

From: Cape Mediation <info@capemediation.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2026 4:47 PM
To: annetessier@capemediation.org
Subject: April 2026 Mediator's Break



Mediator's Break

Monthly News & Updates
April 2026 Issue



"Let both sides explore what problems unite us instead of belaboring those problems which divide us."

President John F. Kennedy

Events and Happenings at Cape Mediation



Back In Barnstable for Small Claims

We are happy to be back in person in the Barnstable District Court doing both small claims and summary process! If you have volunteered with us and are interested in coming into Barnstable, please send us your volunteering availability. If you are not already on our email list for monthly availability inquiries, let us know so we can add you as soon as possible.



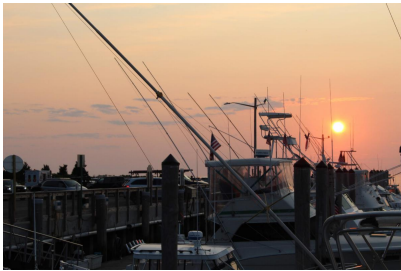
Welcome Libby!

This month we are welcoming a new Cape Mediation staff member to our team. We are thrilled to have Libby joining us and excited to see all the great work we can do together. Look forward to our May issue to learn more about her!



Welcome Cape Mediation's New Board Member

We are pleased to announce that Randi Potash has joined the Board of Directors. Randi brings a wealth of experience as a Mediator and as one of our founding members of our Conciliation Team. We look forward to working with Randi on the Board!



WORKING WITH THE LOCAL CATCH NETWORK SAIL CATALYST

We were honored to be invited by the Local Catch Network to provide our Conflict Management skills training, Building Bridges -- Not Walls, as part of their SAIL Catalyst 2026. The SAIL Catalyst is a 2.5-month, producer-centered business training program developed to help seafood companies build the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to sustain and/or grow their operations. The program is run as a partnership between the Local Catch Network and Ecotrust. We enjoyed working with such a dynamic and varied group of people in the fishing industry from across the country.

"Thank you for such an amazing workshop! Your slides were informative, visually pleasing and not too busy. I loved the opportunities for interaction with the participants."
Jessica J.



JOINING STUDENTS AT THE UMASS SCHOOL OF LAW

Once again Cape Mediation had the pleasure of joining Prof. Margaret Drew's Family Law class at the University of Massachusetts School of Law in Dartmouth to present our Introduction to Conciliation Workshop. We were thrilled to have our own former Board of Directors President, Karen Duffy Wallace, Esq., join our team as we introduced the students to conflict management skills and the role attorneys play in Alternate Dispute Resolution. As always, we immensely enjoyed working with this group of aspiring attorneys!

"[The presentation] was clear, informative, and concise."
Student, UMass School of Law

CELEBRATING OUR YOUTH! Cape Mediation's Youth Interns

Cape Mediation's Youth Internship Program has been highly successful since its inception in 2021. We believe we have one of the most robust internship programs of its kind in the field of Alternate Dispute Resolution in Massachusetts. Our interns assist us in all of our programs, including in the development and presentation of our youth programs. All of our interns are eligible to complete our Intensive Basic Mediation Skills Training and become full mediators.

We asked our current interns to tell us about their experience with Cape Mediation.

LEIF

Area of Study: Sociology and Philosophy student at Bates College.

How did you find out about Cape Mediation?

Simply searching online!

Why were you interested in working for Cape Mediation?

I love the values and goals of Cape Mediation, and wanted to help support. I was also thinking of pursuing something related to dispute resolution or pre-law and wanted to get a feel for a related field.

What are your roles at Cape Mediation, and what have you learned from working here?

As a summer intern (who's continued through the year to work with Cape Mediation), I've written newspaper content, helped in virtual mediations by providing technical support, produced social media content, as well as various other administrative support jobs.

Is there anything regarding this work you are specifically looking forward to?

I'm looking forward to taking the basic mediation training this spring with Cape Mediation and am excited to be further involved and learn more from that opportunity. With the training under my belt, I'm also hoping to take a more active role in our mediations.

Please give an example(s) of using conflict resolution skills in your everyday life. How has it helped in school, the workplace, relationships, etc.

