly meeting amongst members of FAMM and over 10 local non-profit organisations that run a Montessori initiative for underprivileged children.

Another project FAMM are working on is the 'Crianza Juntos', which is a joint venture between the Universidad Torcuato di Tella, Ministry of Social Welfare of Buenos Aires province, a group of nutritionists, architects, and the federal council of investment.



## COLLABORATIONS

FAMM are helping to organise the first ever 0-3 AMI Assistants course in Uruguay. They are also offering major support to help realise 3-6 AMI Assistants courses in Paraguay and Chile.



Societies Annual Reports

# MONTESSORI BELARUS FOUNDATION

BY KIRYL ZHYBUL

## EVENTS

MBF provided information to Montessori schools about their projects in an attempt to form a cooperative and functioning community across the country. They created their own quality system for Montessori education on the territory of Belarus.

They are interested in setting up a Training Centre so that they can start training teachers with the support of the Training centres in Russia and Ukraine.

They have also been working on a new website and Facebook page for the society, which you can follow here: [facebook.com/montessorimir.ru](https://facebook.com/montessorimir.ru)

There is also a Facebook group page for Russian speaking Montessori teachers and parents which is run by the Belarusian society and other affiliates.

An ambition of theirs is to start working on developing their own film on Montessori education and how it overlaps with so many elements of the Belarusian culture and traditions. They expect the film to come out in 3 languages: Belarusian, English and Russian. Follow them on Facebook for more updates!

## COLLABORATIONS

MBF collaborated with the Centre of Ecological Solutions, and the department of Education of the Mogilev Regional Executive Committee Educational Institution.



## Societies Annual Reports

# MONTESSORI AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION

BY CHRISTINE HARRISON

## EVENTS

MAF held their annual Early Childhood Conference in March 2018 and Whole School Refresher in June. They also held pedagogical professional development workshops by AMI trained guides from all levels in all States. Leadership Network Forums were organised in every State, including a Montessori Business Managers Forum, a Montessori ECEC Centre Directors Forum, a Montessori Governance workshop, an Innovation Summit, a Marketing and Communications Forum and parent talks. An Orientation to Adolescent Studies also commenced in January 2019.



## MEDIA

MAF's website can be found at [montessori.org.au/](http://montessori.org.au/) which regularly posts articles via it's blogs and lists all of their services.

Photographs shown on the left and below display the Montessori Football course, (below left) the Innovation Summit, (below right) the Whole School Refresher; Leadership Network Forum; and Early Childhood Conference.

## OUTREACH

The Montessori Children's Foundation (MCF) ensures Montessori programs are made available to some of the most vulnerable children in Australia. MCF focuses on indigenous children in remote communities where the need for quality education and support is intensified by vast distances from the centres of Australian government decision-making, service-delivery and economic activity, and by community histories of invasion, appropriation, abuse and neglect. Despite this, in those same communities we find a strong desire for a better future, and a deep awareness that a community's future lies with its children.



## COLLABORATIONS

MCF now has Montessori programs in the following Indigenous communities:

Torres Strait, Qld. For those not already receiving benefits as staff or parents of a subscribing school/centre, we offer an Individual Subscription. In addition to supporting the national body for Montessori, the subscription provides:

- 10% discount off all purchases from our online shop
- 25% discount off all our events throughout the year
- quarterly eBulletins, including job ads and Montessori news
- quarterly eArticles
- annual Montessori Insights e-magazine
- access to the Publications section of the website featuring hundreds of articles and professional resources, with back issues of all publications

The subscription also includes annual membership of the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI)

MAF is on the Independent Schools Consultative Council, Board member on NSW Independent Schools Consultative Group, MAF's Executive Manager is on Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) Second Tier Review Panel, We attend meetings of Australian Government Education Ministers briefing sessions and Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority (ACARA) updates (the Montessori National Curriculum is recognised by the Australian Government) and ACECQA consultation forums. We have a relationship with the child care sector and make a priority to ensure that Montessori is on the government's early education agenda. One of our major focus areas is the drafting and submission of responses on behalf of the Montessori sector on major policy and regulation reviews both on a federal and state level. We constantly strive to support Montessori education in this complex and changing landscape.

Many Australians support International outreach work, especially in Thailand through the Australian Thai Montessori Supporters group. Australian trainers travelled extensively to assist AMI training centres with their courses.



Societies Annual Reports

# ASSOCIATION INSTITUTE MONTESSORI BULGARIA

BY ANNA-MARIYA YOTSOVA

## EVENTS

The Institute Montessori Bulgaria organised several educational events for parents and teachers last year:

- The Brainstorm Tour on 5th April, with Steve Hughes and Laura Flores Shaw. More than 100 participants attended the event. A short video with Bulgarian subtitles can be viewed [here](#).

- 3-6 Montessori seminar on 16-18th May with AMI Trainer Elina Rautasalo. Feedback was very positive from all 25 participants.



## MEDIA

Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/MontessoriBG/>

Youtube:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDAwLPRkmeAm\\_btSLNfP8jg?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDAwLPRkmeAm_btSLNfP8jg?view_as=subscriber)

Instagram:  
[https://www.instagram.com/institute\\_montessori\\_bulgaria/](https://www.instagram.com/institute_montessori_bulgaria/)



- AMI Assistants Course 0-3 was organised on 25th June - 6th July with AMI Trainer Patricia Wallner. The course was attended by 18 parents and teachers, some of whom were highly inspired and decided to continue with a diploma course after.

- IMB hosted the Montessori Europe Congress on 5-7th October, which was supported by the AMI team. Ginni Sackett's opening key note speech "The Scientist in the classroom; The Montessori teacher as scientist" was an amazing start to the event. The break-out sessions and presentations led by Ginni Sackett, Baiba Krumins Grazzini and Jenny Höglund received very positive responses from the participants. The brochure for the event included 11 invaluable articles, in both languages English and Bulgarian. The results of the post-event feedback survey show that all participants were highly satisfied by the location, organisation and programme of the event.



## COLLABORATIONS

Collaboration continued between IMB and the Ministry of education and science, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", New Bulgarian University, Municipality of Plovdiv, and UNICEF.

Bulgarian authorities in education, and the Institute Montessori Bulgaria continued to promote the Montessori method in public schools.

