



# Mediators Beyond Borders™

Partnering for Peace & Reconciliation

## Peace & Reconciliation Report

May 14, 2008

Dear Member,

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 or corrections for the next issue, please e-mail [batokova.mbb@gmail.com](mailto:batokova.mbb@gmail.com) by the first and third Wednesday of each month.

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

### May 14

**Southern California Chapter Meeting**  
Santa Monica, California, USA

### June 19-21

**Mindfulness for Conflict Resolvers**  
Malibu, California, USA

### June 25

**Mediators Volunteering Abroad**  
New York, New York, USA

### August 14-16

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Colombian National Congress for Mediators**  
Cartagena, Columbia

### March 6-8, 2009

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual MBB Congress**  
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

## In the Field

### The Liberian Initiative

**May 8 - June 1**  
Buduburam Settlement, Ghana  
Monrovia, Liberia

### Nepal Initiative

**Early June**  
Nepal

### MBB Office

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### Newsletter Questions & Corrections:

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## What's New at MBB

### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 reservations at the hotel by calling 1-800-972-2791 or online at [www.hi-chateau.com](http://www.hi-chateau.com). To get the special rate, please indicate the group identification code, which is MBB. To register for the Congress, visit: [www.mbbmembers.org/congress/registration.shtml](http://www.mbbmembers.org/congress/registration.shtml). Early bird registration runs until January 3, 2009 at \$180. Regular registration fee is \$195.

### New Members

#### New Founding Members

Rhonda Longmore-Grund, Laguna Hills, California, USA  
Elenie Opffer, Boulder, Colorado, USA  
Mariam Zadeh, Encino, California USA

#### New Mediator Members

Sarah Knowles, Seattle, Washington, USA  
Duncan Autrey, Seattle, Washington, USA  
Jennifer Hamlin, Houston, Texas, USA  
Tina Suvajac Lees, Oxford, United Kingdom  
Michael Dwyer, Portland, Oregon, USA  
Mitchell Lathrop, San Diego, California, USA

Kathleen Kettles, Brooklyn, New York, USA

#### New Citizen Supporters

Heather Walsh, Arlington, Virginia, USA  
Kathleen Unger, Santa Monica, California, USA  
Kenneth May, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA

#### New Student Supporters

Benjamin Cairns, University of Colorado, Denver, Colo., USA  
Monika Magyesi, University of Baltimore, Maryland, USA  
Janet Sigman, NOVA Southeastern University, Florida, USA  
Rebecca Nicholson, NOVA Southeastern University, Florida, USA

### Mediator Membership Certificates

If you are a Mediator Member (or Founding Member) and have not yet received your membership certificate, please contact Barbora Batokova at [batokova.mbb@gmail.com](mailto:batokova.mbb@gmail.com).

## Project News

### Nine MBB Members travel to Ghana and Liberia for The Liberian Initiative

Nine MBB members are currently at the Buduburam Settlement in Ghana and in Monrovia, Liberia as part of The Liberian Initiative trip from May 8 - June 1. The group, which is so far the largest MBB team to travel to Ghana and Liberia as part of The Liberian initiative, is doing trainings at the Buduburam Settlement and the Kofi Annan Institute. Patty Lampan is teaching team-building and other interpersonal skills to the 85 students sponsored by the Child Soldier Restorative Initiative (CSRF - [www.childsoldiersfund.org](http://www.childsoldiersfund.org)). MBB is collaborating with CSRF. MBB members are also conducting meetings with various representatives and officials to secure future partnerships for MBB and The Liberian Initiative. Ginny Morrison is heading the effort to collaborate with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Liberia and its diaspora, including in the USA. Ginny and Alan are also training 30 lawyers and professionals in mediation skills. Look for a more detailed report in the next newsletter.

The group consists of the following members:

**Robert A. Creo**, Secretary-Treasurer, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania; **Alan E. Gross**, Founding Member, Pocono Pines, Pennsylvania, USA; **Louis Kushner**, Founding Member, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA; **Patty Lampman**, Founding Member, Parker, Colorado, USA; **Ginny Morrison**, Board Director, Kentfield, California, USA; **Rebecca Nicholson**, Student Member, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA; **Anna Orner**, Founding Member, Birmingham, United Kingdom; **Tom Oswald**, Founding Member, North Stonington, Connecticut, USA; **Prabha Sankaranarayan**, Board Director, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

## ***Nepal Initiative - Volunteer Opportunity***

### **Community Mediation/Public Dialogue Training, Research and Support Initiative**

This is an opportunity for MBB members and other qualified conflict resolution specialists to collaborate with an established project through Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, Missouri. As part of the law school's ADR and Clinical Programs, law professors, law students, and conflict resolution specialists have been involved in a project to support the network of community and family mediation programs and public dialogue initiatives throughout Nepal.

