

April 2008 News

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Celebrate Volunteer Week

April 27 – May 3, 2008

Volunteers “inspire by example” — both encouraging those they help and motivating others to serve! By working together and supporting one another, volunteers can be at the center of social change discovering their power to make a positive difference.

Many USA nonprofit organizations take one week each year to thank the volunteers who keep their organizations functioning.

GFSC is taking this time to thank our GFSC volunteer Board, Advisory Council, workshop facilitators and volunteers all over the world for your service and inspiration.

Inspire: Share Your Stories

Your volunteer stories about building community capacity will inspire others to volunteer and sustain communities for the future.

Your story should include the following:

- **Inspiration:** What motivated you to get involved?
- **Description** of people impacted by project
- **Action:** What did you do?
- **Number** of volunteers and volunteer hours
- **Results:** What’s different now?

To share your story, click here,

..\..\gfsc_web\Network\Inspire_ShareStories.htm

GFSC Advisory Council

As GFSC faces a number of opportunities and challenges, we are reaching out to a select group of people who support the organization and its values, and who can provide valuable advice based on solid experience and build connections between GFSC and other organizations.

The Advisory Council will consist of community, business and non-profit leaders who volunteer to advise the GFSC Board of Directors on specific policy matters. We have tremendous admiration for their work and expertise. We are very grateful to benefit from your thinking as we go forward.

We are very pleased to introduce several members of our first Advisory Council:



Gary Austin brings 24+ years of facilitation consulting experience working with clients across all industries, in the private, public and third sectors. He worked as a senior consultant in an in-house consultancy before co-developing/founding **circleindigo** in 1999.

Gary has wide experience with group, collaborative and participative techniques and has specialised in the design and facilitation of change-based workshops and interventions that include strategic, business and project planning, requirements definition, problem solving/issue resolution, project lifecycle, partnering, change and transition, team development and Joint Application Development (JAD) workshops.

Gary is a past Chair and Regional Representative of the International Association of Facilitators (IAF). and is an IAF Certified Professional Facilitator (CPF) and an assessor on the CPF programme. He is also a founding member (1989) of the UK Facilitators Network (UKF) and has been part of the Global Facilitator Service Corps for many years.

Gary is also a visiting lecturer at University of Westminster, London where he runs programmes on change, transition and resilience for the Business Psychology Centre. He has worked in the UK, Europe, North America, Canada and South Africa.



Izzy Gesell, CSP is an organizational alchemist who helps individuals and organizations transform their thinking from commonplace to extraordinary. Through his keynotes, trainings, coaching and facilitation, Izzy offers imaginative, intuitive and immediately useful insights and programs. He is skilled at delivering meaningful material in a way that makes participants enjoy their time with him.

Izzy was one of the first to use Improv Theater concepts as tools for personal and organizational learning. He is the author of *Playing Along: Group Learning Activities Borrowed From Improvisation Theater*, a co-author of *Humor Me: America's Funniest Humorists on the Power of Laughter*, and a contributor of a chapter on Improvisation as a facilitation tool in the *IAF Group Facilitators Handbook*.

Recognized by his peers, he is a Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) a designation of the National Speakers Association (fewer than 10% of NSA's 4,000 members are CSPs). The International Facilitators Association (IAF) regularly requests Izzy to train facilitators in his techniques.

Most recently Izzy has been working with professional organizations and businesses to improve their awareness and effectiveness addressing the concerns of multigenerational groups.

A former stand-up comedian and public school teacher, Izzy, of Northampton, Massachusetts, was raised in Brooklyn NY where commonplace thinking was frowned upon. He has a BA in Psychology, an MS in Education and a P.... that's 1/3 of a PhD.



Mirja Hanson, the first President of GFSC, has 33 years of experience in community development, multiple-stakeholder decision making, policy consensus building, inter-organizational partnerships and strategic planning. Her clients

include public and private organizations, more than 50 federal, state, and local agencies, and municipalities, many K-12 and higher education institutions, U.S. House of Representatives, Fortune 500 corporations, United Nations Sustainable Development Program and Habitat for Humanity. She is the author of several books, most recently, *Clues to Achieving Consensus: A Leader's Guide to Navigating Collaborative Problem-solving*.

Prior to private practice, Mirja was a senior in-house consultant with the Institute of Cultural Affairs and the State of Minnesota. She has a Doctorate in Education from the University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, MN), an MBA from the University of Minnesota, and BA from the Metro State University, MN. Mirja is on the adjunct faculty at the University of St. Thomas.

Mirja is a founding member of The International Association of Facilitators and the Global Facilitator Service Corps. She and her husband Sam, live in Minneapolis, MN. They have six children and five grandchildren from multiple ethnic backgrounds. Now an American citizen, she is Finnish by birth and was raised in Japan.



Stephen Thorpe is a facilitator specialising in the online domain and trains others in online facilitation. His PhD explores facilitation as a vital domain in assisting online groups with a focus on the benefits of story in online relationship development.

