



PSYCHODRAMA NETWORK NEWS

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY AND PSYCHODRAMA

SPRING/SUMMER 2008



*From the
ASGPP
President*

John Rasberry, MEd, LMFT, TEP

Leftovers and Check-ins

Greetings Members,

The 2008 Annual Conference was a success. Many factors put to the test the Theory of Spontaneity and I believe an honest appraisal would say there was adequate and true spontaneity to be found.

My thanks to the many volunteers from Texas and all across the nation who worked together to co-create the conference. San Antonio could not have been a more gracious host. Thank you to the Executive Council, many of whom worked hard on the conference, investing in a model that I believe gives the Society a second, viable model of conference development.

The Annual Business meeting gave those in attendance an opportunity to hear plans for the future of ASGPP and an opportunity to say good-bye to Eduardo Garcia as Executive Director. I will direct you to the President's Report posted on the ASGPP web site for a more complete description of this President's agenda for the '08/'09 fiscal year as well as a more thorough state of the Society address.

There continues to be concern not only expressed during the Annual Business meeting but in other discussions with groups and

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ASGPP ANNUAL CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS

By Chris Farmer

Dear Dr Ewing,

Re: Your keynote address at ASGPP

It is weeks ago that I had the privilege of attending your Plenary Address on 12th April. I also thoroughly enjoyed the Closing Ceremony that you led so magically!

I usually write notes of the main points expressed in workshops and in plenary presentations. However, your presentation was so alive and immediate that it made it difficult for me to take my eyes from the stage to write my notes.

I managed to note a very small selection of just some of your main points, but your message was much more than the sum of the items that you referred to. Your address was not only visual and auditory; there was also an indefinable, almost poetic, experience that I should like to recapture.

I list just a few of the points that I was able to make:

- The group is a person and a person is a group
- Instead of a reference to the "difficult patient/s or difficult group," we should be referring to the therapist's own difficulty, brought about by the projection of self on to the group and in turn, through receiving the group's projections
- Power is the opposite of love
- Judgment is the enemy of love and compassion, and nothing is "a," and not "b"
- Ritual goes beyond words and has a symbolic meaning
- Everything that happens to us has a mystical property
- The purpose of group therapy is truth

I wish to thank you for what you shared with us in the plenary and also on the Sunday.

With best wishes,

Chris Farmer, BM, BCh, MPhil, FRCP, FRCPsych, UKCPBA, BM, BCh, MPhil, FRCP, FRCPsych, UKCP
Past President, British Psychodrama Association



— KEY NOTE ADDRESS —

The Creative Transformational Potential of the Anti-Group



Nanine Ewing, PhD, FAGPA, CGP, ADTR delivered a remarkable Key Note Address at our conference in San Antonio. A transcript is available on our website: www.asgpp.org.

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Psychodrama Network News

Spring/Summer 2008

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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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Sociometry and Elections: An Open Letter



By Adam Blatner, MD, TEP

Hello colleagues and friends:

Looking over the ballot for electing officers of the ASGPP — and also for the American Board of Examiners in Psychodrama, etc.

— I noticed my non-rational inclinations. I realized, "This is what comes from becoming more sociometrically sensitive." I don't think we are obliged to follow our inclinations — sometimes they are too irrational, sometimes downright foolish. Yet our president encouraged me to share my experience because it resonates with the spirit of Moreno.

I realized that I am inclined to vote for people with whom I've had some reciprocity. Conversely, I'm inclined not to vote for people who have not bothered to answer my emails or in other ways made themselves unavailable to any contact. I began to recognize the funny sociometric dynamic: With whom have I had some pleasant interactions? Since I do interact on our listserve, "Grouptalk," — which, interestingly, has been officially disassociated from ASGPP because it includes non ASGPP members, such as people from overseas — well, have any of the people running for the executive board joined in this quasi-community effort? (It's not much, but what else is there?) Then I stretched myself: Have any of the candidates participated in the ASGPP forum, even once? Who has used the ASGPP forum more than once?

I know I am supposed to be guided by more rational considerations, qualifications, policies, but often these are vague. I may or may not go with my inclinations, but such considerations emerged: I don't wish to hide my feeling-reactions from my conscious mind. This affects not just ASGPP, but other social networks and dynamics — and to some degree, even national elections. I'm just realizing a little more every few weeks how pervasive are sociometric dynamics and how little attention is given to them.

I am asking directly that our elected representatives have some greater degrees of transparency by making their email addresses available; sending out an email every 6 months or so saying what they're doing in their own sub-committee roles and inviting input in some specific way; sharing with us the kinds of considerations they're facing as a group and again inviting comment. Am I mistaken in thinking these to be rather elementary suggestions — especially for an organization that claims to respect Moreno's ideas? How else might we imagine ourselves to feel that we have more voice? (Of course, running for elected office is another way, but I'm talking about maintaining a kind of vitality at the level of what might someday function as caucuses and focus groups.)

Warmly,

Adam Blatner, MD, TEP

website: www.blatner.com/adam/

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

CEU COMMITTEE REPORT

CEUs were offered at no charge to attendees at the 66th Annual Psychodrama Conference in San Antonio in April, 2008. This is the third conference where participants received CEUs at no charge. Current goals of the CEU committee are: to obtain CEUs of Boards of Social Work in the US, to expand the CEU offerings for ASGPP Approved Continuing Education Providers and to align the ASGPP CEU Providership Program with current professional standards in the field. Currently, PATs and TEPs may participate in the ASGPP Approved Providership CEU Program. See www.asgpp.org for information on how to become a provider. I ask for your help in achieving our goals for the year. Please contact me at sjary@mind-spring.com or 817-735-8391 to participate on the committee.

