April 9-10
2014

Western NY
Restorative Practices
Conference

STUDENT ALUMNI UNION | ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Transformations...
Empower Youth and Communities
through Restorative Practices

pirirochester.org
**April 9, 2014**

8:00-9:00 am: Registration and Breakfast

9:00-10:15 am: Keynote Speaker
Who is Outside the Circle? Creating Restorative Justice for All of Us - sujatha baliga

10:15-10:30 am: Break

10:30 am-12:00 pm: Breakout Sessions I
Room 2610: Restorative High School: In and Out of the Classroom - Cordula Knepell & Barbara Zelazny
Room 1829: Emerging Uses of Restorative Justice in New York State Courts - Aaron Arnold
Room 2650: What About Trauma? - Sue Klassen
Room 1010/1015: Concrete, Steel, and Paint: A Film About Restorative Justice With Conversation After
Room 2050: A Peace Circle Experience - PIRI facilitators

12:00-1:00 pm: Lunch

1:00-2:15 pm: Breakout Sessions II
Room 1010-1015: Restoring Our Urban Communities: The Journey of Young Women’s College Prep - Jennifer Gkourlias
Room 2610: An Encounter with the Prodigal Son - Bill and Barbara Emerson
Room 2650: An Urban Neighborhood’s Restorative Approach to Low-Level Open-Air Drug Markets - Mary Beth Spinelli & Dawn Bird
Room 1829: Town/Gown, DWI Tragedy, and Gangster Gardening - Michele Reed, David Markham & Anna Barone
Room 2050: A Peace Circle Experience - PIRI facilitators

2:15-2:30 pm: Break

2:30-3:45 pm: Keynote Speaker
Peacemaking Circles: Rekindling the Truth We Were Taught To Forget - Kay Pranis

7:00-8:30 pm: Special Evening Event
Carlson Auditorium (Building 76) room 1125: Working Within: Communities, Systems and Restorative Justice (additional fee) - sujatha baliga

**April 10, 2014**

8:00-9:00 am: Registration and Breakfast

9:00-10:15 am: Keynote Speaker
We Are Shaped by Institutions That Govern Us: The Promise of Restorative Approaches in Juvenile Justice and Education - Lauren Abramson

10:15-10:30 am: Break

10:30 am-12:00 pm: Breakout Sessions I
Room 1010/1015: Restorative Justice on College Campuses - Chris Denniger, Joe Johnston & Jessica Ecock
Room 2610: Restorative Practices in Re-entry Transition Circles in Monroe Correctional Facility - Isobel Davies, Pauletta O’Neill & Karlienne Conrad
Room 2650: Learning by Heart: Exploring the Myriad Uses of Circles in Schools - Carolyn Boyce-Watson
Room 1829: Implementing Restorative Justice in the US and Europe - Panel from Skidmore College
Room 2050: A Peace Circle Experience - PIRI facilitators

12:00-1:00 pm: Lunch

1:00-2:15 pm: Breakout Sessions II
Room 1010-1015: One School’s Journey in Restorative Practices – Just Do It! - Pam Kissel
Room 1829: Engaging the Wisdom in Communities– of Community Conferencing in Baltimore - Lauren Abramson
Room 2610: Restorative Practices and Emotional Literacy - Kay Pranis
Room 2650: Change from Within - William Keller, former inmate
Room 2050: A Peace Circle Experience - PIRI facilitators

2:15-2:30 pm: Break

2:30-3:45 pm: Keynote Speaker
Justice is Not a Spectator Sport - Carolyn Boyce-Watson

sujatha baliga’s work is characterized by an equal dedication to victims and persons accused of crime. A former victim’s advocate and public defender, sujatha was awarded a Soros Justice Fellowship in 2008, which she used to spearhead a successful restorative juvenile diversion program in Alameda County, CA. She often speaks puchil adjusted and inside prisons about her personal experiences as a survivor of child sexual abuse and her path to forgiveness. Today, sujatha is the director of the Restorative Justice Project at the National Council on Crime and Delinquency www.ncd-crc.org, where she helps communities implement restorative justice alternatives to juvenile detention and zero-tolerance school discipline policies. She is also dedicated to advancing restorative justice to end child sexual abuse and intrafamilial and sexual violence.

