

Literacy Connections Conference 2010

*Augusta Civic Center
Friday, March 12, 2010
8:00 am to 3:30 pm*

Strengthening Families and Communities through Literacy



**Sponsored by: Maine Family Literacy Initiative,
a program of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy**

Conference Chair: *Pamela Cote*
(pam_cote@sanford.org; 207-490-9712)

2nd Annual Literacy Connections Conference 2010

Strengthening Families and Communities through Literacy

Agenda for the Day...

- 8:00 am Registration
- 8:30 am Welcome and Session Overview: *Mrs. Pamela Cote, Conference Chair*
Opening Remarks: *First Lady of Maine, Karen M. Baldacci*
Keynote - **Every Door Must Be the Right Door**
Ms. Sheryl Peavey, Director, Maine's Early Childhood Initiative
- 9:30 am Break and network session
- 10:00 am Marjorie Withers, **The Process of Building Authentic Collaboration**
Interactive Panel Presentation, **Reading in the Family**, Old Town, ME
- 12:00 pm Lunch
Literacy Volunteers of Maine slide presentation,
Faces of Literacy: Voices of Courage
- 1:00 pm Amanda Thornton, Student Speaker
- 1:15 pm Workshop Sessions
- Building Bridges - Using Raising Readers Books in Family Literacy & Other Settings
 - Deep in a Book: Growing Thoughtful Readers of all Ages
 - MEFLI Grant Application and Writing Workshop (90 minutes)
 - Technology and Literacy
 - Why does your Adult Education Program want a Family Literacy Program?
- 2:00 pm Break
- 2:15 pm Workshop Sessions
- A Head Start on Picturing America
 - Got Joy?
 - Low Health Literacy: Prevalence and Practical Solutions
 - Technology and Literacy
- 3:00 pm Conference Evaluations and Raffles

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Workshop Sessions - 1:15 pm

BUILDING BRIDGES: USING RAISING READERS BOOKS IN FAMILY LITERACY & OTHER SETTINGS

Presenters: *Kate Bartley, Anne Quirion*

Time: *1:15 pm*

Location: *Cumberland*

Families across Maine receive books for their children at birth and well child visits through age 5. This workshop introduces participants to the program and presents ways to integrate the books into family literacy, home visiting, childcare, or library settings. Participants will be introduced to book-related activities designed to support Maine's Infant Toddler Preschool Learning Guidelines as well as additional resources available through the program.

Kate Bartley serves as Program Coordinator for Raising Readers in central, northern and eastern Maine. Kate has a master's degree in public administration from the University of Maine.

Anne Quirion is the Program Coordinator for Raising Readers in central, southern, and eastern Maine. She brings a diverse background in dental hygiene, healthcare, managed care, and education to the program.

DEEP IN A BOOK: GROWING THOUGHTFUL READERS OF ALL AGES

Presenters: *Denise Pendleton, Carolyn Sloan*

Time: *1:15 pm*

Location: *Piscataquis*

Do we read to kids or read with them? The Maine Humanities Council believes that everyone - no matter how young or old - can think about the ideas in books. Come join us in reading a kid's book and experiencing the potential for thoughtful talk with children and/or adults about the big ideas in children's books. Resolving conflict and creating a more peaceable world will be our focus.

Denise Pendleton is Program Officer for the Born to Read program of the Maine Humanities Council and has delivered many trainings to promote reading aloud to young children.

Carolyn Sloan is a Program Assistant for the Maine Humanities Council in various reading and discussion programs. Carolyn taught school for thirty years, from kindergarten to tenth grade, and did a lot of reading aloud to her students.

MEFLI GRANT APPLICATION AND WRITING WORKSHOP

Presenter: *Becky Dyer*

Time: *1:15 pm (90 minute session)*

Location: *Augusta Pine Tree Capital Room*

Have you ever considered applying for a MEFLI grant, but weren't sure what the expectations were? Have you wondered if your organization would be eligible for funding? Becky Dyer, Director of the Maine Family Literacy Initiative, will walk participants through the 2010 application process, discuss expectations and eligibility, suggest resources to explore, and answer your general questions about family literacy programming.