Suzie Jary
Chair, CEU Committee

AWARD NOMINATIONS

If you would like to nominate someone for one of the ASGPP awards, to be presented to one of our members next year at the conference in St. Louis, here's what you do:

- Review award categories / print out the nomination form: <http://asgpp.org/html/awards.html>
- Review list of past award recipients so you're not duplicating a nomination for someone who already received that award:
http://asgpp.org/html/award_recipients.html
- FAX the completed form to the ASGPP (732-605-7033)
OR MAIL to:
ASGPP, Attn: Awards Nominations
301 N Harrison - Suite 508, Princeton, NJ 08540
- NO NOMINATIONS will be accepted after AUGUST 1st.
DEADLINE AUGUST 1st.

Dena Baumgartner
Chair, Awards Committee

JOB DESCRIPTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Job Description Committee is currently working on and reviewing data relating to the new position of the person to replace the current Executive Director's role within the ASGPP.

At this time many varying duties are being considered by the committee and after review and finalization by the committee will be submitted to the council for review and revision.

Janell F. Adair, David F. Moran, Norma Kay Lord
Co-Chairs, Job Description Committee

EVALUATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

I have compiled the info gathered on the overall 2008 San Antonio conference evaluation forms. This information will be useful to us as we create the 2009 conference experience for St. Louis. At this past conference, a new question was added on the workshop evaluation form, in which workshop participants were asked to evaluate their own level of participation in the workshop attended. In addition, Rebecca Walters, committee member, has been helpful by taking a close look at the evaluations done by the participants in each of the individual workshops. This will go a long way in assisting with the choices made, by the program committee, for future conferences.

Arrangements are in the process of being made for workshop presenters to receive their evaluations in the mail.
Staci Block, MSW, LCSW
Chair, Evaluations Committee

PRESIDENT'S ASGPP REPORT

The President's Report delivered at the ASGPP Conference in San Antonio is available on our website: www.asgpp.org. It includes information on the Executive Council, Membership, the Central Office, Professional Journal, By-laws, Institutes and the Society.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Greetings Members,

It is time to begin submitting nominations for 4 Executive Council seats and the office of President and Vice-President. Also there are openings for the Professional Standards Committee and Nominating Committee. By now you should have received your Nomination Form. Remember to check with the person you are nominating to determine if they are willing to serve. Deadline for return of your nominations is **August 31, 2008**.

Respectfully submitted,
Georgia Riggs, TEP
Chair, Nominations Committee

Marketing 'winners' at the conference



By Karen Carnabucci

The annual conference is always great venue for psychodrama trainers and practitioners to present workshops on areas of current interest and expertise.

It's also a great way for colleagues to connect with old friends and make new friends.

And it's a great place to watch for marketing and practice-building experiments from presenters, participants, vendors and ASGPP itself.

During the 2008 conference in San Antonio, TX, I had the opportunity to present two workshops, one regarding the healing of veterans and the other a conversational hour on marketing, and co-present with Donna Little on my new interest Systemic Family Constellation. I also had the pleasure to observe some creative marketing experiments and successes from attendees.

This year's stand-out marketer is (ta-da!) Jean Campbell who co-presented on the topic of offering role training to medical professionals. The workshop showcased her fabulous collaborative training program with the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, where she helps physicians, nurses, physicians assistants and other medical professionals to improve their communication skills, especially regarding the task of giving "bad news" to patients and their families about their cancers.

Now, here was my question: how does a psychodramatist working in Los Angeles, CA, get such a contract? This contact was profitable for her - which involves not only training professionals at this prestigious medical center but also helpful to psychodrama, as she has introduced a whole new population to psychodrama, with many of the staff becoming enthusiastic supporters of psychodrama?

This marketing success story began with Campbell as an ordinary subscriber to the public discussion list on sociometry, www.sociometry.net, moderated by Ann Hale. In January 2007, Walter Baile, a psychiatrist who is professor of behavioral sciences and director of the clinical communication skills program at the cancer center, posted to the list.

He reported that he integrated role play in teaching communication skills and wondered about sociometric techniques and how they might enhance his program.

Campbell quickly answered the post with a message to Baile, and the e-mail correspondence with Baile evolved into an invitation by the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center to work with the medical staff. To date, Campbell has offered several in-depth training programs at the center, and now advertises this service - training medical professionals -

on her Web site at www.theactioninstitute.com.

Most every presenter offers a take-home handout with basic information about the presentation. Katrena Hart, a psychotherapist and TEP from Allen, TX, offered the most unusual handout - a colorful CD with voice, music and words. The words included a scanned chapter about anger from the book "Joy" by Alexander Lowen, on the use of bioenergetics, and the CD included spoken directions for a 20-minute activity on grounding.

Hart, co-chair of the 2008 conference, co-presented on the topic "Spontaneous Combustion: Psychodrama and Bioenergetics" with Linda Hines, a licensed professional counselor and bioenergetic therapist from Lawton, OK. The colorful red and yellow CD was placed in a transparent green plastic envelope and given to all attendees of the workshop. It also listed Hart's web site (www.katrena-hart.com) and the web site of her colleague, (www.the-healingjourney.com)

In addition, Hart was passing out the same magnets that she gives to clients and prospective clients in her home community. The envelope-sized magnets show cartoon-like drawings about stress and ways to reduce stress healthfully. Name and contact information are listed too; she orders these magnets from Creative Therapy Associates, a business at www.ctherapy.com or (800) 448-9145.

Linda Ciotola, this year's winner of the Zerka Moreno Award, gifted pens to her friends celebrating with her at her table at the awards banquet. The blue pens listed her new domain name for her newly revised Web site. The new name, www.healing-bridges.com, reflects her professional shift to her primary role as psychodramatist and psychodrama trainer and her business which she calls Healing Bridges. The previous site, www.fitness-movement.com, focused more on her work as a wellness consultant, yoga instructor and nutritional adviser. Now it is clear that Ciotola is a psychodramatist who incorporates wellness, yoga and other fitness ideas into her distinctly unique practice.

Sally Stepath is planning to move to Portland, OR, by next year. A Chicago psychologist and psychodramatist, she arrived with the goal of making contacts with psychodramatists in the greater Portland area.

"I already have talked to three women in Portland and have their phone numbers and maybe the possibility of being part of a psychodrama group there monthly," she says.

