

# 2018-2019 RSA Instructors

## Angelia Armstrong

**Science, Math, and Design I and II; Sewing and Fabric Arts I and II**



Angelia Armstrong studied art and technical illustration at the University of Kentucky, and worked as a technical designer for 14 years. Angelia is currently self-employed as a professional designer artist. She produces a line of fashion and home accessories sold throughout the East Coast and at her web site. Her one-of-a-kind art pieces are displayed and sold in various art galleries in the region, and she has won several awards. She homeschooled her two sons, both

of whom graduated from RSA.

[www.angeliarmstrongdesign.com](http://www.angeliarmstrongdesign.com)

## Lauren Babb

**Preschool Music & Movement, Hip Hop, Beginning Dance**

Biography and picture coming soon!

## Patrick Ball

**Roblox Game Development**



Patrick Ball received his degree in English from Elizabeth City State University (North Carolina), where he was nominated for the Irene Ryan's Acting Scholarship award, and has been involved in professional acting for stage and screen for well over a decade. He most recently appeared as the lead in Old Dominion University's *Science Alliance LIVE* Kid's show. His professional teaching experience began as an instructor of youth swimming and

cheerleading and, over the years, evolved into a career as a training specialist... which he joyfully abandoned to be a stay-at-home father. He believes that child-led play is the best way to facilitate learning and that the ability to imagine, abstract, and create is the cornerstone of success in life.

## Heidi Bloch

**Suzuki Piano**



Heidi Bloch has been teaching piano using the Suzuki method and philosophy for more than 30 years. She is Organist/Music Director at Christ Episcopal Church (Smithfield), using her skills to plan music for worship, to direct the adult choir, and to play the organ. She earned her Master's degree in Sacred Music from the University of Michigan and her undergraduate degree in Organ Performance from Old Dominion University. Heidi is the Artistic Advisor for

"Sundays at Four," Smithfield's performance art series. She is a talented musician and teacher who provides a thorough musical experience for her students. In her spare time, Heidi swims and volunteers for several community service and arts organizations.

## Michael Creech

**Group and Private Guitar, Bass, Ukulele; Singing; Music; Interactive Performance; Songwriting**



Michael Creech is a seasoned professional singer/songwriter and musician who currently performs at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, VA. He has been performing at colleges (e.g., VCU, College of the Albemarle), festivals (e.g., Old Towne Portsmouth Holiday Festival, Suffolk Peanut Festival), and well-known venues (e.g., Virginia Beach Amphitheater, The Norva) for several years on the East Coast. He has also shared the stage with several national recording artists, including Hal Ketchum and Rascal Flatts. ""With faith, creativity, and knowledge, you hold the key to success."

## Sue Ellebracht

**American Sign Language I, II, and III**



Susan Ellebracht is a Speech Language Pathologist with 26 years of experience working with children with a variety of disorders related to speech, language, and hearing development. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Speech Language Pathology/Audiology, and produced research investigating speech patterns of deaf children. She began learning ASL in 1982 through the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York. She has worked at Rochester School for the Deaf, various outpatient clinics, and Old Dominion University. Currently, she is the owner of and a speech pathologist for Tidewater Therapy for Children, P.C. in Chesapeake, VA.

## Kim Ellis

**Amazing Art (And How to Make It) for Middle School and High School; Drawing Wonders; Private Drawing Lessons**



Kim Ellis holds a B.F.A. in Illustration from Savannah College of Art and Design. Her passion is children's books, with a focus on watercolor illustrations. She has experience in all painting media, animation, sculpture, and metal and jewelry making. She has seven children; Quincy, Joelly, Owen, Rachel, Kristen, Vanessa, and Zachary. She has been a homeschooling mom for the past eight years, and this is her eighth year teaching art at RSA. Her local business, Paint Me Purple Studios, hosts paint parties for adults, birthday parties for kids, and summer art camps.

# Kathy Eykamp

## Playful Learning (Preschool)



Kathy is a true Hampton Roads native; she grew up in Western Branch surrounded by extended family and currently resides in Port Norfolk with her two children and three dogs. This fall, she will be starting her tenth year teaching preschool at the Portsmouth YMCA and her third year teaching at RSA. Kathy has worked with 3, 4, and 5 year olds helping them get ready to start school, whether public, private, or home school bound.

