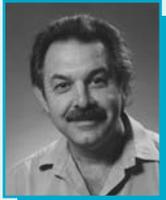




PSYCHODRAMA NETWORK NEWS

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY AND PSYCHODRAMA

SUMMER 2004



*From the
ASGPP
president*

By René Marineau

Where are we heading?

Let me first congratulate and thank the Conference Committee for our last conference in New York: the co-chairs, Cindy Edgar, Millie Rein and Joan Stevenson, and everyone who worked on committees and volunteered their time and energy to make this meeting a real success. Our annual conference does remain our most important moment, both for friendly and professional encounters and sharing of our expertise. Comments have been very positive, and financially, we were able to make a substantial profit, thanks to tight budgeting from the Conference Committee and the central office. Let me also thank the members of the Executive Council who are leaving us after years of dedicated service. A special appreciation to Vickey Finger, who did a remarkable job as Chair of the Publications Committee when she accepted to fill the term of Carl Hollander. Thanks to Rebecca Walters, a woman of action, very active on a number of issues and always ready to show up for demanding tasks. I want to thank Bernice Garfield-Szita who helped us secure money for our Website. A very special word of appreciation to Jean Campbell, who chose to resign for personal reasons, but who has been our

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“What we see in others we strengthen in ourselves”

Opening Plenary Address at the 2004 Annual ASGPP Conference
by Daniel J. Tomasulo, PhD, TEP, MFA

This phrase, "what we see in others we strengthen in ourselves," from *A Course In Miracles*, touches the core elements of psychodynamic theory. Beyond a simple transference or projection lies intention, or more specifically, choice in our perception. Although what we see in others is certainly colored by cumulative experiences in our family of origin, it is actually our capacity to discern familiar from unfamiliar (or uncommon) that helps us become aware of characteristics inherited from our family (typically our parents) versus traits foreign or infrequently encountered. These interactions are filtered through our emerging self, then catalogued for each family member into broad classifications, such as desirable, undesirable, engaging or fearful, loving or hateful. These repetitive interactions generate an emotional prototype, an expectation of a familiar range of reactions unique to each family member. We know how to be with our mother, and know what to expect from her. We can anticipate our father's reaction and are surprised (or frightened, or pleased) if his behavior falls outside of our expectation. The broad categories we form are features we either want to emulate, or activities, manners or conduct we wish to reject. It is from these prototypes that we select and regulate our relations with others. The suppression or total repression of unwanted characteristics was recognized by Carl Jung to be aspects of the shadow and by Karen Horney to be the features of what she referred to as the despised self.

Because psychotherapy is a corrective discipline, the focus has historically been to identify the negative aspects of one's development. We reach back to scenes of traumatic events and, much more commonly, reach back to scenes that are amalgams of repetitive encounters that have been damaging through neglect or volatility. But looking beyond awareness of what injured us the more intriguing question becomes: *What* was damaged?

The emerging self, our core sense of being, is a survival based entity that learns how to endure in the familial environment while taking notes about what has survival value, and what has potential for destruction. These are the broad characteristics mentioned above. The negative characteristics of (typically) our parents are pieced together like a mosaic to form our

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63rd Annual ASGPP Meeting

Miami Beach, Florida
April 14-18, 2005

2005 Conference Co-Chairs
Sue McMunn, Mary Bellofatto, Nancy Kirsner

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Psychodrama Network News SUMMER 2004

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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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The Whole of Mankind



by Sue Barnum

THE NATURAL PATH TO HEALING

As I sit on the front porch of my little log cabin in the woods just north of Santa Fe, smelling the piñons, hearing the bird and animal sounds and the rustling of the breeze through the trees, feeling the cool of that summer morning breeze on my skin, I am keenly aware of the restorative power of my connection with nature. I didn't discover this magic until my mid 30's, having grown up in "town." But many of you may have grown up much more intimately connected to nature, so this discussion of one of our members' work with natural path to healing may feel familiar and, I hope, interesting to you.