One business-building venue that was missing at the 2008 conference was the annual silent auction, which in my opinion is a showcase for psychodramatists not only to promote their training programs, supervision and

(Continued on Page 15)

ACTION BOARD

* **Jacob Gershoni, LCSW, TEP**, offered workshops at the Istanbul Psychodrama Institute in Turkey in early December, 2007. He taught about both theory and techniques of psychodrama and sociometry to about 40 students — trainees and graduates of the institute, representing various levels of experience. The institute's co-directors, Deniz Altinay and Nese Karabekir, have hosted teachers from the United States on occasion. Jacob continues as an active psychodrama trainer in New York, and the Istanbul Center currently has about 90 professionals in training.

* **Karen Carnabucci, MSS, LCSW, TEP**, conducted a training program on trauma and its effects for treatment foster parents for Children's Service Society of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, WI, in October 2007 and teaches continuing education programs with action methods at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Kenosha, WI. Her Midwest Training Series, a training program in psychodrama and action methods, is finishing its third year in Racine, WI, and will begin a new schedule in September. She is scheduled to present "Trauma, Resilience and Healing" at the fall conference at the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers on Oct. 27 in Oconomowoc, WI.

* In February, 2008, **Jonathan Fox, MA, TEP**, led workshops for advanced Cuban playback practitioners (there are at least four companies in Havana!), while others led ones for new Cuban practitioners. Then each cohort joined their peers from the international delegation, which had members from Germany, USA, Argentina, Chile, Canada and Spain. The three days of the advanced international workshop were very powerful. There was also a performance at a conference for a sustainable world sponsored by the Juan Marti Society from Cuba and UNESCO. Then a trip to a theatre company in central Cuba located on a collective farm.

Jonathan, the founder of the Centre for Playback Theatre and the founder of Playback Theatre itself, has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Kassel, Germany. The doctorate recognizes Jonathan for "artistic and scholarly achievement in theatre."

The Education and Humanities faculty, representing education, philosophy, theology, psychoanalytic psychology, and music, were unanimous in this decision. The University of Kassel has awarded only four honorary doctorates in its history: this the first to an American, and the first that honors a recipient for both scholarly and artistic achievement

* **Lorelei J. Goldman, MA, TEP**, training director of the Psychodrama Training Institute of Chicago, completed the following workshops demonstrating the art/science of

psychodrama. 1) Dr. Shellie Korshak and Lorelei co-presented last November at Methodist Hospital in Chicago, "Conversations in Action." 2) In December, 2007 Lorelei presented a lecture for the medical staff of Evanston Hospital for their Grand Rounds Continuing Education Program. 3) Following this event was direct volunteer service facilitating group psychodrama with over fifty clients in a treatment facility at *Hapital Rigiatica de la Habana de Trabajo Especializado* in Cuba. 4) In February, Lorelei created a workshop entitled, "Healthy Aging-Patients as People" presented with beginning nursing students.

* **David Kipper, PhD, ABPP, TEP**, conducted a 3-hour workshop, "The magic of role playing: Turning fantasy into reality" at the AGPA 65th Annual Meeting in Washington, DC in February. As has been his practice in past years, his workshops are designed for non-psychodramatists, to show them how they can incorporate simple concretization techniques in traditional verbal group therapy. He encourages people to join The American Group Psychotherapy Association and join other psychodramatists like **Chris Farmer (UK)**, **Marcia Geller**, **Louise Lipman** and **Adam Blatner** as presenters at their conferences. "The AGPA is thriving and incorporating every contemporary major brand of group therapy. Without a doubt it is THE leader of Group Psychotherapy in the USA."

* In April, **Adam Blatner, MD, TEP**, presented workshops for experienced psychotherapists in Sonoma, CA, North Hollywood and also a class about spontaneity and interpersonal relations to a communications class at UCLA.

* **Kate Hudgins, PhD, TEP**, continues to pioneer psychodrama in Taiwan and mainland China. Kate conducted workshops in Beijing and Shanghai in April, 2008. This follows another similar program in November. Other trainings are being offered in Nanjing, Shanghai and Xiamen, and she expects to reach over 1,000 students by year's end. Also, Kate's books are being translated into Chinese.

* In January, **Connie Miller, TEP**, was a keynote speaker at Texas Southern University — "Providing Spiritually Intelligent Leadership," First ASA Grant Hilliard Breakthrough Conference.

She presented "Action Methods for Group Warm-ups" for the American Association for Specialists in Group Work, St Petersburg Beach, FL in February.

She has been invited to present "Souldrama, Innovative Counseling Approaches" in Hawaii for the American Counseling Association National Conference for the section on Career Development.

Her article "Souldrama: Putting Spirituality into Action" has been accepted by Taylor Francis and will be published in the next *Journal for Creativity in Mental Health*.

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Playback Bibliodrama



By *Esly Regina Carvalho, MA, LPC, TEP, and Raquel Carvalho Hoersting*

INTRODUCTION:

This is an exercise that connects Bibliodrama (Carvalho, 1988, 2002; Pitzele, 1995, 1998) and Playback (Fox, 1994; Salas, 1993). It was developed during some of the Bibliodrama training events I directed in Ecuador and Brazil. It appeared originally, in abbreviated form in the *Manual de Bibliodrama* in Spanish (2002:30-31), published by the Plaza del Encuentro. (Also available in Portuguese and English translation).

This is an exercise that can be used in several different contexts. It is useful for those who would like to teach Bible stories. In churches or synagogues, it can be used to help participants identify with the eternal relevance and wisdom of the Bible, its stories and its people. Oftentimes, the audience becomes aware of how some things change over time, and other things never change. Still other situations allow for the possibility of bringing these stories to life in a new and meaningful way, so typical of Bibliodrama, but with the added twist of personal identification. Yet others do this for the sheer fun of it.

