



# Mediators Beyond Borders™

Partnering for Peace & Reconciliation

## Peace & Reconciliation Report

September 18, 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](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

### Sept. 21

**The New Israel Fund (NIF) 2008 Forum**  
New York, New York, USA

### Sept. 24-27

**ACR Eighth Annual Conference**  
Austin, Texas, USA

### Sept. 26-27

**AFCC Eighth International Symposium & Conference**  
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

### March 6-8, 2009

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

## In the Field

### Zimbabwe

September

Sharon Maier, Trevor Maisiri

### The Liberian Initiative

September & October

David Joseph, Prabha Sankaranarayan  
Richard Walker

### Hurricane Katrina Project

October

Susan Norwood, Thomas Valenti

### Nepal

October

Fredrike Maisiri

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### Newsletter Questions & Corrections:

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## What's New at MBB

### New Members

#### New Student Supporters

Julia Messick, Loyola College of Maryland, USA  
Lori Churchyard, Mount Airy, Maryland, USA  
Toby Taylor, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

#### New Citizen Supporters

John Hubers, New Haven, Connecticut, USA  
Rhonda Neuhaus, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

### Reynaldo Marierose Joins MBB as Education, Training & Events Committee Intern

Reynaldo Marierose has started his internship with FM **Louise Phipps Senft**, Baltimore, Maryland, USA who is the Education, Training & Events Committee Chair. Reynaldo has earned his B.A. and M.A. from Kennesaw State University in Atlanta, Georgia and his J.D. from Concord Law School in Los Angeles, California. He has worked in Human Resources since 2005.

### MBB Featured in UCLA Burkle Center for International Relations News

MBB was mentioned in an article published at the UCLA Burkle Center for International Relations website. To read the article "From Georgia, a Young Mediator Reaches Out for Help" visit [www.international.ucla.edu/burkle/news/article.asp?parentid=96388](http://www.international.ucla.edu/burkle/news/article.asp?parentid=96388).

### MBB Featured in The Pennsylvania Lawyer



Anne Parys wrote an article titled "Mediators on a Mission" for the September/October 2008 issue of *The Pennsylvania Lawyer* magazine featuring MBB Secretary-Treasurer **Bob Creo** and FM **Louis Kushner** (both from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA) about their recent Liberian Initiative Project Implementation Trip to Ghana and Liberia.

To read the full article, visit [www.mediate.com/MWB/docs/Mediators%20On%20A%20Mission.pdf](http://www.mediate.com/MWB/docs/Mediators%20On%20A%20Mission.pdf).

## Project News

### MBB to Start a Project in Zimbabwe

MBB is considering starting a project in Zimbabwe and is looking for volunteers that would be interested in contributing to the effort. The group will put together an assessment and ultimately a proposal for the Board on what project(s) are best suited and for where at this time. There is a need for fundraising. If anyone is interested in helping with this initiative, please contact **MBB Board Director Anna Spain**, Los Angeles, California, USA at [annaspain@gmail.com](mailto:annaspain@gmail.com), as well as for any other information regarding future MBB's Zimbabwe initiatives. She will primarily be working with CS **Trevor Maisiri**, Mabelreign, Harare, Zimbabwe and FM **Sharon Maier**, Mill Valley, California, USA, who is going to Zimbabwe this month.

For more information on Zimbabwe, see "Zimbabwe Crisis" by Trevor Maisiri on Page 5.

### The Liberian Initiative Project Team to Travel to Liberia & Ghana

Starting Sept. 17, the Liberian Initiative Project Implementation team will travel to the Buduburam Refugee Settlement in Ghana and to various regions of Liberia. For their first time, the team will also be joined by an undergraduate student from Chatham University Katana Bosetti. The team members include: FM **David Joseph**, Smithfield, Rhode Island, USA; Board Director **Prabha Sankaranarayan**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA; and Student Intern **Richard Walker**, Kennesaw, Georgia, USA. MBB Investor **Robert Peirce** will also join MBB on this trip. David, the last member to leave, will stay until Oct. 3.

## Hurricane Katrina Project Team to Host an Event on Conflict Resolution Day



MBB's Hurricane Katrina Project Team will host **"How To Get What You Want Through Effective Communication"** on Conflict Resolution Day (October 16). The event, organized in cooperation with Community Mediation Services of New Orleans, will take place from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at **The Ashe Cultural Arts Center**, 1712 Orthea Castle Haley Blvd., New Orleans.

