



PSYCHODRAMA NETWORK NEWS

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY AND PSYCHODRAMA

FALL 2007



*From the
ASGPP
President*

John Rasberry, MEd, LMFT, TEP

Leftovers and Check-ins

Greetings Members,

I begin my report to you with sadness and regret as I share the news of the passing of Joe Romance, the Editor of the PNN. Joe had been receiving treatment for lung cancer during the past 12 months. The Society has lost one of it's most devoted members. Joe will be remembered for his gentle, caring spirit who gave much time and guidance in the hearing and telling of so many stories. On behalf of this Society our hearts and thoughts go out to Joe and his families, both of birth and of choice.

Loss continues as I report the removal of Esme Pitel as Treasurer of the Society on August 10, 2007. The Inquiry Panel, as appointed by the President, found the language and accusations of the Treasurer toward the Executive Director, Eduardo Garcia, to be unsubstantiated. The Executive Council thereby voted to remove Ms. Pitel as Treasurer for conduct deleterious to the Society. I wish to thank Mike Traynor, Chair, Rebecca Walters and Peter Kranz for their service on the Inquiry Panel.

The Executive Council acted with courage as we debated taking this unprecedented action.

The 2008 annual conference is developing nicely. Exciting workshops

(Continued on Page 6)

“Blazing New Trails Into Creative Consciousness.”

— ASGPP Annual Conference —

**Sheraton Gunter
San Antonio, TX**

April 10th - April 14th, 2008

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Nanine Ewing, PhD, ADTR

OPENING PLENARY

Adam Blatner, MD, TEP



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Open Letter to the Membership Regarding Eduardo Garcia

In my capacity as ASGPP President, and on behalf of the members of the Executive Council, I want to voice our reaction to the proposed Treasurer's Report prepared in April, 2007.

We do not find the former Treasurer's written remarks concerning Eduardo Garcia to be within the bounds of acceptable communication. Her approach to dealing with conflict is not consistent with the underlying values of this Society.

We acknowledge and regret that her accusatory language has been personally or professionally hurtful and embarrassing to Ed Garcia and his family. We wish to express confidence in his personal integrity in handling our finances. In my opinion, the Executive Committee made a good faith effort to address and correct her behavior. At times I thought progress was being made, but in the end, we were unsuccessful.

As we face the challenges ahead, it is only realistic to expect occasional conflicts. Despite differences of opinion about the Society's operation, we all will benefit from a more considerate and respectful approach to one another.

*John Rasberry, MEd, LMFT, TEP
President, ASGPP*

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Psychodrama Network News

Fall 2007

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Psychodrama Network News is ASGPP's primary means of communication with its members about association and member activities and developments in professional practice. It carries statements of opinion by a variety of spokespersons and members and, as space permits, letters to the editor. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent positions of ASGPP. It is designed to inform, inspire and connect our members in their professional roles and personal lives.

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An Inquiry Report, Approved by the Executive Council, Finds Allegations Against the Executive Director by the Treasurer to be Unsubstantiated

Toward the end of the Executive Council (EC) Meeting on April 25, 2007 an eight page Treasurer's Report was offered by Esme Pitel. The report was tabled due to inadequate time for review, and its claims of serious misconduct by Eduardo Garcia, ASGPP Executive Director (ED).

Specifically, the ED was accused of "cooking the books," and engaging in illegal and fraudulent activity. These charges directly arose from decisions by the ED to defer his salary payments, and to not maintain segregated bank accounts for Council Designated Funds (CDF).

John Rasberry, ASGPP President, established a committee to examine and report upon the purpose and validity of the accusations made by Esme Pitel, ASGPP Treasurer. Michael Traynor, LCSW, CP, PAT, served as Chairperson, and Peter Kranz, PhD, CP, and Rebecca Walters, MS, TEP served as committee members.

The Inquiry Report findings on the issue of voluntary salary deferral by the ED are as follows:

- 1) Allegations of "cooking the books" (falsifying business records) by the ED are unsubstantiated.
- 2) Allegations of illegality are unsubstantiated.
- 3) The invalidity of these allegations was discoverable by the Treasurer prior to issuing the proposed Treasurer's Report.
- 4) The Treasurer Esme Pitel failed to discharge her duties with the degree of diligence, care, skill and prudence required of her position.

