

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.

Nancy Brandenburger is a speech-language pathologist with many years of experience working with adults with cognitive challenges.

Nancy Ceccorulli recently retired from the State of Maryland, Department of Labor where she served as director of a career center for professionals who were seeking new employment. In that role, she facilitated countless sessions on career development and has been a featured speaker at numerous national conferences.

Adele Clagett is a volunteer at Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center; she 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 more than 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.

Carol Conrad is a retired independent high school history teacher with 40 years of experience in NC, RI, and MD independent schools. She holds a B.A. in history from Allegheny College and an M.A. in history from Brown University. She prefers discussion, in-class projects and activities over straight lecture.

Jenny Gallo, a resident at Symphony Village, has been making pasta for over 25 years as a hobby.

Kara Green is a transitional care liaison at University of Maryland Shore Regional Health.

Teddy Griffin has a B.S. in computer science from the University of Maryland and spent more than 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.

Rabbi Peter Hyman is the rabbi of Temple B'nai Israel, has an M.A. of Hebrew Letters and a Doctor of Divinity. He has taught many courses on religious history, Jewish scripture, the New Testament and western theology.

Cindy King worked in the wholesale nursery business for eight years and has run The Mill of Kingstown Garden Center for more than 20 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 the ShoreRivers Membership Manager and has been with the organization for five years. She previously worked 11 years at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center as the adult learning educator. She volunteers with several nonprofit organizations, and serves on the Board of Plastic Free Queen Anne's County.

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 more than 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.

Dave Menzie has a B.A., an M.S. and a Ph.D. in geology, an M.A. in applied statistics, and has taken graduate courses in business administration, college courses in viticulture, winemaking and basic soil characteristics.

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 U.S. 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.

Michelle O'Brien has been a fitness instructor since 2010, most recently teaching at the YMCA in Centerville. She has taught a variety of formats including seated fitness at assisted living facilities, cardio, weights and aqua aerobics.

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.

David Peterson is a retired United States Navy captain. He attended the Navy's Diving and Salvage School in 1968 and spent 27 years in the Navy diving and salvage community, including three years on active duty aboard a salvage repair ship in the Pacific and Harbor Clearance Unit One in Vietnam as well as 24 years in the Reserves, specializing in diving and salvage.

Peggy Robertson has traveled extensively, including a study abroad program in France, several months in Hong Kong and trips to Thailand, Japan, Beijing and 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.

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.

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.

Maegan White is a recent graduate of Washington College and is the ShoreRivers Community Engagement Coordinator. She first found her love for the outdoors exploring the mountains and lakes near her home in South Carolina. She moved to the Eastern Shore to attend college and developed a love for the Chesapeake Bay and rivers of the Eastern Shore and is now a proud full-time resident.

Paula Wolflin is a self-taught cook and loves sharing what she knows.

