



RISE SPRING 2020 FACILITATORS

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 is a retired teacher, museum docent, public speaker who loves looking at and talking about paintings, history and literature evolving together.

Tom Barry has a BA in English Literature and an MBA from USNH. He has 30 years of experience in the computer industry.

Dr. Barbara Hardy Beierl is a native New Yorker, and has been a RISE facilitator for the past five years, teaching courses on Shakespeare, literature & history, and drama.

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 became a certified Zentangle teacher in 2017. Her passion is sharing Zentangle with youngsters and elders. She is a retired speech/language pathologist from the Nashua schools. She offers classes to Home, Health, & Hospice, medical practices, colleagues, friends; and is a Visiting Artist in elementary schools.

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

Amy Jo Cielinski 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.

Diane Connell, Adjunct Professor of Education and Counseling at Rivier University (Full Professor 1997-2018). Interests include using science (brain based learning) to enhance your life.

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

Elaine Durkee, Patricia Riley, and Kathy Levesque became facilitators for this course having taken it themselves and wanting it to continue for other RISE members. They have been RISE members for many years.

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 now 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.

Kim Hart has been storytelling for 20+ years. As a member of the Native Community, it helps her understand the culture and bring life to her stories. For many years Kim has found the Native meditation very helpful and has led her to explore other types of meditations.

Julie Marie Hoey has been an art teacher for over a decade, teaching acrylics, oils and watercolor. She has taught seniors for many years.

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

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

Jim Isaak is a retired computer nerd tracking the emergence of AI/Social Media Persuasion, and part of IEEE-USA's activities influencing policy here.

Sheila Kabat is an art lover, and each semester she selects an artist and invests research time to learn, appreciate, and share with her class. This investment feeds her soul! Sheila started facilitating art appreciation courses for RISE in 2000.

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.

Grandmaster **Bobby LaMattina** has helped thousands of people transform and reach their full potential with his courses, workshops, and meditations.

Robert Lemay is a retired mechanical design engineer with 25+ years of experience. Using his 3D printer, he has designed and printed over 200 parts.

Grace McGinnis is a graduate of Drexel University, and worked in design and merchandizing until moving to N.H., where her 3 children were raised. She worked in social service and became active in art again. She has facilitated for 5 years with RISE.

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, BA Sociology, UNH; MEd, Rivier College. He is a retired high school teacher and taught evening classes in education at Rivier.

Mark Meehan is a passionate teacher who greatly enjoys engaging the wonderful RISE community.

Joanne Merrill is Rivier University's Director of Athletics and has taught the Exercise course 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.

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 MA, has been a RISE member, facilitator and past officer since 2005. She has a BA from Seton Hall University, a Master's Degree from Fairfield University and post graduate credentials from SNH University.

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, and life-long learner, traveler, facilitator, volunteer. Her interests include paleoanthropology, Native American studies, history, geography, literature, and social sciences.

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 stepped into a classroom decades and decades ago and never came out!

Frances Rodier has been a RISE member since 2008 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.

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 Raytheon IT manager. Current credentials include FEMA/CERT certified instructor, cyber security champion, ALEERT.org, CRASE instructor.

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