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Fall 2011
Volume 7, Issue 2

The Mediator

Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center Newsletter

In This Issue

[Director's Report](#)

[Peace Builder Award
Winners Announced!](#)

[Welcome to our new
staff!](#)

[FUNdraising Report](#)

[Professional Mediation
Training](#)

[Thanks to our
volunteers](#)

[Find us on Facebook!](#)

Quick Links

[Visit our website](#)

The Mediator is the WDRC newsletter for staff and volunteer news, updates on past events, news of upcoming events, and tips for conflict resolution!

Read on to find out what's happening at the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center this fall.

Director's Report

Notes from the desk of Moonwater

Fall has been a busy time here at the DRC. We just finished teaching our 40 hour basic mediation training course to a group of 15 aspiring mediators, and are deep in the throes of launching a new type of mediation. Since July, our staff has been working diligently to help launch the new foreclosure mediation program in response to the recently passed Foreclosure Fairness Act. While we've yet to mediate a foreclosure case, our first one is scheduled and we've spent hours each week donating our time to convene parties, develop the program in partnership with our statewide counterparts and the Department of Commerce, and

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Upcoming Events

*Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center's
Ninth Annual*

Peace Builder Awards Gala

NOVEMBER 18, 2011

7:00 P.M. AT THE MAJESTIC
1027 N. FOREST ST. BELLINGHAM
\$35 IN ADVANCE
\$40 AT THE DOOR
TICKET INFORMATION AT
WWW.WHATCOMDRC.ORG

Help us honor the 2011 award recipients with

**MUSIC, COMEDY,
FOOD & DRINK**

WEEKLY **SECONDARY** **UPFRONT**
Thee Frog Night Inn The Northern Light THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

Peace Builder Awards
Gala November 18 at the
Majestic (BUY TICKETS
at www.whatcomdrc.org)

Whatcom Give-a-
Thon December 2, 2011

Compete for a Cause
Scrabble
Tournament January,
2012

Compete for a Cause
Bocce Tournament April
21, 2012

Upcoming Trainings

Understanding
Conflict
November 8 and 10

refine our internal systems. We have high hopes this program will successfully serve to create dialogue and resolution for homeowners and banks embroiled in the foreclosure process.

In a few weeks we'll host the 9th Annual Peace Builder Awards Gala and have a slate of amazing individuals and organizations to honor. Next, in early December, our Board and Staff will be gathering for a daylong retreat. One of our agenda items is to create a values statement for our organization. I welcome your input for this discussion, so please feel free to e-mail me any thoughts you have by the end of the month.

And in case you haven't heard... 2012 marks our 20th anniversary. We'll have a host of fabulous events throughout the year to celebrate this milestone; and of course, I hope you can each attend!

Warm Regards,
Moonwater

Peace Builder Award Winners Announced!

Your 2011 Peace Builders were selected from an incredible pool of nominations. Our community is hard at work making creative solutions! Here are this year's winners:

Community Member: Lora Barton

Lora is a woman of action. She has transformed her own experience with domestic violence into advocacy and support for others, including building peace through the mentoring and support of residents of Dorothy House.

Education: Jill Heckathorn and Camp Team

Western Washington University Professor Jill Heckathorn takes her recreation courses to a new level. In 2002, she started Camp Team, a summer camp experience for 70 community members with disabilities and 70 of her students. Jill has contributed to peace building by creating transformative experiences and fostering understanding and friendships throughout our community.

Innovative Approaches: Animals as Natural Therapy

Through direct work with animals, Animals as Natural Therapy teaches individuals, including youth, veterans, victims of domestic violence and those struggling with addiction, some of the most important life skills in an innovative and impactful way.

Family Mediation Training

December 1, 2, 3

For more info, [visit our training page](#) on the WDRC website.

Our Board

Kacey Alleman, *Board Chair*

Kara Black

Jerry Brownfield

Joan Cervisi

David Doll

Randy Doucet

Marian Exall

David Grant

Margo Hammond

Mary Sass

Linda Stewart

Advisory Board

Betsy Gross

Leon Henley

Carlton Nathon

Mark Rogers

Staff

Moonwater

Executive Director

Erin Corday

Office Coordinator

Kaitlin Davis

Youth Program Coordinator

Cynthia Moore

Case Manager

Calhan Ring

Program Manager

Ellie Rogers

Program Assistant

They build peace through the use of a Full Value Contract in all of their programs, demonstrating and calling for communication, respect for self and others, trust, and leadership.

Organization: LAW Advocates

A long-time crucial resource in our community, LAW (Legal Assistance for Whatcom) Advocates provides a multitude of legal services to thousands of low-income Whatcom County residents each year. They build peace by helping connect people in conflict to the resources they need, providing support along the way, and ultimately helping individuals find closure to myriad disputes.

Program: Aubri Keleman and the Juvenile Detention Center Book Club

With Aubri Keleman as Teen Services Coordinator, the Whatcom County Library System has created monthly book clubs in Whatcom's Juvenile Detention Center. The book clubs allow youth to explore conflicts and life choices through literature, while including them in a profound and positive group experience. This program builds peace through literacy, by opening doors and fostering dialogue and learning.

Public Servant: Gary Gerard of City Gate Apartments

Through exemplary and compassionate work as resident manager with City Gate Apartments, a re-entry housing facility in the York Neighborhood of Bellingham, Gary has been able to garner the support of the surrounding neighborhood, linking the residents with our community and spreading compassion for re-entry clients. Gary has contributed to peace building both directly with the residents, as well as with the neighboring community.

