

# Our Instructors & Staff

## Our Instructors and Staff

We have found that many people only learn about the incredible talent of our instructors if they sign up to take a class they are interested in. However, learning about an instructor and their expertise may actually entice you into taking a class you might not otherwise have noticed.

So, all instructor bios are now here. Please take the time to read about the vast and interesting experience of the people who bring you so many opportunities. Then look through the brochure and find a class that interests you. The instructor's name will be listed and you can always come back here to find out more about them.

**Bill Babb** is a retired teacher and home baker. He has searched for the perfect baguette for fifteen years taking several King Arthur Baking Workshops and attending Skowhegan Kneading Conferences along the way.

**David Baker** is a professional cheesemaker with over 25 years of experience making a wide variety of cheeses with State of Maine Cheese in Rockport. He has taught both adults and children to love making cheese.

**Jordan Benisson** has been cooking for friends and students ever since he arrived in Maine in 1999, and finally realized his dream of opening a restaurant in 2017. His Me Lon Togo restaurant is located in a distinctive blue and purple historic home on Rt. 1 in Searsport, and he just opened a second one in Waterville. Jordan also teaches African drumming at Colby College, the Watershed School, and other area schools.

**Barbra Bragg** has taught studio art at colleges and arts organizations in New Hampshire and Vermont. She has a lifelong commitment to her own creative process, and to sharing the importance of "visual thinking" with her students. She has an MFA in studio Art and a BFA in Ceramics and was recently a Resident Artist at the Art Loft in Rockland.

**Marc Bubar** has been playing acoustic guitar for 17 years. He sings and writes songs, and has performed on stage at various venues across the country. Playing music, especially with other people, is one of Marc's favorite things in the whole wide world. He brings a big smile and patient demeanor to class. The goal is for everyone to have fun and to feel encouraged to keep practicing!

**Frank Burnett, Ed.D.** is a veteran counselor, school and college educator, educational association officer and independent consultant. At various points in his career, Dr. Burnett was responsible for the generation of external support for programs and services through the preparation of grant and contract proposals with philanthropic organizations, government agencies and independent gift-makers. Additionally, he has served as a proposal reader and evaluator for numerous philanthropic organizations and government agencies.

**Tina Casteris** is a self-taught knitter who loves sharing this craft with those who desire to learn, improve and have fun!

**Sandy Clement** has been teaching sewing classes for over 10 years. She has sewn since she was a child and has found it to be a valuable life-long skill. She has helped with costuming for local school and theater groups.

**Jenn Dean** has worked for more than 20 years as a freelance writer and is currently employed as a publishing coordinator for Maine Authors Publishing & Cooperative. She has helped many authors publish their books by guiding them through the publishing process.

**Jim DellaPenna** has been an amateur astronomer since he was a teenager performing observations for the American Society of Variable Star Observers in Cambridge. Jim is a member of 3 astronomy clubs and served as an officer of the Raleigh club in NC for 7 years. He has participated in numerous outreach events including elementary schools, the general public, and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Science.

**Branden Densmore** is founder of Gathered Minds Media Inc. and creator of the "Coaching For The Spiritually Gifted" Facebook group. He holds a B.A. in Philosophy from Vassar College and is a certified Spiritual Coach who loves creating growth opportunities for others, helping them move past their fears of entrepreneurship while having fun.

**Jim Dill** is a naval architect, boat designer, inventor and land surveyor. Helicopter Huck is a local builder, licensed arborist, vineyard & winery consultant and helicopter tour designer.

**Diane Doiron** is a certified teacher of Tai chi Easy tm through the Institute of Integral igong and Tai Chi since 2010. She teaches various forms at Merrymeeting Adult Ed and Shoto-Kan Karate Academy.

**Keith Drago** is the Deputy Director of the Rockport Public Library. He has worked in the library field for ten years and has his masters in Library and Information Sciences.

**Erik Durbas** has worked in the construction industry for over two decades. His hands-on skills range from cabinet making to custom building, with the last 12 years having been focused solely on architectural design. He currently practices sustainable, energy efficient residential design from his home office in Union.

