



Published By Oregon Mediation Association
An Oregon Non-Profit Corporation Of Members Committed to the Development, Support, and Advocacy of Mediation in the State of Oregon

VOLUME XIV ISSUE NO. 3 P.O. Box 40041 • Portland, Oregon 97240 • 503-872-9775 • www.omediate.org SUMMER 2009

2009 OMA CONFERENCE PREVIEW: BEYOND HEROES AND VILLAINS

Amy Cleary, Conference Committee Chair

I was out stimulating the economy the other day and couldn't help noticing Halloween decorations in the store. This was somewhat shocking, as it is still August and has recently been over 100 degrees outside. Now I realize that the pumpkin banners were a sign that it is high time for me to start promoting the November 2009 OMA Fall Conference in beautiful Eugene, Oregon.

The 2009 OMA Conference will be held in Eugene for the first time. Conference dates are Friday and Saturday, November 6th & 7th. The University of Oregon Appropriate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Center, located at the UO Law School, is hosting and co-sponsoring this two day event. This partnership is an opportunity for OMA to hold the conference in the south Willamette Valley, which will provide a closer venue for those in southern and central Oregon and still be close enough for a short trip from Portland. We expect the conference to attract a diverse audience from across the state as well as students, staff, and faculty from the University of Oregon. The conference will be filled with high quality workshops and training. We are very appreciative of Jane Gordon's collaborative spirit, in particular, as she and her staff work to help make this year's conference experience exceptional. (Jane is an OMA member, the UO Law School Associate Dean for Students and Program Affairs, and the Director of the Appropriate Dispute Resolution Center).

This year's keynote speaker is the world renowned public policy mediator Larry Susskind. Dr. Susskind is the author of numerous books and a professor at MIT. He has pages of accomplishments, too many to list here, and we are very fortunate to have his commitment to serve as OMA's keynote speaker. Visit OMA's

website, www.omediate.org, or look at this issue's *President's Ponderings* to learn more about Larry Susskind. You will not want to miss his presentations!

This year's choice of workshops will include 30 sessions scheduled over the two conference days. We have applied for NASW and Oregon State Bar CLE credits for all Conference workshops and plenary sessions on Friday and Saturday.



INSIDE This Issue:

- *Member Services Report* – p 2
- *Save the Date: OMA Awards Event!* – p 2
- *Director's Corner* – p 3
- *President's Ponderings* – p 4
- *Mediators Uphold Democratic Processes* – p 5
- *Compassionate Listening* – p 6
- *Legislative Update* – p 7-8
- *OMA Wish List* 8
- *Board of Directors, Lifetime Members* – p 9
- *New Members* – p 10

Member Services Report

OMA's June Spring Fling: A Good Time Had by All!

OMA was pleased to welcome guest speaker Professor Richard Birke, Willamette University, to the spring fling stage at the Kennedy School in Portland on June 18th. Mr. Birke's presentation on "Mediating between Your Old and New Brains" was great – ahem, food for thought! – and we look forward to hearing more from him about neuroscience and its ties to mediation during the 2009 OMA Fall Conference, where he will be a featured presenter. Our thanks to Mr. Birke for his lively presentation and to all the many folks who came out for the annual event!

OMA Listening Session Coming Soon

OMA's Board of Directors and the Member Services Committee will hold the second OMA Listening Session on **October 5, 2009 from noon-1:00pm**. We will send an announcement via OMA Flash soon. We hope you will join us for a chance to speak directly to OMA board members about issues that are important to you!



Attendees to the Spring Fling held at the Kennedy School in Portland in June.

OMA Launches New "Membership" Webpage

OMA Administrative Assistant superstar Megan Brooker has created a new page on the OMA website that is solely dedicated to information regarding your OMA membership. The page includes a "top 10 list" of reasons to join OMA, a list of membership benefits, and clarifications regarding each of the membership categories. This page also allows you to quickly link to the page where you can join OMA or renew your membership, which makes it a great resource for passing along to other colleagues who might be interested in joining OMA. Please see the new page at: <http://omediate.org/pq89.cfm>

Save the Date!