To help facilitate the Montessori Annual congress of Montessori Europe in Sofia, IMB established partnerships with Sofia municipality, Ministry of education and science, Teach for Bulgaria Foundation, Sofia University and New Bulgarian University.

## MEDIA & PUBLICATIONS

An interview with Dr. Steve Hughes can be found [here](#). Series of interviews with Montessori teachers and assistants about Montessori education were produced.

An interview with AMI trainer about Patricia Wallner's Seminar in Sofia was released and founder, Anna-Mariya Yotsova was interviewed for an article on "How to build a successful Montessori school".

For more articles featuring the society in Bulgaria and how Montessori is developing please write to them.



## Societies Annual Reports

# ASSOCIATION MONTESSORI INTERNATIONALE CANADA

BY ANNE LAWS

## EVENTS

AMI (Canada) held its inaugural event in January 2018 with speaker, Dr. Michelle Kieghtley, PhD. speaking on "Montessori's Brain Gain: How Montessori Builds a Better Brain". This event was held at the University of Toronto and was open to all. Workshops held in 2018 included a two day Literacy event in Vancouver for Elementary AMI teachers, a Dyslexia workshop in Calgary for all Elementary Montessori educators and a talk on Anxiety in children in Toronto for all Montessori educators.



## MEDIA

In addition to its website, AMI (Canada) has a business page on Facebook, a Facebook group, and an instagram page you can follow here: @montessoricanada

AMI (Canada) has a Government Liaison Committee that has been working with Ministry of Education officials in the province of Ontario. AMI (Canada) is invited to sit on the Early Years and Child Care Committee, a Ministry of Education committee that seeks input from child care and early education 'stakeholders' in Ontario. This committee also met with Ministry employees to advocate for AMI principles and practices and explore ways that AMI criteria can be fully implemented under current government regulations.

# ZHEJIANG MONTESSORI INSTITUTE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

BY YOUZI ZUO

## EVENTS

The Affiliate organised the 2018 AMI Refresher for the 3-6 level in Shanghai in May, with 62 participants in attendance. The Affiliate and AMI Chongqing Training Center - Chongqing Beautiful Grassland Montessori Teacher Training School jointly organised the 4th AMI China Annual Conference. More than 600 people attended the conference. Two Affiliate representatives have attended the 1st AMI ageing and Dementia and Ageing workshop in Beijing with more than 100 participants.



## MEDIA

The affiliate continues to use its website and Wechat account to reach hundreds of thousands of people who are interested in Montessori.

The affiliate has translated the AMI pamphlet "Cosmic Education" for the 1st AMI Elementary course in China.

The affiliate continues to translate in to the Chinese language, and continues to publish their bi-monthly journal "Follow the Child", which is a member benefit.

## COLLABORATIONS

The affiliate and Montessori Australia Foundation (MAF) jointly organised a Montessori study trip to Australia in October 2018. Fourteen participants joined on this trip, where the group visited three local Montessori schools in the Sydney area. Affiliate representatives also attended the Australia Montessori Innovation Summit in 2018.

The affiliate continues to support the development of various AMI Montessori initiatives in China, such as Montessori Football, Montessori ageing and dementia care. Furthermore, the affiliate recently began a research project in conjunction with Liaoning Normal university in China.





Societies Annual Reports

# FUNDACIÓN ECOEDUCATIVA MONTESSORI DE COLOMBIA

BY LYDA MARIA FRANKY ZAPATA

## EVENTS

FEMCO finished their second trip through downtown and eastern Colombia. They enjoyed the experience of seeing different communities interested in receiving training and preparation to grow as a Montessori community. There is a great deal of interest in these communities to help create one large Montessori family in Colombia, and the world. FEMCO has unforgettable memories and bonds of friendship and fraternity with all these institutions.



## TOUR

Tour for FEMCO around Colombia where they gave talks, meetings and offered conferences:

Buga city,  
San Vicente de Paul de  
Buga Institute of  
Education,  
Ciudad de Tuluá,  
Ciudad de Cartago,  
City of Santa Rosa de  
Cabal,  
Bogotá,  
Villavicencio,  
Santa Bárbara,

## PROJECTS

The EcoEducative Montessori Foundation Western Tour of Colombia was a great success, with an attendance of more than one hundred (100) people in the auditorium.

A school of parents with an attendance of fifty (50) parents of the Liceo María Montessori of Santa Rosa de Cabal. This was a free event, made possible by a donation of 100,000 Colombian pesos to FEMCO foundation.



## OUTREACH

They visited the department of Cundinamarca where the capital is located in Bogotá, which is seeing a growing number of children's houses in the country.

Many discussions took place with people who have made wonderful jumps in regard to discarding a more traditional based education, to return to where the child has the option to choose based on a healthy use of their freedom between play, literature, art or exploration of the environment.

FEMCO visited a number of universities such as Santo Tomás University, Universidad del Llano, Open University (Universidad Abierta) and Uniminuto, which opened their understanding to the greater need of the group of Normalists, as future educators of the country, and FAMI (Family, Women and Children), and Pedagogy of Early Childhood.



## Societies Annual Reports

# ASOCIACE MONTESSORI CR

BY ZUZANA KASPAROVÁ

## EVENTS

Since 2016, we organise an annual Czech Meeting for Montessori Teachers. Each year various AMI trainers hold keynote speeches and sometimes conduct a workshop.

This year the conference was held in November and AMI 3-6 Trainer Elina Rautasalo spoke about the competencies of teachers in the 21st Century. The conference was attended by 170 Montessori teachers from all over the country.

## OUTREACH

In 2018 AM CR partnered in two major EU funded projects, both of which were aimed at developing Montessori education in the CR. "Helping Schools Grow" focused on creating space for teachers to share knowledge and experiences; and create a network of Montessori primary schools in the CR. Through this project we are gathering a net of 14 schools with AMI trained teachers, one in each of the 14 regions of the CR, where teachers can share. The Ministry of Education will then use the data from this research for the development of inclusive education in the CR.

Another project "Become Part of It" came to a close in December 2018. This was aimed at empowering women to become active change agents in their local communities. During the project we helped women to participate in non-governmental organisations and in local political leaderships. We believe raising gender equality and participation of women in local governments and NGO's has a positive effect on other areas such as education and social care.