Stephen is the Secretary of the International Association of Facilitators (IAF) and the Editor-in-Chief of the IAF's *Group Facilitation: A Research and Applications Journal*. He is a member of the GFSC Network, Heart Politics, The New Zealand Computer Society, Toastmasters and the

Participation Community of Practice (part of New Zealand's E-government Strategy).

Stephen holds a Zenergy Diploma of Facilitation and a Bachelor of Business with first class honours from Auckland University of Technology (AUT) where he has a background researching computer-assisted group work. He was part of a team who developed a multi-site large interactive digital whiteboard. He is a part-time lecturer at AUT teaching on the Human Computer Interaction paper in the Bachelor of Business degree.

Stephen has recently written chapters on The Use of Storytelling in Building Online Group Relationships in the *Handbook of Research on Computer Mediated Communication*, and a chapter entitled Facilitation Online in *The Art of Facilitation* and has previously co-written a chapter on Facilitator Values and Ethics in the *IAF Handbook of Group Facilitation* with Dr. Dale Hunter.

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GFSC Enjoys IAF Conference



What a wonderful feeling of reconnection and welcome at the IAF North American Conference in Atlanta. Attended by more than 400, many new friends and old friends visited the GFSC booth and stayed to chat with Lenny, Marieann and BJ. We learned a lot about our visitors' service interests and needs, while sharing our GFSC story. Thank you all for stopping by. We hope to keep connected. More than 70 visitors signed up for our newsletter and we practically

ran out of brochures, bookmarks and DCI workshop flyers!

Congratulations to our raffle winners: Carol Turner, Christina Galvin, George Smith, Shoshana Cogan, Geoff Selig and Barbara Sherlock. We hope all of you enjoy your reading! And thank you to our book donors: Marieann Shovlin, Stephen Thorpe, Lenny Diamond.

The GFSC Network

Visitors to our booth were most interested in learning about GFSC as a network supporting facilitators who serve their communities. We discussed the propensity of facilitators to overload and over-extend themselves doing pro bono/volunteer work. They seemed to appreciate knowing that there was a place they could go to seek and share experiences which enhance their community's capability to develop sustainable solutions.

Our support for volunteers who serve their communities includes our virtual library adding more articles, research papers, tools & techniques and manuals, as well as linking to other resources, sharing learning and resources to benefit everyone. We are actively expanding our network, continuing to connect colleagues in the same locale or with similar interests, offering mentoring and training. Our planned webinars and web site upgrades were greeted with enthusiasm. Sharing learning and resources to support volunteers and communities was met with wide approval. Thank you all for your insights and suggestions!

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GFSC Workshop at NCDD Austin, October 2008

**Join us at the 2008 National Conference on
Dialogue & Deliberation!**

For conference and workshop information and registration, visit <http://thataway.org>.

Visit Our Virtual Library

Please browse through our library any time. We have recently included a section on Personal and Community Resilience. And we are setting up a section for sharing (your) Inspiring Stories of Building Community Capacity.

Please let us know how you are using our materials. What is working well and what needs improvement. Thanks!

If you have an article or information you would like to share with GFSC and our visitors, please write to us at info@globalfacilitators.org, or to share your story, click http://gfsc_web/Network/Inspire_ShareStories.htm.



Support GFSC

You can help GFSC continue to build local community capacity. Click on our donation page or mail a check to

GFSC
c/o BJ Diamond
11 Sequin Road
West Hartford, CT 06117

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2008 GFSC Board

President: Lenny Diamond
Vice President: Tim Karpoff
Secretary: Marieann Shovlin
Treasurer: Parcia Sansary Lazan
Executive Director: BJ Diamond

Visit us: <http://globalfacilitators.org>

Learning Opportunities from Our Partner Organizations

Amauta International,
<http://amauta-international.com/>

Center for Strategic Facilitation,
<http://www.strategicfacilitation.com/>

Community at Work,
<http://www.communityatwork.com/>

Facilitator U., <http://www.facilitatoru.com/>

International Association of Facilitators
<http://iaf-world.org>

National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation (NCDD), <http://www.thataway.org/>

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Other Organizations' Events

Australia/Asia

IAF Asia
27 - 28 August 2008, Bangkok, Thailand

Africa

IAF Africa "Imbizo"
24 - 25 July 2008, Pilanesburg, South Africa

North America

National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation (NCDD)
[3-5 October 2008, Austin Texas](http://www.ncdd.org)

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Gratitude/Gracias

Our thanks to Kiosk/Hot Conference, our web hosts. If you host a website, want to reduce your long distance phone charges and/or improve communications consider Kiosk and Hot Conference. By signing up using the link on the GFSC web site (<http://www.hotconference.com/GFSC/partners1.php>), 25% of your Kiosk-Hot Conference fees are donated to GFSC.

Our thanks to Ximena Combariza for translating our newsletter from English to Spanish.

Our thanks to Peggy Bushee Services for administrative support!