NAREA Brick by Brick Series
Spring 2020 | New England
Portland, Maine

Inspiration from the Words of Loris Malaguzzi and the Ongoing Work of New England Educators

NAREA and the Breakwater School invite you to join us for a New England Brick by Brick series event in Portland Maine. This year, we are celebrating the 100th Birthday of Loris Malaguzzi, founder and leading light of the Reggio Emilia Approach, and the ongoing work that he and his colleagues have inspired in Italy and throughout the world. It fits then that our day together will connect both to his words of inspiration, drawn from the recent volume, Loris Malaguzzi and the schools of Reggio Emilia, and to our Reggio Emilia inspired work in New England.

Participants will gather to reflect on the intersection of theory and practice in presentations by NAREA Board Member David Fernie and Breakwater School early childhood educators. Speakers and participants will discuss topics of interest and inspiration such as the Image of the Child, Pedagogical Documentation, the theory of the Hundred Languages of Children, and the Environment as a Third Teacher. The staff of Breakwater School hosting this Brick by Brick event will open their classrooms for a tour and share stories about their current work with children.

Join us for an exciting day of alliance as we collaborate, hear about, discuss, and advance our collective relationships and efforts on behalf of children and families in our New England communities.

NAREA collaborates with local early childhood organizations, groups, schools, and higher education institutions to offer low cost, relevant, and meaningful professional development. Brick by Brick initiatives feature topics and presenters that contribute to strengthening understanding of Reggio-inspired values, principles, and experiences. As Rinaldi suggests, “the hundred languages of the children have to become the hundred languages of the teacher” (2006, p. 195).

“My feelings of wonder, and the sense of the extraordinary, were stronger than my happiness. I was an elementary school teacher. I had been teaching for 5 years, and had done 3 years of university. Maybe it was my profession that hampered me. All of my little models were laughingly overturned: that building a school would ever occur to the people, women, farm laborers, factory workers, farmers, was in itself traumatic. But that these same people, without a penny to their names, with no technical offices, building permits, site directors, inspectors from the Ministry of Education or the Party, could actually build a school with their own strength, brick by brick, was the second paradox” (2000, p.14).

– LORIS MALAGUZZI