



The UCCR News

Volume 11

Winter 2004

2004 UCCR Symposium: Seeking Just Resolutions

This year's annual Symposium is scheduled for May 4 & 5, 2004. Those dates fall on a Tuesday and Wednesday, which is a departure from the usual Friday/Saturday format. Tuesday is a full day and Wednesday is a half day. The Peace Tree Dedication will be held at the Peace Gardens on Wednesday, following the close of the conference.

We are very excited about the presenters for the conference this year. Professor Murphy from the Dalhousie School of Law in Nova Scotia will conduct a plenary session on Tuesday morning. She will speak on the topic of justice and how we each define justice in a different way, thus affecting how we strive to achieve just resolutions.

The afternoon will include breakout sessions by such notables as Diane Hamilton speaking on how the mediator's view of fairness & justice impact the process; Liz O'Brien out of San Diego will address the issue of marketing new programs in organizations; and Michelle Roybal will moderate a panel on the arbitration/mediation issue that has been so much in the news lately.

Also on Tuesday, the 2004 Peacekeeper(s) will be named and the award presented. Last but not least, Professor Gerald Williams of the BYU School of Law will conduct a plenary session in which he will address the issue of how to deal with aggressive attorneys in mediation and negotiation. He will also share with us his latest research.

On Wednesday morning Dr. Mitchell Hammer, professor of International Peace and Conflict Resolution at the American University, will conduct a plenary session on the subject of inter-cultural conflict style differences and mediating across the cultural divide.

After the close of the conference we invite you to join us at the Peace Garden for the dedication of the Peace Tree in honor of the Peacekeeper award recipient.

The brochures for this year's Symposium will be available soon, so be watching for them. They will include a detailed agenda for the conference along with registration information. You will also be able to obtain information on UCCR's website at www.uccr.net, or call 685-8227.

Submit Your Nominee for the 2004 Peacekeeper Award

Included with this newsletter is a Peacekeeper Nomination Ballot. We urge our members to submit the names of those who should be considered for this honor. Details are provided in the nomination form

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UCCR FACILITATORS ASSIST MAYOR'S OFFICE IN HOLDING PUBLIC MEETINGS

After months of controversy over the sale of Main Street to the LDS Church, a deal was finally cut with the between city and the church. The mayor and city council agreed to trade the easement on Main Street for land adjacent to the Sorenson Center, and the Alliance for Unity generated an additional five million dollars to help expand the Sorenson Center and create additional community support.

The Mayor's Office, particularly David Nimkin, the Mayor's Chief of Staff, felt very strongly that the community members should be invited to participate in thinking about the vision for the West Side project.

Three public meetings were scheduled, inviting members of the public to envision the new Unity Center and the potential expansion of the Sorenson Center. The first was held on September 18, 2003 at the new Westside Police Precinct, and was attended by 60 people. The second was a

smaller meeting, about 30 participants, and was held on Saturday morning, September 20, 2003 at the Salt Lake Community College on State Street. The finally meeting was attended by almost 50 people and was held on Saturday, September 27, 2003 at the new Downtown Public Library in Salt Lake City.

In the first two meetings, 65% of the participants were neighbors and citizens, while 35% were representatives from agencies or potential partners in the project. A larger number of potential partners, about 65%, attended the final meeting at the library, while 35% of participants were neighbors and citizens.

Michael Smith, the technical director for *AmericaSpeaks*, worked with the Mayor's office, Diane Hamilton, and community members to design the meeting. *AmericaSpeaks* is located in Washington, DC, and specializes in conducting large scale public meetings. They were responsible for the public meetings for 5000 people that took place in New York City at Ground Zero to de-

velop a new vision for the World Trade Center. Michael brought the use of electronic keypads and computers to gauge the preferences of the group.

Participants were asked to pre-register for the meetings so that the tables could be balanced for age, ethnicity, gender, and role. People from the neighborhood were seated next to potential partners; those from the West Side shared tables with others from other parts of the city; youth were mixed in with seniors and adults; men with women, and different ethnic representation was spread about the room in all three meetings. At each of the tables, there were seven or eight participants and one UCCR facilitator equipped with markers and an easel for taking notes. The meeting also employed the use of Michael's keypads, a computer and screen, and polling software to inquire anonymously about demographics and preferences of the group.

MEDIATOR STORIES!

This column is typically devoted to relating experiences of mediators. We want to hear from you and include your story. Help by sending in your narrative with changes made to protect confidentiality. We will edit for space and notify you when it will be printed. Please keep the article to 250 words or less and include your name, address, phone, email, fax and one sentence about your experience with conflict resolution.

Send your mediator story to The UCCR News, c/o Barbara O'Brien, members@uccr.net



UCCR Facilitators listen to participants list their hopes and fears for the new West side

Participants were encouraged to imagine together the best possible scenario for a new or expanded facility, not to concern themselves with architectural issues or budget constraints, but to envision what might be possible for community to create together through the development of this new project. The atmosphere of the meetings was informal and open to encourage the exchange of ideas and to value the input of everyone who attended.

The strongest theme emerging from the discussion is captured in the phrase “*A place where all are welcome.*” Over and over again, participants ex-

pressed the view that whatever other characteristics this new project might have; its most significant feature should be its *appeal to and support of cultural diversity.* People remarked repeatedly that this should be a center for cultural exchange, where everyone should have the experience of belonging, of being treated well, and of having the opportunity to be personally enhanced through interacting with and sharing experiences with people from other cultural and *socio-economic* backgrounds, including immigrants and refugees.

and children through youths and young adults, through older adults and seniors. *are welcome.*” People want a place to belong and the experience of of being treated well.