Becky Dyer is the Director of the Maine Family Literacy Initiative (MEFLI), a program of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy. MEFLI supports the development and expansion of family literacy programs across Maine in settings where parents and children learn and read together. Becky earned her master's degree in adult education at the University of Southern Maine.

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TECHNOLOGY AND LITERACY

Presenters: *Beth Lurie, Pat Hughes*

Time: *1:15 pm AND 2:15 pm*

Location: *Washington/York*

Based on the work of the MSAD #3 SPICE Program, this workshop introduces participants to the use of technology to support and enhance home-based family literacy programming. Presenters will discuss why technology is important to rural areas in Maine and share the data that shows technology increases the intensity and enhancement of literacy achievement for families. Participants will have a hands-on experience with the various curriculum offered by SPICE.

Beth Lurie is the SPICE Family Literacy Adult Education Instructor and the GED instructor at Mount View. In 1995 she bought her first Mac computer and signed up for an adult education word processing class. This led to her B.A. degree and her master's degree in English at the University of Maine.

Pat Hughes is the Director of Adult Education and the SPICE Family Literacy Coordinator for MSAD # 3 which serves 11 small towns in western Waldo County. She is the published author of two books.

WHY DOES YOUR ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM WANT A FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM?

Presenter: *Kathi Medcalf*

Time: *1:15 pm*

Location: *Sagadahoc*

Join Kathi Medcalf, Director of Sanford Community Adult Education, for a discussion on how a family literacy program will benefit your program and community. Learn how to “plan” your planning grant and find partners within your community. Participants will discuss how to get started and learn about the significant changes that take place for adult learners who participate in family literacy.

Kathi Medcalf is the Director of Sanford Community Adult Education (SCAE), the fiscal agent for Families READ, a MEFLI Lighthouse grant. Kathi wrote the original grant to establish the family literacy program and has been instrumental in getting a new childcare center built for the Families READ and the students of SCAE. Kathi is an active member and past-president of the Maine Adult Education Association and led the development of the web portal for statewide access to information on adult education in Maine www.maineadulted.org

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Workshop Sessions - 2:15 pm

A HEAD START ON PICTURING AMERICA

Presenter: *Patricia Morris Clark*

Time: *2:15 pm*

Location: *Cumberland*

Participants will learn about the new art program designed for young children and discover how closely connected literacy is to art. Children develop literacy as they acquire new vocabulary and explore the posters, art materials, and picture books. Attendees will experience first-hand how to introduce art-work and how to connect it to language and literacy in their every day curriculum. A Head Start on Picturing America is a collaboration between the Office of Head Start and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Patricia Morris Clark teaches early childhood and special education at the University of Maine at Augusta. She helped write the Head Start on Picturing America teacher's guide in 2008 when serving as a Head Start Fellow in the Office of Head Start in Washington. She is currently working on her doctorate in early intervention/special education and public policy at the University of Maine.

GOT JOY?

Presenter: *Christine Beaudette*

Time: *2:15 pm*

Location: *Sagadahoc*

Too often we look at play as simply a break from learning when in fact, it is during play that some of the most valuable learning occurs. Play is the language of children, and we often forget how to speak the language. The nationally-known Project Joy program teaches early childhood educators how to recapture the joy of play and how to communicate with children through play. Come learn about Project Joy and discover new ways to connect with and guide children in play and learning through the use of robust physical play, storytelling, yoga, and movement.

Christine Beaudette is the Early Childhood Resource Coordinator for the Sanford School Department's Safe Schools/Healthy Schools initiative. Chris has extensive experience creating and facilitating playgroups for children ages three and under. Chris has a master's degree in child development and early childhood education from Wheelock College and is a trained Project Joy Playmaker.

LOW HEALTH LITERACY: PREVALENCE AND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

Presenters: *Leslie Forstadt, Peggy Chausse*

Time: *2:15 pm*

Location: *Piscataquis*

Did you know that patients forget up to 80 percent of doctors' instructions as soon as they leave the doctor's office and up to 50 percent of what they do remember is incorrect? This workshop will introduce you to health literacy, the issues related to how health literacy impacts families, and provide you with information to help you adapt materials and work with families to increase comprehension. A variety of issues including immunizations, oral health, nutrition and child development will be discussed.

Leslie Forstadt, Ph.D. is the Child and Family Development Specialist for the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, where her work focuses on parenting, child development and supporting families.

