



Peace & Reconciliation Report

December 17, 2007

Welcome to our bi-monthly 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 for the next issue, please e-mail batokovambb@gmail.com by the first and third Wednesday of each month. The newsletter will be sent out every other Friday.

Mark Your Calendars:

Meeting for MD, D.C. & Northern VA
Washington D.C., USA

January 17
UMD School of Law Organizational Meeting
University of Maryland, Columbia, MD

January 21
Pathways to Reconciliation
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

January 21
The Promise of Nonviolence
Washington, D.C., USA

February 15 – 18
MBB Inaugural Congress
St. Malo, Colorado, USA

February 18
Erica Ariel Fox at Regis University
Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

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In the Field:

The Liberian Initiative
January 2 – 12
Accra, Ghana

Hurricane Katrina Project
March 5 – 8
Biloxi, Mississippi, USA
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

More info at www.MediatorsBeyondBorders.org

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What's New at MBB

MBB Board of Directors Elections

The Board is in the process of finalizing an election process, whereby directors are elected from the membership. This will require an amendment of the By-Laws. A nomination committee is being formulated and the membership will be solicited for nominations soon. At the inaugural congress, a formal committee structure will be determined and implemented. Volunteers will be sought from the membership so that those who are unable to attend in Colorado can contribute to the MBB Mission.

Project Initiatives Updates

Pittsburgh Somali Refugee Project

Team members of the Pittsburgh Somali Bantu project *Board Director* **Sandi DiMola** and *Founding Members* **Prabha Sankaranarayan** and **Martha Harty**, all from *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA*, have had several meetings and identified a community partner – **The Center for Victims of Violence and Crime (CVVC)**. The team is now writing a proposal to fund the activities for the next year. The proposal is titled "Application of the 'Third Side' Model to Resolution of Ethnic Tensions at Arsenal Middle School." The proposal is one that addresses ameliorating ethnic violence by focusing on building capacity within the communities of Lawrenceville for social integration and community mediation.

The Liberian Initiative

Project Panel member **Prabha Sankaranarayan**, *Founding Member, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA* filed a grant with the USIP for the Liberian Initiative. The grant is pending with notice if accepted by March 1, 2008.

Current Projects

Project Name	Board Liaison	Project Panels	MBB Members Involved	Partners	Supporting Student Chapter
The Liberian Initiative	Robert Creo	Harriet Nettles Ingrid Lundberg P. Sankaranarayan	Penelope Bissett Bartuah Ninwillay	Child Soldier Reintegration Fund	
	<i>ghana.mbb@gmail.com</i>		<i>http://www.mediatorsbeyondborders.org/pg83.cfm</i>		
Hurricane Katrina Project – Mississippi/New Orleans	Nan Waller Burnett	Ken Cloke Joan Goldsmith Louise Phipps Senft Marvin Johnson Linda Hughes Tony Nowak Patricia Porter Robin Doyle			Regis University, Denver, Colorado
	<i>neworleans.mbb@gmail.com</i>		<i>http://www.mediatorsbeyondborders.org/pg85.cfm</i>		
Pittsburgh Somali Refugee Project	Sandi DiMola	P. Sankaranarayan Martha Harty		The Center for Victims of Violence and Crime (CVVC)	University of Pittsburgh
	<i>somaliproject.mbb@gmail.com</i>				

Potential Projects (that have been put forth for explanation by a member or a potential partner)

Project Name	Board Liaison	Project Panels	MBB Members Interested	Potential Partners	Supporting Student Chapter
First Nation/Native American Project			Monique McKay		
	<i>indigenousconnections.mbb@gmail.com</i>				
Arab-Israeli Conflict	Rachel Wohl		Dorit Cypis Jonathan Reitman		Maryland and Washington D.C. Chapter (?)
	<i>arabisraeli.mbb@gmail.com</i>				
Cambodia	TBD		Mneesha Gellman		TBD
	<i>cambodia.mbb@gmail.com</i>				
East Timor/Fiji	TBD	Susan Mullins Calum Campbell			TBD
	<i>easttimorfiji.mbb@gmail.com</i>				
Ecuador	TBD		Anthony E. Nowak Tom Fiutak Kahlil Day Laurel Kaufer Elena Bastidas Mariah Levison		
	<i>ecuador.mbb@gmail.com</i>				
Kosovo	Lynn Cole	TBD			University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
	<i>kosovo.mbb@gmail.com</i>				
Lebanon	Lynn Cole	TBD			TBD
	<i>lebanon.mbb@gmail.com</i>				
Morocco	TBD	TBD			TBD
	<i>morocco.mbb@gmail.com</i>				
Nepal	C.J. Larkin	TBD	Alan Gross Caryn Espo Harriett Nettles		Washington University in St. Louis (?)
	<i>nepal.mbb@gmail.com</i>				
Nicaragua/Central America	Richard DeWitt	TBD			TBD
	<i>nicaragua.mbb@gmail.com</i>				
Nigeria	TBD	TBD		Community Mediation Council (CMC) – Ben Kpae, President of CMC	
	<i>nigeria.mbb@gmail.com</i>				
Sri Lanka	TBD	TBD	P. Sankaranarayan		TBD
	<i>srilanka.mbb@gmail.com</i>				

