



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY AND PSYCHODRAMA

ASGPP Tele'Gram

August 2019 Monthly TELE'GRAM *Since June, 2018*

Dear ASGPP Members,
Welcome to the August 2019 Tele'Gram!

The safest way to be in the warming up process yourself is to become a member of the group... Every participant should feel that it is his own cause..., a purpose primarily for him..., that it is an opportunity for him to become an active agent..." (J.L.Moreno, Sociometry, 1949, p.115-116)

The Tele'Gram is issued through e-blast at the beginning of each month. Its purpose is to connect with everyone in the ASGPP on a regular basis - the council, the committees, and all members. As always, this issue will give you a lot of information about the many activities in the organization and will invite everyone to participate in committees and projects, to make suggestions, and, in general, to keep in touch with each other as a community.

We would like to start with a note of gratitude to our colleague, Ed Schreiber, for his generous gift to the ASGPP, appearing as a pro bono speaker at our 77th Conference in May 2019 in New Hampshire! A heartfelt THANK YOU, Ed, for your constant support of ASGPP and for your memorable presentation!

Note: The same gesture to ASGPP was made by our colleague, Antonina Garcia, a key-speaker at the 2017 conference in Clear Water, FL. Thank you for your generosity!

The month of July brought new changes to the leadership of the organization. As you already know from the letter sent to all of you via eblast, Nancy Kirsner resigned from her role as President of the ASGPP, effective July 16, 2019. During the meeting on July 21st, 2019, the Executive Council welcomed the vice-president, Daniela Simmons, as the new president of the ASGPP.

In December 2018, a Task Force was formed by the Executive Council to explore the issues surrounding the resignation of the Executive Director at that time. The Task Force was also asked to make recommendations for changes and additions to the ASGPP policies and procedures to insure the future stability of the ASGPP. The Task Force included a number of the society's well-respected members: chair Rebecca Walters, and members, Elaine Camerota and Carol Feldman Bass. The team has spent over 100 hours to complete their report and recommendations. On August 2nd, 2019, the original Task Force Report 2019 was emailed to all ASGPP members. Please address all questions to the Executive Council at asgpp@asgpp.org and include in the subject line, 'Task Force Report'. The Council is in the process of discussing the recommendations and will make its decisions during their Fall Meeting in September 2019. The decisions will be reported to the membership.

Please join us on Wednesday, August 21st, 2019 from 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM Eastern Time for a **Zoom Video-conferencing meeting** - a new practice that we started with two meetings in May 2019, and we promised to continue offering every three months. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to asgpp@asgpp.org and put in the subject line, "August 2019 Membership Zoom Meeting".

The ASGPP presents awards annually to those who have contributed to the Society in the areas of psychodrama, sociometry and group psychotherapy. The nominees are selected by our members. The deadline for submitting nominations was August 1st, 2019. Well respected members of our psychodrama community were nominated for all categories. The Awards Committee will make their recommendations to the council. The Awards Recipients will be recognized during

the 78th ASGPP Conference on April 1-4, 2020 in Chicago, IL.

The **Nominations Committee** of the ASGPP is asking for your help in seeking nominations or self-nominations for the Executive Council, Nominations' Committee and Professional Standards' Committee. We need ASGPP members willing to invest their leadership skills and possessing a strong drive for the well-being of the organization. Nominations Committee members will be in touch with those people you suggest. A slate will be prepared from these nominations and presented to the membership for their vote. **Deadline for submitting nominations is August 31, 2019.**

The **Conference Workshop Selection Committee** will work throughout the summer to assure that the best proposals are selected and that ASGPP will offer another quality conference program in April 2020 Thank you to all who have submitted a proposal.

The Executive Committee and the Finance Committee meet on different days at least twice per month. The Executive Council meets once or twice per month, as needed, via Zoom Video Conferencing. The Council's Fall Meeting will be held face-to-face on September 20-22, 2019 at the HYATT REGENCY Schaumburg, Chicago - the hotel that will host the ASGPP 78th Conference, to be held on April 1-4, 2020. The Council will report to the membership on the results of their work.

The ASGPP President, after a decision of the Executive Council, signed two important contracts in regard to the Journal:

- A Contract with our publisher, Allen Press, for the 2020 issue of the Journal. Due to financial reasons, the upcoming issue will be created in a digital version only and will be available through the ASGPP Journal website, <https://asgppjournal.org/>
- A contract with ProQuest, a global information-content and technology company, which will enable researchers, students and all readers to find the ASGPP Journal in the databases.

