



Mediators Beyond Borders™

Partnering for Peace & Reconciliation

Peace & Reconciliation Report

October 17, 2008

Dear Member,

Welcome to our membership newsletter. We encourage you to share your reflections, news items, and experiences with others in the MBB community via this newsletter.

To submit information or corrections for the next issue, please e-mail batokova.mbb@gmail.com by the 5th of each month. Submissions received after the deadline may not appear in the upcoming issue.

All links in the pdf file are active unless otherwise noted and you can access all web pages directly from the pdf file.

Sincerely,

Barbora Batokova
PR Report Editor

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Mark Your Calendars

Oct. 15-19

IACP 9th Annual Networking and Educational Forum
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Nov. 6-8

The Fourth Regional Conference of the South Eastern European Mediation Forum
Zagreb, Croatia

Nov. 7-8

SCMA 20th Annual Conference
Malibu, California

March 6-8, 2009

2nd Annual MBB Congress
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

In the Field

Hurricane Katrina Project

October

Susan Norwood, Thomas Valenti

Nepal

October

Fredrike Bannik

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Newsletter Questions & Corrections:

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What's New at MBB

MBB Welcomes New Student Intern

On Oct. 7, a new student intern from Chatham University, Kari Smith, started a work study program at MBB. Kari is a Global Policy Studies major. She will be doing research for The Liberian Initiative.

MBB presents a DVD "A Chance at Life"

MBB has finished the production of a DVD about Mediators Beyond Borders and The Liberian Initiative. Each member should expect to receive a copy in the next 2 weeks.

New Members

Founding Member:

Rhonda Neuhaus, Lido Beach, New York, USA

Mediator Member:

Prathamesh D. Popat, Mumbai, India

Student Supporter:

Holly Gorman, University of Maryland School of Law, Crownsville, Maryland, USA

Project News

MBB to Start a Project in Zimbabwe

MBB is considering starting a project in Zimbabwe and is looking for volunteers that would be interested in contributing to the effort. The group will put together an assessment and ultimately a proposal for the Board on what project(s) are best suited and for where at this time. There is a need for fundraising. If anyone is interested in helping with this initiative, please contact **MBB Board Director Anna Spain**, Los Angeles, California, USA at annaspain@gmail.com, as well as for any other information regarding future MBB's Zimbabwe initiatives. She will primarily be working with CS **Trevor Maisiri**, Mabelreign, Harare, Zimbabwe and FM **Sharon Maier**, Mill Valley, California, USA, who visited Zimbabwe last month.

The Liberian Initiative Project Team Trip Report

The Liberian Initiative Project Implementation team traveled to the Buduburam Refugee Settlement in Ghana and to various regions of Liberia from Sept. 17 - Oct. 3. For the first time, an undergraduate student from Chatham University Katana Bosetti, joined the team. The team members included: FM **David Joseph**, Smithfield, Rhode Island, USA; Board Director **Prabha Sankaranarayan**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA; and Student Intern **Richard Walker**, Kennesaw, Georgia, USA. MBB Investor **Robert Peirce** also joined MBB on this trip.

The team had the opportunity to be part of the Psycho-Social Training closing ceremony that took place on Sept. 21 at the Buduburam Refugee Settlement's SMA Campus. The Psycho-Social Training was part of MBB's Liberian Initiative and was developed by the University of Legon and delivered in partnership with the Progressive Life Center. The welcome statement was delivered by Franklin K. Wesseh, a trainee in the Plumbing Department. Prabha then introduced MBB and the MBB Project Team. Derrek Oppong, Clinician from the Progressive Life Center provided the audience with an overview of the training.



Students after the ceremony.

Member Publications

Negotiating the Economy: You Can't Save Your Face and Your Ass at the Same Time



MBB FM **Victoria Pynchon**, Los Angeles, California, USA published an article on mediate.com titled "Negotiating the Economy: You Can't Save Your Face and Your Ass at the Same Time."