New OMA Awards Event!

Our OMA award tradition has continued to evolve over the years. At last year's Fall Conference, OMA presented three Awards of Excellence to OMA members who had made outstanding contributions to the field of mediation. Given our increasingly packed conference schedule, our desire to fully honor our awardees, and our interest in expanding our base of financial support, we've decided to hold a special awards event in March 2010. This will be a fun and exciting event for OMA members, friends and supporters of mediation in Oregon.

Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us for this new event!

- DATE:** Thursday Evening, March 18, 2010
- PLACE:** The Tiffany Center in Downtown Portland
- PARTY:** Food, music, entertainment, and more!

More details to come!



Director's Corner

It has been a busy spring and summer for OMA! Many thanks to Erin Halton, Mike Schnee, Tsipora Dimant, Rita Moore and Sue McFadden for helping us plan a superb Spring Fling. Richard Birke, our presenter, had lots to teach us about how our old and new brains collaborate (or not!) to help us live as well as possible.

For the past 23 years, the Oregon Mediation Association has been planning fabulous conferences that concentrate our collective brain power and bring together mediators and friends from across the state. This year's conference, "Beyond Heroes & Villains: The Power of Collaboration" on November 6th and 7th is shaping up to be an exceptional event.

My sincere thanks to the following members of the OMA Conference Committee who have been working intensively, creatively, and passionately to prepare a great conference for you: Amy Cleary, Phil Moses, David Bertram, Jim Brooks, Lisa Amato, Lisa Mayfield, Warren Oster, Paul Allen, Brad Witt, Miriam Bautista, Tom Fiscus, Berry Krujning, and Caitlan Hendrickson.

Thank you, also, to Jane Gordon, Associate Dean for Students and Program Affairs Director, Appropriate Dispute Resolution Program, and Ariel Broadus at the University of Oregon School of Law Appropriate Dispute Resolution Center for all of their efforts as our collaborative partners on the Conference.

An OMA Fall Conference lasts two days and will come and go in almost the blink of an eye. Some years, a conference experience may change your life. Other years, a conference can come and go with no lasting influence on your mind,

heart and soul. What makes the difference?

One of the best ways to get the most out of your conference experience is to begin reflecting on the theme in advance. Many of the world's spiritual and religious traditions incorporate periods of contemplation into their calendar, for example the 40 days of the season of Lent in the Catholic tradition and the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in the Jewish tradition.

So for those of you who like the idea of preparation and intention, here are a few questions to reflect on between now and our Fall Conference:

- When have you personally made a shift in a relationship where one of you had strong feelings about who was right and who was wrong?
 - What are your personal struggles and successes in this area?
 - Have you ever been surprised by a so-called "villain" who turned out to be a hero?
 - Have you been involved in a mediation where people were able to move powerfully beyond concepts of hero and villain? What happened? What made the shift possible?
 - How does "forgiveness" impact moving beyond villains and super-heroes to collaboration?
 - How could the world use your help when it comes to collaboration?
- And finally:
- What do you want to learn or what do you want to give to others attending the Conference?

Watch for opportunities leading up to and at the conference where you can share your thinking on these and other questions.

On the fence about joining us at the OMA Fall Conference in Eugene this November?

Here are 6 great reasons to attend the 2009 Fall Conference!

1. Take a break, rejuvenate, and re-energize yourself!
2. Educate yourself! This year's conference will include presenters from throughout the country in addition to our illustrious OMA members. You'll find topics that are sure to challenge you, no matter how long you've been mediating.
3. Make a personal statement about the importance of mediation and community.
4. Indulge yourself! This year's conference will have great food (including walking distance to a great ice cream shop), excellent conversation, and even access to the university athletic center for those of you who want to get in a little exercise before or after the sessions.
5. Practice generosity! Be a buddy to a first time conference-goer, share your skills, encourage an emerging leader, think about ways to support others in the field.
6. Relax and enjoy! Have you been to a gazillion OMA conferences? All the more reason to join us! Kick back, meet old friends, take a break, and bask in the glow of all you already know about mediation.

See you in November!

