



# OCS

## SUMMER INSTITUTE

### CALLING ALL WALDORF TEACHERS

STEP INTO A NOURISHING WEEK OF RENEWAL, INSPIRATION, AND PROFESSIONAL DEEPENING AT THE OCS SUMMER INSTITUTE, AN EXPERIENCE DESIGNED TO SUPPORT WALDORF TEACHERS IN PREPARING INWARDLY AND PRACTICALLY FOR THE YEAR AHEAD.

THROUGH INSPIRING LECTURES, ARTISTIC PRACTICE, AND COLLABORATIVE WORK WITH EXPERIENCED WALDORF EDUCATORS, PARTICIPANTS DEEPEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT, CURRICULUM, AND THE ESSENTIALS OF EACH GRADE.

GROUNDING IN REFLECTION, RENEWAL, AND COLLABORATION, THIS IMMERSIVE WEEK STRENGTHENS THE HEART OF TEACHING, CULTIVATES THE INNER LIFE OF THE TEACHER, AND PROVIDES A FOUNDATION OF CLARITY, CONFIDENCE, AND INSPIRATION FOR THE YEAR TO COME.

#### ARTISTIC PRACTICE

DRAWING, PAINTING, RECORDER, FLUTE, SCULPTING, MUSIC & MOVEMENT TO ENLIVEN YOUR CREATIVE FORCES & SUPPORT YOUR TEACHING.

#### CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE MAIN LESSONS

THOUGHTFUL GUIDANCE & PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR CRAFTING RIGOROUS, INCLUSIVE & CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE MAIN LESSON BLOCKS ROOTED IN WALDORF PEDAGOGY.

#### LECTURES

WHAT COMES FIRST? A RENEWED LOOK AT CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
THE INNER LIFE OF THE TEACHER AS A FOUNDATION FOR CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT  
THE TEMPERAMENTS  
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN THE WALDORF CLASSROOM

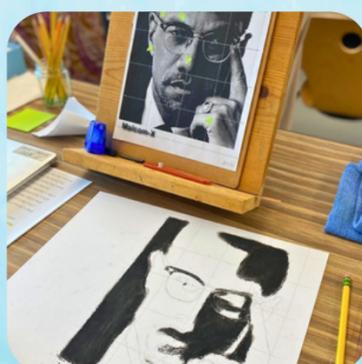
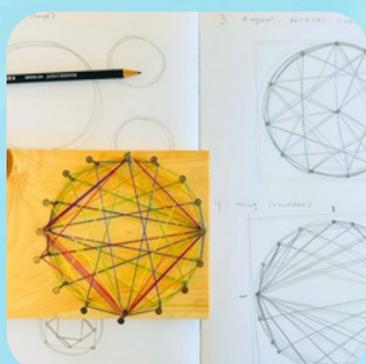
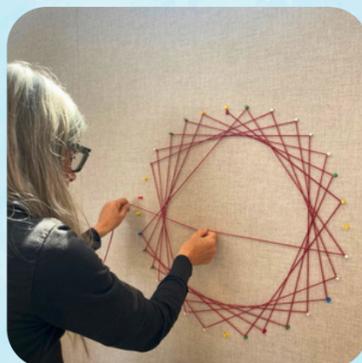
**LOCATION: OCEAN CHARTER SCHOOL**

JUNE 22-26, 2026

GRADES TK/K-8

8:00 AM-3:00 PM

COST INCLUDES COFFEE, TEA & LUNCH



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### FACULTY BIOS



#### **EARLY CHILDHOOD LEAD TK/K: KLAUS PALACIOS WITH BONNIE RIVER**

Klaus grew up in Bogotá, Colombia, where a strong arts-based education and his Latin American and European heritage shaped his early interests. After earning a degree in Architecture, his desire to help others led him to Waldorf and Curative Education work in Camphill communities in Great Britain and later to a Bachelor's degree in Arts and Curative Education in Scotland. He moved to the United States to work in Waldorf schools for children with special needs and completed his Early Childhood Waldorf training at Sunbridge Institute in 2014. Klaus is now a TK teacher at Ocean Charter School in Los Angeles, bringing a therapeutic and developmental focus to his work with young children and families.



