



PEACE Talk

the community newsletter for Mediation Services of Maui
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ELDER MEDIATION: FOR FAMILIES FACED WITH MAJOR DECISIONS

By KIM COMPOC, Executive Director of Mediation Services of Maui.

A broken hip, a stroke, a heart attack, an amputated leg. When these kinds of challenges occur, family members are faced with an uncomfortable truth: We have a member of the family who is getting older.

Questions arise such as: Who is going to take care of him or her? Who is going to pay for it? If everyone agrees home care is best, how can the caretaker get support so resentments don't build up?

Often families find it difficult to manage these tough questions. As a result, conversations are delayed until there is a crisis.

Aging is natural. Getting

assistance as we age is natural. It's helpful when our families are working harmoniously with community support to get us the help we need. There are creative ways for families to come together to make a plan for an aging person and that is why Elder Mediation was developed.

Mediation Services of Maui is teaming with the County of Maui's Office on Aging to address this emerging need. Just as in regular mediation, parties meet with a neutral third person whose job it is to manage the process and help parties come to a mutually agreeable solution. With Elder Mediation, parties also receive the assistance of a community professional who can answer questions and make referrals.

The aging person in these

scenarios experiences a range of emotions. These include anger for loss of independence, guilt for needing to ask for assistance, and irritation with the inability of family members to get along with each other. Financial stresses intensify all these emotions.

Emotions of the family members are considerable as well. It's very common for them to feel overwhelmed, even exhausted with new responsibilities. They may feel honored to be chosen to be the home of choice for the aging person. They may feel hurt for being passed over. The family is faced with a challenge: Are we going to handle this as adults or quarrel as we did as children?

Luckily, trained facilitators can guide parties to talk through these powerful emotions in a pro-

ductive, structured process. Often it's the most productive conversation they have had in years. As in all conflicts, Elder Mediation gives families the chance to actually repair communication and mend relationships.

Families are smart to take advantage of this program which will foster respect, communication and peace.

Do it now when the aging person can say clearly what he or she wants. Do it before a crisis hits. Do it before a lawsuit gets filed. Do it before the family is torn apart.

These are the most important relationships in our lives. If we spend a little time to nourish and sustain them, we will be able to look back and know we did the very best for those we love.

BASIC MEDIATION TRAINING

Graduation Day, August 14, 2006

Photo by Lydee Ritchie

"I loved every bit of this training. It's very helpful for personal growth. Diane and Claudia were magnificent! Their skill level is amazing, and their teaching is clear, full-bodied."

- Barbara Lee, Class of 2006



15 trainees finished MSM's Basic Training Class held at Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center in Wailuku. Training team Diane Petropulos and Claudia Wahl presented this widely acclaimed 38-hour class. This year's training class included: Nakumukoa Abyssinia, McCarty Baker, Bodhi Be, Larry Carter, Debbie Cabebe, Eduardo Chenchin, Joy Enomoto, Lois Janis, Christi Keliikoa, Barbara Lee, Gina Liberman, Susan Offermann, Bruce Regnier, Kuulei Spock and Jon Tallman.

MSM holds a Basic Mediation Training once per year. Graduates have the opportunity to apply to become volunteers with the agency. However, MSM can also offer this training to you at your workplace or other community setting. Please call 244-5744 for more information.

Did you know you can receive this newsletter via email? info@mauimmediation.org

Mediator Profile: Joshua Hirata



Joshua Hirata has been a mediator with MSM since early 2005. Since then, he has mediated 22 cases, a total contribution of 71 hours. When asked why he mediates, Joshua replied, "It's very satisfying to help somebody. I also like the staff. If it wasn't for them I wouldn't do it. I figure, there must be a reason that you are there working there, and

it's sure not for the money." Joshua is a father of three, the grandfather of one, a realtor, a court interpreter and former Japanese language teacher at Baldwin High School. He says, "As an interpreter, I have a kind of mechanical thinking – I can help people to simplify their problems."

Joshua was born in Japan, the son of a minister. He lived in LA, Seattle and other parts of the Mainland, and he has been on Maui for 18 years. He says, "When I think back on my life, particularly age 17-18 when I came to US, I struggled a lot. I had financial struggles, plus being Japanese on the Mainland during the Japan-bashing of the '80s. I've been the target of that. People have tried to shoot me. I've had my problems.

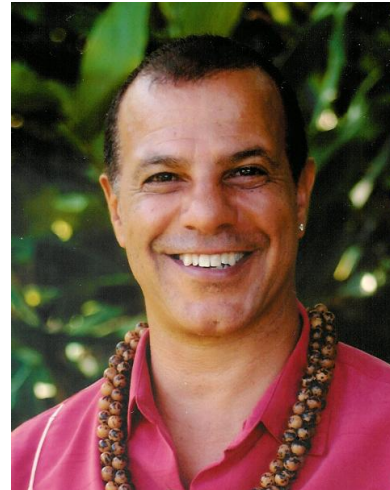
"But I'm so grateful for what I have now, my beautiful wife and children. I wish I'd known then about mediation when I was having problems with my co-workers or my ex-spouse, I probably would have had a different path. I would like everyone to know about the availability of mediation and what mediation is.

"There is magic here and we need to let other people know."

Board of Directors Update

MSM was sad to accept the resignation of Mischel Berg from the Board in July. Mischel came to the board two years ago and has had a tremendous impact on the agency. She hosted several house parties, donated dozens of hours, and she even cooked dinners for our Board meetings! Mischel has brought generosity, organization and beauty to every project she took on. Unfortunately for us, she's taking on adventures elsewhere. Thanks to you Mischel and to your equally generous husband Mike Rodby for your superb contributions these last two years.