I've learned from watching our talented volunteers facilitate mediations the importance of truly listening, not just to the words that people are actually saying, but to the underlying needs and wants behind them. This has not only helped me understand my friends and family at a more basic level and connect more with my loved ones, but it's also helped me connect with others who I've disagreed with in the past.

Optional: discuss future plans with school, work, etc.

While I've since realized I'm a better fit to pursue physical therapy (still very people-forward, just more physically active), I am still planning on continuing to work with and support Cape Mediation and be involved with the work they do for as long as I can.

DAISY

Area of Study: International Development and History Student at McGill University.

How did you find out about Cape Mediation? While I was a student at Nauset Regional High School, Cape Mediation did a youth conflict resolution workshop in one of my classes. Through that, I was able to be certified as a peer mediator and help start a peer mediation program at Nauset!

Why were you interested in working for Cape Mediation? I really loved the work we did in class regarding mediating, conflict coaching, and listening circles. The youth program was looking for a student intern and it felt like the perfect way for me to get further involved with the company. Also, learning that at 18 years old you can get certified to be a mediator and volunteer in the courts really intrigued me. It was perfect as a young adult looking for professional outlets to take part in alongside pursuing higher education.

What are your roles at Cape Mediation, and what have you learned from working here? Over the past three or so years interning for Cape Mediation, my roles have changed a lot. When I was able to have a more present, in-person, role, I focused mainly on programming for the Pathways to Peace Youth Program and was able to go into the schools we worked with and actually teach! I learned so much from the students I worked with, and just how important topics such as respect, listening, and gratitude are. These are learned skills that need to be prioritized in education! Now being a mostly remote intern, I focus a bit more on the technical sides of things. I mainly provide content for the monthly newsletter, provide technical support for remote mediations, and complete other administrative tasks! When I am home I am able to volunteer as a mediator which is such an amazing experience.

Is there anything regarding this work you are specifically looking forward to? I am looking forward to more mediating experience, as last summer was my first time being able to participate. I see it as a role I can definitely excel in, as of now I still get very nervous to mediate!

Please give an example(s) of using conflict resolution skills in your everyday life. How has it helped in school, the workplace, relationships, etc. Conflict resolution skills have helped in almost every aspect of my life. Whether it is on a day-to-day basis, or with bigger disputes, I notice it impacting my life in amazing ways! I think these skills have become especially useful with my job, as I am a server at a restaurant on the Cape in the summer. Customer service requires communication, active listening, and patience!

Optional: discuss future plans with school, work, etc. I do not know exactly where life will take me after university, but I am excited to find out!

If you are interested in learning more about Internship opportunities at Cape Mediation, please [contact us](#).

Thank You to Our Supporters!



Thank you everyone at the Massachusetts Trial Court for their continued support of community mediation across the Commonwealth and their generosity in supporting Cape Mediation.

The Board's Corner

At its March meeting, the board of directors discussed how Cape Mediation could mark its 50th anniversary year. Specifically, the board is considering branding and marketing initiatives. We are also considering an event that would honor the good work the organization has done for the people of Cape Cod over its history.

The board also welcomed Randi Potash to its ranks. Randi has been a long time Cape Mediation mediator and conciliator and has a deep devotion to the organization. Randi has also been and continues to be a volunteer in various organizations on Cape Cod, particularly in her hometown of Chatham. Welcome Randi!



Books & Beyond

Conflict Resolution Expert Says Reducing Division Starts with Solving Apolitical Problems Locally. In a time of much political uncertainty and overall division, it is important to find hope anywhere we can. I listened to this interview a while back, as it was published in December, and I found it brief yet encouraging. This discussion with the former director of research at USD's Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice shows how working on issues on a local level can and will benefit San Diego society, and any community who desires unity.

Thank you, Daisy, for sharing these articles!

Do you have a reading, podcast, or other media that you want to share with the Cape Mediation community? If so, email us at info@capemediation.org!