### Conference Schedule:

- ~ The **Morning Group Training Session** will focus on skills for overcoming obstacles to effective communication and problem-solving.
- ~ **Lunch** will be on your own. Cafe Reconcile is across the street, and there are many fast food options in the area.
- ~ The **Afternoon Session** will offer the expertise of MBB on topics of interest to participants.

**Registration:** The event is free and registration is open until October 9. E-mail **Susan Norwood** at [scnorwood@bellsouth.net](mailto:scnorwood@bellsouth.net).

## Member Action

### Alan Gross Gives Mediation Training in Iraq

By FM **Alan Gross**  
Pocono Pines, Pennsylvania, USA

During late July and early August, MBB Student Supporter Sara Hamoudi and I collaborated with Relief International's and the Center for International Conflict Resolution's Iraq Community-Based Mitigation Program at a series of meetings in Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

Together with six coaches and two Arabic translators, I delivered mediation training to more than 50 members of the Iraqi Peace Network (IPN), an organization with representatives from all 18 governorates of the country. Many of the participants were university professors, but tribal leaders, local officials and others were also included. Role-plays tailored to local situations such as electricity theft, environmental issues, and cultural discrimination were adapted and translated into Arabic in order to give all participants opportunities to practice mediation skills. The conference and the training also provided successful opportunities for peaceful dialog among Iraqi identity groups that had become divided especially during the war and current crisis.

The following week, I presented two days of conflict management skill training to approximately 20 Relief International staffers who were working throughout the country. On the first day of this training, Sara offered a comparison of Western and Iraqi dispute resolution practices and then responded to many enthusiastic questions from the staff. Sara was born, raised, and educated in Northern Iraq before emigrating to the Pittsburgh area. She is currently attending the J.D. program at the University of Pittsburgh and has completed an apprenticeship with MBB Secretary-Treasurer Bob Creo.

As Bob and I discussed at a recent seminar for the New York City chapter of the Association for Conflict Resolution, transplanting Western strategies and skills is not without challenges. These trainings highlighted the importance of adjusting for cultural differences and respecting the existing means of peaceful dispute resolution while introducing potentially useful new skills. During my visit, I was also able to observe other aspects



Alan at the Caucus with tribal leaders.



Alan gives Basic Mediation Training for IPN.

of the Program including the training of a group of interviewers who were prepared to assess conflict in their own regions and then to suggest peace-building projects to the funders.

**For more photos visit:**

<http://picasaweb.google.com/AlanEGross/MediationTrainingIraqJulyAug2008>

## Sara Burham Hamoudi Speaks at Iraqi Peace Network Conference

By **Sara Hamoudi**, Student Supporter  
University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA



During a visit to Iraq last month, I was invited to speak as a member of MBB at a conference that was administered by the Iraqi Peace Network (IPN). IPN is an NGO committed to conflict transformation and peace building in contemporary Iraq funded largely by USAID. The program they were hosting concentrated on different kinds of conflict resolution such as mediation,

arbitration and other kinds of conflict resolutions. MBB FM **Alan Gross**, and one of the IPN organizers, gave me an opportunity to give a brief talk about my experience as an intern with Robert Creo, MBB Secretary-Treasurer.

My speech was a comparison of mediations in the U.S. and Iraq. The participants, Iraqis of different backgrounds, were very interested in knowing how mediation is practiced in the U.S. Specifically, they wanted to know who conducts mediation and whether it has a legal aspect or whether it is an extra legal cultural practice, as it often is in Iraq, where parties merely refer their disputes to respected tribal leaders to have them resolved. Also, they wanted to know how they can make mediation a more formal, legal practice in Iraqi communities rather than an exclusive reliance on tribes.

This desire was not limited to the participants in the conference. In visiting the courthouses in Sulaymania and Erbil and talking to many judges and lawyers, I found many who were hoping to have some kind of training by organizations to introduce mediation to the community and train lawyers and judges to understand principles of mediation.

Lawyers and judges were complaining about the fact that all too often people negotiate or solve their problems without having knowledge about their legal rights and later come back to courts with many problems with their adversaries that



Sara speaks at IPN.

were hardly addressed in the tribal system. This only leads to further burdens on an already overloaded court system.

