



Florida Restorative
Justice Association

Building Restorative Bridges Across the Sunshine State

**September 28, 2018- Welcome Reception: 6:30 PM-9:00 PM
with Optional Screening of "Another Justice"**

September 29, 2018- Workshops, presentations, and more: 8:30 AM-6 PM

University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee: Selby Auditorium
8350 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34243

Community and Criminal Justice Track

"Creating a Space: Using Restorative Practices in a Capital Crime"- Kate and Andy Grosmaire and Michael and Julie McBride

Dissatisfied with the criminal justice process after their daughter Ann was killed by her fiance, Conor McBride, Kate and Andy Grosmaire, along with Conor's parents, Julie and Michael McBride, fought to use Restorative Justice as a way to have their voices heard. Together, the Grosmaires and McBrides will present their story, from discovering The Little Book of Restorative Justice and finding a Restorative Justice Facilitator, to holding the first pre-adjudication Restorative Justice conference for a capital murder in the United States.

"Having Uncomfortable Conversations"- William Jackson and Jacqui Lashbrook

The Justice Project is a task force committee that focuses on strengthening relationships between law enforcement and youth. It was formed as a response to the disproportionate representation of minority youth in the juvenile justice system. Through the implementation of Peacemaking Circles, the Justice Project creates opportunities for meaningful dialogue between diversion youths and uniformed police officers. The circle is a dialog process that works intentionally to create a safe space to discuss very difficult or painful issues in order to improve relationships and resolve differences. The conversation can be uncomfortable, but the process is based on an assumption of equal worth and dignity for all participants and therefore provides equal voice to all participants. This presentation will include a video that was produced for these events.

"Teens, Adults, and Community: Addressing Systemic Trauma with NVC and RP"- Dr. Cindy Bigbie, Dan Kahn, Julya Denholm

The Community Connections Restorative Justice program serves youth by combining restorative practices, Nonviolent Communication (NVC), and a one-to-one participant-to- volunteer ratio to address epidemic trauma. By using these processes, the program gains great cooperation from youth that are often resistant to any interventions. The program boasts a 25% volunteer return rate from the youth that are originally referred to the program as a diversion to court or part of their probation. They come to the program as "hostages" and leave sad that it is over. Come learn about the magic that happens in this cutting-edge program.

“This is America? Damn: The Restoration of Historical Racial Injustices Through Poetry”- Yolanda J. Franklin

An interactive workshop/seminar where participants will discuss historical visual images highlighting racial injustices in America. We will watch and analyze Childish Gambino's "This is America" video. Participants will focus on creating a list of "what they see" and "what they feel." The finale--participants will create poems (Ekphrastic art) as a restorative response to the issues and injustices presented during the seminar. A variety of poetic examples of expected final products will include poems by poets who do this restorative act well. ("A Small Needful Fact" by Ross Gay, etc.)

“Resident-Led Restorative Practices: A Community-First Approach”- Dr. Alison Pinto

When addressing systemic injustice through restorative practices, resident-led approaches are essential. This presentation will introduce the rationale for a resident-led orientation in relation to the principle of “community first.” Examples from efforts in the Lake Maggiore Shores neighborhood of St. Petersburg will be shared to illustrate what “resident-led” and “community first” looks like in practice, with regard to issues of housing, education, mental health and civic life. Participants will explore this orientation using the circle process, and will receive resources to assist them in promoting a resident-led, community first approach in the places where they live and work.

School Track

“Bridging MTSS Tiers of Support with RJP”- Penelope Lowe, Nancy Charles, Cheri Godek

The presentation will provide attendees with the knowledge and practices needed to implement Restorative Justice School-wide (Tier 1), within targeted classes which barriers between the teachers expectations and student behaviors (Tier 2), and when addressing relationship rebuilding due to a behavior referral (fights, insubordination, gross defiance) which include parents, teachers, and other advocates (Tier 3).

“Our District’s Restorative Practice Journey”- Nancy Charles, Cicero King, Frederick Ray, Andrew Jackson, Penelope Lowe

Participants will gain an understanding of how the 9th largest school district in the nation is implementing restorative practices to build relationships and a more positive school culture to ultimately reduce out-of-school suspensions. The session will include a PowerPoint presentation with videos of testimonials and pictures. This topic is relevant for anyone charged with implementing restorative practices in their school or district with a small or large budget, and looking for suggestions.

