From the ASGPP President

Nancy Kirsner, PhD, LMFT, OTR, TEP

“Won’t you be my neighbor?”

These weren’t just lyrics to Mister Rogers; he chose Biblical words (Love your neighbor, love yourself) that invited someone to be close to you. Fred Rogers was way ahead of his time teaching children the basics of a meaningful life with messages about love, tolerance, friendship and acceptance.

Many of my first life lessons about critical emotional and social skills, beyond my immediate family, were learned from my beloved Mister Rogers. Watching the Children’s Corner, the show that preceded Mr. Rogers’ neighborhood in the first years of TV. I watched these shows daily on Public TV in Pittsburgh, PA, growing up under Mister Rogers’ kind, steady and faithful care.

A college music graduate (piano), Mister Rogers was preparing to enter the ministry when an odd turn in his thinking led him towards TV, something he disliked as he found children’s programming demeaning and without purpose. Like Moreno, his “ah-ha… seeing things with new eyes” was when he envisioned the tremendous capacity for connection and enrichment that TV could bring to children’s and adults lives. He later studied Child Development which became the infrastructure behind his sensitive dia-

(Continued on Page 26)
Members in Action

Scott Giacomucci, LCSW, CTTS, CET III, CP, has been presenting, publishing, and teaching on the intersection of Moreno’s methods with Social Work theory and practice. Scott began teaching a course titled “Social Group Work in Action” at Bryn Mawr Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research. Scott presented on the same topic at West Chester University for the International Association of Social Work with Groups (IASWG) and published an article in the Social Work with Groups journal co-authored with Amy Stone titled “Being in Two Places at Once: Renegotiating Traumatic Experience through the Surplus Reality of Psychodrama”. Scott and colleagues (Sharon Gera, Darrell Briggs, Kim Bass,) also published an article titled “Experiential Addiction Treatment: Creating Positive Connection through Sociometry and Therapeutic Spiral Model Safety Structures” in an international addictions journal.


Leslie Baer Dinkel reports that there are now three ways to experience Dorothy Satten’s timeless wisdom teachings. First published in 2006 in hard back, Real is Better than Perfect: Stories and sayings for self healing is now available in paperback, and as a Kindle eBook. 100% of proceeds are designated to help others heal their lives!

Rebecca Walters, MS, TEP, presented 2 workshops, “I don’t wanna, You can’t make me” and “The Empty Chair: Psychodrama in Individual and Group Work” at the 5th Asia Pacific Behavioral and Addiction Medicine Conference in November in Singapore. The theme of the conference was ‘Repurposing the Wheel’; applying existing psychological and behavioural techniques and evidence based skills to addictions in pioneering ways. Novel means of dealing with age-old behavioural challenges faced by practitioners were also explored.

Kate Hudgins, PhD, TEP, has recently had her article “Psychodrama Revisited: Through the Lens of the Internal Role Map of the Therapeutic Spiral Model to Promote Post-traumatic Growth” in the German Journal Zeitschrift Fuer Psychodrama and Soziometrie to be published next month.

Kate has also been asked to be the Editor in Chief for the Forum, the journal for International Association of Group Psychotherapy. Together with an international committee they are committed to making the Forum a fully public, search engine supported peer review journals of the best scholars on group psychotherapy from around the world.

Dena Baumgartner, PhD, TEP, LMFT, CGP, LPC, was the keynote speaker at the 10th Annual Taiwan Psychodrama Association Conference, “Spiritual Healing and Strength”, in Kaohsiung, Taiwan January 16-23. Her address was titled “The Spirituality in Psychodrama”. Dena ran the pre-conference workshop, “Psychodrama thru the Life Span” and a three and half hour action workshop for the entire conference titled “Using Sociometry to Connect our Spirits”. Sunday, Jan. 20th, Dena was on a panel for the conference to discuss “The influencing elements of thoughts and styles of Directing.”
There are few who realize the full extent of William Moreno’s contributions to J. L. Moreno’s life and the development of his innovative approaches to psychotherapy. Too often, when recognized at all, they tend to focus on the financial side. These contributions, while certainly significant, were only part of a much larger picture. William Moreno (Joseph’s father and Jacob’s younger brother) provided the primary funding for J. L. Moreno’s theaters. This went back to the post-medical school time in Vienna, as well as fifteen years later at Moreno’s hospital in Beacon (upstate New York) and studio / theaters in New York City.