In the end, I found the experience to be both rewarding and enlightening. While I hope that the participants learned from my talk, certainly I learned a great deal from them, about the problems associated with mediation in Iraq today and the means to address those problems. I can only hope that this leads to further collaboration and cooperation between the two legal cultures.

## Louise Phipps Senft Speaks at United Nations Youth Assembly in New York

FM **Louise Phipps Senft**, Baltimore, Maryland, USA presented at the United Nations Youth Assembly In New York. To read more visit the Baltimore Mediation Blog at <http://baltimoremediation.blogspot.com/2008/08/louise-speaks-at-un-youth-assembly.html>.

## Dorit Cypis' Exhibit "Foreign Exchanges: Galileo" Opens in Bank Gallery

FM **Dorit Cypis**, Los Angeles, California, USA, exhibit "**Foreign Exchanges: Galileo**" opens **September 13** and will run through October 25 at the Bank gallery in Los Angeles. The opening reception will be held Saturday, September 13 from 6 to 8 p.m.

For "Foreign Exchanges: Galileo," Cypis transforms Bank into an immersive, site-specific installation of photography, sculpture and text that becomes performative as soon as a viewer enters. A telescope, reminiscent of the one used by Galileo to observe the far away heavens, is a point of departure in this exhibition. The significance of Galileo is the role he played

in upsetting the 16th & 17th century geocentric model of the universe then believed to be a fixed reality, and the ensuing pronouncement of him as a heretic by the Catholic Church. Galileo was made invisible for daring to pronounce a new way of seeing. The relationships between seeing, experiencing, knowing and the cultural beliefs we have internalized are pronounced throughout this exhibition where the viewer, a participant in deciphering these relationships, cannot but engage with how they see themselves and how they see others.

For more information visit [www.bank-art.com](http://www.bank-art.com).

# Member Reflections

## Zimbabwe Crisis

By **Trevor Maisiri**, Citizen Supporter  
Mabelreign, Harare, Zimbabwe



For so long, we in Zimbabwe have wondered how African countries have so often faced civil wars, social decadence, moral decay, economic depletion and sustenance of poor governance. We used to be intrigued by how it all happened around us and never suspected it could visit us one day. Our minds were so cast on the external periphery of Africa's problems and challenges

and lost guard of our internal circumstances. We thought the ills that had faced so many of Africa's countries were sudden events, which did not evolve through progressive stages.

This was our downfall. We never saw the progression to today's realities, where inflation is hovering around 8 million percent (official is quoted at 2.2 million), unemployment is about 80 percent, high levels of poverty, food shortages, where one US dollar trades for about three trillion Zimbabwean dollars and, most importantly, where human life is put at the expedience of political gain.

We actually reared the problems and failed to detect them early enough, and today we seem not in control of our nation at all. The dictates of decline seem to be faster than we can ever arrest them. Fermented by a political crisis, such a contortion depicts the disaster and crisis that our country is faced with today.

The current crisis escalated back in 1997, when corruption, poor fiscal discipline, economic mismanagement and political patronage of state and business institutions was detected and identified. The following year, we saw the formation of the strongest opposition political party ever in Zimbabwe – the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). With its formation, all intentions to improve on the economy were diverted to political rivalry between the ZANU (PF) and the MDC.

Leading to the general elections of 2000, the first signs of violent elections surfaced. This was the first election in Zimbabwe where open killings, torture, beatings and intense political hate all precipitated to enormous extents. With the advent of these characteristics, the polarization of the Zimbabwean people through political manipulation began. The attributes of violent campaigning began, with threats and hate speeches among fellow Zimbabweans being the cornerstone.

In 2002 we had presidential elections that declared the ZANU (PF) candidate victorious, though the results were disputed by the opposition party. In 2005 we had a relatively peaceful general election by Zimbabwean standards. Then came the general elections of March 2008, which surprisingly were peaceful and allowed all parties to campaign. Not a single death was recorded in the run up to that election. The results of the gen-

eral election showed a marginal win for the opposition in parliament and for the presidential elections.

However, the presidential elections were ordered for a rerun as the opposition leader had failed to gain a majority so as to be declared the national President. On the declaration of the rerun, that is when all hell broke loose. The tide changed and hit every peace-loving Zimbabwean with such impact that left them dumbfounded. We never suspected that there was such arsenal capacity for political violence. We started counting deaths like we were at war. We started hearing of horrendous torture stories, only fit for fictitious writing. We were alarmed, and that's when we realized that the stories of violence we had heard elsewhere in Africa were a reality right at our door.