Her training includes American Red Cross CPR & First Aid, SPARK PE Program, and several classes offered by the YMCA for its Youth Department staff. This is her eighth year of homeschooling, and the seventh year her family has been at RSA. Working with children has always been something Kathy enjoys and she looks forward to giving the preschoolers of RSA a good foundation for their education.

# Tara Farrell

## DSLR Photography; Advanced DSLR Photography; Photography for Adults; Point-and-Shoot Photography



Tara Farrell studied at the Hallmark Institute of Photography in Turners Falls, MA. Following graduation, she worked for Lifetouch, a national level portrait studio, and then as the head photographer for Pro Image, Inc. of Fort Bragg, NC. Since 2004, Tara has been a freelance photographer and in 2008, she started Tara Farrell Photography, a portrait photography business. Her portfolio consists of work in both amateur and commercial modes of

production using traditional black and white film, color film and digital processes. She is experienced in portrait and wedding photography, formal corporate and military events, and support services such as digital imaging and editing, dark room and photo development, web enabled arrangement and photo sharing, and small business operations and marketing. In addition to her business, Tara volunteers her photography services for the Hampton Roads Chapter of the American Red Cross. Tara and her husband live in Newport News, VA and have three children.

[www.tarafarrellphotography.com](http://www.tarafarrellphotography.com)

# Bonnie Franklin

## High School Literature



Bonnie lives with her husband and children in Smithfield, and has been involved with Renaissance School since its very first year. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from James Madison University (Harrisonburg, VA) and a master's degree in English from the University of South Dakota (Vermillion, SD). She has been teaching high school literature at RSA since 2010, and has recently found an outlet for being a picky grammarian by working as an associate editor for GDIT, editing peer-reviewed grant applications in the areas of science and education. Bonnie is also a member of the RSA admin team, and takes care of all matters spreadsheet-related. When not at RSA, Bonnie stays busy watching her kids play baseball and softball, lifting weights and swimming, and reading.

# Alyssa (Romanelli) Harney

**Drama**

Bio and picture coming soon!

# Grinner Hester

**Motion Graphics/Animation; Private Lessons: Film-Making; Sound Design; Video Editing**



Grinner has worked for 30 years in the television industry, has designed courses and departments from the ground up at the college level, and has taught video production to homeschoolers ranging from 7 to 17 for the last 6 years.  
[www.grinnerhester.com](http://www.grinnerhester.com)

# Angie Hillis-Baurle

**Private Piano Lessons**



“Ms. Angie” is the mother of three (ages 20, 18 and 13) and the stepmother of two (24 and 20). She and her family live in Poquoson. Originally from Suffolk, she earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology with a minor in sociology from ODU. She has extensive experience playing and teaching music, including teaching at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Preschool for seven years, at Smithfield Baptist Preschool for three years, and teaching many private students over the years. She is currently the keyboardist, substitute organist, and youth director at St. Andrew. In addition to her lifelong interest in music, Angie enjoys playing sports, including softball, volleyball, basketball, cheer, and -- most recently -- kickball. She coached youth cheerleading for five years and also has experience teaching basketball and soccer to boys and girls ages 5 to 8. Her philosophy is to make sure her students learn the basic skills of the sport, how to play safely, have fun, show good sportsmanship, and show respect for their peers and teacher. She describes her teaching style—in both piano and sports—as firm, fair, and positive.

# Meghan Hodgins

**Elementary Social Fun, Middle & High School Social Fun**

Bio and picture coming soon!

# Shannon Johnson

**Anime & Manga; Elementary Ballet, Tap, and Jazz; Martial Arts; Preschool Ballet; Latin Tutoring; YuGiOh**



Shannon Johnson has a bachelor's degree in Design and Environmental Analysis from Cornell University, where she was also actively involved in the Cornell Japanese Animation Society. She has attended many anime conventions across the country from 1994 to the present, studied conversational Japanese, and hosted exchange students from Japan. Since 2001, she has enjoyed playing the YuGiOh trading card game with her children and many others, and considers it a valuable tool for building reading, math, and logic skills. Shannon studied Latin for five years, and has experience teaching Latin I to III to her older children and other homeschoolers.