As the former director of Community Justice Works, she expanded and institutionalized the program she began through her Soros Fellowship. sujatha has served as a consultant to the Stanford Criminal Justice Center, has taught restorative justice to undergraduates and law students, and is a frequent guest lecturer at academic institutions and conferences. She also regularly speaks to groups of prisoners about their experiences a child sexual abuse survivor and her path to healing and forgiveness. She served in 2013 as faculty at the 34th annual NAACP Legal Defense Fund’s Annual Capital Punishment Training Conference. Today, as director of the restorative justice project at NCCD, sujatha assists communities in implementing restorative justice alternatives to juvenile detention and zero-tolerance school discipline policies. She also provides technical assistance to the US Attorney General’s Task Force on Childhood Exposure to Violence.

sujatha attended her bachelor’s degree from Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges and her JD from the University of Pennsylvania. She has held federal clerkships with the Honorable William K. Sessions, III, former chair of the US Sentencing Commission and with the Honorable Martha Vázquez. A national voice in restorative justice, she is a frequent guest lecturer at universities and conferences, was honored as Northeastern University Law School’s Daynard Fellow, featured in the New York Times Magazine, and has been a guest on NPR’s Talk of the Nation. sujatha lives with her partner of 16 years, their son, and their sweet old dog.

Kay Pranis teaches and writes about the dialog process known as ‘peacemaking circles.’ Kay learned about peacemaking circles in her work in restorative justice in the mid-90s. Her initial teachers in the circle work were Barry Stuart, a judge in Yukon, Canada, and Mark Wedge and Harold Gatenby, First Nations people of Yukon. Since that initial exposure to the use of peacemaking circles in the justice system Kay has been involved in developing the use of peacemaking circles in schools, social services, churches, families, museums, universities, municipal planning and workplaces. Kay has authored or co-authored several books about circles: Peacemaking Circles – From Crime to Community; The Little Book of Circle Processes – A New/Old Approach to Peacemaking; Doing Democracy with Circles – Engaging Communities in Public Planning; Heart of Hope – A Guide to Restorative Justice, Promote Healing & Build Healthy Relationships.

Kay works primarily as an independent trainer in the peacemaking circle process. She is also an adjunct professor at Simon Fraser University, Eastern Mennonite University and Southwest Minnesota State University. Kay has a particular interest in the use of circles to support social justice efforts addressing racial, economic, class and gender inequities. That interest includes the use of peacemaking circles to understand and respond to historical harms to groups of people. The peacemaking circle process has been a source of energy, inspiration and continuous learning for Kay for the past 15 years.

Kay Pranis
Keynote Speakers

Lauren Abramson is a psychologist who has worked in communities for 35 years. She is the Founding Director of the Community Conferencing Center (www.communityconferencing.org) in Baltimore. Lauren brought Community Conferencing to Baltimore in 1995, and advances conferencing as an extremely effective way to use crime/conflict as a stepping stone to building community. The Community Conferencing Center has been working for 15 years in inner-city Baltimore, using conferencing in neighborhoods, schools, juvenile justice, courts, and prisons. This program is groundbreaking for its use in highly distressed neighborhoods in a large American city, and has documented significantly lower re-offending rates while at the same time delivering significant cost savings.