EXERCISE:

This is an exercise that pre-supposes that at least some members of the audience have some working knowledge of the Bible and its stories. It can be used with a "mixed" group, comprised of those who are familiar with some of the stories and others who are totally unfamiliar as an "educational" tool: teaching those who are interested in the Bible and its stories. For it to be used with a whole group that is unfamiliar with any of the Bible stories is delicate, since the whole point of Playback is to "see" something enacted that is meaningful to the Teller, and in this case, there would probably not be a Teller. It is called Playback Bibliodrama, because the purpose is to see a re-enactment of a story that is at least somewhat familiar to the Teller. On the other hand, many people are drawn to Bibliodrama because of their extensive knowledge of these stories or because of their religious faith associated to the Bible (Jewish or Christian). The Playback may be the actual enactment of what really happened in the Bible story, (Moses parting the Red Sea) or as an added creative touch, can have "midrashic" possibilities: acting out what the Bible doesn't narrate, such as the meeting between Samuel and his birth mother when he returns to Ramah. In this case, the Teller can say what s/he imagines happened or leave it to the Playback group to think it up.

After an appropriate warm-up, participants are asked if they would like to "see" one of the scenes or stories of the Bible in Playback. As the "Teller" emerges from the audience, the Director asks him or her to sit in the Teller's chair and tell the audience what story or scene they would like to see.

The Teller narrates to the Bibliodramatist and audience the story that s/he would like to see in playback. The Teller then chooses from amongst the members of the audience those who should portray the key elements of the scene. Since the Bibliodramas I conduct rarely include professional actors, this is a "safer" way to arrive at the desired result: the Teller uses his/her tele to choose those who would best develop the story and the members take their cues from the narration.

The chosen members usually need only a few seconds to put together the basic elements. They act out the story as told by the Teller. Some will embellish a bit of the scene with a very brief comment or exclamation about what is happening. The Bibliodramatist checks with the Teller to see if the drama is satisfactory. If so, then the Bibliodramatist moves on to the next Bibliodrama Playback Teller and his/her scene. If the Teller is not satisfied with the presentation, then the appropriate adjustments are made, and a repeat performance is presented.

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Esly Regina Carvalho, MS, LPC, TEP, has an extensive career in psychodrama and sociometry. She is the only Latin American/Brazilian ever to have passed the Psychodrama Board exams. She presently lives in Brasília, Brazil, where she continues in private practice and training, specializing in EMDR training as well as psychodrama. She and Andre Monteiro co-authored, Sociodrama and Sociometry.

Raquel Carvalho Hoersting is a certified psychodramatist with the Ecuadorian Association of Psychodrama and Sociometry. She is presently pursuing a PhD in Clinical Psychology at the University of North Texas in Denton.

IN MEMORIAM

Florence Bridge Moreno Gunsher

Dear Psychodrama friends and colleagues,

On December 10, my grandmother, Florence Bridge Gunsher (formerly Florence Bridge Moreno) died peacefully in Queens, New York at the age of 95. Many of you who have studied for the history question on the American Board exam know her as the first wife of Jacob Levy Moreno and mother of their oldest child, Regina Moreno. Some of you may have known her personally. In my study of the history of psychodrama, she is mainly portrayed as the failed muse of J.L., my grandfather. In fact, she was an accomplished professional in her own right. She held a masters degree in psychology and published in the field with my grandfather and independently. She also had a successful career as a music and classroom teacher in New York City's public schools. However, her greatest success in my eyes was as my grandparent, a role which none of my other grandparents valued as much as she did. I would like to let you know a little about how important her role as a grandmother was to me.

My earliest memories of my grandmother were filled with love and affection. She was warm and cuddly. She loved me in a way that was completely unconditional. I remember once as a small child I sang a hymn for her over the phone called 'Away in the Manger'. She couldn't always see me on significant occasions but she always called and sent packages with the items I most wanted. She cried as I sang to her, valuing the gift of my small voice and the song I had chosen to please her more than any other physical gift I could have given.

I didn't learn of my grandmother's success as a professional until I was almost an adult. I knew that she loved the students she taught for she spoke of them often. Loving those children, who were usually impoverished both financially and emotionally, was her ministry and her joy. I thought those children were very lucky to be able to be with my grandmother all day long when I could only see her in the summers.

I spent many hours listening to my grandmother play the piano. She was incredible at improvisation. I could sing almost any song and she could accompany it beautifully. In addition, she could make up melodies and embellish any piece. My grandfather recognized her gift and he bought her a beautiful Steinway piano, which she loved. He encouraged her to pursue her dream of becoming a concert pianist. When she expressed her stage fright, he offered to let her play a surplus reality piano on the psychodrama stage and experience being seen as a pianist. She told me at the end of her life that she regretted that at the time she was too afraid to accept his offer.

My grandmother told me during last years during which

she was bedridden that she sat in her bed mending her regrets. My experience of her was that she often looked to those with great status in the world and longed for that kind of recognition. I don't think she always valued the importance of the success she had, the ways she touched the lives of her students, her peers in her church, and the gift she gave me of deep and abiding love and attention. That gift was more important in my development than any other claim she could have made to world fame. It left me as deep and profound a legacy as the one my grandfather left me from the work he did. For in loving me and nourishing my dreams, she embodied the spirit of his work, which is to nurture the 'god' in each person we touch. My grandmother recognized the divinity in me and modeled for me how I can see and nurture the divinity in my own children and the children that I teach. Therefore, in my eyes Florence Bridge Gunsher was a wonderful grandmother. I will always be grateful to her and I will miss her deeply.

Peace,
Miriam Zachariah, MA, CP, PAT

Eugene "Gene" Eliasoph

Eugene "Gene" Eliasoph, MSW, TEP, died on January 5, 2008. He was one of the early pioneers of psychodrama, the "first generation" after Moreno. He was a major trainer of psychodrama — indeed, in 1961 he founded the New Haven (Connecticut) Psychodrama Institute - which might then have become one of the longest-running training programs!

Gene was active on the executive committee of the ASGPP in the late 1970s, and was the organization's president 1981-1983. In 1991 he was recognized with the J.L. Moreno Award for Lifetime Service to the field of Psychodrama; in 1996 he was given the Innovator's Award, and in 2000 the ASGPP granted Gene the Hannah Weiner Award. In the last decade or so Gene was also active in investigating a number of associated issues, such as the values of assisted technology in the treatment of people with autism.