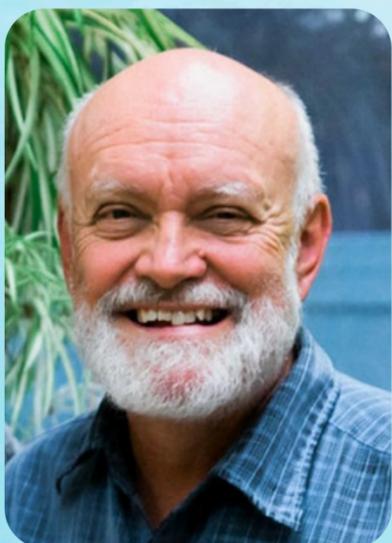
#### **1ST GRADE LEAD: MARI SHINTANI**

Rumi's words, "When you do things from your soul, you feel a river moving in you, a joy," beautifully reflect Mari Shintani's deep passion for teaching. Born in Japan, Panamanian in soul, and Hawaiian in heart and spirit, Mari brings over 25 years of experience in education. After completing her Bachelor of Science and graduate studies in Horticulture Technology and the Marine Option program, she turned toward teaching, earning her Montessori Early Childhood International certification in Jakarta, Indonesia, and her Waldorf Elementary Teacher Certification at the Honolulu Waldorf School. Since receiving her first first-grade class in 2002, she has continued to teach with joy and is excited to join the Ocean Charter School and Ocean Charter School Summer Institute community. She is also a certified life coach, health coach, CranioSacral Therapy practitioner, and Center for Anthroposophy-certified mentor to teachers.



#### **EARLY CHILDHOOD & 2ND GRADE LEAD: BONNIE RIVER**

Bonnie has been a Waldorf Educator for 50 years and has worked and taught at all levels from early childhood, through the grades and into high school. She is a founder of Gradalis, a Waldorf Teacher Training Institute and has taught in many areas of the trainings. Her love is fostering a teacher's relationship to the children and mentoring active teachers along their way. She is a main contributor to the Gradalis Waldorf Curriculum Frameworks and enjoys guiding teachers in understanding how to embed standards within the Main Lesson and single subject lessons. Bonnie holds a California Teaching Credential, a masters in curriculum and instruction and masters in educational leadership.



#### **3RD GRADE LEAD: DENNIS DEMANET**

Dennis started his teaching career in England, and took his first class there, from 1976-1984. He completed teacher training there also, from 1974-76. Honolulu was his next stop, where he taught middle school and grades 3-4, from 84-89. Then he moved to Pine Hill in NH, where he took a class, grades 1-8. He and family have been in Pasadena since 97, at PWS where he took 2 classes grades 1- 8, and another grades 1-4. He also taught for 4 years in a homeschooling situation. Presently retired from teaching, he still puts time into mentoring and evaluating teachers, running class teacher workshops on a private basis, and teaching in local training programs.



#### **4TH GRADE LEAD: STEPHANIE KERN**

Stephanie Kern is a class teacher with a diverse background in education, art, and anthropology. She earned a degree in Anthropology from the University of Southern California and a Master's in Curatorial Studies from California College of the Arts. Her path to Waldorf education began through a somatic learning project with the Exploratorium, leading her to the Waldorf Institute of Southern California in 2014. After four years as a teacher's assistant, Stephanie began teaching her own class in 2020, navigating the challenges of the pandemic. Now in her third year at Ocean Charter School, she brings a unique perspective shaped by experience in both private and public Waldorf education.

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#### **MOVEMENT AND 5TH GRADE LEAD: TOMASA MENDOZA**

Tomasa Mendoza is a seasoned Waldorf teacher with over 17 years of experience in public Waldorf schools. She holds a Waldorf Teaching Certificate from the Rudolf Steiner Teacher Training Program and has taught grades four through eight across multiple class loops. After 15 years at Ocean Charter School, she now teaches a 4-5 loop at Mariposa School of Global Education. In addition to classroom teaching, Tomasa leads parent workshops, mentors new teachers, and contributes to curriculum development; her specialties include building strong classroom community, fostering independence and resilience in students, effective classroom management, and using movement to prepare children for learning. Outside of school, she enjoys sunshine and spending time with her daughter.