Uganda	TBD	TBD			TBD
	uganda.mbb@gmail.com				
Zimbabwe	Ken Cloke Joan Goldsmith	David Bristow Sharon Maier Anna Spain			
	zimbabwe.mbb@gmail.com				

In the Field

The Liberian Initiative Field Report



MBB mediation and conflict resolution training

participants to mediate a case referred from the Buduburam Arbitration Board, which was successfully concluded to the great satisfaction of the disputants and the lead arbitrator of the Buduburam Arbitration Board. It is expected that additional cases will be referred to mediation from the Board. All trainees were awarded certificates of completion in a public ceremony that included former child soldier Adam Louis Jr. singing his original composition called *No More War*, to which others joined. Lawrence led some songs at the suggestion of Bartuah, the group concluded by standing and singing the Liberian National Anthem.

Liberian Initiative Project Assessment Panel of **Robert A. Creo**, *MBB Secretary-Treasurer, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA*; and *Founding Members Harriett Nettles, Mechanicsville, Maryland, USA*; **Prabha Sankaranarayan** and **Ingrid Lundberg** from *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA*, spent 11 days on the ground in Ghana with the able assistance *Founding Member Bartuah S. Ninwillay*, the first African Founding Member. The team focused on the Buduburam Settlement, where over 25,000 refugees from the Liberian civil wars which began 1989 and ended in 2003. **Tammy Adamah Craig**, *Citizen Supporter, Mechanicsville, Maryland, USA* participated as a student in the training and in many other activities in Liberia and Ghana.

Over 60 residents representing various community groups completed the initial 24-hour basic conflict resolution and mediation training. This training was coordinated by A.D. Wright, Richelieu and Bartuah and held at his parish at the Church of Christ. A.D. Wright's wife and family cooked the donated food by Dickie McCamey of Pittsburgh law firm. Lawrence Yealue and Richelieu assisted with the logistics and facilitation of the training. A.D. Wright also enabled 4 of the



Prabha, Bob and Bartuah meet with the student mediator club.

Prabha and Bob were invited to attend a meeting of the Buduburam United Methodist School System's Peer Counseling & Mediation Club, where MBB presented a donation of school supplies and jump ropes and had the privilege of meeting the student mediators.

The MBB team received a formal invitation from the SMA – Technical and Vocational Training Center to attend their graduation ceremonies. As the rest of the team was engaged in training activities, Ingrid attended as MBB representative. She reports it was an amazing day and she was particularly overwhelmed by the student fashion show of the students' clothing and handicraft. As a distinguished guest, she participated by handing out diplomas to some of the students.

Prabha and Ingrid had the pleasure of attending one of the Sunday church services as a guest of one of the former child soldiers.

The team took 2 days for tourist activities in Cape Coast, including visiting the colonial slave trading castles.

In collaboration with the Child Soldier Reintegration Fund founder and MBB Student Member Penelope Bissett, who is also the coordinator of the MBB Child Soldier Restorative Initiative, team members Prabha and Bob held a series of meetings focused on the former child soldiers. Penelope donated funds for the meals for the 140 of the former child soldiers and their families. Prabha and Bob attended VECSAOL weekly meeting and a special open forum session, where Prabha led a circle process for the former child soldiers to express their interests, needs and concerns. VECSAOL serves a community of approximately 400 child soldiers and war-affected children. A conflict resolution unit has been formed within VECSAOL, and 6 of its members completed the MBB conflict resolution and mediation course.



Prabha, Sumo Kupe, SMA, Bartuah and Ingrid

The team also spent significant amount of time with Optimum Development Impact (OPDI) President and CEO Phylicia A.

Mortey, who is a Ghanaian living in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA. OPDI may assist with consulting and on-site monitoring services.