**Andrew Eckman** has been teaching medical response courses for more than 25 years and has trained thousands of people in First Aid/CPR/AED, Professional Rescuer/Healthcare Provider CPR, and Emergency Medical Response.

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**Vic Ehler** has over 20 years' experience in designing and building high end furniture. He has been the supervisor and new employee trainer at Mystic Woodworking for the past 9 years.

**Diana Falciani's** experience includes apparel and costume design as well as pattern and hat making. She earned a Certificate of Achievement in Apparel Design from Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, California and has been sewing since the age of twelve.

**Beverly Feldt** has been an avid student of astrology since 1968 when she was introduced to the archetypal, imaginal realm by taking a University without Walls class on astrology by a Rosicrucian machine shop owner in Madison, WI. Since then she has earned certificates through The Astrology Institute and Astro-Logos, and has studied with numerous teachers, most recently with Joe Landwehr of Astro-Poetics. She is a retired clinical social worker and a practicing Buddhist.

**Anne Fensie** has been teaching technology since the turn of the century! She is well-known for her patience with technophobes and uses her vast knowledge of learning strategies to help make your new knowledge usable and memorable.

**Paul Garcia** taught at secondary and university levels for twenty years, and now earns his living as a translator and interpreter. He has lived and worked in Puerto Rico, Mexico, Spain and Argentina.

**Darrell Gilman** is on the team-taught, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary whose courses provide recreational boaters with the knowledge and skills to boat safely on either inland or coastal waters. General topics included in the ABS course are: boating operations, boat handling, boating laws and regulations, water traffic patterns, equipment requirements and introductory navigation.

**Ellen Goldsmith** is an award-winning author and her poems have appeared in numerous journals. In addition to 5-Towns CSD Adult and Community Education, she has taught poetry for the Coastal Senior College and Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance. She is a professor emeritus of the City University of New York.

**Gary Harmatz** has been a wildlife, nature, travel and underwater photographer for over 24 years. His nature and travel photography has taken him throughout Europe, Japan, the Bahamas, North and South America, Antarctica, Southeast Asia and Africa. He specializes in unique images from the grand scenic and exotic marketplaces to the fall foliage of New England.

**Sherwood Hilt** first discovered wood carving at Camp Bomazen in 1990 where he learned how to do relief carvings, neckerchief slides, signs and a variety of other items. In 2012 he started carving shorebirds and ducks. He has taught merit badge wood carving for the Boy Scouts for many years. Sherwood has a degree in building construction and worked at Lyman-Morse as a cabinet maker until retirement.

**Gilda Joffe** is a Certified HeartMath Trainer who works with individuals, in person, or by phone internet and presents workshops to leaders and staff of diverse organizations facilitating stress management and higher personal and professional productivity.

**Russell Kahn** has been teaching art in public schools for over 21 years. He currently teaches ceramics, printmaking, drawing and painting at CHRHS.

**Linda Leach** and **Sandy Clement** have 30 plus years of painting and craft experience. They are the co-owner of the Maine Lights Collection. Visit their page at <http://mainelightscollection.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/mainelightscollection/>

**Lora Levenseler** grew up in Rockland, ME, and, after graduating from Stonehill College, returned to Maine to teach. She has been teaching math for over 5 years and is currently head of the math department at CHRHS.

**Tatiana Lopyreva** has taught Russian in private and public schools in Toronto, Canada. She enjoys exploring her native language and agrees with her students that Russian is not easy to learn.

**Patti Luchetti** has studied Oriental Dance for 25+years with such stars as Katia of Boston, Morocco of NYC and most recently, Cassandra of Minneapolis. She is director/choreographer of Shalimar's Studio in Rockland, where she also teaches Modern Dance and exercise classes. FMI: [shalimar90@gmail.com](mailto:shalimar90@gmail.com)

**John Luft** has worked at Revision Energy since 2003 and has designed and managed hundreds of solar projects. John is a Branch Manager for the Liberty office of Revision Energy.

**Charles Mamane** spent several years living in Morocco, France, and Israel. He served in the Israeli Defense Forces in the tank corps for 3 years and has traveled extensively in the Middle East. He has an MS in Electrical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon and an MBA. Over his past 50 years in the US he has developed a passion for the study of history.

