

A WORD OR TWO ABOUT OUR KASEP TEACHERS

BINDY BAKER [Gymnastics] is the daughter of our long-time gymnastics teacher, Judy Baker. Bindy is a highly experienced and well trained former gymnast. She has been a gymnastics instructor and a pre-school teacher for over 20 years. Bindy is patient and loves teaching children. Her mom and auntie will join her—both are former gymnasts and have been teaching KASEP gymnastics for nearly 20 years.

SEAN BRODT [Magic the Gathering Card Game, Homework Club] has been supervising our Homework Club, but Sean is also a gamer and would like to teach kids how to play Magic the Gathering Card Game, and help sharpen the skills of MTG enthusiasts.

VICKY BRODT [Cooking, Crafting, Reading, and Sewing] has a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education and has taught preschool for over 15 years. She also received a certificate in Landscape Horticulture and does small-scale landscape projects. She owns a small business called the "Whimsical Rooster" where she sells handmade fabric items. Vicky loves to cook and to share her enthusiasm for cooking and crafting with kids of all ages.

JEAN ELLISEN [Storytelling] has been telling stories all her life, but telling stories *on purpose* for over 25 years. As Co-Producer of the Bay Area Storytelling Festival, she has met and been influenced by the nation's best. She has told stories locally, nationally and internationally, in classrooms, libraries throughout the Bay Area, storytelling festivals, and the Asian Art Museum, introducing children to the art with stories in the oral tradition. Using folktales and personal narratives, Jean encourages her students to find their own voice through storytelling.

LEAH FORREST [Homework Club] - Leah is a Kensington Hilltop alumni. She attended KASEP and had Sandy Thacker as her carpentry teacher, and did gymnastics with the Bakers. She has a BA degree in Elementary Education and she loves working with the kids at Kasep.

DOUG MCNEELY [Circus Arts]. Slim the Clown (Doug McNeely) has been performing and teaching Circus Arts for the last 15 years. He has toured the US and Europe, and has taught at many schools and parks and recreation centers.

VERONICA MEDINA-ROSS [Eco Kids, Fun Environmental Science] has been working to protect the environment for 20+ years. She has been a researcher, government official, consultant and teacher. She holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences from University of East Anglia, Norwich (U.K.). Veronica loves to teach students about the environment around them and guide and motivate them to help take care of our Planet.

CAREY PIECH [Critter Adventures] is a Kensington Hilltop parent and museum educator. She has a Bachelor's degree in Art History and a Master's degree in Elementary Education and Museum Education. She has taught art, natural science and history in a variety of museums including the de Young Museum, the Oakland Museum of California and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She has been teaching in our KASEP program for many years.

MARIA RACHIDI [Creative Art and Clay] is the founder of Creative Art and Clay. She is also a dreamer, community organizer, and mother of two inspiring children. Since moving to California from New York City, Maria has worked to create space for children and families to connect and have fun through a variety of activities. She founded the East Bay Hungarian Educational Group, successfully bringing families in the East Bay together to connect with and celebrate their heritage.

PASCALE ROGER-MCKEEVER [Drama] is an actor, writer, and director who moved to the Bay area in 2012 from Halifax, Nova Scotia and then New York City. An acting coach to professional actors, Pascale has also taught drama to all ages for the last twenty years. She has a special fondness for children for their unique ability to put you smack in the present moment! No matter the age group, Pascale's main focus is to help bring out the authentic and spontaneous self to drama.

KIM ROOTS [Sports and Games; Tennis], has a degree in Mathematics and Philosophy from the University of California at Santa Cruz. He has been teaching and coaching sports and tennis in our program and in the community for many years. Kim's major interest is to make sports accessible and fun for all kids.

KARMA SMART [Dance and Fitness] has a passion to share her experience of personal healing and liberation through music and dance. Karma currently teaches dance to adults, teens and children of all ages dance at various community organizations, dance studios, wellness centers, fitness centers and schools. More specifically she teaches at BrasArte, also known as the World Dance Center, in Berkeley. She has recently performed as a company member with Omi Tutu Dance Collective, as well as Damasceno Dance Collective. Currently she is a guest artist with Maracatu Pacifico for the upcoming annual Cuba Caribe Festival of 2017.

SANDY THACKER [Carpentry] has taught carpentry to kids for more than 30 years. Sandy, who has a Master's Degree in Education from Stanford University, taught high school and middle school, and then worked for several years as a carpenter. She has developed a wonderful and very successful program for teaching woodworking skills to children.]

DARLENE VENDEGNA (MS. DAR) [Lil Gherkin Pickleball] has been a pickleball coach for four years. She's taught all ages from 5-90 and especially loves introducing youngsters to the game. It's not just for seniors!