Carolyn Boyes-Watson is Professor of Sociology at Suffolk University and founding director of the Center for Restorative Justice at Suffolk. She holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University and has published numerous articles and books on restorative justice, juvenile justice and the criminal justice system. Dr. Boyes-Watson is a national trainer in the BARJ model of restorative justice and has worked with schools, juvenile justice systems, youth-serving organizations and communities throughout New England to implement restorative justice. Her most recent publications include Bringing Justice Home: Peacemaking Circles and Urban Youth, Living Justice Press: MN and Heart of Hope: A Guide for Using Peacemaking Circles to Develop Emotional Literacy, Promote Healing and Build Healthy Relationships with Kay Pranis.

Wednesday, April 9th

9:00-10:15 am: Who is Outside the Circle? Creating Restorative Justice for All of Us
sujatha baliga

Who do we leave out of our restorative justice work, either purposefully or inadvertently? This talk will urge us to notice who is missing from the development, implementation, and practice of our restorative justice programs, and suggest some processes for keeping restorative processes relevant and welcoming for us all.

2:30-3:45 pm: Peacemaking Circles–Rekindling the Truth We Were Born With
Kay Pranis

The peacemaking circle process creates a structured dialog that slows us down, reconnects us to core values and nurtures our in-born urge and capacity to connect to others. In that space we rediscover our individual and collective wisdom for living together in a good way. Sitting in circle has taught me a great deal about human nature and human capacity. I will share my understanding of how the circle works and the lessons we can draw for creating communities that nurture and sustain all members.

7:00-8:30 pm: Working With(in): Communities, Systems, and Restorative Justice
sujatha baliga

As restorative justice becomes a household word across the nation, community and government partnerships abound. What are the promising advances and potential pitfalls that arise with such collaborations? This talk will encourage us to stay true to the principles of restorative justice while working with and within communities and systems.

Thursday, April 10th

9:00-10:15 am: We Are Shaped by the Institutions That Govern Us: The Promise of Restorative Approaches in Juvenile Justice and Education Reform
Lauren Abramson

With so much focus on punishment, our society often criminalizes the kinds of behavior that is part and parcel of being young. But are we any better off for it? Zero tolerance policies have been proven to be a failure. What are we to do, though, with the “Jerry Springer model” of dealing with conflict that predominates in our schools and in our neighborhoods? By providing inclusive, fair, and well-designed ways for people to figure out for themselves how to talk with each other and resolve conflicts, Restorative approaches offer doable and effective ways to transform our neighborhoods, schools, and society in ways that help young people and adults learn how to support and care for each other, and build safe, connected and healthy communities in the process.

2:30-2:45: Justice is Not a Spectator Sport
Carolyn Boyes-Watson

This presentation explores why stakeholder participation holds the key to the transformative potential of restorative justice.

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S P O N S O R
Community Sessions

Wednesday, April 9th

10:30-12:00 Emerging Uses of Restorative Justice in New York State Courts
Aaron Arnold

The Center for Court Innovation is a leader in justice system reform, working in New York and nationally to help courts aid victims, reduce crime, and strengthen communities. In this session, representatives from the Center’s Syracuse office will provide an overview of some of the Center’s leading projects, including the award-winning Red Hook Community Justice Center. Special attention will be paid to the Red Hook Peacemaking Program, which is testing the use of traditional, Native American dispute resolution practices in a state court setting, and the Near Westside Peacemaking Project, which will expand the peacemaking model in Syracuse beginning in 2014.

10:30-12:00 A Peace Circle Experience
PiRI facilitators

12:00-12:50 LUNCH

1:00-2:30 An Encounter with the Prodigal Son
Bill and Barbara Emerson

In 1993, Bill Emerson was seriously injured by his son Billy, causing him permanent physical impairment and lasting emotional wounds for him, his wife Barb and other family members. After a contentious trial, Billy was found guilty of Attempted Murder 2nd and was sentenced to serve a term of 12 to 25 years in state prison. Billy was scheduled for release from prison in September 2009. No one in their family had any contact with Billy for those 16 years and there was concern that he would continue to cause them harm. Barb and Bill talk about the facilitated dialogue that they decided to have with Billy at Cayuga Correctional Facility, one month prior to his release.