It was at this point that we realized that Zimbabwe had really deteriorated from its former glory of peace-loving, life-respecting, morally-tuned and progress-seeking. From about April 2008 to date, violence ripped entire communities to shreds, in terms of polarization and political manipulation. The poor, starving and vulnerable people in the communities (especially in the rural areas) also faced intra violence.

What we are faced with in Zimbabwean communities today are brothers who fought brothers, sisters who fought sisters, sons who fought mothers, sons who fought fathers, murders, rape, post conflict trauma, human violations etc. Communities are still bleeding. People are living in trauma. Rape victims need counseling, testing and treatment. Mothers lost homes and fathers lost sons. Communities are still divided, not knowing how to heal, how to reconcile, how to reconstruct relationships, how to reintegrate members back, how to reconstruct homes, not just houses. So much at stake and yet so little done.

The irony of it all is that politicians have moved on or are trying to move on disregarding the need for all that is highlighted above. Without taking sides and pin-pointing on sides (which we peace and mediation workers must not be tempted to do), MDC and ZANU (PF) seem not to have spoken or written about the plan to restore communities. The residues and remnants of the political violence at community levels seem to have been left hanging by the politicians, because all they want is to "move on." With such neglect of duty and incomprehensive political solutions, all that will remain is the bleeding heart, the traumatized people, the divided communities and the loss of the African communal unity, warmth, embrace which can all result from healing, reconciliation and reintegration.

It is therefore our call, to those members of Mediation Beyond Borders (MBB) who can give a thought to Zimbabwe. An intervention is urgently required. Maybe as the politicians focus on "moving on" we can focus on "moving hearts." As they focus on the "business of commercial addition" we can focus on the "business of the communal mediation."

Zimbabwe needs you.

**For more information about MBB's Zimbabwe efforts see Page 2.**

## **Duncan Autrey & Rhonda Neuhaus Speak at 5th Colombian Congress for Mediators**

By MMs **Rhonda Neuhaus & Duncan Autrey**  
Baltimore, Maryland, USA & Seattle, Washington, USA

Mediators Beyond Borders was invited to the Colombian Mediation, Arbitration and Conciliation Congress held in Cartagena between August 14-16, 2008. MM **Duncan Autrey** first brought MBB to the attention of the Congress organizers and attended as a participant and MBB advocate. MM **Rhonda Neuhaus** was a panelist, speaking on the history of mediation in the United States, her personal experiences as a mediator and Mediators Beyond Borders as well.

To provide some background on Colombia and MBB's involvement in this Congress, it is important to give a brief historical overview. Conflict in Colombia dates back to the revolution in 1819, when two political parties emerged from the dispute between "liberators" Simon Bolivar (now the conservative party) and Francisco de Paula Santander (now the liberal party). This conflict spanning the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries ended in 1957 when the National Front was declared, creating a division of labor where both liberals and conservatives could share power by alternating presidencies.

The National Front resulted in a tentative peace, but left the government ineffective in its ability govern. Guerilla groups were formed within this context between 1964 and 1970. The movements were initially viewed by many as a principled socialist response to a corrupt and ineffective government. In response to the growing power of the guerrillas, paramilitary groups were formed to maintain the "status quo" and defend the property rights of land-holding Colombians. The 1980's and early 90's saw an increase in the drug trade within which both the paramilitaries and the guerrillas participated. These years were the most violent of Colombia's history. After the reign of Pablo Escobar, the Patron of the Colombian drug trade, ended in 1993, the guerrillas and paramilitaries have continued to operate the Colombian drug trade. Interestingly enough, they do this operating separately and still in conflict.

In recent years, significant changes have begun to shift the conflict in Colombia. First was the creation of the joint U.S./Colombian "Plan Colombia," which aims to help Colombia's current problems, which include limited government presence in rural areas, expansion of illicit drug cultivation, endemic violence and social inequities. While some observe that there has been a marked reduction in violence, kidnapping and insecurity, many others are concerned that President Uribe and Plan Colombia see only military solutions to these points of chronic conflict, neglecting grave social and human rights concerns. It is in these areas where we believe that Mediators Beyond Borders might be useful to work in collaboration with our Colombian partners.

