

MADRP Bulletin

Maine Association of Dispute Resolution Professionals

Volume IX, Issue V

May, 2004

Message from the Susanna– the Pres!

Highlights from Peace Building for Your Practice

I think this spring conference was one of our best.

I mentioned in a previous column how I think it's difficult for neutral mediators and facilitators to find a way to express concern and outrage about the state of our world today, specifically about the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and in the Middle East. My facilitation experience at the Seeds of Peace, has taught me the importance of a "third neutral" party to work with both sides and I know my ability to act as a neutral gives me that opportunity. But it can also be frustrating to be "in the middle." Therefore I was greatly looking forward to hearing and understanding how a Tibetan Buddhist Monk would approach this dilemma, particularly knowing of their very non-violent response to the Chinese takeover of Tibet. Geshe Lobzang Tsetan told us that before we do anything else we need to cultivate peace inside of us. Dana Sawyer, Associate Professor of Religion and Philosophy at the Maine College of Art and Bangor Theological Seminary, reinforced this thought when he said that "conflict is what you get when peace is absent." He stressed that we shouldn't try to change others, but rather, work on changing ourselves. Olivia Stokes Dreier, Associate Director of the Karuna Center of Peacebuilding in Amherst, shared her observations that when we allow others to tell their stories and to grieve, a new understanding emerges confirming that suffering is something we all hold in common. Someone in Bosnia remarked to Olivia, "We are all in one big pot of suffering." All the speakers talked about the importance of compassion and of first having compassion for ourselves.

During the day, I heard that I can have more influence working on becoming a more compassionate person than I had previously thought - that maybe the influence wasn't visible, but it could be just as effective my friend who holds her peace sign on a bridge over the Kennebec River. Olivia told us about the Zulu word, "ubuntu". She said it was difficult to translate into English, but means "collective personhood", that "a human being is a human being through other human beings" and that "my Self is inextricably caught up with your Self".

I came away from the day understanding once again that we are all somehow connected, and the more I cultivate my inner peace and compassion the more that can effect others in a positive way. It was a good day for me and it was made all the more special by sharing it with the MADRP community- one of my very favorite groups of people.

Facilitator Workshop

The first MADRP workshop for facilitators was offered at the May conference by Laura Moorehead, an independent consultant to organizations. Laura partners with organizations to create strategies, education, and coaching to formal and informal leaders and teams. She is also a professor at Bentley College, where she teaches intercultural studies.

The workshop was attended by a dozen facilitators who engaged in a lively discussion of methods for managing groups and ways to incorporate peace-making into our practice.

MADRP will continue to offer workshops on subjects of interest to facilitators at each future conference, as part of the on-going initiative of recruiting facilitator members and serving their interests.

Thanks again to Jeff Croft and Elaine Walsh for putting together such a meaningful day for making it all happen.

MADRP NEWS

MADRP GROWS UP

MADRP has a new post office box and a live operator to take our calls. Our new address is: P.O. Box 8187, Portland, ME 04104 and our toll free number is (877) 265-9712.

Many thanks to Shari Broder who collected MADRP's mail and answered calls for ten long years- an amazing commitment on her part to our association. The members and the Board of Governors thank you so much Shari for this extraordinary service.

WEB SITE INFORMATION

Take a look at our new and improved web site www.madrp.org. While you're there- check out your personal information for accuracy and if you need to make corrections- contact Dan Eichorn daniel@oxfordhillslaw.com

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The committee is looking for members to help with developing Brown Bags lunches for Peer Consultations, organize Reading Club for conflict resolution books, articles, issues and current events and help developing other activities for members. Participation can be by phone, email and/or in person. Kathy Leen 563-5235 or leeninn@tidewater.net

BULLETIN SPONSORS

Thanks to our Bulletin sponsors we have raised \$700- paying for the publishing of our monthly Bulletin. We are looking for August through December sponsors. The cost is \$100, and may be used as a deductible advertising business expense. For more information contact John Alfano, jafano1@maine.rr.com.

BANGOR WORKSHOP

DEALING WITH ROADBLOCKS IN MEDIATION

Date: Thursday, JUNE 3, 2004

Time: 12:30 pm - 2:30/ 3:00

Place: ACADIA HOSPITAL, Osprey Room, 268 Stillwater Avenue, Bangor

We've all been there - a mediation is rolling right along and "BOOM" a 'speed bump or roadblock' brings the mediation to a crawl or a screeching halt. What to do? Join John Alfano and Bambi Magaw to discuss such 'roadblocks' such as the unwilling participant, the controller, the antagonist, confidentiality, conflicts of interest much more. It should be a great afternoon of lively and educational conversation.

****PLEASE NOTE:** This program immediately follows the North Regional Meeting for CADRES mediators (10:00 am - 12 noon), at the same location. PLEASE RSVP to bammo@worldnet.att.net (Bambi Magaw), or 862-5110 if you plan to attend the MADRP program.

