



January 2023

OPEN HOUSE

Special Community Edition

The Pulse from Our President

**Melissa "Meli" Deaton Cook,
LPC, NCC, DCFG President**



Happy New Year! I am counting on 2023 to be an exciting year.

I was thinking a few weeks ago about how being a member of DCFG has enriched my life over the years. The guild presents me with the opportunity to meet unique, creative, and exciting people all over the world. The connections across continents, careers, drum circle styles, and drum circle focuses, encourages me daily to be a better person and to enhance all my facilitation skills. These connections enable me to dream of possibilities. They support me when I am filled with doubt. Without the guild, there is no way I would have made the friends and connections in the world of drum circles that I have today. There are times now when I join a training on zoom for some type of music or expressive training and see familiar faces beaming back at me. And, I know then that I am part of a family.

[Join Now](#)

I'm super excited to once again join fellow DCFG members face-to-face in Myrtle Beach South Carolina! This year's conference theme **Center, Pulse, Groove** is going to be amazing. Please join us this year at our family reunion where once again we can connect, laugh, play, drum, be inspired, be encouraged, and be supported for what lies ahead. See you there!

[Register Here](#)

The Pulse from Our Membership Director Rhonwyn Hagedorn



Your Membership Benefits Save You Money!

Joining our community of like-minded professionals at this year's conference?

DCFG members receive a 10% discount off the registration fee. Save more than \$40 by logging into your member account BEFORE you register.

AND you'll continue to have access to other useful benefits including:

- Your listing in our DCF directory provides **credibility and REFERRALS**
- **Get discounts** for products, programs, publications and services.
- **Receive reciprocity** from affiliate organizations
- Get our Rhythm Makers Pulse **quarterly newsletter**
- Access our **members-only resources** at www.dcfg.net

Renew today for big savings and great benefits.

JOIN NOW

\$4596.00 USD

That's the total value of scholarships DCFG is awarding OUR MEMBERS to support attendance at this year's conference!

This year DCFG is awarding **12 scholarships** that cover registration fees to our 18th annual conference. DCFG funded ten of these and private donations sponsored two more.

Cheers to Nancy Brauhn-Curnes and her committee for their dedication in this process. We received more applicants this year than ever before and we're awarding more than ever before, too.

Congratulations to all our worthy recipients! You'll receive notification via email with your registration discount code. Please sign up ASAP at www.dcfg.net and be sure to register for your lodging at [Ocean Creek Resort](#) (that's separate). If you've already registered, send an email to contact@dcfg.net so that we can adjust your invoice accordingly.

JOIN NOW

The Pulse from Our Conference Chair

Michelle Muth, MT-BC



The end of February will be here before you know it! The DCFG conference committee and board are preparing to welcome everyone to our **18th Annual Drum Circle Facilitators Guild Conference** at **Ocean Creek Resort** in **Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, February 24-26th**. Read on to learn more about all things conference. Feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone that might be interested in attending. [Go directly to the Conference Page to register.](#)

The theme of **Center, Pulse, GROOVE!** feels so appropriate as we return to our first in-person conference in two years. Whether this is your first time attending conference or you are a veteran attendee, we will be so glad to have you join us. The conference committee has been working hard to keep a balance of connection and learning for the weekend. [The speaker list](#) is excellent and will be complemented with time for connection and musicking together.

What's being offered and who is presenting?

We have created a [Speakers page](#) with information on all the DCFG offerings/presentations. The list a phenomenal list of speakers that includes well-known movers and shakers in the field along with amazing first-time presenters. All of the presentations support the theme of **Center, Pulse, GROOVE!** beginning with the Keynote from **Mary Knysh: *Balance & Resilience: Self, Circle & Sound.*** Checkout all the presentations on the [speaker page](#).

~~ **FREE Friday morning workshops for conference attendees** ~~

Friday morning, before the conference, we are offering two FREE workshops.

**9:00-11:30 am: BrainPulse – An Experiential Deep Dive Into Our New Program!
Dr. Jane Bentley (Scotland) Lucas Coffey (Alberta, Canada) Mary Knysh (USA)**

Spend a morning with the International Brain Pulse team, where we'll dive into the program, featuring rhythmic tools for teaching young people to understand and care for their most important resource: the brain. We'll look at the science behind the program and the potential for expanding your offerings as a DCF through new business opportunities. We'll learn the ensemble piece from the final session, and take the first ever look at the online training platform. Join us for some neural networking!

10:00-11:30 am: The Business Circle with Louis-Daniel Joly

Join Louis-Daniel, author of *the Drum Circle Business Cookbook*, for a conversation about the business side of drumming. Come with any questions or aspects you would like to discuss related to the business of running a drum circle business.

