



# THE TALKING PIECE

## A CASE STORY

### From Betrayal to Cheers

Joey, a young man of few words around adults, was on the hot seat. Working for a family friend, he'd come upon some pricey tools he thought no one would miss. He offered to sell them to a friend. The police were called when the tools went missing. Joey was technically dealing in stolen goods, a daunting charge for someone just 14 and trying to make a few bucks.

The business owners wondered what to do, "We knew the kid was having some trouble and we were really fond of his family. We wanted to get his attention, but we just couldn't see pressing charges," Mark, one of the owners, said.

So local police suggested a restorative approach, and C4RJ stepped in to help it happen. Joey (not his real name; our process is confidential) came to the circle and sat across from Mark. Joining them were Joey's parents, a police officer and C4RJ volunteers.

At first, Joey seemed matter of fact and not very forthcoming about betraying a family friend. Some might have thought he didn't really care. Mark soon told Joey, "I know you do care, I know you are better than this mistake, and I want you to show me and show these people."

Joey and others came up with an agreement to repair the harm. Among other things, he'd try out for a sport—a request Mark made because he wanted Joey to start accomplishing something.

It took a while to complete his obligations, but Joey did. And he not only made the team but also became a star player as a result of that agreement. He's gained competence and confidence. And Mark is there on the sidelines every time he can be, cheering Joey on.



## South African Judge Leaves an Impression

"The biggest achievement of our Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was to turn knowledge into acknowledgment," said **Albie Sachs**, anti-apartheid champion, architect of South African democracy and contemporary of Nelson Mandela. Sachs spoke at Concord's Kerem Shalom on April 13 on the topic of restorative justice. He witnessed meaningful apology as part of the TRC, adding, "Apology is not a wimpy knuckling under to pressure. It's seeing humanity in the other person." A package bomb planted by South African security forces left Sachs with an amputated arm and partial blindness. He was heartened to hear of restorative justice initiatives here in Massachusetts. Thanks to UMass Lowell's Office of Community Relations and the Greeley Scholars Program for bringing him to the area.



## Cheers for our volunteers!

Please come celebrate our amazing volunteers **Thurs. June 19th 6-8pm** at **Trinitarian Congregational in Concord**. Food, drinks, our *Finding Courage* film on a side screen, surprise guests! Free with registration at [www.C4RJVolunteer.eventbrite.com](http://www.C4RJVolunteer.eventbrite.com).

## On Going Far

Six years ago, I was in a sunny room interviewing with the C4RJ Board for the position of Executive Director. Being a part of C4RJ has been energizing, rewarding, and humbling. However, I have recently decided to leave my post at C4RJ.

In 2008, we were serving two towns (Concord and Carlisle) and just expanding to Acton. With the hard work of many of you, we are now in 12 communities with more knocking on our door. RJ legislation is pending for the Commonwealth thanks to people like **Sen. Jamie Eldridge** (D-Acton) and others. Weekly, **Christy Barbee**, board members and I are speaking in classrooms, with civic organizations, and at conferences about the work.

**Greg** and I now have two little ones (**Zane** is 4, **Leela** is 2). Motherhood has brought me to my knees in gratitude (and sometimes fatigue, too!). And I can see that the job of Executive Director demands more than what I can now offer in time and creativity. I also want to spend more time visiting the zoo, dancing at the Children's Museum, and learning who my kids are as little people in this world.

C4RJ board, staff, police partners, volunteers and others are carefully and confidently charting the road ahead for us. **Christy** will remain on staff along with **Kate Carr** and **Katherine Pouliopolous** and I plan to linger through a portion of the summer, leaving enough time for a clear transition plan to emerge. Please call (978.318.3447) or email ([jlarsonsawin@c4rj.com](mailto:jlarsonsawin@c4rj.com)) if you want to learn more.

In these moments of transition, good company brings me strength. One of my family's favorite proverbs from when I was a child in Botswana is this: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." With your support for this work, I have no doubt that C4RJ will go far.



## OUR NEW BOARD PRESIDENT

### Lauren Rosenzweig Morton Takes the Helm



For **Lauren Rosenzweig Morton**, C4RJ's new board president, restorative justice is about connection and accountability. It follows from years of volunteering in her hometown of Acton, service that has often brought people together to solve problems and build community.

Her commitment was tested by the death of her first husband, **Philip Rosenzweig**, who died when American Airlines flight 11 hit the World Trade Center. In the aftermath, and after a period of recovery, Lauren joined other 9/11 families in an interfaith response to work against hatred. "This became a gratifying time in my life, as it sent a message of unity, not only to the adults, but to the children as well," she said.

Lauren views restorative justice as a natural progression. "It has always made more sense to me than punishment and retribution," she said. "I saw, even as a child, that revenge yielded more anger and hostility."

Lauren grew up in New York and studied at Brooklyn College and SUNY Binghamton, where she majored in psychology. At Lesley College, she earned a master's degree in education for children with severe special needs. She taught children with autism in Arlington, and then worked with special-needs children in Framingham.

She joined Acton town government in 1998, as a member of the Planning Board. More recently, she served two terms on the Board of Selectmen, which included serving as chair.

Lauren has two sons, **Jeremy** (25) and **Max** (18). In 2010 she married **George Morton**, whose patience and support never ceases to amaze her.

## HOWLIN' FOR HOWLAND

### Barbara Leaves the Board



We're trying to get used to being without the wise counsel of **Barbara Howland**, long-time volunteer and Board president. As of November 2013, Barbara has taken up "civilian" life.

