



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY AND PSYCHODRAMA

# ASGPP Tele'Gram

## August-September 2020 TELE'GRAM

*Established June, 2018*

"The building of intercultural bridges presupposes the growth of a body of knowledge." (Moreno, J.L. (1956). Editorial. *International Journal of Sociometry*. Beacon, NY, Beacon Press)

Dear ASGPP Members,

Welcome to the August-September 2020 Tele'gram!

*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 within the organization and we invite everyone to become active in the community by volunteering for one of our many committees and/or ongoing projects.*

### **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:**

The Executive Council's Fall Meeting (held in the past in person), this time will meet via Zoom Video Conferencing on September 19-20, 2020. The Council will review and evaluate their work, the work of the committees, and the ASGPP matters in general; and will plan for the future. Finances, reports for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and budget for next year will be an important part of the meeting.

Last November the Executive Council started a Fundraising event with the goal to invite graduate students to become new members and to cover their membership for a year. We have so far, enough funds for twenty-five (25) student-members. A Task Force Committee, Deborah Shaddy (Vice President) and Aida Hernandez (Council Member and Fundraising Committee Chair), have prepared a detailed criteria and procedure for inviting and engaging the selected graduate students into the organization and its activities & projects. More information is coming soon.

The Executive Council and the Bylaws Committee will send to all ASGPP members a survey for Bylaws amendments within the next few days. Please vote by November 1st, 2020.

### **1st ASGPP ONLINE SYMPOSIUM:**

The ASGPP Executive Council is announcing the First ASGPP Online Symposium. The theme is, "The Power of Spontaneity in a World of Uncertainty". The Two-day Symposium will be held via Zoom Conference Meetings on Friday & Saturday, October 9-10, 2020. The date was chosen to commemorate October 10th - World Mental Health Day. The Education Committee - Cathy Nugent, Carol Feldman Bass, Paula De Franco & Daniela Simmons - have worked on creating a rich Symposium Program, that will include didactic and experiential sessions and panels. Detailed information and registration will be announced soon!

### MONDAY EVENING SUPPORT GROUPS:

The first online Emotional Support Group was offered in the middle of March. Since April 2020 the idea had expanded into a large project, offering 4-5 support groups each month. Some of the groups that started meeting via the ASGPP platform on Monday, later continued meeting on their own time.

We want to thank everyone who stepped up to help as facilitators!

The August facilitators were:

- \* GROUP # 1: FRENCH SPEAKING Group: Basil Vareldzis & Carolina Becerril
- \* GROUP # 2: Susan Marcovitz
- \* GROUP # 3: Colleen Baratka & Sarah Kelley
- \* GROUP # 4: West Coast: Open Facilitation

The same facilitators will lead 8-week groups in September and October: Susan Marcovitz, Basil Vareldzis, Carolina Becerril, Colleen Baratka & Sarah Kelley.

Thank you for your commitment and ongoing service to our ASGPP Community! If someone would like to offer their help for future months, please contact our national office at [asgpp@asgpp.org](mailto:asgpp@asgpp.org) .

### FACEBOOK ASGPP SUPPORT GROUP:

The ASGPP Support Group has been created on Facebook, for all members of the organization who would like to join.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/615289599313042/>

The group is:

- Private: Only members can see who's in the group and what they post
- Hidden: Only members can find this group

### FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL HOUR:

Paula De Franco, ASGPP Office Administrator, has been hosting it every Friday since April 17th, periodically inviting guest co-facilitators - Susan Marcovitz, Peg Lane, Rhona Case, Darlene Vanchura, and Jeanne Burger. A link for registration has been sent to all members via eblast each week.

### FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

- Thank you to **Ning-Shing Kung, TEP**, for her generous donation to ASGPP. Ning-Shing gave a training workshop to students in China via the app, WeChat. Her students were proud to have their payments donated to the ASGPP.
- Online Education Project: ASGPP VIRTUAL ACADEMY

The Executive Council has been offering a series of fundraising educational events. Six (6) events have been already held with 100% of the proceeds donated to the ASGPP (a total of \$8,211.89 after the PayPal fees).