Mary Jo Amatruda wrote: Our dear Gene (Eugene Eliasoph) is gone. I feel so fortunate to have worked with him, first as his student and then as his colleague, for so many years. I know many of you have stories connected with him as well. He was a man of great courage and generosity and, of course, brilliance. He continued to run the autistic group until the end! He loved that group. Gene was a great group therapist. He was a sociologist before becoming a social worker, and he always had that group therapist/sociologist hat on. He really kept his trainees focused on the group therapy aspects of what they were doing.

— CONGRATULATIONS 2008 ASGPP AWARD WINNERS —



J. L. MORENO AWARD
Antonina Garcia, LCSW,
EdD, RDT/BCT, CGP, TEP



ZERKA T. MORENO AWARD
Linda Ciotolo, MEd, CP
with Adam Blatner



**HANNAH B. WEINER
AWARD**
Jude Treder-Wolff, LCSW,
RMT, CGP



INNOVATOR'S AWARD
Georgia Rigg, LCSW, TEP



**DAVID A. KIPPER
SCHOLAR'S AWARD**
Clark Baim, MEd

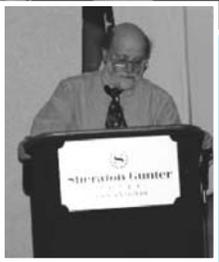


COLLABORATORS AWARD
Ed Schreiber, MEd, TEP,
Toni Horvatin, LMSW

**NEIL PASSARIELLO
MEMORIAL WORKSHOP
PRESENTER**
Paul Lesnik, LCSW, CHT
(not shown)

FELLOWS:

Mary Jo Amatruda, MA, MS, NCC, CGP, TEP; Mary Bellofatto, MA, CEDS, NCC, CP, PA.; Roberto Cancel, MA, MSW, TEP; Judith Class Collins, PhD, RDT, TEP; Herb Dandes, PhD, TEP; Toni Horvatin, LMSW; Sylvia Israel, MA, RDT/BCT, TEP; Catherine Nugent, MS, LGPC, CP; and Ed Schreiber, MEd, TEP



ASGPP '09 Conference Sociometric Choosing of Workshops

Greetings Readers of PNN,

Many of you have submitted workshops for consideration at the 2009 annual conference and many of you are warming up to attending.

I am asking the Program Committee to consider following the format used by the Australian/Aotearoa Moreno Psychodrama Society (AAMPS), and Australian/New Zealand Psychodrama Association (ANZPA) for their annual conferences. As I continue my efforts to reduce expenses and maximize productivity and enjoyment, it becomes apparent to me that the system described below achieves both. In this time of change, transition in the Society, I encourage us to support the use of this format for the '09 conference in St. Louis. I believe J.L. would be proud as we access our spontaneity to co-create a new experience.

I invite you to visit the ASGPP web, look for the section on "ASGPP 09 Conf.-Sociometric Choosing of Workshops," log in and let your voice be heard regarding my request to use this format.

I look forward to hearing from you.

*Here to serve,
John Rasberry
President, ASGPP*

Introducing the Idea of Sociometric Choice of Sessions for the St Louis ASGPP Conference

Thank you for inviting me to conduct a sociometric choice of sessions for our next conference. Here are some ideas for your consideration.

The use of sociometric choice enables participants to see all of the presenters at the conference, put names to faces, get a sense of the presenters and to know something about their work or interest.

While most conference participants will have chosen the sessions that they want to attend well before the conference begins, sometimes as early as when the conference brochure first comes out, through a telic process, it can be fun to do the choosing sociometrically at the time of the conference. You can see who is going where, you can feel what it is like being in your group because everyone gathers around their session presenter.

Time is required, morning and afternoon. Maybe a little more time in the first session of the conference so everyone gets used to the idea. Up to 20 minutes is needed, maybe half an hour if there are many presenters.

The Masters (or perhaps Magicians - or Chairpersons) of Ceremony, host the choosing. It's important that each presenter take about 2 minutes, stand and introduce themselves by name and say something about their session, including reiterating how many people they want in the session - the maximum number - already this will be printed in the brochure. The MC's role is to encourage, and guide, where necessary, basically be a good auxiliary to the presenters so that they are heard and all have the

(Continued on Page 10)

INVITATION TO ZERKA

from the
VII Ibero-American Congress of Psychodrama
Quito, Ecuador, April 30 - May 3, 2009
Commemoration of the 120th anniversary of the
birth and 35th anniversary of the passing of
J. L. Moreno



Dear People,

Thank you so much for the invitation (to be your keynote speaker) at your forthcoming congress.

It would be fine if I could answer positively to that invitation, but though in good shape at almost 91 years of age, traveling is now unfortunately out

of the question.

How I wish it would be otherwise and could be with you.

Herewith come my heartfelt and warm wishes for a most successful congress.

Meanwhile, here is my message to your gathering:

"Dear Colleagues,

It is a splendid idea to celebrate the life, spirit, philosophy and ideas of J. L. Moreno.

One may ask: 'What would all our lives have been like if this man, who had such a positive view of life, would not have lived?'

We, his heirs, are so fortunate that he did live and spread a message of hope, one which is so badly needed in our current world.

The magic of psychodrama weaves us all together, all over the globe.

Much love to you all."

