



Mediators Beyond Borders™

Partnering for Peace & Reconciliation

Peace & Reconciliation Report

February 1, 2008

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.

Mark Your Calendars:

January 28

Southern California Regional Meeting
Los Angeles, California, USA

February 15 – 18

MBB Inaugural Congress
St. Malo, Colorado, USA

February 18

Erica Ariel Fox at Regis University
Denver, Colorado, USA

February 25

MBB Southern California Meeting
Los Angeles, California, USA

March 10

MBB Maryland, D.C. Area Meeting
Washington D.C., USA

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Hurricane Katrina Project

March 5 – 8
Biloxi, Mississippi, USA
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

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Project Initiatives Updates

The project initiatives chart that was previously in this section will now be available at our sub-page http://www.mbbmembers.org/members_initiatives.shtml. This section will be replaced by brief narratives about any important developments on projects.

In the Field

Penelope Bissett Travels to Buduburam



Penelope Bissett, Bartuah Ninwillay, office assistant Morris, Harriett Nettles's son Lawrence and an interviewee in the newly established MBB office.

Penelope Bissett, Child Soldier Restorative Initiative (CSRF) Director, recently returned from a two-week trip to the Buduburam refugee settlement in Ghana. Ms. Bissett was traveling from January 9 to January 26. During her trip, Ms. Bissett helped to set up a MBB office at Buduburam. Ms. Bissett was able to meet with and begin partnership agreements with several NGOs at the camp including PCO (Population Caring Organization), SMA (a vocational school), Ashesi University, SHIFSD, and CYE (Center for Youth Empowerment). While at Buduburam, Ms. Bissett and MBB Local Coordinator in Buduburam settlement, Mr. **Bartuah S. Ninwillay**, *Founding Member*, met with the Liberian Refugee Welfare Council and established MBB as an official NGO operating at the camp. Ms. Bissett and Mr. Ninwillay were also invited to facilitate a Tribal Leaders Forum with PCO to discuss repatriation issues, peace building, and conflict resolution practices.

Simultaneously, Ms. Bissett interviewed and qualified 100 former child soldiers for scholarship through our partner organization, the Child Soldier Reintegration Fund. The qualified scholarship winners will be attending the SMA within their various vocational interests.

Michael Mills to Travel to Iran

Michael Mills, *Founding Member, Portland, Oregon, USA* is planning a two-week trip to Iran in mid-April along with 5 other individuals. He will be traveling with organizer Stephen Kafoury, a government lobbyist who speaks Farsi; Charles Mitchell, a retired trial attorney; Ed Sullivan, a land use attorney; and John Kelly, a land use planner. He might also explore the possibility for a visit to the General Inspection Organization (GIO) as an ombudsman colleague. For more info see Iran GIO website <http://www.gio.ir>.

"While the trip is essentially a tourist visit, if there is value in meeting someone in Tehran, who has interest in at making a connection with the Dispute Resolution community here, I am happy to try to arrange an introductory meeting while I am there. Anyone interested may e-mail me at mpmills@ci.portland.or.us."

Trip Itinerary:

April 8 Tehran
April 9 Shiraz
April 11 Persepolis & Naghsh-e -Rostam
April 13 Yazd visiting Parsargadae & Arbarkuh
April 15 Isfahan visit Na'iin
April 18 Tehran via Natanz & Kashan
April 19 Zanzan visiting Qazin & Sultanieh
April 20 Tehran

Student Chapter News

Student Chapter Meets at University of Florida, Gainesville

The University of Florida MBB Student Chapter met on January 14 in Gainesville, Florida. Leonard Riskin, the chapter's advisor, presented introductory remarks. **Lynn H. Cole**, *Board Director, Tampa, Florida*, also attended.

"We had dinner together with the student organizer and his fiancé on Sunday night. Professor Riskin is a warm, humorous and remarkable man. He's retired now from the University of Missouri and is fully tenured at Florida. The students there are very fortunate to have him there, and, more remarkably, to have him as a student advisor. We had over 40 men and women law students attend the meeting. All signed up to join. The energies in the room were good. I offered to teach them at least one day of basic mediation training on a Saturday and I expect that they will take me up on the offer. At their next meeting, they will be electing officers and deciding on how they will pay their dues."

