



PEACE Talk

the community newsletter for Mediation Services of Maui
www.mauimmediation.org * February 2007 issue



Claudia Wahl, M.A.
MSM's New Youth Coordinator!

Welcome back Claudia, MSM's former Executive Director (1996-2003)! She is training intermediate & high school youth as well as helping MSM get its Restorative Justice program started up again.



Kihei Charter High School Mediation Team
Photo by Marie Welton, February 2007

What have you been up to for the last three years?

I've been finishing graduate school at California State University at Dominguez Hills in Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding. I've also started a mediation practice with Bill Snipes, Mediation Solutions, LLC. I've been mediating and training for MSM as well as teaching for UH Manoa and Maui Community College.

Why did you decide to come back to MSM?

I teach conflict resolution at the adult level for UH and MCC, and many of my students are parents who ask all the time, "Why aren't we teaching our children these skills?" We are of course teaching these skills to young people, but it is not as much as we would like, and it is not consistent. When you asked me to take this position, I thought this might be a good opportunity for me to work with the community to increase the number of youth being trained.

How's the response from the community been so far?

The community is responding. We are receiving more requests for training, and I get the feeling that many of the schools are ready to fully embrace a program that not only makes the schools safer, but also enriches the students' learning experience.

What is your vision for the youth program?

The future rests in the hands of our youth. It is so important that we give them all the tools they need to navigate their world. My goal is to offer peer mediation, conflict resolution, and communication skill development trainings. I'd also like to work with schools and youth groups to develop viable programs.

How was your first training at Kihei High School?

The training was highly interactive, and we had a good time! I was so impressed that this group of young people would volunteer their time to take this training. When asked why they were taking the training, the overwhelming majority said, "Because we want to help others." They were enthusiastic and excited about the material I presented, and I was awed by how quickly they picked up and applied the concepts. Their teacher, Melissa Buffington, was with us throughout the training, and it was wonderful to see how much support she offered her students.

To learn more about this program, call 244-5744. Or to read Claudia's article in The Maui News, visit us online at our new & improved website: www.mauimmediation.org.



Kamehameha Middle Schools Mediation Team
Photo by Lydee Ritchie, November 2006

Letter from the Director Kim Compoc

MSM is off to a great start in 2007! Our Board of Directors and Staff held Strategic Planning in November 2006, and we are renewed in our commitment to our mission and vision. Claudia Wahl is back on board as our Youth Coordinator. We have a Facilitator Training scheduled next month, just in time for the upcoming Solid Waste Management Planning we've been asked to do for the County. We continue our outreach for our brand new Elder Mediation Program, designed to help families plan for long-term care issues.

Most important of all, we have begun planning for our 25th Anniversary Party! Back in 1981, Mike Hazama, a Baldwin High School principal and Maui superintendent, attended a 40-hour training on Oahu by acclaimed mediator Peter Adler. Also in attendance were Priscilla Veilleux and Sandy Shiner, who are still active with MSM to this day.

They learned about a model, a way to resolve conflicts peacefully without going to court. Soon after, Articles of Incorporation were signed by Donald Cataluna, John Wilt and Mike Lyons and in 1982, a new organization "Maui Neighborhood Justice Center" was born. (We would later rename ourselves "Mediation Services of Maui" in 1990).

Today we are the second-largest mediation center in the state, serving over 1600 people a year through mediation, facilitation, training and community education. We intend to be here for another 25 years, and with your help we will be.

Please don't be shy about getting involved! Whether your interest is youth, seniors, community-planning or party-planning, we welcome your talents and enthusiasm.

Attorney Survey

What do attorneys think about MSM? We conducted a survey with fifteen Maui attorneys in December 2006. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Here is a sample of their comments:

"I'm a big supporter of yours. You're doing a great job for the community."

"Your services are very good for neighbor conflicts."

"You're doing a great job, excellent job for landlord/tenant disputes."

"It's a wonderful approach...Your system is definitely the way to work."

"You have a good success rate. It's inexpensive compared to litigation, and you get a resolution faster than in court."

"You guys do unbelievably well for the money you guys charge. And you're wonderfully friendly people."

"I wish you could evaluate the cases, i.e. say you're going to win, you're going to lose. Maybe you're too nice. You're gentle. Not heavy-handed like the private mediators."

"Sometimes my clients say you are too passive. Private mediators are more aggressive, pushing agreements with clients who are more entrenched. I have no problem with aggressiveness, people who take control of the process."

