



Mediators Beyond Borders™

Partnering for Peace & Reconciliation

Peace & Reconciliation Report

November 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

December 9-11, 2008

International ADR India
Mumbai, India

March 6-8, 2009

2nd Annual MBB Congress
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

March 13-15, 2009

1st International Conference
on Religion, Conflict, and Peace
Rochester, Michigan USA

March 31

Nan Waller Burnett Kaplan Lecture
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

MBB Office

1807 Jancey Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15206-1065
Phone: 412-441-1151
Fax: 412-441-1152
www.MediatorsBeyondBorders.org

Newsletter Questions & Corrections:

E-mail Barbora Batokova
MBB Communications Director
batokova.mbb@gmail.com

What's New at MBB

New Members

New Mediator Members:

Leland Anderson, Denver, Colorado, USA
P. Mark Kirwin, Ventura, California, USA

New Student Supporters:

Seth Knight, University of Pittsburgh, USA
Mariela Villar, California State Dominguez Hills, USA

Project News

Hurricane Katrina Project Co-sponsors an Event on Conflict Resolution Day

By FM **Thomas P. Valenti**

Chicago, Illinois, USA

In 2005, the Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR) Board of Directors designated the third Thursday in October as the Conflict Resolution Day to increase public awareness about conflict resolution and to encourage individuals, conflict resolution organizations, and local, state and international groups to hold celebrations.

This year, the Conflict Resolution Day fell on October 16 and Mediators Beyond Borders (MBB) was asked by members of the community in New Orleans to co-sponsor an event to celebrate the day. Since MBB already had its Hurricane Katrina Project Team in place, addressing conflict resolution issues in New Orleans, it was easy to embrace and support the event.

The MBB Hurricane Katrina Project Team, working closely with the *Hurricane Katrina Project Local Coordinator* Susan Norwood of the Family Mediation Council of Louisiana, and in cooperation with Community Mediation Services of New Orleans, put together a program entitled " How To Get What You Want Through Effective Communication." Approximately thirty members of local ADR practitioners, educators and non-profit community members from the following agencies attended the event:

- Family Mediation Council
- Neighborhood Housing Services
- United for Peace in New Orleans
- The Porch/7th Ward Neighborhood Center
- Common Ground Health Clinic
- United Saints' First Street Recovery Project
- Urban League of Greater New Orleans
- Mayor's Office of Recovery and Development Administration
- Hands On New Orleans
- Lower 9th Ward Village
- City Year
- Twomey Center for Peace Through Justice at Loyola University
- American Red Cross
- Louisiana Spirit
- Teaching Responsible Earth Education
- Community Mediation Services

MBB members who participated in the event were:

- **Nan Waller Burnett**, Board Director
- **Tom Valenti**, Hurricane Katrina Project Leader



Project Leader Tom Valenti, FM Craig Distelhorst, Holly Garmann, a member of MBB University Chapter at the University Maryland, and Board Director Nan Waller Burnett on Conflict Resolution Day in New Orleans.



Lower 9th Ward

- **Susan Norwood**, Hurricane Katrina Project Local Coordinator
- **FM Bonnie Yaeger**
- **FM Craig Distelhorst**

The morning session consisted of presentations by Nan, Susan, Ed Buckner from The Porch and Lou Furman from Turning Point Partners. Participants listened to presenta-

tions on negotiating and conflict styles as well as listening skills. Participants were instructed on distinguishing between “positions” and “interests.” After enjoying lunch at Café Reconcile, the afternoon session involved additional skill acquisition and role-playing through conflicts brought to the group by participants. The day concluded with MBB members making themselves available for consultations for anyone who was present.

Feedback after the event can be summarized as positive. Many of the attendees are anxiously waiting for more

events and some have asked MBB to sponsor specific training for their organizations, including the Common Ground and Cafe Reconcile.

Hurricane Katrina Project Team will consider the requests and expressed ideas very seriously. The next event of the Hurricane Katrina Project will be held in New Orleans from March 3-4, 2009 to conduct further skill training in conjunction with the second MBB Annual Congress in New Orleans from March 6-7, 2009



FM Susan Norwood



FM Craig Distelhorst, Project Leader Tom Valenti, Board Director Nan Waller Burnett and FM Bonnie Yaeger on Conflict Resolution Day.

The Zimbabwe Initiative Project Team Forms

MBB is now officially exploring the opportunities to start a project in Zimbabwe.

FM **Sharon Maier**, Mill Valley, California, USA is now the Project Leader for The Zimbabwe Initiative and CS **Trevor Maisiri**, Mabelreign, Harare, Zimbabwe is the In-country Project Liaison. **MBB Board Director Anna Spain**, Los Angeles, California, USA will continue to serve as the Board Liaison.