The Colombian Mediators, Arbitrators and Conciliators Congress sits squarely within this complicated political and historical context. This year marked the 5<sup>th</sup> National Congress. Additionally, it was the first time the Congress was expanded to include international participants from other South American nations and the U.S. The Congress was hosted and organized by Fundación Talid, a private foundation conducting a range of ADR services. Duncan discovered Fundación Talid while on vacation in Colombia and made the connection, which culminated in MBB's participation in the Congress.

Participants included conflict resolution professionals from Colombia, Chile, Brazil, Venezuela and Uruguay. Rhonda and Duncan were the only participants from the U.S. The audience was diverse, representing both the private and public sectors. Some participants favored both the community approach while others a more evaluative technique.

Rhonda spoke about ADR in the United States, her personal experience with mediation, and about MBB and its vision. MBB was welcomed enthusiastically and over sixty people expressed continued interest in MBB.

We learned that ADR in the form of conciliation has been part of Colombian National Law since 1995. There are a few hundred conciliation centers in Colombia, many attached to governments and universities. We also learned that, as in the U.S., ADR takes many forms. The term "conciliation" in Colombia is similar to our notion of mediation in that it features a facilitated conversation, but differs markedly in that the conciliator is expected to offer non-binding solutions to the parties. Colombians understand mediation as we define it in the U.S., but it is not common in Colombia and linguistically people often say mediation, when they actually mean conciliation. Our biggest lesson and recommendation for MBB is that we cannot expect definitions of ADR terminology or interest-based approaches, as we understand it, to be universally applied.

Another distinction is that most conciliation centers in Colombia do not have robust intake and screening mechanisms, which are common in community mediation centers in the U.S. The Congress allowed us to also begin to understand ADR in other South American nations. For example, in Argentina, their community mediation programs appear more similar to those in the U.S. One speaker spoke of conflict resolution programs being created in elementary schools, with positive results. Argentine mediators have also joined together in a national network of professionals. We believe networks such as these will be useful for MBB in expanding our network in the future. In Uruguay and Brazil, the ADR world is more limited but present and expanding.

Participants had many ideas for possible MBB collaboration. One included the possibility of assisting to establish a conflict resolution system for hospitals and the medical community of Uruguay. Another briefly discussed idea was working towards peace centers in Colombia. Finally, the Tábano organization in Bogotá is linked with university professors and students to begin to increase dialogue and consciousness regarding Colombia's most serious areas of conflict. This organization is attempting to begin a new and complex ADR dialogue model and are interested in collaborating with MBB on this process.

Our participation at this Congress opened new doors for learning and sharing knowledge and for planting the seeds for future collaboration. Many exciting ideas and opportunities are now possible.

**The Latin American interest group within MBB is co-chaired by Rhonda and FM Charlie Pillsbury. New Haven, Connecticut, USA We will be hosting monthly conference calls to follow-up on this work and welcome the participation of any MBB members who are interested in the future of MBB in Latin America.**

## Board Member Profile

### Douglas Noll

**Douglas Noll**, Clovis, California, USA, has obtained his J.D. from the University of the Pacific in Sacramento, California in 1977 and was admitted to the Bar in the same year. He has been an Adjunct Professor of Law at the San Joaquin College of Law in California, since 1987 and was the Adjunct Professor of Forensic Psychology at Alliant International University in California from 2001 - 2004.



As a mediator and peacemaker, Doug has worked on over 1,500 conflicts, both litigated and non-litigated. Mr. Noll specializes in difficult, complex and intractable conflicts where relationships are involved. He is a former trial lawyer who demonstrated success in complex, difficult or unique cases in state and federal trial and appellate courts. Doug has experience in AAA commercial and construction arbitration and has a broad range of knowledge, including business, financial, construction, commercial, agricultural, employment, constitutional law, insurance law and government contracts.

Doug has joined MBB in January 2008 and became a Board Director shortly after. He is currently involved with MBB's Strategic Planning Committee, Public Relations Committee and the Truth & Reconciliation Committee. He has also expressed interest in the Zimbabwe/Zambia Initiative.

To view his profile online, visit [www.mbbmembers.org/member\\_profiles/dnoll.shtml](http://www.mbbmembers.org/member_profiles/dnoll.shtml).