In 2018, we became partner in another major EU project, co-financed by the Czech Ministry of Education. It was called "Keys to Successful Learning" and had similar ambitions to the previous project "Helping Schools to Grow". It helped develop networking opportunities amongst Montessori Elementary schools. Six schools from six different regions were part of this project. Apart from the possibility to share and discuss Montessori principles and experiences, the project also looks at the importance of formative evaluation of students, and the example of Montessori schools in comparison to traditional education in CR.

## MEDIA

During 2018 Soňa Havlíčková, Chairwoman of AM CR, announced her departure and started to work in our partner school Montessori schools Andílek. Her role is now Coordinator of Public and outdoor Events; and Coordinator to the Leaders of the Community centre.

The new Chairwoman of the Association is Zuzana Kašparová.

The Association has one full time employee, one part time and some free lancers.

We run two Facebook pages which can be found here:  
<https://www.facebook.com/asociacemontessori.cz/>, which focuses on teachers.

<https://www.facebook.com/zijememontessori/>, which is for parents and the general public.

# MONTESSORI FOUNDATION OF EGYPT

BY HALA ABOULELA

## OUTREACH & TRAINING

We have tried to support a project for establishing a Children's House for African Refugees in Cairo. The person who leads the project has attended the EsF in South Africa, and has also joined the first AMI diploma in Cairo. The Foundation has also been involved in a project to transform an existing Montessori Programme for the children of factory workers and staff, into an Authentic Montessori Children's House.



The project leader has joined the first AMI diploma course in Cairo. Her colleague who works in the same classroom has also joined the AMI Assistants Course. Two more teachers from another factory that belong to the same group have also joined the AMI Assistants Course, as a step towards partnership in order to apply Montessori Education in the schools of all their factories starting with EVA Cosmetics and EVA Pharms, which are considered two of Egypt's largest factories.



Societies Annual Reports

# SUOMEN MONTESSORILIITTO RY

BY TEA VIITASALO

## EVENTS

The Finnish Montessori society, represented at the AMI AGM by Marja-Leena Tyrväinen, together with other members of the society. In August 2018, a Montessori Primary school opened in Helsinki, Finland.

The society held its 6th Nordic Montessori Conference in Helsinki. AMI's President Philip O'Brien and Executive Director Lynne Lawrence attended and gave lectures during the conference.



Around 125 attendees were at the Helsinki Montessori conference.

Finnish Montessori teachers also had a gathering in Espoo, Finland, where they made some collaborative plans for the future, including a "materialbank" for Montessori teachers.

## MEDIA

In 2018, the Finnish Montessori Society published 'A Guide to Montessori Pedagogy' written by Susan Wilander.

A Montessori magazine is one of the benefits for the membership; this is an annual publication.



## Societies Annual Reports

# ASSOCIATION MONTESSORI DE FRANCE

BY ANOUCHE HOVNANIAN

## EVENTS

We organised 2 seminars of two days for educators and assistants on communication skills. We had one seminar on music for ages 3-6 and 6-12 (61 participants attended); and in January 2018 we had a conference with Benoit Dubuc which had the theme "Are Children more Difficult Today than Before?" Hadrien Roche also gave a talk on "Empathy and Cosmic Education", which drew an audience of 120.

Other major work projects include: 'Montessori Partage,' which is building a network for schools and AMI alumni educators; our second project is a programme for parents called "Montessori in the Family". This focuses on themes such as how to create a child friendly environment at home.



## MEDIA

Our Facebook currently has 5,000 followers.

A powerpoint has been made available for all Montessori schools to show parents what Montessori education is.

Subtitles were created for one of the AMI videos on teacher training. This has been viewed more than 6,000 times.

There were 7 articles in the press (news articles) and 3 radio interviews.

Newsletters are sent to 1200 individuals each month.

Two editions of our printed magazine in French were published in 2018.

Collaborations for 2018 include the AMI Affiliated Training Centre: Institut Supérieur Maria Montessori; the Centre de formation Montessori de la Francophonie; Foundation Montessori de France; Public Montessori which is an association working to sustain the development of Montessori pedagogy in public schools and support educators.

Furthermore, working with the Alliance des Asocats pour les Droits de l'Homme which prepares legal advice for schools; and Printemps de l'éducation - a federation of alternative pedagogies.

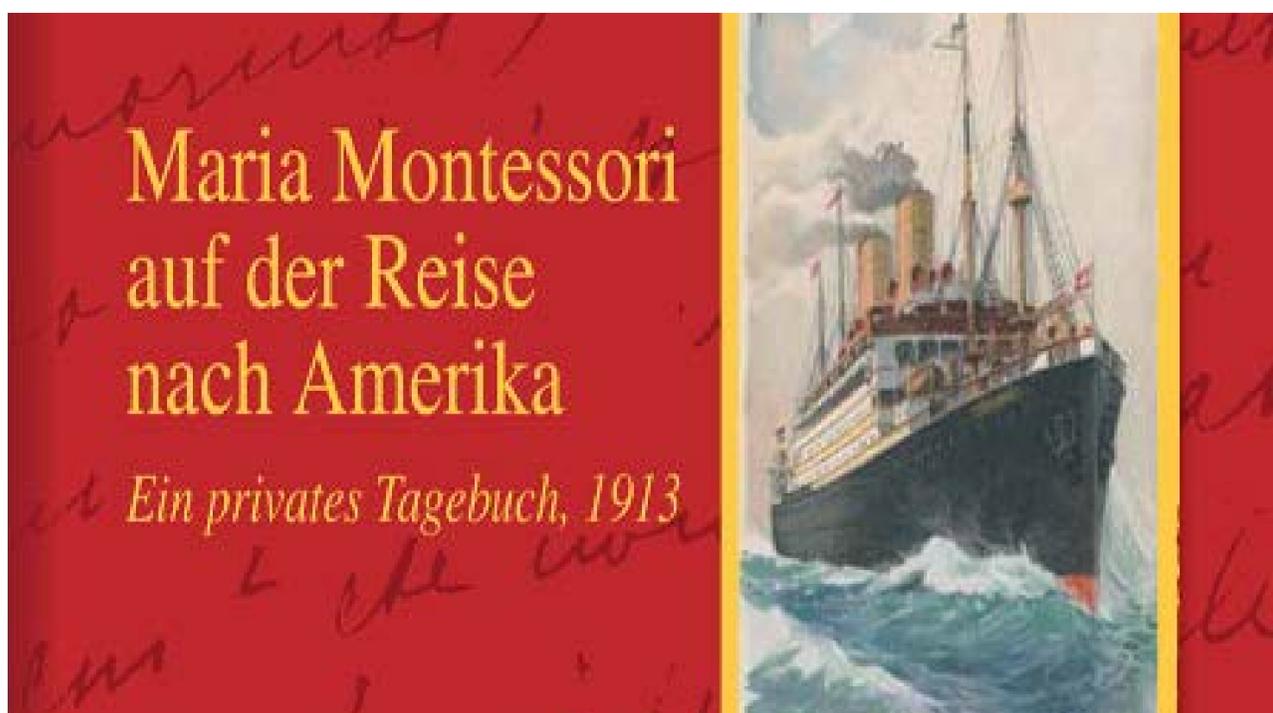
# DEUTSCHE MONTESSORI GESELLSCHAFT E.V.

