

"Toward a Kinder, More Compassionate Society ~ Finding Our Ways"

Online Workshops

Online workshops will be in webinar format, available shortly after the February 10 - 12 conference weekend. Online participants: please choose up to four one-session workshops.

1. Inclusion Through Traditional Circle Games

Nancy Blanning

This workshop will be collaborative for all participants. We will work together in large and smaller groups to work at finding language that is inclusive for our circles and stories. There are no ready-made answers waiting for us. We will explore ideas and possibilities together. The workshop will begin with a discussion of archetypes and stereotypes and how we navigate the truthful path honoring the reality of both.

Nancy Blanning is a long-time early childhood educator primarily involved in teacher training at this time. Bringing inclusivity into all of our Waldorf early childhood classes is a priority for our social and human future.

2. Turning a Decolonial Lens to Outdoor Education Practices

Aimee De Ney

Outdoor education and Waldorf early childhood education have just about become synonymous in the past few years. How can we assure that as we take our young children out-of-doors, we are actively seeking to minimize harm and inequity in our work? In this workshop, we will delve into the histories, stories, and ways of being that have built our relations with lands and each other. With this foundation, we will begin to find new ways of being, relating, and educating our youth that moves us toward generating love, healing, and liberation for all—human and otherwise. This workshop will include a presentation, exercises, and journaling. Please schedule 90 minutes for the webinar and anticipate spending some of that time out-of-doors and offline!

Please bring a journal/paper and writing implements.

Aimee de Ney is a long-time Waldorf early childhood teacher working with supporting young children and their families to develop reciprocal and loving relationships with the land and her inhabitants, primarily at her school Bird Song Children's Garden on the shores of the Salish Sea in Olympia, WA. A puppeteer, storyteller, and student of the land, Aimee is a doctoral candidate whose research centers on developing pedagogy that prioritizes generating loving and healing relationships with the land, other, and self through decolonial Land education towards land and social justice. Aimee is currently serving as a regional representative to WECAN and on the WECAN I.D.E.A. committee.

3. Mindfulness Practices for this Work

Meggan Gill

Through our burgeoning and lifelong relationship with Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, we often find ourselves in ebbs and flows of learning and vigor, stagnation and resistance; fear and frustration, enthusiasm and energy. As we continue along our paths and with our colleagues, we can aspire to openness- to ever changing opinions and perspectives, to giving and receiving feedback and to taking responsibility. This workshop is designed to allow participants to engage in self-reflection and explore well known meditative and mindfulness practices of inquiry that help sustain us in hard times and give us courage when we need it most. We will also practice preparing for “hard conversations,” active listening and explore the anatomy of an apology. We will look at approaches to self-care, how to interrupt (micro)aggressions and setting healthy boundaries versus shutting down. This workshop invites participants to engage this work with the gestures of healing, compassion and inquiry.

4. Community, Self-Care, & Growing Together: Cultivating intentional first impressions of connection and diversity through play

Lynn Turner and Leslie Wetzonis-Woolverton

Together, we will explore in depth how babies and young children experience joy, beauty, and goodness through a rich and diverse sensory world. Through a new lens, we will explore how the young child’s foundation supports healthy self-identity and an appreciation of differences. These first beginnings enhance growth and support a future belonging and connection to the community and the wider world.

Aspects we will explore include:

- Baby’s First Toys
- The Importance of Babies' First Dolls
- The Supportive Sensory Warmth Environment
- Nurturing the Senses with Experiences of Nature, Place, and Love

Lynn Turner is a native Washingtonian, wife, mother of two children, and the proud descendant of enslaved people. She has been a culturally responsive early childhood educator, teacher trainer, and leader in the movement of Waldorf Education in Northern America for over twelve years. Lynn currently serves as a WECAN Coordinator of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access. She is also the Director of Waldorf Early Childhood Teacher Training at Great Lakes Waldorf Institute

Leslie Wetzonis Woolverton, also a Washingtonian, is currently a WECAN Coordinator of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access, a member of the WECAN Early Childhood Research Group, and a member of the core faculty of Sound Circle Center in Seattle. Leslie taught Parent/Child & Three Day Nursery programs at Acorn Hill Waldorf Kindergarten & Nursery School for more than 17 years. She loves handwork, storytelling, seeing the world with a broadened perspective, and Art.