



RISE FALL 2019 FACILITATORS

Jan Adams has been a RISE member since 2009. She is a member of the RISE Executive Committee and enjoys facilitating travel programs.

Caroline Akins has facilitated writing courses at RISE for over twenty years. She earned M.A. and B.A. degrees in English from the University of Alabama.

Nancy Baker has taught Classics, Philosophy and the history of ideas and is an active docent at the Currier Museum of Art.

Tom Barry has 30 years in the computer industry (Wang, Digital, Compaq, HP) and has an MBA from USNH.

Dr. Barbara Hardy Beierl has facilitated at RISE for the past five years, teaching courses on novels, short stories, poetry, drama, and human-animal studies.

Michael Brazao has a B.A. from Trinity College and an M.A. from Lisbon University. He studied art under Patrick Hennessy in Dublin. He currently works in pencil and oil.

Martha Brooks is a certified Zentangle teacher. Her passion is sharing Zentangle with youngsters and elders. She is a retired speech/language pathologist from the Nashua schools.

Judy Brophy, a retired educational technology consultant in colleges and corporations, has been creating engaging courses since 1972.

Paul Carr led a branch of the AF Research Laboratory and has facilitated for RISE in 2010 and again since 2014. His website is www.MirrorOfNature.org.

David Chirlin has a B.A. in English Literature and a minor in Social Anthropology and has facilitated several classes for RISE. He has a 20-year career in business-to-business advertising and corporate image campaigns, and has earned recognition as an award-winning writer, poet, dramatist, and lecturer.

Amy Jo Cielinski Amy Jo is a certified yoga teacher (500 hr) trained in the Shakti Flow tradition of AT OM Yoga in Concord, NH and Bethel Farm Yoga in Hillsborough, along with additional training through the national MS Society.

James Collins is a graduate of Engineer Manhattan College, P.E. and Adelphi U, MBA. He worked for 35 years at Arthur D. Little as a Corporate Executive, 18 years as a Corporate Management Consultant and is also a lecturer and author.

Cheryl Cummings joined the RISE program in 2006. She is a former elementary school teacher and assistant principal. Cheryl has recently served on the Executive Committee as well as various RISE committees.

Joanne Dowd is a Nashua native and a graduate of Rivier University. She has participated in the Water Exercise program since 2011.

Elaine Durkee has been a member of the RISE program since 2009 and strongly believes in the Living Strong program.

Linda Emus is a self-taught abstract artist whose passion is sharing her "secret" techniques with other aspiring artists.

Merle Luber Friedenberg received her Ph.D. in History from New York University. After teaching at the undergraduate level she has turned to Life Long Learning Institutes as her source of inspiration and expansion of her knowledge.

Cynthia Geiger, a RISE member since 2004, has been doing genealogy since 1996. What started as a casual interest has become an obsession. She describes herself as a detective searching for that elusive ancestor.

Joan Gibson has facilitated several basic writing courses for RISE. She taught high school English until her retirement and currently teaches ESOL classes at the Nashua Adult Learning Center.

Suzanne Graham has a Master's in Theology from Drew University. She was an Adjunct Professor at Kean University from 2012-2106 teaching World Religions and Western Religions.

Helen Harper has been a member of RISE since retiring in 1999. She has enjoyed taking the Living Strong class since it began in 2004.

Kim Hart has been storytelling and following the native walk for more than twenty years. She is part of the NH Storytelling Alliance. Teaching through storytelling is a part of her Native heritage.

Jeanne Hayes, EdD, MS RN, CNE, is a Professor in the Department of Nursing and Health Professions at Rivier University. She has worked in the fields of nursing education, community health, health promotion for forty-two years.

Robert Hoffman is a professional musician, speaker, and writer on music, with eclectic tastes and diverse experience, including facilitator for the RISE program.

Don Hogan is a generalist with interests in computers, music, travel, humor, science, and our planet.

Richard Ingram has been a RISE facilitator for almost 20 years. He currently facilitates a 4-semester, two-year photography program.