To read the full article visit: <http://www.mediate.com/articles/pynchonV10.cfm>

Mediation Grows As Firms See The Benefit Of Finding Common Ground



MBB FM **John Sturrock**, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK published an article on mediate.com titled "Mediation Grows As Firms See The Benefit Of Finding Common Ground." The article was first published by The Scotsman, July 7, 2008

To read the full article visit: <http://www.mediate.com/articles/sturrockJ5.cfm>

Visitor, Complainant, Customer: Motivating Clients To Change In Mediation



MBB FM **Fredrike P. Bannik**, Amsterdam, Netherlands published an article on mediate.com titled "Visitor, Complainant, Customer: Motivating Clients To Change In Mediation."

To read the full article visit: <http://www.mediate.com/articles/banninkF2.cfm>

Donors

The Liberian Initiative Receives \$ 7,720 in Anonymous Donations

Four donors who prefer to remain anonymous donated a total of \$7,720 to the Liberian Initiative. MBB is grateful for the donations. The funds will be used towards the repatriation of former child soldiers from the Buduburam Refugee Settlement back to Liberia.

The Nepal Initiative Receives \$500

An anonymous donor donated \$500 towards the Nepal Initiative. MBB is grateful for the donation.

MBB Receives \$750 from Anonymous Donor

MBB received \$750 in unrestricted funds from an anonymous donor. MBB is grateful for the donation.

MBB Receives \$5,795 towards the Liberian Initiative in Memory of Jean Creo

MBB received \$5,795 in donations towards The Liberian Initiative in memory of Jean Creo, mother of **Robert A. Creo**, MBB Secretary-Treasurer.

The following people donated:

- * Frank and Barbara DeLuce
- * Diane Hartz
- * Andrew & Linda Siminerio

- * Armond Creo, Jr.
- * Leo & Mary Scalerao
- * Sandi DiMola
- * Prabha Sankaranarayan
- * Ingrid Lundberg
- * Jean Carrabba
- * Milt and Aerial Weisman
- * Tom Oswald and Cathi Miller
- * Anita Fabry

- * Edwin and Celia Hepner
- * Barbara Hepner
- * Linda Snider
- * Warren Ferry
- * Robert Peirce
- * Terry and Janice Kulchar
- * Alexis Vahanian

Quarles & Brady, LLC Donates \$1,000 in honor of FM Robin Doyle

MBB received an unrestricted donation of \$1,000 from Quarles & Brady, LLC in honor of Founding Member Robin Doyle. Robin retired and the firm made a donation to the charity of his choice, MBB.

Rothman Gordon donates \$1,500 towards The Liberian Initiative

Rothman Gordon, a Pittsburgh-based law firm, donated \$1,500 towards The Liberian Initiative. FM Louis Kushner, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA is a shareholder at Rothman Gordon and The Liberian Initiative volunteer. MBB Is very grateful for the donation.

Member Profiles

Keith L. Seat



Keith L. Seat is a full-time mediator, facilitator and arbitrator with extensive experience mediating commercial disputes and a strong telecommunications/technology background.

He is an adjunct professor of alternative dispute resolution at the University of Maryland School of Law, and frequently trains and speaks on mediation.

He joined MBB in February 2007 as a Founding Member. He is

one of the editors for the World Mediation News, a monthly MBB newsletter that features links to the latest news about mediation and peacekeeping categorized by region. He also prepares a general mediation newsletter and is the mediation news editor of Mediate.com.

Mr. Seat was formerly the General Counsel of the Antitrust,

Business Rights and Competition Subcommittee of the United States Senate Judiciary Committee, where he played a significant role in the enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; was senior in-house counsel at a major telecommunications firm; and previously practiced law for many years as a litigator at Howrey LLP, following a federal clerkship.

Mr. Seat was trained in mediation at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at the Pepperdine University School of Law. He received additional mediation training from the Harvard Negotiation Insight Initiative at Harvard Law School and the Center for Dispute Settlement. He holds a J.D. from the University of Missouri School of Law.

Among other professional affiliations, Mr. Seat is a fellow of the International Academy of Mediators and a board member of the Global Negotiation Insight Institute.

To see his profile online visit:

www.mbbmembers.org/member_profiles/kseat.shtml

Personal Website: www.keithseat.com

Board Member Profile

Annette M. van Riemsdijk



Annette M. van Riemsdijk, *Bilthoven, The Netherlands* is a Certified Mediator with several organizations and has a distinguished record in ADR practice as a solicitor since 1988 and as a mediator since 1993.

