Workshop Title: Exploring Developmental Harmony through "Invisible Learning"
Presenter: David R. Weinberg
Workshop Date: Friday, March 16, 2012
Workshop: Session 2
Handout Title: The Harmony of Montessori Methodology

SUMMARY: This lecture illuminates the interrelationships of the curricula in the Montessori classroom and demonstrates how the "Prepared Environment" nurtures all areas of growth – the visible and the invisible – *simultaneously*.

GOALS AND OUTCOMES: Participants will gain greater understanding of the complexity of child development and become better observers.

PRESENTATION OUTLINE:

- **Basic Principles**
  A. The Child: Psychic life
  B. The Environment: Assimilation and personality

- **The Prepared Environment**
  A. Personality development
  B. Auto-education
  C. Self-construction

- **Observation**
  A. School as scientific laboratory
  B. Contemplation of lives unfolding
  C. Initiation of the teacher

- **Growth Factors:** (for example, use of the cylinder block)
  A. Sensory-motor development
  B. Small muscle development
  C. Refinement of perception
  D. Development of the will
  E. Development of self-discipline
  F. Development of independence
  G. Development of intelligence
  H. Development of self-esteem
  I. Foundation for creativity
  J. Social development
  K. Development of character

The above elements are happening *simultaneously.* They are the labors of childhood.

- **Contribution of the Prepared Environment**
    A. Characteristics
        a. Scaled for children (light furniture)
        b. Free movement
        c. Social development
    B. Materials of Scientific Design
        a. Initiate auto-education
        b. Lend themselves to repetition
        c. Lend themselves to self-correction
        d. Isolation of one difficulty
        e. Constant rate of change
    C. "How the Lessons Should be Given"
        a. Conciseness
        b. Simplicity
        c. Objectivity
        d. "Three Period Lesson"

- **Conclusion**
    A. Nurturing the visible and invisible
    B. The incredible harmony