President's Ponderings

Mike Schnee, OMA President

Hi Everyone,

What a busy year OMA has been having! The Board retreat laid a successful foundation for the year. Since that time, committees have been implementing their work plans, OMA was busy advocating for mediation during the legislative session, the Spring Fling was great...and there is much more in the works.

This year's Annual Conference in Eugene will be outstanding. Dr. Larry Susskind is a pioneer and national leader in dispute resolution. He has held numerous prestigious positions including the Executive Director of the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School and has published award winning books on dispute resolution. He will give the keynote address and attend the conference. Don't miss out on hearing and meeting Dr. Susskind at the conference.

We have convened two workgroups: one for developing a format and database for an Annual Report on Mediation in Oregon and one for Enhancing OMA's Communication Tools and Approaches. Your participation on these workgroups and on OMA committees is needed. Help the field and help yourself at the same time! It has been my experience that the more involved I get, the more benefits I receive from OMA membership. And on top of all that, I have met great people and had a lot of fun along the way. Contact the OMA office if you would like to get more involved and the staff will help you find the right project for you.

On another note...Is anyone else out there frustrated by the substance of the public debate on health-care? To paraphrase Steven Covey, 'The key to influencing others is being influence-able yourself' - I am not seeing much of that going on! Larry Susskind has some interesting observations on his blog - I suggest you take a look. Go to the OMA webpage, <http://www.omediate.org/>, click on the "Conference" webpage, "Keynote" hyperlink, then on "Larry Susskind". There, you will find the link to his blog.

Finally, I want to thank the OMA staff for their excellent work in reengineering OMA's business systems, reestablishing the office in a new location, and supporting OMA's member needs, committees and the Board. Judy Brodkey has been the Executive Director for slightly over one year and Megan Brooker was hired shortly after Judy. They have done an outstanding job for OMA. Thank them when you see them.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Mike



About Larry Susskind:

From 1982-1985, Susskind served as the first Executive Director of the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School, an inter-university consortium for the improvement of theory and practice in the field of dispute resolution. Since 1995, he has held the Ford Professor of Urban & Environmental Planning at MIT. He currently holds appointments as Vice-Chair for Instruction at Harvard and Director of the Public Disputes Program at the Harvard Law School.

The recipient of numerous awards, Susskind has twice received the Best Book in the Dispute Resolution Field Award presented by the Center for Public Research. He won the award in 1997 for [Dealing with an Angry Public](#) and in 2000 for [The Consensus Building Handbook](#). For additional information about Larry Susskind, visit: <http://www.lawrencesusskind.com/>.

MEDIATORS UPHOLD DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

OMA members Molly Keating and Robin Gumpert had the opportunity to apply their mediation skills in a deliberative democracy setting over the past year. They led a Citizens Jury in Oregon deliberating about a ballot initiative in September 2008, and a Minnesota jury deliberating about the election recount process in June and July of this year. OMA caught up with the two mediators to find out more about the Citizens Jury process and how mediation lends itself to discourse on political issues.

What Is a Citizens Jury? A Citizens Jury is a randomly selected panel of 18 to 24 citizens that mirrors the demographics of the state. The group meets for several days to study an issue that's important to the voters. They hear from advocates and expert witnesses and use the information to deliberate together. On the final day they present their recommendations to decision-makers and the public.

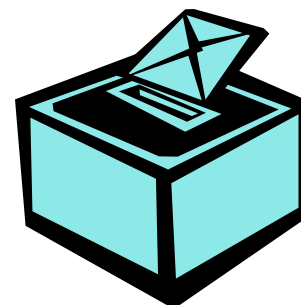
Why a Citizens Jury? As citizens in a democracy, we expect our elected officials and public agencies to carry out the "will of the people." But there's room for a lot of manipulation of our election campaigns given the power of lobbyists and the media. So we sometimes question whether government policy is based on the wishes of a well-informed and engaged public. The actual "will of the people" is more than just a public opinion poll or a rowdy town meeting.