Sharon visited Zimbabwe in September and was able to meet with Trevor and Nosisa Ncube, Rotary Peace & Conflict Studies participant.

The Project Team will be moving into the project proposal, trip planning and fundraising stages over the next few months. The objective is to submit a project proposal to the Board of Directors this spring. If the project is accepted, the Project Team will convene a trip planning organization meeting at the second Annual MBB Congress in New Orleans from March 6-8, 2009. There the Project Team will discuss who will travel for the first official first assessment trip, benefit from lessons learned from The Liberian Initiative Project Team, conduct necessary training and prepare for the first trip.



Anna Spain



Sharon Maier



Trevor Maisiri

Please RSVP to Anna at annaspain@gmail.com if you wish to be a part of the Zimbabwe Committee and have the time to dedicate to this important initiative. The Zimbabwe team is already registered at the new MBB Forum, where members can log in to read updates and communicate with the team.

Trevor has also prepared a PowerPoint presentation outlining the conflict and potential local partners. If you would like to view the presentation, e-mail **Barbora Batokova** at batokova.mbb@gmail.com.

Fredrike Bannik Travels to Nepal for Assessment

During her assessment trip to Nepal in October, FM **Fredrike Bannik** was able to meet with PPR Nepal (Forum for Protection of People's rights) on October 21 and with the Center for Legal Research and Resource Development (CeLRRd) on October 22. Below are her brief reports of the meetings:

PPR Meeting

It was a great pleasure to meet with Hemang Sharma, executive director PPR, and D.N. Parajuli, also working for the PPR. They are very dedicated to mediation and helping the people of Nepal. They told me about the start of PPR in 2002 and how PPR has been able to expand since then, practicing since 2004. Now there are 7 offices outside Kathmandu already. Their aim is to combine the legal aspects in mediation with psychological findings and best practice. I am very impressed by all the initiatives of the PPR and what they already achieved. The climate for mediation is very positive in Nepal at this moment. The PPR is already working in three areas:

1. Access to Justice

PPR provides court referred mediations and community based mediations. They organize many trainings in various parts of Nepal. The mediation model used is the problem solving model and Harvard negotiation model. The training consists of a 6-day program. PPR is also interested and already providing legal aid in restorative justice. They wrote a report: *Rehabilitation and Reintegration Denied? A critical analysis of Juvenile Justice System in Nepal (2007)*, in which victim-offender dialogue (or better survivor-offender dialogue) is used. PPR hopes that mediation will be installed in all courts in Nepal, also the appeal courts and the supreme court.

2. Human Rights

PPR is interested in juvenile and restorative justice and would like to expand that part of their work and trainings.

3. Capacity Building

PPR provides training about psychosocial counselling. A 4-months and a 6-months training are provided. Counselling is offered to women and to conflict victims/survivors. The trainees are not mediators here. PPR is planning on including commercial mediations as well in their work.

I had a meeting in Kathmandu with a radio (Radio Sagar-matha FM) and local newspaper journalist named Samjhana Maharjan. She is very enthusiastic about mediation, about which she didn't know about, and how mediation can be of help to the "man in the street," so to speak. She is planning to contact PPR and work together with them in raising awareness about mediation for the people of Nepal.

PPR hopes that MBB can help with:

1. Providing mediation training (best practices, advanced training)
2. Research
3. Outcome measurement
4. Working together with institutions and persons abroad
5. Political implementation of mediation in Nepal
6. Psychosocial training
7. Restorative justice: information and training



Fredrike Bannik
MBB Founding Member



Hemang Sharma
PPR Executive Director



D. N. Parajuli
PPR



Kishor Silwal
CeLRRd Director



Rammani Gautam
CeLRRd Project Manager



Sudeep Gautam
CeLRRd Program Coordinator

I recently provided PPR with some digital articles I have on restorative justice, and some articles of mine on solution focused mediation and on Post-traumatic Success. It would be a pleasure to meet the people of the PPR again and work with them in the future.

CeLRRd Meeting

It was a great pleasure to meet with Kishor Silwal, CeLRRd Director and Rammani Gautam, CeLRRd Project Manager, and Sudeep Gautam, CeLRRd Kathmandu Program Coordinator. They too are very dedicated to mediation and how mediation can help the people in Nepal.

CeLRRd is committed to bring about systemic change in the society through promotion of rule of law, good-governance and fostering human rights and ensuring accessibility to justice for all. Their slogan is: "Promote Mediation, Restore Relation."