This summer, beginning in June, a team of specialists and students will travel to Nepal to complete the third year of a U.S. State Department funded exchange project to provide technical assistance (including training and research) to support NGOs and INGOs working in several areas of conflict resolution in Nepal. The central team will be in country for 14-21 days and the law students will remain for an additional 30 days.

#### **Key elements of the project are:**

- Major trainings in Kathmandu in intermediate/advanced mediation skills
- Site visits and technical support to 3-5 rural/village mediation programs
- Strategic planning and document support for collaborating agencies
- Deliberative decision-making and public dispute workshops
- Technical support for developing court-based mediation initiatives
- Research on domestic violence and mediation
- Research on Truth and Reconciliation efforts

#### **How to Apply**

Interested volunteers should contact MBB Board Director and Nepal Initiative Board Liaison **C.J. Larkin** at [nepal.mbb@gmail.com](mailto:nepal.mbb@gmail.com). Applicants should provide their resume or c.v., highlighting their background in conflict resolution, deliberative dialogue and public discourse. Training, lecturing and international experience should be noted. Speakers of Nepali are especially welcome. Please note that time is limited for this first trip. The core team plans to leave for Nepal in the first two weeks of June.

## ***What's New Online***

### ***SLIDESHOW & REPORT: "A Mirror Reflection of You"***



On March 19, the Los Angeles MBB Chapter showed a 30-minute portion of the documentary To Die Jerusalem about two teens, one Palestinian and the other Jewish, and facilitated a discussion among 12 groups of 8-10 people. Over a hundred people, including a number of Israelis and Palestinians, attended the fundraising event in the Beverly Hills Public Library. The event was presented in partnership with the Levantine Cultural Center.

**For slideshow and more visit:**

[www.mbbmembers.org/slideshows/southern\\_california.shtml](http://www.mbbmembers.org/slideshows/southern_california.shtml)

### ***AUDIO: Speeches from 1<sup>st</sup> Annual MBB Congress Online***

To listen to speeches from the 1st Annual MBB Congress by Ken Cloke, Erica Ariel Fox and John Paul Lederach, visit our MBB Member Profile Database that includes slideshows and a report as well:

([www.mbbmembers.org/mbb\\_congress\\_slideshow.shtml](http://www.mbbmembers.org/mbb_congress_slideshow.shtml)) or download directly from Beyond Intractability:

<http://www.beyondintractability.org/sound-intro/cloke.m3u>

<http://www.beyondintractability.org/sound-intro/fox.m3u>

<http://www.beyondintractability.org/sound-intro/lederach.m3u>

## Past MBB Events

### Ambassador John McDonald speaks at MBB event in Washington D.C.

By **Janet James Mahon**

Founding Member, Washington, D.C.

“The root cause of many ethnic conflicts stem from an attempt to suppress the religion, culture and language of the people. Everyone has a right to have their language preserved, everyone has a right to religious freedom, and the destruction of culture leads to the destruction of one’s identity.”

On Wednesday, April 23, 2008, Mediators Beyond Borders welcomed internationally renowned peace-builder, Ambassador John McDonald, to Washington, D.C. to speak on the topic of “Advice and Answers: How Mediators Can Contribute to World Peace.”

The event was attended by a diverse group of mediators, peacemakers, students, and conflict resolution professionals. Ambassador McDonald was welcomed by Mediators Beyond Borders Board Directors Rachel Wohl, Robert Creo and Prabha Sankaranarayan. The enthusiastic audience of over 50 was treated to rousing stories and invaluable advice from Ambassador McDonald’s 30 years of international experience as a diplomat and peacemaker.

Currently the Chairman and CEO of the Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy, Ambassador McDonald shared with the audience his groundbreaking philosophy of using a nine-track approach to peacekeeping. This approach relies on key partners to peace, such as Government, NGOs and Professionals, Business and Trade, and Private Citizens.

When attempting to resolve a dispute, Ambassador McDonald employs a technique used by Native American elders of having the parties sit in a circle so that they can see and hear each other. This allows energy to flow across the room. It is no coincidence, therefore, that the Institute uses a circle as its logo.



**MBB Board Director Prabha Sankaranarayan, Founding Members Monique McKay and Louise Phipps Senft, Board Director Rachel Wohl and Ambassador John McDonald on April 23, 2008.**

“The only way to resolve a conflict is to sit down face to face and talk about who you are, what brings you to the table and what are you life experiences”, shared Ambassador McDonald.