Psychodrama is a form of therapy that cannot be fully conveyed in book form, but rather needs to be seen and experienced, which requires a stage or at least a large open space. These venues undoubtedly provided Jacob with the essential exposure he needed to achieve the eventual broad professional recognition for himself and his work.

William was not a millionaire, rather a generous funder of his brother’s work. However having someone believe in you is even more powerful!

J.L. referred to his brother as his "muse" in his autobiography and pointed out that William was the only one in their family that supported and believed in his work. Another consideration is that there was a tradition in Europe at that time, when there were brothers in families of limited means, that only the oldest brother would have the opportunity for higher education. So, from a young age, William was pushed into office work and never had a chance to develop his talents into a meaningful career. Business was never a choice for him: he never had a choice! Whatever income he earned in those early years was given to help support their extended family.

While William was working, J.L. had the opportunity to attend university and graduate from medical school. As a result, William was never able to have a creative professional life of his own. However, rather than resenting his secondary position, William did everything in his power to support J.L. in every possible way for a period of around seventy years.

William also supported other Moreno family members, such as Florence Bridge after the divorce, a sister Charlotte who stayed in Romania, and their mother, Pauline, in New York. There might have been a "William L.", an inherently creative man, as well known as "Jacob L" in whatever field he might have chosen for his life’s work, but William never had that chance. As J.L’s son, Jonathan, has often stated, "Without William there would not have been a J.L." William was also like a father to Moreno’s daughter, Gina.

William’s legacy was also furthered by the contributions of his son, Joseph (www.morenoinnermusic.com). Joseph is an internationally recognized authority and presenter on music therapy with a special focus on "musical psychodrama". He is author of numerous articles and the books "Acting Your Inner Music: Music Therapy and Psychodrama" and "The Lives of Music Therapists: Profiles in Creativity".

The ASGPP has agreed upon the initiation of a William L. Moreno Award, the first of which will be presented to Prof. Joseph Moreno on behalf of his father at the ASGPP Annual Conference in Manchester, NH, 2019.
I was asked to submit a report of a few highlights from the 39th North American Drama Therapy Conference this year. The theme: Beyond The Fourth Wall: Engaging therapeutic Performance To Expand Our Impact on Communities.

The organization was pleasantly surprised that there were more than 350 participants coming to Kansas City, Missouri from all over the country as well as Asia, Europe, South America, Canada, Israel, Australia and India. I have included a few highlights from the conference.

The opening conference event with Deb Campbell and her ensemble of non-theater, elder women, was a performance called Dancing with Crow’s Feet. This was “an original eye-opening play inspired by narratives of women which addresses ageism.” It was delightful, poignant, humorous and educational.

The next day’s keynote address was delivered by Anna Seymour, a professor of drama therapy at the University of Roehampton in London, England. She specializes in teaching therapeutic theatre and researches the relationship between politics, theatrical aesthetics and drama therapy. Her topic was, Why Do We Bother with Theatre? Looking Beyond the Fourth Wall. She showed us how “because theatre is crafted for our times, it can be an abundant resource for us as we reach beyond established conventions toward the future.” Between the extensive research she was sharing, she left her written pages and was beautifully entertaining. I laughed a lot.

One of the most moving presentations was: Diversity Forum: Intersectionality and Race Inside and Outside of the Clinical Space. After watching a series of video performances about race in the clinical arena, from the perspectives of clients and therapists of colour, racialized minorities and white therapists, Playback Theatre techniques elicited participants’ responses. Micro-aggressions, uncertainties and cross-cultural successes were highlighted. It was all enlightening, and powerful and so important always and perhaps even more so in these troubling times.

There were, of course, like at the ASGPP conferences, numerous and rich workshop offerings with a myriad of related therapeutic work experiences from a wide variety of perspectives with many different populations.

My colleague, Dan Wiener, and I presented a workshop: Using Dramatic Enactments to Conduct Family Therapy. Our 30 or so participants were open, enthusiastic and very creative as we worked with both drama therapy and psychodrama modalities to explore family dynamics. Dan and I have presented at both NADTA and ASGPP conferences for 3 years on the subject of better integration, communication and support between NADTA and ASGPP for each other’s work, organization and resources for the benefit of both: We titled these workshops: Psycho-drama, Drama Therapy, Rivals or Partners?

