



March 2010

Founded by
Rachael Kessler
1946 - 2010

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PassageWorks: Honoring the Past, Looking to the Future

It is a poignant and powerful time at PassageWorks, as we honor the life and legacy of our Founder Rachael Kessler and work daily to offer our model to educators and schools around the country.

Over the past years, Rachael worked closely with our staff and board to develop a comprehensive “Living Legacy” plan for PassageWorks. Our vision for the evolution of the Institute has included broadening our leadership team, developing a strong, competent faculty, and collaborating with organizational partners also dedicated to transforming education from the inside out. PassageWorks continues to include a diversity of colleagues in the development, refinement, and implementation of our model, so that this body of work will be informed by a dedicated community of practitioners. Our model for supporting the inner lives of students and teachers has now been translated into six curricula for the K-12 transition years of childhood, dozens of articles, a framework of core practices and principles for classrooms, and a series of courses, and presentations. We are grateful to all those who have contributed to this body of work over the years and are inspired by the collaborative opportunities to transform education that are now emerging.

As we honor our past and plan for our future, we want to give you a sense of who our PassageWorks team is and what our current projects are.

- **John McCluskey** is a Lead Faculty member at PassageWorks. He will be co-facilitating the April Foundation Course and June Teaching Presence Course and is serving as a consultant on a new high school project in Nebraska.
- **Carrie Simpson** is a Lead Faculty member and co-author of the recently completed full-year Kindergarten curriculum, which is now being used in a number of schools around the country. Carrie will continue to serve as a lead consultant on the Kindergarten project and will be teaching our June Foundation Course.
- **Batya Greenwald** is a kindergarten teacher and a Program Associate and Lead Faculty member at PassageWorks. Batya offered a keynote with Rachael on parenting presence and will be co-facilitating our June Teaching Presence Course and October Foundation Course.
- **Chuck Fisher** is a Lead Faculty member in California who is supporting the creation of on-line professional development programs.
- **Cathy Fink** is a high school teacher and PassageWorks faculty member who co-authored a chapter in [The Handbook of Moral and Character Education](#) with Rachael. She will be working on new writing projects this spring and will be co-teaching a Foundation Course in Los Angeles in the fall.

- **Lorri Acott-Fowler** is a high school art teacher and PassageWorks faculty member who will be co-facilitating our October Foundation Course and serving as a consultant on high school projects.
- **Ari Gerzon-Kessler**, an assistant principal at two Colorado elementary schools, is a member of our PassageWorks faculty, and will continue to co-facilitate our courses and assist with PassageWorks writing projects.
- **Faculty members Ron Lamb, Bruce Rose, Francisco Garcia-Quezada, Dana Knox, Erin Tanner Jospe, and Jenelle Peterson** will be participating in a series of interviews that is part of our celebration of the 10th Anniversary of **The Soul of Education** launching this spring.
- **Our Board:** We had an inspiring and productive planning session with board and staff in late February to define our course for 2010-2011. We are so grateful for the wisdom and guidance of this team of dedicated people.
- **Our Advisory Board:** We have been receiving wonderful support and counsel from our advisory board members, who include researchers in the field of social and emotional learning, youth development specialists, educational and organizational consultants, authors and speakers.
- **Liz Amore** continues to lead the work on our Web-based projects as well as running the operations of PassageWorks.
- **Laura Weaver** is the Director of Programs and Lead Faculty member at PassageWorks who has co-written a number of curricula and articles with Rachael. She will be presenting at The American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference this spring and will serve as the lead consultant for a new High School Project in Nebraska. She will be co-facilitating the April Foundation Course and June Teaching Presence Course.
- **Mark Wilding** is the Executive Director of PassageWorks. He will be attending a meeting at the Garrison Institute in May as a member of the leadership council for the Contemplative Education Project and will continue to lead our work with partner organizations around the country, including the Coalition for 21st Century Education in Colorado.

We have been moved by the tremendous amount of support we have been receiving on a daily basis. We welcome you to join in the future of PassageWorks. Please go to our [Get Involved](#) page to find out how to get involved in upcoming PassageWorks projects.

In gratitude,

The PassageWorks Team: Mark, Laura, Liz, and Batya