

Michigan Montessori Society Newsletter

November 16, 2025

Helpful Links:

- [Michigan Montessori Society \(MMS\)](#)
- [American Montessori Society \(AMS\)](#)
- [Association Montessori Internationale \(AMI\)](#)
- [MMS Facebook](#)

Welcome to *Michigan Montessori Monthly*, the monthly newsletter from the Michigan Montessori Society.

Stay up to date on all the important news and updates for Montessori in Michigan, the nation, and the world.

Have an article or topic you'd like to share? Please email it to us at info@mmsoc.org.

Fall Conference 2025: A Day Filled with Montessori Inspiration

The Fall Conference 2025 is behind us by only a week, and the more than 200 attendees may still be feeling the positive Montessori energy that filled the day!

Our heartfelt thanks go to Rosemary Quaranta, whose inspiring keynote address—“*The Gift of Observation: Unearthing the Brilliance in Every Child*”—set the perfect tone for the day. Participants then enjoyed a rich variety of six engaging morning and afternoon sessions, exploring diverse topics that made choosing just one a delightful challenge.

Weber’s Inn once again impressed everyone with a delicious plated lunch and a tempting table of desserts. We are grateful to our many vendors for sharing their materials and to everyone who participated in the raffle—congratulations to the lucky winners!

A very big thank-you goes to the Fall Conference Committee for their dedication and hard work in organizing this event: Emily Myers (Chair), Kate Kingsley, Sue Szczesny, Jasmin Hughes Reynolds, and Kathy Smoko, without whom little would happen.



Believe it or not, they're already planning next year's Fall Conference! Some of the topics already submitted for consideration include:

- Giftedness, creativity, and talent development across all levels
- Public Montessori initiatives
- Staff development and community building
- The impact of screens and technology on healthy development

Do You Have a Suggestion?

We'd love to hear from you! If you have an idea for a topic, session, or speaker for next year's conference, please share it with us. Your feedback helps us continue to make this event meaningful, relevant, and inspiring for everyone in our Montessori community.



Introducing A New Board Member



The Michigan Montessori Society is delighted to welcome **Melissa Romero** to its Board of Directors. Melissa brings with her a lifelong connection to Montessori education and a deep commitment to its philosophy and practice.

Melissa's Montessori journey began at **Dearborn Heights Montessori Center**, where her mother, **Regina Boffi**, started as an assistant before completing her Montessori training in Adrian with **Sr. Anthonita Porta**. Following in her mother's footsteps, Melissa pursued her passion for Montessori education, earning both Elementary I and Elementary II credentials after college. Today, she teaches at **Plymouth-Canton Montessori**, the very school she attended as a child.

For the past **28 years**, Melissa has dedicated her career to nurturing and advancing Montessori education in Michigan. She feels a deep sense of gratitude for having Montessori as the foundation of her life and is honored to continue her service to the Montessori community through her role on the MMS Board of Directors.

Please join us in welcoming **Melissa Romero** to the Board!

Spring Gathering – Mark Your Calendar

On the heels of a very successful Fall Conference, MMS is excited to announce our next event — the **Spring Gathering**, taking place on **Saturday, May 2, 2026**.

We're delighted to welcome **Carol Williams**, professor in Early Childhood Education at both **Eastern Michigan University** and **Schoolcraft Community College**, as our **keynote speaker**.

Carol will present "*A Montessori History Lesson*," exploring the story of Montessori's early years in the United States — from its enthusiastic beginnings and subsequent criticism by American educators to the powerful resurgence of interest in the 1960s. Her passion for history will give attendees a deeper understanding of where the Montessori philosophy has been and where it's headed today.

The [Ann Arbor Children's House](#) (2309 Packard Street, Ann Arbor) will graciously host this inspiring event.

If you have a **suggestion for a discussion group**, please share your ideas at CPMontessori@gmail.com.

We look forward to gathering, learning, and celebrating together this spring!



School Spotlight

Founded in 2018, [Roots Montessori](#) is an AMS-accredited school—meaning it is also recognized as an MMS-accredited institution.

What began with just three children has grown into a thriving community of 95 students, featuring two early childhood classrooms, two lower elementary

classrooms, and one upper elementary classroom.