Since 2002 CeLRRd is working in the following areas:

- community mediation and human rights training
- court referred mediation
- court annexed mediation

They have trained over 1400 mediators already, and have a program in 7 districts. Of the community mediators one third is women. They provide an 8-day training, 3-day advanced training and train the trainers program. The model used is the Harvard negotiation model and problem solving model.

Outcome measurement is already done with follow-up meetings 3-6 months after the mediation. CelRRD is also interested in starting Truth & Reconciliation Committees in Nepal.

CelRRD hopes that MMB can help with:

1. Development of restorative justice and victim-offender mediation
2. Development of truth & reconciliation committees or peace committees
3. Organizing a national mediators network/organization

4. Affiliate membership of MMB, since the costs are too high to become regular members
5. Materials on mediation
6. Trainings on restorative justice

The Nepal Initiative group is led by *Board Director C.J. Larkin* in collaboration with the Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri. If you are interested in volunteering with The Nepal Initiative, e-mail C.J. at larkin@wulaw.wustl.edu.

Member Publications

A Tool for Multi-Party Insurance Litigation Mediation with “Additional Insureds”



MBB FM **Jeff Kichaven**, *Los Angeles, California, USA* published an article on mediate.com titled “A Tool for Multi-Party Insurance Litigation Mediation with ‘Additional Insureds’”

To read the full article visit: <http://www.mediate.com/articles/kichavenJ15.cfm>

Building Bridges Between Psychology And Conflict Resolution



MBB President **Ken Cloke**, *Santa Monica, California, USA* published an article on mediate.com titled “Building Bridges Between Psychology And Conflict Resolution – Implications For Mediator Learning.”

To read the full article visit: <http://www.mediate.com/articles/cloke7.cfm>

Board Member Profile

Prabha Sankaranarayan



Prabha Sankaranarayan, *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA* is a developmental specialist and mediator with extensive experience as a child and family therapist. A partner at Snyder & Sankar Associates, Prabha has spent the last fifteen years working with start-up, growing and changing non-profit organizations. Skilled in non-profit management, strategic planning, facilitation, collabora-

tion and community organization, her practice includes consultations for national organizations, statewide coalitions, local and regional Child Welfare, Mental Health, Advocacy and Family Violence focused organizations.

One of the primary focus areas of her experience has been in developing and implementing programs designed to meet the needs of communities and families impacted by

violence. Prabha has over twelve years experience as a mediator in the areas of family, organizational, community, and victim-offender disputes. She was, for five years, an Adjunct Professor at the School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh; served on the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape’s Statewide Taskforce on Traumatic Memory, coordinated PA’s Homeland Security Crime Victim Response Plan, chaired the board of CONTACT Pittsburgh (a suicide hotline), and serves as a member of the Female Services Subcommittee of the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

She was a team member for Tsunami Relief efforts in Sri Lanka to provide Psychological First Aid, and continues to serve as a member of the Keystone Crisis Intervention Team (KCIT). She speaks Tamil & Hindi, understands, Kannada, Malayalam and Gujarati.

At MBB, Prabha is the Field Coordinator for The Liberian Initiative and is a member of the Administrative Committee and the Technology & Information Systems Committee.

Donors

MBB Receives Additional \$650 towards the Liberian Initiative in Memory of Jean Creo

During October, MBB received \$5,795 in donations towards The Liberian Initiative in memory of Jean Creo, mother of **Robert A. Creo**, MBB Secretary-Treasurer. In November, MBB has received additional \$650 and is very grateful for the donations.

The following people donated:

Alan E. Gross, Ken Cloke, Kimberly Kisner, Murray and Dianne Shapiro, The Dickens Family.

Contribution

Creating a Culture of Peace



By Deri Joy Ronis, Ph.D.

I have been a member of the Men's International Peace Exchange since its inception almost a decade ago. It is an organization comprised of both men and women who seek to create a world based on the admonition of wise souls who have gone before us.

I think often of Mahatma Gandhi's vision to "be the change you wish to see in the world." Since September 11, 2001, we continue to feel the effects of that day and of course in the ongoing aftermath in Iraq. We are informed daily about issues many of us find hard to believe; nor can we even fathom the absurdity of what we hear. We wonder what is true, especially since the truth shall set us free. There is no place to run or hide. Our species is really being asked to examine what creates violence, not only in the political sense, but also within ourselves. One of the chapters in my book, *Bridging the Gap to Peace: From a New Way of Thinking into Action* takes a look at the inter relationship of brain chemicals to terrorism.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama writes: "in order to promote non-violence, ultimately we have to address motivation through education, through awareness... Your survival, your success, your progress are very much related with others' well being... destruction of your enemy is actually destruction of yourself." He speaks of an inner disarmament, one that allows our own view (s) of the world, along with others and ourselves to become healthier. With all the wisdom we have at our fingertips, our job is to become increasingly more aware of how our behavior creates the world we inhabit. Be conscious of what you say, know your intention, the motivation for it and the desired result.

