



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY AND PSYCHODRAMA

ASGPP Tele'Gram

October 2020 TELE'GRAM

Established June, 2018

"Spontaneity is the variable degree of adequate response to a situation of a variable degree of novelty" (J. L. Moreno, 1964, The third psychiatric revolution and the scope of psychodrama. Group Psychotherapy, 17, p.149)

Dear ASGPP Members,

Welcome to the October 2020 Tele'gram!

The Tele'gram is issued through e-blast and 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 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.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

The Executive Council's Fall Meeting was held via Zoom Video Conferencing on September 19-20, 2020. The Council reviewed and evaluated their work, the work of the committees, and the ASGPP matters in general; discussed finances, reports for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and budget for next year.

The voting process for making amendments to the bylaws is now over. All proposed amendments were accepted by the ASGPP membership with 90%+ of the votes. Thank you for your active participation in this important process! The Bylaws Committee and the Executive Council will work on a full revision of both the Bylaws (last revised in 2011) and the Operations Manual (last revised in 2012).

You have received an email from the Executive Council regarding our recommendation **for the April 2021 ASGPP Conference**, asking you to vote on this recommendation. Because we know the importance of this issue, we are scheduling a membership meeting to gather as the larger society to hear your opinions/concerns. You have already received this notice because the By-Laws require the Council to provide 30 days notice of membership meetings. This meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 21, 2020, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Eastern Time**. If you are able to attend, please submit the following form: <https://forms.gle/PDirvbmeyfzu6zL47>

A Call for Nominations or Self-nominations for offices and committees of the Society will be sent out in a few days.

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. Find more information in the upcoming Fall issue of the ASGPP Psychodrama Network News (PNN).

1st ASGPP ONLINE SYMPOSIUM:

The First ASGPP Online Symposium, “The Power of Spontaneity in a World of Uncertainty” 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.

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, September and October facilitators are:

* 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

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.

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. A link for registration has been sent to all members via eblast each week.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

Online Education Project: ASGPP VIRTUAL ACADEMY

The Executive Council has been offering a series of fundraising educational events. Ten (10) events have been already held with 100% of the proceeds donated to the ASGPP.

- **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 & Paul Lesnik, TEP**, “Awakening the Heart of Loving Kindness, Forgiveness, and Compassion” - July 8, 2020
- **Jacquie Siroka, LCSW, TEP & Bob Siroka, PhD, TEP**, “Experiential Sociometry” - July 15, 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 26, 2020
- **Rosalie Minkin, MSW, ATR-BC, LCAT, TEP**, “Sociodrama for Our Time” - September 13, 2020
- **Shelley (Korshak) Firestone, MD, CGP, FAGPA, Guy Taylor, PhD, LPCC, LICDC** The Magic of Growth and Change”, **THE MAGIC OF GROWTH AND CHANGE**” - September 10, 2020
- **Kate Hudgins, PhD, TEP, Joshua S Lee, MSW, CP/PAT, Ina Hogenboom, MA, TEP, Linda**

Ciotola, MEd, CHES (ret.), TEP, & Stephanie Dines, “Spontaneity in Action for Trauma”,
September 27, 2020

- **Louise Lipman, LCSW-R, CGP, TEP**, “Who Shall Survive? A reboot of Body, Heart, Mind and Spirit”
- 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

DONATION: Shelley Firestone generously made a donation to the ASGPP General Fund in honor of Adam Blatner. Thank you Shelley!

FROM THE ASGPP COMMITTEES:

• From the PROFESSIONAL LIAISON COMMITTEE:

The Professional Liaison Committee is happy to share that our psychodrama syllabi project is complete and available at <https://asgpp.org/psychodrama-university-teaching/>

On this page, you will find 16 psychodrama syllabi along with a best practice document for teaching psychodrama in university settings. Our hope is that these will help warm-up and guide psychodramatists interested in creating their own psychodrama syllabus to propose to their own local university.

We need committee members! Write to Scott@SGiacomucci.com if you'd like to join the committee as we reorient our work on a new initiative related to connecting psychodrama to other fields and organizations.

• From the INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE:

The popular ASGPP International Tele'Café has been hosted online since 2019 by committee members and guest-hosts from different parts of the World. It opened its doors on September 25th, 2020 with host Anath Garber, ASGPP international member. You can read about the meeting in the upcoming PNN. **SAVE THE DATE:** Next Tele Café will meet on Friday December 2 at 1:00 pm EST (NYC). Theme will be:

“HOLIDAY CHEER”. December in the Northern hemisphere is often associated with darkness and the arrival of winter. Many cultures have developed traditions to help people find joy in the time of darkness (St Nicolas Day, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, Winter Solstice celebrations, Feast of the Three Kings, Chinese New Year, and many more). Come join us in anticipation of the return of the Light and the arrival of a new year. We invite you to share your traditions psychodramatically. Bring an object that you can share virtually and /or prepare a short virtual vignette. ASGPP international committee member, Basil Vareldzis, MD, MPH, CP, will be the host.

Committee Co-chairs: Mark Wentworth, mark@colourforlife.com; Cristina Schmidt, cristina.schmidt05@yahoo.com

• From the RESEARCH COMMITTEE:

The research committee met October 1st 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; Rob Pramann, utahsccc@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

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

1. *The Warm Up Box* by Carl Hollander
2. *Jacob Levy Moreno 1889-1974* by René Marineau
3. *PSYCHODRAMA VOLUME I* 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!*

ASGPP LISTSERVE

In August of 2020 the company managing our ListServe closed down. Currently, the website committee is working with the national office and IT to identify a new ListServe platform.

IAGP Trauma and Disaster Task Force EVENT with Adena B. Lees

IAGP Trauma and Disaster Task Force is inviting you to discuss a case report of Adena B. Lees, member of both, ASGPP and IAGP. Date: Tuesday, 13th of October, at 12:00 PM - 13:30 PM Eastern Time (USA & Canada). The discussion will address the rise of Anti-Semitism, mainly in the USA and all around the world through understanding current and historical stereotypes. The hope is to enter the brave space of internal growth toward social change. Adena B. Lees will share her family story of suffering and resilience along with personal experiences, with fears of social rejection and searching for a safe place. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88990745930>; Meeting ID: 889 9074 5930

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.
<https://asgpp.org/about-us-text/#1574139301079-23b6e7c4-ffc6>

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