## Announcements

### MBB Congress - Looking for Art & Social Society Change Speaker

MBB is planning to present a seminar on art and social society change at the 2nd Annual MBB Congress in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. If you are interested in contributing to this seminar, please contact **FM Dorit Cypis**, Los Angeles, California, USA at [dorit@doritcypis.com](mailto:dorit@doritcypis.com).

### The Abraham Path Initiative

The Abraham Path is a route of cultural tourism that retraces the journey made by Abraham (Ibrahim) through the heart of the Middle East some four thousand years ago. Three and a half billion people — over half the human family — trace their history or faith back to Abraham, considered the father of monotheism. The Abraham Path honors this shared cultural heritage by linking together into a single itinerary of outstanding interest and beauty the ancient sites associated with Abraham and his family.

For more information visit [www.abrahampath.org](http://www.abrahampath.org)

To view their latest newsletter visit <http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/255114/7c7f072927/1339001412/035abf88af/>

### Acumen Fund Fellows Program

Each year, the Acumen Fund Fellows Program provides extraordinary young professionals with a unique opportunity to use their skills to effect real social change with our portfolio organizations in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, India and Pakistan, and to build lasting relationships with other like-minded individuals.

Acumen Fund Fellows are drawn from a pool of talented individuals from all geographies, sectors, backgrounds, religions, and ages. Ideal fellows include those who have already decided on a career in venture philanthropy, those who are seeking a career at the highest levels in the corporate world but want to better understand and impact problems of global poverty, and budding social entrepreneurs who want to learn about managing organizations in the most demanding settings.

The application process takes place each fall for the Fellows class of the following year. Applications for the Class of 2009 have closed. Fellows applying for the Class of 2010 will begin the training program in New York in September 2009 and complete the program in September 2010.

The new online application for the Fellows Class of 2010 opens on September 1, 2008 and closes at noon on October 20, 2008. There is no specific age or degree required for the program. However, we are seeking individuals with 3-7 years of work experience and would prefer a graduate degree.

[www.acumenfund.org/get-involved/fellows-program.html](http://www.acumenfund.org/get-involved/fellows-program.html)

## Hurricane Gustav Relief

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We thank each of you for your concern and offers of support as we seek to respond to Hurricane Gustav. As many of you are aware, Gustav knocked out power throughout our Diocese, and several areas are facing weeks without electricity. This, in turn, has created significant problems for people's access to food, health care, and in some cases even safe drinking water, while also contributing to major fuel shortages. For many households, the economic hardship of evacuation—calculated for many in unbudgeted expenditures of gas, hotel stays, and meals away from home—has been exacerbated by the continued power outage. Relief supplies from FEMA, the Red Cross, and Salvation Army have begun to arrive, but lines are long and demand far outpaces supply. In addition, many rural areas are still waiting to be served.

The Diocese of Louisiana has been meeting these needs by opening hospitality centers at churches in hard-hit areas. As we provide meals and water, we also offer care, connection,

and comfort—including, at times, simply the chance to cool off in an air-conditioned space! We are also working to supply material resources such as tarps, generators, and ice where they are needed most.

You can help us to respond to the impact of Hurricane Gustav with your prayers, your financial support, and your help in locating needed supplies. To date, we have especially been seeking ice and bottled water. If you have any sources of large quantities of either, please call Ben Taylor at 504-258-7521. We also expect gift cards, grocery items, and cleaning supplies & insect repellent to be of use in some areas. Needs do change almost hourly, so we ask that you please contact Ben before sending any donations our way, to be sure that we still can use your generous gifts!

Once again, we thank you,

**Nell Bolton**

*Office of Disaster Response , Executive Director*

## How You Can Help New Orleans

MBB FM **Susan Norwood**, *New Orleans, Louisiana, USA*, asked Ken McCarthy, who produced “The Katrina Myth” to write up advice on how MBB members can most help New Orleans, Louisiana and levees.org, an online source for information about levees and flood protection nationwide, as Gustav was approaching and after.

### Why is this so important?

First, levees.org's message visibility depends on a constant flow of fresh visitors to the YouTube page. We have no other platform at this time. Second, from what I can see, no one else is putting the “levees message” out there.

Instead, here's what I see on the news: the federal government endlessly congratulating itself on how well coordinated it is, the news gushing about the huge military presence in New Orleans to prevent looting, and the weather people talking about the minute meteorological details of the storm.