Zerka T. Moreno

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CONFERENCES AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

August 14 - 17, 2008

116th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association. Boston, Massachusetts. Contact www.apa.org

August 22 - 24, 2008

"Beauty and the Beast," 5th Baltic Moreno Conference. Latvian Moreno Institute/Latvian Psychodrama Association. Valmiera, Latvia. Contact www.psihidrama.lv

September 13 - 16, 2008

"Traces of the Holocaust in the Present" 3rd PIFE Summer Academy. Psychodrama Institut für Europa (PIFE). Krakow and Auschwitz, Poland. Contact www.pife-europa.eu

October 2 - 5, 2008

"Performing the World '08. Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" New York, NY. Sponsored by the All Stars Project, Inc. (www.allstars.org) and the East Side Institute for Group and Short Term Psychotherapy (www.eastsideinstitute.org). Contact www.performingtheworld.org

October 7 - 11, 2008

"Creating New Space Beyond Internal & External Wars. 8th Pacific Rim Regional IAGP Conference," International Association for Group Psychotherapy and Group Processes (IAGP). Matsue City, Shimane Prefecture, Japan. Contact www.kunibikimesse.jp/en

October 30 - November 2, 2008

"Dance/Movement Therapy for a Diverse Society: Evidence and Ideas," American Dance Therapy Association 43rd ADTA Annual Conference. Austin, Texas. Omni Austin Hotel Downtown. Contact www.adta.org/resources/conference.cfm

November 6 - 9, 2008

"Fully [A] Live: Drama Therapy and the Present Moment," National Association for Drama Therapy (NADT) 29th Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA, Crowne Plaza Hotel. Contact www.nadt.org

January 22 - 26, 2009

ANZPA Conference. Australian and New Zealand Psychodrama Association Inc. Salmond Hall, Dunedin, New Zealand. Contact <http://anzpa.org>

February 16 - 21, 2009

"Strong Group Foundations: Building Lasting Communities," American Group Psychotherapy Association (APGA) 2009 Meeting. Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, Chicago, IL. Contact www.agpa

April 30 - May 3, 2009

Commemoration of the 120th anniversary of the birth and 35th anniversary of the passing of the creator of Psychodrama, J. L. Moreno. VII Ibero-American Congress of Psychodrama. Quito, Ecuador. Contact secretaria@psicodramaecuador.com

August 24 - 29, 2009

"Groups in a Time of Conflicts." 17th IAGP Congress. Rome, Italy. Proposals due: Oct. 15, 2008. Contact www.iagpcongress.org

Sociometric Choosing...

(Continued from Page 9)

same amount of time to present their session and themselves. This assists any introverted people and may serve to contain or channel more extroverted people. So it is up to the Chair folk (those Masters of Ceremony or however we name them) to produce the event so that there is a good balance, a nice warm up, fast scene setting and to be able to work within a tight schedule.

The roles of these Masters of Ceremony include 'warm good hearted humorist', 'clear sighted visionary' and 'spontaneous actor'. I am used to this way of doing conferences with 29 years of experience. (For photos and by way of a cv, see my website psychodrama-institute-melbourne.com - click on photo gallery under the Moreno Psychodrama Society on the left hand side of the opening page of this website - some of these photos were taken during the sociometric choice as well as in other ares of the conference in 2006 in Melbourne).

The rooms in the Conference venue in St Louis will have already been somewhat chosen for each presenter, on the basis of how many people they want in their sessions, who they are or what their sessions are about - already those scientific committee members with a canny knack for tele will have worked out to some degree who will have a lot of people at their session but "you never really know". But also a FLOOR PLAN and FAMILIARITY of the SIZE of ROOMS are the required tools of the MC's.

New people are encouraged in sociometric choosing of sessions, they get more connected more easily, as do all participants. People warm up more easily. The MC may ask people to introduce themselves to another as they walk on their way to their respective session rooms.

You might have a bank of musicians ready, just before sociometric choice and a flautist, or drummer, or saxophonist might play one or two bars to alert people to the fact that the sociometric choosing is about to begin and to call them in to the large room where the sociometric choice takes place every day.

The MC's need to be fast, slow but focussed, flexible, maybe quirky, spontaneous and even witty. I am up for this role and would love Mario to be my partner in this spontaneous endeavor for the forthcoming ASGPP Conference in St Louis.

I welcome any questions any of you may have.

With good wishes,
Sue Daniel

suedan@netspace.net.au. Founder, Australian and Aotearoa Moreno Psychodrama Society.
Director, Psychodrama Institute of Melbourne
www.psychodrama-institute-melbourne.com
pim@netspace.net.au

Charming Cuba: A Professional and Personal Trip

By Lorelei Joy Goldman

In the darkness of the night, traveling on an old dirt road in an automobile that had ripped leather seats and no form in an unknown town could have been terrifying. The young man, Kesman who became my guide, was so informative about where we were going that my fear dissolved. We walked into the starlight night through a passageway with a thin path up three flights of stairs to an old pension type building. The room was small with an adjoining toilet, nineteen fifty style tile floors, and metal closed shutters that I was warned not to look out of because then someone could come into the space. There were four bunk beds with torn mattresses.

The air-conditioning was turned on and I used my own clothing to stay warm. I was not able to reach the air conditioning unit.

This was the International Playback Theatre congress with nine Americans, six German people, and one woman from Chile and many Cubans who were in training with the program in Havana.

On the second day the participants of this congress crawled into a crowded rickety yellow bus on the way to the public plaza for a Playback event. Colorful clowns greeted us on stilts welcoming us to the plaza. It is in this square that I learned about the illustrious El Cabellero de Paris. He was a gentleman who came from Paris to Havana and was accused of stealing and then was put in prison. His madness began to take form there. The statue is in front of the Covento de San Francisco de Assis de la Habana. When this man was released he would go out into the plaza handing out flowers. I do not know of any such hero acknowledged in our culture that went mad that had a statue erected in his honor. I heard the next day from a participant of the Congress that the priest of the Sunday morning masses told my story as his sermon for Sunday mass.

The representations of the stories played out in the public squares were universal, the Cuban music poignant and the audiences spellbound.

On the Monday before my departure home I volunteered time and worked in the medical clinic where I directed psychodrama with the staff and their patients at the Manila El Monastery y Ayuntamiento Cerro Ciudad Habana, Buba clinic. I felt honored and privileged to be with such a community of charming Cubans. Spending time with the community of those challenged by addiction was an honor. The psychologists seemed to be over-worked telling me they sometimes worked thirty hours a day. They wished to know more about the specifics of the method I directed. At the end of our time I was presented

with one white orchid and a fresh pineapple. We then went into the office and processed the morning experience.

