



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY AND PSYCHODRAMA

ASGPP Tele'Gram

June 2019
Monthly TELE'GRAM
Since June, 2018

Dear ASGPP Members,
Welcome to the June 2019 Tele'Gram!
Our Tele'Gram was born one year ago!

Happy Birthday to You, ASGPP Tele'Gram...And Many More!



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.

"Cohesion has been defined by me as "the forces holding the individuals within the groups in which they are" (J.L.Moreno, *Sociometry*, Vol.I, 1937, p.371)

ASGPP CONFERENCE:

In the past year the ASGPP has been dealing with great challenges, and as always, our organization was able to overcome those challenges and to come back strong and thriving. Just one of the examples is the 77th ASGPP Conference, held on May 2-5, 2019 in Manchester, New Hampshire, that turned out to be a tremendous success. We will report what happened there through the conference participants own words, expressed in the ASGPP 2019 Conference Evaluation Form:

'I am usually especially interested in the all-day trainings at the pre-conference. I liked the fact that more were available this year'. 'There was a wide range of choices, and I saw interesting workshops in all of the time slots'. 'Wonderful workshops - Only complaint is in how hard it was to choose!' 'Very impressive presenters!' 'Happy with everything I attended'. 'I found this conference superior - there was a feeling of warmth and welcome'. 'This was one of my favorite conferences. I felt valued'. "The Awards ceremony was sweet and to the point! Great to have delicious food". 'I was concerned the "new" way would be less effective, but I was pleasantly surprised. Liked having it at lunch time and keeping the acceptance remarks brief'. 'Dance was fun; the food was great and ice-cream sundaes were special!' 'Sunday morning panel was wonderful. Loved the combination of music, psychodrama, poetry and movement'. 'I appreciated the provision of food at the annual meeting and other times as I think it added to the sense of welcome and people were less inclined to go out and thus there were more opportunities for networking'. 'Overall great conference. Loved getting to eat together often and singing in the lobby'. 'Great ambiance, lots of time to connect and good food'. 'A huge thank you for all the people who were working in the background to make it run so smoothly. I know we only saw a small part of their efforts!'

Of course, the conference evaluations gave us your constructive suggestions on how certain things can be even better. The Executive Council will carefully examine those suggestion and will consider possible improvements for next year's conference. The most non-satisfactory reviews were in regard to the website registration forms. As you all know, we have experienced serious issues with the ASGPP website for the past six months - an outdated system, and frequent crashing of its various functions. Due to the dire financial situation of the organization, we did everything possible to handle the conference registrations by creating external forms, which did the job, but unfortunately weren't as user-friendly as the internal forms used in the past. With the help of your donations via 'GoFundMe', after a fiscal year carefully managed by the council, contract re-negotiating and savings, a conservative budget, increased membership, additional income from journal articles and the Hollander Warm-up Box, and a very successful conference, the Executive Council truly believes that the ASGPP will be able to afford to transfer to a new, modern, functional and user-friendly, ASGPP website within the next few months!

Thank you to our Volunteers!

A heartfelt thank you to the conference chairs, Maria Mellano and Scott Giacomucci; to our Administrative Assistant, Paula de Franco; to our conference assistant, Cary Montane; to the Conference Steering Committee; and to all volunteers, that made this conference possible!

The annual conferences are the main instrument for all of us to stay connected; to keep Psychodrama and the action methods vibrant; and to support the

organization and its traditions. Each one of you contributed in a very special way to this process, and together, we created a truly wonderful conference!

To Be Continued ...

In the next few issues of the Tele'Gram we will report on the Auctions - Silent, Live and Baskets; as well as on the other events that happened during the conference!

The Upcoming 2020 ASGPP Conference:

The Location:

It will be held in the Chicago area at the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, Chicago, 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 of \$120 - the lowest cost of a hotel room for many years;
- For the ASGPP - an obligation for F&B: \$15,000, which is 50%-60% off the financial obligations that ASGPP has had at the conference sites in past years, a fact that will greatly contribute to our approach of careful spending and the financial stability of the organization.

The Dates:

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 Executive Council decided to offer this new cultural conserve for the following reasons:

1. Every year (including this year) many participants leave on Sunday morning. In general, most presenters do not wish to present on Sunday afternoon. Quite a few presenters who are expecting a large group of participants, experience great disappointment.
2. The closure of our conferences always has very low attendance. For example, the fantastic closure this year was held in front of ~ 15-20% of the total conference participants.
3. Due to our busy evenings with late activities, many people don't have time to meet with their friends for dinner. The new paradigm would allow people to attend the conference closure on Saturday evening; to have dinner with friends, and to spend Sunday on less stressful travel, rest, or even additional socialization.