1:00-2:30 An Urban Neighborhood’s Restorative Approach to Low-Level Open-Air Drug Markets
Mary Beth Spinelli and Dawn Bird

Open-air marijuana markets have plagued urban residential areas for years, frequently making neighborhoods unsafe and unhealthy for those who live there. The community’s reliance on law enforcement in conjunction with weak policies have not resolved the issue. This session will focus on the importance of community involvement; using restorative practices and civil processes to eradicate open-air marijuana markets as they exist today in city neighborhoods.

Thursday, April 10th

10:30-12:00 Restorative Practices in Re-entry Transition Circles in Monroe Correctional Facility
Isobel Davies, Pauletta O’Neill & Karlienne Conrad

Developed and pioneered by Lorenn Walker in Hawaii’s state correctional facilities, Restorative Transition Circles are being used closer to home to restore relations in families affected by incarceration and addiction in Monroe County. Hear from previous circle participants and staff at the jail how these circles are beneficial to individuals in transition, their loved ones, and the wider community.

10:30-12:00 A Peace Circle Experience
PiRI facilitators

12:00-12:50 LUNCH

1:00-2:30 Restorative Practices and Emotional Literacy
Kay Pranis

Drawing on the experience of workshop participants this session will explore the ways that restorative practices promote emotional literacy and support the development of essential skills of emotional intelligence for all those involved in restorative practices.

1:00-2:30 A Peace Circle Experience
PiRI facilitators

585.271.0680
www.rhsc.org

Rochester Alliance of Communities Transforming Society (Roc/ACTS)
sites.google.com/site/rochesteracts
1:00-2:15: Restoring Our Urban School Communities: The Journey of Young Women’s College Prep Charter School of Rochester in Becoming a Restorative Practice School
Jennifer Gkourlias

School leaders and students from YWCP Charter School will share their journey in becoming a restorative school community. Through shared practices, concerted efforts to engage all stakeholders, staff induction, and student leadership development, YWCP represents the promise of what may happen in our urban schools when we try to live restoratively together. An early connection to Partners in Restorative Initiatives forged in the first year of operation at YWCP led to the creation of clear pathways for peacemaking, community building, and parental engagement in restorative practices. Daily advisory circles in small groups, school wide morning meetings, and peer mediation are some of the ways YWCP has created a safe and non-violent school community. Students are learning how to engage in self-care and more communally using Respect Basics. Join us to learn more about the promise of a restorative practice school in our local community.

Wednesday, April 9th

10:30-12:00: Restorative High School: In and Out of the Classroom
Cordula Kennell & Barbara Zelazny

Zelazny and Kennell will walk you through their use of restorative practices, peace circles, and academic circles and how these practices impact student learning and success.

10:30-12:00: Restorative Justice on College Campuses
Chris Denniger, Joe Johnston & Jessica Ecock

Engage in a conversation about utilizing restorative practices on college campuses. Participants will hear from RIT administrators about how restorative justice is used both formally and informally on campus. Participants will be able to share their current practices and brainstorm ideas for future implementation.

1:00-2:15: One School’s Journey in Restorative Practices–Just Do It!
Pam Kissel

Dr. Kissel has been instrumental in bringing Restorative Initiatives to her district and has been encouraged by the change she sees in the students and staff involved in the process. Dr. Kissel will share information and anecdotes about the journey her district has begun to imbed restorative practices into student learning and responses to disciplinary issues. She will include time for a fishbowl activity of a community-building circle and question, answer and interactive discussion among participants.

Thursday, April 10th

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Chris Denniger, Joe Johnston & Jessica Ecock

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10:30-12:00: Learning by Heart: Exploring the Myriad Uses of Circles in Schools
Carolyn Boyes-Watson

This workshop explores the many applications of circles within schools by presenting an overview of forthcoming comprehensive manual by Kay Pranis and Carolyn Boyes-Watson.
Participants will apply the STAR (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience) model for breaking cycles of violence to a trauma in their own (or another person’s) life. We’ll explore ways restorative justice can assist in meeting our needs for safety, justice and dignity following trauma, and how to be a trauma-informed restorative practitioner.

