

**Thank you for joining the Play Mountain Place Board of Trustees
for the 2021 Annual Board Meeting!**

Thursday, May 6, 2021 – 7:00-8:00pm, via Zoom*

*Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81246677245>



Top Row, L to R: Jan Kirsch, Ann Rosato, Alonzo Cephus, Bhaskar Krishnamachari
Bottom Row, L to R: Gregg Goldman, Kristin Hall, Co-Directors Judy Accardi & Joe Ringlehan

Come hear about our work, the current “state of the school” and, by consensus, approve us to continue for another year.

Please email any questions for the Board to Ann Rosato, Board President: ann@playmountain.org

Ann Rosato, President

Committee Membership: Executive (Chair), Nominating, and involvement with all

Associated with PMP since 1968: Student, 1968-79; Teacher, 1981-85; Parent, 2002-2012; Board Member, twice in the 1980's & 1999-present

Most recently focused on COVID-related financial processes, fundraising, working with the Fleishman family, trademark work, long term planning, Board development, leadership planning and ongoing support of the Co-Directors.

“I’m on the Board because this place is family to me and I have a lot of connections to the people and the space. I want to see PMP maintain its amazing philosophy and this is what really draws me. The empowerment of children, and of all people, to be in control of their own education, their feelings and their minds, and to encourage learning and education in an atmosphere that is exciting and full of wonder, how learning should be. I also see my involvement as a political statement about the freedom to think, to learn and to grow.”

Jan Kirsch, Vice President & Secretary

Committee Membership: Executive, Leadership Planning (Chair), Strategic Planning (Chair)

Associated with PMP since 2002: Parent, 2002-08; Board Member, 2003-present

Most recently focused on leadership planning and strategic thinking and planning.

“I deeply believe in the philosophy of Play Mountain Place and am convinced that the world needs adults who start out as PMP kids. I am committed to working for its stability and evolution for many years to come. I bring my 27+ years of working at a local non-profit organization and my current work towards a PhD in Leadership and Change to my work of supporting this amazing place through the work of the Board.”

Kristin Hall, Treasurer

Committee Membership: Executive, Leadership Planning

Associated with PMP since 2005: Parent of two alum; Board volunteer, 2016; Board member, 2017-present

Most recently focused on Leadership Planning and fundraising.

“As a parent, I was drawn to Play Mountain Place because of its deep respect for children. I believe that Play Mountain Place plays an essential role in helping kids grow into thoughtful, compassionate, and engaged adults. I am excited to help ensure that it continues to be a strong and healthy organization for years to come.”

Alonzo Cephus, Member

Committee Membership: Development, Finance

Associated with PMP since 1992: Parent of two alum, 1992-2003; Board member 1995-99 & 2004-present; Past Board President and Vice President

Most recently focused on fundraising and building diversity in the school population.

“The world needs a place like Play Mountain Place, and I’m committed to helping PMP continue to grow and continue to thrive and to increasing the diversity of the families and the Board.”

Bhaskar Krishnamachari, Member

Committee Membership: Personnel Practices, Development

Associated with PMP since 2006: Parent of two alum and one current student; Board volunteer, 2016; Board member, 2016-present

Most recently focused on reviewing COVID-related information and technology needs for the school and Board and fundraising.

“Being a parent at Play Mountain Place has been a truly life-changing experience for me, both personally and professionally (as an educator). I am deeply committed to helping Play Mountain Place thrive and to bringing its inspiring philosophy and practices to the wider world.”

Gregg Goldman, Member

Committee Membership: Nominating

Associated with PMP since 2005: Parent, 2005-present; Board member, 2005-2011 and 2020-present.

Most recently focused on working with the Fleishman family, working to build Board membership, and fundraising.

“My wife Gail and I discovered PMP when we were looking at preschools for our daughter Marley; when we walked into the yard, we immediately knew we’d found our place. I’ve been honored to serve on the Board over two separate tenures to do whatever I can to ensure the long-term stability and success of PMP. In my previous tenure, I particularly enjoyed my work with the Fleishman family and issues involving the property as well as Board Development.”

Play Mountain Place

A Leader in Humanistic Education since 1949

Vision

We envision a just world where children are treated with respect, allowed to play freely, and trusted to direct their own learning.

Mission

To provide children with a play-based, child-directed, non-authoritarian educational environment and to provide parents with tools to build respectful communication within their families.

Core Values and Practices

Play Mountain Place, founded in 1949, is one of the earliest humanistic alternative schools in the U.S. We remain committed to upholding the long-held and deeply rooted traditions of our school, as expressed in our core values and practices.

1. We love and respect children. Our teachers create a nurturing environment for children to learn and grow without punishment, manipulation, or shame.
2. We encourage children to express their full range of thoughts and feelings in ways that are physically and emotionally safe. We believe that children develop self-regulation, responsibility, and empathy by experiencing the effects of their own words and actions on others and, in so doing, learning to respect the feelings and limits of others.
3. We facilitate peaceful conflict resolution and problem-solving by helping children learn and practice listening and negotiation skills throughout their day. Our teachers dedicate time and attention to helping children find their own voice and their own solutions to their problems and conflicts with each other.
4. We encourage cooperation rather than competition within children's play and in relationships with each other, including by supporting decision-making through consensus.
5. We foster self-motivated learning and critical thinking by trusting and helping children to pursue their own interests, at their own pace, in their own way, without external rewards or punishments. Teachers meet regularly with parents to discuss each child's learning and development, rather than using traditional grading or ranking methods.
6. We nurture and enhance curiosity, learning, and creativity by providing an environment with opportunities for children to play freely, challenge themselves physically, and explore and enjoy the natural world. We believe that play-based learning and exploration best supports children's intellectual, emotional, and physical development.
7. We believe children learn to recognize and stand up against unfairness when we help them understand, respect, and genuinely value differences between their own and others' cultures, identities, family backgrounds, and experiences.
8. We believe our work with children requires that we — parents, teachers, and other adults — work deeply and thoughtfully to build our own knowledge and skills in respectful communication, setting limits, and problem-solving. Our school provides a range of programs aimed at helping parents and teachers to build such skills.
9. We believe in sharing our philosophy and practice outside our community to advance our vision of a just and peaceful world.