Jack Shupe, a PAT from Bellingham, Washington, is a naturopathic doctor who has integrated psychodrama and sociodrama into his practice, bringing a deeper mind/body connection to his patients than either discipline alone would offer. His own experience of the natural healing process, as part of his recovery from emotional and physical tragedies, led him to begin the study of natural medicine at age 32. Following pre med work at the University of Washington, he looked into medical schools, but was more drawn to natural medicine's harmony with nature and problem-based learning approach than what he experienced as the fierce competition and rigid hierarchy of the medical world. Jack began psychodrama training with John Mosher in 1994, became a CP in 2002 and is now in the PAT process. Natural medicine and action methods seemed like a perfect fit, and I suspect that Moreno would agree. He also has an acupuncture degree and is an ordained minister of Spiritual Healers and Earth Stewards.

A naturopath's license reads "drugless therapeutics," so Jack uses psychodrama and sociodrama instead of psychotropic medicine. He does consult with MD's regularly but uses natural methods to their limit. Let me give you an idea of how Jack's integration of the disciplines works. As a naturopath, he always seeks the "tollum causum," the initiating causes of an illness or dysfunction. If, for example, he prescribes echinacea and golden seal for a patient's upper respiratory infection and the patient comes back complaining about the bitterness of the supplement, Jack might do a bit of psychodrama with the supplement itself, having the patient role reverse with the bitterness. He would be curious about what the patient is bitter about. Having the patient in the role of

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Announcing....

The New York Psychodrama Training Institute at Caron

DIRECTOR:

Tian Dayton PhD, TEP

For information about training groups
call Tian Dayton at 212-371-3220 #4399

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

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

JOURNAL

The current editors of *The Journal of Group Psychotherapy, Psychodrama and Sociometry* are Tian Dayton, David Kipper, Pam Remer and Tom Treadwell. On April 16th they met in Washington, DC with Heldref, the organization that publishes our journal. I went as an observer. At that meeting four special theme editions were decided upon. They are Addictions overseen by Tian Dayton; Families overseen by David Kipper; Diversity Training overseen by Pam Remer; and Children overseen by Tom Treadwell. If you have any interest in writing an article on any of these topics please contact the appropriate editor by going to the web and finding their contact information or calling the ASGPP office.

At the meeting we also decided to put in place a two-pronged mentorship program. The first is for members who have an idea they want to write about but do not quite know how to get started or if it is appropriate for the Journal. The second is people who send in an article but receive a "need to revise" letter from Heldref. Along with that letter will be an invitation from the Publications Committee to have a mentor assigned to help in the process of revision. Both of these programs can be accessed through the ASGPP office.

WEBSITE

The online directory is up and running. We know lots of people are using it because we can count the hits. You can now edit your own listing updating addresses, phones, etc. We now also have credit card capability on line to register for the conference. This is especially important for next year's conference where we hope to have many international people. By the time you get this PNN you will probably also see a new look and easier to use format. Check it out! Rory Remer, the website overseer is in the process of establishing guidelines for advertising and links on the Web page. Let him know if you are interested.

PNN

The PNN has been a real bright spot for us. Jude Treder-Wolff will be continuing as editor for one more year. We are looking for others who have newsletter or publishing experience and would like to step into this position next April or role train with Jude before that.

This will be my last report as Publications Chair. The new chair for this committee will be announced as soon

as they are confirmed. I will remain on as Journal liaison.

Vickey Finger, Publications Committee Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

As the saying goes, there's good news and bad news. First, the good news. Due to the incredible work of the 2004 Conference Committee, we are currently showing a \$15,000 profit from the conference. We still have receivables outstanding, which may actually add another \$2,000-3,000 to that number. Once all the "dust settles" from bills that must be paid, we will have a clearer picture of the final number. This news is worth celebrating! I want to thank the three conference co-chairs Cindy Edgar, Millie Rein, and Joan Stevenson for keeping their costs down and the income up! And a special thanks to Sue McMunn, who ran the Silent Auction this year, and did a great job organizing this important money-maker for the Society.