She lives in The Netherlands and works in Europe, the United States and Africa. She is a full-time dispute resolution neutral and provides mediation training. Since 1996 she has been a board member of The Netherlands Mediation Institute responsible for international affairs.

To view her profile online, visit www.mbbmembers.org/member_profiles/ariemsdijk.shtml.

Chapter News

MBB LA Chapter Meets with Deanna Armbruster from NSWAS

By FM Dorit Cypis
Los Angeles, California, USA

On October 11, eight MBB members of the Los Angeles Chapter, met with Deanna Armbruster of Neve Shalom Wahat el Salaam for dialogue (NSWAS). We met in the Public Dialogue room at the exhibition “Foreign Exchanges: Galileo”, by artist and MBB FM, Dorit Cypis, which addresses identity and cultural difference. As this room has been arranged with circles of distinctly unique chairs, each person chose a chair to occupy, as a different way of defining themselves.

Deanna described at length the history and present state of NSWAS, its complexity and changing relations with the po-

litical climate in Israel. Dialogue became deeply interesting when we began to see how traditional rational and linear thinking about identity and prejudice breaks down when it is experienced in day-to-day reality.

This distinction is a core principal of discussions on identity and especially for MBB members working in other cultures, it is important to see that identity both has symbolic meaning and simultaneously is defined by experience.

MBB LA and Deanna agreed to continue discussing possible ways of working with NSWAS in the future.

Please see below the contribution from Deanna Armbruster.

Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam (“Oasis of Peace”)

By Deanna Armbruster, Executive Director
American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam

Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam (“Oasis of Peace” in Hebrew and Arabic) is the only community in Israel where Jews and Palestinians, have made a determined choice to live, work and educate their children together in the spirit of equality.

The village was founded in 1972 by Father Bruno Hussar, born Jewish and converted to Catholicism, he envisioned a community where Jews, Muslims and Christians would set an example for the region by creating an environment of trust, understanding and mutual respect. Located midway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, the “Oasis of Peace” consists of 55 families, equal numbers of Jewish and Palestinian families who are all citizens of the State, with another 500 families on a waiting list.

Educational projects in the community allow it to exert a positive influence on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict extending beyond its own borders. These include its School for Peace, the first ever bilingual, binational, multicultural Primary School and the Pluralistic Spiritual Center.

School for Peace: Founded in 1979, more than 40,000 youth and adults have participated in facilitated conflict management workshops addressing issues such as equality, rights, justice, identity, and resources. A leader in dialogue and conflict management, activities include university courses, programs for women, training programs in facilitation and workshops for teenagers.

In recent years, programs supported by the United States Agency for International Development and the European Union have focused on creating a cadre of leaders in civil society and developing negotiation frameworks for future peace agreements.

The Primary School: Founded in 1983, the Primary School (K-6) is the first bilingual, binational, multicultural Jewish-Arab school in the region. Offering classes to in both Hebrew

and Arabic while recognizing issues of national identities, the school draws 90% of its students from communities surrounding the village.

Special activities include a state of the art Language Laboratory, a Multi-Media Resource Center, an Archaeology Project where children are uncovering a Byzantine floor, a Zoo Lab for interactions with animals and the Ecology Project to teach children about the impact environmental issues. Other bilingual schools in the region are based on the model at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam.

The Pluralistic Spiritual Center: In memory of Father Bruno Hussar, the center coordinates seminars and lectures on spiritual and ethical values. Programs include Dirasat, three seminars on Feminism in Islam, the Image of Jesus in Hebrew Literature and A Christian Palestinian Reading of the Old Testament.

Another program, Mediation in a Multicultural Context is developing a topology of mediation in a multicultural society, aiming to publish a curriculum based on pilot training of mediators and mediator-trainers, focusing on the role and process of mediation between the Jewish and Arab-Palestinian society in this context.

A program for youth, “Massar Masa” brought together young people to discover the stories of their shared homeland and rediscover hope in the possibility of living together in peace.

Awards: The village has been nominated five times for the Nobel Peace Prize and awarded several prestigious peace prizes from organizations in Japan, Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom, Israel, and the United States.

For more information: Deanna Armbruster, Executive Director, American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, 12925 Riverside Drive, 3rd Floor, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423 Tel: 818-325-8884, Deanna@oasisofpeace.org, www.oasisofpeace.org. (AFNSWAS is a 501c3 not for profit organization).