The combined 2018/2019 issue of the **ASGPP Journal** is available now on our website, <https://asgppjournal.org/>. As a result of the Fundraising event held at the end of last year, the members will also receive hard copies of the journal. This issue has 21 articles, including book reviews, poems, and for the first time - an mp3 supplemental file. We want to thank the editors-in-chief, Nina Garcia and Elaine Camerota; as well as the executive editors - Martica Bacallao, René Marineau, Rob Pramann and Daniela Simmons, and the consulting editors, Veronica Bowlan, Uneeda Brewer, Karen Carnabucci, Jacqueline Fowler, Scott Giacomucci, Shelley Korshak, Valerie Simon, Judy Swallow, Michael Wieser and Cecelia Yocum, all of them for volunteering year after year their time, knowledge and creativity in editing the manuscripts.

The Executive Council is in its final stages of making decision in regard to ordering a new **ASGPP website!** Within a couple of months we should be able to introduce our new, modern and customer friendly website. Thank you for being patient for the past year as we were dealing with multiple glitches. The ASGPP Executive Council and the Fundraising Committee would like to thank each person who has already made a donation to our GoFundMe or via check for our Fundraiser for a New ASGPP Website! Thank you to the first sponsors (in timestamp order of their donation): Nancy Kirsner, Daniela Simmons, Cathy Nugent, Rebecca Walters, Ming Wai Joannes Lee, Rhona Case, Shelley Firestone, Linda Ciotola, Izi Malone, Donald Caroli and Dr. Jun Heon Park! If you would like to donate for the new website, click [HERE](#).

FROM THE ASGPP COMMITTEES:

*** From the 2020 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE:**

The Upcoming 2020 ASGPP Conference will be held in the Chicago area at the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, Schaumburg, IL. The hotel is located 10 miles from O'Hare International Airport. Besides the fact that the hotel is modern and will offer sufficient space for our conference and the many parallel workshops and other events, the hotel was chosen due to the excellent financial offers. For the conference participants, a guest room rate per night is \$120 - the lowest cost of a hotel room for many years. The dates of the conference are April 1-4, 2020, with a pre-conference on Wednesday, April 1, 2019 and the main conference on April 2-4, 2020 (Thursday - Saturday). The 2020 Conference theme is, **Here and Now: The Power and Effectiveness of Group Psychotherapy, Psychodrama and Sociometry**. We are excited to announce this theme, because Chicago was the

home of David Kipper, who contributed greatly to the evidence-based research of the method. This theme will raise the upcoming conference to a whole new level!

A message from the Chicago Outreach and Local Publicity Committee for the 2020 Conference: We are looking for ASGPP members who are also psychologists attending the 2019 APA American Psychological Association Conference in Chicago August 7-11, 2019. We are interested in your helping us promote our ASGPP Conference which will be April 1-4, 2020, in the Chicago area, at the Schaumburg Hyatt Regency.

Please contact Mallory Primm Mallory_primm@gmail.com 615-491-0078 or Shelley Firestone sjschicago@junocom 312-671-3110, for additional information.

* **From the MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:**

We want to turn your attention to several categories of membership:

- If you are applying for or renewing a regular membership, you can save by paying for 2 or 3 years.
- If you are a retiree; veteran, student, or a young professional under 30 years of age, your membership will be one-half of the regular membership, or \$65.00 per year.
- If you are, or if you know of a person, living in the US with a disadvantaged socio-economic life situation, who would like to join ASGPP, we offer a reduced fee membership of \$65.00 or less upon an application.
- The Individual International Membership fee is now determined depending on the economic level of the country you come from: Fees and country bands are available on the ASGPP website.
- Organizational Membership: If you have a non-profit organization or a business; or if you know of other institutions that would like to join the ASGPP, this is a great opportunity! The member-organization will be able to place on their web-site the ASGPP logo and the text, "Organizational Member of ASGPP". The member-organization will be listed on the ASGPP web-site under "Organizational Members"
- ASGPP offers a Diplomat Status and Membership (to both domestic and international members). The candidates must be both, a/ASGPP members in good standing; AND b/ ABE certified (CP, PAT or TEP).

* **From the FINANCIAL and FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:**

A message from our treasurer, Rhona Case:

We want to give a BIG THANKS to Dr. Marlo Archer for a donation the ASGPP received from the Network for Good. Dr. Marlo held a birthday fundraiser on Facebook to benefit the ASGPP. This is her second year doing so. We received a check for \$771 that we are applying to our Website Fund! Anyone of us can start a Facebook fundraiser for our special occasion. If you already know how, please go for it! We will give instructions in the next Tele'Gram.

Amazon Smile - a Way to Give

When you use www.smile.amazon.com to shop on Amazon, you can give to the ASGPP. No matter what you are shopping for, a portion of your purchase will be donated. **No extra purchase required!**

Here's what to do:

1. Go to www.smile.amazon.com and either log into the account you already have with Amazon or create an account.
2. Then, follow the instructions to select "ASGPP Inc" as your charity.
3. Every time you shop, go to smile.amazon.com. Portions of your purchases will help support the ASGPP.