You can register in advance or drop in as you are able Pre-Registration helps for planning and room setup. For those that registered for conference prior to this newsletter, please email the conference chair, [Michelle Muth](#), if you would like to add one of the pre-conference workshops to your registration.

How should I plan my time?

The conference schedule is packed. Morning sessions start around 9:00 am and end with "Late Night" where drumming often lasts until midnight.

There are two free workshops on Friday morning, The Business Circle and Brain Pulse. Details are in this newsletter and on the Speakers Page.

Lunch and registration are at noon and the Conference begins at 2pm with our Opening Drum Circle!

There is a lot happening and we encourage you to take care of yourself and step out for a nap, conversation, or moment in the sun as needed. This is NOT intended to be a high stress conference, but rather one with equal devotion to connection and learning.

Lodging:

The conference is at the Ocean Creek Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC. We negotiated a discount lodging rate that expires January 30th, so make sure you reserve your room sooner rather than later because we have a limited number of rooms. You have your choice of studio, 1, 2, or 3, bedroom condos/suites. All have a kitchenette or full kitchen. The multi-bedroom offerings are great for sharing with other attendees. There are rooms that provide an ocean view but are the furthest from the conference location. Everyone has access to the beach for long walks, runs, yoga

conference location. Everyone has access to the beach for long walks, runs, yoga, drumming, whatever floats your boat. Swimming, if you like cold water! There's a hot tub open during the day and early evening. Register at www.oceancreek.com using the **GROUP code 530907**. Details on rates and how to reserve are on the [Conference Registration page](#).

What's it cost?

Registration includes 7 meals from Friday Lunch to Sunday lunch plus admission to the conference. For non-DCFG members the fee is \$425. If you live outside the USA, please see our tiered structure as we strive to move towards more equitable pricing. **DCFG members pay only \$383, a 10% discount on registration fee.** [Be sure to renew your membership to receive the 10% discount.](#)

Looking for conversation with others about conference?

Visit our [Facebook Event](#) and join the discussion. Here you will see requests for roommates, rideshare from the airport, etc. If you do not use Facebook then reach out to Greg Whitt, Executive Director at dcfgdirector@gmail.com.

Are there other non-DCFG events taking place at Myrtle Beach?

Yes there are! [Village Music Circles](#) Facilitators Intensive Training (6-day) runs February 27-March 4th. They're also offering their Mentorship Training program that begins Feb 22nd and runs through the 6-day training. The DCFG does not manage registrations or any details related to these trainings; we are simply very excited to have them as "bookends" for the conference. Have questions? Check out their website for more details: <https://villagemusiccircles.com/calendar/usa-canada-trainings/>

Conference Speaker Lineup



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mary Knysh: Balance & Resilience: Self, Circle & Sound

Through rhythmic free play and music improvisation activities, we'll celebrate the reunion of our global DCFG community. Together we will redefine our central purpose, connect to the pulse of our community and step into our future with revitalized energy and a fresh new groove that reflects our combined brilliance and resilience! Read more [here](#).

Jane Bentley: *Better living through drumming: Drum circles, mental health, and community*

Now, more than ever, we need strategies for community, mental health, and human flourishing. Drum circles are an ideal tool for social reconnection and inclusion, and Jane been on a 15 year journey with one particular group - this session shares lessons learned along the way, stories of success, healing, and challenge, and strategies for developing your own practice in this area.



Jim Boneau: *3 and 1 on the Run - Games as Platforms for Connection*

Drum circle games are fun, but can a game become a platform for orchestration? In this session, Jim will show how the game Three and One can serve as a platform for expression, a vehicle for connection, and joyous journey through a community circle.

Lucas Coffey, Jane Bentley, Mary Knysh: *Introducing BrainPulse - building healthy brains through rhythm!*

A drum circle consists of many parts that work together as a functioning whole - making it an excellent metaphor to help understand the brain and how it works. BrainPulse is a multi session rhythm and brain health programme for young people, using rhythm games, ensemble work and discussion to build healthy brains, and healthy drummers! And it's being launched at DCFG.



Lucas Coffey: *Games for Youth: Shared Adversity*

Common group work wisdom suggests building on small successes and positive reinforcement are the key to innovative teamwork. This session will explore an alternate route to creativity, interdependence, and group trust through "Shared Adversity." This session will outline how to use classic and original drum circle games to get IN the way, before we ultimately GET OUT OF THE WAY!

Lisa Colleen: *Passing the Pulse: The Importance of Rhythm and Movement in the Communities We Serve*

As rhythm evangelists we need to make sure we are encouraging the organizations we are serving to open up to the possibility of using rhythm on a daily basis. Passing the Pulse presentation will provide a bit of neuroscience coupled with easy rhythm activities to provide the people you serve with ideas to bring creative wellness tools to enhance the well-being of their communities.



