

*Bio: Jane A. McCluskey*

Jane McCluskey has a professional background that covers the arena of human experience. She is a conciliator, writer, artist, programmer, gardener, and practitioner of Chinese art of feng shui and researcher, with additional background in organizational development. Her array of experiences include having served as a mediator (DC Superior Court Family Mediation, independent contractor); trainer (Fannie Mae, Consulting and Conciliation Service); system designer (IRIS, Fannie Mae); research analyst (Bread for the World, Conflict Management Group); conference organizer (National Conference on Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution, Fairfax County School District); database developer (IRIS, ESS Group); and independent researcher, writer and counselor between Washington, DC, Fairfax, VA and Sacramento, CA.

Ms. McCluskey has lectured and presented on topics related to conflict, trauma and violence. Examples include the Annual Conference Managing Conflict in the Workplace and Beyond, Bowie State University Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution, Bowie, Maryland; the VIII International Symposium on Torture, New Delhi, India; the European Conference of Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution, San Sebastian, Spain; the International Society of Political Psychology, Montreal; National Conference on Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution, Duquesne, Pennsylvania. She has also conducted field research in South Africa and Sri Lanka to study first hand trauma intervention and recovery strategies during entrenched violent conflict. Professional papers centered on “culturally internalized trauma” and the origins of compassion.

Ms. McCluskey's formal education and training includes a Master's degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution (George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia) and a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Studies (California State University, Sacramento, California). She was also certified as a Professional in Human Resources from The American University, Washington, D.C. She has authored papers on issues such as violence, trauma, biogenetic sources to basic human social needs, and historical analyses of recidivistic tendencies in violent conflict. Her continuing research centers on a search for realistic solutions to critical enduring questions, such as, what is the source of the recidivistic nature in violence among individuals, groups and nations? Are humans slowly losing our ability to pass along lessons regarding community, relationships, emotional bonding and other capacities, such as love, that ensure a healthy society?

Her current interests include how to engender compassion and choice to form resilience against alienating processes in society, trauma and the influences of violence. She has started her studies in creative and environmental art as way to physical and spiritual health, and engages in “acts of beauty”. She received her black belt in Aikido in 2006, and continues her work of engaging people and listening to their stories. Currently, Ms. McCluskey is bringing to fruition a long time dream of establishing a retreat center housing the Coming Home foundation, an events-granting organization catering to the needs of leadership as they invent the end to violent and economic conflict. Jane expects to be more active in bearing witness, listening, and ever more gardening, especially in the project Morihei Farms, coming to a neighborhood near you.