



## IN MEMORIAM David A. Kipper, PhD, TEP

By Adam Blatner, MD, TEP



Dr. Kipper was one of the more prominent leaders of psychodrama nationally and internationally. He was the President of the American Society of Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama (ASGPP) from 1989-1991, and active in many roles in the organization throughout the 1980s and 1990s. In 1994 Dr. Kipper received the J. L.

Moreno Award for distinguished "Life-long Contribution to the Field of Psychodrama" from the ASGPP. That year, as a generous give-back, Dr. Kipper also established the "David A. Kipper Award" for "outstanding writing and scholarship in psychodrama" to be given annually to worthy candidates at the annual meeting of the ASGPP.

David trained with Doctor and Mrs. Zerka Moreno at the Moreno Academy for Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama in Beacon, New York. He published an article "Spontaneity and the warming-up process in a new light" in *Group Psychotherapy*, and since that time has gone on to be the author or co-author of around 80 articles in professional journals or chapters in books, as well as to present scores of times at various professional meetings. Especially notable is Dr. Kipper's excellent book, *Clinical Role Playing in Psychotherapy*, which discusses the theoretical foundations of our work as well as its practical implications. It was translated and published in 1993 in Russian and in 2001 in Bulgarian.

Dr. Kipper had a rich academic career, some of the more prominent roles including his being a Professor in

the Department of Psychology at the Bar Ilan University, Israel (1980-1991); and for the last fifteen years, as a Research Professor of Psychology and the Director of the Institute of Group Research and Training at Roosevelt University, Chicago, Illinois. He taught psychodrama internationally, his work taking him to Moscow (1991), Israel (of course), and to many other areas in Europe, and many of our colleagues in Europe appreciate this training — all this in addition to his roles as therapist and consultant to management.

Dr. Kipper was a remarkable scholar for the field, serving as one of the Executive Editors and contributing articles for the *Journal of Group Psychotherapy, Psychodrama, and Sociometry* for over twenty years! He also was the editor of the *Psychodrama Network News* in the early 1990s! Meanwhile, Dr. Kipper was also on the editorial boards of a number of other professional journals.

Dr. Kipper served as a major bridge between the field of psychodrama and both the American Psychological Association and the American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA), as well as being a leader in the International Association of Group Psychotherapy (IAGP) (founded by Moreno).

Yet his life was diversified: He was also active on many community boards of directors, at colleges, arts programs, organizations that promoted positive international relations, and so forth. He was especially interested in the Joffrey Ballet company in Chicago, of which he was a Founding Director and guiding light from the mid 1990s. He was married to Barbara Levy Kipper, had two daughters and two grandchildren, and was active also in supporting ballet and other forms of dance in his community.

A full description of his many publications and presentations may be found on his website:  
[www.davidakipper.com](http://www.davidakipper.com)