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She earned her doctoral degree in educational psychology at the University of Iowa.

***Peggy Chausse, MA, CHES** is the Assistant Director of the MaineHealth Learning Resource Center where her work focuses on health literacy, chronic disease self-management and patient centered care. She earned her master's degree in health science at Ball State University.*

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About our Panelists and Distinguished Guests...

Candace Austin – *Reading in the Family Project Coordinator* After thirteen years as an elementary level literacy educator, Candace pursued her ESOL endorsement at USM. Through a MEFLI grant project in 2003-2004 she spent two years teaching English to Spanish-speaking families in Washington County. Candace took an internship position with Literacy Volunteers of Bangor in 2005 in which she coordinated a two-year MEFLI grant partnership with Penquis. Her collaboration with Old Town's Reading in the Family began in their planning grant year 2007 and continues to today with the current MEFLI project in RSU 34 plus Milford and Greenbush. Candace lives in Old Town and is employed by Old Town Adult Education as the adult and family literacy coordinator.

Karen Baldacci - As First Lady of Maine, Mrs. Baldacci's current focus is on children and families. She is Chair of the Governor's Children's Cabinet, the Early Childhood Task Force and Coordinated School Health Program. The First Lady is Co-chair of the Keep Children Alcohol Free Leadership. Mrs. Baldacci is very interested in health education, nutrition and literacy. She also chairs Maine Reads, Read With ME, Raising Readers, and the Maine Alliance of Arts in Education. Additionally, she is working with media, hosting a television series with the Coordinated School Health Program with the Department of Education, and Department of Health and Human Services.

Pamela Cote has served as the Family Literacy Coordinator for Sanford Community Adult Education (SCAE) for the past four years. SCAE's family literacy program, Families READ, has received state recognition and was recently awarded the Maine Family Literacy Lighthouse Project Grant from the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy. Pam has a passion for adult education and currently teaches English classes for SCAE. Pam also taught at the elementary level for several years in New Hampshire. Prior to her career in education, Pam served in a managerial role for Manpower Temporary Services in Portland for five years. During her time with the company, she championed staff development initiatives and managed business relations with many of the firm's largest clients. Pam is an active member of several committees dedicated to the promotion of family literacy and school readiness for children in the Sanford/Springvale community.

Janet L. Doucette – *Penquis Child Development Center Old Town Headstart Site Manager and Family Support Worker* During many years in many roles at Penquis' Old Town Headstart from being a parent in 1979 to her current position as site manager and family support worker, Jan has worked to attain a BS in Mental Health and Human Services from UMA and her LSW-C. She joined Reading in the Family in September of 2007 as an active participant in the planning phase. Jan connects with children and their families on a daily basis, and through community partnerships such as with RSU 34 schools and Reading in the Family, supports these children and families in literacy development.

Mary Marin Lyon- *Literacy Volunteers of Bangor Executive Director* Mary has a Masters in Communication Studies from the University of Maine. She joined Literacy Volunteers of Bangor nearly 6 years ago as their Executive Director. LV-Bangor supports 237 adults with private volunteer tutors and its volunteers donate more than 17,000 hours of service to the greater Bangor community. Mary's commitment to family literacy brought two years of MEFLI programming to the organization through a partnership with Penquis' Parents are Teachers Too in 2005-2006. For the past two years Literacy Volunteers of Bangor has trained

and supported literacy tutors for Old Town's Reading in the Family MEFLI project. Literacy Volunteers of Bangor is the primary partner in this year's Reading in the Family MEFLI grant.

Sheryl Peavey - A native of Maine, Sheryl's career has been diverse but always focused on the well being of children and their families. The sudden death in 1999 of her toddler son, Dylan, inspired Sheryl to focus her life's work on making a lasting difference for children and families in Maine.

As Director of the Early Childhood Systems Initiative (ECI), Sheryl is leading the development and implementation of a plan for a comprehensive and family-centered system of services throughout the Department of Health and Human Services and other Executive Branch departments of Maine government. Sheryl worked with Task Force members to develop Invest Early in Maine: A Working Plan for Humane Early Childhood Systems and utilizes it in her role as professional support for the Children's Growth Council. Sheryl also manages contracts and administers the state program for Home Visiting and for the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Councils of Maine.

