

## Conflict Solutions Center

[www.cscsb.org](http://www.cscsb.org)



Community Mediation, Training, and  
Restorative Justice Partnership Initiative

Santa Maria  
(805) 349-8943

Santa Barbara  
(805) 963-6765

**FREE**

I hour Introduction  
to Mediation skills  
Brown-bag lunch  
Fridays 12noon-1pm

Oct. 8

Community Cornerstone  
Building  
In Santa Maria

Call 349-8943 to RSVP

### Conflict as Opportunity

It is rare that we think of conflict as something positive. Yet all growth creates conflict. So does change. If we look at conflict as an opportunity for growth, change, improved understanding, intimacy, improvement, communication or reconciliation, we may be able to approach it with the goal of learning, rather than aiming for self-protection or the infliction of pain.

**Resolving conflict constructively is rarely about who is right.** It is about acknowledgement and appreciation of differences, learning, growing and cooperating are goals for conflicts.

**Mediation is a process which acknowledges these potentials**

## Skim this im-MEDIATE-ly

Serving Santa Barbara County Since 1989

You can learn more about  
RESTORATIVE  
JUSTICE  
by WATCHING the  
Santa Maria  
Community TV  
station 25 (Comcast)  
Mondays  
at 6:30a.m.,  
12 noon, and 10:00p.m.

*Thank you to all who  
made our annual fund-  
raiser a great success!*

Dancing Under the Stars is a collaboration between Arthur Murray Dance Studios and the Ventura Center for Dispute Settlement and Conflict Solutions Center.

Special thanks to Karen Hermanson, Franchisee of the local Arthur Murray Dance Studio.

Deborah Talmage, retired judge of Santa Barbara Co. Superior Court who was one of our dance contestants!

And Arlene Montesano, local business owner and community advocate who was also one of our dance contestants!

And thanks to all who attended, bought auction items, and/or made donations. We really, really appreciate your support!



**Judge Dennis Challeen** has summarized what we do to offenders like this

**We want them to have self worth . . .**

So we destroy their self-worth.

**We want them to be responsible . . .**

So we take away all responsibilities.

**We want them to be part of our  
community . . .**

So we isolate them from our community.

**We want them to be positive and construc-  
tive**

So we degrade them and make them useless.

**We want them to be trustworthy . . .**

So we put them where there is no trust.

**We want them to be nonviolent . . .**

So we put them where there is violence all around them.

**We want them to be kind and loving people . . .**

So we subject them to hatred and cruelty.

**We want them to quit being the tough guy . . .**

So we put them where the tough guy is respected.

**We want them to quit hanging around  
losers . . .**

So we put all the losers in the state under one roof.

**We want them to quit exploiting us . . .**

So we put them where they exploit each other.

**We want them to take control of their lives,  
own their problems, and quit being a para-  
site...**

So we make them totally dependent on us.

35 hour-Basic Mediation Skills course starting January 23, 2011. 5 Saturdays.

If you are interested in volunteering either as a mediator or as a Restorative Justice facilitator, please call Laura at 349-8943 if you have questions or want to register for training.

Prisons cause far more violence than they prevent...Punishment stimulates violence; punishment causes it.

The more punitive we become, the higher our rate of violence.

James Gilligan, Center for the Study of Violence, Harvard University