At Roots Montessori, growth has been guided by a core belief in combining the Montessori approach with Christian-based values, creating a loving and supportive environment for both children and adults.

Many of the staff members began their journey at Roots as classroom assistants and have since earned their Montessori Certification, a testament to how deeply Maria Montessori’s philosophy influences every member of our community.

Visit **Roots Montessori** at 14492 N Sheldon Rd, Plymouth, MI.

More Than Books



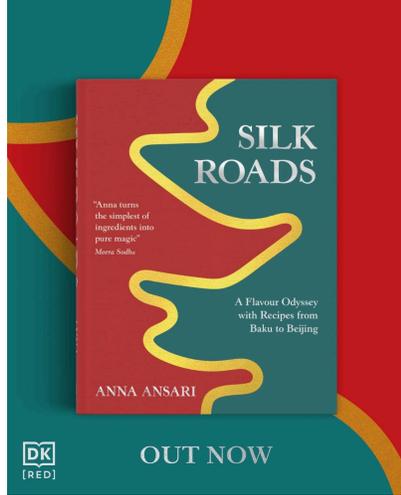
Colleen, a well-known personality in Oakland County, is the proud owner of **Book Beat**. Many of you had the chance to “visit” Book Beat at the Fall Conference and can attest to its outstanding selection of children’s books.

But Book Beat is more than just a bookstore. With her vibrant personality and deep love of literature, Colleen actively supports children’s reading by promoting new publications and hosting engaging “meet the author” events. Her outreach efforts help connect readers, writers, and the community in celebration of books.

We are grateful to Book Beat for sponsoring the Fall Conference. When you’re in the neighborhood, be sure to stop by **Book Beat**, located at **26010 Greenfield, Oak Park, MI**, or visit online at www.thebookbeat.com.



Montessori Graduate Anna Ansari Publishes Award-Winning Cookbook



We are thrilled to celebrate **Anna Ansari**, Meadow Montessori graduate, whose debut cookbook — *Silk Roads: A Flavor Odyssey with Recipes from Baku to Beijing* — has earned national recognition and multiple awards.

Silk Roads is much more than a cookbook. It's a **travelogue, cultural exploration, and heartfelt reflection** on what Anna learned during her many years at Meadow Montessori.

In her introduction, Anna writes:

“Montessori taught me about the primacy not only of sharing but also of what is possible to accomplish together as a group. ‘*Stone Soup*’ is a tale about food and hunger, as well as collaboration, community, and thanksgiving—in its purest form. There are no Pilgrims. No Native Americans or turkeys. It is just a simple parable, as is the Thanksgiving holiday itself, holding space and time for inclusion and gratitude in all its forms—for friendship, family, opportunity, nature, abundance, kindness, sharing, and, of course, food.”

Recently, Anna visited **Detroit and Ann Arbor** to promote her book, and she'll return to **Miss Kim's (Ann Arbor) in February** for another event. Follow Anna on [Facebook](#) for updates and event details.

Support this remarkable Montessori alum by purchasing *Silk Roads* at your **local bookstore** or [online through Penguin Random House](#).

Anna's journey reminds us how Montessori education continues to shape lives—and inspire the world—long after graduation.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

CGMS IS GROWING AND NEEDS YOU!

Since 2008, CGMS has been leading the charge in distance education for Montessori training. For the past 17 years, our goal has always been to make Montessori teacher education more effective and accessible, and with our use of cutting-edge distance learning technologies our adult learners can learn in environment that's comfortable for them.

CGMS offers Montessori certification training at the Infant-Toddler, Early Childhood, Elementary, Secondary, and School Leadership levels. We are currently seeking instructors and field consultants for all levels.



SEND YOUR RESUME TO:

bdickerson@cgms.edu

FIELD CONSULTANT

Preparing the next generation of Montessori Guides

- The Field Consultant will generally make three onsite visits to the practicum classroom to evaluate the intern's progress, and needs, provide feedback and guidance, and set goals.
- After each visit the Field Consultant completes a written report to guide intern progress and serve as support.
- Must have a Bachelor's degree, a Montessori Credential (recognized by MACTE), and over three years classroom experience post certification.
- Field Consultants are compensated per visit/report including travel expenses.

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