

The Grassroots Leader

Everyone a Learner. Everyone a Teacher. Everyone a Leader.



Learn

Teach

Lead

Volume 1 Issue 2 September 2010

Mission: The Grassroots Leadership College supports the development of grassroots leaders by building skills and relationships in a supportive and stimulating environment.

Hello GLC graduates, workers, and friends!

First a big thank you to everyone who contributed to the GLC this summer! We surpassed our fundraising goal and have received a \$4,000 match. That's over \$20,000 thanks to you!

This fall is looking fantastic for the GLC. We've got workshops coming up on 'Working with City Hall,' 'Framing Issues and Getting People Involved,' and 'Using Social Media to Reach Across Social Groups.' We're also working with the Overture Center to bring you our next community forum 'Spinning Our Skills and Weaving New Connections.'

We're also working with a great crew of volunteers to build our online presence, further develop this newsletter, collect alumni stories, and increase our bilingual capacity. If you've got a skill you'd like to share we've got a place for you. Just give me a call at (608)441-0085 or email me amy@grassrootsleadershipcollege.org.

Peace,

Amy S. Mondloch, Executive Director

The GLC newsletter starts its monthly distribution:
We want to hear from you!

The GLC welcomes the new volunteer, Andrew Bernhardt, who will take charge of the monthly production, design and layout of the GLC newsletter, *The Grassroots Leader*.

The Grassroots Leader is a great source of inspiration in your own efforts as a learner, teacher, and leader. It is also a great chance to learn more about the efforts of fellow volunteers and the successes of GLC alumni. Make sure to check out the calendar to keep abreast of all the events that the GLC has lined up as well as additional events being offered in the Madison area.

Every month Andrew will collect stories, photos, and calendar submissions from GLC alumni and volunteers to put in the newsletter. If you have any ideas for stories, have a story that you would like to tell, or an event to add to the calendar contact Andrew at:

andrew@grassrootsleadershipcollege.org
or by calling 441-0085.

Thanks for reading and thanks for your stories!



Welcome

Make yourself heard!!!

GLC Says Good-bye to Graduate and Community Activist, Fermin Gayton Flores

Madison and the GLC is saying good-bye - at least for now - to one of its emerging leaders and community activist. Fermin Gayton Flores will be moving back to Mexico City at the end of this month with his wife, Beth, and their six-month old son in order to gain his permanent U.S. citizenship. Their future is unclear but they will be surrounded by Fermin's large family while in Mexico. Eventually, they hope to return to the Madison-area.

Fermin was a participant in the first GLC Spanish-language semester program, El Programa de Liderazgo Comunitario. Fermin and members of his group went on to found the innovative organization, Dignidad Sin Fronteras (see [http://](http://dignidadsinfronteras.wordpress.com)

dignidadsinfronteras.wordpress.com). The group uses theatre as a method of social change, education, and healing. Addressing topics such as legal rights and health education, DSF has traveled throughout the state and performed to varied audiences. Fermin was a key actor in the plays – quite an accomplishment for a self-described “shy guy.” He credits the GLC course with building both his confidence and a community of activists with a shared vision.

We at the GLC wish Fermin and his



family safe travels and a productive and happy time in Mexico. Please return to your Madison family soon.

Tell Your Story! Sociologist Beth Quinn Starts GLC Oral History Project

New to the GLC this fall is Beth Quinn. Beth recently moved to Madison from Montana where she was a professor of Sociology and Justice Studies. Working to develop her own consulting firm, Beth is cutting her teeth in the non-profit world by volunteering with the GLC and the Literacy Network. Besides working on this newsletter, a big project for Beth this year is using her experience as a qualitative researcher to collect stories from members of the GLC community: alumni, coaches and other volunteers. These stories are a powerful way to illustrate the importance of the GLC's mission by sharing the richness of your lives and highlighting the important work you do for



your communities. Look for some of these stories in future newsletters and on the GLC website. Check out the story about GLC alum, Fermin, in this edition. And don't be surprised if you get a call from Beth. The interviews are fun and conversational. Help the GLC get the message out by sharing your story!

Beth may be reached at beth@grassrootsleadershipcollege.org or by calling 441-0085

Learn

Teach

Lead

Get Involved!!!