The findings on the issue of segregated bank accounts for Council Designated Funds are as follows:

- 1) Allegations of fraudulent activity (an intent to deceive) by the ED are unsubstantiated.
- 2) The invalidity of these allegations was discoverable by the Treasurer prior to issuing the proposed Treasurer's Report.
- 3) The Treasurer Esme Pitel failed to discharge her duties with the degree of diligence, care, skill and prudence required of her position.

Incivility in the workplace contributes to low job commitment and satisfaction, as well as high turnover. This issue is a serious occupational problem that places high demands on the resources of employees and managers. Studies show that unchecked incivility leads to more aggressive behavior. The Report considers Esme Pitel's behavior toward the ED as an example of incivility transformed over time into aggression.

The Report also recognizes and regrets the personal hurt and embarrassment suffered by the ED. Eduardo Garcia does not deserve this type of abusive treatment by the Treasurer.

The Inquiry Report was approved by a majority of the Executive Council on July 20, 2007. A 2/3 majority of the Executive Council voted to remove Esme Pitel from her position as Treasurer for conduct deleterious to the Society on August 10, 2007.

Copies of the Inquiry Report are available to members via email only by contacting Michael Traynor at mtrayno2@nycap.rr.com.

THIS IS YOUR COUNCIL

"I do know the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."
Albert Schweitzer

JOURNAL OPTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Heldref, publisher of our professional journal for many years, has shared their plans to seek to transfer ownership of our journal to another entity. They have indicated that they will continue to publish our journal, *The Journal of Group Psychotherapy, Psychodrama and Sociometry* (JGPPS) until the transfer is made. This "crisis" presents the ASGPP with a wonderful challenge and an opportunity for change. In fact, our president, John Raspberry, had formed the Journal Options Committee even before we heard of Heldref's decision. Some in the ASGPP have wondered for some time if our journal should be changed.

Your Journal Options Committee (JOC) is at work exploring how the ASGPP might best serve its members' needs and wishes regarding our professional journal. Some members want very much for our journal to contain research articles and to remain academic in nature; they think this kind of journal is important in order to maintain the credibility of our method. Other ASGPP members want a journal that hits closer to home for them, with articles that are more descriptive and reader-friendly for those who are less research-oriented.

It is possible, of course, for our journal to change by beginning to include both descriptive and research articles.

The JOC, made up of Martie Adams, Alton Barbour, Elaine Camerota, and Vickey Finger, has discussed what we believe the purpose of our journal should be:

- To instruct
- To inform
- To create a sense of community among members
- To stimulate creativity in members' practices
- To maintain a presence as an academic journal.

We are interested in your input as we explore options for our journal. What are your wishes and needs? What purpose do you think our journal should serve?

We would also like your support for our journal in terms of articles. One of the problems we have had with publishing our journal is that we have not had enough articles. At the ASGPP Conference in Brooklyn in 2006, one of the workshops offered was for writers interested in submitting articles to our journal. It was lively!

The JOC expects to make a report to the Executive Council and, in turn, to the membership regarding our recommendations for our journal in several months. We will be taking into consideration member wishes and needs as well as cost factors, in terms of both money and time. Now is the time for you to let your needs be known so that the JOC can make an accurate assessment and report.

We now have a spot in the Forum on our website where you may post your thoughts, questions, and concerns regarding our journal.

Martie Adams, JOC Chair

EVALUATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The results of the overall evaluations for the 2007 conference have been compiled and have been passed on to the Executive Council and the Texas co-chairs for the 2008 conference. As of the writing of this report, I am still waiting to receive the mailing labels for the workshop presenters from the 2007 conference. Once I receive them, I will mail out their evaluations.

*Staci Block, MSW, LCSW
Evaluations Chairperson*

RESIGNATION LETTER

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

After 10 years of service to the ASGPP, I have decided to step down from my position as Executive Director. This was certainly not an easy decision especially after the very thorough report prepared by the Inquiry Panel. I had originally planned on retiring in about two years, and in spite of the tremendous support that I have received during the most public portion of this crisis, the last 18 months have been difficult, strife-ridden and exhausting. As a result I feel that now is the best time for me to move toward my planned retirement from ASGPP.