The other good news is that we have once again reopened the Lifetime category of membership. The categories are broken down as follows: if you are 70 years or older in 2005, the rate is \$1,000. If you are 60 years old the rate is \$2,000. For each year between 61 and 69 subtract \$100 from that \$2,000 base. For example, if you are 64 in 2005, then your payment would be \$1,600 (\$2,000 minus \$400 or \$100 each for your 61st, 62nd, 63rd and 64th birthdays). Similarly, if you are 50 years of age, then the base is \$3,000 and you subtract \$100 for each birthday after your 50th. Payment plans are available, but full payment would need to be made by the end of 2004. If you are interested in becoming a lifetime member, or if you have any questions about it, please contact the main office at 609-452-1339.

Now for the bad news. For personal reasons, I have decided to step down and resign my role as Treasurer. The Executive Committee has met by conference call and, with the help of the Nominations Committee, headed by Steve Kopp, is in the process of seeking a new Treasurer. Rest assured, I will be available for consultation and role training for our new Treasurer to allow for as smooth a transition as possible. Four years ago, when I was appointed to this role, the finances of the Society were in a shambles. I am proud to say that the Finance Committee has worked hard, along with our Executive Director, Eduardo Garcia and his assistant Jennifer Reis, to put the books in good order and for the Treasury to run

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Planary Address

(Continued from Page 1)

despised self—our worst fear of who we could become. But an equally powerful, positively regulated self is being formed by the same mechanics. All the positive features of our parents, siblings and, as Alice Miller has called them, benevolent or enlightened witnesses of our childhood, are being catalogued into attributes that we aspire to rather than despise. This is, in large part, what Jung referred to as the white shadow and what I believe may more accurately be understood as *the aspired self*. It is commonly understood that we will project on to others those negative characteristics that abide in ourselves. But this is also true of those things we admire, respect, appreciate and have high regard for in others. When we acknowledge these features in others it is driving to consciousness the unrealized or undeveloped aspects of our aspired self.

What we see in others we strengthen in ourselves is a statement referring to the mechanics of the psyche. If we allow ourselves to be drawn to noticing the negatives in others we are reinforcing those aspects in ourselves. If, however, we are able to allow ourselves to see the good, decent, and inspired qualities in others, we can see the best parts of ourselves coming to fruition.

For more information about Dan Tomasulo visit his website, www.TheHealingCrowd.com

This is part one of two articles.

2004 Annual ASGPP Conference



Photography courtesy of Mark Lamhut

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PSYCHODRAMA / SOCIODRAMA STUDIES

◆

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This is Your Council

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smoothly. Our next step is to find alternative sources of income as the annual Conference is not sufficient to run the organization.

Thanks to all who supported me in this role, especially Louise Lipman and Eduardo Garcia, and the current officers, René Marineau, Nick Wolff and Sue McMunn. It is with great regret that I step down at this time, and yet I know it is the right thing to do as I will not be available to fulfill the obligations of the role. I have great faith in this Society, and I know that we will be able to work together to grow and prosper.

Jean Campbell, Treasurer

NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL POSITION: Conference Liason

I am very pleased to have been elected to a new position during our May meeting in Brooklyn, officially entitled Conference Liason. My responsibilities include:

- To ensure reliable, ongoing communication between the annual conference chairs and the Council at every stage of the conference development process;
- To write protocols for one to two day institutes that promote psychodrama, sociometry and group psychotherapy;
- To provide assistance for groups all over the country who choose to offer these institutes in their area and share the profits with ASGPP, for example:
 - * To explore options and advise the groups as to when and how to advertise;
 - * To provide information about and help using mailing lists;
 - * To support and advise in the selection and securing of speakers.

I am presently in communication with folks in two cities and am beginning to gather pertinent information to help them (we already have some free volunteer speakers). I just began the program by doing a half-day Bibliodrama workshop last month under these new auspices. As a result, nine people now know more about Bibliodrama (and my work) as well as all the good reasons to join ASGPP...and the national organization is richer by a few dollars. Perhaps they should call my new position Psychodrama Saleswoman!

If you and a couple of colleagues would like to do such a thing *on any scale*, please let me know!

Sue Barnum, Conference Liaison

MEMERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

We had a great conference in Brooklyn, New York, and I appreciated the opportunity to meet some of the

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REMEMBERING Joe Hart

9/10/30-4/16/03

Joe Hart, a real stalwart of psychodrama for decades who supported sociometry and other approaches, died of cancer last year in his retirement home in south Florida. He obtained his Ed.D from North Texas State University in 1960, and after a stint as a regional JobCorps director, served on the faculty of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Social Work from the early nineteen-seventies through 1988. His "Future Travel" technique was featured in *Omni Magazine* in 1988.

