



*Dear All,*

*I know we have been promising this newsletter for a while. Please accept our apologies for not being able to follow through in a timely fashion. The good news is that we will have a CONTACT Network Volunteer Coordinator who will help with keeping our very important network connected and well informed. In peace, Mariana*

*In this edition: → News from campus → International Peace Day → Echoes from Alumni  
→ Faculty News → brief news from the other programs.*

## **News from the SIT campus**

First of all, congratulations to CONTACT alumni, Chomba Kaluba 2010, Joslin Roderick - 2010, Jean Bosco Niyonzima, 2008, Lauren Thrift 2010, Mohamed Yarow, 2007 and Rage Gure 2006 for their acceptance into the MA Program at SIT. We are very happy to see them on campus. Michael Cabban, 2010 PA virtuoso is also on campus and he is to finish his on-campus phase this December.

*“I am having a wonderful second semester working for CONTACT and as a Service Learning Management degree student studying peacebuilding, youth programs, and the arts. I love traveling in the beautiful fall weather and enjoying the brilliantly colored leaves. Attached is a photo of my adventure in the "Best Seat in Vermont" after exploring my first Garlic Festival”. Lauren Thrift, CONTACT 2010*

*“I am so glad to have taken the CONTACT program as it prepared me well for my new life as an SIT graduate student. I have been thoroughly engaged in my classes as they are fitting my needs well in developing my future career as a peacemaker and peace builder. I am experiencing synchronicity in that dreams I developed in my head ten years ago are now manifesting right here in Brattleboro and on the SIT campus”! Joslin*

*“I am on campus studying conflict transformation and development. I am loving campus life so far and eager to learn as much as I can so that I can go out and join those who live to change the world and add beauty to beauty Best regards!” Chomba Kaluba.*



## International Peace Day

It has been an honor for the CONTACT program to initiate and organize the celebration of International Peace Day here at the SIT campus.

Enthusiastic CONTACT alumni responded with submissions and/or e-mails of support.

Our fabulous work study students Lauren and Simay organized a successful follow up event with short clips and original music. The compilation of films will be reviewed and modified to fit the web format so hopefully all of you will be able to see snippets of the creativity of the SIT students.

Keep us posted on your efforts toward peace wherever and whenever. Peace should be acknowledged and celebrated every day of the year, as Adam Weinberg the World Learning President noted during the 2008 Peace Day celebration.

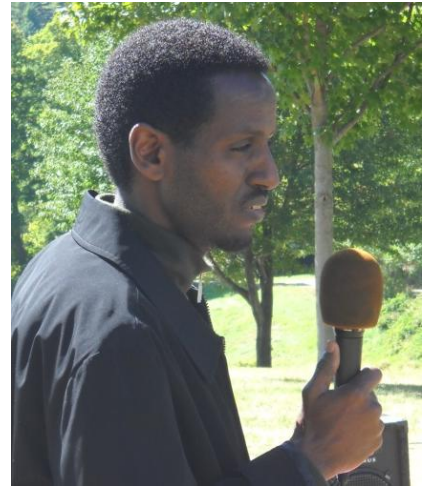
### CONTACT alumni and current students speaking at the Peace Day event.



Jean Bosco Niyonzima 2008



Joslin Roderick, 2010



Rage Gure, 2006



## CONTACT NETWORK

### Lauren Reed, alumni of CONTACT SAARC FEB, 2010. Volunteers as Machik's 2010 Summer Enrichment Program

Lauren Reed volunteered at SEP for 10 days. Lauren co-taught daily physical education class, planning and carrying out tri-lingual activities (English, Chinese and some Tibetan) for a group of 60 Tibetan middle and high school students with a small team of volunteers assisting. She incorporated the themes of friendship, self-confidence, non-violence, active participation, communication, team-building, equality, fairness, discipline and integrity into her lesson plans that involved songs, games, warm-ups, soccer, basketball, yoga and ultimate frisbee. Students were not used to integrated physical education such as this, but by the end of the program they thoroughly enjoyed the new games and skills they learned, as well as the relationships they built with their teachers and peers.

Lauren also provided assistance with the theater elective, led by Vanessa Brown, a Columbia University graduate student. In a matter of 10 days, the students in theater class had transformed from shy, inward-focused young women to more confident and critically-thinking leaders, motivated to reach their goals in theater and in life. This year's SEP was a success, incredibly enriching for all participants, staff and volunteers.