"Sensei" (teacher) Shannon is a Second Degree Black Belt in Chutoku Ryu Karate, and a First Degree Black Belt in Goshin Jutsu Karate. She also holds the rank of Okuden ("Entrance to Secrets," equivalent to Black Belt) in Kobudo (traditional Japanese weapons). She has also studied ballet for over ten years, and tap and jazz dance for 8 years, and provided dance instruction and choreographed dances for children and teens in various organizations. The Johnsons have been members of RSA since 2010.

# Hatton Jordan

**Public Speaking and Confidence**



Hatton Jordan is a 25-year veteran of stand-up comedy who joins the Renaissance School of Art to teach Public Speaking. He helped organize the first annual Norfolk Comedy Fest, has performed at comedy clubs in 15 states, has acted on the Discovery Channel, and has written for *Mad* magazine. He currently works full-time in the Chesapeake Public School system. He grew up in Olde Towne Portsmouth and lives in Virginia Beach.

## Sean Kissell

**Active Games; High-Intensity Interval Training; Strength Training**



Sean Kissell is a certified IFPA trainer and AAU and USA coach and has been strength-training athletes for over a decade. Sean's interest in fitness training started in the Navy; he spent five years as a hospital corpsman, where some of his duties included running PT sessions and designing fitness programs for overweight sailors. He prides himself on getting great results for his clients, and looks forward to working with the RSA family. When not at RSA, he can be found at his business, Total Fitness, which has been in operation since 1989, when it was purchased by Ed Kissell. Total Fitness is the longest-running operating gym on the Peninsula, and has had clients from pro football players to nationally ranked power lifters. Even the owner of WWE, Vince McMahon, has been by for a workout!

## Pam Kitchen

**Books and Fun; Globetrotters; Yearbook and Design**



Pam has a degree in commercial art and has worked as both graphic designer and art director for various local publishing companies throughout the past twenty years. She specializes in house portraits, and is a recurring artist contributor in the Smithfield Pen & Ink Calendar. In addition to having been a homeschooling mom with RSA through a total of eight years and two talented children, she has taught a variety of art classes to many homeschoolers in the local area. Her most recent teaching endeavors have been with the IOW County schools as a Kindergarten instructional aide. Pam has instructed classes at RSA for the past 12 years.

## Donna Kuzio

**Engineering & Technology (with Ed Parks)**



Biography pending.



## Heather Moore

**Essay Writing 101; Yoga for Adults; Yoga for Teens**



Heather received a bachelor's degree in Political Science with a minor in Mandarin Chinese from the United States Naval Academy in 1992. She furthered her language studies as a summer exchange student at the Taiwanese Naval Academy, followed by a semester of study at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. After serving as a supply officer in the Navy, Heather became an Army spouse and enjoyed living both abroad in the United Kingdom and Australia, as well as many different US states (TN, GA, NC, TX, WA, KS, & finally VA). Heather earned a second bachelor's degree in English (education concentration) from Fayetteville State University in 2000. Additionally, she is a registered Yoga teacher (RYT 200) and enjoys teaching yoga classes at RSA and the YMCA. Heather has two sons, one of whom recently graduated from RSA.

## Ed Parks

**Algebra I/II; Calligraphy I/II; Dungeons and Dragons; Engineering and Technology; Geometry; Pre-Algebra/Algebra; Private Lessons (listed subjects, plus higher math, economics, physics, SAT prep)**



Charles (Ed) Parks has a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from Georgia Tech, and served as a U.S. Naval Flight officer in F-14 Tomcats. After his military career, he earned a dual teaching certificate in both math and social science from ODU. He then worked in public schools for 10 years, developing interesting and creative ways to motivate inner city students to learn higher math. He also worked for Sylvan Learning Centers for many years, moving from part-time teaching to the Center Director. Since 2009, he has been focusing on private tutoring. He tutors students in math, science, social studies, economics, civics, and history. He says that "math is just as creative as poetry. Both have form and restrictions that need to be followed, but within that framework you can be creative." This may be why he is a published poet as well as an engineer! He enjoys teaching students to have fun with math, and enjoys sharing his contagious enthusiasm with RSA students.