Sheila Kabat was born in Indiana, raised in Michigan, arrived in New Hampshire in 1979, and started facilitating art appreciation courses in 2000 to present. RISE enables her to enjoy my passion for art, artists, techniques and the JOY of researching, preparing and learning about art with the participants during each term of RISE.

George King is a Mechanical Engineer with a strong interest in music, dance and other performing arts.

Calvin Knickerbocker, a former instructor and education manager at IBM, has taught at the University of Texas and has facilitated for RISE since 1999.

Dr. Irving Lipschitz is a Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell campus.

Grace McGinnis is a New England native and graduate of Drexel University, Philadelphia. Her employment was in clothing design and merchandising, social services and healthcare. She has been painting since 2000.

Dr. Ann McGreevy is a longtime educator and writer. She was a former professor at Notre Dame College in N.H. and now lives in Marblehead, MA.

David McNeil has a B.A. in Sociology from the University of New Hampshire (1969) and an M.Ed. from Rivier College. He taught Social Studies for over 31 years at Alvirnie High School and has been a RISE member and facilitator for 10 years.

Joanne Merrill is Rivier University's Director of Athletics and has taught the Exercise class for RISE for over 10 years.

Tom Myers has BS and MS degrees in Atmospheric Science and previously provided weather support to the USAF and NASA.

Bill Naas, B.S., M.S., MBA, is retired from iRobot and the U.S. Army Reserves. He previously worked at Digital Equipment. He has multiple hobbies including staying physically fit.

Robin Nash Robin has been writing since childhood and has written a number of books. She is also the author of a blog.

Nancy Nordstrom, M. Ed., is the author of "Learning Later, Living Greater: The Secret for Making the Most of Your After-50 Years," and the retired director of the Road Scholar Institute Network.

Connie Owen is a retired therapist and long-term member of RISE as participant, facilitator, and former board member.

Julie Pelletier-Rutkowski, MS, RN, is owner and principal consultant for Feng Shui Services of New England.

John Penasack is a retired USAF Lt. Colonel and DOD contractor. He holds a B.S. in Education and a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering.

Gayle A. Plouffe is a retired secondary school teacher, an active and longtime volunteer in forestry management, conservation, town planning, and an elected executive board member to the Council on Aging.

Charlotte Pogue graduated from Northeastern University's Co-op program with a degree in Math and added an MBA specializing in Accounting and Information Technology. She retired after forty-four years in IT, designing and coding software and managing operations. She loves to write, attends the New England Crime Bake each year, and dreams of writing the great American whodunit. She is also a tax prep volunteer with AARP TaxAide.

Patricia Riley is a Rivier alumnus and has lived in Nashua for 37 years. She became a RISE member in 2013 and advocates that Living Strong is for everyone.

Frances Rodier has been a RISE member for 11 years and interested in genealogy for decades. She enjoys "the thrill of the hunt" for her NY and PA ancestors and helping others on their journey of discovery.

John Sanders pretends that he knows a lot about movies. But he cheats and looks up stuff on the internet.

William C. Sawyer II holds an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. from the University of New York; M.A. (B.C. Spirituality and Ministry). He presented workshops on spiritual transformation at two Franciscan centers and two prisons for more than 10 years.

Sandra Scheiner has a Science of Humanity degree and is a certified educational advocate. She has forty years of experience as a Certified Handwriting expert.

Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett serves through Temple Beth Abraham of Nashua and is a Board member of the Nashua Area Interfaith Council.

Stephanie St. Laurence has worked as a transitional counselor to children and adults for almost twenty years. She holds an MA in Educational Studies from Tufts University, worked in the college arena for twenty years, and is certified to teach grades 5-12.

Lynn Thieret has taught paper crafting classes for the past 19 years and enjoys sharing creativity while making lifelong friendships. Her classes are meant to make the individual feel like they have really accomplished something, while having a great time and making new friends. Lynn also teaches nursing at Rivier University.

Elizabeth Tragash has taught writing for several Community Education programs as well as the RISE program. Her work has appeared in a variety of print and online publications.

John Watkins is a retired IT professional with 37 years of experience in IT. He is also a FEMA instructor in the local Nashua area.

David Wray is an award-winning lecturer and writer in the areas of history, mythology, and numismatics.