To ensure an orderly transition to new management, the Executive Council and I have decided that I will remain until June 30, 2008. Be assured that I will serve beyond that June date on an "as needed" basis until the transition process is complete.

It has been my pleasure and delight to serve the ASGPP during my ten-year tenure. I have been very fortunate to have expanded my circle of friends as a result of my work with all of you. I look forward to the opportunity to say farewell, *au revoir* and *adios* at the conference in San Antonio in April.

Thank you for your support and your understanding, and if there's anything you need, please feel free to contact me.

*Eduardo Garcia
Executive Director*

Notice to Conference Presenters

Through a variety of means the ASGPP is striving to both become more effective in marketing our Annual Conference and to efficiently use the time available from our volunteers. We also recognize the need to give attendees and presenters more advance notice of dates for our Conference.

To further these objectives, beginning with our 2009 Conference we will only accept workshop proposals submitted online through the ASGPP website. We are providing advance notice to allow those unfamiliar with this process to solicit help from others in our community. Any computer literate volunteers willing to provide assistance would be greatly appreciated! Volunteers may contact Michael Traynor at mtrayno2@nycap.rr.com.

Have you checked your favorite Web sites lately?



By Karen Carnabucci

Okay, everyone, here's a little test.

No grades, but you have a good chance to evaluate your marketing strategy and, if you wish, get some immediate publicity. You'll also help

people who are interested in psychodrama to find you very easily.

First, we'll begin with a locogram to figure out where you fit in this marketing adventure. Here's the first question: When was the last time you sat around and talked about the challenges of marketing with a fellow psychodramatist, someone in your workplace or someone else? Did you complain?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Maybe

Did you say something like:

- a) "People are not very interested in psychodrama!"
- b) "Marketing costs so much money!"
- c) "I just don't know where to begin!"

And where do you stand? Okay, let's try another one.

Have you visited the brand-new Web site of the Board of Examiners in Psychodrama, Sociometry and Group Psychotherapy?

- a) Yes
- b) No

If your answer is no, and if you are a certified practitioner or trainer, you are missing out on something important. This site at www.psychodramacertification.org offers a generous amount of space for you to list your professional specialties, interests, contact information, biography, a link to your Web site and your e-mail address — and even a picture.

And, best of all, it's all free. Your dues pay the cost of this attractive site and people searching the web for psychodrama trainers or therapists will be able to find you and use the link to e-mail you. You'll also be able to make referrals to colleagues, making you a very valuable resource — another good marketing tool. Patti Desert, a practitioner in Baltimore, MD, has reported that this site has been a wonderful opportunity already. "I received a referral within four weeks of putting up my information," she says.

Now, let's look at some other opportunities to get online that are low cost or no cost, except for a few moments of your time.

You should be checking out ASGPP's site at www.asgpp.org. There are options for members to list their training programs and events on the site's calendar

as well as any other interests, questions, announcements and the like on the site's bulletin board. It will take a few moments to log in, but the information is then permanently listed.

Tom Treadwell's site, which you can find at www.grouptalkweb.org, has dozens of resources about psychodrama and group psychotherapy in addition to hosting the Grouptalk discussion list. He will post a link to your Web site as one of these resources and regularly asks subscribers for more ideas to make the site better. When I go there, I count just 23 web sites of psychodramatists — and I know there are many, many more of us who have sites but aren't listed. Tom generously donates his time to maintain this site; and although he asks for financial contributions to keep it operating, no psychodramatist will be turned away who can't make a donation.

Adam Blatner, cheerleader of psychodrama and psychodramatists all around the world, keeps busy with his site at www.blatner.com/adam where posts not only his own articles and drawings but maintains a list of psychodramatists all over the world. If you send him 50 to 60 words about yourself, he'll add your name to his list, along with a photo and a live link to your site or e-mail. Adam, always the educator, gives a little psychodramatic tip about writing your blurb: "Be known for those facts about you that you want others to know — based on the principle of being chosen for the criteria that you want to be chosen for."

Rebecca Walters, a TEP from Hudson Valley, NY, who sometimes likes to call herself the "queen of marketing," is putting together a referral list of certified psychodramatists to distribute to treatment centers and other places that might want to contact one of us. This offer is also open to advanced students who are running groups under the supervision of a certified TEP. Write to Rebecca at hvpi@hvc.rr.com for more details.

