

Instructor Biographical Information

Katie Barney is the author of six cookbooks - two on the Chesapeake Bay, two on New England, *God's Bounty* and *The Enchanting World of Food* - and has taught in the IAL program for many years.

Norman Bell is primarily a landscape photographer who uses natural light and texture to create eye-catching compositions. His most recent work has been produced using digital imaging and printing techniques. He is predominantly self-taught and became interested in photography as a child. He began developing and printing black and white photographs as a teenager, learning by reading magazines and manuals. He has taken courses at Cecil County Community College, Delaware College of Art and Design and the Maine Photography Workshops in Rockport, Maine. His work has been exhibited in juried shows in Delaware and Maryland, has been accepted in international juried shows and has been purchased for private collections. He has also been designated a Master Artist in Delaware for a "refined original vision with prodigious technical skills and dedication to clean execution."

Nancy Brandenburger is a retired speech language pathologist who has worked with a variety of individuals with thinking challenges; her work has prompted a strong interest in the brain and its functions.

Susan Buckingham and **Kay Alston** are both former English teachers and addicted Mah Jongg players.

Adele Clagett is a volunteer at Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center who manages the care and feeding of the captive birds of prey, works with American kestrels and takes part in birds of prey educational programs. Adele monitors and documents nests of bald eagles, great horned owls, wood ducks, and American kestrels. As a member of the Maryland Ornithological Society she attends and leads bird walks. She is a state director for the Maryland Ornithological Society and attends and leads bird walks for Anne Arundel Bird Club. She maintains an active website (Birding.Pictures) which includes a catalog of the birds she has photographed, nest monitoring information and commentary, raptor identification information and more.

Susan Claggett has been teaching yoga for ten years, including at IAL and at Queen Anne's County and Talbot County senior centers. She has taught Pickleball for more than five years and is certified through the Professional Pickleball Registry. She loves to exercise and enjoys all aspects of the game from teaching a spin serve to volleying with confidence.

Laura Connor is co-founder of Plastic Free QAC and has researched and followed the trail of recycling.

Carol Conrad is a retired history teacher with more than 40 years of experience in independent schools at the middle and upper school levels. A visually oriented wannabe art historian/artist, she taught her classes from a student-centered approach. Engaging students through visual and hands-on methods, she challenged students to "own" the material from a personal perspective through creative activities connected to the topics studied.

Bente Cooney is co-founder of Plastic Free QAC, a lobbyist, and author of a presentation titled "The Good, the Bad, the Ugly."

Rev. Mark S. Delcuze is an Episcopal priest currently serving as rector of Christ Church Parish, Kent Island. He holds a B.A. from the University of Virginia and an M. Div. from the Episcopal Divinity School (Cambridge, MA). In more than 35 years of ordained life, he has served as ecumenical and interfaith officer for two dioceses, has been a four-time deputy to his denomination's General Convention and has served in a variety of key roles for the Diocese of Easton.

Kellie Fiala oversees the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's oyster gardening program, managing more than 600 volunteer oyster gardeners who raise spat-on-shell oysters at their docks for CBF's restoration efforts. She also coordinates volunteer activities for the oyster restoration program and oversees interns in the oyster gardening program. She began her career with CBF in 2015 as a Chesapeake Conservation Corps member and environmental educator and draws on this experience to inspire and engage new volunteers to join CBF's restoration efforts. She holds a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Washington College and has her OUPV (Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels) Captain's license.

Teddy Griffin has a B.S. in computer science from the University of Maryland and spent over 30 years in application and system programming. Since retirement, she has enjoyed making jewelry and other beaded projects and is eager to share that passion with others.

Ryan Helfenbein is an owner, certified preplanning counselor, and undertaker at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newman Funeral Homes. He was "born and raised in the death care profession" and makes presentations and writes a column called "Ask the Undertaker" for several local publications.

Cindy King worked in wholesale nursery for eight years and has run The Mill of Kingstown Garden Center for 22 years; she is a graduate of Longwood Gardens Horticultural Series 1 and a certified professional horticulturalist. She is a member of the North American Butterfly Association, is a Cornell Feeder Watcher and has Certified Wildlife Gardens.

Kathy Leary has received training in aerobic dance, ballroom dancing and line dancing and has taught at Chesapeake College, the Talbot County Senior Center, the Kent Island Senior Center and the Queenstown Moose. She has also led the Showtime Dancers in performances at local nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Courtney Leigh is a Board member of Plastic Free QAC, an employee of Shore Rivers, outdoors enthusiast, and steward of the environment.

Candace Liccione is the owner of Wye River Designs, a creativity and wellness studio in Grasonville. Wye River Designs features classes in mosaics, collage, mixed media and jewelry making. Before she moved to the Eastern Shore, she had an herb business in PA. Wye River Designs combines her love of arts and crafts and wellness. Wye River Designs also offers over 200 kinds of medicinal herbs, teas, aromatherapy and wellness classes.