He also shared a few key concepts that are necessary to a positive resolution of international conflicts. First, mediators should only go to a country where they are invited by the people, not the government. Second, it is vitally important that mediators respect the indigenous religious and cultural practices. Finally, there is a perception internationally that Americans are arrogant; therefore, it is imperative that as mediators, we leave our egos and any preconceived solutions behind and instead ask how we can be of assistance, instead of dictating solutions.

As the Ambassador discussed his various projects in the Middle East and Western Europe, I was surprised at the level of time, commitment and resolve needed to make headway in these international disputes.

Ambassador McDonald advised that mediators should make at least a five-year commitment to a project so that sufficient trust can be established among the parties. Several of the Ambassador’s projects were underway in excess of five years before success was realized. The Ambassador left us with this valuable advice, “All conflicts can be resolved; it just takes time and energy to bring about transformative social change.”

Prabha described the event as “a heartwarming presentation by a man with a very distinguished career and a memorable experience.”

Special thanks goes to Rachel Wohl and Harriet Nettles who organized this event.

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**This report is also available online:**

[www.mbbmembers.org/events/ambassador\\_mcdonald.shtml](http://www.mbbmembers.org/events/ambassador_mcdonald.shtml)

**To visit Janet’s profile online go to:**

[http://www.mbbmembers.org/member\\_profiles/jmahon.shtml](http://www.mbbmembers.org/member_profiles/jmahon.shtml)

## Member News

### Nancy Hudgens Interviews Dana Curtis

Nancy Hudgens did an interview with Dana Curtis called “Q & A on Empathetic Listening with Mediator Dana Curtis.”

To access the interview, visit:

<http://civilnegotiation.blogspot.com/2008/04/q-on-empathetic-listening-with-mediator.html>.

Clickable link in PDF:

<http://civilnegotiation.blogspot.com/2008/04/q-on-empathetic-listening-with-mediator.html>

### Gini Nelson Interviews Victoria Pynchon

Gini Nelson did an interview with Founding Member Victoria Pynchon called “Online ADR Journalist: An Interview with Victoria Pynchon.” The interview was originally published as Vol. 2, No. 6 of Gini Nelson’s Engaging Conflicts Today.

To access the interview, visit:

[www.mediate.com/articles/NelsonInterviewPynchon.cfm](http://www.mediate.com/articles/NelsonInterviewPynchon.cfm)

### Ken Cloke Speaks at 2008 Alaska BAR Convention

Ken Cloke presented “Mediators Beyond Borders: Resolving International and Domestic Conflicts From Business to Human Rights” on April 30 at the 2008 Alaska BAR Convention.

## Member Publications

### Ken Cloke’s Latest Book



### Conflict Revolution: Mediating Evil, War, Injustice, and Terrorism

A celebration will be held:

Sunday, May 30, 2008, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM  
at the Home of Joan Goldsmith & Ken Cloke  
2411 18th St., Santa Monica, CA 90405

RSVP: 310-399-4776 or [jgoldsm@aol.com](mailto:jgoldsm@aol.com)

To purchase the book visit: [www.janispublications.com](http://www.janispublications.com)

### Articles Published in “CPR Alternatives”

#### Judith Meyer -- “Mediators’ Alert: Now, Certification Goes Global”

Founding Member, Haverford, Pennsylvania, USA

Vol. 26 No.3 March 2008 - [http://imimmediation.org/?cID=jmeyer\\_cprarticle](http://imimmediation.org/?cID=jmeyer_cprarticle)

#### Mariam Zadeh: “Five Steps to Maximizing Dollars When the Objective Is Money”

Founding Member, Encino, California, USA

Vol. 26 No. 2 February 2008 - <http://www.firstmediation.com/pdf/0208kriviszadeh.pdf>

## Committee News

For updates on Committees visit [http://www.mbbmembers.org/committees/members\\_boards\\_committees.shtml](http://www.mbbmembers.org/committees/members_boards_committees.shtml).

## Regional Chapter News

### Southern California Regional Chapter

#### Next Meeting:

**Wednesday, May 14, 2008, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Host:** MBB President Ken Cloke

**Phone:** 310-399-4426

*Bring food to share.*

#### Location:

2411 18th Street,  
Santa Monica, 90405

## University Chapter News

Please send updates to [batokovambb@gmail.com](mailto:batokovambb@gmail.com).

