

# July-August News

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Support GFSC by using Kiosk and Hot Conference for the best in web hosting and communications...

## Disaster & Crisis Intervention Workshop Schedule\*

Register for any one of the following at

<http://globalfacilitars.org>

Once you have registered additional information will be sent to you.



- 7-8 August, Oakland, CA, - **waiting list only!** Scheduled just after the NCDD (National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation) conference in San Francisco so attendees can take advantage of both.
- **12-13 September, Chicago, IL, co-sponsored by ICA (Institute for Cultural Affairs) and GFSC.**
- **30-31 October, Ottawa, ON Canada, co-sponsored by Your Leadership Works**

\* For experienced facilitators who will train other professionals and community service personnel

## A Brief History of GFSC Disaster & Crisis Intervention Training

By Gil Brenson-Lazan & BJ Diamond

In November of 1985, Colombia suffered one of the worst tragedies in its history: the eruption of the Arenas Volcano and the ensuing avalanche that buried one of the most beautiful towns in the country: Armero. Twenty five thousand people lost their lives on that ill-fated night when tons of rock and mud covered thousands of homes with families asleep inside. Another two hundred thousand people were affected by the human and financial loss of this tragedy.

At that time, Dr. Gilbert Brenson-Lazan, and his then colleague-wife, Dr. María Mercedes Sarmiento Díaz (1947-2003), wrote the first edition of the guide, *A Light in this Dark Valley: A Guide For Emotional Recovery (Fifty Things to Do When There is Nothing Else to Do)* and several manuals on psycho-social reconstruction, for professionals to meet the immediate needs of the tens of thousands of homeless and other victims. Since that tragedy, Gil has trained and mentored several hundred professionals in facilitating processes after disasters throughout Latin America (Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Venezuela), as well as Taiwan, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and most recently in the USA.

Natural and social disasters hit every social class in every corner of the world. Facilitation techniques are some of the most effective intervention tools for grief management and psychosocial reconstruction, building the resilience and self-reliance of individuals and communities.

Over the years, the model for training facilitators and other professionals has evolved and improved, based on the research and experiences of many other crises.

The manuals are in their 9<sup>th</sup> edition. For many years, Gil and several other experienced facilitators led 1-day introductory workshops at

conferences and other public venues to present an overview of the concepts and learning model.

The GFSC "cascade" model of social learning developed from the training after Hurricane Mitch in Nicaragua. Thirty people were trained in the first group. They replicated the training with an ever-widening circle of others in the communities, so that, in two years' time, 11,600 people were trained!

Now, the training, administered by GFSC, has expanded to a 2-day workshop, directed toward experienced facilitators who agree to volunteer to share the model within their local communities, addressing the needs of survivors, caregivers, first responders, health care workers, educators, community service workers, community volunteers and those agencies and organizations supporting this work. Workshop participants learn to recognize and address the stages of grief, effective and ineffective coping strategies, caring for caregivers, transitional communities, as well as specific communications techniques that effectively address specific survivor and community needs.

Much of the success of this model is due to the dedication and service of hundreds of professionals and other volunteers who have trained through workshops and distance learning. Global Facilitator Service Corps is dedicated to continuing, improving and expanding the dissemination and availability of this model to professionals and communities all over the world.

It is very common to find much pro bono (volunteer) work among professional facilitators. Their desire to use their skills to improve communities has been a common practice. In 2002, four professional facilitators, Lenny Diamond (at the time, the Community Outreach Coordinator for the International Association of Facilitators), Jim Troxel, Mirja Hansen and Francisco Fernandez decided to create an organization that could support and connect facilitators who volunteer their services. A small, dedicated group, representing facilitators from Canada, Latin America, Ethiopia and USA came together to define, discuss and create Global Facilitator Service Corps, a non-profit, charitable organization. While our mission is much broader than just facilitating processes in disaster & crisis intervention, that particular need seems to be the

most in demand at this time. GFSC decided to devote much of its energy and resources in continuing to expand the corps of facilitators and community leaders in this arena.

Since January 2006, GFSC has conducted more than 5 workshops in USA and Colombia, training more than 50 professionals. They in turn are working within their communities to share these tools and techniques.