Anthony Loscalzo worked as an aerospace simulation engineer. He is the author of a computer program which creates 12-hour weather predictions. He was a participant in the International Geophysical Year research project. He worked for various computer companies including Sun Microsystems which contributed to the creation of the internet. He is a current pilot involved with search and rescue via the Civil Air Patrol, now a subsidiary of the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary.

Robin Marchionni is the tour and education coordinator at Mount Harmon Plantation in Earleville, MD. She has been sewing her own historically accurate 18th century clothing since 2016 and has attended several professional workshops to learn the proper technique and fabrics that were used.

Charles Mylander has a B.A. in mathematics from Bowdoin College; an M.S. in industrial management from MIT and a Ph.D. in operations research from Stanford University. He was an OR analyst at the Research Analysis Corporation, a policy analyst at the Federal Energy Agency, and policy analyst, studies director at the Energy Information Administration. He is retired from the US Naval Academy where he was a professor of operations analysis and mathematics. As a volunteer he has worked on breast cancer studies at the Anne Arundel Medical Center.

Julianna Pax retired from Montgomery County Schools in 1999 where she developed and taught the nutrition science curriculum in addition to her chemistry classes. She has a B.S. in chemistry from the University of Dayton, an M.S. from University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in nutrition science from the University of Maryland and is the author of several cookbooks. Her fifth cookbook is *Cooking for One (or More)*. She also manages the “Soup and Walk” program at Adkins Arboretum in Ridgely and teaches line dancing at the YMCA in Cambridge.

Peggy Robertson has traveled extensively, including a study abroad program in France, several months in Hong Kong and trips to Thailand, Japan and Beijing. Her most recent travels took her to Kenya. She has an M.S. in arts administration from Drexel University, a master’s of education in history and French from Temple University and a B.A. from Penn State University. She is currently a part-time grant writer and previously worked at Abington Art Center and DePaul USA and for the Cheltenham Township school district.

Dona Roderick loves outdoor activities, including hiking, kayaking, bird watching and walking, and since retiring she has had more time to enjoy them. She encourages those who are lucky enough to live in this area to enjoy these opportunities.

Ben Schlesinger is a senior fellow at the University of Maryland’s Public Policy Center for Global Sustainability. Over five decades he has advised more than 600 clients in 28 countries on the direction of the energy and natural gas industries, gas pricing, valuation and trading mechanisms, and regulatory and litigation strategies. He has testified as an expert in legal and regulatory proceedings in federal and state bodies in 16 states and Ontario. He received his A.B. and B.E. degrees from Dartmouth College and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford University in industrial engineering. As an adjunct at the University of Maryland, Dr. Schlesinger has taught a graduate level course in energy economics.

Robert Seitz has more than 50 years of experience in emergency medical services and firefighting, having begun as a volunteer at age 16. He currently works part-time as a critical care paramedic for Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department. He previously worked as a firefighter/critical care paramedic for Prince William County in Virginia after serving 24 years in the U.S. Army Special Forces.

Ann Sharp has been painting professionally for 20 years. She has an art degree from the University of Maryland and is the founding president of the Talbot County Visual Art Center and former owner of the Studio Gallery in Easton. She is also the West Virginia and Maryland ambassador to the Portrait Society of America.

Alicia Siegrist earned a B.S. in geology from University of Maryland, College Park and an M.S. in geochemistry and mineralogy from Penn State. She worked for NASA-Goddard and University of Maryland’s Computer Center, has taught geology and computer science to students age 5 to 85, and has coached JV and varsity cross-country.

Galt Siegrist received his B.S. in geology from Lehigh and an M.S. and Ph.D. from Penn State in geochemistry and mineralogy. He taught undergraduate and graduate geology courses for 25 years at University of Maryland, College Park and 12 more years in Guam. He conducted sponsored water resources research and consulting in Guam and on many other Pacific islands. He has also taught several courses for IAL.

Joe Sikes has 52 years of experience with the Navy and the Department of Defense. He has traveled to most of the locations included in the Foreign Policy Association curriculum. He served as guest leadership instructor at the United States Naval Academy and taught courses while on exchange with the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Beverly Hall Smith was a professor of art history for forty years. Since retiring to Chestertown in 2014, she has taught art history classes at IAL and WC-ALL. Since April 2020, she has been writing weekly articles for the Chestertown and Talbot Spy titled "Looking at the Masters." She is also an artist whose work is sometimes in exhibitions at Chestertown River Arts and she paints sets for the Garfield Center for the Arts in Chestertown.

Jennifer Vedrani is a Board member of Plastic Free QAC, owner/operator of Refill Goodness, and a lifelong composter, gardener and environmental activist.

Raymond Vergne is a retired cardiologist with a graduate degree in education and interests in literature, history, music and art. He has taught an array of classes for IAL.

Mary Jo Volpicelli spent her career working in nursing and health care administration. She has taken several literature classes through IAL and has been a member of various book clubs over many years.

Pamela Wintle is a retired senior moving image archivist from the Smithsonian Institution where she managed a collection of ethnographic, documentary and travel films for more than 40 years. She also has decades of involvement with the Association of Moving Image Archivists and on the board of Northeast Historic Film in Bucksport, Maine.