## Elizabeth Pasiieczny

**Film Making (Skype tutoring)**



Elizabeth Pasiieczny is president of Pickleman Productions, an internationally award-winning film company specializing in family entertainment. She is a Cal Arts graduate living in New York. She is a consultant with ChipAway Productions and a freelance screenwriter. Elizabeth has taught with RSA for 11 years. Committed to sharing her passion and skills with students, she offers personal tutoring over Skype. She believes that it is imperative for students to develop their communication skills and develop them with ever-advancing technology. Her current award winning film, "Dillzilla: Titan of Terror!" was created with RSA students in Smithfield and Suffolk. Review her portfolio at [empasiieczny.com](http://empasiieczny.com) and her company at [picklemanproductions.com](http://picklemanproductions.com) Elizabeth teaches screenwriting, creative writing, animation, drawing, and filmmaking.

## Cynthia Quesenberry

**Art Adventures, Art Explorations, Explorations in Fine Arts, Handbuilt Ceramics**



Cynthia Quesenberry is a credentialed K-12 Teacher specializing in elementary art education and ceramics. She taught elementary art for the Portsmouth Public Schools for eight years and currently teaches classes for children and adults in local galleries. Ms. Quesenberry graduated from Old Dominion University (Norfolk, Virginia) and received her bachelor's degree in art education and a credential to teach art K-12. She also has a master of science degree from Troy University (Troy, Alabama). She has received additional art training at the Penland School of Crafts, Mary Washington University, Thompson Enamels, John C. Campbell Folk School, and advanced glass fusing at the Kaiser Design Studio. She received certification as a Rio Grande Precious Metal Clay instructor under the instruction of nationally renowned designer Terry Kovalsik.

Ms. Quesenberry likes to expose the students to a variety of different materials and introduce them to the artwork of artists from all around the world and throughout history. Each year she looks forward to creating an exciting learning experience for her students.

## Rachel Robertson

**Mad Science**



A visual and kinesthetic learner, Rachel understands how material needs to be presented in various ways to accommodate individual learning styles. An RSA alum, she is the owner of Rachel Elizabeth's Reflections, specializing in themed children's parties and photo shoots. Rachel is a former youth leader and is currently the young adult ministry coordinator for Trinity United Methodist Church.

## Carol Robertson

**Mad Science**

Carol has been an avid student of parenthood for the past 30 years. The mother of four, she is versed in the challenges of ADHD, kinesthetic learners, and gifted children. With her children, Carol has been involved in scouting as Den Mother and Girl Scout Leader, and taught Sunday school for several years. Most recently, she chaired Youth Missions Fundraising for Trinity UMC's children's youth ministry program. As part of a mission team, Carol helped design and execute a Vacation Bible School curriculum for children on the Navajo reservation. She believes learning should be messy and fun!



## Charlotte Rockswold

**Elementary Music, Middle School Music, Show Choir**



Charlotte Rockswold received B.A. degrees in Vocal Music Education and Speech Communication Theatre Arts Education at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. She taught vocal music in public and Montessori schools. For the last 20 years she has been raising and homeschooling her seven children. She has taught a variety of personalities and will work with each child to develop their unique musical talents.

## Theresa Romanelli

**Biology, Drama/Play, Middle School Literature**



Theresa Romanelli is a mother of three, all of whom have attended RSA. She has studied English and theater at T.C.C. and the University of Maryland. A math tutor at TCC, she holds a degree in both Social Science and Science. She also has a passion for theater arts and history which was ignited by living in England for 2 ½ years. Theresa has been involved in theater since she was in middle school and has been involved with RSA's theater program over the years. Along with being in productions at local churches and communities, Theresa created a theater arts group for kids in her previous church. She has also been a dedicated advocate for MOPS and had the privilege of speaking at the National MOPS Convention in 2008.

## Nahla Saleh

**Life After High School**

Picture and bio coming soon!