My translator was the young man who met me at the airport. We worked well together and I slowed down my direction for the purpose of the translation. He spoke a Cuban Spanish. Seemingly different than Castilian Spanish.

In Cuba confidentiality is not a tenet. So, that if something occurs in a playback experience or at the clinic there is no reference to what we in America mention, "everything in here, stays in here." This is puzzling and I am not sure how this is translated into the community and the culture.



My last day was spent seeing more of the city. The Malecón, the public squares and a particular special park area. Here, in this small park we completed our adventure. The young Kesman had been reminding me all week that he would take me to see the statue of Lenin. We went to a park area and walked toward a golden statue

seated on a park bench. This sculpture seemed to be pulsating and alive. The statue had long hair. In front of the bench were lines from his work. "You may say that I'm a dreamer but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us and the world will live as one." I was expecting a bust of Marxist Lenin. Instead I found the inspiration of our John Lennon.

Perhaps they both were dreamers.

Lorelei J. Goldman, MA, TEP, is the Training Director of the Psychodrama Training Institute of Chicago.

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Action Board

(Continued from Page 5)

* **Suzie Jary, LCSW, CP, PAT**, has relocated to Fort Worth, TX, and continues to travel conducting workshops for Career Transition For Dancers, a not-for-profit organization. She recently went to the North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem to expose young artists to career development. Suzie used sociometric exercises to help the young adults warm-up to the idea of creating an expanded role repertoire, as all part of 'Plan A' for an Artist to survive in 21st Century.

* **Sue Barnum, MA, CGP, TEP**, welcomed **Nick Wolff** and **Jude Treder-Wolff** to Texas in late May for a fundraiser. Jude did her cabaret show as a benefit for Sue's volunteer project, Creativity for Peace, which brings Palestinian and Israeli teen girls together for 3 week camps in the summer to dialogue, have fun together, and generally learn to love and respect each other. Part of the creativity in Creativity for Peace is drama/psychodramaalong with every other kind of art, knitting, music, etc., thus the name of the organization.

* **Louise Lipman, LCSW, CGP, TEP**, is delivering the Keynote address at The Eastern Group Psychotherapy Conference, a branch of the AGPA, this November entitled "Mutual Desires and Mutual Growth: How Therapists Evolve with their Groups."

* NEW BOOKS / ARTICLES / RESOURCES * TRAINING MATERIALS

* **Eva Swenson** in Canada has just produced a resource, the "Dance Cards." These are aids to the use of a sociometric technique in which, in dyads, participants can be systematically helped to connect with others for feedback discussions. This technique was described by Eva in an article in the Fall 2006 issue of the *Journal of Group Psychotherapy, Psychodrama and Sociometry*, and is an aid in teaching about sociometry or exploring group dynamics. The "Dance Cards" technique is best used for groups that include anywhere from 5 to 30 participants, and the CD offers a variety of options, thus permitting you to wait until you know the exact number of people in the anticipated group session. The "cards" may be taken off of a ready-to-print CD-ROM. eva.swenson@sympatico.ca or phone 416-767-9991.

* **Tom Treadwell, EdD, TEP**, and his colleagues recently published a chapter in a book: Treadwell, T., Kumar, V. K., & Wright, J. (2008). "Group cognitive behavioral model: integrating cognitive behavior with psychodramatic theory and techniques." In S. S. Fehr (Ed.), *101 Interventions in Group Therapy*. New York: Haworth.

* **Greta W. Stanton's book** has just been published by Xlibris: *I am still alive in the shadow of shoah (What I remember and what I want my grandchildren to know*

about my life experiences). Available through Google and Amazon.

* **Atieno Fisher, MA, CP**, published this article recently in an online journal: Fisher, J. Atieno. (2007). "Congenial alliance: synergies in cognitive and psychodramatic therapies." *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts*, 1 (4), 237-242. Check her website for another article: www.usoni.com/documents/Simulationarticlefinal.pdf

* **Adam Blatner, MD, TEP**, has an article in *New Therapist*. Blatner, A. (November-December, 2007). "Boundaries & access: Important categories for negotiations." *New Therapist*, No. 52, 16-21.

New Therapist is a journal published in the UK, South Africa, and used by progressive therapists internationally. Check out their website: www.newtherapist.com. There are back issues available, some of which deal with psychodrama-related topics.

* **Tian Dayton, PhD, TEP**, has written a chapter titled "Emotional repair through action methods: The use of psychodrama, sociometry, psychodramatic journaling and experiential group therapy with adolescents" (Chapter 15, pp. 197-211), in V. A. Camilleri (Ed.), *Healing the inner city child: Creative arts therapies with at-risk youth*. Philadelphia & London: Jessica Kingsley.

* **Jim Sacks, PhD, TEP**, compiled a bibliography of references about psychodrama in the mid-90s, and this has continued to be added to so that it has more than doubled in size. Recently the number of citations has risen over the 6,000 mark. It is available free through the internet at www.pdbib.org. It has an associated search engine so you can look up any author, any word or phrase in the title and retrieve the reference. You can then download only what you want.

* From **Adam Blatner**. "GroupTalk: A Listserve for Psychodramatists: An introduction, how to subscribe & unsubscribe, and how to send messages." (from Prof. Thomas Treadwell, West Chester, Pennsylvania, listserv coordinator: list-owner@grouptalkweb.org).

As a member of the network of psychodramatists online, you can participate in discussions about activities in the field, be informed of relevant workshops, share your ideas, find out about the activities of the listserv members, etc.

A listserv allows you to send and receive email with this community without having to receive or send the entire list of addresses each time, thus saving considerable space and work.

To subscribe to grouptalk visit this website: http://grouptalkweb.org/mailman/listinfo/list_grouptalkweb.org

ASGPP ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009



INVITATION TO ENCOUNTER:
Meet Me in St. Louis
 The Ritz-Carlton Hotel
 St. Louis, MO
 March 26-30, 2009

The Executive Council is proud to announce the site and date selection for the '09 conference.

