



# AMY THORNTON-KELLY

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## EXPERIENCE

### EDUCATION

#### ■ FOUNDER/DIRECTOR/TEACHER

Spring 2005 – June 2011

##### **Pacem Learning Community, Montpelier, VT.**

Founded, directed, and managed Pacem Learning Community, a non-profit homeschool center for 9 to 18 year olds, dedicated to the principles and promotion of peace as well as the arts, community, environmental intelligence, mindfulness and mastery.

Promoted and implemented inspiring, student-centered, and differentiated curriculum and teaching, small class size, individualized attention, a system of documentation and review, and non-compulsory class choice to maximize educational experience and intrinsic motivation.

Created a flexible program while maintaining an exceptional educational and social experience in order to establish minimal tuition rates for the economically disadvantaged. (To date, Vermont offers public options only to learning disabled, emotionally challenged, and at-risk students. It does not offer public options, such as charter schools, for students who need a small school, creative and academic environment.)

Implemented sociocracy/dynamic governance from Pacem's inception, creating the first educational organization in the United States to do so.

From the beginning, put secular meditation and outdoor experiential learning and play into daily practice for all students.

Created and produced visually and experientially inspiring community events including the spoken word Literary Extravaganza, The Showcase of the Arts, and the four-day Mountain and Service Retreat.

Opened Pacem in the fall of 2006 and grew it to become a robust, five-day a week program employing 10 faculty and staff on a \$100,000 budget. Pacem offered classes in peace studies, sciences, arts, literature and writing, independent student project, Japanese and French, and East Asian, ancient Greek, and indigenous American philosophy and cultures, as well as extracurricular activities and events and daily opportunities to create community for over 60 Central Vermont students and their families. Resigned in June, 2011 due to family needs. Pacem had a budget surplus of \$4,000. Pacem continues under new direction. Website: [www.pacemschool.org](http://www.pacemschool.org)

#### ■ CURRICULUM DEVELOPER AND TEACHER

Fall 2002 – present

##### **Pacem Learning Community, Connecticut Friends School, and independent classes, Fairfield County, CT and Central VT.**

Created and taught original and multi-intelligence curriculum for middle and high school classes including Journalism: Conventional to Contemporary, Creative Non-Fiction, The Script: Screenplay and Dramatic Writing, Eastern Spiritual Studies: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Tao, and Shinto, Student Independent Project, and a wide variety of unique fine art, multi-media and performing arts classes, including Swish!: Multi-Media Fine and Performing Art, Choreo 8: Pacem Dance Collective, and Hands-On Art History. Taught the Singapore Math curriculum to 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade students.

#### ■ HOMESCHOOL PARENT

Fall 2002 – present

Homeschooled our three children using student-driven, interdisciplinary project approach, documentation and review, and experiential education. Focused on creativity, depth of study, outdoor exploration and sports, environmental awareness, sustainability, exposure to global arts,

literature, and philosophy, and international cultural awareness. Encouraged and implemented a balance of freedom and responsibility (work ethic), as well as moral and spiritual inquiry. During this time, developed a small organic farm with a 40'X40' vegetable garden, raspberry and blueberry bushes, and cherry, plum, apple, pear, and peach trees; wrote for Scholastic.com and The Montpelier Bridge; founded Pacem Learning Community.

## PHOTOGRAPHY, TELEVISION, & VIDEO

- **PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Fairfield County, CT.

Ran avant-garde B&W portrait photography business. Grew local clientele. Won award in juried New England Photography Show and critical acclaim from the Stamford Advocate, CT.

**Aug 1995 – July 1997**
- **SENIOR PRODUCER**  
BAM! New York City, NY

Produced, and directed interactive educational and music videos for BAM!, an innovative interactive content developer (became Broadway Interactive Group before closing.)

**Sept 1993- April 1994**
- **FREELANCE PRODUCER**  
New York City, NY and Norwalk, CT

Produced, directed, edited, and wrote original proposals for ABCNews Interactive, (NYC, NY), Claypoint Productions, (NYC, NY), Kidder Peabody, (NYC, NY), and Imergy, (Norwalk, CT).

**Sept 1992 – June 1995**
- **PRODUCER/ ASSOCIATE PRODUCER**  
ABC News: Interactive, New York City, NY

Produced, directed, and edited, using the newly minted Avid system, interactive educational videodiscs, "TOBACCO", "THE POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT", and segments for videodiscs on substance abuse and The United States Congress. Produced and directed location shoots, including an original music video for "TOBACCO" and created and managed budgets. Productions were on time and within budget.

As Associate Producer, researched and provided editorial content, produced location shoots including an interview with President Jimmy Carter, and oversaw editing for two one-hour educational interactive videodiscs, "MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR." and "THE GREAT QUAKE OF '89."

