

## **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, Beginning Carpentry, 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. Last year Sean began assisting Sandy in her carpentry class and is now offering his own class for Beginners.

**VICKY BRODT [Cooking, Mixed Media Art, 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.

**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, Homework Club]** 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.

**GABY LOHNER [Lacrosse]** is a PhD student at UC Berkeley who has been playing lacrosse for over 15 years. She is excited for Fall Ball because it is a great time to work on key lacrosse skills and introduce new players to the game!

**IAN MCAVOY [Off the Block S.T.E.M. with LEGO®]** provides students with a hands-on, engaging, and educational experience that fosters a deep understanding of STEM concepts while nurturing creativity, problem-solving skills, and teamwork. Ian is always finding new, innovative ways to use LEGO® to teach complex STEM concepts in a fun and accessible way as well as staying up-to-date with the latest trends and developments in STEM education and LEGO. He hopes his program will inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators!

**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.

**SIERRA PARKS [Nature Explorers]** is a KCC Summer Camp Counselor. She has a deep love for plants and the natural world. She is excited to bring her two passions together to teach this hands on nature and crafts workshop at KASEP.

**JEANNE REHRIG [Pastel Art; Creative Clay]** holds an MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute and has an active fine arts practice. She has spent years teaching art to children in San Francisco and the East Bay. She's worked in galleries, had a career as a textile designer and spent year working as a teacher and administrator at Neighborhood School.

**DAN SEGUIN [Tennis],** a Bay Area native, has been teaching tennis to kids and adults for over 20 years, bringing energy, patience and a passion for the game at every level. He has previously coached for the City of Piedmont and continues lessons at the City of Berkeley, helping players of all ages develop their skills and confidence. We're excited to welcome Dan to the KASEP team!

**MELITA SILBERSTEIN [Music and Fun for TK]** is a musician and music teacher based out of Berkeley. She has taught music to children in schools, libraries, and venues for families all over the Bay for two decades. She is also the founding member of the popular band for kids, Octopretzel. To learn more about Melita visit [melitamusic.com](http://melitamusic.com).

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

**RUBAB (a.k.a. Babo) WAHEED [Cooking and Community]** is the heart behind Babo's Kitchen. With a background in the food and beverage industry, Rubab blends her love for cooking with her passion for building community. She believes food is more than just nourishment—it's a way to tell stories, bring people together, and create lasting memories. You can find her pantry staple products in local stores like Of all places, Elaichi co, Hella bagels or online at [www.baboskitchen.com](http://www.baboskitchen.com)

**SAM PONTICAS** has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and Family Studies. She has worked with children in a wide variety of settings for 20 years, including five years teaching in pre-K and TK classrooms. Sam has also coached soccer across all ages, from four year olds through high school teams. She played many sports as a child and enjoys seeing children find the sport they love. As a dedicated early childhood professional, Sam is always looking for continuing education opportunities to stay up to date in the field to provide the best experiences for young children.