#### **6TH GRADE LEAD: ALY LEAVITT**

Aly Leavitt has been a Waldorf educator for 15 years, teaching in public Waldorf schools and blending her love of nature with urban life. She began her career in outdoor education in the San Jacinto National Forest, fostering a sense of community and curiosity in her students. Aly holds a B.S. from Utah Valley University, an M.A. in Multicultural Education from CSUDH, a Waldorf certification, and a recent early childhood education certificate. Currently a homeschool teacher, consultant, and social-emotional educator, she is dedicated to helping educators and parents create developmentally appropriate learning environments. Outside of teaching, she enjoys exploring the beach, museums, and hiking with her daughter, and she's excited to share her passion for teaching, nature, and community this summer at the Ocean Institute.



#### **ART & 7TH GRADE LEAD: STEPHANIE BECKER**

Stephanie has been a Waldorf educator for thirteen years, in both public and private settings. She began her journey as a grades teacher at Ocean Charter School, where she found a passion for using the arts as a tool to bring her lessons to life. Stephanie has a BA in Environmental Studies from Skidmore College, an MA in Education from Pepperdine University, and a Waldorf training certificate from Rudolf Steiner College. Stephanie spent ten years as a class teacher at OCS, and a year at Pasadena Waldorf School where she worked as a middle school English and Math specialty teacher. Stephanie currently shares her love of the Waldorf approach with the little ones in her care at the Hidden Garden, a small home-based preschool she started for her young daughter.



#### **8TH GRADE LEAD: BRENNAN YACK**

Brenan Yack was a Waldorf teacher at OCS for almost a decade, predominantly working in the upper grades. Brenan is a Waldorf "lifer"! She attended Highland Hall Waldorf School for 12 years. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from CSUN and Waldorf certification at WISC concurrently. Brenan earned her Master of Arts from the University of Chicago and holds a teaching credential from CalStateTEACH. Brenan greatly enjoyed contributing to professional development sessions at OCS on Steiner's Six Basic Exercises, the Temperaments, and collaborating with colleagues to create a culturally relevant, developmentally appropriate Anti-Bias/Anti-Racist curriculum for students and training for OCS faculty. Brenan is currently working as a learning specialist and executive functioning coach with an educational therapy group to support students with learning differences in a one-on-one setting.

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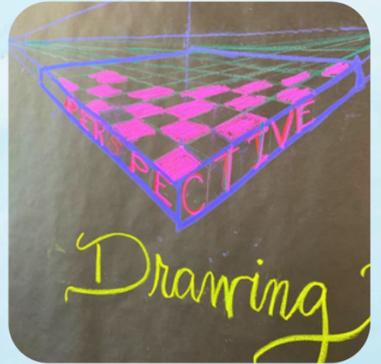
#### FLUTE, RECORDER, SCULPTING LEAD: ANIA KUBIK

Ania Kubik has taught art in teacher education programs at the Waldorf Institute of Southern California (WISC), the Waldorf School of Orange County's (WSOC) Adult Education program, and Waldorf Handwork Educators (WHE) online; as well as musical recorder in teacher education at WISC. Having taught in independent Waldorf schools in Southern California for twenty years as a class teacher, handwork teacher and art specialist, Ania is now at Ocean Charter School (OCS). She is currently mentoring teachers, teaching musical recorder and teaching sculptural modeling for adult enrichment. Ania earned her Bachelor of Art degree in sculpture from Virginia Commonwealth University and her Waldorf certificate at the Waldorf Institute of Southern California (WISC).



#### SINGING LEAD: KAREN FENSWICK

COME SING YOUR WAY THROUGH THE WHEEL OF THE YEAR AND THE "OCTAVE" OF THE GRADES! FROM FAIRY SONGS TO SONGS OF REVOLUTION, WE'LL LEARN SING-ABLE, SHAREABLE, DIVERSE AND EASILY TAUGHT SONGS TO TAKE YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS THROUGH THE SEASONS AND THE GRADES. MUSIC AND LYRICS WILL BE PROVIDED, BUT ALL SONGS WILL BE TAUGHT IN THE ORAL TRADITION-NO MUSICAL READING ABILITY REQUIRED. COME AWAY WITH TOOLS TO CREATE A JOYFUL VOCAL COMMUNITY IN YOUR CLASSROOM AND WITH COLLEAGUES. SINGING TOGETHER CREATES HAPPINESS, HEALTH, AWARENESS, AND CONNECTION!



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