But no one is explaining that the biggest threat to New Orleans is levee failure - an entirely solvable problem.

“The Katrina Myth” does the job of clearing up the flood of misinformation, puts people on the side of New Orleans, and directs them to join levees.org. All good things and much needed right now.

If we succeed, the message will retain its current high visibility on YouTube and we may get some mass media attention for it. If we fail, the message will disappear from YouTube and I don't know who else is going to give us a platform.

You are the only source of help for this promotion. There is no one else. Every little bit - even sending one e-mail to one friend - helps.

To help levees.org visit:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=wln\\_iq5bc8k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wln_iq5bc8k)

## Upcoming Events

### Fall Mediation Certification Training Course, Los Angeles, California, USA

This **32-hour introductory mediation course** will take place on **September 6, 13, 20, 27** and is intended for those interested in becoming a Certified Mediator or improving their conflict resolution skills. Participants will learn how to understand conflict and successfully mediate in a variety of private and public settings. The course approach includes both mediation theory and highly interactive practical exercises and simulations.

Participants who complete all 32-hours will receive a mediation certificate issued by Kenneth Cloke's Center for Dispute Resolution in Santa Monica, California, USA and MBB's President. The course will be taught by **MBB Board Director Anna Spain**, who is an Adjunct Professor of Dispute Resolution at UCLA Law School and UCLA School of Public Affairs. Anna is also a mediator and former Attorney-Adviser at the U.S. Department of State specializing in cross-cultural and international conflict.

For more information visit [www.annaspain.com](http://www.annaspain.com).

## The New Israel Fund (NIF) 2008 Forum

NIForum 2008 will take place September 21, 2008 at NYU's Kimmel Center.

NIForum 2008 will focus on the next wave of social change in Israel. Join the New Israel Fund for a day of dialogue about Israel's toughest social, political and cultural issues. Hear from a new generation of activists using innovative strategies – in the courts, the media, the corporate sector and in communities – to create a more just and equitable Israel. Participants include Naomi Chazan, Fathi Marshood, Eliezer Yaari, Neta Ziv, and others. The NIForum will conclude with This Israeli Life, a special program of readings and storytelling by American Jewish writers on the Israel-Diaspora bond in all its complexity.

Supporters who have given or pledged \$1000 or more to NIF's 2008 general campaign are invited to a special reception with incoming NIF President Naomi Chazan on Saturday, September 20 at 8pm in Manhattan.

For more information and registration for the NIForum: Visit: [www.nif.org/niforum08](http://www.nif.org/niforum08)  
E-mail: [niforum@nif.org](mailto:niforum@nif.org)  
Call: 212-613-4400

## Designing Peacebuilding Programmes (DPP)

Designing Peacebuilding Programmes (DPP) is a five-day advanced international training programme for staff of national and international organizations, the United Nations and governmental and non-governmental organizations. The program has been specifically designed to assist organizations developing / implementing programs in peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

The program will take place in the International Peace and Development Training Centre in **Cluj-Napoca, Romania** from **September 22-23**. The deadline to apply is August 4 for applicants who need the Romanian visa and August 31 for applicants who do not need the Romanian visa.

For more information visit: [www.patrir.ro/training](http://www.patrir.ro/training).

## ACR Eighth Annual Conference

ACR will host its eighth annual conference titled "**Aspirations, Possibilities, and Realities: Expanding Principles, Practice, and Research in a Changing World**" from **September 24-27** at the Hilton Austin, Texas, USA. The keynote speaker will be Lee H. Hamilton, who is president and director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and director of The Center on Congress at Indiana University.

Many MBB Members are attending the conference, including Board Directors **Nan Waller Burnett**, Golden, Colorado, USA; **Rachel Wohl**, Annapolis, Maryland, USA; **C.J. Larkin**, St. Louis, Missouri, USA and FM **Alan E. Gross**, Pocono Pines, Pennsylvania, USA. They will also represent MBB at the conference. If any MBB Members who are planning to attend wish to represent MBB as well, they should find Nan.

## AFCC Eighth International Symposium & Conference

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) Eighth International **Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations** and AFCC Eighth International **Congress on Parent Education and Access Programs** will take place on **September 26-27, 2008** at the Albuquerque Marriott in **Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA**.