- **Daniela Simmons, PhD, TEP**, "Directing Psychodrama via Zoom Video Conferencing - The Path to a New Cultural Conserve: Experiential Training" - June 8, 2020
- **Nina Garcia, PhD, TEP**, "Using the Johari Window and Seligman's 24 Character Strengths to Build Sociometric Connection" - June 10, 2020
- **Lin Considine, TEP** and **Paul Lesnik, TEP**, "Awakening the Heart of Loving Kindness, Forgiveness, and Compassion" - July 8th, 2020
- **Jacque Siroka, LCSW, TEP & Bob Siroka, PhD, TEP**, "Experiential Sociometry" - July 15th, 2020

- **Catherine D. Nugent, LCPC, TEP**, "Resilience & Stress-Hardiness in Tough Times" - July 22, 2020
- **Scott Giacomucci, DSW, LCSW, BCD, FAAETS, CP/PAT**, "Moreno & Maslow: Self-Actualization Through Psychodrama" - August 26th, 2020

### Upcoming Fundraising Workshops to be offered in September 2020:

- **Shelley Firestone & Guy Taylor**, "The Magic of Growth and Change"; (begin a Monthly Saturday Series through December): September 12, 2020;
- **Rosalie Minkin**, "Sociodrama Then and Now", September 13, 2020;
- **Ozge Kantas**, "Social Determination Six-Week Workshop Series"; Start September 16, 2020
- **Paula De Franco & Shawn Ellis**, "Creating A Social Media Presence and Zooming Around"; September 20, 2020
- **Kate Hudgins, Linda Ciotola, Joshua Lee, and Ina Hogenboom**, "Spontaneity in Action for Trauma", September 27, 2020
- **Sylvia Israel & Monica Frost**, "Playing with our Defenses: Working Safely with Trauma" September 30, 2020

The Executive Council wants to express appreciation to all of the presenters, offering their service to ASGPP pro-bono; and to all participants, attending the workshops and contributing to maintaining the financial stability of the organization in this difficult time!

Additional workshops will be announced soon. We are inviting trainers who would like to offer their services to ASGPP by offering training pro-bono, to please contact our National Office at [asgpp@asgpp.org](mailto:asgpp@asgpp.org)

### FROM THE ASGPP COMMITTEES:

#### \* [From the SOCIAL JUSTICE DISCUSSION AND COMMITTEE:](#)

On July 12th & July 19th, the ASGPP Executive Council hosted two ONLINE Social Justice Discussions with the purpose of bringing our community together to collectively examine the effects of racism and oppression within our professional society and the larger society. Additional activities will be offered soon.

#### \* [From the PROFESSIONAL LIAISON COMMITTEE:](#)

From the Committee Chair, Scott Giacomucci:

Happy to share the newly published "Best Practices for Psychodrama in Academia: The Role Transition from Trainer to Professor". This was created as part of the American Society of Group Psychotherapy & Psychodrama (ASGPP) Professional Liaison Committee to guide psychodrama trainers interested in creating new psychodrama courses for university programs.

Over a dozen psychodrama trainers with experience in academia gave their input on this document which would not have been possible without them. Stay posted for the forthcoming database of psychodrama syllabi to be released which is intended to further support psychodrama trainers interested in creating their own syllabus to propose at their local university.

<https://asgpp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Best-Practices-Psychodrama-in-Academia.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3EW5FHvRFOycIhT-duIokd7tMPiJ-Uel2TSqzsPqBr5-WXklqAc1Jv8Fs>

#### \* [From the INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE:](#)

The popular ASGPP International Tele Café, which was initiated in January 2019, has been hosted online by committee members and guest-hosts from different parts of the World. It will open its doors September 25th, 2020, from 12:00 PM - 01:00 PM Eastern Time (USA & Canada). If you would like to attend, please fill out the following form: <https://forms.gle/RxJs9CwvtAfsApf37>. You

will receive the Zoom meeting link one day before the event. NOTE: There is no fee for attending. The meeting is one hour and is always entertaining with opportunities to connect with colleagues from around the world. Both members and non-members of ASGPP are welcome.