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www.centerforcounseling.com

The Whole of Mankind

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the bitterness for a while, he would most likely glean an entrée to past experience that is manifesting in the physical illness. He also knows that in oriental medicine, upon which naturopathy is based, that the bitters affect the lungs negatively, so lung issues can indicate unresolved grief. He also knows that heart issues may indicate lack of joy or "overjoy" (mania) and liver issues may indicate anger and depression.

As an example, Jack tells a great story about an 11 year-old boy with asthma. Working with the principle that anger can "jump start" the lungs and stimulate the release of natural cortisol, which is suppressed when anger is repressed, an oriental doctor got angry with the young man, telling him "It's your job to breathe!" The young man was startled and began to breathe freely. I asked Jack if he would treat illnesses such as manic depression if he came across them. He suggested that a generational psychodrama with the patient might produce family history that reveals others in the family with the disease, when it appeared, and under what circumstances.

Closeness to nature has characterized Jack's life and passion all of his life. From the age of five - when he watched his uncle's neighbor talk a swarm of bees into their hive - he knew he had found a calling for himself by working in harmony with nature. That neighbor and his wife became his great friends and mentors. From them he learned organic farming, which he practices to this day, to deeply connect with nature, and that through interaction with nature we enliven ourselves.

Being a real fan of Louise Hay's *Heal Your Body*, a book that links every kind of physical disorder with an emotional manifestation, I have found the mind/body connection to be incredibly accurate and helpful in diagnosis and in treatment. My patients are astonished at Hay's accuracy relating their physical and emotional conditions. Jack cites several books for anyone interested in more mind/body information: J. R. Worsley's books on the five elements, *The Complete Book of Chinese Health and Healing* by Daniel Reid, and *Dungeon Rises and Red Bird Flies* by Leon Hammer, an MD psychiatrist who integrates psychology and Chinese medicine. Bernie Seigel's *Love, Medicine and Miracles* speaks of the mind as healer as well as the mind as slayer, something I know many of us see in ourselves as well as in our clients.

Jack is currently working with his training group on the five relationship myths, four from John Mosher's work, which are: being abandoned, being betrayed, being disempowered, and being mindless, and one Jack is developing himself, the myth of not belonging

Natural medicine, as well as most mystical spiritual and metaphysical traditions, works from the premise that we are all one. That we are all made of the same stuff and

are intimately interconnected. It is my thought that Moreno worked from a similar premise, that the creative energy - the Godhead - from which we come is what we seek to uncover in ourselves and our clients through action methods.

I want to express my thanks to Jack for his willingness to let us have a peek into his ways of working and thinking. I suggest that you might want to think about how your work might impact the whole of the psychodrama community, even the whole of mankind, if you were willing to share it with me and with this newsletter.

This is Your Council

(Continued from Page 5)

more than 50 first time attendees. Thanks to each of you for coming to the conference and for attending the newcomer's reception. Following are some of the comments from these attendees:

What Was Good:

- "I had a good experience, felt welcomed and included."
- "I felt seen in a workshop, and doubled by a loving group."
- "I felt safe with the honesty of the people within the organization and the level of sharing within the leadership."
- "There were too many choices, which was confusing, but the process was rejuvenating."
- "Colleen did a wonderful job in the processing room."
- "I loved the warm-ups, and all the people I met through the large group experience."
- "It was great observing the styles of the different presenters."

What Needs To Be Changed:

- "Some workshops too didactic to be properly integrated."
- "More time: to eat, for questions, and processing between sessions"
- "More all-day workshops."
- "The leadership was too hard on themselves."

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**HUDSON VALLEY
PSYCHODRAMA INSTITUTE**

Directors: Judy Swallow, MA, TEP and Rebecca Walters, MS, TEP

[Liz White Workshop: In Praise of Older Women](#)

October 1-3, 2004

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ACTION BOARD

* **Jacob Gershoni, CSW, TEP** and **Nan Nally-Seif, CSW, DCSW, TEP** presented on countertransference, specifically using action methods to elevate self-awareness of client and therapist, at the NASW Addictions Institute in New York on May 24, 2004.