Harriett and Phylicia Mortey, OPDI President

At the request of the Buduburam community, the Project Assessment Panel is exploring a number of initiatives for presentation to the MBB Board for project approval. These include the creation of a community mediation service, a proposal to implement student mediation clubs at all 28 schools at the Buduburam Settlement, collaboration in the establishment of an educational scholarship program at the SMA Training Center, which may include trauma clinic for former child soldiers, creation of small construction firms via partnering with micro-lenders and partnering with the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (LTRC). There is also a tremendous interest for technical assistance and cooperation in Liberia in the promotion of conflict resolution and mediation skills in both the rural areas and Monrovia. Liberia has a long way to recover from its civil unrest with a population experiencing an over 80% unemployment rate and little intact infrastructure.

The team also met with the founder and President of Ashesi University Patrick Awuah, and the Dean of Students Suzanne Buchele in addition to meeting with various organizations, whose names and websites are listed below, to explore collaboration. Team members were also interviewed for the Buduburam broadcast system. a make shift radio broadcast in a refugee camp without electricity.

List of Organizations & Web References:

Ashesi University - www.ashesi.org/

Buduburam Settlement Arbitration Board

Buduburam United Methodist School System's Peer Counseling & Mediation Club

Center for Youth Empowerment – www.users.on.net/~rmc/youthempowerment.htm

Debaters and Public Speakers Association

Liberian Welfare Council

Optimum Development Impact (OPDI) - <http://opdi-us.org/>

Population Caring Center – www.populationcaring.org

Respect Ghana (RIC Respect International Club)

SMA – Technical and Vocational Training Center

Voices Against Child Soldiers Association of Liberia (Former VECSAOL) - www.buduburam.org/about_us.html

West African Dispute Resolution Center - <http://www.wadrec.com/>

“The experience was enriching and worthwhile.” ~ Ingrid Lundberg

Next steps include the PAP drafting a formal report of recommendations to the MBB Board of Directors for consideration. Penelope Bissett will travel to Buduburam at the beginning of January to focus on the evaluation and vocational placement of the 140 former child soldiers that she has already worked with during the past summer. She will also start identifying potential providers of the trauma care-giving aspect of any reintegration initiative. A team may return in March to do additional training and begin any implementation steps of the former child soldier restoration program. She welcomes any MBB members to join her.

Please note that no MBB dues money supports these trips. Participants are self-funded or funded by private donations. Anyone who is interested in volunteering on The Liberian Initiative and is willing to self-fund, should e-mail to ghanambb@gmail.com.

Special thanks to Dickie McCamey Law Firm of Pittsburgh and other donors for their financial and other support.

Student Chapter News

Organizational Meeting at University of Maryland

The organizational meeting for the University of Maryland Law School Student Chapter is set to January 17, 2008. The meeting will be facilitated by Roger Wolf, *FM, Knoxville, Maryland, USA*. MBB members are invited to attend.



E-mail: rwolf@law.umaryland.edu

Regis University Interest Meetings

MBB Regis would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to those who attended the interest meetings that was held on November 27 and 29. **Jean Stracy** and **Elenie Opffer**, the faculty advisors for MBB at Regis continue to present and form partnerships locally. Progress continues around potential MBB-Community projects, for instance, peer mediation and restorative justice projects at Lake Middle School and North High School, and a developing partnership with the Denver Metro Gang Coalition.

Regis University Student Chapter will host *Board Member Erica Ariel Fox, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA* on February 18 and *MBB President Ken Cloke, Santa Monica, California, USA* on April 17.

Regional Committee News

Los Angeles Regional Meeting

The initial meeting of Mediators Beyond Borders (MBB) took place on December 10, 2007 at the office of Ken Cloke. Introductions were made; myriad backgrounds and interests were shared. Ken reported on recent developments and current and anticipated projects at MBB. Discussion determined interest in forming a Los Angeles Committee. Twenty individuals signed in to be included in the regional group, and after the meeting, two more notified Ken of their interest.

The Founding Congress of MBB was also announced and discussed.

One of the ideas circulated was to plan an event around "To Die in Jerusalem" and using the film to educate others about MBB and its projects as well as for fundraising. **Wendy Wood**, *Founding Member, Placerville, California, USA*, has agreed to spearhead MBB fundraising efforts. The proposed date for the event is March 19, 2008 from 4 to 7 p.m. at a location to be determined in Los Angeles.

Christine Masters, *Founding Member, Toluca Lake, California, USA*, volunteered as Ken's helper and is in the process of having the list of Committee members typed and circulated. There was a discussion about having an interactive database of qualifications and areas of interest, either on the local or national level.

The next meeting is anticipated to take place on February 11, 2008.

Board Member Profile

Lynn H. Cole, *Tampa, Florida, USA*



Lynn Cole is a dispute resolution professional with experience in all aspects of ADR, including mediation and arbitration. She has served as a Special Master, an SEC receiver, a neutral evaluator and settlement counsel. She is a Florida-certified mediator trained in Harvard Law School Program of Mediation. As an ADR specialist with USAID/ABA assigned to Jordan, she assisted in implementing the first Mediation Court Pilot Program in Arab Middle East. She has also assisted the Bulgarian Ministry of Justice in drafting and implementing ethical, procedural, and educational and certification regulations pursuant to the new Bulgarian Mediation Act.