The Theme:

Here is the 2020 Conference theme:

Here & 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!

Call for Proposals:

The Call for Proposals has been announced!

You have 30 days to submit a proposal - **the deadline is July 1, 2019!**

We want to encourage all of you to submit a proposal! This upcoming conference will be a great opportunity for colleagues from around the United States and internationally to gather together and experience the power of psychodrama, sociometry and group psychotherapy - with the very affordable guestrooms of \$120 per night and a hotel located only 10 miles from O'Hare International Airport in the Chicago area - a location central to all of the states.

For the pre-conference workshops, offered on Wednesday, April 1st, 2020, the Program Committee is particularly interested in looking at the intersection of psychodrama and other therapeutic orientations, "Psychodrama and...", as well as the use of action explorations in non-therapy contexts such as education, training and community work.

FROM THE ASGPP COMMITTEES:

*** MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:**

We are delighted to welcome our new ASGPP members:

Phil Prothero (White River Junction, VT); Scott Grupp (Tampa, FL);

Lauren Shpall-Brown (Brooklyn, NY); Maria Theresa Hennessy (Belmar NJ);

Molly Weinberg (Somerville, MA); and also our three new international members,

Yong Jin Park (South Korea); Jun Heon Park (South Korea) and Turabi

Iyerli (Turkey, reinstated), plus Paula De Franco, the ASGPP Administrative

Assistant (Miami, FL).

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 Diplomate 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).

*** FINANCIAL AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:**

FUNDRAISER FOR A NEW ASGPP WEBSITE

The ASGPP Executive Council and the Fundraising Committee would like to thank each person who has already made a donation on GoFundMe or via check for our

Fundraiser for a NEW ASGPP WEBSITE! Our goal is \$15,000.00. Any donation amount will be deeply appreciated! If every member donates even a small amount, together we will make this possible! As ASGPP is a tax exempt, non-profit, charitable organization that falls under section 501(c)(3), your donations will be considered a deductible contribution for your taxes.

<https://www.gofundme.com/donate-for-a-new-asgpp-website>.

*** PROFESSIONAL LIAISON COMMITTEE:**

A message from Scott Giacomucci, committee chair:

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.). My first initiative as professional liaison chair 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. 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.

*** INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE:**

The ASGPP International Tele'Café - meetings via Zoom Video Conferencing or face-to-face - are open to colleagues from around the world, who would like to connect and are interested in the ASGPP's activities. The International Tele'Café opened its doors for a third time in May, face-to-face during the 77th ASGPP Conference in Manchester, NH. Many people stopped by to meet old and new friends, to tell stories, and to have some amazing sweets with their tea or coffee. SAVE THE DATE! Friday, July 26th, 2019; 12PM - 1PM Eastern Time! The next Tele'Café will meet via zoom video conferencing. ASGPP International Committee member, Cristina Schmidt will be the host - she will connect from J.L. Moreno's favorite cafe in Vienna, Austria.

To RSVP please email us at international@asgpp.org by July 23, 2019. You will receive the zoom invitation via email.

*** RESEARCH COMMITTEE:**

The research committee met face-to-face and via zoom on May 5, 2019 during the conference in New Hampshire 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.

*** PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE:**

The Publications Committee has been established for the purpose of mediating communication among the Journal, the PNN, the Allen Press Publishing House, the Council, the ASGPP members and other users of the ASGPP publications. The committee meets via Zoom every other month and communicates via emails the rest of the time.

*** ASGPP JOURNAL:**

The Journal editorial team met face-to-face / Zoom video conferencing on May 3, 2019 during the conference; and also, on May 29, 2019 via Zoom video conferencing. The Journal will reach out to us soon with some exciting news.

IN ADDITION,...

From the Delaware Valley Psychodrama Collective:

A shout out to all of you Psychodrama Collectives throughout the country & internationally.

The Delaware Valley Psychodrama Collective, located in eastern Pennsylvania, has decided to donate a portion of our monthly attendance fee to the ASGPP general operations fund. We have made our first quarterly donation of \$300 in May.

We hope to inspire all of our Collectives to make this a Cultural Conserve to benefit ASGPP operations. This will serve our entire community!

Collaboration with the American Board of Examiners (ABE):

Trainees can now accrue up to 120 hours of distance learning toward the required training hours for CP certification. This introduces new educational opportunities and a potential new income stream, as well as making psychodrama training more accessible, affordable, and available in remote areas.

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)

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