* **Rebecca Walters, TEP** and **Bill Coleman, TEP** presented "Psychodrama with In Patient Psychiatric Patients" at the American Group Psychotherapy Association Conference in March 2004. Rebecca also presented at "Connecting Mind and Body in the Treatment of Traumatic Stress: A Conference for Treatment Providers" which was sponsored by the Orange County Trauma Initiative on May 14, 2004 in Middletown, NY.

* **Eberhard Scheffele, PhD, RDT, CP** taught a Summer Intensive Training course titled "Sociodrama" which covered the theory and practice of sociodrama as a therapeutic and educational modality for use in drama therapy, at Kansas State University, June 21 - 25, 2004.

* **David Kipper, PhD, ABPP, TEP, CGP** was elected President of the American Academy of Group Psychology, 2004, and was an invited speaker at the XIV International Congress of the International Family Therapy Association held in Istanbul, Turkey, March 26-28, 2004. He and his wife, Barbara, were the recipients of the Golden Scepter Award by the National Foundation of Jewish Culture on March 1, 2004.

* **Rebecca Walters** and **Tian Dayton** are co chairs of an ASGPP subcommittee on the upcoming NYS

Licensure law. Final details will be totally ironed out at the end of 2004. Meanwhile, Rebecca has information about this new law and will be glad to discuss the details, as they get clarified, with anyone who has questions. She can be reached at 845-255-7502.

* **The Hudson Valley Chapter of the ASGPP** continues to offer Psychodrama Open Sessions at Boughton Place in Highland, NY on the third Friday of most months. Spring 2004 sessions were directed by **Clare Danielsson, TEP, Sarah Urech, CP** and **Regina Peterson, CP**. Each month between 15 and 30 community members, psychodrama students, graduate students, regulars and newcomers gather to create community and explore issues in action under the guidance of experienced psychodramatists. Rebecca Walters has created guidelines for conducting open sessions which are available to anyone who contacts her at hvpi@hvc.rr.com

* Psychodrama was represented at the Annual Drama Therapy Conference, Aug. 12-15, 2004: **Daniel J. Wiener, PhD, ABPP, RDT, CGP, MFT** presented "The Family Inside You: A Training Resource for Actors and Therapists" and "Playing with Trouble: Improvisational Group Therapy for Court-Mandated Teens" with John A. Phelps, MSMFT. **Rebecca Walters, MS, TEP, ASGPP** presented "Child Work/Child Play." **Pat Sternberg, MA, RDT/BCT** was part of a panel discussing "Alternative Training: At the Crossroads." **Kathy Amsden, MSW, LCSW**, presented "Awakening: A Musical Road to Recovery," and "Voice & Body's Wisdom Heals Trauma: Sound, Movement and The Therapeutic Spiral Model" with Kim Burden, MA, RDT, ADTR.

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This is Your Council *(Continued from Page 6)*

Ways To Improve the Conference:

- Add workshops on use of psychodrama with children
- More bilingual therapists and cultural diversity
- Provide phone numbers of all attendees
- Have the conference in New York every two years
- Have door prizes at the new members meeting to get more attendees

Where To Go From Here - The Future From Perspective of New Members:

- Expressed desire to use psychodrama to expand into the world we live in to make it the world they want to live in.
- Interest in obtaining CP and TEP and integrating psychodrama with present training
- Interest in presenting workshops at future conferences

and give back to ASGPP.

- Reintroduce psychodrama to Japan within ten years, and start a training group there
- Increase cultural diversity work using psychodrama

Thank you to all ASGPP members who attended the 2004 conference, and I encourage each member to get involved in our organization and take advantage of some of the benefits of membership. Welcome to all the first-time attendees and new members, thanks for your participation and candid comments. The Executive Council is open to your feedback and appreciates your support as we all work together to make this an organization that responds to the needs of the membership. I can be reached at 239-775-9707 or by e-mail at marybellofatto@yahoo.com. Thank you for your support. See you in Miami in 2005.