Upcoming Events

Advanced Mediation Skills Training

The Pittsburgh Mediation Training Alliance is pleased to announce its first training in mediation with trainer and MBB FM **Bernie Behrend**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. The training will take place Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m on the 3rd floor of 134 Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and seating is limited to 24 participants.

Topics will include: • Effective interventions: what, when and why. • Harnessing the power of the parties. • Handling emotions in a rational process. • Dealing with disruptions.

• The myths of impasse, compromise & power imbalance

This 6-hour interactive course builds on basic mediation skills training and in-the field experience.

Tuition: \$219, lunch included

To register send contact info and check made out to Pittsburgh Mediation Training Alliance to: **Rick Rogow** to the address listed above.

IACP 9th Annual Networking and Educational Forum, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

The International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) Forum this year seeks to discuss and explore the opportunities and challenges facing collaborative communities throughout the world: **How do we Step Up and Reach Out?** The Forum will feature 48 workshops, eight pre-forum institutes, as well as opportunities to join New Orleans community projects.

The Forum takes place on **October 15-19, 2008** at the **Sheraton New Orleans Hotel**, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

For more information visit www.collaborativepractice.com/_t.asp?M=8&MS=4&T=New-Forum
To register for the IACP Forum 2008 visit: www.collaborativepractice.com/RegForum2008.asp

Basic Mediation Training - Focusing on Sources of Conflict & Systems Approach

The next mediation and conflict transformation training by Baltimore Mediation titled **Basic Mediation - Focusing on Sources of Conflict and Systems Approach** will be held from **October 22 through Friday October 24**. The training offers 20-hour mediation and conflict transformation and resolution theory and skills with a focus on sources of conflict and a systems approach to conflict and intervention, with certification for circuit court mediators and for daily use and practice.

The training will be held at the Gramercy Mansion Carriage House (1400 Greenspring Valley Road, Baltimore, MD 21153-0119). The fee is \$745 and includes 20-hour certificated courses, light meals and a training manual.

Visit www.baltimoremediation.com/tw_20b_basic2.php for additional details and to fill out a registration form.

The Fourth Regional Conference of the South Eastern European Mediation Forum

The Fourth Regional Conference of the South Eastern European Mediation Forum will take place **November 6-8, 2008** in Zagreb, Croatia.

The South Eastern European Mediation Forum promotes and performs mediation through direct activities and networking with local and external networks and organizations, and seeks to include all forms of mediation and mediators. The purpose of the 2008 SEEMF conference is two-fold:

1) **Advocacy for more political support for Mediation in the Region:** To build political support and understanding of mediation, SEEMF would like to invite policy makers and high-level ministers and court officials to attend the event and hear more about the successful implementation of mediation in the region and to learn about the impact mediation has had and can have on the administration of justice and

resolution of costly disputes in transitional countries.

2) **Skills building for Mediators:** SEEMF would like to offer the region's practicing mediators an on-going educational opportunity to receive advanced skills training in sophisticated areas of practice from seasoned regional and international experts.

The goal of the conference is to continue to build relationships and networks of mediation professionals and policy makers throughout the region to support each other's work and grow the mediation field in South Eastern Europe.

For info contact Eva Malisius from the CSSProject for Integrative Mediation at +49 30 227-77110 or emalisius@cssproject.org.

SCMA 20th Annual Conference

The Southern California Mediation Association will hold its 20th annual conference titled **“The New Frontier Science of the Mind: Tools for Negotiators”** on Nov. 7 - 8, 2008.

The conference will be held at:

Pepperdine University

Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution
24255 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, California 90263

MBB Members who will be featured speakers and moderators at the conference include MBB Secretary-Treasurer **Robert A. Creo**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA; **Fredrike Bannik**, Amsterdam, Netherlands; **Woody Mosten**, Los Angeles, California, USA and Board Director **Doug Noll**, Clovis, California, USA.

Participants will have the opportunity to advance their understanding about how the brain directs perception, behavior, emotion and decision in negotiation settings. They will learn how to apply the latest discoveries in the world of science to the practical and real world of resolving disputes.

Leading authorities who have recently made headlines around the world will present their discoveries about brain's neuroplasticity, mindfulness, solution focusing, and sensitivity to fairness.