ASGPP International Committee members, Basil Vareltzis (Switzerland/USA) and Carolina Becerril (France), offered in August 2020 the first ASGPP Francophone support group (4-weeks) for French speaking colleagues from around the world. Basil and Carolina are getting ready to start a second support group for French-speaking psychodramatists on Thursday September 10, 2020, that will run for 8 weeks this time, through the end of October. All French speaking psychodramatists are welcome to participate but need to register via the ASGPP website or contact [asgpp@asgpp.org](mailto:asgpp@asgpp.org)  
Committee Co-chairs: Mark Wentworth, [mark@colourforlife.com](mailto:mark@colourforlife.com); Cristina Schmidt, [cristina.schmidt05@yahoo.com](mailto:cristina.schmidt05@yahoo.com)

\* **From the RESEARCH COMMITTEE:**

The research committee met August 6th to continue working on our various initiatives which include drafting a survey for asgpp membership about research, developing a research mentorship program, creating a detailed list of descriptions for assessment instruments that would be useful for psychodrama research, and exploring the possibility of having psychodrama reviewed as an evidence-based practice. In this process, we have been collaborating with group psychotherapy researchers from APA's Division 49 and the American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA). If you'd like to contribute to any of our initiatives, please join us! Our meetings are at 5pm EST on the 1st Thursday of even months.

Committee Co-chairs: Scott Giacomucci, [scott@sgiacomucci.com](mailto:scott@sgiacomucci.com); Rob Pramann, [utahssccc@aol.org](mailto:utahssccc@aol.org)

\* **From the PUBLICATIONS & WEB COMMITTEES:**

**ASGPP YOUTUBE CHANNEL**

Visit our new YouTube channel to see the testimonials of our beloved colleagues

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmrZ8Bxu196GbpG9yZKbzHw>

Thank you to Krum Krumov, Website Committee member, for creating the channel.

**PSYCHODRAMA VOLUME I** by Jacob Levy Moreno was newly published through Psychodrama Press, the ASGPP Publishing House. (April 16, 2020) completing an extensive labor of love by Dr. Tian Dayton, MA, PhD, TEP. Special thanks to Dr. Sergio Guimaraes who at the zero hour rescued the very blurry photos and diagrams and turned them into the clearest rendition possible.

The book is uploaded onto KDP/Amazon publishing, here:

[https://www.amazon.com/PSYCHODRAMA-Jacob-Levy-Moreno/dp/1733625801/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=PSYCHODRAMA+VOLUME+by+Jacob+Levy+Moreno&qid=1594337660&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/PSYCHODRAMA-Jacob-Levy-Moreno/dp/1733625801/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=PSYCHODRAMA+VOLUME+by+Jacob+Levy+Moreno&qid=1594337660&sr=8-1)

**PSYCHODRAMA PRESS** is the ASGPP Publishing House There are three items offered at this time for purchase on our website <https://asgpp.org/resources/>:

- [The Warm Up Box](#) by Carl Hollander
- [Jacob Levy Moreno 1889-1974](#) by René Marineau
- [Psychodrama Volume 1](#) by Jacob Levy Moreno

Visit **the ASGPP LIBRARY** on our website: <https://asgpp.org/resources/>

The library contains a collection of books, articles and videos that lay out the central ideas of psychodrama. Stay tuned as the library is expanding as new articles, books and videos are being added to the collection. Recently Adam Blatner and his family kindly allowed us to post on our website some of his books in digital format, *free of charge!*

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**Executive Council,**

Daniela Simmons (President), Deborah Shaddy (Vice President), Janell Adair (Treasurer), Rhona Case (Secretary); members (alphabetically): Carol Feldman Bass, Uneeda O. Brewer, Ron Collier, Scott Giacomucci, Aida Hernandez, John Skandalis, Mark Wentworth.

The TELE'GRAM Editors,  
Daniela Simmons, PhD, TEP  
Patty Phelps, PhD

*P.S. 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". 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". (Moreno J.L. & Jennings H.H. (1938), Statistics of Social Configurations. Sociometry 1. P. 363)*

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