

## Reflections by Colleagues on the AMI Editorial Board

My first memory of Annette was as a student in the elementary course she took in Cleveland, Ohio. I was thrilled that a primary trainer was taking the elementary course. It was indicative of her desire to extend the boundaries of her knowledge to do her work as fully as possible. Of course, she was an exemplary student. A bit later, I was directing an elementary course in Kansas City and she gave the Foundation Course. Of course, her knowledge of telemetry helped her to prepare the students for what was to come while giving them a useful base of information. Again Annette showed her support for the whole Montessori community by generously giving her time to students of an elementary course.

Most importantly, Annette was fun loving and humble. She was fun to be with and, while having opinions, also listened to broaden her understanding of the topic at hand. She also took the time to study and earn a doctoral degree. This was a sign of the respect she had for all who endeavoured to assist the development of children.

Kay Baker

My earliest memory of Annette is in the summer of 1980 during the 5-day Refresher Course on Putting Together the Pieces of the Language Area at Carol Alver's country home in Wisconsin. Some 40 years later, I happened to sit in on a Language Workshop at a NAMTA conference that Annette was leading. I was so pleased to see how skillfully she put it all together while incorporating work I had done a long time ago. Annette recognised tradition, contributed to the tradition, and she will live on in this tradition.

My next poignant memory is sitting with Annette at the Trainers Meeting in Puerto Rico in 1988. It was her first Trainers Meeting, and she was quite discouraged with the low enrollments and difficulties that courses were having. "Why did I go to all this trouble training to be a trainer when there is no future in it?" she exclaimed with despair. At that time, I was committed to starting the primary training in Kansas City. Just the next year, my life changed, and I went to Washington DC. I remember well calling Annette to ask her if she would like to take the Kansas City course as I was busy now in DC. It was a thrilling moment for both of us, and it gave Annette the start she had despaired of.

The last significant contact was in March, 2008 at AMI's first experiment in training trainers through a Five-Seminar approach. Naturally, Annette was chosen to lead the first one with Theory and Practical Life. I was invited to come to facilitate the large group of Mexican trainers who were taking this path to become AMI primary trainers. It was not long until Annette and I both realised that these lovely Spanish-speaking women also spoke beautiful English. Annette found that it was refreshing and stimulating to mix them in with the rest of the group for the remainder of the seminar. Strong candidates from various backgrounds and from all over the world were not easy to mould into a cohesive group, but Annette laid the groundwork for

careful listening and respectful attention throughout the discussions. The fruits of her labour grew in successive seminars until the "new shoots" graduated into a strong group of new AMI trainers.

Frequently I saw Annette at meetings and workshops. As she rose in her career, she continued to be generous and helpful, intelligent and creative. She was one of the torchbearers who kept AMI alive. She has helped us to move forward. She lived in the beautiful country house that was her parents. She cared for them until they both died. She loved her equally kind and generous husband Lew. Her other career was with her beautiful Paso Fino horses. (They are a small Spanish horse.) She led an inspiring life, and I'm proud to have been her friend.

Rita Schaefer Zener

I first met Annette in 2004 and worked with her during our concurrent terms on the AMI Board and Executive Committee. A few years later, Annette, as AMI's representative, joined the Board of the Montessori-Pierson Publishing Foundation, the controlling partner of the Montessori-Pierson Publishing Company Limited partnership of the heirs of Maria Montessori, both of which I had founded when I took over 15 titles of the Montessori Series from ABC-Clio publishers. Since that time, we have added 8 new publications from the Montessori Archives, owned by the Montessori family, and refreshed most of the titles previously done by Clio. We also added 10 titles in the Spanish language.

Annette was also instrumental in helping our publishing house grow the diversity of titles, which was well received in the Montessori community.

When we published the English versions of *Psychogeometry* and *Psychoarithmetic*, whose translation had been sponsored by a grant from the The Westridge Fund, we could always count on Annette for pedagogical advice and considered review. She convinced me that bringing out *The 1946 London Lectures* would meet with huge interest and we were honoured to work on this title with her. The title has become one of the Montessori best-sellers, proving Annette absolutely right.

I have always worked with Annette with great pleasure and respect. She was a remarkable person, who was modest, wise, eloquent, kind and had a great knowledge of Montessori theory and practice. She made beautiful and intelligent presentations for several AMI events, some of which I was fortunate to attend, such as the 2005 Congress in Sydney, and the Rome congress celebrating the centenary of the Casa dei Bambini in 2007.

I salute her memory.

Alexander Mario Henny,  
great-grandson of Maria Montessori