Just as the city's shining gateway arches over a vast expanse, this conference will serve as a creative expression of the amazing variety that our psychodrama community has to offer. Like the arch which beckons to St. Louis, the presentations and programs will serve as a vital part of what draws us together for this opportunity for encounter.

Meet us in St. Louis! Watch for more details on the ASGPP web site and in coming editions of the PNN.



Into Surplus Reality

for Nina Garcia and Dale Richard Buchanan

by Joan Mazza

A pile of scarves, *Such a waste of colorful fabrics*, I thought, impatient with choosing, draping, tying them, listening to their meanings.

With narrowed eyes, I watched for one of you to falter, show yourself as another con, mouthing empty words.

I feared you'd script me, tell me what I felt and what it meant, stifle passionate intuition, dreams.

When did I pass into the trance, begin to trust again, allow myself a chance to open old diaries,

let the pages quicken and change, alter dreary endings, hear the words I needed, speak those never spoken?

With psychodrama's magic, I stepped up to say, *I want*, saw each of us say yes and no, watched secrets lose their power.

surplus reality, I inched forward, your hand on my shoulder, casting for what was beneath the surface.

Go deeper. Go inside.
Repeat it or correct it. Louder. Again.

You never said, *Forgive*. You said, Remember, and You know, told me to believe I could, let me blunder and practice.

How many tears and tissues until my ragged edges smoothed and I was almost grown?

I donned three scarves in earth tones.
 We planted a thousand thousand seeds.

Joan Mazza, MS, LMHC

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August 13-15, 2008

Healing Communities in Conflict

Barbara Guest, MSW, TEP and Miriam Zachariah, MEd, CP, PAT

August 15-17, 2008

Finding My Place — Sociometric Exercises to Use with Children

Miriam Zachariah, MEd, CP, PAT and Regina Moreno, MA

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President's Column

(Continued from Page 1)

individuals as well, that the annual conference be less expensive, in less expensive locations. Many believe this will open the conference to those that find the current price structure beyond their reach. I will refer you to the on-line poll, located in the Member's Forum of the ASGPP web, where you are encouraged to cast your vote for one of the settings for a conference venue. This is a request that came out of the business meeting.

The 2009 Annual Conference, "Invitation to Encounter - Meet Me in St. Louis", has been scheduled for March 26-30, 2009 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, St. Louis, MO. I am excited to be going to a city rich in the history of psychodrama. I also believe the conference committee and Executive Council have an opportunity to co-create a conference that can be experienced without the financial demands of past conferences. I look forward to encountering many of you in St. Louis!

I would like to welcome Carole Oliver and Norma Kay Lord as recently elected Executive Council members. Also, the re-election of Suzie Jary and Michael Traynor to the Executive Council gives the continuity needed as we make so many changes during this year and the years to come. As provided in the By-Laws, I recently appointed Jeanne Burger, Sue Daniel and Casandra Beam to the Executive Council to fill one year terms. Please join me in welcoming all the above individuals to exciting times in service to the Society. As I ask you to say hello to the new council members, I will ask you to say "Thanks" to Martie Adams as she ended her term on the council June 1. Martie has served us well, bringing kindness, compassion and dedication. Thank you Martie.

I am inviting us to try some new processes and approaches regarding the annual conference. These times of change and transition, not only in the conference but organizationally as well, will require an adequate degree of spontaneity from us all.

In closing let me remind you to get in touch with me if you are interested in serving either on the conference committee or a committee of the Society. Your help is needed now more than ever.

Here to serve,
John Rasberry, TEP
President

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

The time has come to encourage you to submit nominations for Awards for 2009. Please visit the ASGPP web site to see the categories of Awards and past recipients. To submit nominations, go to the ASGPP web site, download the Award Nomination Form for the particular award you are nominating for, fill it out and mail to the central office. The deadline for nominations is **August 1, 2008**.

Respectfully,
Dena Baumgartner, TEP
Chair, Awards Committee

Professional Education Opportunities at Lesley University

- Psychodrama with Children and Adolescents—Phillip Speiser
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- Training Workshop in Psychodrama—Ed Schreiber
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with Rebecca Walters

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Midwest Chapter Is Awakening!

By Karen Carnabucci

After a three-year sleep, the Midwest chapter of ASGPP is reorganizing with the help of psychodramatists, drama therapists and others interested in experiential methods in the chapter's 12-state area.

We hope to take advantage of new 21st century technology that helps practitioners, trainers and students connect with each other with teleconferences — eliminating the need for extensive travel — as well as delivery of a newsletter by email and "cluster" mini-conferences in various areas.

Chapter members also expect to help with organizing the 2009 annual ASGPP conference in St. Louis, MO.

The chapter is open to those who are members of the national ASGPP as well as those professionals and students who are not members of the national organization. We welcome psychodramatists, creative arts therapists, experiential therapists, Playback Theatre actors and others interested in the use of psychodrama and action methods for psychotherapy, professional and community theater, business organization and training, and law.

For information, or to receive a membership brochure, please contact Karen Carnabucci at karenc@wi.rr.com, (262) 633-2645 or see the membership page at www.midwestpsychodrama.org.

Marketing

(Continued from Page 4)

consultation programs as well as books, DVDS and other materials but also to get their names in front of others with an interesting donation of any kind. It's not too early to think about how you want to present yourself to your psychodrama colleagues with your donation to the auction at the 2009 conference.

Karen Carnabucci, MSS, LCSW, TEP, practices and teaches psychodrama, sociometry and action methods in Racine, Wis. She is the author and publisher of "Whole Person Marketing" and "Practical Psychodrama." For more information, see her Web site at www.lakehouse-center.com or write to Karen at karenc@wi.rr.com to receive her e-mail newsletter on psychodrama.



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Gong Shu, Jaqueline Dubbs Siroka,
Robert Siroka, Guy Taylor, Jan Tras,
Daniel J. Wiener, Marie Welsch,
Natalie Winters, Nick Wolff

NEW! NEW! NEW!

The Psychodrama Papers

by John Nolte

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