~ Lynn H. Cole

Student Chapter at Regis University, Colorado to meet on Feb. 6

Student Chapter at Regis University will meet for a "fun, informational and productive meeting" on **Feb. 6** from **5:30 - 6:30 p.m.** at the **Regis University West Hall Conference Room**. Leadership elections will take place as well as sign-up for new members.

Other upcoming events include a presentation by **Erica Ariel Fox**, Board Director, *Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA*, titled "Beyond Yes: Negotiation Mastery from the Inside Out" on **Feb. 18** at 7 p.m. at Regis University Mountain View Room in the ALC. **Ken Cloke**, MBB President, *Santa Monica, California, USA*, will also visit Regis on **April 17** to introduce Mediators Beyond Borders. The event starts at 7 p.m. at the Regis University Chapel. Look for more details in the upcoming newsletters.

Student Chapter University of Maryland Organizational Meeting

The University of Maryland School of Law held an organizational meeting to explore starting an MBB chapter on January 17, 2008.

Over thirty students turned out to hear **Rachel Wohl**, Board Director, *Annapolis, Maryland, USA*, talk about the organization and the exciting possibilities open to a student chapter. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for January 31, 2008 when officers will be elected and steps taken towards a formal recognition by the MBB Board. Advisors for the group are Prof. **Roger Wolf**, *Founding Member, Knoxville, Maryland, USA* and director of C-DRUM, and Toby Guerin, deputy director of C-DRUM, the Center for Dispute Resolution at the University of Maryland School of Law.

Regional Committee News

Maryland/Washington D.C./Northern Virginia MBB Meeting

The Maryland/Washington D.C./Northern Virginia MBB Regional Chapter met in D.C. on January 7, 2008. Twenty-five people attended the meeting, many with significant international conflict resolution experience. **Keith Seat**, *Founding Member, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA*, welcomed everyone to his church, where the meeting was held, and facilitated group introductions.

Rachel Wohl, *Board Director, Annapolis, Maryland, USA*, discussed the history, goals, mission and values of MBB, and gave an update on MBB's current infrastructure and projects. All were excited to hear that MBB has achieved 501-C3 status.

Harriett Nettles, *Mechanicville, Maryland, USA*, who recently went to Liberia and Ghana on an MBB assessment and training project, gave a report about her trip and the conditions in Liberia. She also discussed Liberian requests for MBB assistance. She described Liberia as "devasted" by war. Harriett met with people there in government, law and the community who are very enthusiastic about the possibility of working with MBB to build conflict resolution capacity in Liberia.

Louise Phipps Senft, *Founding Member, Baltimore, Maryland, USA*, facilitated a discussion about the attendees' international experience, MBB project ideas and possible contacts for MBB. It was a lively session and many ideas were recorded, including suggestions that MBB should become a member of the Alliance for Peacebuilding, an association of International Peacemaking Organizations, some of which might welcome volunteer assistance on their international peace projects. Another suggestion was that MBB connect with Interaction, an international development organization, which might welcome conflict resolution volunteers to expand their international projects. It was also suggested that student chapters might take on a research project doing an assessment of all of the international peace organizations and other organizations with whom MBB could potentially partner. Another suggestion was to expand MBB's work on the problems of foreign communities in the US, members of which could then act as liaisons with their home countries for MBB.

Roger Wolf, *Founding Member, Knoxville, Maryland, USA* and Law Professor at the University of Maryland School of Law, discussed a meeting to be held on January 17 to organize a MBB chapter at the Law School. The Law School has an international programs in China.

Rachel Wohl discussed the February 15-18 MBB Inaugural Congress in Colorado and encouraged all to attend. The next meeting was set for March 10, 2008 at the same time and location – 9 a.m. gathering for a light breakfast, program from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Seekers Church, 276 Carroll Street, NW, Washington, DC. We will notify all of a Spring date, once set, for an MBB event with Ambassador John McDonald and hopefully other MBB Board members.

MBB Southern California Meeting

The second Meeting of MBB Southern California took place in *MBB President Ken Cloke's* office on January 28 from 6:30 to 8. The group welcomed several new members from diverse backgrounds.

Ken reported about the history of MBB, which is now over 200 members strong with many important projects. Members will learn more about the projects and how to participate during the February 15 – 18, 2008 Congress in Boulder, Colorado.

