



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Nancy Kirsner, PhD, LMFT, OTR, TEP



Nancy Kirsner, PhD, TEP, MFT, OTR is a Certified Positive Psychologist, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, a Board Certified Trainer, Educator, Practitioner, and an ASGPP Fellow. She has been in private practice, teaching, and consulting for 45 years. Nancy co-chaired ASGPP conferences for four years and served on the Executive Council for six years. She currently is Editor of the Psychodrama Network News (PNN). Nancy loves to teach using Action Explorations with different populations such as financial planners, lawyers, and members of Churches and Temples. She facilitates Bibliodrama at temples and churches. Nancy taught Positive Psychology and Jewish Fundamentals for three years in Miami. She works as a Forensic Consultant with trial attorneys. More important than any of these “credentials,” Nancy cares deeply about people and ASGPP is her professional community and home.

Email Nancy at: nancykirsner@gmail.com or president@asgpp.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Daniela Simmons, PhD, TEP



Dr. Daniela Simmons' professional experience, both in Europe and the US, is in educational, research, and consultancy work in the social sciences and mental health. Her background includes serving as the president of the Bulgarian National Association for Mental Health and founding and editing a professional journal for mental health. She has been utilizing action method sessions since 1995 in Europe and since 2005 in the US. Daniela is the founder of the Expressive Therapies Training Institute (ETTi) where she teaches Psychodrama, Sociometry, Theater of the Oppressed, Playback Theater and other action methods in North Texas, nationally and internationally. Daniela is holding workshops on action methods, including weekly retreats. She has a wide array of interests with priorities on dreamwork, sociometry, person-centered care and culture change, aging, team work, developing an international network and preparation of professionals for their exam for certification through the American Board of Examiners.

Daniela is also utilizing action methods in her teaching practice in colleges and universities in North Texas. She frequently makes public presentations and is the author of numerous articles. Daniela is the Executive Council liaison to the ASGPP journal; and she is also one of the Executive Editors.

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SECRETARY

Shelley Korshak Firestone, MD, CGP, FAGPA



Shelley Korshak Firestone is a psychiatrist and a psychotherapist, Medical Director of Chicago Psychotherapy and Psychiatry, and Adjunct Faculty in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Chicago. She is a student at the Mid-South Center for Psychodrama and Sociometry and the recipient of the Zerka T. Moreno Award (2016). She has been in private practice for over thirty years treating adults, adolescents and children in individual, couple, family and group psychotherapy; she now gives monthly workshops in psychodrama. She is a regular presenter at the annual conference of American Society for Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama (ASGPP) and on the editorial board of the journal. She has also been an active contributor to the American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) and the A.K. Rice Institute for the Study of Groups and Organizations (AKRI), and a longtime member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (AAMFT) and the American Society of Addiction

Medicine (ASAM). While an enthusiast of psychodrama and sociometry for their power and effectiveness, her membership in multiple organizations reflects her passion for drawing from many orientations to deepen her understanding and enrich her technique.

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TREASURER

Rhona Case, MEd, TEP



Rhona has been a member of the Psychodrama community since 1991. She is a licensed psychologist in Pennsylvania and a Trainer, Educator & Practitioner of Psychodrama since 1997. Rhona is a founding partner in a group practice called Crossroads Counseling Center, that was formed in 1995. She is the administrative manager. Rhona has presented at ASGPP National Conferences and has introduced Psychodrama techniques to professionals in various settings. She was a co-chair of the 2012 National Conference in Jersey City, NJ. As co-chair of the Silent Auction/Live Auction/Basketcases for the last five years, Rhona helped to expand the program and increase profits for the ASGPP Treasury. Rhona enjoys working behind the scenes and has dedicated much time and effort to promote the goals of the ASGPP.

I bring my energy, enthusiasm and business skills to promote the advancement of Psychodrama and the organization. It is important to me that we bring young energy into the ASGPP to take on active leadership roles. I enjoy working within a team, and together we can work to preserve the integrity of the organization and advance its mission.

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

MaryAnn Bodnar, MA, LMHC, CSAT, TEP



MaryAnn works with individuals, couples, and families in the areas of personal growth, relationship issues, mood disorders, problem solving, and trauma resolution. She has specialized training and experience in women's issues, addictions, action methods, families of alcoholics/addicts, abuse/trauma survivors, grief and loss, gay and lesbian issues, and mixed orientation marriages. Her Masters degree is in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling and she is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in the State of Florida (MH #7778). MaryAnn is also a Certified Sexual Addiction Therapist, a Trainer, Educator, and Practitioner of Group Psychotherapy, Psychodrama and Sociometry, and is trained to conduct Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR sessions) for trauma resolution.