During the conferences every year, the BCTs (equivalent to the TEPs) meet to brainstorm and discuss issues that have surfaced for us as trainers. We are the people who run the NADTA training programs as well as oversee and guide individuals through their training. NADTA supports both University run programs and Alternate Route programs, designed for long distance learners and people whose family life and jobs don’t allow them to sit in a classroom for 2 or 3 years. Instead they meet for long weekends and 10 day Intensives. During this BCT meeting, I spoke about the need for more communication between our two organizations. We also spoke about BCTS, who are also TEPs, moving around to the different NADTA programs and offering training. I also suggested that we have a private listserv for BCTS to share ideas, challenges, resource suggestions, dialogues between our BCTS etc. I think this would also be a good idea for TEPs to consider.
I was honored to be the ASGPP representative and guest at this exciting conference this past pre-Thanksgiving weekend. This ‘classical’ conference was all jazzed up at the Hyatt Regency at Reunion Arena. There were over 1500 musicians from all over the USA and abroad. The notes and signatures were ‘cleféd’ by the broad spectrum of pre and conference workshop classes; a total of so many that I lost count!

The Conference meetings went from Thursday through Saturday with regional, board and special interest meetings going from 8:00 am till 10:00 pm each day. There were at least 57 poster and research presentations and the exhibition hall had an amazing array of instruments, universities and publications representing Music Therapy. Music Therapy has BA, MA and PhD programs!

I met with the invincible Ronna Kaplan, past President of AMTA who fondly remembers our own President and Vice President, Nancy Kirsner and Daniela Simmons. We had a sweet talk comparing our disciplines over pizza. I even ran into my first mentor, Alan Turry, a Music Therapist who in 1985 was the Director of the Recreation Therapy Department of Bellevue Hospital in New York and hired me as a Drama Therapist. I met other members who were beginning in their practices; and who were offering lessons on line. A number of Music Therapists contract with agencies using state grants; offering therapy to seniors, children, neo-natal clients, traumatized, substance abuse, stroke victims, those with disabilities, etc…. only a few that I met were working directly with psychiatric issues.

The sessions I attended were excellent, using research and Neurobiology to change brain functioning — very informed scientifically. Others were on lesson planning, treatments, multisensory awareness and other interventions. I found the conference ‘timber’ to be ‘supporting the therapist’ so that they may support and serve their clients. I was really impressed with the ‘adagio’ easy and ‘allegro’ energized flow of the conference. When introduced, people asked me if I was presenting… I think that a collaboration of Music Therapy and Psychodrama would be very interesting indeed! Thank you for this opportunity for our organizations to mingle!
Within days some of the history of that region unraveled in a few
road that for generations connected east and western Asia.
Armenia and Azerbaijan; all exotic places along the famed silk
and directly across the Black Sea. Georgia is to the north of
Mountains, east of Turkey (a country that I’ve visited numerous times)
region, its history, and people. Located in the Caucasus moun-
tains, east of Turkey (a country that I’ve visited numerous times) and
directly across the Black Sea. Georgia is to the north of Armenia and Azerbaijan; all exotic places along the famed silk road that for generations connected east and western Asia. Within days some of the history of that region unraveled in a few

I already valued the friendships and collegial relationships developed while visiting cities like Jerusalem, Istanbul, Sao Paulo, Rome, Cartagena (Colombia), where IAGP conferences were held. Every three years another city around the world is the host of these conferences, where leaders in the fields of group psychotherapy – and its many branches, including psychodrama – present their work. It is also a time to meet friends and get to know people from many countries at levels that few other professions can reach. Habitually, many of us take time to enjoy sightseeing together, dinners out and even dancing (while we still can).

The Board of Directors meets in person twice a year, at a location that’s usually the site of a conference, whether global or regional. We come from many countries, elected to serve for three years. Between meetings, we communicate online (via Zoom & WhatsApp) about many tasks that we undertake within the sub-committees, which we agree to join. These meetings are also the context where the bond between us is reinforced. It’s quite fascinating to have a video conference with board members from India, Brazil, Germany, Egypt, Austria, Bulgaria, Japan and Israel.

In January we met in Tbilisi, the capital of The Republic of Georgia (formerly of the Soviet Union). We were hosted by a colleague who is a professor at a local university. After three days of meetings, we offered workshops and presentations to students and staff at this university. Their eagerness to learn was heart-warming. I lead a half day workshop, and also had a chance to do some work, using sociometry, with my fellow board members.