**Mike McCune** has a degree in Biology and has been carving and watching birds for over 20 years. He has taught duck carving for 12 years.

**Mike Miller** is a restaurateur, real estate broker, and director of the Steelin' Thunder Band. He discovered steel drums when his son learned them at a summer camp in 1995. Steelin' Thunder now plays at dozens of events every year and offers scholarships to high school seniors proceeding to higher education. Mike's love of music, especially collaborative efforts, is infectious - his goal is to have fun!

**Anna Moorman and Jo-Ann Neal** of Allen Insurance and Financial, are licensed insurance agents specializing in Medicare. Anna has a background in healthcare and public health, while Jo-Ann brings years of knowledge from her prior role in HR.

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**Eva Morris** lived in Osaka for 10 years where she studied Keigo, an honorific Japanese. She lived in a series of temples over two years, then after owning an aerobics studio she produced the first Japanese language aerobics video in Japan. After moving to Tokyo, she became a regular on 7 different Japanese television shows. She has written numerous articles about health and fitness in Japanese, and upon returning to America taught Japanese language classes to busy professionals in New York City.

**Sally Morrison** has been teaching beginners and continuing bridge to players for over 10 years and is a life long student of bridge herself.

**Laurie J. Murray**, a former university creative writing lecturer and writing center director, holds her MFA in creative writing from Ashland University and her BA in communication from the University of Pittsburgh. She is an instructor of creative nonfiction writing and facilitates writing and nature journaling workshops. Currently, she is working on a memoir about coastal Maine, with a focus on the state's natural beauty and coastal communities.

**Paul Neagle** is a retired resident of South Thomaston and lives on the St. George River. He and his wife hold Non-Commercial licenses and have been lobstering for the past five years. They had to learn it all by trial and error and research. Learn from their experience in this fun class.

**Jill Parker** is the chief inspiration officer of inspireal LLC, a leadership coaching consultancy in Maine. She is a professional speaker, trainer and team builder with over 25 years of leadership experience in a variety of industries.

**Dee Patel** had so many requests for Indian food from her coworkers at Pen Bay Skin Care that she decided to open a three-days-a-week takeout in her family's lodging The Ledges in Rockport in June 2019. She not only has been received with rave reviews but routinely sells out of everything on the menu.

**Laura Lee Perkins**, BME, MS has authored 8 books, published 150+ articles, and recorded 5 professional flute CDs and 3 audio-books. Recipient of 14 grants and 5 artist residencies, Laura is a "Chicken Soup for the Soul: Hope & Miracles" author. Laura teaches 75 life-skills classes a year to 5,000+ people in ME, MA, NY, and AZ and enjoys working with her flute-maker husband Ken Green teaching folks to play Native American Flute.

**Laura Philbrook** is a mom and wife who is always learning and making changes to live a more natural and healthy life. She uses essential oils to support many aspects of her family's wellness.

**Alex Plummer** is a PGA apprentice studying to obtain his Class A certification. He has been involved in the golf business for over 10 years, teaching golf for the past 5. He was an assistant at Goose River Golf Club before moving on to the Samoset as their first assistant professional. Currently he is in his third year as the head golf professional at Goose River Golf Club. Alex wants to introduce the great game of golf to as many people as he can.

**Jonathan Potter** has written twelve traditional plays, and five Commedia scenarios which have been published, as well as many more. He has taught theatre classes at CHRHS and UMA@Rockland (URock), and directed a broad range of plays. For ten years he ran a mobile stage which presented popular and free Commedia del'Arte scenarios in local areas.

**Dorothy Prescott** is a CPA in Rockland specializing in the accounting needs of small businesses and is a Certified QuickBooks ProAdvisor®. Dorothy is a member of The General Society of Mayflower Descendants and is familiar with many local lines of descent.

**Gary Roberts** is a Registered Maine Guide, a resident of Appleton and has been a volunteer naturalist, trip leader, and speaker for over 30 years. He specializes in guiding from a natural history perspective and focuses particularly on the native flora and fauna of Maine. Gary has been a long time volunteer for Maine Audubon and has volunteered with the Maine Plant Conservation Volunteers, Mountain Birdwatch, Maine Owl Survey Project, and Seanet.