CONFERENCE

TRANSFORMATIVE MEDIATION Conference

by the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation, Inc. at Hofstra University School of Law

Looking Back, Looking Forward

Transformative Practice ten Years after
"The Promise of Mediation"

November 7 & 8, 2004 Philadelphia, PA

For more information contact Jennifer Jorgensen at (845) 452-7843 or jenniferjorgens@earthlink.net or www.transformativemediation.org

MADRP CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 2nd Board of Governors meeting 11 King St. Augusta 8:30 to 11:30

June 3rd Northern Regional Meeting Acadia Hospital, Bangor (see above for details)

****July 14th Board of Governors meeting 11 King St. Augusta 8:30 to 11:30 (notice change)**

****August 4th Membership Meeting (look for details in next bulletin)**





BULLETIN SPONSOR

Susanna Liller, current MADRP President, began her career as a Jr. High School English Teacher, where she first experienced “real conflict”. When moving to Maine in 1981, she was unable to find a teaching job so instead took a “temporary” job in management in Engineering and Information Systems at Bath Iron Works that ended up lasting for 12 years. In 1994 she left to open her own Facilitation & Mediation business, facilitating the groundbreaking union contract culminating with President Clinton’s visit to BIW on Labor Day. In 1999, Art Gingold invited Susanna to join the firm of Barton & Gingold, where she has been ever since. Susanna facilitates public meetings for transportation projects that include among others; the Philadelphia and O’Hare Airport Expansions, the Aroostook Transportation Study that is studying how improved road infrastructure can benefit the economics of the County.

Susanna lives in Woolwich with her husband, Robin, her mother, Ella DeMers, two German Shepherds, two cats and two horses. Her daughter, Laurel, lives in Philadelphia and is a member of Montazh, an all-woman hip-hop dance company and her son, Stephen, is studying to be a stockbroker in Salt Lake City with Fidelity Investments.

ON LISTENING

Listening is a rare happening among human beings. You cannot listen to the word another is speaking if you are preoccupied with your appearance or impressing the other, or if you are trying to decide what you are going to say when the other stops talking, or if you are debating whether the word being spoken is true or relevant or agreeable. Such matters may have their place, but only after listening to the word as the word is being uttered. Listening, in other words, is a primitive act of love, in which a person gives himself to another’s word, making himself accessible and vulner-

MORE CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS

American College of Civil Trial Mediators is a non-profit organization of dispute resolution professionals, including civil trial mediators who have completed more than 1000 civil trial mediations. The College is dedicated to improving the ethical standards in the mediation profession and fostering the growth of ADR systems throughout the country. In keeping with its mission the College is presenting an Advanced Mediation program on civil trial mediation on Tuesday, July 13, 2004 at the Bar Harbor Inn. For more information about the College or this program contact Kathy Talbot (407)-843-5880 or www.acctm.org

New England Chapter of the Association for Conflict Resolution’s

Summer Institute "Humor in Mediation: A Creative Tool or an Indulgence- with Ashok Panikkar

As professionals dealing with conflict and difficult situations we, too, are often required to retain a grave and serious manner in keeping with what we perceive to be the mood of the moment. This workshop will examine the wisdom of bringing back a sense of humor into an otherwise difficult (and perhaps not even remotely funny) situation.

The program is June 11th 1:30-4:30 at Wellesley College. Admission for those registering by June 7 is \$35 for NE-ACR members, \$45 for not-yet-members, and \$15 for students. After June 7 an additional \$10 will be added to the registration fee. For more information: www.neacr.org. Questions? Please contact Blair Trippe at blair@AgreementResources.com or 781-424-9586.



Give in to the urge to write

**MAINE ASSOCIATION OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION
PROFESSIONALS (MADRP)**

P.O. Box 8187
Portland, ME 04104

Phone: (877) 265- 9712
Website: www.madrp.org

"Speech is civilization itself. The word, even the most contradictory word, preserves contact- it is silence which isolates."
--Thomas Mann

2003 MADRP Officers

Susanna Liller, President
Diane Kenty, Vice President
Carol Corwin, Treasurer
Tracy Quadro, Secretary

2004 Committee Chairs

Expansion: Bambi Magaw/ Marc Sevigny
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Practice Quality: Jack Erler
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Public Info: Sheila Mayberry
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Resource development: Anita Jones
Advertising: John Alfano
Facilitator Section: Anita Jones
Maine Residential Real Estate Mediation Program (MRREMP) Jack Erler
Bulletin: Nancy Markowitz
Nominating Committee: Anita Jones
At-large Board members: Karen Tucker, Dan Eichorn



MADRP MISSION

MADRP is a non-profit organization of diverse professional interests seeking to broaden public understanding and acceptance of alternative forms of dispute resolution. MADRP strives to enhance professional skills and qualifications of mediators, arbitrators, and other neutrals through training, educational development and promotion of standards of professional conduct.