The science of yoga, thousands of years old includes the understanding required to bring about peace of mind, expressed both in our physical health and in the world. Metaphysics expresses that recognition of who we are and how we act as the energy or force field that gets circulated and created in the world. I sometimes wonder how much say we really do have as individuals when it comes to political deci-

sions that affect the balance of the whole world. Spiritually speaking, many people suggest that everything is perfect the way it is unfolding, the eternal march towards the evolution of consciousness. It is hard to know this in the face of all the challenges we see via the media. If the government of United States was established as a government for the people, by the people and of the people it is time to do what Dwight Eisenhower once suggested... "One day the governments had better get out of the way and give the people what they want."

Rather than wallow in inertia, anger and sorrow, it is time for us to take a stand on creating more peace in the world by creating more peace within our minds and how we act. In creating a culture of peace, it is not surprising that this decade's theme by the United Nations is the same goal. Although men have long played the role in politics, more women will start to make a difference. It is not so much our "gender," but the boxes that we put on how men and women should act. All of us are being asked to create a culture of accountability.

The greatest gift we can give each other is the gift of compassion. If we do not "wake up," then we are guilty of pointing the finger at others who do what we want to forget. Forgiveness is recognizing that what we judge in another must also be within ourselves. I recall a time where I was giving a talk about this same theme, and a woman in the audience said she couldn't understand that, and in the next sentence she vehemently described her anger toward her former son-in-law, saying she "wanted to kill him!" Although this is not said in an international context, the theme is the same. Judgmental attitudes create chaos.

Whilst our country has many flaws, it is still one of the "most free" and our task is to keep her honest. We have an enormous task ahead of us, but it is one that can be undertaken with love and awareness. Love for ourselves, for our fellow humans, and awareness of the opportunity we have to grow spiritually and to practice "tikkun olam," help to heal the world. It is a task in which all men and women can work together; to rise up and take on the challenge of bringing more light into the darkness. It is time. Everything we do needs to bring us closer to this goal.

I welcome your comments and inquiries at DrDeri@aol.com.

In the Media

MBB featured in Public Conversations Project Newsletter

MBB was featured in an article titled "Using PSP Dialogue in Liberia" published in the Fall 2008 issue of Public Conversations Project. The article can be downloaded from [www.mediate.com/MWB/docs/Using PCP Dialogue in Liberia.pdf](http://www.mediate.com/MWB/docs/Using_PCP_Dialogue_in_Liberia.pdf)

Upcoming Events

Certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution, University of Cambridge

The courses in Alternative Dispute Resolution at the University of Cambridge have been developed by professional ADR practitioners and professional organisations to enable professionals and individuals in virtually any sector to develop and apply the concepts and practice of ADR in their own circumstances and context.

Attend our four day workshop 17-20 November 2008 in Cambridge to gain an important tool kit for collaboratively managing and resolving conflict.

For more information about the Certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution and other courses at the University of Cambridge visit: www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk/profstudies/adr/

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 LeMoyne** 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.



1st International Conference on Religion, Conflict, and Peace

The 1st International Conference on Religion, Conflict, and Peace: Journey Through Fear of the Unknown To Understanding And Harmony will take place **March 13-15, 2009** at the **Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan USA**.

An international forum promoting inter-religious and intra-religious dialogue to explore the challenges of extremism, intolerance, scapegoating, and Islamophobia, and the promise of reason, understanding, compassion, and cultural harmony. This multi-disciplinary, multi-cultural conference is co-sponsored by the Oakland University, Common Bond

Institute, and International Humanistic Psychology Association.

Registration is open to all and continuing education credits are available.

More Information:

Common Bond Institute

Steve Olweean, Director, SOlweean@aol.com

1.269.665.9393 (Phone and Fax)

Website: <http://www.cbiworld.org>

MBB Administration

MBB Contact Information

Ken Cloke, *President*
Santa Monica, California, USA
kenclokembb@gmail.com

Robert A. Creo, *Secretary-Treasurer*
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
bobcreombb@gmail.com

Melissa Okins, *Administrative Assistant*
melissambb@gmail.com

Barbora Batokova, *Communications Director*
batokovambb@gmail.com

Ann Sanders, *Intern, The Liberian Initiative*
ann.sanders@gmail.com

Kari Smith, *Research Intern, The Liberian Initiative*
ksmithmbb@gmail.com

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 donates 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.