The more people shop through smile, the more money the ASGPP will receive.

* **From the PUBLICITY COMMITTEE:**

Please consider placing an ad in our online Conference Brochure, a listing in the Training Directory or becoming a ASGPP Sponsor with its many benefits. For details and closing dates, contact Patty Phelps at plphelps@pacbell.net.

* **From the PROFESSIONAL LIAISON COMMITTEE:**

A message from Scott Giacomucci, committee chair:

CALL FOR PSYCHODRAMA UNIVERSITY COURSE SYLLABI

As the new chair of the ASGPP Professional Liaison Committee, I would like to invite you to consider joining this committee. My hope is to put together a committee with diverse backgrounds and sociometric connections to various professional associations (APA, ACA, NASW, AGPA, IAGP, etc.). The professional

liaison committee's new initiative is around further embedding psychodrama in United States academia. If Moreno's methods are going to survive and thrive, we must reach the newer generations of professionals at universities, while collaborating with universities to develop scientific psychodrama research and academic writing. The professional liaison committee is requesting copies of psychodrama university course curriculums sent to Scott@SGiacomucci.com to be compiled into a database of psychodrama syllabi and later shared with our membership along with published guidelines for translating psychodrama training into a classroom setting (please confirm with your university that we have permissions to make the syllabus publicly accessible). Some elements of traditional psychodrama training need to be modified, emphasizing containment, professionalism, and boundaries, for appropriateness within the classroom context. It is our hope that access to these syllabi and guidelines for teaching psychodrama in the university setting will provide our members with additional support and framework to advocate for psychodrama courses at their local universities.

The National Coalition of Creative Arts Therapies Associations, Inc., founded in 1979, is an alliance of member associations dedicated to the advancement of the creative arts therapies professions. NCCATA represents over 15,000 individual members of six creative arts therapies associations nationwide. Six (6) national organizations are members of NCCATA, including the ASGPP. Our liaison for the NCCATA is Annalisa Vicencio. Below are those organizations' upcoming national conferences.

- American Art Therapy Association: Kansas City, MO, Oct. 30-Nov. 3, 2019
- North American Drama Therapy Association: Philadelphia, PA, Nov. 7-10, 2019
- American Dance Therapy Association: Miami, FL, Oct. 17-20, 2019
- American Music Therapy Association: Minneapolis, MN, Nov. 18-24, 2019
- National Association for Poetry Therapy: Albuquerque, NM, April 2-5, 2020
- American Society of Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama Annual Conference: Chicago, IL, April 1-4, 2020

To Follow NCCATA on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nccata/>

*** From the INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE:**

The ASGPP International Tele Café - meetings via Zoom Video Conferencing are open to colleagues from around the world, who would like to connect and are interested in the ASGPP's activities. The ASGPP International Committee hosted its fourth International Tele Café - a meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing, open to colleagues from around the world, who would like to connect and are interested in the ASGPP's activities. ASGPP International Committee member, Cristina Shmidt from Vienna, Austria was the host of 13 guests from USA, UK, Germany, Austria, Iraq, Turkey, Ukraine, Romania and India. You will be able to read more in the upcoming Tele'gram and the Fall PNN. **Next meeting is scheduled to be held on September 13, 2019.** To RSVP please email us at international@asgpp.org by September 11, 2019. You will receive the zoom invitation via email.

*** From the RESEARCH COMMITTEE:**

The research committee met via zoom on July 29th, to discuss various matters on recent research publications and research instruments. ASGPP's Research committee is exploring the possibility of having psychodrama evaluated as an evidence-based treatment modality by APA's Division 12. Reach out to Scott Giacomucci at Scott@sgiacomucci.com or Chi-Sing Li at DCL001@shsu.edu to join in this effort! If you wish to join the ASGPP Research Listserve, and to participate in ongoing discussions, collaborations, sharing of resources and ideas on research, please visit the ASGPP 'About Us' page, <http://asgpp.org/about-asgpp.php>, and look at the bottom for the options on how to join.

We look forward to hearing from you!

The TELE'GRAM Editors,
Daniela Simmons, PhD, TEP
Patty Phelps, PhD
asgpp@asgpp.org

P.S. The name Tele'Gram (with apostrophe between Tele & Gram) was created to provide an original meaning and the J.L. Moreno term of 'tele' - "An inter-personal experience, growing out from person to person ... and gradually developing the sense for inter-personal relations". The term 'telegram' is an Americanism dating back to the mid-1800s and comes from the Greek tēle, "at a distance" and gram, "something written". (Moreno J.L. & Jennings H.H. (1938), Statistics of Social Configurations. Sociometry. 1. P. 363)