BY DR ELA ECKERT

## EVENTS

Last year, board members, Malve Fehrer and Ela Eckert, including DMG Ambassador Rainer Volkel attended the first German Affiliated Societies meeting of DMG, DMV and MDD which was held in Frankfurt. Board members also attended conferences such as the DAMIP meeting in June, and the Refresher course with Renée Classen in Flueli Ranft/ Switzerland.

The DMG board also continued its preparation for an International Montessori Congress in Frankfurt to be held on 6-8th November 2020. The title will be "Maria Montessori 150 years: Children and Adolescents on their way to become World Citizens".



## MEDIA

In 2018, DMG published two issues of its magazine DAS KIND. Both issues had a focus on the implementation of Cosmic Education. The magazine has a circulation of 1500 copies per issue.

DMG assisted in the German translation of Maria Montessori's private diary, "Montessori sails to America - a Private Diary 1913".

DMG supported the German edition of the book "Maria Montessori writes to her Father: Letters from California 1915"; and with the translation and publication of "Maria Montessori Speaks to Parents".

## OUTREACH & COLLABORATIONS

DMG board members supported students and teachers from the 'Montessori school Göttingen' as well as 'Montessori Bildungshaus Hannover' who attended the Montessori Model United Nations conference in Rome in May 2018.

DMG and the umbrella organisation 'Montessori Dachverband Deutschland' (MDD) continued their close cooperation regarding the Montessori Quality Frame (Montessori Qualitätsrahmen). A two-year pilot phase has started where teachers and schools are invited to connect with MDD in order to establish standards and work on quality.



## Societies Annual Reports

# DEUTSCHE MONTESSORI VEREINIGUNG

BY JOACHIM CUYPERS

## EVENTS

Our traditional study conference has been held since 1990 at the Thomas-Morus Academy in Bensberg near Cologne and has about 300 participants. The conference which took place from 5-7 October was entitled "to take over responsibility - Montessori in the world of today". In the context of the lectures, the panel discussion and the 20 working groups offered the relevance of the topic was clarified. The training series "What affects children affects humanity" with 100 participants took place on 3 - 4 March in Bensberg.

As part of the General Meeting on October 6, 2018, the membership decided that DMV will again be a member of MDD from January 1, 2019.



## MEDIA

The Journal MONTESSORI "The hand as a tool of the mind" discussed linguistic education in Montessori pedagogy.

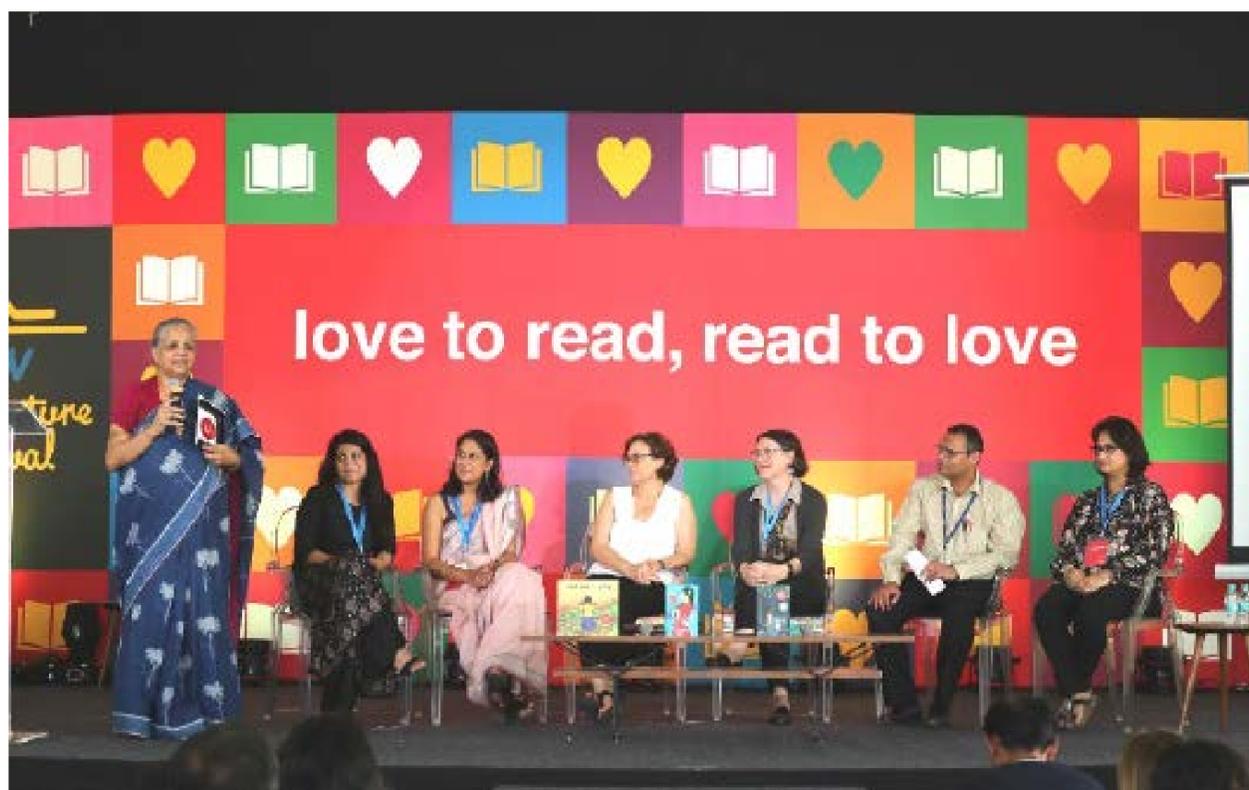
Two special issues were published in 2018; issue 1 on Giuliana Sorge - a like minded collaborator of Maria Montessori; and issue 2 on Sensitive periods and macro-rhythmic activity development.