“Restorative Practices as a Catalyst for Culture Change in a Large Suburban Middle School and Lessons Learned”- Academic Dean Dr. Robert Walker, Principal Andrew Jackson, Assistant Principal Dr. Sam Ashley, Administrative Dean Chip Harbin (Bridgewater Middle School)

Participants will learn from a team at a Florida middle school of over 2,400 students how they successfully integrated restorative practices in their school. They will detail how the integration of restorative practices have been a catalyst for culture change across the entire campus. The team will also share insights gained during the process of integrating restorative practices into the school’s daily operations. This session will include an overview of the theory guiding the leadership team’s decision making, as well as the nuts and bolts decisions that were made in order to successfully integrate restorative practices at a school this size. Finally, we will discuss lessons learned during the process with a brief presentation of the data, both quantitative & qualitative, that attest to the successful culture change Bridgewater has experienced thanks to restorative practices.

“Restorative Strategies in School Communities”- Dr. Sandra Pavelka

School administrators and teachers are faced with resolving disputes and misconduct in an expeditious and timely manner, while at the same time, addressing the needs of youth. Restorative strategies are transforming the way that these decision makers are thinking about and responding to wrongful occurrences. This approach seeks to balance the needs of the victim and the school community with consequences and accountability for the wrongdoer. This workshop will introduce restorative principles and practices applied in school communities. Model school districts implementing restorative strategies will be presented. The necessary support systems for successful implementation and potential challenges that schools face will also be examined.

Restorative Justice Practices as a Movement Track

“Neither Boat Nor Barbeque: New Language For Reimagining Restorative Justice”- Dr. Mara Schiff

Words represent often complex ideas based on broadly shared assumptions of what such words signify in the context of their usage. Some words communicate relatively clear meanings (e.g., "boat"). Others represent abstract concepts for which meaning varies across time, place, culture and experience (e.g. "justice"). Relying on “justice” as a linguistic anchor may reinforce systems of inequity rather than produce societal transformation. This presentation explores the purpose and use of words, how values and norms are communicated semiotically, and introduces two concepts, linguistic abstractions (LA) and conversational domains (CD), to reimagine how language can enhance the transformational possibilities of RJ.

“Restorative Justice Legislation, Policy, and Advocacy in Florida”- Dr. Sandra Pavelka

This workshop will address the current state of restorative justice legislation and policies in Florida and discuss prospective regional and statewide advocacy efforts. A policy working group will emerge from this session.

“Shades of Storytelling: Narrative Development & Circle Keeping with System-Involved Girls in South Florida”- Alexis Hyatt, Wakumi Douglas, Victoria Byfield

Girls of color’s narratives tend to be silenced in the juvenile justice system. Their stories, experiences, and trauma are rarely considered in the punitive charges these girls receive. Shades of Storytelling will begin to unpack the social narratives imposed on girls of color and help participants to challenge their active listening skills in order to practice empathy. It is my hope that while storytelling using these tools, (empathy, active listening, mindfulness, etc), that participants will begin to self-reflect on their possible cultural biases and come up with ways they may put their new found knowledge into action through restorative justice.

“Transforming Justice, Transforming Culture”- Nastassja Schmiedt, Lea Roth

Transformative Justice is a model for creating futures where we can all be accountable and free. This workshop presents a social justice approach to restorative and transformative justice. Come learn from Spring Up's Stas & Lea, community organizers working with Dream Defenders, and SOUL Sisters in South Florida to end gender based violence and the prison industrial complex. We will explore a restorative, transformative, and punitive justice map, and share and discuss our transformative values. Participants will leave with a new understanding of the social implications of RJ/TJ and some tools to facilitate intersectional, holistic, visionary processes.

“What Are We Doing to Grow RJ? Bridging Outreach and Advocacy within Existing Systems”- Gretchen Casey, Laila Fakhoury, Janelle King, Dan Kahn

This panel discussion will highlight RJ advocacy and outreach efforts that are growing RJ throughout our state, including school, child welfare, and juvenile justice systems. Presenters will also address strategies for growing RJ in the criminal justice system.