

# Treasure Valley Montessori Conference

**Dates: October 1 & 2, 2015**

**Time: 8am – 4:30pm**

**Location: Eastwind Community Church, 4750 South Surprise Way, Boise**

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The Montessori Conference will present teaching practices that are innovative, up to date with the most current research, and applicable to use in the daily Montessori classroom.

In addition to this conference providing excellent information for classroom practices, attendance counts towards most city licensing requirements. The conference offers Boise State University (BSU) professional credits and/or Idaho STARS hours. New this year, the conference will cover the full Idaho Stars requirement of 15 hours!

## Presenters

**Dr. Paul Epstein PhD**, will speak on both days of the conference. Paul has worked in Montessori education as an administrator, teacher, researcher, consultant and author. He is excited about transformative learning experiences, and is grateful that his work offers tremendous opportunities to observe children and adults as they learn. These experiences provide him with both inspiration and data to share, engage and help teachers and parents. Paul's goal is to help them bring about transformative learning in their environments.

Paul's administrative experiences include working as head of school, executive director of a school consulting agency, director of teacher education programs and coordinator of a public school magnet program. Paul is currently head of school of the Rochester Montessori School in Rochester, Minnesota. Paul has directed Montessori teacher education programs for both early childhood and secondary programs. He holds Montessori teacher certification in early childhood and secondary levels one and two from the American Montessori Society. In addition, Paul was an associate professor at Transylvania University and an adjunct professor at Northwestern University.

His work as a speaker and educational consultant has taken him to conferences and schools throughout the United States and to Canada, Great Britain, Sweden, Mexico, Russia, Brazil, Japan, China, Australia, Nepal, Hong Kong, South Africa and Poland. Paul received his BA at Dartmouth College and his MA and PhD in Cultural Anthropology at SUNY Buffalo. Paul has published numerous articles in Montessori and other journals. His most recent publication is *An Observer's Notebook: Learning from Children with the Observation C.O.R.E.* His is also the co-author of *The Montessori Way*, a definitive work on the Montessori experience.

**Sharon Duncan** has a degree in Early Childhood Education and a Master's degree in Elementary Education. Sharon holds Montessori certificates in Primary (3-6) and Elementary (6-9) from NCME. Sharon has taught for 32 years as a Montessorian and, presently, directs a non-profit school in Athens, Georgia that she helped start for the purpose of offering a Montessori education to an economically diverse population of families. She has created materials and curriculum through the Waseca Biomes project to support schools and help other schools implement an environmental education focus.

Anita Wolberd, M.Ed., Certified Montessori Master Teacher, studied and collaborated for over twenty years with Dr. Elisabeth Caspari, direct student and friend of Dr. Maria Montessori. Anita co-founded Caspari Montessori Institute and has served as teacher trainer, examiner and consultant to Montessori schools and teachers around the USA and internationally. She recently established Montessori Garden School in Boise, Idaho in order to keep her experience with young children fresh as she provides guidance to Montessori teachers, parents and child care providers. She has served on various educational boards including a term as Board Chair of the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE). She is an adjunct instructor with the University of Montana Western and Boise State University, and is an IdahoSTARS trainer. Anita is currently expanding her Montessori studies to include the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd through Aquinas College. Anita enjoys spending time in the garden, at the piano and admiring her new grandson.