# INDIAN MONTESSORI FOUNDATION

BY RUKMINI RAMACHANDRAN

## EVENTS

With a view to work closely with the wider community, and to promote the Montessori approach to education, we organise a series of 'Thursday Talks' and Workshops. This year we organised 18 'Thursday Talks' and four workshops in the cities: Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and Mumbai. The topics for the Talks revolved around: Reforms in Education, the role of the parents, the Importance of stories and books in a child's life, Introducing performing arts to young children, Linking Montessori Practices in the child's home, Children and Environmental Education. The workshops focused on First Aid, Education for the Elementary Child, Role of supporting staff, Joyful Journey towards reading and writing.



## PUBLICATIONS

We published one Montessori book "Education and Peace". We also reprinted the book "What You Should Know About Your Child". We have now published in total nine Montessori Books. We published and released a collection of essays by Mr. A.M. Joosten last year, named "Foundations of Montessori Pedagogy". Our Newsletter, The Touch Board, carries news of interest to all members of the Montessori community. We published eight issues of The Touch Board in the year (2018-2019). Montessori Matters, our Annual Journal, brings out serious articles on education by Montessori practitioners, educators and experts from other fields. The 2018 issue of Montessori Matters revolved around the theme, Swayam - Independent Thought Independent Action, which was the theme of the Fourth National Montessori Conference held during January 2018 at Chennai. The presentations of all the speakers of the conference were published in this issue.

## Societies Annual Reports

# ASSOCIATION OF AMI TEACHERS OF IRELAND

BY ALISON PIGOT

## EVENTS

Our attendance at the AMI AGM 2018 was an inspiring visit and served as a great way to remind ourselves why we put so much time and energy into keeping AMI represented in Ireland.

Our association joined with St Nicholas in organising a workshop on Montessori for ageing and dementia with Jennifer Brush. We were also party to a free public event with Jennifer Brush, a leading Montessori and Dementia Trainer and expert, Mr. Patrick Doherty, Head of Strategic Development, Housing and Funding, ALONE, Ageing & Loneliness and Dr. Sabina Brennan, ADAPT Centre, Trinity College Dublin and Trinity Brain Health, Dementia Risk and Protective Factors.



We ran our national AGM for our association in May 2018. Speakers included Kate Stephens with some gentle reminders on the inclusion of younger children in our 3-6 environments and Alison Pigot on music in our 3-6 environments.

Our main speaker for the day was Edwina Mulcahy, who presented on the theme topic "Challenging Inequality; How Publishing a Book Gave a Voice to Children in a Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS)". The school's name refers to it being underprivileged and underserved.



## Societies Annual Reports

# FRIENDS OF AMI NIPPON

BY TAKAKO FUKATSU

## EVENTS

In March 2018, we finished the 0-3 AMI course, co-directed by Julia Hilson and Sharlyn Smith in Ebina, Kanagawa Pref. The examiners were Karey Lorentz, Judi Orion, Sara Brady and Seiko Ohara.

For AMI's AGM in 2018, two board representatives from Friends of AMI NIPPON attended, including Aiko Matsumoto, an advisor to Matsumoto Manufacture Company, and Takako Fukatsu, Vice President of Friends of AMI NIPPON. Takako met with Anne Kelly during the AGM event to discuss having a first ever introductory course on the Dementia Programme.

On June 24th we had our AGM, with 33 attendants and 248 people who sent letters of proxy to the chair. We invited Mr Haruhi Tada, as our Annual Guest Speaker, a social worker from Maisonnette Co., a social welfare organisation applying Montessori method for their Dementia care. It was held in Okayama and Mr Haruhi presented as a lead-in to Anne Kelly's lecture in July.

On July 14th and 16th, for the first time ever in Japan, Anne Kelly gave a one-day introductory lecture on the Montessori Dementia care programme in 2 locations: one in Tokyo, and the other in Okayama city where Maisonnette Co. is located. The venue was the University lecture hall of Notre Dame Seishin.

We organised a One-Coin Talk: promotional events to explain Montessori to the general public were offered numerous times in 2018, including a visit to Montessori schools as well as making mobiles, visiting Peace Boat office and hearing about their Montessori school on board.

## MEDIA

In August 2018, we published our 4th Montessori book in Japanese, "Forgotten Citizen Child" which includes 3 booklets:

"Peace and Education",  
"The Permanent Relevance of Maria Montessori's Plea" and  
"The Forgotten citizen" with Fumeisha, a publishing company who has been supporting us in all 4 books in the past.

For our members, we sent out our "Mail News", which covers all AMI domestic and international activities, new books, job opportunities, sales of unused materials, etc.

The newsletter came out 6 times in 2018. (January, April, July, September, November, December)



## Societies Annual Reports

# LATVIJAS MONTESSORI FONDS

BY ALONA ZMITROVICA

## EVENTS

We have faced a huge lack of knowledge about the Montessori method in Latvia, and therefore have planned to concentrate on publicising various books such as "The Absorbent Mind" and "The child in the family".

We are concentrating more on the necessity of AMI education and plan to promote the idea of authentic Montessori schools to parents, including topics such as, why is Montessori important and what is the difference between traditional education and Montessori.

We are translating some of Angeline Lillard's publications for parents as it is important for us to create the right views on Montessori education.



## MEDIA

LMF translated AMI promo handouts.