What is a mediator's role in the process? The role of jury moderators is completely familiar because it reflects the best mediator and facilitator standards of practice. The moderators set the stage and carefully guide the process. Our mediator values are all there-- self-determination, good faith participation, and impartial regard. Fairness and respect are held front and center. 'Public discourse, especially around issues that affect all citizens, can be extremely polarized', Molly offered. 'With the help of a mediator, debate can turn into meaningful discourse, deeper understanding and shifts in perspective. People start to move away from positions (Republican/Democrat) and more toward understanding interests and making informed choices.'

Mediator Observations. Molly and Robin have been impressed with the integrity of the design and the thoughtful planning of each piece of the jury process they have been involved in. They commented that the process has been transformative for many jurors, who never believed that they had the capacity or the power to learn about, understand, and make recommendations about complex issues. Robin offered, 'Putting a diverse group of strangers in a room, assigning them an overwhelming amount of information and asking them to complete a group assignment in a very short amount of time was a huge undertaking. The process and tools they were given supported them through their challenges. In the end, everyone – from the process designers to the juries to the mediators to the observers – said the process was a success.'

Citizens Jury legislation in Oregon. In June of this year, the Oregon legislature passed HB 2895 into law. This allows for a demonstration of the Citizens Jury process on 1-3 measures on the 2010 ballot. Supported by Secretary of State Kate Brown, and sponsored by 25 legislators including Co-Chief Sponsors Sen. Doug Whitsett and Rep. Ben Cannon, HB 2895 authorizes a public/private partnership to convene the jury reviews. The resulting "Citizens' Statements" would be placed in an official new space in the Oregon voters' pamphlet. Following the 2010 pilot a full-scale evaluation of the results will be conducted to determine the utility of the Citizens' Statements and to look at how voters use the statewide voters' pamphlet. Senator Rick Metsger, who carried the Bill on the Senate floor, remarked, "The creation of these panels complements Oregon's tradition of citizen engagement in the political process."

For more information about citizen juries, visit
www.healthydemocracyoregon.org
www.jefferson-center.org
www.healthydemocracy.org



Compassionate Listening Project Offers October Workshop

Cathy Keene, compassionatelistening.org

Compassionate Listening is a heart-based skill-set that strengthens our individual capacities to create powerful cultures of peace in our families, in our communities, on the job, and in the world. Every spiritual master recognizes listening as the most precious gift we can give to another human being. In every human interaction, the practice of Compassionate Listening builds trust, connection, compassion, respectful dialogue, and sustainable solutions. When faced with conflict and polarization, Compassionate Listening offers us a road map to move beyond positions and harness our collective wisdom.

Mediators have found their practice benefits greatly by integrating the practices of Compassionate Listening into their daily lives. Listeners use reflection and skilled inquiry to help speakers deepen their own understanding and awareness. The practice models and teaches generative listening, non-judgmental and non-adversarial questions, and an ability to remain open when witnessing strong feelings and divergent viewpoints. The process can help soften hearts and create the safety necessary for honest, respectful dialogue and sustainable solutions.

In this highly experiential training, participants will join Andrea Cohen, a senior trainer with the Compassionate Listening Project. They will explore this powerful model of peace-building and conflict

transformation, practice core skills, and learn how each of us has the capacity to create peace in our families, workplace, communities & personal lives.

For more information about CL trainings, go to: <http://www.compassionatelistening.org/trainings/about>

The training will be offered October 3-4, 2009 in Mt. Angel, OR. To register online for this workshop, see the calendar on the Compassionate Listening website and follow the links. \$100 deposit is requested to hold your place. The full cost of the training is a sliding scale from \$200-350, which includes lunch both days. Discounts are available upon request. Overnight lodging is available for an extra fee at Shalom Prayer Center for those who need or want it. Feel free to call the TCLP office if you have questions: 360-626-4411.



Training Calendar



The Training Calendar can be found on OMA's website at www.omediate.org. Please see the website for a listing of mediation-related training and other events. If you would like OMA to list your event, send an email to oma@omediate.org.