For more information on Machik or its Summer Enrichment Program, please follow the link: [www.machik.org](http://www.machik.org)



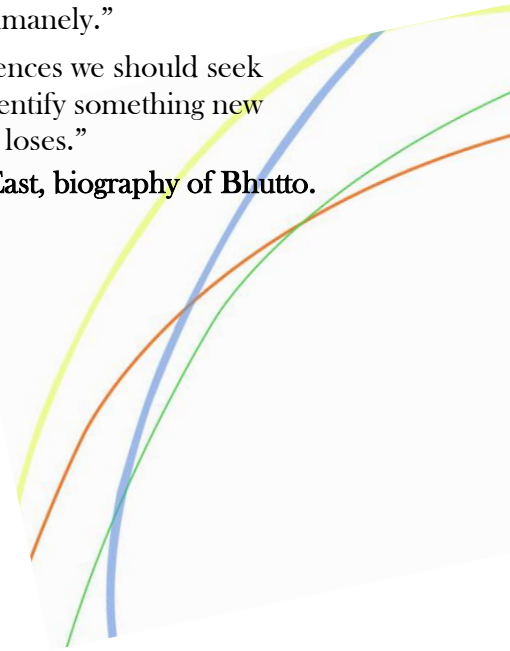
### Binaya's (few) insights from his trip to Pakistan

"I used to hear that Pakistan is Muslim country and...that it is not safe to travel...I felt lucky because I came here so that I have now no more stereotypes and prejudices regarding Muslim society. I can say country is good, its people are good, but few of those who, what they are doing is they are destroying good image of the country, spoiling the face of beautiful nation which has caused entire image of the nation negative.... "Pakistan Monument is such a place developed teach people the meaning of UNITY, FAITH, DISCIPLINE', three principles of late Zinah, a founder of Pakistan. Yes, it taught me the same lesson. I really really impressed seeing such place."

"I met few of mine Muslim friends in USA in 2009, attending peacebuilding program, who were from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, and middle east countries.... ....I saw them appealing to the citizen of US to stop their government kill general citizen of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq and Arab with terrorist tag, In reality they are human being instead, so treat them humanely."

"As a student of peace-building, peace practitioner, despites a lot of differences we should seek common grounds. We should sit together, facing each other we should identify something new and innovative for the both nobody loses nobody wins we human wins we loses."

Binaya recommends the book, 'BENAZIR BHUTTO, Daughter of the East, biography of Bhutto.



## Sheep is Life by David Ritchie

*Here in Teec Nos Pos, Arizona,  
A local chapter meeting is in process.  
This little governing body, here gathered as  
One out of 110 in the entire Dine (Navajo) nation.*

*My friends from “Dine Be Iina” are visiting,  
Determined to create a wool processing center;  
To support an historically vital way of being,  
“Sheep is Life’ as it is often described.*

*I am an invited consultant for the project.  
Where I come from in Putney Vermont,  
We felt our own pressing need 30 years ago,  
Starting a wool mill still thriving today.*

*Sitting here at this moment, I am so aware,  
How we, those dominantly destructive whites  
Have for so long in ‘discovering’ America  
Have almost never gotten it right*

*Meeting here with such experienced men and women  
Who intimately relate to each shepherds flock  
How can I truly be of service?*

*God show me my role, deep in my heart!  
I am so humbly offering  
Whatever ‘know how’ we have gained  
From our 29 year processing experience..*

*Making yarns as well as we can.  
Here, something new is being created  
Different from our Spinnery, and beautifully appropriate*

*As a long prayer is offered, and then, going around  
Each of our thoughts are honored and collected.  
I am noticing something wonderful in the making,  
As we hear from many perspectives,  
Yet excitement and general consensus.*

*I know of no greater privilege  
Than to participate on this rich occasion.  
No clock on the wall is menacing  
No one’s left out... that I’m sensing.*

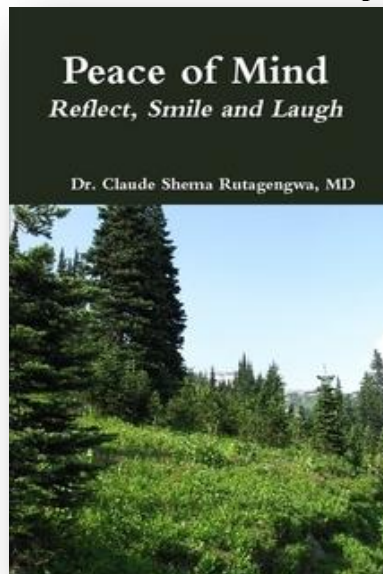
*How do I therefore today  
Relate my peacemaking work to date?  
Unless it is about sharing this process together  
A project we mutually hope to create.*



*David Ritchie is a  
CONTACT 2010 participant.  
He lives in Putney, Vermont  
and he is the co-founder of  
the Green Mountain  
Spinnery.  
To learn more about the  
Spinnery go to:  
<http://www.spinnery.com>  
He is now on a journey to  
peacebuilding, he hopes to  
work more with the Dine  
people and write more  
poems.*

## Peace of Mind, By Dr. Claude Shema Rutagengwa, MD

CONTACT Alumnus, Summer Peacebuilding 2009 and Graduate Certificate in Conflict Transformation 2009-2010, **Dr. Claude Shema Rutagengwa, MD**, has just published *Peace of Mind*.