An article was published online about Montessori:

<https://www.satori.lv/article/montesori-metode-berniba-un-bernatistiba>

They promoted their facebook page last year, and found that this is the most significant resource for followers which include young mothers, and young families.

Together with Latvijas Montessori Asociacija, we will organise the first Baltic Montessori Conference that will take place in Riga, on 18-19 May, 2019. Confirmed speakers include 6-12 AMI Trainer Carla Foster, AMI 3-6 Auxiliary Trainer Nadja Stolbova and Montessori Teacher/Blogger Simone Davies. It will be a big international event and we would like to share the news on the AGM 2019.



## Societies Annual Reports

# ASSOCIATION MONTESSORI MOROCCO

BY AICHA SAJID

## EVENTS

AMM board members attended the AGM in April 2018. The president, Aicha Sajid, gave a talk about the importance of connecting and working together as societies in order to empower the Montessori movement.



## COLLABORATIONS

This year has marked an important stride in our outreach work. Association Montessori Morocco has offered the AMI assistant training to staff members of the orphanage we are partnered with. They left the training full of energy and ambition to revolutionise the orphanage environment and incorporate as much practical life as possible. Association Montessori Morocco has donated some materials in support of their work and efforts, and continues to offer in house visits and trainings.

Our partnership with the Orphanage Lalla Hasna continues to be reinforced. We have offered AMI training to their staff members. We are also partnering with another orphanage called Bab Rayan, who are interested in implementing Montessori principles within their primary and elementary environments.

## Societies Annual Reports

# FOUNDATION FOR MONTESSORI EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

BY ADEBIMPE POGOSON

## EVENTS

We adapted the "Aid to Life" books into a Parents' Training programme as an outreach initiative. We partnered with the Lagos State government through the State Universal Basic Education board to work with Local Governments through the Education authorities so as to have access to parents in the grassroots. We organised training for 132 parents from 24-26 September 2019 in Agege Local Government area of Lagos State with the support of donors. We plan to hold another parents training 11-13 February 2019 in Ikorodu Local Government area of Lagos State.



## MEDIA

<https://guardian.ng/features/montessori-method-of-learning-imperative-in-early-childhood/>

<http://thenationonlineng.net/group-launches-montessori-evangelism-in-nigeria/>

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2018/09/27/fmen-organises-aid-to-life-initiative-to-support-parenting/>

<http://thenationonlineng.net/foundation-shares-montessori-principles-with-agege-mums/>



## Societies Annual Reports

# NORSK MONTESSORIFORBUND

BY NINA JOHANSEN

## EVENTS

We held our Annual Leadership Conference in November, where Philip O'Brien, AMI President spoke, attended by more than 120 participants. We have been visiting many Montessori Schools and kindergartens in Norway during 2018, and we will continue during 2019, as this is part of our national tour where we will visit all our members (around 120 units).

We were in Lofoten in August to visit many of the Montessorians in the North of Norway at an event for the Schools there. We attended the Nordic Montessori Congress in Helsinki in September, together with many colleagues from Sweden, Denmark and Finland.



## MEDIA

The Montessori Magazine is published four times a year.

We are also planning to launch a book about Montessori in Norwegian, including topics such as a brief history of Montessori in Norway; and why it is the best education for the future.

We have got some support for this project through a fund.

## COLLABORATIONS

They collaborate on a regular basis with the Ministry of Education, the Department of Education and other private schools (like the Waldorf-association), to name a few. Also collaborate with "Virke", the Enterprise Federation of Norway, and with the private kindergartens national organisation (PBL). This is very valuable to us, and gives us more "political weight", as a member of the "education politics think tank" in "Virke". This is a very good way us to have an influence on the national politics regarding all levels of education. It has been very valuable, and gives a voice in many issues, on an international level we cooperate with AMI, Montessori Europe and other Montessori Schools and organisations the world. With Montessori2030 our national and international collaboration have expanded, in addition to the collaboration with the University College of Southeast-Norway (AMI), we have some collaboration with Montessori Norway, which offers Montessori education to large parts of the Norwegian Montessori community.

# COLLABORATIONS

We have been planning our National Montessori Congress in 2018, which takes place in March 2019 (at the same time as our general meeting). So far, it's shaping up to be great. Speakers include Carla Foster, David Christian, Steven Hughes and Mark Powell. There are going to be more than 520 participants, and we are so excited!

There has been a lot of focus on Montessori kindergartens in 2018. We are trying to make sure there will be more 0-6 Montessori programmes in Norway, as there are too few now (at least compared to schools 6-12). This is partly due to politics, and we are working hard to change this by cooperating with other organisations and with the government and directorate, for instance through lobbying.

We also give a lot of support to people who are trying and applying to start a Montessori kindergarten, like advice, writing statements/letters and giving legal help, to ensure that they can realise their dream.

We are making progress and new ideas around Montessori2030. We are still raising awareness about it in Norway, but also plans for how to put ideas in to action - both locally and globally.

We finished our project on "Digital Strategy" for Montessori schools and kindergartens. It is now being translated into English, and we are happy to share it. It also comes with a timeline of "the history of technology", and we will send you a copy of it.

We have started two projects in 2018, that are not finished yet:

- We are in the middle of making a communication strategy and plan. We need to work on our communication, we want to be more visible in the media and get our message out to the general public. But also within the Montessori Community. We need to communicate the same core message (we see a lot of "wrong" information in local media etc.). We want to do something that will be used by, and valuable to, all of our members, and to make sure we all know how to deliver the right message about Montessori - and to make the right people listen. We are inspired by AMI's work and will use some of your templates as inspiration.

- We are revising our whole national Montessori curriculum. There is a major revision of the national curriculum, and we have to also make some changes to ours. But this is positive, as we can improve our curriculum on parts that need improving. We are so happy to have Carla Foster and Hilde Tørnby helping us in this work, together with a group of many Montessori teachers from our schools.



## Societies Annual Reports

# PAKISTAN MONTESSORI ASSOCIATION

BY KISHWAR ALLAWALA

## EVENTS

A seminar on "Education for Life" was held to bring awareness of Montessori education to the public. President of the Pakistan Montessori Association, Zohra Gaya welcomed an audience of over 200 people comprising of Montessorians, parents and educators. The speakers included Farida Akbar, Director of Training, Montessori Teacher's Training Centre (MTTC) who spoke on "Education as an Aid to Life"; Shahnaz Wazirali, President of Szabist University and a former minister; Asiya Sachwani, Speech-Language Pathologist, who gave a detailed presentation.