Mary Bellofatto, Membership Chair

CONFERENCES AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES



EACH OF THESE CONFERENCES IS A DOORWAY TO EXPANDED POSSIBILITIES FOR PSYCHODRAMATISTS.

October 13 -16, 2004

"Leaping Into the Chaos: Embracing the Unexpected In Business and in Life:" Summit for Improvisation in Business 2004

The Holiday Inn, Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco, CA
More information available at www.appliedimprov.net

November 10-14, 2004

"Creative Fire" 35th Annual American Association of Art Therapy Conference

Town & Country Hotel, San Diego, California.
Contact AATA, 1202 Allanson Road, Mundelein, Illinois
60060-3808, 1-888-290-0878 or 847-949-6064
www.arttherapy.org

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"Moving Forward with Music Therapy" 6th Annual American Music Therapy Association Conference

Austin, Texas. Contact AMTA 8455, Colesville Road, Suite 1000, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
(301) 589-3300, www.musictherapy.org

CALL FOR PAPERS

The editors of the **Journal of Group Psychotherapy, Psychodrama and Sociometry** seek papers for a special issue on working with children and adolescents. The purpose of this special issue is to highlight a range of group psychotherapeutic, psychodramatic, and sociometric practices, techniques and procedures, as well as diverse educational interventions, in work with troubled children and adolescents. The editors will review submissions on a first-come first-served basis. Authors are to follow the journal guidelines for submission found on the back inside cover of each issue, and online at www.helfref.org. Send manuscripts to Rebecca Walters, Hudson Valley Psychodrama Institute, 68 DuBois Road, New Paltz, NY 12561. Ph:845-255-7502. Email hvpi@hvc.rr.com.

ASGPP president

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financial conscience and a saviour for us. Her will to serve the Society in a time when we absolutely needed a well-organized mind around financial issues could not be over-stressed. To these people, I want to say that you did make a difference in a time of re-building and be sure that knowing your strengths, we will remember how to stay in touch.

I was personally very pleased with our annual meeting. In addition to the usual Wednesday meeting, Antony Williams led Council members in a half-day retreat on Thursday, and important decisions were made at that time. At Saturday's general meeting, members gathered in a surprising number, stayed during the whole session and got involved in the discussion. Under Antony's creative facilitation, we were able to somewhat locate where the Society stands in different areas and point to the future.

In Santa Fe in 2003, as a Society we reconnected with ourselves, our history and our will to survive: it was the "road back in". This year, we are able to look at the "road ahead." In order to understand the path that we are suggesting for the future, let me share with you some of the directions taken by the Council during our mini-retreat.

<p>MID-SOUTH CENTER</p>  <p>FOR PSYCHODRAMA AND SOCIOMETRY</p>	September 18-19 PICK YOUR POISON Treatment of Addictions
	October 16-17 THE TRIADIC SYSTEM
	November 20-21 FOLLOW OR LEAD? Issues in the Role of Director
	December 11-12 THE ART OF THE ENCOUNTER
<p>John Rasberry, MEd, LMFT, PAT 602 Jefferson, Tupelo, MS 38804 662-841-0881 · midsouthcenter@aol.com</p>	

Clinical Services FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOTHERAPY provides the opportunity to explore issues and feelings in a supportive, private, and confidential setting. Action methods may be utilized to work out inner conflicts as well as interpersonal problems.

RECOVERY GROUP - This on-going psychotherapy group consists of recovering alcoholics, co-dependents, ACOA's, as well as those struggling with depression or relationship issues. Action methods are used to identify and explore feelings, life roles, and more effective coping skills. This group may serve as a primary treatment group or may supplement on-going individual therapy.

Kathleen Lutz, LCSW, CADC, CP
362 Cedar Lane, Teaneck, NJ 07666, 201-836-0303

First, we re-affirmed our will to survive. Second, we decided that in order to fulfill our Mission, we will remain a separate, distinct and autonomous Society, yet recognize our links to both the other Group Psychotherapy Associations, such as IAGP, AGPA, South American Societies, and our ties to the creative and expressive arts movement (NCCATA). Third, reflecting on our Mission, we wish to continue to incorporate the Moreno heritage and legacy while finding ways and means to actualize it in the present world. We wish to be an umbrella society, open to all those who share our social concerns. Fourth, if we are to develop, we need to re-assess our "culture" and to re-invent ways of appealing again to a larger audience. Fifth, we need to be financially sound in order to achieve some of the goals we set for ourselves.

