



**Central Susquehanna  
Valley Mediation Center**  
713 Bridge Street, Suite 3  
Selinsgrove, PA 17870  
570-374-1718

**Center office hours:**

Monday – Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Mediation appointments  
available in  
Selinsgrove and Lewisburg:**

Monday through Saturday  
10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday  
6:30 p.m.

**To request an appointment:**

Call 570-374-1718  
or email  
casecoordinator@  
csvmediation.org

**General email inquiries:**

info@csvmediation.org

**Visit our updated website:**

www.csvmediation.org

**Executive Director:**

Susan Jordan  
570-837-9563  
susanjordan@csvmediation.org

**2017 Board of Directors:**

Robert Shabanowitz,  
*President*  
rshabano@gmail.com

Sharon Silberman, *Secretary*  
ssilbrmn@dejazzd.com

Barbara Skrivanek, *Treasurer*  
bskrivanek@verizon.net

DeeDee Lawrence  
deedebluemoon@hotmail.com

Karen Nicholson  
karenann@ptd.net

Elayne Sobel  
elaynesobel@csvmediation.org

Karen Thompson  
mornmist66@yahoo.com

## Mediators expand skills at Ohio conference



Conference attendees, left to right:  
Bob Shabanowitz,  
Sue Auman,  
Steve Jacobsen,  
Susan Jordan,  
Cindy Peltier and  
Jim O'Connell

Six CSMVC mediators traveled to Dayton, Ohio in May for the International Transformative Mediation Conference, which focused on "Innovation Beyond Mediation." Center volunteers and mediators from around the world learned about facilitating community dialogue, ethno/po-

litical conflict, facilitating heated public meetings, conflict coaching, mediating conflict in faith communities and elder mediation as they worked to develop advanced mediation skills.

Volunteer mediator and Executive Director of the Union/Snyder Community Action

Agency, Sue Auman, attended the conference and said, "The skills, tools, perspective and practice I gained at the conference were valuable in helping me improve as a mediator, but also in relating to everyone in my life and workplace."

## Center offers community conflict training

CSVMC now offers conflict training to area organizations to help participants develop more constructive, humanizing responses to conflict in workplaces, organizations and daily living. Participants also learn how to support clients, co-workers and others in their responses to conflict.

Tammy Young, Community Services Direc-

tor for the Union-Snyder CAA, said, "Our staff found the training to be useful both professionally and personally. It helped us to better understand conflict, and focus on what skills we may need to practice to better manage it."

For more information, please contact the mediation center at 570-374-1718.

## CSVMC supports United Way Diversity & Inclusion Council

In community meetings across the Valley, CSVMC is partnering with the GSV United Way's Diversity & Inclusion Impact Council to support constructive conversations and responses to conflict.

Thus far, community meetings have addressed bullying, the stigma of mental illness, Islam in the Valley, diversity and LGBT issues. A day-long summit held by United Way of Columbia and Montour counties trained 75 area professionals to facilitate group conversations.

Joanne Troutman, GSV United Way CEO, said, "The United Way is passionate about supporting the community in having meaningful conversations that move us forward. The Mediation Center and Susan's leadership and expertise in supporting constructive conversations in our community have been invaluable to our work. We could not do what we do without them. It helps the Susquehanna Valley become a better place to live and work."

## Thank You! to...

- ◆ Our volunteer mediators and board members
- ◆ Our many donors and supporters
- ◆ Judge Hudock, Judge Sholley and their staffs at Union/Snyder Courts
- ◆ Bloomsburg University School of Social Work
- ◆ Grant Mercer, intern
- ◆ The AmeriCorps program
- ◆ The GSV United Way
- ◆ Union/Snyder Community Action Agency
- ◆ Union and Snyder Counties commissioners
- ◆ Our Kids First teachers: Sharon Silberman, Amy Gronlund, Benita Kolmen-Solomon and Jodi Batman
- ◆ The Selinsgrove Moose Lodge for supporting our summer mediation training
- ◆ Bucknell Institute for Lifelong Learning and the Community Zone for mediation and meeting space in Union County
- ◆ Winnie Backlund and the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation
- ◆ Transitions of Pennsylvania