Now, if you'd like to promote psychodrama yourself, you can add these links to your site, so the word gets out to even more folks who travel the Web. One of the principles of marketing is that people may need to see your name — or the name of what you're wanting to promote — at least seven to 10 times before it registers as a phrase that is important enough to investigate.

Now, there are lots of other ways to market yourself in a much more personal approach in your community or city, and this ongoing column has listed many practice-building ideas in the past, and we'll continue to do so in the future. I certainly don't want to make it sound like online marketing is the only option. However, the fact is that increasing numbers of people call up their favorite search engine and type in the phrase of what they're

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ACTION BOARD

* In June, **Jean Campbell, ASW, TEP**, spent 3 days at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX training doctors, nurses, chaplains and physician assistants using psychodrama and sociometry. The focus of the work was on learning how to break bad news to patients, and avoiding stress and burnout. She will be visiting again in October to offer them more training. In August, Jean appeared on the NBC reality show, "Last Comic Standing" utilizing action methods and Psychodramatic Bodywork® to help the comic contestants break through stress and anxiety.

* **Staci Block, MSW, LCSW**, as part of her Creative Interventions business, used action methods to train high school peer leaders in Ridgewood, NJ. The topic was on understanding problematic group roles. She also provided an interactive improvisational children's service, for the High Holidays, at Temple Beth Rishon in Wyckoff, NJ, on the themes of repentance, tzedukah and renewal. Reflections, a teen improv theatre group in Hackensack, NJ, under Staci's direction, has been busy doing interactive performances on a wide variety of issues. Performance highlights include a "school to work" program for high school students on the topic of sexual harassment in the workplace, and an intergenerational experience with the senior citizens from the Fair Lawn, NJ Senior Center. The teen Reflections cast

members and the Senior improvisors from "Falling Down Funny" enjoyed the afternoon improvising together. The afternoon culminated with an improvised performance for the public. The teens got to play the parents and the seniors got to play the teens, while the audience suggested conflicts for them to dramatize.

* **Adam Blatner** presented on "Broadening the Horizon of Drama" at the annual meeting of the American Association for Theatre in Education (AATE) in Vancouver, BC in August, and then presented a workshop on "social connectedness" (i.e., sociometry) to the annual conference of the National Association for Drama Therapy (NADT) in Montreal the following week. Adam's book, *Foundations of Psychodrama: History, Theory & Practice* (4th revised edition, 2000) was just published in Korean.

* The **Korean Psychodrama Association** celebrated its tenth anniversary and in association, its April 30, 2007, Volume 10 issue of the *Korean Journal of Psychodrama* included papers by **Adam Blatner**, **Connie Miller**, **Sue Daniel** (from Australia), and **Hun-Jin Choi** (a major pioneer in Korea).



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President's Column

(Continued from Page 1)

by Society favorites as well as many first time presenters offer to make the San Antonio conference an event you will not want to miss. The Texans are working hard to make us glad we are coming to the Lone Star State. The 2008 "Conference Committee," yes there are no official "chairs" of this conference, is being made up of Executive Council members and volunteers from Texas and the rest of the country — a truly collaborative effort from many in our Society. Any questions or concerns regarding the conference can be directed to the President and from there will be channeled to the committees directly involved. If you would like to help with the conference please contact me.

During the semi-annual Executive Council meeting in San Antonio, Sept. 14-15, Eduardo Garcia submitted his resignation as Executive Director. Eduardo's presence during his 10 years as Executive Director has provided the Society with consistency and predictability thus making saying goodbye an emotional process. You can read more from Eduardo's thoughts in his announcement on the preceding pages. The San Antonio conference will be his "swansong" as he leads us through his last ASGPP conference as Executive Director.

Suffice it to say that the Executive Council has much work ahead as the winds of change blow across the Society. Yet, I am confident that the council and Society will face these changes with spontaneity and creativity. Proving Antony Williams incorrect as he assessed the Society as "scared to change" has become a goal for me. In Santa Fe, Antony challenged the council to take up Moreno's *Who Shall Survive?* to bring the Society out of many conserves that were leading to it's demise.

