

Foreword

This journal is a testimony to Annette Haines. Annette, who died in July 2017, was a leader in the Montessori community. She was instrumental in many of AMI's core committees and through much of her career played an important role for NAMTA; she was one of the most sought-after presenters at many of their events, and AMI study conferences and congresses. Both organisations had always published her articles and immediately decided to sit down together to work on creating a journal to celebrate the fine mind of this Montessori pedagogue, the benefit of which she had so liberally given to the Montessori world.

Whilst working on the very concrete production of the journal, her personality was forever vividly present. As we re-acquainted ourselves with all the articles and presentations published over the years in *The NAMTA Journal* and *AMI Communications*, we grew in our conviction that this publication combines alternating worlds where gratitude, regret and joy continuously change places.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Annette for all her contributions to our Montessori lives: She was a teacher trainer who prepared many students for their Montessori journey, and who was an inspiration to her friends and colleagues in the Montessori community. This claim is not made lightly, it is proven by thousands of expressions of admiration and friendship that have been shared since her passing.

Feelings of regret and melancholy also made inroads on a regular basis: we continue to miss Annette's insightful comments, her wisdom and knowledge. We miss her voice, articulate and clear, sprinkled with a little irony here and there. We miss her jokes and how she filled a room.

Joy is perhaps, after all, the overriding emotion, because we have had the privilege of Annette's friendship and continue having the benefit of her profound understanding of human development. The comprehensive selection of the articles in this journal is a tribute and will be a source allowing us to gain deeper knowledge of many aspects of Montessori's educational and world views.

When people sent in their favourite photos of Annette, there were many to choose from: elegant portraits (even with royalty), headshots, moments as a presenter at conferences and congresses. Yet, the one which fully does justice to Annette is the one on the opposite page: it shows her as one with her student group — sitting in the centre, she so very clearly enjoys the intricacies and purposes of the material she is demonstrating. The students sit at the same level and watch with interest and a big smile. Humour is a great vehicle for getting a message across, something that Annette had down as a fine art.

We thank David Kahn for bringing together this exquisite journal. He has made beautiful connections and highlighted underlying themes in Annette's work and thinking. His introductions to each of the three sections of this journal make enlightening reading.

This journal is dedicated to Annette Haines, a truly vibrant Montessorian.

Lynne Lawrence
Executive Director
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