Kathryn Eberle Cotter, MMT, MT-BC, MFT: *From Funk to Flow: Engaging in drum circle experiences in family and community therapy settings*

As a music therapist and a marriage and family therapist, Kathryn practices from a system's theory perspective and the belief that people are a composite of their relationships. By drumming, Kathryn explores interpersonal dynamics in family therapy and community group settings as a means to identify and achieve desired change.

Rhonwyn Hagedorn: *Facilitating Social Change*

Activism, advocacy, and community development - how are they related and fit into the description of a drum circle facilitator? The parallels between both may be more than you expect. Using key presentation concepts, the past, present, and future of DCFs will also be explored through a brainstorming session, and how social change can be created through our circles.



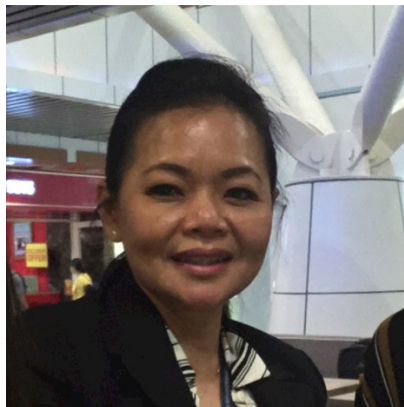


Arthur Hull and Jim Boneau: *4 Mindsets to Maximize the Impact of Your Rhythm Events: Integrating VMC Techniques and Concepts*

Your facilitator mindset is key to a presence of openness, confidence, kindness, and competence that helps your circle feel good and sound it's best. Arthur and Jim will show how to integrate VMC techniques and concepts to take you to the next level.

Terry Pain: *Bamboo Dance*

The bamboo dance is shared by many cultures across Asia, each with their own rhythms, history, and cultural influences. In this interactive workshop, you will learn the different variations of the bamboo dance, its significance, and how you can take this into your own rhythmical interventions. Watch where you step!

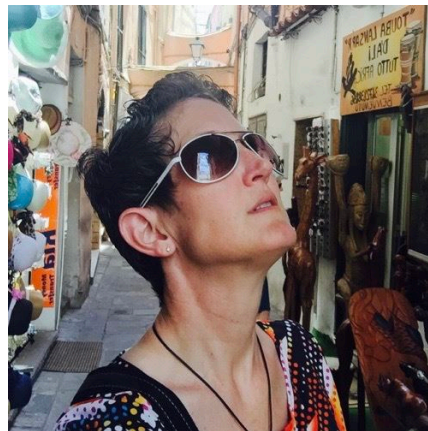


Jeni Swerdlow, MA-ATR: Rhythm Reboot: Group Drumming to Release, Reconnect, and Restore Balance

At last, the world has re-opened! Workers are returning to the office, kids are back at school, folks are gathering. How can we help them release the grief and stress that they've been holding, reconnect with what is vital and alive, and move forward to the next chapter? In this experiential presentation I'll show you an effective approach that can be applied to groups of any age and setting.

Yeshima: Group Drumming and Social and Emotional Learning in Music Education: A Review of Literature

Through a literature review of group drumming interventions, significant connections were made between entrainment, communication, and social and emotional well-being. Commonalities and differences in group drumming interventions will be discussed along with the classifications of group drumming and how they can be used to enhance a person's social and emotional well-being.



Steven Turner and Louis-Daniel Joly - VMC, GT (aka The Baldies): Presenting drum circle games and activities in schools

Learn new games, new ways to present drum circle activities and new ways to manage drum circles for kids. A hands on presentation that will allow you to build confidence and skills to center your facilitation, develop a group pulse and GROOVE!

Greg Whitt, Moderator: The Art Of Business: a panel discussion connecting the left and right brain.

DCFG is hosting a business panel that draws on the expertise of business owners in the field of drum circles. Bring your questions! Panelists to be announced.



REGISTER NOW



LODGING RESERVATION DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

The Ocean Creek Resort DISCOUNT CODE 530907 which is good for reservations made by January 30 www.oceancreek.com.

Call for Writers

Do you enjoy writing about your experiences as a drum circle facilitator? Please share with our community!

Send your articles to debikret@gmail.com to be published in our quarterly newsletter.

President - Melissa Deaton Cook dcfgpresident@gmail.com
Executive Director - Greg Whitt gregory@drumforchange.com
Newsletter Editor - Debi Kret debikret@gmail.com
Organizational contact email: contact@dcfg.net

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