

RBG



A tiny woman with huge compassion, knowledge, vitality, determination, and concern for the rights of all people. She was and will always be a role model not only for young women and girls, but for everyone be they aspiring attorneys, teachers, or plumbers. She was a woman who exemplified following one's convictions. In Yiddish terms, she had chutzpah, which is to say "incredible guts." And, somehow, she was able to stand her ground while being highly respected by even those individuals who vehemently disagreed with her.

ADVANCED MEDIATOR TRAINING

With 21 participants, the Advanced Mediator Training took place via Zoom on Friday, September 11. Nine of the participants were attorneys and two were from the CDRP center in Sault Ste. Marie. Of the eight hours required, 2 ½ were done asynchronously (prior to the actual training—in other words, homework), and 5 ½ hours were done via Zoom. What was most interesting in the evaluations was the fact that almost 100% stated that the training via zoom was "much better than I could have imagined."

ROUNDTABLE

A question that came up during the Advanced Mediator Training related to the financial status of Northern Community Mediation as a result of the Coronavirus. It was suggested that we have a Roundtable to explain how COVID-19 has impacted the NCM budget, not only for the present year but also going forward into the future. Therefore, there will be a Roundtable from 4:00PM to 5:00PM on Wednesday, October 14 via Zoom. The link for the Roundtable will be sent to you one week prior to the Roundtable, as well as two days and one day before the Roundtable.

NEVER TOO LATE

Some of you have been reluctant to do mediations via Zoom. It is never too late to change your minds. To be a mediator via Zoom, all you have to do is click on a link and then everything else falls into place. You do not need to worry about the technology. We have seven mediators (three women and four men) who handle that aspect of the mediation. All you have to do is to let us know that you are interested in doing Zoom mediations.

It would also be helpful to have a few more mediators who would be willing to take a stab at being the mediator responsible for the technical end of things. If you would be one of those mediators, let us know. We will arrange for a short training on the use of chat, screen share and breakout rooms.

THE POWER OF MEDIATION

As all of you are aware, mediation is a powerful tool in helping people resolve their own conflicts rather than depending upon the courts to do so. For those of you who are mediators, I am certain that you have experienced mediations in which you have been awed by the outcome. The fact that the people themselves arrive at agreements that are creative and relevant to the parties themselves substantiates the value of mediation. We can give all types of statistics about the value of mediation, but the real significance lies in the stories themselves.

With this in mind, I am asking you to reflect back on cases that you have mediated that exemplify the power of mediation. Often, these are tear-jerking cases. Often, these are cases that put a smile on your face. Often, these are cases that are healing for the parties themselves. Please, share with me those cases that validate the importance of your role as a mediator. You can either call me and share your story(ies) with me over the phone or send me an e-mail.

HOLIDAY PARTY

As a side bar during the Advanced Mediator Training, there was a discussion about our annual, holiday party. Because of COVID-19, there will be no face-to-face party the second Tuesday in December. The group as a whole, however, strongly felt that we should have the party via Zoom, just as we did for the Appreciation Gala. So, put Tuesday, December 8 from 5:00PM to 6:00PM on your calendar.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

About her legacy, RBG said, "To make life a little better for people less fortunate than you, that's what I think a meaningful life is. One lives not just for oneself but for one's community."