Read more about what some of our workshop "graduates" are doing...

### **Next Steps after a DCI Workshop: Building Community Capacity**

- ◆ Larry & Bego Meeker, working with Christian faith-based communities in Texas
- ◆ Viv McWaters, arranging for GFSC DCI workshops in Australia, tentatively scheduled for March, 2007.
- ◆ Suze Present investigating working with Haitians suffering with chronic traumatic stress
- ◆ GFSC New Orleans Network: Approximately 60 people have participated and/or facilitated the GFSC Disaster and Crisis Intervention training since February. The next session, in October, is focused on healthcare and hospital workers. Other post-workshop activities include working with
  - college student volunteers who are gutting houses and working with local children at summer camp;
  - with Jefferson Parish Inspection and Code Enforcement employees to help them recognize their own reactions to the crisis and to better empathize with citizens who are struggling to recover as well;
  - temporarily displaced New Orleanians living in Austin, TX
  - Employee Assistance Programs of Lockheed Martin, Martin Marietta, Hilton Hotel
  - New Orleans Police Department
  - Local high school crisis & recovery team

## Meet Our Workshop Facilitators

**Gil Brenson-Lazan** was born, raised and educated in the United States (Carleton College, University of Minnesota). Gil has lived and worked in Colombia since 1972. He is co-founder and Executive Director of Amauta International, a training and consulting firm that trains and mentors facilitators of organizational and community transformation and change processes.



For 40 years Gil has been an educator and trainer. He has written more than 25 professional books and articles. For 20 years he has been a facilitator of organizational and community development. Gil is past-International Vice-Chair of the International Association of Facilitators. Gil has been a member of the GFSC Board of Directors since its inception and is immediate Past-President. Currently, he is the Mentored Pathways™ Coordinator. He leads our monthly MP Virtual Conferences, keeps up with a prodigious amount of research and communication with professionals all over the world.

In his spare time Gil does nature photography, trains his Rottweilers and plays the *tiple requinto*, a native Colombian string instrument.

*"I also want to thank everyone for putting on a first-class workshop. I've gotten great feedback from several participants. Ya'll done a great service for our community."*

Paul Forbes, Director  
Professional Development Institute  
School of Continuing Studies, Tulane University

**Michael P. Kane, Ed.D.**

is an experienced, bilingual (English-Spanish) international training consultant and facilitator, specializing in communications, negotiations, managing diversity and multicultural processes, strategic management, leadership, group processes, teambuilding, and conflict resolution.



Michael is adjunct faculty at the School of Continuing Studies, Tulane University teaching courses in organizational behavior and general management. He has received several awards recognizing his outstanding service to the college.

As a trainer/consultant with the American Management Association and with US AID, Michael worked in Mexico, Costa Rica, Argentina, Uruguay, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Chile, Peru, Jamaica, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Ecuador, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. In addition, he has developed and delivered courses in customer service, teams and teambuilding, negotiation, time management, interpersonal skills, and change management.

Since Katrina, Michael has totally focused his available time on volunteer work with GFSC, building a local New Orleans network (NOLA Network) of facilitators, including Ted Quant of the Twomey Center at Loyola University, the School of Continuing Studies at Tulane University and other local facilitators. This active group of facilitators conducts workshops in facilitating community resilience and self-reliance after disaster, seeking to help New Orleanians and others understand and work through the greatest human disaster ever to strike the USA. Michael particularly focuses on the differential impacts of disaster on race and class.

Michael lives in New Orleans, with Marianne Wafer and their cat, Zana.



**Tim Karpoff** has over 30 years of experience in community and organizational development, strategic planning, and multi-sector collaboration. A graduate of Yale University, Tim worked for 16 years as a

regional director and vice president of the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) in the United States and Southeast Asia, organizing community-based programs and facilitating strategic planning and team building processes with businesses and government agencies.

For the past 14 years, Tim has focused on bringing quality and depth to public and organizational planning processes. Tim works with a wide range of organizations, facilitating a variety of planning processes, construction partnering meetings, and task forces on resource management issues.

Tim has been a member of the Global Facilitator Board of Directors since inception. As current Vice President, he focuses on strategic planning and Board development.