For further information call 1-877-963-3428 or e-mail scmaoffice@yahoo.com.

www.scmmediation.org

Public Conversations Project Workshops

The Power of Dialogue

Constructive Conversations on Divisive Issues

Learn to facilitate constructive conversations about divisive issues between groups and individuals by shifting communications and relationships. Mediators, facilitators, educators, clinicians, clergy, and consultants have benefited from using PCP's approach in their work.

- November 12–14, 2008, Boston area
- June 11–13, 2009, Boston area

Staying Grounded When on the Spot A Facilitation Workshop

Unforeseen challenges are a constant when facilitating groups. Learn a new model for responding and try fresh approaches in this hands-on workshop.

- April 30–May 1, 2009, Boston area

Inquiry as Intervention

Crafting Questions with Purpose and Impact

Questions and the way they are asked open or close the doors of new possibilities in clinical, administrative, and personal settings. Explore the power of crafting, asking, and responding to questions to help clients transform conflict in their lives.

- April 6, 2009, Boston area

To register or for more information:

E-mail: training@publicconversations.org

Phone: 888.727.8326 X13

Website: www.publicconversations.org

PCP workshops have limited enrollments, sliding scale fees, and offer CE credits through NASW, APA, NBCC, and MAMFT. Workshop costs range from \$125 to \$250 per day, depending on location.

2nd Annual MBB Congress - New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

We have started planning the second MBB Annual Congress, which will be held in New Orleans at the **Chateau LeMoine** from March 6-8, 2009. The program will start at 3 p.m. on Friday March 6 and end on Sunday March 8 at 4 p.m.

There are several events that will take place before and after the Congress:

- Katrina Project – March 3-4
- Board of Directors Meeting – March 5-6
- Mississippi Mediation Project – March 9-10

We have reserved a special block of 60 rooms at \$125 (30 double rooms and 30 single rooms). You may begin making reservations at the hotel by calling 1-800-972-2791 or online at www.hi-chateau.com. To receive the special rate, please indicate the group identification code, which is MBB. To register for the Congress, visit: www.mbbmembers.org/congress/registration.shtml. Early bird registration runs until January 3, 2009 at \$180. Regular registration fee is \$195.



MBB Administration

MBB Contact Information

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Member Dues

Mediator Member dues are a minimum of US \$1 per day payable annually or quarterly. Members are encouraged to contribute an additional amount if they have the ability to do so. Excess dues are utilized to sponsor members who otherwise would not be able to participate. A member has the option of designating a specific individual to be sponsored by the excess dues; otherwise MBB allocates additional contributions to those seeking financial support. For example, some of our members in Africa and South America are sponsored in this manner. The ability to sponsor participation is limited to the amount of excess contribution pool.

Each member is assigned a quarterly renewal date based upon the join date. Due statements are e-mailed February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15 with due dates 6 weeks later, with quarterly participants paying each time. For administrative purposes, it has been determined this is the fairest, simplest and efficient manner. Please note that members have the option of paying online via PayPal, which is slightly higher as it includes the processing fee. Fees can also be paid by a check made payable to Mediators Beyond Borders to be mailed to the Pittsburgh headquarters.

Citizen Supporters make a minimum contribution of 10 cents per day – US \$36.50. Citizen renewal date is individual based upon the join date of each supporter. **Student membership** period renews Oct. 1. The dues are US \$18.25 per year.

Purpose of Membership Dues

Membership dues do not fund any projects or initiatives. They are solely used to support the administration of the office, and are used for salaries of staff, interns and expenses for website, office supplies and insurance.

Overhead

Currently all administrative expenses and overhead are provided from membership dues and supporter donations. Robert A. Creo, MBB Secretary-Treasurer, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA and Sandi DiMola, MBB Director, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, donate office space for MBB. All directors, officers and mediators serve as volunteers and do not receive any compensation for their administrative or professional services. Directors and members expend their personal funds to participate in conferences and activities on behalf of MBB. Neither the officers nor directors receive any reimbursement for travel or other expenses.

Board of Directors - Financial Statements

Financial statements are issued quarterly for Board of Directors and distributed annually to membership. If anyone would like a copy of the most recent one, please e-mail Melissa Okins, MBB Administrative Assistant.