This was my first time in Tbilisi, and I knew very little about the region, its history, and people. Located in the Caucasus mountains, east of Turkey (a country that I’ve visited numerous times) and directly across the Black Sea. Georgia is to the north of Armenia and Azerbaijan; all exotic places along the famed silk road that for generations connected east and western Asia. Within days some of the history of that region unraveled in a few

tours that I took with friends, and visits to local museums. For those interested in archaeology and anthropology, the country is a treasure trove of findings. South west of Tbilisi, in a place named Dmanisi, archaeologists found remains of some of the first humans to migrate from Africa, dating back 1.8 million years. It was only in the 4th century that Christianity began to take hold in the region, and afterward there were invasions, most recently of the Persian and later the Ottoman empires. It is interesting to note the influence of these cultures on the local populations as manifested in rituals, food and language. With the fall of the Ottoman rule in the 1920’s Georgia became part of the Soviet Union; a chapter that ended in 1991.

On one of the hills near Tbilisi, we climbed to Queen Tamar’s citadel and heard about this remarkable historic figure. She was the daughter of George III, who ruled during the twelfth century. He did not have sons, and decided to crown his daughter as next to the throne. She was the ruler for about thirty years from the end of the 12th into the 13th century, and it was dubbed the Golden Age of Georgia. She married twice, having divorced her first husband upon discovering that he was attempting to undermine her. She then proceeded to exile him, and married her second husband. (And here, in the US., I still remember a time, not long ago when, divorce was stigmatized, and there is still fierce objection to have women as Presidents).

One other discovery was the wines of Georgia, which are not know in the US. It turns out that this country holds the indisputable claim as the first wine making region in history. Archeological excavations found clay pots, grape seeds and wine making tools from 8,000 years ago. Their wines are excellent!

I hope these descriptions, emerging from my own experience appeal to our colleagues to want to know more about IAGP, and hopefully join this important organization. The next tri-annual conference will be in Vancouver, Canada in 2021 (DTA). In the meantime here is a short list of regional conferences:

- Thessaloniki, Greece: The International Research Congress, June 14-17, 2019
- Lake Iseo, Italy: IAGP International Psychodrama Conference, September 4-8, 2019
- Cairo, Egypt: the 3Rd IAGP Egypt Conference, January 15-18, 2020

For more information, please visit: https://www.iagp.com/
Find a Local Contact Near You
Join In and Cultivate your Action Experiences!

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The Toronto Centre for Psychodrama (Canada)
Barbara Guest / barbaraguest@cyg.net

• Denver Area
Erica Hollander / ericahollander@comcast.net / 303-978-9091

The Denver Psychodrama Collective meets monthly in downtown Denver, usually on Monday afternoons, to do dramas, share directing, consider new techniques. To find out more about the group contact ericahollander@comcast.net.

Erica Hollander, PhD, JD, TEP

• Delaware Valley
Colleen Baratka / catharsisinstitute@live.com / 610/600-1476

The Delaware Valley Psychodrama Collective is a group of psychodramatists and clinicians interested in action methods from the PA, DE, and NJ area. We meet the fourth Saturday of each month at the Center for Families; 1225 Montrose Ave. Rosemont PA. We have a business meeting from 2-2:45, followed by a 2 hour training session from 3-5pm, for both psychodrama training hours and CEUs. For more information and to be put on our email list for notifications, email us at dvpsychodrama@gmail.com

Colleen Baratka, MA, TEP

• Mid-Atlantic
Steve Kopp / SteveK@sl.org / 301-592-0542

We were excited to host Kathy Amsden for our February workshop. The title of her workshop was MUSIC and PSYCHO-DRAMA: A means to Heal the Divide. It was exciting to have her skill and passion for healing at a time when so many are feeling the struggles of our divided culture. Kathy was recipient of the ASGPP 2009 Innovators Award for her blending of music and psychodrama for healing. She is writer/singer for her CD Awakening; songs for those on the road to healing and recovery. In keeping with this theme, the MAC Chapter Board opened up scholarship opportunities for those who have been negatively impacted by the January government shutdown.

Steve Kopp, MS, CAS, TEP
Auctions / Baskets

Our auctions and raffle are important fundraisers for the ASGPP and an exciting way to share in the generosity and creativity of our members and friends. You will be able to view donated items prior to the conference. You can find a link on the ASGPP website and in our email updates.