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Ronald C. Collier, LCSW, TEP



Ron is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the state of New Jersey. He first became enthralled with psychodrama in the 1970's when he attended several sessions directed by Bob Saroka. He remembers thinking, "this modality is magic". Ron continued his training under the guidance of Nina Garcia who supervised and trained him to realize his dream of obtaining his CP and TEP certifications. Ron has over forty years of clinical and supervisory experience and is currently operating a Private Practice. In 2016 he was honored with the Humanitarian of the Year award by the Mental Health Association of Monmouth County, NJ and also received the ASGPP Collaborative Award at the annual conference in Phoenix, AZ. He has taught group therapy at Monmouth University and had done many training and therapy groups utilizing this powerful modality.

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Kim Cox, MA, NPO



Kim has been a member of the psychodrama community since 2003, training with Linda Bianchi and the Hudson Valley Psychodrama Institute. Her work is divided between being a consultant for the American Family Therapy Academy (AFTA) and running her own Professional Organizing business, PackRat Solutions. Kim brings to the Council her numerous non-profit management skills from working for AFTA for several years, along with her professional organizer and detail-oriented skills. She is a member of the National Association of Professional Organizers and the Institute for Challenging Disorganization. Through her organizational work, she uses her psychodrama skills with her clients. Kim has presented and co-presented at ASGPP Conferences. She currently serves as EC-Liaison for the Conference, and on the Finance, Program, and Web Site Committees.

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Anath Garber, MA, TEP



Anath was trained by JL and Zerka T. Moreno and is former faculty, Moreno Institute, NYC. She is one of the founders of the American Board of Examiners, and has been a fellow at ASGPP since 1975. She served on several committees and has presented workshops and conducted trainings nationally and internationally. She has been in private practice in NYC since 1973, and has been quoted in newspapers and magazine articles. A session with her was featured on Oprah's OWN. She looks forward to being of service to the ASGPP.

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Scott Giacomucci, LCSW, CTTS, CET III, CP/PAT



Scott Giacomucci holds a Master's degree in Social Services, a license in clinical social work, and is certified as a Trauma Treatment Specialist, experiential therapist, and psychodrama practitioner. Scott was introduced to psychodrama over 10 years ago and immediately experienced its "catching force." As a young professional he is committed to helping to carry the model to the next generation of psychodramatists.

Scott operates a private practice in West Chester, PA while also providing trauma treatment services and experiential therapy training at Mirmont Treatment Center. He provides ongoing experiential trauma therapy groups in both inpatient and outpatient; as well as an ongoing monthly psychodrama training group. His practice is the organizer/sponsor of the Therapeutic Spiral Model's (TSM) East Coast Training Group in Media, PA and more recently began co-sponsoring workshops of the Delaware Valley Psychodrama Chapter.

He has presented at the ASGPP national conference and at his local ASGPP chapter, while also offering psychodrama workshops at local universities, conferences, treatment centers, and recovery homes. He has multiple publications in professional newsletters and articles in the Journal of Psychodrama, Sociometry, and Group Psychotherapy, as well as the International Group Psychotherapies and Psychodrama Journal. Additionally, he is pursuing his doctorate in Clinical Social Work at the University of Pennsylvania where his dissertation is focused on sociometry, psychodrama, and experiential trauma therapy.

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Aida Hernandez, MA, LPC



Aida Hernandez is a Licensed Professional Counselor with 10 years of experience working in the field of child and adolescent development, counseling and family health. She has been in psychodrama training since 2014 and is working towards fulfilling requirements for the CP credential. Ms. Hernandez is currently in private practice in Oakhurst, New Jersey where she provides counseling to children, adolescents, and adults. Infusing her counseling experience with her passion for research, she uses her skills for group work to conduct qualitative research and provide ongoing evaluation support specific to prevention, parenthood and relationship programs across the United States. Ms. Hernandez also has experience working with grants, at the state and federal level, adapting interventions and seeking collaborative support to address the diverse needs of various communities in New Jersey.

Ms. Hernandez is an active member of the American Counseling Association (ACA) and the New Jersey Counseling Association (NJCA). She currently serves as Treasurer for the New Jersey Association for Multicultural Counseling (NJAMC) a division of NJCA.

