

Kathy Barber Hersh
Producer/Writer/Educator
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Recent Articles:

“High Cotton: Jazzing It Up at the Hampton House,” Miami Modern Metropolis, edited by Allan T. Shulman, 2009, Balcony Press.

“Turning Children Green,” Natural Awakenings, August 2009

“Music to My Ears: “Good As New,” Natural Awakenings, July 2009

“Don’t Poke Holes in Social Safety Net.” The Miami Herald, 1-31-2009

Producer/Writer

Close-Up Productions, Miami, Florida, 1981 to present

Documentaries, educational videos, television programs, corporate communications, and public service announcements.

Main credits: The Lost Wooden Synagogues of Eastern Europe, Michener At Work, The New Underground Railroad, Fighting Fair: Martin Luther King for Kids

Worked with the Historical Museum of Southern Florida and MDC Park and Recreation Department to produce 8 free-standing displays for the 75th Anniversary of the MDC Park Department.

Certified Workshop Trainer: Alternatives to Violence Project and Help Increase the Peace Project: Trainer of conflict resolution to youth and youth workers.

Staff Trainer and Project Coordinator for The Non-Violence Project USA, 2007-09

Workshop presenter for Teach Peace Conference, April 3-5, 2009, Sarasota, Florida: Teaching Peace in the Classroom.

Teen Non-Violence Workshop Facilitator for Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, April 8-12, 2009.

Panelist for discussion on gang activity in South Florida following screening of Stacy Peralta's documentary, "Crips and Bloods: Made in America," Florida International University, April 23, 2009.

Educational Consultant: 1992 – 2008: Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) in the Division of Student Services, Office of Community Participation. Helped develop a highly successful intergenerational program which expanded into a nationally-recognized intergenerational service learning program involving public officials, policymakers, and students engaged in making lasting contributions to the community. Community partners: University of Miami's Institute for Public History, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (UM), the Veterans Administration Hospital, and the Historical Museum of Southern Florida.

Presenter on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. at a meeting of the American Youth Policy Forum on the civil rights oral history archive established at Turner Tech High School.

Organizer and Co-Chair: Community Task Force for Bullying Prevention, a broad coalition of educators, counselors, parents, and youth advocates which pushed for a school district initiative to tackle the problem of bullying. Organized workshops and forums to investigate the problem and provide student-recommended solutions. Liaised with statewide organizations to work for state legislation, which passed in 2008 as the Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up For All Students Act.

Member of the Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Service Learning during tenure with MDCPS.

Developed projects working with the Miami-Dade Fire Department and students on elder home safety and hurricane preparedness in which students developed public service announcements and campaigns to enhance public safety.

Professional Training Workshops Attended:

Cultural Competency and Understanding Gang Issues, Miami, May 29, 2009, Advocate Program, Inc. and the Eighth Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office.

Behavior Management of Difficult Adolescents, The Children's Trust, Miami, Fl., 2009

The Melissa Institute, Conference on Bullying Prevention, 2008

National Service Learning Conference, Orlando, Florida,

Florida Learn and Serve Conferences, 2004-2007

Alternatives to Violence Project, workshop trainer certification, 1996

Help Increase the Peace Project, workshop trainer certification, 1998

Journalist

Numerous published articles in a variety of periodicals and publications including The Miami Herald, Newsday, L'Hebdo (a Swiss weekly column on legal issues in the U.S.), Mother Jones, Historic Preservation, ALA News Agency, UPI.

The Miami Herald opinion pieces:

“Don't Poke Holes in Social Safety Net.” 1-31-2009

“Bullying: The ‘New’ Social Disease,” Miami Family Magazine, August 2006.

Republished on The Miami Herald, Newspaper in Education website

“Can Columbine Happen Here?” 4-18-2005.

“The Legacy of Miami Dade's Heritage Parks,” Preservation Today, 2005

1976-1981 Foreign correspondent for ABC News based in Mexico covering Central America. Did additional radio reporting for the British Broadcasting Corporation and Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Curriculum Writer

A.D. Moore: Freedom for Everybody civil rights curriculum used district wide during Black History Month

How to Make History: Using Oral History in Community Studies and Service Learning Projects. Written for Florida Learn and Serve and the National Corporation for Service Learning.

Awards

The Phyllis Hallberg Advocate of the Year Award, presented by the Dade Counseling Association, 2008-09, for work advancing bullying prevention school policies and state legislation

American Youth Character Award as a worthy model of outstanding character, 2008

Stephen P. Clark Children's Award for Outstanding Media from Hands in Action, 1997.

Annie E. Casey Foundation Journalism Fellow, 1993

Parenting Publications of America, 1992 Award of Excellence for Feature Writing

Numerous national awards for documentaries as writer and producer.

Speaker and Youth Advocate

Appeared before the Education Committee of the Florida State Senate re bullying in schools in favor of bullying prevention legislation.

Featured speaker before MDCPS trust counselors on bullying of sexual minority students.

Community Involvement

Currently working with Mayor Cindy Lerner, Village of Pinecrest, to establish a Youth Advisory Board to the Village Council.

The Non-Violence Project USA, Board member since 2006

The Historic Hampton House Community Trust: Board member since inception until 2008. Continue to serve on Advisory Board.

Dade Heritage Trust Board Member for 3 years, Chaired "Dade Heritage Days"

Village of Pinecrest Parks and Recreation Committee, member of citizens committee charged with overseeing the development of parks services and recreational activities for the new municipality

Education

Indiana University, B.A., Radio and Television/Social Psychology, 1971

Languages: Fluent Spanish, rudimentary French

References

(numbers furnished on request):

Albert Barry, Producer

Charles Poncet, Attorney, Ziegler Poncet Grumbach Carrard Luscher, Geneva, Switzerland

Dr. Ramona Frischman, Director of Intergenerational Service Learning, Miami Dade County Public Schools, retired

Dr. Enid Pinkney, President, Historic Hampton House Community Trust

Ed Donaldson, former Chief of Miami Dade County Fire Department

Dr. Larry Capp, Executive Director, Miami Dade County Community Relations Board

Dr. Gregory Bush, Director, Institute for Public History, University of Miami

Chris Kirchner, Teacher, Miami Dade County Public Schools

Dr. Anita Meinbach, Adjunct Professor, School of Education, University of Miami

Dr. Valmarie Rhoden, Principal, William H. Turner Technical High School

The Honorable Cindy Lerner, Mayor of the Village of Pinecrest