On August 25, Heldref Publishing announced it's decision to sell the Journal of Group Psychotherapy, Psychodrama and Sociometry(JGPPS). This decision comes as no surprise to the ASGPP leadership for the Journal has been experiencing problems in many areas for some time.

In June of this year I appointed a Journal Options Committee, as this announcement was expected. The JOC will be researching options to producing another publication for the membership either by self publishing or through a relationship with another publisher. Martie Bush Adams, Chair of the JOC, serves with Alton Barbour, Elaine Camerota and Vickey Finger.

This committee will be reporting to the membership by Feb. 1, 2008. My thanks continue to Executive Editors of the JGPPS, Tom Treadwell, Tian Dayton, Pam Remer and Linnea Carlson-Sabelli for their efforts to revive the JGPPS.

My last business to discuss concerns the development of Institutes on university campuses as directed

by the Plan of Action created during Rene Marineau's presidency of 2003-2005. Institutes are devoted to taking the Society to a return to students and generating interest in membership and the theory and methodology of psychodrama, sociometry and group psychotherapy. The Morenos were once very active on the campuses of universities and colleges but as the Society's focus changed to a more clinical nature that aspect of the ASGPP ended.

On October 26-27, 2007, the ASGPP in cooperation with Mississippi State University will be presenting a two-day Institute, "The Triadic System: Group Psychotherapy, Psychodrama, Sociometry" on the campus of MSU, Starkville, MS. I urge each of you to consider developing an "Institute" in your region. I will be working toward the creation of three Institutes each year. Look for a "skills bank" posted on the membership section of the ASGPP web where you may register to assist in the Institutes to come.

Well, the council is busy, and as always needs your energy and support. These are exciting times in the ASGPP and I invite you to become involved.

Here to serve,
John Rasberry, TEP
President

CONFERENCES

July 18 - 20, 2008

"The Pool of Life," British Psychodrama Association 2008 Conference. Liverpool, England. Contact Carl Dutton, Tel: 0151 707 0101, Email: carl.dutton@rlc.nhs.uk

November 6 - 9, 2008

"Fully [A]Live: Drama Therapy and the Present Moment," 29th Annual NADT Conference Crowne Plaza Hotel SFO, 1177 Airport Blvd., Burlingame, CA (just south of San Francisco).

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(Continued from Page 4)

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Karen Carnabucci, MSS, LCSW, TEP, practices and teaches psychodrama and other action methods at Lake House Health & Learning Center, Racine, WS. She also coaches helping professionals who want to build or

expand their practices and has written and published a book, "Whole Person Marketing," which uses psychodramatic and creative principles for practice building. Write to her at karen@companionsinhealing.com or see www.lakehousecenter.com.

Due to the passing of Joe Romance and the ensuing period of grieving this loss, this edition of PNN has been abbreviated. Thank you for your understanding and compassion.

John Rasberry, TEP
President

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IN MEMORIAM

Peter Rowan, LMHC, TEP

By Adam Blatner

Peter Rowan, one of the significant pioneers of psychodrama in the 1970s through 2000 and beyond in the Boston area, recently died. He had been active in organizing the New England Psychodrama Institute through the 1970s, and thereafter joined the faculty of Lesley College in the Department of Expressive Therapy. He worked as a psychiatric social worker with children in the 60s when he was first exposed to psychodrama. "I fell in love with it — so much so that I continued my exploration of the discipline of psychodrama with Jacob Levy Moreno, MD, the creator of psychodrama. My work with Moreno was the most valuable post-academic aspect of my education. I worked as a consultant to psychoeducational schools for emotionally disturbed children and then went on to work in private practice with a partner. Although my primary work was with children and adolescents, I also did training as a consultant for the business community." In the early 1980s, Peter was first hired at Lesley College as a psychodramatist, because its philosophy was so closely attuned to his own approach. Over time he evolved so he wrote late in his career that his primary identity was as an expressive therapist, secondary as a psychodramatist, and tertiary as a social worker. During his career, he was also active in the ASGPP, serving at one point on the executive committee; and he also served on the Board of Examiners in Psychodrama, Sociometry and Group Psychotherapy.



PSYCHODRAMA NETWORK NEWS

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