Restorative Justice: Peacemaking Circles of the Lummi CEDAR Project

In 2008, the Lummi CEDAR Project held its first workshop on Peacemaking Circles, a conflict resolution process. Since then, the organization's commitment to the process of the Peacemaking Circle, through training and ongoing use, has been exemplary. The Peacemaking Circle concept is now spreading throughout the community, and is being used for a variety of community issues.

Youth: Megan Hall

After losing a dear friend to cancer, ten-year-old Megan Hall has raised thousands of dollars for research of pediatric brain cancer through fundraising barbecues, donations of her birthday gifts, and the Seattle Run of Hope race. Megan hopes to minimize the pain other families and friends will experience by contributing to finding a cure. Her commitment to this cause is an inspiration for our community.

Rosanna Wadkins
Fiscal Support

Emily Wilson
AmeriCorps

Please help us honor the award winners at our Peace Builder Awards Gala, November 18th, 7:00 p.m. at the Majestic in Bellingham. Tickets are available online at our website: www.whatcomdrc.org, or at our office, Village Books, Boundary Bay, and the downtown Food Co-op.

In addition to the inspiring stories of our winners, Lindsay Street will play music, Boundary Bay will provide appetizers and drink, and the Upfront Theatre will perform improv comedy. A silent auction, dessert auction, and final raffle add to the festivities!

Welcome to our new staff!

This summer we welcomed our new Office Coordinator, Erin Corday, to our staff. In September, Emily Wilson joined us as an AmeriCorps volunteer in the youth program. In September, we all got milkshakes at Mayberry to celebrate. Please stop by the office and say hello to our new team members!



Erin Corday, Office Coordinator

As the new Office Coordinator, I feel very lucky to be working with this amazing organization. Prior to joining the WDRC I developed bilingual programs, services and educational resources for Mercy Housing, the Opportunity Council and the Latino National Public Radio Network / Radio Bilingüe. Some people also know me as a songwriter and recording artist. I love creativity, good relationships and positive communication, so it's a thrill to be working for the WDRC!

Emily Wilson, AmeriCorps

As the new AmeriCorps member working with the youth program, I am thrilled to be a part of the wonderful staff here at the WDRC. My background is in seminar and facilitation, with a love of theatre, baking, and arts and crafts sprinkled on top. I'm

really looking forward to all that this year will bring, and for the chance to support youth in discovering creative ways to deal with conflict.

FUNdraising Report



Compete for a Cause Cribbage Tournament - September 10, 2011

Once again, we sold out this fundraiser on a sunny fall day in the Boundary Bay Beer Garden. Next year, we'll add more brackets so we can accommodate the droves of cribbage pros in this County. We raised almost \$3000 for our programs and services. The champion this year was Joanne Allison. Check out pictures of the event on our [Facebook](#) page!

Professional Mediation Training

Executive Director Moonwater, accompanied by veteran mediators and staff, hosted our fall Professional Mediation Training this October. Fifteen people took the 40-hour training over two weeks. Our office was full of students practicing conflict resolution with curiosity, care, and compassion.

We hope you'll join us for the spring training! Information will be on the [training page](#) of our website, or you can [email Erin](#) to be sure to reserve a spot.

Here are some testimonials from this fall's training:

"Moonwater and the staff at the WDRC provide an amazing resource to residents of Whatcom County. the knowledge they impart during this course is invaluable. Thank you!"

"Thank you for this amazing opportunity. Whether you become a mediator or not this class will teach new ways of thinking that can be used in everyday life."

"This class provides tools for communication that can be applied to any situation... Valuable information presented by very skilled mediators with expert care."

"This training provided me with real-life skills that I can apply in my everyday life. I'm a better communicator, better listener, and I'm more comfortable with managing conflict. I would recommend it to anyone that facilitates conversations in any context."

Thanks to our amazing volunteers!
You keep us going and growing!

Welcome to our new volunteers: Emily Wilson (our new AmeriCorps), Jaina Gemin, and Abbie George!

Ongoing Support: Arthur Abrahamson, Chris Beers, David Donohue, Ryan Goelzenleuchter, Leon James, Bernice Rappaport, James Whisenhunt.

Youth Programs support: Greg Elgee, Brenna Anderst.

Newly Certified WDRC Mediators: Deborah Forgays, Mark Polin.

And thanks to all of our mediators! The skill and energy you bring to your work is making Whatcom County a more peaceful place!

Our volunteer appreciation event will be December 14. Mark your calendars!

Find us on Facebook!

One great way to stay up on our events and trainings, as well as get conflict resolution tips and news, is to [like us on Facebook!](#) For Conflict Resolution Day (October 20, 2011), we gave tips and

links each day of that week. Check out the page for the highlights!

There was only one orange left. We both wanted it.

"I got here first," I say.

"But I need it," he says.

"So do I," I say. "I need that orange."

"Oh come on," he says.

I'm not giving it to him.

We are at a stalemate in the grocery store.

"We could cut it in half," he says. "That would be fair, I guess."

But I need an entire orange. Well, almost an entire orange...

"What will you use the orange for?" I ask.

"I just need the pulp for juice," he says.

"And I need the orange's rind for marmalade!" I exclaim.

Search for the creative solution.
There just might be one that makes everyone happy.

As always, thank you for your support as we work to make Whatcom County a community in which people approach conflict in creative and healthy ways. Don't forget to join us for the Peace Builder Awards Gala on November 18th!

Sincerely,

The Staff
Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center

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