

**From:** Nora Renzulli  
**To:** Jonathan Lippman  
**Date:** 3/16/2009 7:01 PM  
**Subject:** Emailing: Dominic Barter on Restorative Justice in Montreal this weekend  
**Attachments:** Dominic Barter on Restorative Justice in Montreal.wpd

Dear Chief Judge Lippman,

I was very warmed to receive the phone message by your staff member thanking me for the invitation, but regretfully saying you were not able to attend the Dominic Barter seminar at John Jay last weekend.

In case you are available, I wanted to let you know that Dominic Barter is continuing to present his work in North America in Montreal this Friday, Saturday and Sunday. See attached information on this event.

I thought that the highly engaging, intelligent and lucid presentation over the weekend was very well received by those in attendance and I highly recommend that you take this opportunity to see him in person. Successfully replicated and tested hypotheses of his theory conducted in Brazil are showcased in his presentation on the template he has created for establishing the conditions in which restoration and reparation will be more likely to occur on real and symbolic levels for the participants of the Restorative Circle.

It was exciting and encouraging for me as well as very informative and interactive. My deep desire is for diminished cultural and normative blindness to human cruelty within our systems and more life serving outcomes for all concerned. I think the window of history is open for exploring a new paradigm that would further these goals in a fresh new way.

This is why I offer you this information about another chance to attend the training yourself, if you are able, or to send a representative you fully trust, someone who would be able to fairly evaluate how and where this approach might take root in New York with something that might be as small as a pilot project in a single area.

One caveat for who you might want to represent you at the Montreal training if you decide that this is too valuable a chance to pass up and assuming you cannot make it yourself -- I would send someone who is not so invested in the way the justice system currently works under our explicit and implicit paradigm of blame and punishment as essential components of a system of justice.

Understanding Restorative Circles means being willing to suspend disbelief that eliminating punishment would or could work, steeped as we are, consciously and unconsciously with a view of human beings that insists on coercion as a necessary consequence for punishing those who are creating harm. This model requires a fundamental shift into imagining that shared power between three groups, the author whose act gave rise to the conflict, the recipient of the act, and a member or members of the community affected by the act, will lead to a greater likelihood that strategies will be created among the participants after everyone is heard and understood that will lead to reparation and restoration for the harm done in a way that can be sustained. The terms victim and offender are, by the way, never used in this work. Often, everyone thinks they are the victim so it is not that useful or descriptive as a term. Attendance in the circle is entirely voluntary. However, if one or more people cannot come, for example, the author or recipient or community member is deceased, or has refused to come, substitutes can be arranged.

Lastly, I add that Dominic Barter said that, unexpectedly for him, judges, police and gang members were more easily able to take in the principles of his Restorative Circle framework and process than psychologists, mediators, and teachers.

Thank you again for your interest and for your vision and leadership. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nora Renzulli, Esq.  
646-287-2008

The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Dominic Barter on Restorative Justice in Montreal

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

# **BUILDING A COMPASSIONATE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

## **Two Day Introduction to Restorative Circles with Dominic Barter**

Friday march 20<sup>th</sup> free talk about this topic from 7 to 8:30 pm.

**March 21st and 22nd, 2009**

**MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA**

**Restorative Circles** offer ways for individuals and communities to establish connection, discover meaning and recover power on profound levels. They create a forum for reaching agreements that help sustain effective and nurturing relationships both personally and within society.

**The Circles** have developed within the Restorative Justice movement, which in recent decades has rediscovered and adapted ways for communities to promote responsibility and healing. Rethinking justice, and engaging with the challenge of consciously building whole system responses to community well-being, has opened up revolutionary possibilities for furthering a culture of peace.

**Nonviolent Communication – NVC** is a process that provides “a simple, effective method to get to the root of conflict, violence, and pain peacefully. By going beyond “*active listening*” techniques and examining the unmet needs behind what we say or do, NVC serves as a practical, transformative method to address the root of conflict and violence once and for all.”