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Chi-Sing Li, PhD, LPC-S, LMFT Board Approved Supervisor



Chi-Sing is an Associate Professor teaching Masters and Doctoral programs in the Counselor Education department at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. He has been a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Texas for over twenty years, and has also served as a supervisor for both licenses for ten years. As far as Psychodrama is concerned, Chi-Sing considers himself a student, actively pursuing knowledge and experience. Chi-Sing fell deeply in love with Psychodrama five years ago when he joined the psychodrama training of Katrena Hart in Texas. It is really an awesome experience to Chi-Sing and he has been able to tap into his own creativity and spontaneity. Through psychodrama, Chi-Sing has gained new discovery of himself which has been amazing and shocking to him every day. Over the past three years, Chi-Sing has utilized a lot of the techniques from psychodrama in his teaching and training of counselor interns in Texas. His teaching skills have expanded

tremendously. Chi-Sing presented in the ASGPP annual conference two years ago in Oakland and will hopefully present again. Currently, Chi-Sing is coordinating research projects within the ASGPP research committee.

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Maria Mellano, MSW, LICSW, CP/PAT



In 2005, seeking a true healing path for her eating disorder clients, Maria discovered Psychodrama's power from clients who'd experienced it residentially. By trying some action methods on her own, Maria quickly learned the need for training. She found the ASGPP's upcoming conference, took a deep breath, dove in and became certified in 2017. Both personally and professionally, Maria is committed to awakening, transformation and leadership for individuals who are interested in claiming their unique place in the world. She is a seasoned, intuitive and skillful therapist, Psychodramatist and mentor with over 20 years' professional experience and training with a specialty in eating disorders. Maria combines Psychodrama and Internal Family Systems with her mind-body-spirit-shadow oriented approach to ignite the inherent capacity for Self - presence and healing we each have within allowing for breakthroughs and sustainable change in peoples' lives. From her practice based in Boston, MA she offers individual and group sessions for therapy, training, consulting and mentoring as well as open Psychodrama sessions, Psychodrama training and self-growth workshops.

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Mary Anna Palmer, LICSW, LMFT, TEP



Mary Anna began her career as a social worker 46 years ago working in a varied agencies both profit and non-profit settings. She began her psychodrama training in 1983 in Milwaukee first with Ron Anderson. She began her journey to become certified as a practitioner in 1989, becoming a CP in 2003 and TEP in 2014.

Mary Anna is a founding member of the Midwest Chapter – ASGPP 1994 and served as the chapter's president for two terms. She was co-sponsor and chief organizer of three Midwest Chapter Conferences held in the Twin Cities in late 1990's and early 2000's.

Mary Anna is the Executive Director and Primary Trainer at The Psychodrama & Psychotherapy Center in Eagan, MN since 1992. She provides training and workshops in universities, schools, prisons, community organizations, and business.

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Anne Taylor Remley, LCSW, NCACII, CSAC, CP/PAT



Anne began her career in substance abuse rehabilitation in 1987. She has worked with a client base in different settings. She currently specializes in adolescent substance abuse. She has held many positions on various boards related to substance abuse in Virginia. In 2003 she obtained her LCSW so that she could have a voice within the mental health community in order to advocate for those individuals that need assistance and or access to various services. She opened her private practice in 2009. She is currently working with adolescent dually diagnosed males in a residential setting. She was first introduced to psychodrama in 2008 in Tampa Florida that began her love affair with Psychodrama. She received her CP in 2016 and is currently working on becoming a TEP.

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Marianne Shapiro, LMHC, TEP



Marianne has a private psychotherapy practice and lives in Mount Vernon, WA. She was appointed to the Executive Council to fill a vacancy in May of 2017. She has benefitted from being an appreciative participating member of the ASGPP for many years and believes that this is the time for her to step forward and give back, hopefully contributing for the greater good in this more structured, and perhaps co-creative role.

Marianne's Primary Trainer for both her CP and TEP was John Raven Mosher. She and her husband Bob Shapiro, CP have been co-facilitating an ongoing weekly psychodrama group and a monthly workshop for at least the past 17 years.

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John Skandalis, MA, LMHC, TEP



I have been in private practice since 1993 and co-lead two psychodrama groups a week as well as a men's group here in Seattle. In addition, I am starting a training group to teach the next generation of psychodramatists.

I feel in love with psychodrama while attending a workshop back in 1994. Shortly thereafter I began training with John Mosher and Shirley Barkley and received my CP in 2000. I later trained with Georgia Rigg and Jack Shupe and became a TEP in 2012.

At this point of my life I am ready to give back to my communities as an honoring of those who have given so richly to me. I am excited to be on the board and support the vision of a prospering and robust psychodrama community in the United States and around the world.

In my spare time I enjoy being at home with my wife Laurie, playing guitar and doing wilderness hikes with my son Evan.

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