The GLC Joins the Community Shares Campaign

We are very pleased to have become a new member of Community Shares of Wisconsin this year. If you have a workplace giving campaign available to you, please remember us in your charitable giving. If you work in the public sector, look for us under the "Community Shares of Wisconsin" section of your campaign booklet. Please note that there was a minor printing error in some of the public campaign books. If you don't see us under "Grassroots Leadership College" you'll find us under "Madison Area Grassroots Leadership College." Many private sector employers also participate in

Community Shares. Remember that if you direct a donation to us, we will receive 100% of your gift!

Don't have a Community Shares of Wisconsin campaign at your workplace? Ask your employer to consider starting one or we can put you in touch with Community

Shares directly. It's a great way to support our work and the work of more than 60 other nonprofits.

Thank you for considering a gift to us through your workplace giving donations. We appreciate your support!



Fall Community Forum, Sunday, Nov. 7th at the Overture Center

Spinning Our Skills and Weaving New Connections

The Grassroots Leadership College is co-sponsoring our next community forum with the Overture Center. I'm guessing that many of you who know the Overture and the GLC are wondering, "How'd that happen?" The answer is both simple and complicated: Rae.

The GLC had the great fortune to work with Rae Atira-Soncea as a coach, faculty member, and board member until her untimely death in March 2009. Rae also worked with the Overture Center as their coordinator of education, community engagement and accessibility.

Rae was a fiery character who changed the lives of those around her through her stories, her art, and her compassion. She inspired connection and action. Rae believed that art has the power to change the world. To realize her vision, she drew on fine and folk art and story telling traditions. Rae also believed in the

intrinsic value all creatures and committed her art and work to making the world a welcoming place for the art, creativity, and intelligence of all. She lived her beliefs daily by creating access, making connections, and community building in both her work and volunteer life.

In celebration of Rae's rich life and her continuing effects on our community, we are inviting the community to join the GLC, the Overture staff, and friends and family of Rae's at the Overture Center on Sunday, November 7th from 10am to 4pm for "Spinning Our Skills and Weaving New Connections." This interactive forum brings together Rae's diverse communities and causes. Participants will share, learn, explore, play and create art with the intent of building new connections, enhancing existing skills, and



growing and discovering strange and wonderful interdisciplinary melds.

Registration is on a sliding scale. Scholarships are available. Childcare, dinner and Spanish language interpretation are included. Please register online at www.grassrootsleadershipcollege.org or by calling 441-0085.

Paying Homage: Rae

Learn

Teach

Lead

Upcoming GLC Board Elections

The Grassroots Leadership College will hold an election for new board members on October 7th. We are currently seeking people to join the board and particularly encourage bilingual candidates to apply. Remember: The board is an essential part of the GLC. In addition to approving the budget and making sure finances are running smoothly, the board is responsible for supervising the Executive Director and working with and providing support to volunteers and staff.

If you're looking for a way to get more involved with the GLC, contact Amy at:

amy@grassrootsleadershipcollege.org
or by calling 441-0085



New Candidate For the GLC Board: Melba Obando

My name is Melba Obando. I was born in Colombia and lived for most of my life in Bogota. There I studied architecture at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. I dreamt of being a successful architect and designing buildings across the world. After college, I got married. My husband's name is Enrique Acosta. We inherited a farm, Santa Isabel, which is still in our family. I love it with all of my heart. We had two beautiful children, Alejandro and Mathias, who still maintain a close relationship with us even though they are in college. In 2003, due to political reasons, we were forced to leave Colombia and move to the United States.

In 2007, I moved to Madison, Wisconsin and I'm currently employed by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection. I adore my job and everything about it, as it gives me the opportunity to help people who are interested in starting their own farm business.

I have many personal interests. Drawing has been a passion of mine for as long as I can remember. I also love to listen to classical music, especially the piano, which has to be the one of the most beautiful instruments that one can listen to. If time permits, I hope to start taking piano lessons. Also, I love to swim, as I find it extremely relaxing. For close to two years, I have been a member of a committee called "Colombianos en Wisconsin," a support organization for Colombian citizens who live in Wisconsin. It provides members with legal and employment support and gives them the opportunity to meet other Colombians. What interests me the most about joining GLC is the opportunity to meet – and help – new people.

"You must do the thing you think you cannot do"

-- Eleanor Roosevelt

GLC Events

Fall Workshops

Workshops are free, offered in English and Spanish, and include dinner and child care.

All workshops: 5:30pm to 8:30pm at **James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 2146 East Johnson Street, Madison WI**. Register at www.grassrootsleadershipcollege.org or call 441-0085

- **Taking On City Hall.** Join former alder Bert Zipperer as he explains how to get your voice heard and your issues addressed by the city council.