**Jolinda Rockett** has spent more than 40 years in the health field, first as a special units RN and then as an acupuncturist, seeking ways to address the fundamental causes of pain and other symptoms that prevent enjoyment of life. She has an acupuncture and health coaching practice in Camden and St. George, and currently serves on the Maine State Licensing Board for Complementary Health Care.

**Chris Sady and Lila Vultee** have been playing mah-jongg for more than 15 years and have taught many people how to play.

**Lowrie Sargent** is Vice President and Investor Advisor representative for Maine Asset Management and Director of Education and member of the State Board of Directors for Better Investing. He has been investing since 1978 and has a Masters of Business Administration, Loyola College, and Bachelor of Arts, Cornell University. He also is a recipient of the Vedder Prize in Economics.

**Bev Shejen** has been quilting blankets for over 20 years and is a huge fan of all kinds of quilts but especially enjoys creating a fast creative gift using shortcut techniques.

**Mike Shunney** is the Director of Inner Works Taijiquan and Qigong in Rockland - <http://www.InnerWorksCenter.com>. Mike is privileged to be recognized by the First family of Taijiquan in China, the Yang Family, as qualified to teach their system of Traditional Yang Family Taijiquan, which includes Qigong, Taijiquan, Taiji Jian (sword), Taiji Dao (broadsword), Taiji Qiang (spear/staff), and two-person play. He is the first person in Maine to hold that honor.

A Maine native, **Holly Smith** graduated with a B.S. degree in Art Education from the University of Southern Maine. Retired from teaching 31 years high school art and photography, Holly is represented by the Portland Art Gallery, Bonnie Farmer Assemblage Art & Gallery and the Lincolnville Art Gallery.

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**Elyse Socker** has been working in the Five Town CSD Adult & Community Education office since September 2007 when she began as the part-time evening secretary. Two months later she took over the position of Program Manager, where she has been ever since. She loves hunting for used and antique treasures and both her wardrobe and home are full of fabulous finds she has made!

**John Sommo** is a nationally certified instructor with the League of American Cyclists and a Registered Maine Guide.

**Chef Jeff Space** is currently the Director of Nutritional Services at Pen Bay Medical Center. He is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America and has over 30 years of experience in restaurants and food service. Before calling Maine his home, he held positions as a Pastry Chef, Executive Chef, and Personal Chef. Jeff is also a local fly tier who has taught many classes in the area. He is also an avid fisherman who welcomes the chance to share his knowledge.

**David Spahr** is a naturalist, photographer and forest farmer who has collected, photographed, and eaten wild mushrooms for 35 years. He is a member of the Maine Mycological Association and maintains a web site devoted to the subject, mushroom-collecting.com. He is currently writing a book on foraging.

**Chris Toy** is a lifelong teacher and learner. After a career as a school principal he traveled around the world as an educational consultant collecting recipes and stories from local cooks. As a registered Maine Guide and cooking instructor, Chris teaches classes and leads trips for adult education, Now You're Cooking, Stonewall Kitchens, and privately.

**Katie Tranzillo** is an independent dance instructor leading partnered, individual and group programs for 18 years with children, teens, adults and people with disabilities. She is spreading the joy of dance across Maine and building strong dance communities. [www.joyfuldancing.com](http://www.joyfuldancing.com).

**Sharon Turner** owns Crystal Lake Farm in Washington, ME. She specializes in open-pollinated vegetable and flower seedlings, native perennials, shrubs and trees, and cut flowers. She grows for Fedco Trees and Knox-Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District. She also teaches MOFGA's Grow Your Own Organic Garden class.

**Wayne Twitchell** is a retired welding instructor from Bath Iron Works and has been welding for over 40 years. Wayne is a recipient of the Navy's Aegis Excellence Award for welding. He has taught welding through adult ed programs for 10 years and in his spare time enjoys making scrap metal sculptures.

**Paul Whiton** is a tenor with 45 years of teaching and performance experience in Connecticut, private and group teaching at the Warner Theater in Torrington, CT, as well as after school programs at high schools.

## Adult & Community Education Administrative Staff

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## CNA Genesis Graduating Class, September 2019