Happenings

We were heartbroken to hear the news of the passing of Barnstable District Court's Clerk Magistrate, John Costello, earlier last month. He played an extremely valuable role in supporting the wider community and treated everyone who entered into the courtroom with courtesy and respect. We are absolutely honored to have worked with him. We offer our sincere condolences to his loved ones during this time.



Calendar

April 2026

Our volunteers are available to mediate in-person each Thursday at the Barnstable District Court and the Orleans District Court.

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Orleans District Court

9:00 AM - Orleans Summary Process (in-person)
10:00 AM - Orleans Small Claims (in-person)

Barnstable District Court

9:00 AM - Orleans Summary Process (in-person)
10:00 AM - Orleans Small Claims (in-person)

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

8:00 AM - **Cape Cod Community College Leadership Workshop** for Business students

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Orleans District Court

9:00 AM - Orleans Summary Process (in-person)
10:00 AM - Orleans Small Claims (in-person)

Barnstable District Court

9:00 AM - Orleans Summary Process (in-person)
10:00 AM - Orleans Small Claims (in-person)

Friday, April 10, 2026

9:30 AM - **Cape Cod Community College Leadership Workshop** for Business Students

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Orleans District Court

9:00 AM - Orleans Summary Process (in-person)
10:00 AM - Orleans Small Claims (in-person)

Barnstable District Court

9:00 AM - Orleans Summary Process (in-person)
10:00 AM - Orleans Small Claims (in-person)

4:00 PM - **Discussion & Debrief** for Cape Mediation volunteers

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

9:30 AM - **Board of Directors Meeting**

Thursday, April 23, 2026

Orleans District Court

9:00 AM - Orleans Summary Process (in-person)
10:00 AM - Orleans Small Claims (in-person)

Barnstable District Court

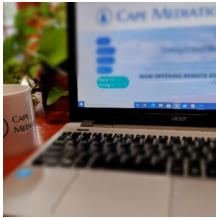
9:00 AM - Orleans Summary Process (in-person)
10:00 AM - Orleans Small Claims (in-person)

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Orleans District Court

9:00 AM - Orleans Summary Process (in-person)
10:00 AM - Orleans Small Claims (in-person)

[Visit CapeMediation.org](http://CapeMediation.org)



Submit Your Request for Mediation and Conciliation Services Online!

Submit your request to schedule a Mediation or Conciliation on our website at CapeMediation.org and fill out a [Request for Services](#) form. After we receive your request, one of our experienced case coordinators will contact you to learn more. **You may also reach us by phone at 508-240-1717 or by [email](mailto:info@capemediation.org) at info@capemediation.org.**



Advanced Dispute Resolution Skills Practice Training

Cape Mediation's Advanced Dispute Resolution Practice Training Program is for newly trained neutrals and for neutrals that wish to gain additional advanced hands-on experience. This program provides an invaluable opportunity to practice mediation and conciliation skills, and is held remotely by Zoom. You will be paired with experienced neutrals under the supervision of our Volunteer Development Coordinator. It is an important next step for anyone involved in the field of Dispute Resolution. [READ MORE.](#)

To Register visit us on the web at CapeMediation.org or click [Register.](#)



Cape Mediation's Youth Conflict Resolution Programs

Cape Mediation now offers programs in Youth Conflict Resolution training, Youth Peer Mediation, and Youth Conflict Management workshops. **To start a Youth Conflict Management Program or host a workshop at your school or organization, please email us at, info@capemediation.org.**



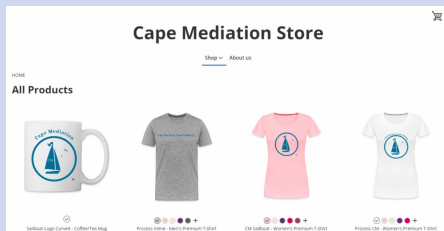
Mediator's Break is Online

Want to reference an old newsletter but your inbox is, well, a little overwhelming and you'd rather not scroll back to find the needle in the haystack? Don't fret -- now you can access our Newsletter from our website, www.CapeMediation.org, along with archives. [Click Here to View Current and Past Newsletters.](#)



Stay Up-to-Date on Cape Mediation News and Events

Stay up to date with news and information, articles and our calendar of events at Cape Mediation and in our community. [Click Here to View News and Events.](#)



Visit the Cape Mediation Store to Show your passion for The Process!