Thankfully, in July we were able to welcome Paul



Rambo as our newest Board member. Paul is a Career Counselor at Maui Job Corps in Makawao where he works with youth from Maui and from all parts of the Pacific Rim. He is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara and he has lived in Hawaii for over 25 years. In addition, he is a licensed minister, a chaplain with Unity Church, and a

licensed massage therapist (LMT). For ten years he has been the Chairman of the Board for Kalani Honua, an educational retreat center on Big Island, which is the largest of its kind in Hawaii.

Paul says, "MSM is a viable and important facet in our community. Through mediation, we promote understanding. And we need more understanding! This is true between cultural groups, between business partners, and even in spiritual practice.

"We must help our young people to develop tools to be able to communicate in a positive way when differences arise."

Mahalo to our active mediators - the heart of our agency! (July - October, 2006)

David Brass
Cliff Caesar
Larry Carter
Pat DeBlasio
Janie Ennis
Carol Gentz
Kit Gillette
Gayle Gordon
Sunny Gutierrez
David Hartley

Shirley Hartley
Harry Hecht
Karen Hecht
Walter Hillinger
Joshua Hirata
Buzzy Kaufman
Leilani Kepler
Sue Kiang
Robyn Klein
Barbara Lee

Stephen Levine
Joseph Mitchell
Patrick Nash
Cheri Nashiwa
Ann Nowicki
Diane Petropulos
Jeanette Rucci
Bill Snipes
Kuulei Spock
Bill Staton

Wayne Steel
Linda Stephens
Bruce Sutherland
David Tester
Priscilla Veilleux
Claudia Wahl
John Wilson, III

Mahalo to Donors and Special Volunteers!

Your support makes our work possible.

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 Sandy & Charlie Foreman
 Scott and Sherry Fisher
 Sudha Scott and Bruce Kelman
 Susan & Bob Offermann
 Terri & Smokie Ulichney
 Thomas Lane
 Tom & Priscilla Veilleux

Youth Coordinator Position

MSM will be hiring a part-time Youth Coordinator in January 2007. The coordinator will be responsible for organizing trainings, building relationships with schools, and mentoring the young people in their new role as mediators. For those interested, please submit a resume and cover letter to: Kim Compoc, Executive Director, MSM, 95 Mahalani Street, Wailuku, HI 96793.



YOUTH TRAINING at Kalama Intermediate School, Makawao. MSM Executive Director presented this Mediation Training September 2006. 20 youth were trained to mediate their peers. The class included sixth, seventh and eighth graders. Photo by Faye Kashiwa-Otsuka.

“Peer mediation really helps you to communicate your feelings.” - 6th grader, Kalama Intermediate School

MSM Year in Review: 2005-2006

Served: 1428 # Cases: 602
 # Cases Mediated: 299 # Cases Agreement: 141
 Satisfied with mediation process: 93%
 Would recommend mediation to others: 97%
 Agreements that held up after 3 months: 80%
Top 10 Case Types: Landlord/Tenant (207),
 Consumer/Merchant (156), Domestic (71),
 Neighbor (30), Job Related (22), Family (20),
 Auto Accident (15), Business (12), & Condominium (9).



Divorce/Domestic Training

Thanks to Trainer Erin Edwards from Mediation Center of the Pacific for presenting this training July 7-9. Thanks also to the above mediators who are willing to do this difficult but important work. Photo by Kim Compoc.

Mediator Mahalo Party: A Brunch Buffet

Saturday, December 2, 2006 10:30am-12:30pm

Please save the date: Saturday, December 2, 2006, 10:30AM-12:30. Janie Ennis and the good people at Stella Blues (1279 South Kihei Road, Azeka Mauka by Kaiser) in Kihei have donated their gorgeous space & food for this event. Please let us show you how much we appreciate your hard work this year. We are looking forward to see you there! RSVP: 244-5744.

Mercedes Championship, Kapalua:

Monday, January 1, 7:00am-12:30pm

Do you love golf, gorgeous views and helping MSM? Please sign up to help at this year's Mercedes Golf Championship. MSM provides parking lot attendants for the golf championship for a 6 hour shift in Kapalua each January. The event is a fundraiser for the J. Walter Cameron Center. First five volunteers get a gift certificate to Long's!

25th anniversary of MSM

1982-2007

MSM will be having our 25th anniversary next year! The Board and Staff agree that we want a really special event that Maui will never forget. But what should it be? A fashion show? An awards banquet? A dance party with salsa lessons? If you have an opinion and a little sense of adventure, please give us a call! We are looking for a chair for this very important committee. Contact Kim at 244-5744.

Participant Quotes

- "Great organization and opportunity for conflict resolution."
- "The mediators were very helpful and considerate of my needs. I feel the outcome was just for both parties."
- "I'm glad I called and took a positive way to resolve our differences."
- "I got to voice my feeling without being judged."
- "We made a good faith effort to resolve this dispute and the mediators did an excellent job."
- "Good job. Keep up the good work."

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please tell us so we won't waste

the paper or the postage. Mahalo!

IT FEELS GOOD TO GIVE!

Mediation Services of Maui is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)3 organization. MSM offers mediation, meeting facilitation, extensive trainings, community education and a program for teens. Your support allows us to continue providing these smart, non-violent approaches to conflict in our community. Please give generously, as any donation you make is 100% tax-deductible!

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other: \$_____

- OK to list my name in PeaceTalk
 I prefer for my donation to remain anonymous.



MAHALO FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!