Most of the discussion centered on Foreign Exchanges: A Mirror Reflection of You, a public program developed by **Dorit Cypis**, *Founding Member, Los Angeles, California, USA*, in collaboration with Ken and Joumana Silyan-Saba, Policy Advisor to the City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission. The program will take place at the Beverly Hills Public Library at 7 to 9 p.m. on March 19, 2008. Members were invited to participate with Dorit, Ken and Joumana in facilitating audience groups in inter-reflection and dialogue after excerpts from the film, "To Die in Jerusalem" are presented and discussed. A structure for doing so is being developed by Dorit, Ken, and Joumana who are set to meet on February 7, 2008.

Our next meeting (to discuss the program more fully) will take place on Monday, February 25, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of **Caryn Espo**, *Founding Member, Los Angeles, California, USA*. Her address is 1301 Brinkley Avenue, Los Angeles, 90049.

Board Member Profile

Hélène de Kovachich *Montreal, Quebec, Canada*



Hélène de Kovachich was appointed a judge on the Administrative Court of Quebec in 2006. She is an accredited mediator that specializes in the prevention and resolution of conflicts in commercial, labor, insurance, construction and civil law. She has been a member of the Bar of Quebec since 1986. She has educated the judiciary of Serbia, Croatia, Morocco, Mali, France, Mexico and Rwanda on mediation.

New Members

MBB Welcomes New Founding Mediator Members

Walter Sylvester, *Boca Raton, Florida, USA*; **David Simison**, *Annapolis, Maryland, USA*; **Patty Lampman Parker**, *Colorado, USA*; **Rebecca Picard**, *Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA*; **Laura Perreault**, *San Francisco, USA*; **Fiona Nagle**, *Los Angeles, California, USA*; **Lois Tilley**, *Aurora, Colorado, USA*; **Sarah Gartner**, *New York, New York, USA*; **Chandrika Collins**, *Kirksville, Missouri, USA*; **Douglas Noll**, *Clovis, California, USA*; **Akiko Ishihara**, *Tokyo, Japan*; **Joseph Trella**, *Baltimore, Maryland, USA*; **Michael Aloï**, *Fairmont, West Virginia, USA*.

MBB Welcomes New Citizen Supporters

Margaret Nichols, *Olathe, Kansas, USA*

Member Presentations & Media Presence

Dorit Cypis Presents at the Arts in the One World Conference

Dorit Cypis, *Founding Member, Los Angeles, California, USA* presented "Foreign Exchanges: Getting to Know You" that focused on identity, interiority and social relations at the **Arts in the One World** conference on January 24-27, 2008. The conference was hosted by California Institute for the Arts, School of Theater, Valencia, California in partnership with the Interdisciplinary Genocide Study Center, Kigali, Rwanda.

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

Member Publications

Dorit Cypis Publishes an Article on mediate.com

Dorit Cypis, *Founding Member, Los Angeles, California, USA* has had her article "**Conflict, Mourning and Aesthetics (What Happens When History Does Not Pass?)**" has been published online at mediate.com. The article can be found at <http://www.mediate.com/articles/cypisD1.cfm>.

Peter Adler Publishes E-Book

Peter Adler has published a new e-book that is available at <http://eyeofthestormleadership.com>.

"*Eye of the Storm Leadership*" by Peter Adler is a brilliant, beautifully written, paradoxical tour-de-force. It is told through metaphors, parables, historical sketches and stories that blend a mediator's sensitivity with rough-and-tumble lessons from centuries of political conflict. It is a work of art, both profound and practical yet full of wisdom, examples, and sage advice. Adler writes: "... stories are a way of gaining insight into hopes, fears, problems, and expectations. When we tell them, stories mirror what you stand for. When we organize them, they are a form of knowledge management. When we elicit them, they reveal our common humanity." This is beautifully put, but the remarkable thing is, his book does these things, and more. It is not to be missed."

~ Kenneth Cloke.

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.

MBB in the Media

MBB Trip to Buduburam Settlement Featured in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The MBB Trip to Buduburam Settlement undertaken by The Liberian Initiative Project Panel members **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*, was featured in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on January 30.

Link to the Story: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08030/853129-28.stm>

MBB to be Featured in ACR International Section

Julia Roig of ACR's International Section summarized Ken Cloke's talk from the 7th Annual ACR Conference in Phoenix, Arizona last fall. "She offers a very nice mention of MBB, which may help us build better relationships with the International Section," Ken Cloke, **MBB President, Santa Monica, California, USA**, said.