## Board Member Profile

### Richard DeWitt



Richard J. DeWitt from Coral Gables, Florida, USA serves as an arbitrator, mediator and settlement counsel in domestic and international matters including commercial, civil and employment disputes. He serves as an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association, National Association Security Dealers (NASD) and National Arbitration Forum (NAF). He is a Florida Supreme Court Certificated Arbitrator and Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil Court Mediator and has extensive international experience working on humanitarian projects in Africa and Asia.

He is the Board Liaison for the proposed initiative in Latin America (Ecuador/Nicaragua) and the Board Liaison for the Partnerships & Alliances Procedural Committee.

To see his profile online, go to: [www.mbbmembers.org/member\\_profiles/rdewitt.shtml](http://www.mbbmembers.org/member_profiles/rdewitt.shtml)

## Donors

### Anonymous Donor Donates \$15,000

A donor who wishes to remain anonymous donated \$15,000 to MBB to be used in collaboration with the Child Soldier Re-integration Fund (CSRF) for the educational needs of former child soldiers at the Buduburam Settlement in Ghana. MBB is very grateful for the donation.

## Grants & Funding

## Upcoming Events

### *3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference on International Arbitration and Mediation, Fordham Law*

On Monday, June 16 and Tuesday, June 17, Fordham University School of Law will host the 3rd Annual Conference on International Arbitration and Mediation. Founding Member **Richard Luntringer** will represent MBB at the conference.

This conference, also supported by the Conflict Resolution & ADR Program and the Louis Stein Center for Law & Ethics, will bring together leading international arbitrators, mediators, practitioners, and scholars to discuss contemporary issues in international arbitration and mediation.

Because of early interest in the conference, we suggest that you register online at <http://law.fordham.edu/ihtml/eventitemPP.ihtml?id=37&idc=9070&template=cle>.

The website includes a full program as well.

### *Mindfulness for Conflict Resolvers: Lawyers, Mediators, Negotiators, Judges, Arbitrators & Managers*

This program will be taught by Len Riskin and MBB Board Director **Rachel Wohl** at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at the Pepperdine University School of Law from June 19-21, 2008 in Malibu, California.

#### **21st Annual Professional Skills Program (18 other courses available)**

Three days of intensive skills instruction and practice  
Learn Practical ways to Integrate Mindfulness into your Work

#### **Registration Info:**

To develop mindfulness skills needed to resolve conflicts in a more focused, effective, calm and perceptive manner, register for this course: [http://law.pepperdine.edu/straus/training\\_and\\_conferences/summer/](http://law.pepperdine.edu/straus/training_and_conferences/summer/) or e-mail Lori Rushford at [lori.rushford@pepperdine.edu](mailto:lori.rushford@pepperdine.edu) or call Lori at 310.506.6342.

More info and short biographies on Leonard Riskin and Rachel Wohl are available at: [http://law.pepperdine.edu/straus/training\\_and\\_conferences/summer2008/mindfulness\\_conflict.html](http://law.pepperdine.edu/straus/training_and_conferences/summer2008/mindfulness_conflict.html)

### *Mediators Volunteering Abroad: Using Our Skills in Africa & Elsewhere*

MBB Secretary-Treasurer **Robert A. Creo** and MBB Founding Member **Alan Gross** will be part of a panel at the Greater New York Association for Conflict Resolution Chapter program on June 25. They will discuss the challenges and benefits for conflict resolution specialists and the populations they serve in developing countries. Both Bob and Alan have developed and delivered trainings and other means of assisting refugees and former child soldiers in West Africa. Brad Heckman, former Director of the International Division of Partners for Democratic Change, will join Alan and Bob on the panel.

### *5<sup>th</sup> Annual Colombian National Congress for Mediators*

MBB is preparing to attend the 5th Annual Colombian National Congress for Mediators in Cartagena, Columbia from August 14 - 16, 2008. MBB Founding Member Tom Fiutak will be leading a team to present MBB at the congress that will be held in the Hotel Almirante Cartagena Estelar. Spanish fluency is not required as limited interpreting services can be provided.

If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Tom Fiutak at [fiuta001@umn.edu](mailto:fiuta001@umn.edu).



# MBB Administration

## MBB Administration Contact Information

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

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA  
bobcreombb@gmail.com

**Kimberly A. Cox, Administrative Assistant to RAC**  
coxmbb@gmail.com

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

**Barbora Batokova, Professional Communications Intern**  
batokovambb@gmail.com

**Stephanie Della Camera, Administrative Intern**  
steffmbb@gmail.com

**Majier Majuch, Research Intern**  
majuchmbb@gmail.com

**Ann Sanders, Intern**

## 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 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

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 Melissa Lefevre, MBB Administrative Assistant.