

# Please join the Play Mountain Place Board of Trustees for the 2026 Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 2026 – 6:30-7:15

*in person before parent meetings and also on Zoom*

- Come learn about our current work and hear an important announcement.
- By consensus, approve us to continue our work for another year.



Top Row, L to R:

Gerri Chizeck (Board Volunteer), Ann Rosato, Karta Walker (Board Volunteer), Director Joe Ringlehan

Middle Row, L to R:

Kristin Hall, Christina Hill, Bhaskar Krishnamachari

Front Row, L to R:

Staff Representative David Park, Jan Kirsch, Amy Levine

## **Ann Rosato, President**

**Committees: Executive, Nominating, Finance, Leadership Planning, Development**

**Associated with PMP since 1968:** Student 1968-79; Teacher 1981-85; Parent 2002-12; Board Member twice in the 1980s and 1999-present  
Most recently focused on financial processes, fundraising, long term planning, Board development, leadership planning, ongoing support of the Director, and celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

*"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**

**Committees: Executive, Leadership Planning, DEIB, Development, Nominating, Personnel Practices**

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

Most recently focused on leadership planning, celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and creating belonging through diversity, equity, and inclusion.

*"I deeply believe in the philosophy of Play Mountain Place and am convinced the world needs adults who start out as PMP kids. I am committed to working for its stability and evolution for years to come. I bring my decades of work in the education and non-profit arenas and my current studies towards a PhD in Leadership and Change to my support of this amazing place through the work of the Board."*

## **Christina Hill, Treasurer**

**Committee: Finance**

**Associated with PMP since ~1982:** Student ~1982-88; Parent; Board volunteer 2022; Board member 2023-present

Most recently focused on work with the Finance Committee.

*"Having been a student, parent and now an auntie here has enriched my life in so many ways. Knowing I will take a break from the Board at the end of this year is bitter sweet. I am proud of the work we have done and am looking forward to another successful school year!"*

## **Kristin Hall, Secretary**

**Committee: Executive**

**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."*

## **Bhaskar Krishnamachari, Member**

**Committees: Personnel Practices, Nominating**

**Associated with PMP since 2006:** Parent of two alum and one current student; Board volunteer 2016; Board member 2016-2024, 2025-present

Most recently focused on helping with financial aid, other financial planning, and serving on the Nominating and Personnel Practices Committees.

*"Being a Play Mountain Place parent 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."*

## **Amy Levine, Member**

**Associated with PMP since 1985:** Intern 1985-87; Office Administrator 1986-88; Board Member 1990-95; Parent of two alum; Board member 2025-present

Most recently focused on reconnecting with this wonderful institution.

*"Stumbling onto Play Mountain Place in 1985 was like coming home to a home I never knew I had. I could hardly believe my great fortune! I am deeply committed to seeing this important work continue for another 75 years."*

Email any questions to [board@playmountain.org](mailto:board@playmountain.org)

# 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.

## Regarding our current work

Play Mountain Place was founded in 1949 by Phyllis Fleishman, partially in response to war and Phyllis' belief in what was necessary for building a more peaceful world.

Out of this belief evolved the foundational values and practices that have been in place and deepened for 75 years: being a place where children learn in a play-based, child-directed, non-authoritarian environment; where parents learn the tools they need for respectful communication with their children; and where the anti-bias curriculum supports our commitment to maintaining a diverse community.

The Board of Trustees' role is to safeguard and uphold PMP's mission, vision, and core values and to respond to the contemporary world in which we live. In addition to our ongoing work, in July 2021, the Board embarked on a next phase of evolution of Phyllis' work: what it means today to be a place that stands for a just, equitable, and anti-racist world and where there is truly an experience of belonging for all members of the community. As we celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we continue the work to imbue these values into every aspect of our work, for generations to come.