In February 2018, Subica Shahab, AMI directress and an educator advocating child-centred and activity-based learning, gave a presentation on "Are We Meeting the Needs of the Child in Casa and Beyond". She compared the Montessori system to the traditional system, enumerating the common mistakes we make in Casas and stressed that when confronted by situations which concern the child and seem difficult to solve, we must not seek outside remedies but concentrate upon the nature of the child and the essential needs of his development.

Dr Neelofar Vazir held an interactive workshop on "Understanding the Nature and Notions of Learning with an Emphasis on Active Learning Strategies". She discussed various psychologists in particular the work of Montessori.

AMI Trainer Cheryl Ferreira from the Maria Montessori Institute in London, conducted a refresher course on Language in May. Ms Ferreira spoke about various subjects where minor changes have been made. She also guided the directresses in material making. 116 diploma holders participated in the refresher and AMI certificates were given to these participants.

A workshop on Introduction to Urdu in Montessori Environment was given by Asma Nayeem. A musician accompanied her to sing songs in Urdu on the alphabet, fruits and shapes. Salma Badruddin, a noted nutritionist, gave a presentation on Healthy Eating Habits for children and the importance of avoiding junk food.

In November Anisa Moin from MTTC gave detailed introduction and presentations on Sensorial Games and Three Period Lesson, along with Oral Language Games.



## OUTREACH & COLLABORATIONS

We are doing groundwork for conducting workshops for parents in underprivileged areas and working with children keeping Montessori principles in mind. The committee members have also visited a couple of schools outside Karachi where we plan to do more of Montessori work with the underprivileged children in collaboration with a trust.

We are also providing few free-ships to children who are unable to pay the school fee. One of our members, Masooma Alibhai, opened an environment in the PMA annexe for such children providing them all facilities available to other paying children. Montessori Children's Villa (PMA School) organised a Tree Plantation Drive where children planted trees in the school premises (see photographs above). A number of other schools also planted dozens of trees. Trees were provided by an NGO working to make Karachi greener.

(Photographs above, top left clockwise) PMA President and Committee members with Cheryl Ferreira and Director of Training, Farida Akbar; the Three Period Lesson and the Sensorial Games by Anisa Moin; Tree Plantation by children of Montessori Children's Villa to celebrate the Independence Day of Pakistan in August.

The PMA Website and Facebook page continue to update our local and overseas Montessorians with information of events and activities. Our quarterly bulletin The Montessorian continues to be published regularly. We have a well stocked library of Montessori books which are available for members and teachers to borrow. PMA prints Urdu translations of The Absorbent Mind and Discovery of Child for the benefit of trainees and teachers.

# ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MONTESSORI EDUCATION IN ROMANIA

BY ANCA TRIFU

## EVENTS

Last year, Romania was included in the European Brainstorming Tour of Dr. Steve Hughes and Dr. Laura Flores Shaw (see photograph below). The event, organised by A.D.M.E.R., took place in April and managed to attract the interest of a wide ranging audience, including Montessori educators and parents. In the same month, Mariana Uliță, founder and Board member of A.D.M.E.R. participated at the conference "Modern Education and Performance" as a key note speaker. The event reunited specialists in education from both traditional and alternative education systems as well as representatives of the Romanian Organisation responsible for the Quality of Education, (ARACIP). Mariana's speech focused on adaptation to and from the traditional system to an alternative one.



A.D.M.E.R. continued its activity of promoting Montessori education through delivering a number of seminars and workshops throughout the year 2018. Events targeted Montessori educators and assistants but also the general public, made up of parents and those interested in quality education. As there is a constant interest in opening new Montessori kindergartens, A.D.M.E.R. is periodically organising seminars to help gain a better understanding of the steps necessary to undertake, as well as resources in terms of money and staff. This seminar is called "Montessori Start up" and was organised two times last year.

Other events targeted parents and educators for age levels from 0 to 12 years, as follows: - "Montessori at Home during the Period 3 - 6 Years" - "Watching and discussing about the In utero documentary" - "Montessori for Children of 6 - 12 Years - Preparation for Life" - "How Does The Child Learn - Meaning of Early Game 0-3 Years" - "How Does The Child Learn - Consolidation Period from 3 to 6 Years" - "6-12 Years: The Child that Becomes Aware that He Has the Power to Think".

## MEDIA

"The Secret of Childhood" was translated into Romanian (first Romanian translation was released 80 years ago) and the book was launched in May, at the Bookfest in 2018.

This is the fourth book translated into Romanian under the guidance of A.D.M.E.R. during the past four years, after "The Child in the Family", "Education and Peace" and "The Absorbent Mind".



Societies Annual Reports

# MONTESSORI PUBLIC FUND

BY ANNA PUGACHEVA

## EVENTS

The 8th Annual Russian Montessori Conference organised by the Montessori Public Fund and the Moscow State Pedagogical University took place in Moscow on 24-25 of November, 2018. The topic of the conference was “A Happy Adult is Born in Childhood” and gathered around 200 participants. The Fund translated AMI's newsletters and Journals into Russian.

MPF also led a Nienhuis Retreat with a group of Montessori teachers from Russia.

MPF supports neighbouring countries through the group Federation of the Eastern-Europe AMI Affiliates - with existing members, Ukraine and Belarus, and future members Kazakhstan and Armenia. Support is given in terms of working on translations with AMI Bulletins and Journals, Montessori books into Russian; coordinating of mass media publications; providing programmes etc.



## MEDIA

MPF guides popular Facebook groups: one is open for everybody and shares the information about AMI approach and another is a professional source for AMI trained teachers to communicate (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/179707385450738/>) another Facebook group "Montessori, Peace, and the World", which has the goal of gathering a large community of people who are interested in childhood, education, parenthood, etc. This group has had great success and in a few days saw increased numbers to more than 4 000 participants (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/montessorimir/>).

MPF Info Bulletin is sent out 4 times a year. The Fund's web-site ([www.montessori-org.ru](http://www.montessori-org.ru)) publishes information from AMI news about the events of Russian and other Montessori communities around the world.