**Jan 1989 – June 1991**
- **PRODUCTION COORDINATOR/ASSISTANT TO EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**  
ABC News: World News Tonight w/ Peter Jennings, NYC, NY

As Production Coordinator, produced location shoots, conducted on-camera interviews, and research audio, video, and editorial content for extended national news pieces with former Chief Correspondent, Richard Threlkeld. As the Assistant to the Executive Producer assisted in daily operation of evening national broadcast.

**Oct 1986 - Jan 1989**
- **PRODUCTION**  
New York City, NY

Worked as Assistant to Director Amos Poe on feature film, "ALPHABET CITY" during production and some post-production. Co-produced and directed a contemporary arts interview show, "ART GARDE," for Manhattan Cable. Assisted producer and editor on NOVA documentary, "TORNADOS." Coordinated post-production of TV series, "OMNI: VISIONS OF TOMORROW", assisted in production and worked as audio technician for television and radio commercials.

**Fall 1984 – Sept 1986**

## EDUCATION

- **ALTERNATE ROUTE TO CERTIFICATION, DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, STATE DEPT OF CONNECTICUT** **Jul – Aug 1993**  
 Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT  
 Attended six-week program and earned certification to teach Social Studies, grades 7-12, in the state of Connecticut.
- **BARNARD COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY** **Sept 1981 - May 1985**  
 B.A. Political Science, Magnum Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa.  
 Concentration in Latin American Studies.

## AWARDS

- THE SHORELINE ARTS ALLIANCE'S IMAGES – HONORS** **1996**  
 Received honors for abstract expressionist portrait photograph in Connecticut's only annual, statewide, professionally juried photography competition and exhibition. Judges include educators, curators, photographers, critics and gallery owners.
- NEW YORK FESTIVALS - BRONZE MEDAL** **1991**  
 Received bronze medal for production of *Martin Luther King Jr.*, an ABC News Interactive videodisc.
- USIA AND IIE - FULBRIGHT GRANT** **1985**  
 Received one year Fulbright grant from the United States Information Agency and Institute of International Education to study the Central American Peace Plan at the Universidad de los Andes, Colombia.

## PUBLICATIONS

- "Authentic, Meaningful Education." *Montpelier Bridge*. Aug 4-17, 2011. Pg. 14.  
[http://www.montpelierbridge.com/august4-11Bridge\\_10-11.pdf](http://www.montpelierbridge.com/august4-11Bridge_10-11.pdf)
- "Homeschool Learning Centers: An Inexpensive and Effective Educational Alternative." *Montpelier Bridge*. March 26, 2009. [http://www.montpelierbridge.com/mar26-09Bridge\\_9-16.pdf](http://www.montpelierbridge.com/mar26-09Bridge_9-16.pdf)
- "Pacem Learning Community." *Montpelier Bridge*. March 26, 2009. Pgs. 1,6.  
[http://www.montpelierbridge.com/mar26-09Bridge\\_1-8.pdf](http://www.montpelierbridge.com/mar26-09Bridge_1-8.pdf)
- "Creating Community in the Homeschool World." *Scholastic*. Aug. 2006.  
<http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=7183>
- "Why I Homeschool." *Scholastic*. Feb. 2005.  
<http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=1345>

## RADIO

- "Pacem Learning Community: Providing An Educational Option." *The Knitting Hour*, WGDR Goddard Community Radio. 2008.
- "Amy Thornton-Kelly & Retta Dunlap on homeschooling." *Vermont Edition with Jane Lindholm*. Sept. 21, 2008. [http://www.vpr.net/flash/audio\\_player/audio\\_player.php?id=26115](http://www.vpr.net/flash/audio_player/audio_player.php?id=26115)

## SKILLS

Business creation and management. Creative event production. Project management.  
Art direction, news and documentary video production and direction, digital video editing, photography, publication design.  
Multi-intelligence curriculum development. High school teaching: global and East Asian spiritual studies, writing, arts, math, student-directed project approach.  
Non-fiction writing.  
Vegetable and fruit farming.  
Visionary leadership.

## PASSIONS AND HOBBIES

Alternative education. Fine, performing, and multimedia arts. East Asian spiritual studies.  
Sustainable living. Journalism.  
The outdoors: from urban gardens to remote beaches and mountaintops.

*More:*

Nordic skiing (classic and skate), running, hiking, yoga, snorkeling, lake and ocean swimming.  
Fine arts museums, the performing arts, and independent movies.  
Pedestrian- and eco-friendly village and urban design.  
Organic and regenerative farming. Outdoor cooking.  
Indigenous cultural studies.  
Inspiring travel.  
Conga.