Most recently, Sheryl served as a co-guest editor of the Early Childhood Special Issue of the Maine Policy Review, published by the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center of the University of Maine.

Amanda Thornton is a 22-year-old stay-at-home mother of four in Belmont, Maine. She is currently enrolled in the Passages Program of the Community School, a home-based high school degree program for young parents. Her stepsons Ethan and Dylan, are almost ten. Nathan is six, and her daughter Mya is two. One day Amanda hopes to have her own day care where she can help other children learn and grow.

Vicki Wilcox- *Elementary School Counselor Old Town K-4 Elementary School* Vicki holds a BS in Elementary Education with a concentration in Early Childhood and a Masters in School Counseling from UM. She has also been a teacher in the early grades and a home school liaison. Vicki joined the Reading in the Family team in 2007. Vicki's teenaged sons are high school mentors for Reading in the Family children.

Marjorie Withers, LCPC, has worked in mental health and as a consultant for 28 years. She is the Director of the Community Caring Collaborative (CCC) in Washington County. The CCC is developing a responsive integrated system of care that is family driven and culturally informed to offer early intervention services and supports for infants, young children and families with risk factors. Authentic Collaboration allows agencies and community members to draw together and create change and best practices by utilizing the strengths and visions of all partners. Her passions are developing systems through collaboration and skills to help people improve the quality of their lives. She specializes in work with infants, young children and families on building on strengths. Her other body of work is with staff and agencies on learning how to work effectively through utilizing strengths and communicating effectively.

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Thank you to our Planning Committee!

Janine Blatt ~ Early Childhood Consultant, Maine Department of Education

Kate Bartley ~ Program Coordinator, Raising Readers

Peter Caron ~ Director, Adult & Community Education; Coordinator, Family Literacy Services, MSAD #27

Sarah Cecil ~ Maine Reads, Executive Director

Pam Cote ~ Family Literacy Coordinator, Sanford Community Adult Education

Becky Dyer ~ Director, Maine Family Literacy Initiative

Pat Hughes ~ MSAD #3 Adult and Community Education Director, SPICE Family Literacy Administrator

Ruth Griffin ~ Parent Education Professional, UMaine Cooperative Extension

Kathi Medcalf ~ Director, Sanford Community Adult Education

Denise Pendleton ~ Program Director, Born to Read, Maine Humanities Council

Diane Skog ~ Director, Raising Readers

Carol Wynne ~ Public Pre-K Community Collaboration Coach

Thank you to our distinguished guests:

Mrs. Karen Baldacci

Ms. Sheryl Peavey

Ms. Marjorie Withers

Ms. Amanda Thornton

Thank you to our panelists:

Candace Austin – Reading in the Family Project Coordinator

Mary Marin Lyon- Literacy Volunteers of Bangor Executive Director

Janet L. Doucette – Penquis Child Development Center Old Town Headstart Site Manager
and Family Support Worker

Vicki Wilcox- Elementary School Counselor Old Town K-4 Elementary School

Special appreciation to:

- The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy for funding
- Raising Readers for their support as they celebrate their 10 year anniversary and for their generous donation of conference totes and table raffles.
- Sanford Community Adult Education for their commitment to promoting literacy wherever and however they may
- Literacy Volunteers of Maine for the photograph presentation and display of Faces of Literacy: Voices of Courage

“I strongly believe that if every man, woman, and child could read, write and comprehend we would be much closer to solving many of our nation’s serious problems.”

FIRST LADY BARBARA BUSH,
HONORARY CHAIR,
THE BARBARA BUSH FOUNDATION FOR FAMILY LITERACY



Literacy Resource Links

Maine Family Literacy: www.mainefamilyliteracy.com

Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy: www.barbarabushfoundation.com

Raising Readers: www.raisingreaders.org

National Center for Family Literacy: www.famlit.org

Maine Early Childhood Initiative: www.maine-eccs.org

Reading Rockets: www.readingrockets.org

Get Ready to Read: www.getreadytoread.org

Maine Humanities Council: www.mainehumanities.org

National Institute for Literacy: www.nifl.gov

Department of Education, Public Pre-K: www.maine.gov/education/fouryearold

Maine Reads: www.mainereads.org