

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 [World of Tabletop Role Playing Games, Magic Advanced, Homework Club], supervises our Homework Club. He is also a gamer and wants to share his enthusiasm and skills with both beginning and more advanced gamers.

VICKY BRODT [Cooking, Creative Art Exploration, 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 share her enthusiasm for cooking and crafting with kids of all ages.

ELAINE CHU [Beginning Mandarin Through Hands-On Art] loves teaching students of all ages. Visual arts and crafts are perfect mediums for expression. Elaine received a B.A. in music at Yale University and a B.F.A. in graphic design at University of the Arts. In addition to teaching at KASEP for over ten years, she has offered in-person and online workshops at SF Center for the Book, Alameda Art Lab, and Minnesota Center for Book Arts. Log onto Instagram @egchu1 to view students' projects as well as Elaine's art. Website: EGChuHandcrafted.etsy.com

GERI ENGBERG [Improv] has been teaching improv classes and workshops to young children, teens, adults and seniors in the Bay area for the past 11 years. She has experience in a wide variety of settings, including classrooms, after school programs, libraries, and summer camps. She trained at ImprovBoston in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where they teach and perform classic short form improv.

LEAH FORREST [American Sign Language] is a Kensington Hilltop Alumni and has been helping kids in Homework Club at KASEP for the past few years. She has a BA degree in Elementary Education and enjoys working with kids of all ages. American Sign Language (ASL) has been a passion of Leah's since elementary school. Since graduating from college, Leah has been taking full immersion ASL classes to complete her AA degree in sign language.

LORI HESS [Mindfulness Yoga] is a kids' yoga teacher who has a Master's Degree in Special Education from the University of San Francisco and was certified to teach children's yoga by "It's Yoga Kids". She loves to plant the seeds for a solid foundation and life-long love of yoga by helping children develop strong, flexible, and peaceful bodies and minds. She founded Way to Glow Kids Yoga and has taught yoga to children from toddler through teen.

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. Veronica was recently voted Best of El Cerrito for her teaching of Environmental Science to kids.

KIM ROOTS [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.

APRIL SCHLANGER [Fairies, Gnomes and Glitter; Make the Master Artists; How to Host a Tea Party; I love Animals] has a broad brush of skills and enthusiasm for working with and teaching young children. She is the owner of Happyfoodwine, which sells, teaches, hosts, and promotes all of the “Happy” things in life: wine, food, crafts, canning, etc.

ESTI SKLOOT [Having Fun with Music] is a veteran teacher who loves music and children. She received a BA in music from Sonoma State University and a MFA in Creative Writing from the University of San Francisco. She has performed folk and classical songs, accompanying herself on her guitar at various venues. She volunteered for Bread and Roses for ten years, entertaining residents in senior facilities and retirement homes. Esti has taught “Tot Shabbat”—music for little kids—at several synagogues. She was a music counselor in many summer camps where she sang with kids of all ages.

KARMA SMART [Creative Movement and Dance] 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, including at BrasArte, also known as the World Dance Center, in Berkeley.

SANDY THACKER [Carpentry] has taught carpentry to kids for almost 40 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.

LA VERA WILSON [Eco Story Building] is a Bay Area, mixed media artist who has worked for the Oakland Public Libraries for 10 years. She has been inspired by Bookarts and enjoys creative and simple bookmaking with young and old alike.