## Societies Annual Reports

# SERBIAN MONTESSORI ASSOCIATION

BY IRENA MITROVIC

## EVENTS

During the last year the Association continued to work on the popularisation and promotion of AMI Montessori education in Serbia. The Association's web site has undergone reconstruction in order to provide better and more useful information for parents, schools and teachers.

The Association organises seminars on a regular basis in order to provide basic information on Montessori education and there are ongoing seminars related to the Elementary Montessori programme, for school teachers and specialists, accredited by the State.

Seminars are attended by participants from Serbia including parents, teachers and school administrators.

In June 2018, the Assistants 3 - 6 Course was organised in Belgrade with AMI Trainer, Irene Fafalios (see photograph below). It was attended by 27 participants from Serbia, Slovenia and Bosnia.

In 2019 Irene Fafalios will return to conduct another AMI Assistants course. The Association plans to initiate more and regular Assistants Courses for 0-3 and 6-12 levels.





Societies Annual Reports

# ASOCIACIÓN MONTESSORI ESPAÑOLA

BY ANA JULIÁ BARNADAS

## EVENTS

Representatives of the AME board visited the AMI USA Refresher Course in Phoenix AZ, in February 2018. An extraordinary board meeting with 3 AMI representatives was held (Phillip O'Brien, Candice Von der Wehl and Dora Vidales) in March 2018. The Board visited the AMI AGM in Amsterdam, April 2018. AME 2018 (17 November) Workshop for AMI guides conducted by Guadalupe Borbolla (photographs are shown below). 3 AME Board regular meetings and 1 Extraordinary General Assembly for new By-laws and AME board June 2018.

AME is organising the 1ª JORNADA ANNUAL DE LA ASOCIACIÓN MONTESSORI ESPAÑOLA on 29th June, in Málaga, with a very special programme including AMI Executive Director Lynne Lawrence, the neuroscientists Francisco Mora and Begoña Ibarrola and other experts (registration opened in March 2019 [www.asociacionmontessori.net](http://www.asociacionmontessori.net)). The day prior to the Jornada, we are hoping to show the film by Alexander Mourot (28th June).





Societies Annual Reports

# MONTESSORI ASSOCIATION OF THAILAND

BY KANNEKAR BUTT

## EVENTS

The Thailand Organising Committee for 29th IMC 2021 attended the AMI Board and AMI AGM 2018. They hosted the AMI 2nd Inspection officers in 14-18 October at Mariott Masque Queen Park Bangkok.

MAT promoted the 29th International Montessori Congress 2021 by co-hosting the EDUCA 2018, which is the Annual Congress for Teacher Professional Development, on 16 -17 October at IMPACT Arena Exhibition and Covention Center, Bangkok. Lynne Lawrence was the key note speaker and gave a workshop (see photograph below).



Special projects and outreach include supporting the long term plan of the department of Children Welfare, Ministry of Human Development and Social Security on implementing the Montessori programme in 10 Children Homes around the country.

MAT are also supporting the Journey for Service programmes, in Montessori East School, Sydney, and to an orphanage and government school in northeast of Thailand, Udonthani Home for Girls, and Thairathwittaya 105 School.



## COLLABORATIONS

Photographs above from top left clockwise: AMI Global Ambassador, André Roberfroid visited the Thai government authorities and International head offices in Bangkok as platform collaborations for ASEAN Montessori and 29th IMC 2021 Bangkok; the Thailand Organising Committee for the IMC 2021 attended the AMI Board and AMI AGM 2018; the 4th AMI Primary Course Graduation day with AMI Trainer Madlena Ulrich; AMI Trainer Shannon Helfrich visited over 15 classrooms around the country to support the progress of trainers in training. A workshop for basic knowledge on Assistants to Infancy was offered to support the parents and private schools, in preparation for the diploma course in the near future;



## Societies Annual Reports

# SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE METHOD OF MARIA MONTESSORI IN UKRAINE

BY JULIIA TIMOSHEVSKAYA

## EVENTS

Support and Development of the Method of Maria Montessori in Ukraine held the first AMI 0-3 assistants course in February 2018, by Patricia Wallner. In this course nine free places were provided for experts from three different orphanages. They also took part in the AMI AGM 2018 in Amsterdam.



## OUTREACH AND COLLOBARATION

The society works together with the City Council in offering free places on training courses. Furthermore they collaborate with AMI affiliates in Russia, the Eastern-European AMI affiliates federation and AMI affiliates from Eastern Europe.

They have also started the translation of AMI Journal 2017-18 Double Issue into Russian for the entire Russian speaking Montessori society of the Eastern European AMI Affiliates Federation.



Societies Annual Reports

# AMI ELEMENTARY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

BY MELINDA NIELSEN

## EVENTS

In July 2018, AMI-EAA held their Annual Conference in Boulder, Colorado. The theme was “The Work of the Hand” and featured presentations from practitioners and members from New Zealand and the United States. Furthermore AMI-EAA sponsored the 2018 annual Refresher Course with AMI-USA, which was held in Phoenix, Arizona. Jamie Rue presented the topic of “Cultivating Freedom and Responsibility in the Montessori Elementary Environment”. They also collaborated with the Affiliates in the United States (AMI-USA, NAMTA, MAA) to support conferences in Baltimore in October, and Dallas in November.

## COLLABORATIONS

AMI-EAA has connected with Bill Conway from Australia to assist with support of Montessori trained teachers and Montessori schools in Thailand. With Bill Conway’s support AMI-EAA has been able to reach out to a members of their organisation, encouraging them to apply for a mentorship program in Thailand. One of their members, Mary Postlewaite, has already mentored teachers there. A number of others are currently in contact with Bill to follow in her footsteps.

Late 2018 plans were underway to offer a Summer Conference in England, with the help of AMI-EAA’s primary European partners Ulli Hammer (DAMIP from Germany) and Robb Guetterbock (England).

## OUTREACH

AMI-EAA is in contact with EsF to promote their assemblies to their membership. With the help of AMI, they have also made contact with a number of Montessori societies in other countries to offer their support and to encourage the elementary trained members to join AMI-EAA.