Tim lives with his wife, Martha, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Ted Quant** is the Director of Loyola University's Twomey Center for Peace Through Justice, a university institution with 59 years of service. Ted teaches courses in conflict resolution, conflict mediation, cultural diversity, communications, leadership development, team building and negotiations.



In 1986, Ted and Michael Kane founded the Twomey Training Center offering facilitation, training and consultation services to community groups, corporations, government agencies and not-for-profit institutions throughout the United States.

Like thousands of others in the Gulf Coast region, Quant and his staff lost their homes in the New Orleans flood. He joined Global Facilitators Service Corps to help people understand their

trauma and grief as well as assist them in the personal and social reconstruction of their lives in the wake of this disaster.

**Julie Francisco** is an Alternative Dispute Resolution Mediator, Certified Professional Facilitator and Certified Trainer of NLP (Neuro Linguistic Processes) and Certified Coach. She has an extensive background in Accelerated and Whole-Brain Learning, as well as 20+ years of designing and delivering adult education courses.



She has received several awards for her success in making learning fun and meaningful.

As a consultant, Julie is highly sought after throughout North America by government agencies and corporations, Julie is recognized as an

expert in communication, leadership development, performance enhancement and team building. Clients appreciate her as a "catalyst" whose positive, powerful approach inspires them to achieve previously unimagined individual and organizational transformation.

Julie is known for motivating people to enjoy being their best, doing what they are best at, consistently, with purpose and passion, with the goal of implementing real, sustainable change.

### Get a head start

In addition to attending a GFSC workshop, if you are interested in becoming an authorized GFSC Facilitator-Trainer or Mentor, sign up now for the GFSC Mentored Pathways™ program. Complete the volunteer form on the GFSC web site and you will receive the Mentored Pathways information. Any questions, contact Gil Brenson-Lazan, Mentored Pathways Coordinator, [mp@globalfacilitators.org](mailto:mp@globalfacilitators.org). And be sure to participate in a GFSC Disaster & Crisis Intervention workshop!

### **Do You Host a Web Site?**

Here is an easy, cost-effective way to improve your communications while supporting GFSC and our volunteer facilitators worldwide.

If you host a website and/or would like to reduce your long distance charges and improve communications within your organization, 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.

Hot Conference and Kiosk are proud sponsors of GFSC. Operating in more than 119 countries and with 35 years of experience, Kiosk provides our web hosting and a variety of internet tools. Hot Conference provides its industry-leading Web Conferencing Software so we can communicate with our volunteers throughout the world.

### **Request a DCI workshop**

We continue to look for opportunities to conduct workshops in other countries/regions. Interested in helping organize a workshop in your area? We've had requests from Europe (United Kingdom and Sweden), Australia, Asia, Ghana and other locations in the Americas. We can put you in touch with other interested facilitators. If you, your agency or organization would like to sponsor, organize or participate in a GFSC DCI workshop, please click

[http://globalfacilitators.org/workshops/workshop\\_request.htm](http://globalfacilitators.org/workshops/workshop_request.htm)

### **2006 GFSC Officers and Board**

Lenny Diamond, President  
Tim Karpoff, Vice President  
Secretary, Marieann Shovlin  
Treasurer, BJ Diamond  
Gil Brenson Lazan, Mentored Pathways Program Coordinator  
Parcia Sansary Gomez, Regional Coordinator for Latin America

### **Volunteer Job Board**

**Workshop Planner:** experienced in planning and executing workshops and/or training events; responsibilities include working with GFSC leadership to locate venues and sponsors, supervise specific DCI workshop plans and maintain budgets. This can be done on a local or regional basis.

**Database Manager:** experienced in designing and implementing databases (Access or SQL) to manage volunteers and contacts; responsibilities include researching parameters and selecting an efficient collection, storage and retrieval system.

**Database Administrator:** experienced in entering contact information, database maintenance and searches; responsibilities include collecting and reporting contact information and entering it into the GFSC database on a regular basis.

If you are interested in any of the above, contact [sec@globalfacilitators.org](mailto:sec@globalfacilitators.org)

### **GFSC Newsletter Staff**

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We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please write to Marieann at [sec@globalfacilitators.org](mailto:sec@globalfacilitators.org).