The Draft of an Article to Appear in ACR International Section:

International Day 2007: How Mediators Can Help Save the Planet

International Day at the ACR Annual Conference in Phoenix opened with an inspirational keynote address by author and mediator Kenneth Cloke, co-founder of Mediators Beyond Borders. The conference room was standing room only as Ken presented on How Mediators Can Help Save the Planet, drawn from his most recent book due out in May, *Conflict Revolution: Mediating Evil, War, Injustice, and Terrorism*. For those of you who could not join our third annual International Day, the following is a brief summary of Ken's keynote:

The planet has experienced exponential change in the past 100 years from the explosion in human population, the increase in CO2 emissions and the effects on global warming, the loss of bio-diversity, the destructive power of military technology as well as our increased vulnerability to pandemics, natural catastrophes and severe weather. On the positive side, there's also been an explosion in the availability and amount of information and in the growth of scientific knowledge and technological capacity. Unfortunately, some aspects of our world are not changing rapidly. We have been slow to end poverty and hunger, reduce bigotry and prejudice, find alternatives to warfare and address the vulnerability of civilian populations to terror. In addition, there's been a sluggish awareness of the extent and seriousness of global problems and an ineffectiveness of international institutions to address these problems.

As the challenges that face our planet increase, we need to develop and implement solutions across borders with a great deal of international collaboration. Improvements in social, economic and political institutions and practices can reduce the systemic sources of chronic conflict and resistance to change that are preventing this collaboration. The world needs better skills in cross-cultural communication, public dialogue, collaborative negotiation, multi-party mediation, conflict resolution systems design and similar methods. We, as a group of conflict resolution

professionals, can offer this. If you are a family and workplace mediator from Germany or a public policy facilitator from North Carolina, you still have something to offer in solving these global problems.

While every political, social and economic conflict takes place in its own context and is often experienced on a tiny, personal level, all conflicts, large and small, possess similar elements and characteristics. A common set of attitudes, emotions, ideas and behaviors connect purely internal conflicts with those that occur in relationships, families, communities, organizations, societies, economies, and nation-states. This similarity on all scales allows us to identify ways of adapting resolution techniques that have proven effective to disputes on an entirely different level.

Nearly all conflicts, no matter how petty or personal, possess veiled social, economic, and political features that inform their evolution and eventual outcome. These include social prejudice, economic greed and the autocratic exercise of political power. When these hidden aspects are identified and analyzed, they become fertile sources of techniques for preventing future conflicts, reaching successful resolutions, transforming social, economic and political relationships and transcending chronic conflicts at their source through learning and systemic improvement. Nearly all conflicts can trigger revolutionary changes in individuals, organizations and institutions. Contextual, environmental and systemic elements are rarely identified, acknowledged or resolved today, either by the parties or their mediators. Instead, they linger in the background, generating distortions and misunderstandings that may make matters worse. By recognizing and identifying these issues within our local practice and by expanding the reach of our skills to new global levels, each of us as mediators can make a difference, and help save the planet.

Grants & Funding

Donors

Lamb McErlane PC donates to MBB

Lamb McErlane PC donated to MBB. MBB is very grateful for the donation.

Engineers Without Borders Donations

“Hi All,

Please consider donating to Engineers without Borders. Engineers without Borders is in the final days of a fund-raising matching drive sponsored by Parade magazine, and is actually in 5th place to win the grand prize of \$50,000 additional dollars (click below to see the standings). Please consider a donation of as little as \$10 to help us over the top. EWB is measured on number of donors instead of dollar volume for this challenge-so we need to maximize the number of contributors.

Here is the link:

<http://www.parade.com/givingchallenge/?source=pressAGC>.

Thanks so much,”

Robin Amadei, Founding Member, Lafayette, Colorado, USA

Upcoming Events

MBB Inaugural Congress Reaches Full Capacity

We are pleased to announce that the MBB Inaugural Congress in St. Malo has filled up to its full capacity. Currently, there are 111 people signed up. The facility can no longer hold any more people due to fire codes and meal capacity. If anyone has any interest in participating, please let us know and we will put you on the waiting list, as your participation depends on other member's cancellation.

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.



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



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

Administration

New Administrative Model

We are currently creating our new administrative model. Marie Aurand is no longer an employee of MBB, as she has resigned due to family reasons.

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 **Kim Cox**, *Administrative Assistant*.

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.

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