**Description:** The arrival of the Internet, television and telephone plays a key role in easing our daily schedules. Unfortunately, the time for smiling or laughing has never been an easy pearl to find. Refreshment of mind seems to be as far away as the moon unless we do it from the school or any other sort of formal or informal training. As human beings, we need some important pillars at our side so that we shall be real human beings. Coping with stress, as a single way to stay pure and intact, is the only way that helps. Unfortunately this is not easy for all of us and the appropriate psychotherapy as an ultimate way to get out from the stressful state is extremely costly. Therefore, through our peace of mind, reflection and laughter, we are able to overcome all odds that trigger our hidden accumulated stress and fatigue to cause us troubles and impede our well-being.

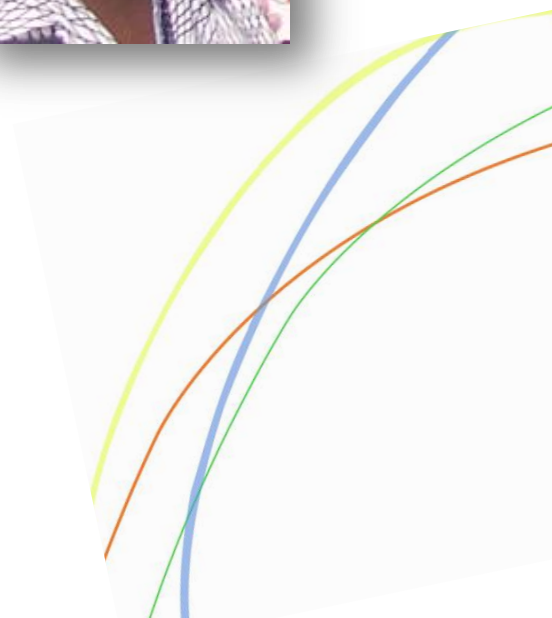
Congratulations Claude! We look forward to attaining Peace of Mind.

## Introducing: the new Alumni Network Coordinator: Penuel Moturi

Penuel has a keen interest in peace and human rights education, and gender parity.

He is a graduate of the **Conflict Transformation Program** at the School for International Training Graduate Institute. He also holds a BEd degree from Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya.

Penuel has is currently working as a trainer for England Logistics of Salt Lake City, Utah. He has previously worked in various positions as an administrative associate at the International Secretariat of the World Conference of Religions for Peace in New York, a lecturer at the Center for Institutional Management of the Kenya Polytechnic in Nairobi, Kenya and a high school teacher. Penuel is also involved with the Network of African Peace Educators (NAPE) where he is the secretary. NAPE is a think-tank of African teachers and civil society activists working to develop a comprehensive curriculum in peace and human rights education for African schools.



## Faculty News

**Tatsushi Arai:** Tats has conducted flood relief work with Pakistani people on the devastating Pakistani natural disaster. Tats is currently teaching his Theory and Practice of Conflict Transformation in the MA program at the SIT Graduate Institute and will be teaching in the Peacebuilding Training and Education for SAARC Emerging Leaders in Kathmandu, in Dec. 2010.

**Kevin Clements** is the New Zealand representative on the Conference on Security Co-operation in the Asia Pacific CSCAP and working in a Working Group on Regional Responses to the Responsibility to Protect-Especially on issues of Early Warning. He has just had a meeting in Manila of this Working Group and was somewhat disconcerted at the way in which states within ASEAN still felt stuck at the level of state and nation building and were very reluctant to allow either Regional Organizations or the UN to interfere in their domestic affairs even if there were reports of violations of human rights, preventable political deaths or ethnic discrimination. There is still much work to be done in Asia in building up popular movements focusing on human security instead of national security"

**Paula Green** has been leading seminars in Nepal for political leaders as Nepal attempts to complete its constitution, establish a democratic government, and build a more just and inclusive society. Recently Paula was in Istanbul facilitating an exploratory consultation with Israeli and Palestinian activists on the topic of how best to contribute to the stalled peace process. Many of the participants were CONTACT graduates, some from more than 10 years ago. Not surprisingly, they would like us to bring CONTACT to their region. We will be investigating and dreaming about that.

**George Lakey** - acclaimed author, trainer, and activist: His new book, published by Jossey-Bass, is entitled *Facilitating Group Learning: Strategies for Success with Diverse Adult Learners*. Founder of [Training for Change](#) and Visiting Professor and Research Fellow at Swarthmore College, Lakey has produced a book encapsulating 50 years of experience in the field of adult education and social change.

## ...and brief news from...

**Graduate Certificate Program** The CONTACT Certificate group will meet in Rwanda in January, as they have for the past 5 years: Alexa, Barbara, Catie, Christopher, Derek, Elizabeth, Fidele, Galen, Ildephonse, James, John, Mariana, Noura and Onyl. We look forward to meet our Rwandan colleagues and alumni in January 2011.

**Master Degree Program** Ashraf Ashqar and Asma Ali Abunaim, both CONTACT 2009 will start their MA beginning with January 2011. Congratulations!

**CONTACT Office** is gearing up for the Southeast Asia (SAARC) Peacebuilding Program in Nepal this December 2010. There are two fabulous work study students happily helping with events, administrative tasks and joyful atmosphere. They are Lauren CONTACT 2010 and Simay CONTACT 2011. ☺

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