Thurs., Sept. 30th
- **Is There Anybody Out There? Using Social Media for Social Change.** Local activist Stacy Harbaugh will help you strategically build your organization's online presence and develop effective strategies for using social media to reach people and encourage action.

Tues., Oct. 26th
- **Something Important Is Happening Here! Framing Issues to Inspire Social Action.** Join GLC faculty member Randy Stoecker as he shares techniques on how to inspire people to care, motivate action and lead to effective solutions.

Thurs., Oct. 28th

Interactive Community Forum honoring Rae Atira-Soncea
Spinning Our Skills and Weaving New Connections

Sunday., Nov. 2nd
10 to 4pm Overture Center

Board Meeting, Volunteer Discussion Session and Dinner
- GLC Office Downstairs 1321 E. Mifflin St.

Thursday., Oct. 7th
6pm Dinner, 7pm Meeting

Additional Events

Dialogues on Homelessness. For more info, contact Donna at (608) 609-8522 or madisonhomelessnessinitiative@gmail.com

2nd Saturdays, Oct. to May
Madison Central Library
1:30-3:30pm, 2nd floor

8-Week Anti-Racism Workshop. Develop strategies to take action for social justice individually and collectively. For more information or to receive an application, Contact Angela Marchant at (414) 975-9833 or angelammarchant@gmail.com. Childcare available upon request! Scholarships Available.

Sundays, Oct. 3 – Nov 21
3:00-6:00pm, Location TBA
\$50 - \$500 sliding scale

Art Exhibit: Sober Journey: Stories and Visual Art
Opening reception Nov 8th, 5:30-8:30pm. For more info, contact Dr. Stephanie Joy Smith, arts curator Stephanie@hep.wisc.edu

November 8th to 14th
Commonwealth Gallery
100 South Baldwin, 2nd Floor

The Joy of Meetings: Recipes for Success. learn how to make your meetings fun, inclusive & productive! To register & find more information, visit <http://www.dcs.wisc.edu/pda/workplace/meetings.htm> or contact Kathy Germann, 233-6757 or kathy@kathygermannconsulting.com

Oct. 26, 8:30 to 4:30
Pyle Center, UW Campus
\$175, includes book

Learn

Teach

Lead

Contact Us

The Grassroots Leadership College

1321 E. Mifflin St. Suite 201
Madison, WI 53703

www.grassrootsleadershipcollege.org

Phone: (608) 441-0085

Email: amy@grassrootsleadershipcollege.org

Thank you everyone who helped us reach our fundraising goal of \$16,000.

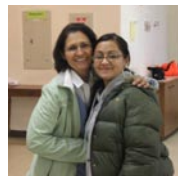
Ann K Ivey
 Anne Pryor
 Anne Reynolds
 Beth Racette
 Crystel Anders
 Dennis Boyer
 Donna Asif
 George Farah
 Karen Faster
 Karen Veloso
 Kirsten R. Johnson
 Linda Hansen
 Marian Farrior
 Mark Stephens
 Mary Lang Sollinger
 Peggy Leah

Randy R. Stoecker
 Sarah Rogers
 Scott Savage
 Shrewnaoxai Ythao
 Si Kahn
 Susan O'Leary
 Sara Alvarado
 Yvonne Geerts
 Linda Jordan
 Matthew Rothschild
 Betty Custer
 Celeste Robins
 Grant Abert
 Erfat Livney
 Jennifer Moore
 Judith Siers-Poisson

Renee Moe
 Sara Ishado
 Hazel Symonette
 Margaret Nellis
 Rick Brooks
 Math Heinzl
 Jean Beineman
 Deb Gurke
 Frank Koehn
 Rachel Martin
 Anne Forbes
 Katherine Walsh
 David Wandel
 Sharon Kilfoy
 Julie Yearling
 Donna Magdalina

Marc Becker
 Z Haukeness
 Al Majkrzak
 Ledell Zellers
 Grant Abert
 Howard S. Landsman
 Anne Forbes & Jim Lorman
 Don Katz & Rebecca Krantz
 Rick & Jeanne Strickland
 Susan & Richardson Davidson
 Frank & Dolores Emspak
 Arthur & Susan Lloyd
 Paul and Anne Karch

Many Thanks!!!



Additional Supporters