Michael Smith, technical director for AmericaSpeaks, assists Diane Hamilton in summarizing participant’s comments envisioning the project.



Thank you to UCCR members Vivia Baldwin, Nini Rich, Clark Swenson, Athelia Wooley, Sue Petty, Terri Martin, Gladys Hale, Bart Davis, Rosemary Holt, and Karen Pearce for their assistance in facilitating these public meetings.

The word *multi-generational* was used often as referring to the importance of including all age groups in the programming of services and activities, from infants

Upcoming Events & Trainings

- *Resolution and Resilience in New York*
New York, NY
- www.abanet.org
- April 15-17, 2004
- *2004 UCCR Symposium (801) 685-UCCR (8227)*
www.uccr.net
May 4 & 5, 2004
- *UCCR Peace Tree Dedication*
- www.uccr.net
- May 5, 2004 at 1:00 pm
- *National Conference on Conflict Resolution in Education*
Columbus, OH
- www.acrnet.org
- May 5-8, 2004
- *2004 Assoc. of Family Conciliation Courts Conf.*
San Antonio, TX
- www.afccnet.org
May 12-15, 2004
- *2004 ACR Environment and Public Policy Conference*
Portland, OR
- www.acrnet.org
- May 20-22, 2004
- *2004 ACR Conference*
Sacramento, CA
- www.acrnet.org
- Sept. 29-Oct 2, 2004

Book Review by Kathy Elton

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson

Recently I read the book *Touching Spirit Bear*. I was drawn to this book because of my work in the field of Restorative Justice. The story is a fictional account of a teenage boy, Cole, who is offered the circle justice process in lieu of jail. He has brutally attacked a classmate, Peter, at school and caused permanent neurological damage. He opts into circle justice because he believes it will be an easy way out.

Circle Justice is based on the belief that “justice should heal, not punish”. This book does a good job of describing the circle process and allows the reader to fully experience the process through Cole’s eyes.

Circle Justice is explained to Cole and he is accepted to the program. The circle decides that Cole will be banished to a remote Alaskan Island for one year. The book follows Cole on his journey of accepting responsibility for his actions and learning to respect others, as well as himself.

When first arriving on the island, Cole is full of rage and attacks the Spirit Bear who, in turn, almost mauls him to death. He is rescued and when he is healed he is given one more chance and is returned to the island to finish his year of banishment. It is through his experience with the Spirit Bear and during his second stay on the island that Cole finally comes to terms with his anger and learns about forgiveness. Finally, Cole is able to come “full circle” when he is given the opportunity to help Peter overcome his fearfulness and to make amends to Peter for his attack on him.

Of course, this story is the ideal for how circle justice works, but it is well done. I would recommend this book to anyone, whether working in the field of conflict resolution or not. It is good information for anyone who has relationships with others and as a bonus it was a good story. It would be quite appropriate for a teenager to read as well.

2004 PeaceKeeper Nominations!

Be a part of the process...please send in your nominations for the 2004 PeaceKeeper by the March 17th deadline. The new PeaceKeeper will be announced at the UCCR Symposium on May 4, 2004.

Domestic Violence and Mediation by Kathy Elton

Over the past few years I have made it a priority to bring up the issues that I feel we as a mediation community do not talk about often enough. I started with the issue of how to include parties with a mental illness in the mediation process and through my own questioning learned more than I ever thought possible.

The next topic I began to ask questions about was the issue of domestic violence and mediation. Many of us are clear in stating that we do not mediate domestic violence when working with couples in domestic conflicts....but is that really true? If we have a victim of domestic violence, who over the years has been systematically beaten down and has started to believe the negative messages of the abuser, in a mediation session, are we aware of the dynamics of that relationship? Are we sure we are not falling into the role of one who supports the abuse by not fully protecting or listening to the victim?

I am afraid that many of

us take on the motto...."Don't ask Don't tell." The more I learn about domestic violence the more I know that asking is not enough. The shame involved in being a victim (or a perpetrator) in domestic violence is so profound, that many will just put on a happy face and move through the process, even when it is not meeting their needs and they do not feel safe.

In the recent copy of the Domestic Violence Report (February/March 2004) Elaine Weiss outlined "How Family and Friends Can Support an Abused Woman." She writes "I truly believe that the family and friends of an abused woman want to do the right thing. They just don't always know what the right thing is, because they don't understand the dynamics of domestic abuse. Any why should they? Until it touches their lives, domestic abuse is not a subject that people particularly want to probe. It is a dark and ugly subject, made worse by the fact that the news media tend to report the stories that end tragically."

I echo Ms. Weiss and say "I truly believe that domestic mediators want to do the right thing....they just don't always know what the right thing is, because they don't understand the dynamics of domestic abuse".

For this reason, the Administrative Office of the Courts in collaboration with The Violence Against Women Act have provided training on domestic violence and mediation. As a result of the January 2004 training a group of domestic mediators and professionals in the domestic violence arena have started regular meetings. To date, the purpose of the meetings has been to informally learn from one another, ask questions, and give feedback. If you would like to become involved in this group the next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2004 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Matheson Courthouse (suite N31, Council Room). If you would like more information contact Kathy Elton at kathye@email.utcourts.gov or (801) 578-3982.

Join us for a UCCR general membership meeting at the
UCCR Symposium on May 4, 2004 at 12:15pm.

Find out what's been happening with UCCR!

**Should you desire the great tranquility,
prepare to sweat
white beads.**

Hakuin

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*Please send your ideas or articles for the
UCCR newsletter to Barbara O'Brien via email:*

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