2009 Legislative Wrap-Up: Mediation Survives a Tough Session

Donna Silverberg, OMA's Legislative Committee Liaison

If you read the paper or listened to the radio in the past six months, you might have heard that Oregon's 2009 session was a tough one. All programs supported by any state funding - from human services to natural resource management to transportation - were at risk of cuts or elimination. In response to this, OMA's legislative committee, as well as mediation program directors and mediators statewide, were working hard to provide information to legislators about the value of mediation in a number of contexts - and the importance of state funds supporting programs.

Mediation has received state funding since the late 1980's when the Oregon Dispute Resolution Program was created to oversee and distribute funds for community, court, and public policy mediation on a statewide basis. At that time, the legislature determined it was in the state's interest to provide support for people to get cost effective assistance using proven techniques to help Oregonians resolve their conflicts in a non-adversarial way.

Today, state funds continue to support not only your local community mediation center via the University of Oregon's community dispute resolution program, but also those small claims and court connected mediation programs at your local courthouse and Oregon Consensus at Portland State University's Hatfield School of Government.

That said, this year legislators and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court faced daunting decisions about how to allocate less money than they had seen in decades for a wide range of state services. There were many pros and cons that legislators heard - from us and others. At the end of the day, after visits to individual legislators about programs in courts and community centers statewide, an early morning breakfast with a very receptive Chief Justice, testimony at hearings in Salem, and public hearings around the state, mediation seems to have survived with a minimal level of reduction.

Why? Because everyone we spoke with agreed that the services provided by these programs are a valuable and cost effective investment in our state's public well-being. These programs provide an effective way for people to resolve their conflicts and get assistance from trained professionals who volunteer their time to help their fellow citizens discuss and reach agreements on their toughest issues. There was not a single legislator I spoke with who didn't have a story of her or his own about a successful mediation about which they were aware. The Chief Justice was more than complimentary of the value mediation serves in courthouses statewide and worked hard to find ways to maintain the minimal staff who help to coordinate these important programs.

"At the end of the day... mediation seems to have survived with a minimal level of reduction."

We are grateful for the support of our public officials and thank them for seeing the wisdom of maintaining these programs. It is inspiring and heart warming that, during these trying times, legislators made budget notes that funds supporting mediation needed to play a larger role in certain agency budgets. It meant a lot to have legislators welcome testimony of mediators in their busy public testimony calendars. All of this tells a story about how far we have come from questions such as "Miss, did you say meditation, medication or mediation?!"

Still, the result of cuts to programs meant that some of our colleagues did lose jobs or staff at their programs, a fact that can not and should not be overlooked. Community programs will need help from all of us to find other ways to raise funds to make up for cuts to their programs. Court administrators will need our support and helpful encouragement as they make decisions about how to provide services

Continued on next page...

... *Legislative update continued from previous page*

at reduced staff levels. The University administrators will continue to need good stories and data to back up their support of mediation as a meaningful public service.

We all will need to stay focused and work together to assure the future of publicly funded conflict resolution and mediation in this state: a future which includes continued support for all three branches of this state's conflict resolution system. I urge everyone to think now about how you can help to fill the gaps that were created by the cuts to programs. Some suggestions include: raising or donating money for your local community mediation program; talking to your local court administrator about experiences that show the value of court connected mediation programs; or helping OMA find grants that could be shared by a number of programs on a state-wide basis. If you have more ideas, we welcome them!

One thing we know for sure: while mediation is well liked when raised as a topic of discussion, mediation doesn't speak for itself. It needs many voices working together to speak of its value and place in our society. Thank you all for the help you provided this session. I look forward to our continued efforts to advocate together.

OMA WISH LIST

Can you donate time, money, or other resources to support OMA? The following are some specific ways you can help!

- Donation of one or two vinyl banners for the OMA Fall Conference
- Donation of t-shirts for OMA's next OPB event
- A stepstool or small ladder (5 to 6 feet high) for the OMA office
- Occasional volunteer work on special projects in the office
- Help with a special volunteer project (ideal for someone who loves books!) - this project can be done at home
- Financial broker who is willing to do some small transactions for OMA on a pro bono basis

Contact the OMA office by calling (503) 872-9775 or email oma@omedeiate.org to coordinate your contribution. Thanks!

