

Cooperatively Speaking

Spring 2011

Vol. 41 No. 2

ISSN 0048-2978



PCPI 2011 ANNUAL MEETINGS: INSPIRATION IN CALIFORNIA



On a beautiful, clear day in California, sun-starved delegates to the PCPI Annual Meetings were met at the San Francisco Airport by advisor Susie Stone – the “hostess with the mostest.” Susie took us on a mini-tour down the crookedest street in the world, past Fisherman’s Wharf, and to the viewpoint overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge and all of San Francisco.

Thus began a quick, exciting, and productive trip to Marin County, California. We loved seeing old and new friends and doing the necessary business to keep PCPI running smoothly. We focused on ways to make our new website the best tool we can for our members, and ways for the general public to learn more about co-ops. We visited the Marin Headlands beach to learn about teaching science to preschoolers.

A highlight was visiting two of Marin County’s outstanding co-op preschools. San Anselmo Cooperative Nursery School is in an old house with wonderful front and back yards set up for discovery. The wooden tree round stepping stones intrigued me. They are just heavy enough, but not too heavy, so that the students can move them around and make paths to wherever their imagination takes them that day. Teacher Chantal has made the yards so inviting. We also enjoyed the parents’ art work. At orientation each parent brings a photograph of their family and uses it as the centerpiece of their work of art. These are displayed around the school providing reassurance during those first days of school.

At Novato Parents Nursery School we met teachers Wendy and Stephanie and learned about their parent education program that is integrated into the daily life of the school. Each parent is given the *Positive Discipline* book and are asked to use that philosophy as they parent help in the classroom. Because we all know that we learn best when we actually put something into practice right away, this is a concept I hope other schools will consider. Novato also has a unique infant room where parents can bring younger siblings and share watching them and parent helping.

I ended my visit at the California Council Awards Banquet – a wonderfully casual, family affair and a great way to say good-bye. We so appreciated the support of the Marin Council and presidents Chris and Julia.

By Kathy Ems,
PCPI President

*Thank You to our
2011 Annual Meeting Hosts*

*Marin Area Council of the
California Council of
Parent Participation
Nursery Schools*

www.ccppns.org

The Importance of Play

By Susie Stone, PCPI Advisor

Studies show the young child needs a multisensory experiential approach to learn through play:

- By doing
 - By testing
 - By making mistakes and correcting for them
- By taking risks and being willing to take the consequences whether they be cleaning up a mess or washing up--that's a fun sensory experience in itself!--or getting everything back in order, which also feels like a fine accomplishment.

All the time spent playing is, in fact, preparing the child for kindergarten and a lifetime of loving to learn.

A child of two or three is making sense of the world and his or her place within it. The more varied the materials the child has to experiment with, the richer will be the experience. Sorting, matching, discriminating (sizes, shapes, colors, sizes, similarities and differences) and gradations of the above with actual touching, tasting, smelling, feeling, hearing and seeing will help the child understand and appreciate placement in the relationship of each to the other. This all leads to a strong foundation on which to base Language, Literacy and Mathematics taught in school years.

You could explore an actual sensory experience by squishing in the mud with hands or feet and thinking about warm or cool, smooth or gritty, dirty or clean, dark or light, and as an adult appreciate the compulsion a child has to paint the entire body to get more of the experience. You try it and you'll understand better. In Parent Cooperative Preschools we teach the parents to work with their own children and come to this understanding in the classroom...and then take it to their homes and their communities as they continue to be involved in volunteer works which benefit ALL children.



National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation

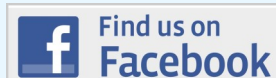
Seven PCPI members, including governing board members Natalie Hall and Lisa Meyer, participated in a conference call with NAEYC on April 20, 2011. The purpose of the call was to discuss the NAEYC accreditation standards, how the revised standards have impacted co-ops, and how the standards might be changed for co-ops.

NAEYC is currently looking carefully at their accreditation process and asked if PCPI had members who would join in discussions or committee work on this subject. A number of people have expressed interest but were not able to be on the call. Please contact Kathy Ems enquiries@preschools.coop if you would like to be a part of this effort.

Thanks to John Barna of Indianapolis for making the conference call happen. Great things happen when we work together. It is our hope that with continuing dialogue, NAEYC will set up a group of standards that recognize the unique features of co-op preschools and child care. More to come on this issue in the next newsletter.

We're on Facebook!