**Donate online!** Visit [csvmediation.org](http://csvmediation.org) and click the "Donate Now" button

*Central Susquehanna Valley Mediation Center, Inc. is classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization, and your donation is fully tax-deductible as allowed by law.*

## Center welcomes new trainees



Participants in the center's 2016 training for new mediators, left to right: Cindy Maneval, Patty Gaugler, intern Grant Mercer, Joannah Skucek and her therapy dog, trainer Susan Jordan, Barbara Gimino, Casey Pegg and Linda Turner

### Mediator Profile:

# Elayne Sobel

Elayne Sobel steps down as president of the CSVMC board at the end of 2016, a position she has held for three years. She was one of the five founding members of the initial CSVMC board that was organized in 2010, shortly before her husband Al's death. Elayne has been an active mediator since first being trained in 2008, and has continued with advanced training and supporting the growth of the center.



Elayne Sobel

Elayne tells us "I am always amazed at the spirit of volunteerism that our mediators possess, but even more amazed at the continued support of our donors. I know how much the success of the center would have meant to Al, so I am grateful for all the mediators and people in the community who continue to support what we do."

In the spring of 2015, Elayne returned to her former employment at the Lewisburg Prison Project as its legal assistant. Mediation training helps her assist inmates in having a voice against prison injustices.

Elayne resides in Lewisburg and enjoys having her two daughters and their families (including two grandsons) live in the area.



### Wish List... CSVMC needs:

- ★ a conference telephone for phone mediations
- ★ an iPad for video mediations
- ★ training co-sponsors

**Can you help?** Contact Susan Jordan at 570-837-9563 or [susanjordan@csvmediation.org](mailto:susanjordan@csvmediation.org).

## Barbara Gimino joins center staff

CSVMC welcomes Barbara Gimino as our new AmeriCorps member and case coordinator.



Barbara came to CSVMC highly recommended, with many years of experience as a family therapist in Northumberland County. She is a graduate of LaSalle University and attended CUNY in New York City to study experimental cognition and neuropsychology. Barbara Gimino Barb is a trained mediator and employs her wonderful, empathic abilities in her work with our clients. She also acts as volunteer coordinator. In her free time, Barb is an avid bicyclist and nature lover. She also loves to spend time with her children and grandchildren.

### Director's Notes from Susan Jordan

Dear Friends,

"Now, more than ever!" We have been hearing this phrase a lot lately. We've all seen our share of conflict this year. People are asking, 'How can we talk to others who see things so differently?' "How can we get people to listen to one another?" "How can we heal the deep divides that have been exposed?"

The Mediation Center is working hard every day to support our community in addressing these difficult issues. In 2016, our trained volunteers mediated hundreds of interpersonal conflicts and facilitated conflict in community, church, organizational and family settings. We helped design events to help people listen to one another. We taught classes on how to reduce the negative impacts of conflict on children and offered conflict training to organizations. We are in the midst of strategic planning for the future and have some ambitious goals.

There is so much work to do. Now, more than ever, we need your support! I hope you'll consider making a generous donation to support our work in the Susquehanna Valley.

Thank you for helping us do this important work!

– Susan

### Learn more about Kids First

Our Kids First teachers will be guests on WKOK 1070 AM radio on Tuesday, December 20 at 7 a.m. to talk about parental conflict and how to help kids through it. We hope you will tune in! Kids First participants this year were overwhelmingly positive about the program, which helps uncoupled parents navigate co-parenting without involving children in conflict. Here are some of their comments:

- 💚 "Terrific information. Very informative and recommended for anyone going through divorce or separation."
- 💚 "I wish my own parents had gone through this class 20 years ago."
- 💚 "Very passionate teacher! Thank you. This was a huge help."
- 💚 "I will never give up on my children. Thank you for this excellent program."
- 💚 "I wish this class had been available 8 years ago when I first separated."
- 💚 "Stop reacting" is my new motto. My kids are worth it.