

# Happy New Year!

## January 2011

### A Message from our New Co-Presidents

As we enter Year 2011, MDAEYC will complete its reorganization and will elect new board members. We have been fortunate to have had the leadership of Greg Stevens as our President of MDAEYC for many years. Though he has stepped down as President, he will still be actively involved with MDAEYC. We know that the Federal and State budgets are looking grim for the early childhood community and we believe that our advocacy work for young children is more important than ever. We invite all of our members to become more actively involved within our association. Our goals for 2011 include: advocating for young children at both the State and Federal levels, participating in Maryland Family Network's January 31 Child Care Day in Annapolis, working on some professional development opportunities for the early childhood community, and enhancing our communication with our members. We look forward to working with you as our members.

*Tracy Merriman Jost, Co-President*

*Bonnie Mackintosh, Co-President*

### Our New Officers:

**Tracy Merriman Jost, Co-President:** Tracy has been actively involved with MDAEYC about four years. She was President for the Southern Maryland AEYC and also Co-Chair for the MDAEYC Public Policy Committee. She has found it to be a pleasure to serve alongside many dedicated individuals to the field of early childhood. She owns an early learning center in Calvert County, MD providing care to approximately 150 children, has a Master's degree in Education, and will soon complete a Certificate of Advanced Study in Education Public Policy. She is married, with three children ages 16, 13, and 9 years old.

**Bonnie Mackintosh, Co-President:** Bonnie teaches courses in the Early Childhood program at the College Park campus of the University of Maryland, and she also sponsors its student chapter in Maryland AEYC. She and the students recently hosted MDAEYC's Play Symposium. She lives in Burtonsville, MD.

**Carolyn Carter, Co-VP:** Carolyn recently served as Co-President of MDAEYC, and is the Director of the Good Shepherd Education Center in Waldorf. She taught in the Virginia Georgia, and Maryland public school systems and in the late 1980's became involved in child care as a center director in Annapolis and later in Timonium. Carolyn was Executive Director of the Anne Arundel County Resource and Referral Center in 1998, and has been a lifelong advocate for children and families and continues to pursue her passion to help improve and provide quality care for children. Carolyn

received a BS in Elementary Education at Radford University. She and her husband live in Waldorf.

**Nicole Queen, Co-VP & Affiliate Council Rep.:** Nicole serves as the Educational Director of the Watch Me Grow Child Development Center in Germantown, MD. She holds a B.A. in Early Childhood Education from Washington Adventist University. She has 22 years of experience in the Early Childhood Education field. Nicole serves as a CDA Advisor, and is also a licensed trainer through MSDE. She chairs the Advisory Board for the Montgomery County Child Care Resource & Referral Center. Nicole grew up on the Outer Banks of North Carolina where her mom and two of her sisters still reside. She is part of a large extended family with 11 brothers and sisters. Nicole lives in the Germantown area. In her free time she enjoys swimming, traveling, reading and volunteering at local shelters.

**Denise Mitchell, Secretary:** Denise Mitchell has enjoyed twenty six years in the Early Childhood profession. Her BS is from Rutgers and her MA in Early Childhood Education came from The UDC. She has led two child care centers through the NAEYC Accreditation process and served as an NAEYC Assessor. She also has conducted CDA Training in the DC area.

**Heather Moser, Treasurer:** Heather recently served as MDAEYC Secretary, and she currently is Infant/Toddler Program Director for A-Wing at the Citi Family Center near Hagerstown. Her BS in Early Childhood/ Elementary Education comes from Frostburg State University in 1999. She worked for Healthy Families and Head Start before taking this position. She also teaches courses in infant and toddler development at Hagerstown Community College and Co-Chairs the Advisory Board for Healthy Families Washington County.

**Greg Stevens, Past President:** Greg was President or Co-President of MDAEYC for a number of years, guiding it through its re-certification by NAEYC as a State Affiliate, as well as through its current reorganization. He is Regional Manager for Bright Horizons Child Care Centers in Montgomery County and the District of Columbia. For several years previously he was a Program Manager for Early Childhood Services in Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services. Greg received a BA in Psychology (West Virginia University) and a MA in Family Science (Northern Illinois University). He and his wife live in Montgomery County with their daughter, Siena.

### **MDAEYC Public Policy Takes on New Life under New Leadership:**

Part of the new MDAEYC plan is for our public policy activities to be much more interactive with you, our members. To that end, we are planning to hold our first Public Policy Committee meeting in Annapolis on Tuesday, January 18, at 10 a.m., in the Lowe House Office Building informal snack room on the ground floor near the entrance. If you are interested in coming, or in

learning more about opportunities for participation in public policy work for MDAEYC, please contact Shannon Dungan at [creolasd@hotmail.com](mailto:creolasd@hotmail.com).

Shannon is our new Public Policy Chair, replacing Tracy Jost and Flora Gee in that capacity. Shannon teaches college early childhood topics on a part time basis, and volunteers with her young children's classes. She lives in Laytonsville with her husband and two young children, aged 4 and 2. She has a MS in Early Childhood from Wheelock College.

This looks like a very tough year in Annapolis, with the Governor actively considering major cuts to the Education (including child care?) budget. We will need your help (see below), especially if you live in the legislative district of members of the Senate Budget & Tax Committee or the House Appropriations Committee.

### **Federal Lame Ducks Fail to Preserve Child Care/Head Start Funding; Cuts Might Devastate Maryland Child Care Subsidies**

Despite an outpouring of calls from the early childhood community, the US Congress ended its Lame Duck session without passing an appropriation bill that would extend the economic stimulus funding for child care and Head Start that has maintained their subsidized programs for the past two years. Instead Congress approved a short-term extension of current normal funding levels until March 4, 2011. NAEYC says that nationally this will leave 300,000 children at risk of losing their child care, Head Start and Early Head Start. We will keep the pressure up on the new Congress convening this month, but the November election results increased the votes for cuts in domestic spending generally, so it will be an uphill struggle. In Maryland, Federal stimulus money has funded our child care subsidies so that present levels of income eligibility and reimbursement rates could be maintained without the need for a waiting list. We have to wait until about January 21 to find out what Governor O'Malley plans to do about child care subsidy and other funding we care about. Stay tuned! If you'd like to join NAEYC's Children's Champions list serve, go to [http://capwiz.com/naeyc/mlm/signup/?ignore\\_cookie=1](http://capwiz.com/naeyc/mlm/signup/?ignore_cookie=1). If you'd like Maryland-specific alerts, you can add your e-mail address to John Surr's public policy list serve, through a request to [jsurr@verizon.net](mailto:jsurr@verizon.net).

### **Maryland Healthy Beginnings Website Has New Infant/Toddler Guidance**

MSDE, in partnership with Johns Hopkins Center for Technology in Education, has produced a stunning new website, [www.marylandhealthybeginnings.org](http://www.marylandhealthybeginnings.org), that provides you with fun, developmentally appropriate activities to build young children's skills and promote all kinds of learning. Check it out! MSDE also has free magnets to remind providers and parents of the website.