**[www.cnvc.org](http://www.cnvc.org)**

and for local NVC TRAININGS with the organizer of this event, including different year long NVC integration programs based on social change. Integration of the transformative aspects of NVC, or leadership. With Gina Cenciose and colleagues send an email to Gina

First time in Canada, Dominic Barter, Senior Certified NVC trainer from Rio and Restorative Justice consultant to the Ministry of Justice in Brazil, leads a workshop on building a Compassionate Justice Practice based on his work accomplished in the Brazilian Justice and Educational systems. Brazil has just 2.8 % of the World's Population, yet over 13% of all violent crimes worldwide occurred there according to UN stats. Brazilian authorities recognized current methods of justice were not solving the problem, so they employed Dominic to start a few pilot projects in 2005, to see if a compassionate justice system would yield different results. Today there are hundreds of projects based on his work successfully restoring and healing conflicts and his work has been recognized with national awards.

How do you resolve conflicts in your church, business, school, community, or any other organization? Does your process build trust and connection and support healing after a conflict has occurred? If not and this what you yearn for, to build a world where connections once broken in conflict can be restored, healed, strengthened and deepened, then this is your workshop.

Dominic Barter will give a 90 minute Presentation Friday evening . March 20<sup>th</sup> 2009, describing his work with a Q & A session. Come then for a 2 day workshop experience beginning Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> and continuing all day on Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup>. 2009 in Montréal, Canada.

Please consider forwarding this message to anyone else you believe would be interested in attending this workshop as space is limited. Finally, please consider asking your churches, schools, community newspapers or local organizations to post our link or add our event to their bulletin.

Here is the information concerning this upcoming event.

at [gincen@sympatico.ca](mailto:gincen@sympatico.ca) and visit her website with some of her workshops at [WWW.NVC-TRANSFORMATION-CNV.COM](http://WWW.NVC-TRANSFORMATION-CNV.COM)  
Gina is currently offering this restorative process in the prison in which she is sharing NVC, and is available for supporting you in understanding, integrating and implementing this process in your environment.

**Dominic Barter** has studied the interface between societal and personal change, and the role of conflict, since the 1980s. Since 2004 he has worked as consultant and training program director for the Brazilian Restorative Justice pilot projects, in collaboration with the UN Development Program, UNESCO, the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Special Secretariat for Human Rights. Dominic coordinates the Restorative Justice Project for the international Center for Nonviolent Communication.

### **Workshop Content**

These two days will present the systemic approach developed by Dominic Barter as he worked with organizations, schools, court systems, intentional communities and prisons. Applied in the Brazilian Justice and Education systems, this process makes profound use of Nonviolent Communication to reconnect those separated by conflict and support them in reaching agreed action. Through dynamic exploration of the key concepts that underlie this model, participants experience the loosening of closed ideas, the uncovering of human motives behind painful choices and the discovery of effective strategies to meet pressing needs.

The practice will be grounded in a step-by-step process, and illustrated through examples - including video of live Restorative Circle sessions. Application in different social contexts— such as education, neighbourhood and church groups, families and business - will be explored. Finally, participants will begin exploring the application of this new resource in their communities.

### **Workshop Particulars**

**Date:** Saturday, March 21st & Sunday, March 22nd, 2009

**Hours:** Saturday and Sunday 9:00 AM—5:00PM  
**Requested Fee:** sliding scale fee from \$200-\$350

**Registration:** Fill out the attached registration coupon and send in ASAP with a non-refundable \$50.00 deposit to hold your space.

**Location:** 9300 blvd. St. Michel, Montreal, Quebec

**Meals:** Meals will not be available onsite. Please bring your own cold lunches.

Please send a cheque for \$50.00 made out to Evelyn Schouela to:

Evelyn Schouela  
61 Route 143  
Canton de Hatley, QC  
JoB 2Co  
Canada

**Registration Coupon**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Based on the sliding scale I will be paying \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I AM SENDING A NON-REFUNDABLE \$50.00 deposit to hold my space with this registration coupon.