Upcoming OMA Board Meetings:



Monday, September 14, 2009

Monday, October 12, 2009

November meeting to be held during OMA conference

OMA Newsletter

P.O. Box 40041
Portland, OR 97240
Editor : Robin Gumpert

Published quarterly by the Oregon Mediation Association (OMA)

Send newsletter and calendar items to the above address or email editor Robin Gumpert rgumpert@cnnw.net

Next Newsletter Deadline: October 9, 2009

OMA Executive Committee		
Mike Schnee	(541) 602-1452	Mike@michaelschneeconsulting.com
Lauren MacNeill <i>Vice President</i>	(503) 380-8528	laurenmac@co.clackamas.or.us
Amy Cleary <i>Treasurer</i>	(503) 655-8700	amycle@co.clackamas.or.us
Sue McFadden	(503) 453-7517	suemcf@gmail.com
Tomás Garza <i>Past President</i>	(541) 230-4477	garzamediation@yahoo.com
OMA Board Members		
Lisa Amato	(503) 789-3262	lamato@spiritone.com
David Bertram	(503) 584-4754	David.L.Bertram@ojd.state.or.us
Jim Brooks	(503) 526-2791	jbrooks@ci.beaverton.or.us
Joan Howard	(541) 278-6290	jhoward@co.umatilla.or.us
Dena Marshall	(503) 740-7123	dena@marshallmediation.net
Rita Moore		ritamoore1@yahoo.com
Philip Moses	(541) 686-5060	pmoses@directionservice.org
OMA Staff		
Judy Brodkey <i>Executive Director</i>	(503) 872-9775	director@omEDIATE.org
Megan Brooker <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(503) 872-9775	oma@omEDIATE.org

Thank You Lifetime Members

Ann Bartsch	J. Michael Dwyer	James L. Knoll	William H. Schultz
Jeff Bauman	Anita Engiles	Anthony Larson	Amy Silverberg
Robert D. Benjamin	John C. Gartland	Hugh McIsaac	Donna Silverberg
Barbara Blackstone	R. Elaine Hallmark	Jim Melamed	Laurel Singer
Jim Brooks	Karen Hannan	Julien Minard	Ingrid E. Slezak
Larry T. Coady	Barbara Hart	Cynthia Moore	Donna Smalldon
Betsy Coddington	Sam Imperati	Barbara Ashley Phillips	Carol Weigler
Donald Cole	Jim Jacks	Marie Rust	
Lynne Cox	Joshua Kadish	Linda Scher	
Jamie Damon	Molly Rodriguez Keating	Michael W. Schnee	

**A Special Thank You to Our Newest
Lifetime Member: Cynthia Moore!**



Welcome New Members!



Erica Babino-Williams

Alison Hohengarten

Timothy Borman

Toni Iven

Claudia Smith

Dale Breit

Anthony Jackson

Nastasha Stiles

Clif Cannon

Ann Knutson

Michael Stokamer

Susan Chapman

Audrey Oberle

Alden Swan

Christine Duncan

Orrin Onken

Michael Troper

Charles Forward

Richard Riggs

Elsa Wallace

Elizabeth Hayes

Laura Rosal

Maureen Wright

OMA Membership Information

To learn more about the benefits of OMA membership, to join OMA, or to renew your membership, please visit <http://omediante.org/pg89.cfm>. If you have any questions about your membership status or renewal date, please contact oma@omediante.org.

OMA's Office Information

OMA's office is now located in Suite 403 of the Wilcox Building, 506 SW 6th Avenue, in downtown Portland. Our phone number is (503) 872-9975. The office is located a couple of blocks from the Pioneer Place MAX stop. Small OMA meetings (6 to 8 people) can be held at the OMA office. In addition, we have the use of a conference room two blocks away at 621 SW Alder Street. If your OMA Committee or OMA Special Interest Group would like to reserve space for a meeting at our office, please contact Megan at oma@omediante.org



Contact OMA:

PO Box 40041
 Portland, OR 97240
 503-872-9775
oma@omediante.org
www.omediante.org