To download the brochure, visit <http://www.afccnet.org/pdfs/2008%20Albuquerque%20Symposium%20and%20Congress.pdf>

## Advanced Mediation Skills Training

The Pittsburgh Mediation Training Alliance is pleased to announce its first training in mediation with trainer and MBB FM **Bernie Behrend**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. The training will take place Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the 3rd floor of 134 Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and seating is limited to 24 participants.

Topics will include: • Effective interventions: what, when and why. • Harnessing the power of the parties. • Handling emotions in a rational process. • Dealing with disruptions.

- The myths of impasse, compromise & power imbalance

This 6-hour interactive course builds on basic mediation skills training and in-the field experience.

**Tuition:** \$219, lunch included

To register send contact info and check made out to Pittsburgh Mediation Training Alliance to: **Rick Rogow** to the address listed above.

## IACP 9th Annual Networking and Educational Forum, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

The International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) Forum this year seeks to discuss and explore the opportunities and challenges facing collaborative communities throughout the world: **How do we Step Up and Reach Out?** The Forum will feature 48 workshops, eight pre-forum institutes, as well as opportunities to join New Orleans community projects.

The Forum takes place on **October 15-19, 2008** at the **Sheraton New Orleans Hotel**, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

For more information visit [www.collaborativepractice.com/\\_t.asp?M=8&MS=4&T=New-Forum](http://www.collaborativepractice.com/_t.asp?M=8&MS=4&T=New-Forum)  
To register for the IACP Forum 2008 visit: [www.collaborativepractice.com/RegForum2008.asp](http://www.collaborativepractice.com/RegForum2008.asp)

## Basic Mediation Training - Focusing on Sources of Conflict & Systems Approach

The next mediation and conflict transformation training by Baltimore Mediation titled **Basic Mediation - Focusing on Sources of Conflict and Systems Approach** will be held from **October 22 through Friday October 24**. The training offers 20-hour mediation and conflict transformation and resolution theory and skills with a focus on sources of conflict and a systems approach to conflict and intervention, with certification for circuit court mediators and for daily use and practice.

The training will be held at the Gramercy Mansion Carriage House (1400 Greenspring Valley Road, Baltimore, MD 21153-0119). The fee is \$745 and includes 20-hour certificated courses, light meals and a training manual.

Visit [www.baltimoremediation.com/tw\\_20b\\_basic2.php](http://www.baltimoremediation.com/tw_20b_basic2.php) for additional details and to fill out a registration form.

## The Fourth Regional Conference of the South Eastern European Mediation Forum

**The Fourth Regional Conference of the South Eastern European Mediation Forum** will take place **November 6-8, 2008** in Zagreb, Croatia.

The South Eastern European Mediation Forum promotes and performs mediation through direct activities and networking with local and external networks and organizations, and seeks to include all forms of mediation and mediators. The purpose of the 2008 SEEMF conference is two-fold:

1) **Advocacy for more political support for Mediation in the Region:** To build political support and understanding of mediation, SEEMF would like to invite policy makers and high-level ministers and court officials to attend the event and hear more about the successful implementation of mediation in the region and to learn about the impact mediation has had and can have on the administration of justice and

resolution of costly disputes in transitional countries.

2) **Skills building for Mediators:** SEEMF would like to offer the region's practicing mediators an on-going educational opportunity to receive advanced skills training in sophisticated areas of practice from seasoned regional and international experts.

The goal of the conference is to continue to build relationships and networks of mediation professionals and policy makers throughout the region to support each other's work and grow the mediation field in South Eastern Europe.

For info contact Eva Malisius from the CSSProject for Integrative Mediation at +49 30 227-77110 or [emalisius@cssproject.org](mailto:emalisius@cssproject.org)

## 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 LeMoine** 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](http://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](http://www.mbbmembers.org/congress/registration.shtml). Early bird registration runs until January 3, 2009 at \$180. Regular registration fee is \$195.



# MBB Administration

## MBB Contact Information

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## 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 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 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 Lefevre, MBB Administrative Assistant.

*Mediators Beyond Borders (MBB) is not a trade association of professional society. MBB is a group of volunteers providing training, capacity building and other peace-building services. MBB is a non-government public charity exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Any funds will be used exclusively to further our mission. No party will receive any goods, services or any form of impermissible benefits. No contributions will be used for lobbying, political contributions or to support political campaign activities.*

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