

# 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.

**ArtNightOut** instructors are experienced artists who provide a relaxed atmosphere, lots of support, and quality materials/tools to ensure a positive experience. Leave class with new skills and an amazing piece you created yourself.

Master Maine Guide **Alice Bean Andrenyak** is a Maine native who lives at Mere Point in Brunswick. Owner of Alice's Awesome Adventures and Maine e-Learning, she is an outdoor enthusiast, naturalist, teacher, solo entrepreneur, a Kripalu trained Outdoor Guide, and a great cook. She has been visiting Malaga Island for over 30 years and has seen it change. She also trains future Registered Maine Guides and outdoor enthusiasts in navigation, canoeing, SUP, sea kayaking, snowshoeing, nature studies, and overnighting skills. She is a Kripalu Mindful Outdoor Guide leading Forest Bathing sessions and leads regular sea kayak and hiking tours of Malaga Island.

**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.

**Jordan Benissan** 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. He opened a new branch in Camden in July 2020. Jordan also teaches African drumming at Colby College, the Watershed School, and other area schools.

**Rick Bernard**, a former school counselor, has been performing magic for numerous parties and corporate events or over 35 years. He has also taught magic classes for over 25 years.

**Carolyn Brown** teaches a variety of visual art courses at CHRHS and has taught Adult Ed pottery off and on for 20 years. She's studied with a number of potters both in Maine and Japan and sells her pottery and other artwork in local markets. More info is on her website [carolynbrownstudio.com](http://carolynbrownstudio.com)

**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 Burtnett, Ed.D.** is a veteran counselor, school and college educator, educational association officer and independent consultant. At various points in his career, Dr. Burtnett 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 **Writing & Cooperative**. She has helped many authors publish their books by guiding them through the publishing process.

**Jeff Dec** is head of the Ski School at the Camden Snow Bowl.

**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.

**Keith Drago** is the Deputy Director of the Rockport Public Library. He has worked in the library field for ten years and has his master's 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.

**Amy English** has been cooking/baking gluten-free for 19 years for a family member who doesn't like to eat. She has worked hard to make tasty gluten-free food! She has a BS in education which included courses in nutrition and cooking.

**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.

Since her first astrology class at a "University without Walls" in the late 1960s in Madison, WI, **Beverly Feldt** has had a life-long passion for the subject and has studied with numerous astrologers, primarily for the purpose of self-understanding and integration. Interested in Jungian Archetypal Astrology, which holds that astrology is not concretely but archetypally predictive, she sees astrology as a way to move fluidly and freely in sync with the cosmos.

**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** is a translator who has taught at secondary and university levels for many years. He has lived and worked in Puerto Rico, Mexico, Spain and Argentina.

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**Carolyn Hardman** has a BA in history and government and an MA in education from the University of Rochester. She taught social sciences for 34 years with 22 years teaching Maine history and government in SAD 5. Carolyn is a 42-year resident of Nobleboro and currently the educator for the Nobleboro Historical Society.

**Gary Hartz** 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 Hill** 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.

**Fran Hodgkins** is a Midcoast author who has written more than 25 books for young readers, including *The Secret Galaxy* (Tilbury House) and *Andre the Famous Harbor Seal* (Down East). In addition to writing, she has worked as an editor in both trade and educational publishing. She is currently at work on a middle-grade trilogy.

**Tom Jamrog** is a licensed clinical professional counselor, a nationally certified school psychologist, and a registered Maine Guide. For the past several years he's been consulting the I-Ching to assist with decision making.

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

**Namdol Kalsang** is originally from Tibet. She grew up in India and came to America in 2009. After living in Portland, Maine, for several years she recently moved to Rockland with her family.

**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/>

**Vina Lindley**, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, has been teaching food safety, food preservation and horticulture for 7 years in the Midcoast and enjoys sharing the most up to date methods available for home gardeners and homesteaders to preserve the bounty from their gardens or CSA.

**Kristen Lindquist** is a published writer who has maintained a daily haiku blog for over 10 years. Her haiku have been published in a variety of haiku journals around the world. She has taught haiku workshops around the state; this will be her fourth year offering this through Adult Ed.

**Tatiana Lopyreva** started taking German in grade 4, chose it as a major at the university and taught German at the same university for 11 years. She also taught her native Russian in private and public schools in Toronto, Canada.

**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.

**Lee Ann Maher** is the technical expert at the Rockland Social Security office. She has been employed there for 22 years.

**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.

**Jacinda Martinez** is an artist and a landscape designer in midcoast Maine. She specializes in food and flowers. You can find more about her work at [www.groundedlocal.com](http://www.groundedlocal.com)

**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.

**Kate McMorrow** graduated the Scherer Institute of Natural Healing in 1990 as a licensed massage therapist. She went on to study the Hakomi Method of body centered psychotherapy as well as Sheng Zhen Qigong. In 2009 she became a Certified Holistic Health Practitioner with a focus on Electro-Dermal Stress Analysis and in 2019 became a Functional Medicine Certified Health Coach through FMCA.

**Anna Moorman and Jo-Ann Neal** have each been with Allen Insurance and Financial for over six years. Anna has a background in healthcare and public health, while Jo-Ann brings years of knowledge from her prior role in HR.

**Dave Oakes**, and his wife Sue, co-founded CELL, an educational nonprofit providing international study abroad experiences focusing on "sustainability through community." He lived in Botswana, Africa for three years with his family directing an international environmental education program. Dave has also taught at Unity College and began his career teaching science and social studies in several public schools in Maine.

**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 audiobooks. 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.

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**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.

