

# COMMONGROUND NEWSLETTER

Finding a path  
from conflict to  
mutual  
understanding.  
Common  
Ground.

Fall 2024

November 30 2024

## October Fund Raiser! An evening of Traditional European and American Folk Dance!

We were delighted to honor Common Ground's dedicated board member and Hudson's own Cleveland Samuels at this year's event. Cleveland has been involved in many community and church causes in Hudson, in addition to his years of commitment to Common Ground. Cleveland has always lent a hand to assist those in need--whether it's cooking or donating meals to raise funds for his community or responding to the needs of his neighbors, Cleveland will be there! Entertainment arranged by mediator Bob Green and minstrels Colin McCoy and Peter Jung. Professional Dance Caller Paul Rosenberg created a spectacularly fun scene, all at Steve and Jackie Dunn's beautiful Barn in Cossackie! Guests danced, conversed and consumed delicious food prepared by none other than our honoree, Cleveland Samuels and Chef Meagher from Creekside Restaurant. Libations donated by Jackie Brillung, Michael Horgan, and Ed Cloke topped off the evening. We raised just over \$6,000 thanks to the generosity of the Board of Trustees, guests and volunteer mediators. We are grateful! Please enjoy these pictures from the event! Top left: The Barn; Top right: Do-si-do with Paul Rosenberg and mediator Deborah Kinney; Center left: Executive Dir; Dawn Wallant and honoree Cleveland Samuels; Center right, our minstrels Peter Young and Colin McCoy; Bottom left: Our hostess, Jackie Dunn; Bottom Right: Development Committee member, Ed Cloke and Cleveland Samuels.



## Peace-Building, Work preparedness and Restorative Justice

Fall brings students and a new school year. We welcome new friendships and academic challenges but, unfortunately, with these seasonal joys, come student fights, troubling rumors and other acts of intolerance. Penny Calyer is again working closely with Hudson and Germantown School districts to help create a welcoming and supportive school environment by holding space for Restorative Justice Circles and teaching ways to manage student-student conflicts. This winter, we'll again be holding RJ circles and facilitating conflict resolution workshops at Catskill and Greenville School Districts. New 10th-12th grade girls at PerfectTen in Hudson, will be better prepared as they transition from school to work through a grant from the Berkshire-Taconic Community Foundation.

In partnership with the Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution/NYS Education Dept: Common Ground is pleased to announce RJ Implementation Coaching with staff at Hudson High School. The Consultant/Coach, Quianna Bennett, is reprising her role, carried previously through an agreement with Mediation Matters in Albany.

With immense thanks to our Youth funding partners, Berkshire, the Dyson Foundation, Columbia and Greene County Youth Bureaus, The Bank of Greene County and Stewart's Shops



## Help Needed! Intake, Small Claims Mediation and Family Court

Hudson Small Claims: Please contact us if you are interested in mediating at Small Claims Court in Hudson on the fourth Wednesday of the month. You don't need to commit to all the days--we can fill in with rotations. Thank you!

Family Court Intake: Needed every Monday, between 9-12 and 2-4, at the CG office for both Greene and Columbia County Family Courts. We're scheduled to meet with the Greene Family Court staff/judges early next year to re-assess intake practices. Please call the CG office if you are interested in either of these opportunities.

Please contact Dawn or Penny at 518-943-0523 or email at [dwallant@commongroundinc.org](mailto:dwallant@commongroundinc.org) or [pennycalyer@commongroundinc.org](mailto:pennycalyer@commongroundinc.org)



### Zen Quote of the Day:

**Communication:** "Without any intentional, fancy way of adjusting yourself, to express yourself as you are is the most important thing." - Shunryu Suzuki, *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind*.