

Theme: Body of Knowledge

Saturday, October 19, 2016 from 10 am to 4 pm

## PRESENTERS

ALPHABETICAL BY LAST NAME

### **Angela Marie Dostie**

*Opera Singer/Voice Teacher* (Greenfield) Angela has studied Opera, Classical, Broadway music and performed in many places around the US for over 23 years. Her vocal performances have won her many scholarships and awards and she continues to share that talent today. She has been teaching private voice/music theory lessons for 14 years. Coming from a strong background of wonderful mentors and teachers herself, she enjoys passing on what she's learned to those who need guidance within the community. When not performing or teaching, Angela is a full time banker in Shelburne Falls, proud mother of three beautiful children and wife to a very supportive husband.

### **Leslie Grinnell**

*Pet Mobility Expert at Eddies Wheels* (Shelburne Falls, MA) For 20+ years Leslie has personally cared for a succession of disabled dogs including Buddha, Hardy - a Doberman with Wobblers, Autumn - a Dobe with spondylosis, Toby - a Rotti mix with torn ACLs, Nick - a boxer with spinal fracture, Daisy - a dachshund with IVDD, Sweet Pea - a paralyzed pitbull, and Nelix - a 3-legged cat. Currently Leslie cares for Webster - a chi-weiner born with no front legs, and Beau - a 3 year old pitbull with three crushed vertebrae. Leslie works with canine rehab practitioners and holistic vets to help pets of all species survive & thrive.

### **Arlie Hart**

*Flying Trapeze Instructor, Owner of Pathfinder Rigging, Psychologist* (Putney, VT) Arlie grew up climbing up on things and then jumping off things. When he discovered the flying trapeze it was as if a part of his childhood was reborn. 15 years later, he brings his love of flight and the joy of self-discovery through the experience of flight to people all over the world. By allowing people to develop a deeper understanding of themselves through the use of the flying trapeze, Arlie has helped people of all ages to stretch their notion of self to include things that may have at one time seemed impossible. Being a part of that growth is Arlie's favorite part of teaching and flying on the trapeze.

### **Mariana Luz**

*End of Life Doula* (Shelburne Falls) Mariana has worked in the helping professions with children, women in emotional distress, adults with developmental disabilities and elders since early adulthood. For a decade she's provided home care services to elders and the disabled. Mariana provided many of the support services these people need to live fulfilling lives in their own home – often until their dying day. She believes we all need and deserve a kind companion to witness and usher in the process of dying. Mariana has two adult children. A life-long learner, she studied at The University of MA, Greenfield Community College and Stillpoint School of Massage Therapy. She is in the process of obtaining her certification as an End of Life Doula.

### **Kathy Lytle**

*Nurse, Amateur Historian/Genealogist, Entrepreneur* (Buckland) Kathy lives in a big old farmhouse in the beautiful village of Upper Buckland. She has raised three daughters and started a coffee roasting business with her husband Curtis Rich. Her first career was as a Registered Nurse, with a strong focus in psychiatric and elder care. Kathy's research on the history of Buckland uncovers and unravels the fantastic story of one of its most interesting residents, Josiah Spaulding Jr., a young man confined to live for 56 years in a cage in his family's home. The tale begins in Buckland, but has sweeping impacts on the industry of mental health across many states and several centuries. A book is in progress.

**Shirley Prescott**

*Entrepreneur, Survivor* (Westfield) Shirley is co-owner of a leadership development company with her husband. She is a survivor of a rare form of breast cancer whose story tells us that “hard is not impossible” and personal outlook changes circumstances. She has a strong personal faith with an underlining belief that our minds can be altered for the better by the power of positive thinking and a change in perspective. Shirley is an inquisitive person who loves to research. She loves bringing out the best in people while building strong communities.

**Tara Roberts**

*Family Builder, Educator, Fertility Rights Activist* (Springfield) Tara teaches high school English in Western Massachusetts. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in English: Creative Writing from MA College of Liberal Arts and a Master’s Degree in School Administration. She is an active member of Resolve New England, the Donor Sibling Registry. She lives in Springfield, MA with her partner David and their son, Silas.

**Brenda Lynn Siegel**

*Executive/Artistic Director Southern VT Dance Festival, Choreographer/Director IBIT Dance Company* (Southern VT) Siegel earned a BS in dance & composition from Hampshire College. She teaches residencies, classes & workshops throughout the US & runs a pre-professional training program for modern dancers. Siegel’s choreography has been shown at multiple festivals & venues throughout the country, including MA Dance Festival, Rhythm Festival, The Oberon, & The Dance Complex. At 19 years old, Siegel was published in “Celebrating the lives of Jewish Women” & continues to publish on dance and non-dance related subjects. Siegel interned in Bernie Sanders office in Washington DC & volunteered on his 2016 campaign. Her career weaves through social, political & artistic projects & she often brings them together with work on “Creative Economy” to create a thriving infrastructure for economic & artistic growth.

**Charlie Spencer & Kathryn Greenwood Swanson**

*Charlie Spencer Head of Center School, Greenfield* (Amherst) Charlie is in her eighth year as Head of the Center School, began her work there in 2007 as lead teacher of the Middle and Upper Primes (2nd and 3rd grade). Prior to her work at the Center School, she taught at the distinguished Brearley School in Manhattan, produced children’s educational theatre, managed theatre companies in the UK focusing on identity politics and education, and helped launch acclaimed Prune restaurant in New York’s East Village. Her varied work experience in the US and abroad served to strengthen her passion for progressive education. To her, education is an amazing social justice platform and change begins with teaching empathy and giving students the skills and foundation to access the amazing world around them.

*Kathryn Greenwood Swanson Educator & Gender Justice Activist*

**Violet Rawlings, Adam Benjamin, & Lucy Carr**

*Artists & Students, Mohawk Trail Regional High School* (Shelburne Falls & Ashfield) Violet, a junior, and Lucy and Adam, both Sophomores, are students at Mohawk Trail Regional High School. These creative students also pursue interests in athletics, literature & writing, rock climbing, and cultural critique. They are interested in the way art intersects personal and social issues and will present artistic works that explore the use of metaphor as a means for making images about what each artist is “made of.”