10:30-12:00 Concrete, Steel, and Paint
A 55 minute film followed by a discussion with PRIR facilitators

“When men in a Pennsylvania state prison join with victims of crime to create a mural about healing, their views on punishment, remorse, and forgiveness collide. But as the participants move deeper into the creative process, mistrust gives way to surprising moments of human contact and common purpose. This award winning documentary raises important questions about crime, justice and reconciliation — and dramatically illustrates the power of art to facilitate dialogue about difficult issues.” http://www.newday.com/films/concretesteelandpaint.html

12:00-12:50 LUNCH

1:00-2:30: Town/Gown, DWI Tragedy, and Gangster Gardening: Brockport Restorative Practices in Community, College and Courts
Michele Reed, David Markham & Anna Barone

The workshop will provide an overview of the relationship between the community, college and courts. We will describe the development of a Restorative Justice approach in the village court which would serve to enforce the laws, create a respectful environment and restore relationships where harm has been done. The presenters will outline personal and professional evolution and experiences of restorative practices. The workshop will describe current practices and directions for the future.

Thursday, April 10th

10:30-12:00: Implementing Restorative Justice in the US and Europe
Panel from Skidmore College

The panel will describe best practices in implementing restorative justice based on a review of programs in the U.S. and Europe. We will discuss implementation in community and school settings, including recent projects in upstate New York.

12:00-12:50 LUNCH

1:00-2:30 Engaging the Wisdom in Communities—of Community Conferencing in Baltimore
Lauren Abramson

For 15 years, the Community Conferencing Center in inner-city Baltimore has provided ways for residents to collectively resolve their crimes and conflicts within their own communities. With countless Community Conferencing stories about how the voices of young people and adults in conflict have been given a space to be heard, and how those voices have successfully transformed hundreds of conflicts into powerful examples of collaboration and creative and lasting solutions. For this session, we will sit in circle and discuss aspects of this work that are of most interest to the participants.

1:00-2:30 Change from Within
William Keller, former inmate

On a late summer night, a fire was deliberately set and three people tragically lost their lives. The presenter will provide a brief glimpse into his childhood and contributing factors to the commission of his crime. After participating in many prison programs, he found the one program that was the catalyst responsible for transforming his life. The victims/survivors who came into this program were the motivating factor to making this “change from within”. This change facilitated the belief in oneself and the desire to become an accountable, productive member of society.

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Dr. Tom Castellano came to Rochester in 2003 to take over as Chair of the Criminal Justice Department at RIT. Dr. Castellano was a great supporter of restorative justice practices. Shortly after joining the department, he became a board member for Partners in Restorative Initiatives and later an Advisory Board member.

Dr. Castellano was instrumental in the organization and implementation of the Western New York Regional Restorative Justice Conference at RIT in September 2005. In order to encourage his students to attend the conference he offered a lecture wherein he presented on the benefits of restorative practices, as well as highlights from several of the key note speakers.

Dr. Castellano passed away in 2009. He was a gifted teacher, mentor and friend to many students throughout his career and a loving husband and father.

To honor his memory, the Dr. Thomas C. Castellano Memorial Lecture Fund has been established to provide support for the restorative initiatives he valued. To date the following initiatives have been funded:

- A presentation to RIT students and staff on how communities are impacted when family members and neighbors are incarcerated
- Arrangements for Dominic Barter to come to Rochester from Brazil for a training in restorative justice practices
- Arrangements for Sandy Hastings, a police lieutenant from England, to come to Rochester to train Rochester police officers in restorative policing

RIT is again hosting the Western New York Restorative Practices Conference. Dr. Castellano’s family has generously offered partial support for this conference through this memorial fund.