**Brie Pio** is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and is the Principal of Birch Point Wealth Management LLC, an investment advisory firm located in Rockport, Maine. Brie completed the Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree at DePaul University in Chicago, completed the Personal Financial Planning Certificate Program at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and has over ten years' experience in finance, accounting, and operations.

**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.

**Jim Potter** leads the Entrepreneurship Workshop. Speakers and panel members are all West Bay Rotary members who either own or have owned their own businesses. A staff member from the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development will also make a presentation outlining their services for new entrepreneurs.

Registered Maine Guide **Gary Roberts** is 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 longtime volunteer for Maine Audubon and has volunteered with the Maine Plant Conservation Volunteers, Mountain Birdwatch, Maine Owl Survey Project, and Seanet.

**Jolinda Rockett** has been in health care over 40 years: BSN (RN), MAC (Lic Acupuncturist), Certified Primal Health Coach, and is currently on the State Licensing Board for Complementary Health Care by appointment of the governor. She is also the author of the Glorious Health Project to be published summer 2020.

**Rachel Romanski** is an interdisciplinary artist living and working in Midcoast Maine. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in sculpture from MECA and studied Renaissance Art History through the UGA campus in the Tuscany. Since then she has focused much of her efforts in artistic collaborations with marginalized communities and teaching Art and English as a Second Language.

**Joe Ryan** has over 35 years of professional graphic design experience. He is the founder of Adventure Advertising, Rockport, Maine, and an Adobe software user since version 1.0.

**Libby Schrum** is a furniture designer and maker in Camden with nearly 20 years of woodworking experience. She often teaches at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship and offers one-on-one instruction in her studio.

**Geoff Scott** has been involved in all forms of snow sports for most of his life and has enjoyed exploring midcoast trails for more than 20 years. He's instructed downhill skiing as well as worked in the outdoor industry in various incarnations for almost all his life, including with Outward Bound.

**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.

**Colette Shumate-Smith** taught Middle School Art for 10 years. In 1993 she became an artist-in-residence with the Massachusetts Cultural Council State Artist Roster. She created many large murals in Central Massachusetts, the most complex of which is at Squannacook Elementary School in Townsend and North West School in Leominster. In 2018 she and her husband moved to Maine and purchased the Liberty Campus of the Original Haystack Mountain School hoping to restore the property and studios for Artist in Residence. Colette's work is incredibly unique. Her themes are commenting on the state of the world, yet her color choice is sweet and mysterious.

**Mike Shunney** is the Director of InnerWorks 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.

**Diane Smith**, personal consultant, teacher, speaker, author, and owner of A Simple Life Awaits You... Organizing Your Home, has been inspiring clients thru confidential, gentle coaching since 2006. Her unique strategies for rightsizing one's home come from over 20 years as a nonprofit administrator; serving as host, writer, and associate producer of a public television series on quilting; and thru her own personal organizing journey and daily study of living a peaceful, fulfilled life.

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.

**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!

**Jeff Space** Jeff Space has been tying flies for 20 years and loves to share his knowledge with others. Jeff is a resident of Hope and loves to be on the water.

**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.

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**Holly Vanorse Spicer** was born and raised in Rockport, graduating from CHRHS in 2002. She now lives in Thomaston with her family, works as a sports reporter for Courier Publications and as a personal trainer. She has been a pre-post-natal coach and a senior fitness specialist for almost 8 years. Holly also loves the great outdoors and building sandcastles with her son.

**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.

**Melinda Wildes** works in the Midcoast with New Ventures Maine, and lives in Rockland with her husband. Her office is located in the UMA Rockland Center. She is a Certified Global Career Development Facilitator and has been helping people take steps toward fulfillment through career/life/education planning for 15 years. Life is a journey with many transitions, some planned and some unplanned. Her wish is to help Maine people move towards a place of greater clarity on their life/career journey. She also enjoys coaching and teaching on personal money management.

**Mike Wilson** is an author of five easy-read computer books for adults. He has taught in 40 cities in Michigan over the last 15 years. Mike has trained 1000s of students with overwhelmingly excellent comments and ratings! He has taught or currently teaches at colleges, community education centers, and libraries, including Schoolcraft College where he has taught for about 16 years. His passion is to see adult students learn technology.

**Craig Wilson** is the director of Midcoast Recreation Center.

**The Belfast Curling Club** opened officially in February 1959, on a site which had previously been flooded for outdoor curling by a group of enthusiasts. Volunteer masons, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, and laborers built the club on donated land - even making their own 5,000 cinderblocks! They currently have a three-sheet clubhouse which provides activities for more than 100 members ranging in age from 16 to 75. A banquet and dance hall was added in 1977.

## Covid-19 Protocols for Students and Instructor Safety for F2F classes

We in Adult and Community Education are going to continue being proactive to protect the safety and health of all our adult ed participants. To this end, we will be following the procedures below.

- Students and instructors are restricted to building entry using the front door only.
- Students and instructors may only access designated bathrooms in the building.
- Classes are restricted to the number of students who can safely be kept 6 feet apart during the class, and the spacing in class will be clearly marked.
- Face masks are required of all students and instructors while entering and moving throughout the building.
- Hand sanitizer must be used upon entering the building (provided) and is available in every room where a class is held.
- Classrooms will be thoroughly sanitized both before and after use.
- Students must follow quarantine periods on people entering Maine from specific areas as put forth on the Governor's reopening plan and Keep Maine Healthy Plan.

These protocols are based on currently available information and may be adjusted based on future recommendations from the state and local CDC.

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## Adult & Community Education Staff

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