Check out Parent Cooperative Preschools International and network with your fellow co-op preschool teachers and parents



PCPI ELECTED OFFICERS 2011/2012

- President - Kathy Ems, Oregon
 V.P. Admin - Lynann Derrick, Maryland
 V.P. Finance - Linda Henegar, Oregon
 V.P. Membership - Vaughn Hatch,
 Roberta Stuart, Mariah Battiston,
 British Columbia
 V.P. Resources - Lesley Romanoff,
 Maryland
 Recording Secretary - Carol Brown, Ontario
 Past President - Leta Mach, Maryland

**Cooperatively Speaking:
Innovations in Cooperative
Preschools and Child Care Centers
March 2011, Washington D.C.
-Meeting Report-**

By Leta Mach, PCPI Past President

On Saturday, March 12, 2011 in Washington, D.C. nearly two dozen co-op leaders attended the Cooperatively Speaking: Innovations in Co-op Preschools and Child Care Centers meeting to share ideas and discuss trends. Here are a few highlights.

Fundraising Ideas:

- Raffles: One co-op bought an ipad for \$500 and sold over \$3,000 in tickets. Another had breakfast with the teacher. And another the chance to take home the school Teddy Bear/Journal for the night.
- Family Fun Nights, Sock Hops, and Parents' Night Out
- For a \$30 fee, invite alumni in kindergarten and 1st grade to come back for three hours of fun on a day when schools are closed
- Web Shopping Fundraisers: One co-op earned \$100 a month from an Amazon link. Others include Good Search and Good Shop

cont'd:

- Silent Auctions: a popular item was a certificate for children's entertainer
- Selling walkway bricks for \$75-100
- Fall or Spring Fairs and Yard Sales: used books and used children's clothes have been very successful

Programming & Governance Thoughts

Several presentations offered ways to make your cooperative more attractive to members and potential members. Sarah Devlin-Tremble described Magothy Co-operative's efforts to become a Maryland Green School. As a result, the school has grown from 15 to 56 students.

Lesley Romanoff felt Takoma Park Co-operative nursery School was losing its way a few years ago. They turned around the school by going back to their roots and defining their niche as an art-based curriculum. Lyann Derrick of Colonial Nursery School emphasized the need to review governance and listen to the members.

Everyone agreed that the meeting was an invaluable experience. Plans are being made to hold another Cooperatively Speaking gathering later this year. To be sure to get an invitation, contact Leta Mach at leta.mach@verizon.net.



**PCPI Supports & Encourages
PARENT Involvement
PARENT Participation and
PARENT Education in
Early Childhood Education
Programs**

CONTACT US AT:

**Parent Cooperative Preschools
International**

United States Office

National Cooperative Business
Center

1401 New York Ave. NW,
Suite 1100

Washington, D.C. 20005

enquiries@preschools.coop

Canadian Office

8725 Westport Dr.

Niagara Falls, Ontario L2H 0A2

mcampbell16@cogeco.ca

(905) 374-6605

Visit our Website

www.preschools.coop

Cooperatively Speaking is the official
bulletin of Parent Cooperative
Preschools International. Opinions
expressed in this publication do not
necessarily reflect those of PCPI as an
organization.

Submissions are welcome

Please send to:

Jean Beale, Editor

jeanbeale@gmail.com

© 2011 by Parent Cooperative
Preschools International. All rights
reserved. Material in this publication
may be reprinted for non-commercial
use only.



Join PCPI to Learn Together

Membership Year: January to December
Dues for 2011 are

Individual \$40

Council \$200

School/Group \$50

Library \$ 40

Mail Membership to US or Canadian Office

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

A LINK TO YOUR WEBSITE, NETWORK WITH OTHER CO-OP
TEACHERS AND PARENTS ON OUR YAHOO CHAT GROUP,
RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTERS AND DIRECTORY, APPLY FOR
OUR ANNUAL GRANTS, NOMINATE YOUR MEMBERS FOR
AWARDS, JOIN OUR ANNUAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES.

Spring is nature's way of saying,
"Let's party!"

Robin Williams



Save the date

Join PCPI at our
next Annual Meetings!

Washington, D.C.
April 20 to 22, 2012



New PCPI members
the Unitarian Universalist Early Education Cooperative
Preschool (UUEEC) is celebrating their 50th
anniversary, and they would like to recognize their
parent organization, the Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Phoenix Arizona for 50 years of
commitment to
Parent Participation Preschools.