How can we achieve this? Here are some directions, rooted in a clear and comprehensive vision, that need to be taken.

A vision:

We may have lost some of our meaning because we lost sight of our "beacon." Moreno and his immediate followers were turned towards the needy and the sufferers in our society. Professionalism was not an issue at first and was certainly not the first issue to preoccupy the founders. Through the years, certification, and now licensing became important, but as a Society we somewhat let go of our sense of serving people on the street, in ghettos, in mental health institutions, in schools. We turned inward, and often, our clientele became our students in training. Psychodrama became our trademark, to the disadvantage of group therapy and sociometry. We lost our edge when we lost our ability to reach out rapidly and to deploy our energy towards problems of both ordinary folks and hurting groups. Today, we find ourselves out of colleges and universities and we are barely surviving in places like mental hospitals, e.g., St. Elizabeths Hospital, and school settings.

Who are we serving? Ourselves first? If we do, we will soon suffocate. Meanwhile, the world is at a crossroads, nations are suffering and fighting, individuals are dying of poverty, diseases and lack of support. Violence in all forms is everywhere. We need to recapture both the imagination and the talent of young students of sociology, psychology, medicine, social work, creative arts in order to produce dedicated workers who will replace a culture of self-centered individuals with one of caring, tolerance, openness and generosity. We need to quote Moreno, and stress that we need an army of "sociometrists," a clear dedication to group work and dynamics, a much broader use of sociodrama to help face and heal larger conflicts. We need to jump in the arena and re-invent ways to make ourselves needed. We must have the courage to challenge the ways we do things in this Society, ways that have increasingly isolated us from the larger preoccupations of the citizens in every country of the world.

We need not only to have a vision for the future, but to spell it out and discuss it more openly. What did make Moreno succeed in his time was the fact that he was, in his own way, a social activist and a caring citizen. And he dared to challenge the world he lived in. He was resolute in his quest for justice and dignity for every human being.

What I have been hearing in the past few years in our Society is a willingness to drastically change our "culture," or more precisely to become what we used to be. But in a way that would modernize our message, to address head on the tremendous task of being the frontrunners of solutions that would be both creative and socially efficient. I recognize that on an individual basis, many members in our Society are doing just this, but we need to go a step further by becoming a Society that would model and anticipate the changes. We need to support, as an organization, a vision that brings all of us together in a quest for individual and social changes aiming at helping everyone to become better people.

A program:

We need a program for the next decade. Specific goals and actions. Short term and long term. The Council has been moving in directions compatible with our vision of the future. We already have a sense of what our program can be and I intend to propose that the Council reflect and adopt such a program at our October meeting.

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ASGPP president

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This program needs to be both comprehensive and concrete. We also need the support of every active member. We intend to come up with solutions that are as consensual as possible, and in the long turn beneficial to everyone of us. Here are some of the elements that we can derive from our work in the last few years. Included are decisions that the Council already agreed on.

First we need to solidify our base. We need people to renew their membership year after year. But we also need to broaden our base. Re-enter colleges, universities, agencies, hospitals. This will not happen overnight, but we need to assert our will to extend from our traditional base of people involved in the certification process. This may mean being active in the development of graduate programs that would lead to some kind of recognized certification and licensing. If we are to be affiliated with organisations that develop knowledge, i.e., universities, and institutions that use it, such as schools, hospitals, etc., we need to find a proper balance between our ways to access and create meaningful knowledge - including research - and to use it. We need to think along the lines

of "reflexive practitioner," and dare using means to expand an already very rich intellectual heritage. To expand our membership, we may have to question our structure, e.g., collectives and chapters, re-visit our ties with our closest partners, e.g., the Board of Examiners, advance our involvement with other professional societies, and make a realistic assessment of the actual needs of the society we live in to determine the kind of contribution we can make.