## Walter & Judy Schultz

### Ballroom Dance



Walter and Judy Schultz are residents of Portsmouth's Churchland area. They are Ballroom, Country-Western, and Swing social dancers and part time teachers. Most weeks will find them out three to four times at local social dance events. In addition to dancing at the local night clubs and studios, they travel a few times a year to their favorite Country-Western & Swing events. Some of their favorite events are the US National Dance Championships, the Easterns Dance Challenge in the Washington DC area, and the Halloween in Harrisburg event. They are known and liked by just about every Country and Western dancer, swing dancer, and ballroom dancer in this half of the country.

Walter and Judy offer dance instruction in Ballroom, Latin, Swing & Country Western. Their instructional goals are very simple:

1. To teach students to look like natural dancers, not school-taught dancers;
2. To maximize students' learning time during lessons, and not waste their time or money;
3. To concentrate on Social Dance instruction and refer those who wish to compete to other instructors;
4. To keep up to date in their style, technique, and syllabus.

[www.twostepTidewater.com](http://www.twostepTidewater.com)

## Phyllis Wells

### Painting 101



Phyllis Wells worked as a stained glass artist from 1981 to 2002. While working on commissions and speculative pieces, she taught for eight years at Goodman Hardware Stained Glass Center in Hampton and in her own studio. She played a key role in establishing the Peninsula Glass Guild, which has one of the largest and most prestigious glass shows in the country every December at the Charles Taylor Art Center in Hampton.

Phyllis' interests include painting (acrylics) and, more recently, mixed media. Her personal art philosophy is "have fun or be done!" For many years the precision required in glasswork dictated her style and work process, so painting has become a relaxing way to express ideas without regimentation. "Sharing what I have learned has become very important to me - I've been fortunate to have been able to have a long and varied career in art - I want to give back to my students what excites me."

# 2018-2019 RSA Small-Group Tutors

## Shanna Broussard

### Cardboard Classroom

Shanna Broussard has lived in Hampton Roads for most of her life. Together with her husband and two daughters, she has enjoyed their homeschool journey, which started two years ago. Shanna has shared her love of games with her family, and together they enjoy role-playing and family game nights with board and card games. Shanna looks forward to introducing you to the fun, exciting, and educational world of board games!

## Barbara Cooper-Pabis

### Jewelry-Making



Barbara Cooper-Pabis has a B.S. in biology with a minor in geology from Texas State University. At Southwest Texas State, she was a teaching assistant and taught geology labs. She also has 30 credit hours of graduate coursework in computer science at Norfolk State University. She was a research team mentor at NSU for the NASA-funded internship at the Bringing Education and Science Together (BESTLab's) internship program REESS (Research Experience in Earth Systems Science). She also worked as the lab tech and research assistant at Norfolk State University's BESTLab Center of Excellence.

Cooper (as she is known) has always enjoyed science and math, but since childhood has also been exploring the arts through dance, crafts, sewing, painting, music, photography and jewelry making/designing. She moved to Hampton Roads from Texas with her husband in 2000, and started on the home educating path with her two children in 2013.

## Debbie Hallahan

### Leather-Making, Mask-Making

We have all heard the phrase "Jack of all trades, master of none." It has been used for centuries to describe a person who has many interests and is sometimes used in a derogatory manner. The quotation was first documented in a book by Geoffrey Minshull in the 17th century. It is thought by some that Geoffrey was using only part of a saying to describe the colorful people he met while in a debtors' prison.

I prefer the longer version of this saying when describing myself: "Jack of all trades, master of none, though oftentimes better than master of one."

I was born and raised in Littleton, Colorado, to parents who are also well described by the quotation above. I have worked with many materials, such as wood, leather, bone, plaster, food, snow, yarn, metal, and ink, to name a few. My true passion lies in the process of creating. My life-long inspiration has been the work of Jim Henson, creator of The Muppets. My family and I have settled in picturesque Smithfield, Virginia after my husband's retirement from the US Navy.

# Ellen Howard

## Handmade Cards

Ellen currently resides in the Western Branch area of Chesapeake. She graduated from Christopher Newport University with a BA in English, concentrating on Communications and Writing. Her family has been on the homeschooling journey now for four years, with one year in the public school system.

Currently, she is the Sunday School director, for ages three through twelve, at Jolliff United Methodist Church in Chesapeake. Some of her interests include reading, crafts, spending time outside, learning about people and different cultures, and spending time with family.