"More effective than arbitration or litigation."

"Yes, I recommend mediation to my clients. I don't believe in ruthless litigation, especially with kids involved. You can't ignore the other parent."

"You have well-trained mediators. My clients don't want to go to court and sometimes an apology is enough."

TRAINING UPDATE:

Sandra's Back to present Facilitator Training! March 14-15, 2007

Are you tired of going to meetings where nothing gets accomplished? Mediation Services of Maui is offering a two-day Facilitator Training on Wednesday, March 14 and Thursday, March 15 from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Sandra Florence (picture left) will be training.

Participants will learn how to facilitate effective meetings and help groups to do their best work. The curriculum includes: pre-meeting planning, conducting the meeting, keeping to an agenda, facilitating open discussion and dealing with difficult dynamics.

The cost is \$150, and \$75 if you are a mediator with MSM. Space is limited. The training will be held at Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center in Wailuku. Call Mediation Services of Maui at 244-5744 to register or visit our website www.mauimmediation.org.



**Mahalo to Donors and Special Volunteers!
Your support makes our work possible.**

Alan "Buzzy" Kaufman	Hatsue Oshiro
Bonnie Chadwick	Karen Hue Sing-Ledesma
Carol Gentz	Kelley & John Acosta
Charlene & Craig Henderson	Lance Collins
David Brass	Lynn Araki and George Shimada
David Brown	Rhoda Domingo
David Dantes/Maui Tradewinds	Scott and Ellen Nashiwa
Dorli Reeve	Stella Blues
Diane Petropulos & John Wilson	Susan Bradford
Gary Robert	Sylvelin Kepler

Board of Directors Update

MSM was extremely sad to accept the resignation of Ruth Moss from the Board in December due to family illness. Ruth came to the board two years ago. A political fundraiser with dozens of years of Board experience, she has provided much needed wisdom on many issues. Ruth was in charge of our three-month follow up evaluation, an extremely time-consuming task which she did quite graciously. She and her husband Alvin will both be missed!

MSM is accepting resumes for the Board of Directors. If you would like to join, please send a letter of inquiry to President Buzzy Kaufman, c/o Mediation Services of Maui, 95 Mahalani Street, Wailuku, HI 96793. New Board members are encouraged to attend a committee meeting first. MSM's committees are: Events committee, Marketing and Major Gifts Campaign.

**Mahalo to our active mediators - the heart of our agency!
(November 2006- January 2007)**

Alan "Buzzy" Kaufman	Jeanette Rucci	Myrna Stone
Ann Nowicki	John Wilson, III	Nancy Potter
Bill Snipes	Joseph Mitchell	Nick Dewey
Christi Keliikoa	Joshua Hirata	Pat DeBlasio
Claudia Wahl	Joy Enomoto	Patrick Nash
Cliff Caesar	Karen Hecht	Priscilla Veilluex
David & Shirley Hartley	Karen Hue Sing-Ledesma	Robyn Klein
David Tester	Kuulei Spock	Sue Kiang
Diane Petropulos	Dr. Larry Carter	Sunny Gutierrez
Eduardo Chenchin	Marie Welton	Susan Bradford
Dr. Harry Hecht	Mitch Berman	Susan Offermann

MAHALO PARTY 2006!



This is our special party to honor the past year's work. In 2006, our mediators volunteered almost 1000 hours. Over 35 mediators came to this year's party held Saturday, December 2. Special Mahalo to Janie Ennis and the gang at Stella Blues in Kihei who donated the space and delicious food. Hope to see you next year!



**MEDIATION SERVICES OF MAUI
IS 25 YEARS OLD!
LET'S CELEBRATE!**

SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2007 WE WILL
CELEBRATE OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY AT
THE RENAISSANCE WAILEA BEACH RESORT!
TICKETS ARE \$55 WHICH INCLUDES: GOURMET
MEXICAN DINNER, LIVE MUSIC, DANCING,
SILENT AUCTION & A NIGHT YOU WON'T FORGET!

QUE BUENO!

CALL FOR INFO: 244-5744



Peace TALK

is published semi-quarterly by
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please tell us so we won't waste
the paper or the postage. Mahalo!



Thanks for reading PeaceTalk!
Kim, Leilani, Cheri

SUPPORT MSM, SUPPORT PEACE

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!

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MAHALO FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!