Second, we plan to very seriously tackle the question of leadership. Even though, in the last few years we made clear improvement in terms of accountability regarding the Council and its officers, especially in relation to the Executive Director, we still have a very serious leadership problem. I would give three signs of this. One, in the time I have been on the Council (and I suspect the situation to be quite the same before), it is rare that members had a choice of candidates for officers of the Executive Committee at election time. The post of President, for example, was not challenged in years. Two, retention of Council members, who often decide not to run for a second term, and many even resign during their tenure is a problem. Being unsure about the upcoming composition of the group makes it very difficult to plan for the future and prepare the Council members for new responsibilities. Three, it is difficult to fill all the posts available on the Council and on standing committees.

We will be dealing with these questions from different angles: revision of By-laws (see below) a better use of the nomination committee (a full and very active group of people) and, I hope, a more open and diversified sociology that would allow for the real issues and motivations to be spelled out.

Third, we need to change the way we share our knowledge and the place we meet to do it. Already, the Council has directed the annual conference committees to find ways to make annual meetings less expensive. Furthermore in 2006, we hope to meet in a college or university setting. This would represent coming back to



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our roots, but also would give us an opportunity to be visible to a younger generation. We also plan to organize annual one-day Institutes in different areas of the Continent. Easier to plan and implement than a full conference, these Institutes can keep our visibility alive in areas where we are usually absent and could bring us much needed additional funds. The Institutes would be quite specific in terms of a theme, bringing new and interested people beyond our usual members.

Fourth, we want to bring our By-Laws up-to-date. We want them to reflect our actual and future organizational practices. For example, reviewing the role of President, the length of the mandate, the responsibilities of the Executive Committee and Council, the duties of the Executive Director, the integration of new realities (Website), etc. Our plan is to have a first draft ready for the fall, so the membership can have a chance to react, and then vote on the proposed changes. The intent, in my view, is clearly to have fewer committees with greater responsibilities and autonomy.

Fifth, we need to address the question of awards. We hear many negative comments, some well-founded and very legitimate, about the selection method and number of award winners. However, Awards Committee Chairs know how difficult a job it is, especially when the members do not engage in the nomination process. But I must say that the whole picture of how the Society presents itself and how it treats its most remarkable members, needs to be looked at. In a small Society like ours, and with the limited involvement of a relatively small number of members, the way we view and acknowledge members' contributions can be quite touchy and delicate. We may need to look at the whole situation of awards so that nobody feels that it has lost its significance within our Society.

Sixth, we need to be financially secure and growing. Already, we made decisions: re-open life-time members to rebuild a restricted fund; have an annual fund drive and an endowment fund; review the duty of the central office and cut, whenever possible, every expense that would not be seen as essential. From a more secure financial base, we could entertain new developments projects. We cannot grow if we have very limited financial resources, but we cannot have more money if we do not have appealing projects. Everything is tied together.

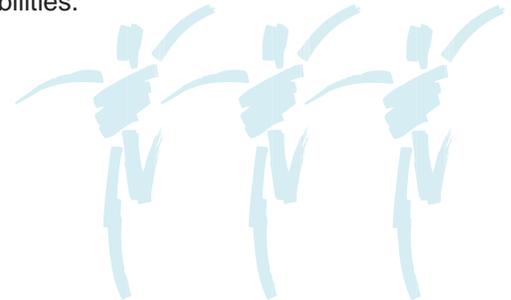
This is why we need everyone's dedication, energy and will to develop our Society's resources. We need members' willingness to accept new responsibilities in order to help in the development of a new ASGPP. I can assure you that you will be not only informed about our strategies for the next decade, but you will be asked to take an active part in our development.

Action Board

(Continued from Page 7)

THE PRINTED WORD

* *Healing Trauma: The Power of Group Treatment for People With Intellectual Disabilities* a recently published book by **Nancy J. Razza** and **Daniel J. Tomasulo** is available through the American Psychological Association web site www.apa.org/books, through the APA catalog, or by calling the APA order department at 800-374-2721. The book explores a significant development in both applications of psychodrama and effective therapies for this population. The authors describe interactive-behavioral therapy (IBT), based heavily on traditional models of group therapy and psychodrama, and modified to enhance the possibility for change in people with intellectual disabilities.



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