



We Can Work It Out!

New Year 2021



Mediator Musings: New Year--More Resolution, Please!

Sara Barnes, Executive Director

I'm writing this on the darkest day of the year. Light from 7:05 am till 4:15 pm is just not enough. Fortunately, more light is on the way starting tomorrow. As we turn each page of the calendar, more light and a longer day emerges.

It's like working on a conflict. At the darkest moment, when it seems there's nothing but bleak and grey, the idea is to turn the page and find a glimmer of new light. It is right there, if you stick with the process.

We are here to help you to look for the light when you have a conflict. Our expert mediators, coaches and facilitators will help you to look for a way to resolve your conflict, assist with the process of developing a

mutually satisfactory agreement and will give you tips and strategies to increase your conflict resolution toolbox.

We are noticing that our case intakes have tapered off--does this mean at this time, with multiple crises, folks are doing better at resolving their own conflicts? Do you, someone you know, or an organization with which you are associated need our assistance? We are here to help. ***We can work it out!***

Optimistic greetings for a Happy New Year, 2021. A good year to resolve conflicts with MV Mediation.

Sara Barnes
Executive Director



Thanks to Feiner Real Estate and donor Rhode Island Congressman David Cicilline for supporting our work.

Here is realtor Lucinda Buehler Schweikert with Board President Roland Miller and Board member Toni Kauffman accepting the Feiner check. If you plan to make any real estate purchase, there is a way to set up a related donation that will benefit your favorite non-profit. Contact us and we can make arrangements for this donation process.

Annual Appeal

Thanks to all our supporters for making your yearly contributions to the MV Mediation Annual Appeal.

We will put every penny to good use.

If you would like to make a monthly donation, in any amount for the 12 months of 2021, please let us know and we will make arrangements. Even a little bit helps.

Keep us going strong, make a donation today.

Donations at MV Mediation website or by check.
MV Mediation • PO 761 • Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
508 693 2999 • info@mvmediation.org • mvmediation.org

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Meet our newest staff member:

Paula Reidbord, Special Initiatives Coordinator

My name is Paula Reidbord. I am the new addition to MVMP (Martha's Vineyard Mediation Program). I am originally from São Paulo, Brazil, where I graduated from Universidade Mackenzie with a law degree. I have been coming to Martha's Vineyard for over 25 years, and since the beginning of 2020 I have made the island my permanent home.

I was drawn to the Mediation Program on Martha's Vineyard with the expectation of being able to assist people in resolving conflicts. Having dealt with court cases while practicing law, the length, cost and effectiveness of the legal system were always questionable to me. Even though justice is served, time and expenditure result in a loss of some sort, and I have always questioned why Mediation couldn't be more broadly adopted to resolve disputes that wouldn't require the courts to find a solution.

I have joined the MVMP team in the capacity of New Initiatives Coordinator--with my first set of responsibilities to help set up the Housing Mediation Program. In response to the current Covid-19 crisis and in order to prevent a high volume of evictions, the Governor of Massachusetts created a new Eviction Diversion Initiative--EDI. As part of EDI we and other community mediation centers offer mediation services as a tool to help prevent homelessness and to preserve tenancy. Another project I am part of is the Diversity Initiative, a partnership with the University of Massachusetts. This project will work to expand our services in the Brazilian and Portuguese speaking community. Our plan is to bring awareness on how mediation, conflict coaching and facilitation can work to help to counter cultural barriers, discrimination, socioeconomic bias, and racism. As we expand our work, it is our goal to help to make the Island a more diverse and inclusive place. You can reach me at admin@mvmediation.org

Upcoming Events

Financial Conflict Workshop: Your income and expenses--get it together

Tuesday January 19

4:30-5:00 Talk with a financial conflict coach one on one

5:00-6:00 Workshop presentation

6:00-6:30 Talk with a financial conflict coach one on one

Via zoom--RSVP for link to info@mvmediation.org

Introduction to Mediation: Advanced topics

Part Two- Skill building and competency in mediation

Fridays beginning on January 29, 2021. 3:30-5:30

Via zoom

Session One January 29

- Bias awareness
- Cultural Diversity

Session Two February 5

- De-escalation techniques
- Power imbalances

Session Three - February 12

- Alternative Dispute Continuum
- Various styles of mediation
- Mediators' qualities

Session Four - February 19

- Massachusetts court system
- Small Claims process

No class February 26

Session Five - March 5

- Values awareness
- Ethical Dilemmas

Email info@mvmediation.org for to register or for more information on upcoming events. Already trained mediators are welcome to attend.

[Upcoming Events](#)

The Productive Conversations Program

Are you part of a family with an older adult and you need to sort some things out? Are you having unproductive conversations about aging and elder issues? Is planning for the future with your adult children getting difficult? The Productive Conversations Program is a new initiative for families with older adults to work with a neutral facilitator. Participants will learn about conflict resolution skills, discuss family conflict history and plan together for the future. Send us an email if you and your extended family would like to participate in this pilot project. The four session Productive Conversations Course will be held in March. Send an email if you would like to attend. Info@mvmediation.org.

Thank you to Martha's Vineyard Bank Foundation for significant financial support for this program!

[Website](#)

Parent Mediation Program

If you need help talking with your spouse or partner, we are part of the Statewide Parent Mediation Program (PMP) providing parents--married, unmarried, divorced or separated--with up to 4 hours of free mediation. MVMP Family and Divorce mediators can provide you with mediation sessions to discuss parenting issues custody schedules, financial decisions, communication or to renegotiate existing plans. Please contact the office to schedule an intake call. We are here to help.

Family and Divorce

Housing Mediation Program

We are part of the State program for eviction diversion. We are providing mediation sessions, free of charge, for tenants and landlords in Dukes and Bristol counties. Do you want more information, send an email to admin@mvmmediation.org or call 508-693-2199.

Housing Mediation Program

Conflict Coaching

Are you having difficulty dealing with conflict in your life? Work 1:1 with a Conflict Coach. In two one hour sessions you will leave with a realistic plan.

Financial Conflict Coaching

Having difficulty keeping your financial situation from causing you conflicts in your life? Work 1:1 with a Financial Conflict Coach who can help you to set goals, put systems in place and work with you to set financial priorities.

Conflict Coaching



At MVMP our slogan is ***We Can Work it Out.***
Would you like to borrow this slogan? Feel free. ***You Can Work it Out!***
We are here if you need our help.

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Thank you to our individual donors.

Thanks also to our organizational supporters:

Rockland Trust Foundation, Cape Cod 5 Foundation, Newman's Own Foundation, Martha's Vineyard Charitable Foundation, Feiner Real Estate and Cronig's Market for their continued support.

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