Barbara had been with us from the early 2000s, first as volunteer, then as a board member, and president. Her highlights:

- Seeing the power of the circle for both victim and offender
- Learning to talk with teens as a volunteer and developing a relationship through which they could start to see the impact of their actions
- Formalizing C4RJ as a 501(c)(3)
- Realizing through RJ pioneer **Howard Zehr** the power of RJ after horrific crimes to help bring healing to victims and their families

What's next? Barbara has never been one to sit still. She's planting her vegetable garden and spending time with husband, **Dave Watson**, and new granddaughter, **Molly**. We'll be dedicating a tree in Barbara's honor in Carlisle Center Park on Saturday, May 17 at 10 a.m. Come out if you can!





## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE RJ Bill Moving Along

The bill that would make restorative justice an option in response to crime has passed the Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities. Senate Bill 2078 (formerly SB 52) is now with the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Thanks to **Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan**, **Chief Robert Bongiorno** (Bedford) and **Hon. Judge Cratsley** (ret.) (pictured above) for supporting this bill at a legislative briefing on Beacon Hill on April 7. And thanks to **Sen. Eldridge** (D-Acton), **Sen. Barrett** (D-Lexington) and their staffers for support. Follow us on Facebook for updates [www.Facebook.com/CommunitiesForRestorativeJustice](http://www.Facebook.com/CommunitiesForRestorativeJustice).

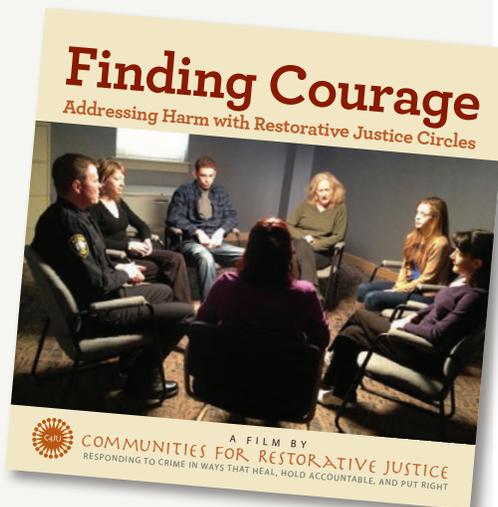
## New Board Member

**Mark Bamford** of Concord has joined the C4RJ board. Bamford, an attorney, specializes in conflict resolution, teaches negotiation and alternative dispute resolution at Boston University School of Law, engages in mediation and strategic planning among other talents. Mark was preceded at C4RJ by his son **Austin**, who was a teen volunteer. Thanks for the good recommendation, Austin.

## Finding Courage now available on DVD!

Haven't attended a screening of C4RJ's film *Finding Courage*? Buy your own on DVD for \$25. To purchase, contact our office, 978.318.3447, or email [info@c4rj.com](mailto:info@c4rj.com).

It features a dramatized restorative circle and interviews with a victim, a parent, police officers, and others. It's must-see for anyone wishing a glimpse into the work we do.



## C4RJ's Online Auction June 8-19

Wishing you could get your hands on Red Sox or Symphony tickets? Want to vacation somewhere new or eat at a restaurant with great reviews? That and more will be auctioned off starting June 8, 2014. This year, there's also a live silent auction of a few exciting items on **Thurs. June 19, 6-8pm** at **Trinitarian Congregational in Concord** where you can walk away with a big win. Register for that event at [www.C4RJLiveAuction.eventbrite.com](http://www.C4RJLiveAuction.eventbrite.com). Proceeds will benefit training and expansion of our casework. The BiddingForGood auction platform we use offers security and access to thousands of bidders.

### HOW TO HELP:

- 1. Donate items.** Contact Anne Rarich ([ararich@C4RJ.com](mailto:ararich@C4RJ.com)) for a donation form.
- 2. Register to bid.** You can register now! Visit [www.C4RJ.com](http://www.C4RJ.com) and click on the auction link on the left.
- 3. Rally others.** Spread the word via Facebook and social media. Watch auction updates at [www.facebook.com/CommunitiesForRestorativeJustice](http://www.facebook.com/CommunitiesForRestorativeJustice).
- 4. Serve on the Auction Committee.** Help solicit and collect items and sponsors, promote the event, and celebrate the success. Contact Anne ([ararich@C4RJ.com](mailto:ararich@C4RJ.com)).
- 5. Recruit sponsors.** The C4RJ board has committed \$1,000 to sponsor the auction. Sponsors will appear in our newsletter (circulation of 4,000), event program, and auction website. Contact Di Clymer ([dclymer@C4RJ.com](mailto:dclymer@C4RJ.com)).

**Questions?** Contact Anne Rarich [ararich@C4RJ.com](mailto:ararich@C4RJ.com) or 978.318.3447.





# COMMUNITIES FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

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## INSIDE THIS SPRING 2014 ISSUE:

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## About C4RJ

Communities for Restorative Justice (C4RJ) is a community-police partnership that offers restorative justice to those affected by crime. Restorative justice recognizes that crime is a violation of people and relationships, not just a violation of law. Police refer cases to us. In the aftermath of wrongdoing, our “circle” process includes in the decision-making those affected by crime: victims, offenders, loved ones, supporters, community members, and law enforcement officials.

This newsletter, *The Talking Piece*, is named for an object (often a river stone) passed around the circle to engage individuals in the deliberations. The person holding the talking piece speaks while others listen. With this newsletter, we are passing the talking piece to you and would love to hear your views on our work. Contact us at [info@c4rj.com](mailto:info@c4rj.com) or by calling 978.318.3447 to relay your thoughts.

## Go Green!

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