Currently, she is an Adjunct Professor of ADR at Stetson University College of Law and a Chair of the ADR Section of the Federal Bar Association.

New Members

Founding Member status is extended until January 31, 2008.

As of now, MBB has 163 founding mediator members, 7 citizen supporters and 21 student members.

MBB Welcomes new Founding Mediator Members

Justin R. Corbett, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA; **Nelson Dearborn**, Rancho Dominguez, California, USA; **Jeffrey M. Cohen**, Albany, New York, USA; **Christine Masters**, Toluca Lake, California, USA; **David Simison**, Annapolis, Maryland, USA

MBB Welcomes new Citizen Supporters

Tammy Adamah Craig, Mechanicsville, Maryland, USA

Member Presentations & Media Presence

Please e-mail us about your activities. E-mail batokovambb@gmail.com.

Member Publications

Please let us know about your recent publications. E-mail batokovambb@gmail.com.

Members Reflections

Please send us your thoughts to be published in this section. E-mail batokovambb@gmail.com.

Grants & Funding

Donors

Upcoming Events

Exploring Possibilities for Global Peace: Regional Meeting for Maryland, Washington D.C. and Northern Virginia

When: Monday, January 7, 2008
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

All Interested people are welcome. Come learn about MBB, and opportunities to volunteer your conflict resolution skills to help build global peacemaking capacity.

Where: Seekers Church (*no affiliation with MBB, which is a secular nonprofit*)
276 Carroll Street, NW
Washington, DC 20012



Call: Rachel Wohl – 410-841-2260



E-mail: Rachel Wohl - rachel.wohl@mdcourts.gov

Pathways to Reconciliation: The Shoah in Martin Luther King's Theory of Justice

Date: Monday, Jan. 21, 2008

Time: 12:30–2 p.m.

Place: Chatham University -- assemble in the Quad and walk the "path" to the Chapel

Join us for a "day on" as we embrace reconciliation through the testimonies from civil rights activities, religious leaders, Holocaust survivors, and those working with former Liberian child soldiers

Sponsors: Global Focus: Year of Germany (www.chatham.edu/GlobalFocus) and Center for the Study of Conflict www.studyconflict.org

MBB to hold its First Annual Congress in St. Malo, Colorado on Feb 15-18, 2008

Mediators beyond Borders will hold its first congress titled "**Transforming the World, One Conflict at a Time**" in the St. Malo Retreat Center in Colorado, USA. Topics of discussion include strategies to help save the planet; indigenous/environmental disputes; culture, prejudice and bias reduction; role of VORP and restorative justice and many others.

Speakers include: **Kenneth Cloke**, JD, LL.M., Ph.D., *President of Mediators Beyond Borders*
Daniel Bowling, Esq. Co-Author "Bringing Peace into the Room"
John Paul Lederach, Ph.D. & **Herman Weaver**, Ph.D. "Peacebuilding: Songs from the Road"

Costs: \$695.00, double/ \$895.00 single *Price includes lodging, all meals, supplies, retreat and MBB Congress.



<http://www.mediatorsbeyondborders.org/pg8.cfm>



E-mail: Nan Waller Burnett – disputepro@aol.com

Administration

Marie Aurand Profile



Marie is originally from State College, Pennsylvania. Before joining MBB as an administrator, she worked at the Pittsburgh School of Massage Therapy, as she is also a licensed massage therapist. Marie said, "I am really excited about what the organization is doing. I grew in a Quaker background and so mediation and pacifism are deeply ingrained in me. The organization and my beliefs are a really good fit."

Marie joined the organization, because she wanted to make the world a better place. She said, "The organization is doing great and I feel it has a potential to be bigger and I want to be a part of it. I feel I am doing good for the world."

Marie's responsibilities consist of daily administrative functions, including processing new members and communication with members.

Membership 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 on 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 are issued monthly for Board of Directors and distributed annually to membership. If anyone would like a copy of the most recent one, please e-mail **Marie Aurand**.

MBB Interns

Barbora Batokova and Stephanie Della Camera are interning at the MBB Office in Pittsburgh. Barbora is originally from the Czech Republic and is currently a senior at Chatham University, majoring in Professional Communications. Steff, originally from Philadelphia, is a junior at Chatham University majoring in Accounting and Management. Majier Majuch, a lost boy from Sudan, is recent graduate of Point Park University.

Contact Info

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