Wondering where to get a Cape Mediation t-shirt, mug or more? Visit the Cape Mediation store for all things Cape Mediation. Proceeds support Cape Mediation services in our community.

[Click Here to Visit the Cape Mediation Store](#)

For Cape Mediation Staff and Volunteers



Keep Us Updated!

Don't miss out! Do you have a new email address, phone number or mailing address? Would you like to mediate in person? Are you interested in getting more involved with Cape Mediation or have an idea for a workshop? We want to know! Click the link below to share your updated information with us.

[Click Here For The Survey!](#)



Cape Mediation Website Members-Only Page

The Members Only page on the Cape Mediation website is open to all Cape mediation active volunteers and staff. Find: Events Calendar, Open job positions, Debrief Highlights, and more! This page is open to Cape Mediation staff and volunteers.

Volunteer Sign-Up!

Volunteers can now sign-up to volunteer to mediate and conciliate through the link on our Members-Only Page.

Volunteer Calendar

See important dates and happenings listed on the Volunteer Calendar located on the Members-Only Page.



Interested in Becoming More Involved?

If you are interested in becoming more involved in any of our programs, please **reach out!** Additionally, if you are interested in volunteering in our Remote Dispute Resolution programs, but are unsure about the process or technology, we want to help! We will schedule you for to observe or pair you with someone with experience in telephone and videoconferencing to help. [Contact us.](#)

Cape Mediation's Google Groups Discussion Board

We invite all Cape Mediation volunteers to join our virtual Dispute Resolution email discussion group where we share information about job opportunities, news and articles about the world of Dispute Resolution. This **group is open to Cape Mediation staff and volunteers.** If you have not already joined, please [contact us to join.](#)

Discussion & Debrief

Whether you are an active remote mediator or conciliator, want to keep your skills sharp, or want to learn more about our remote process, please join us as we debrief our sessions. During the debrief we talk about which skills worked best and what other skills might have been used, focusing on challenges and skills. **Debriefs are open to Cape Mediation staff and volunteers.**

If you have not already signed-up, please send us your available volunteer dates by clicking the button below. We offer mediations and conciliations remotely weekdays, both in the morning and afternoon. We also are excited to be back in-person offering mediations at the Orleans District Court House on Thursdays.

If you have not mediated or conciliated remotely, consider giving it a try. We will pair you with an experienced remote volunteer and we are sure once you try it, you'll like it!

APRIL - VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

Our Coordinators are There!

Our coordinators are always there to help and to answer any questions that may come up when you volunteer.

We Will Take Care of the Tech!

Don't know how to run breakout rooms? Never hosted a Zoom meeting? No problem! A tech person is available for **ALL** programs to take care of the tech so you don't have to!

Support Cape Mediation



Support Cape Mediation

Your donations help us continue to provide high quality services to our community. For a small organization like Cape Mediation, the cliché "every dollar counts" holds true.



Donate with Amazon Smile

We're on Amazon Smile if you'd like to make donations at no cost to you - just follow **this link** and for every purchase you make on Amazon, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price to Cape Mediation. It may not seem like much, but it all adds up!

Show your passion for The Process!

Visit the Cape Mediation store for all things Cape Mediation. Proceeds support Cape Mediation services in our community.

Donate Today

Follow us on Social Media
Follow Us on Social Media

Want to stay in touch on a platform that isn't email? Follow us on Instagram or Facebook where you'll find up-to-date information, workshop and training announcements, and more!



More Information

About Us

Visit: CapeMediation.org/About/

National Association for Community Mediation

Visit: NAFCM.org

Resolution Massachusetts

Visit: ResolutionMA.org

Mass Law Libraries

Visit: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/trial-court-law-libraries>

[Cape Mediation](#) | [Website](#)



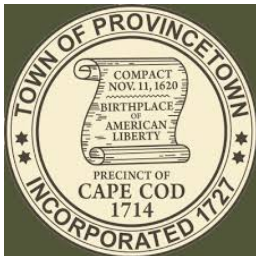
THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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