SILENT AUCTION – We are looking for donations of items such as: Jewelry * Artwork * Books * Pottery * CDs * Handmade Items * Gift Cards * Supervision with TEPs, and other interesting offerings. We feature Artists in Residence, where we display works of art that are handcrafted by our community. Please share your talents with our community through your creative donations.

LIVE AUCTION – We are looking for donations of larger ticket items, such as: Airline Tickets * Frequent Flier Miles * Rental Property * Timeshares * Cabins * Estate Jewelry * Weeklong Intensive Workshops * Concert/Sports Tickets, etc.

GIFT CARDS – Gift cards are a great gift idea...if you use them. Some sources state that 1/3 of all gift cards never get used! Don't just throw them in a drawer or hope the postman will want them. Put them to good use and donate them to the Silent Auction. Gift cards are one of our auction's best sellers. You don't have to wait until the conference, just send them in advance and we will include them to our donation list.

BASKETS – We will be raffling off creative and fun baskets filled with an assortment of goodies. Join with friends or your training group and create an enticing 'themed' basket of your choice.

To donate items to the auctions contact: Maria Mellano / silentauction@asgpp.org
ATTENTION MEMBERS

Scholarship Donations Welcome

Please consider a donation to this year’s scholarship fund to help underwrite the attendance costs individuals who might not otherwise be able to attend due to financial constraints. No contribution is too small — contributions of any amount are welcome.

Thank you for helping us to reach out!

Your name will be listed in the Awards Program and Conference Guide.

Donate at www.asgpp.org/donate.php or send donations to the National Office:
American Society of Group Psychotherapy & Psychodrama
301 N. Harrison Street, Suite 508, Princeton, NJ 08540
(609) 737-8500, asgpp@ASGPP.org

EXHIBITING

MEMBER/NON-CORPORATE EXHIBITOR

One of the benefits of membership in the ASGPP is a complimentary space at our Members’ Table at the Annual Conference Exhibit Area to display copies of one piece of printed material. As space is limited, we ask that you observe the one promotional piece per member requirement.

Those of you with products that you think will appeal specifically to conference attendees may want to consider reaching this market in the Exhibit Area. Table space is also available for rent to those individuals who wish to promote their training programs, institutes, workshops, publications and other specialty products. The cost for a full exhibit table is $300; 1/2 exhibit table is $150.

CORPORATE EXHIBITOR

The ASGPP is pleased to offer various opportunities for organizations and businesses to become exhibitors. You can simply rent a table or a space as an exhibitor; if you will attend the conference, take on the opportunity to purchase one of the two very attractive Exhibitor Registration Packages this year. Our objective is to create an environment which is “Exhibitor Friendly” and gives you the maximum opportunity to network with attendees, conference leadership and potential customers. Please contact us for a brochure and specifics or see our website, www.asgpp.org.

For additional information, please contact:
(609) 737-8500, asgpp@ASGPP.org.

For complete conference information and to register online, go to our website: www.asgpp.org.

CONFERENCE

SESSION ASSISTANTS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

VOLUNTEER SERVICE is a vital part of the ASGPP community and a successful conference program. We have four areas of volunteering: General Volunteer, Session Assistants, Triage Team Members and Silent Auction/Baskets assistants. You can contact the coordinator of these areas to find out more about them, to ask questions or sign up. We hope you will offer your services both on site and prior to the conference.

To sign up, go to:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0545a9ac28a5fa7-volunteers1

• General Volunteer. (Coordinator: Maria Mellano, MariaMellanoLICSW@gmail.com, 617-913-3898)
• Session Assistant. (Coordinator: Darlene Vanchura, darvee_2000@yahoo.com, 817-371-4312)
• Triage Team Member. (Coordinator: Viergelyn Chery–Reed, vierge@groundinghearts.com, 857-600-2449)
• Silent Auction/Baskets. (Coordinator: Maria Mellano, MariaMellanoLICSW@gmail.com, 617-913-3898, 112 Water Street, Suite 203, Boston, MA 02109)

2019 Conference Cut-Off Dates

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Conference Speakers & Facilitators

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

*The Art of Surprise*

**NISHA SAJNANI, PhD, RDT-BCT**

Dr. Nisha Sajnani is the Director of the Drama Therapy Program and Theatre & Health Lab at New York University. She is a visiting faculty member with the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma and editor of *Drama Therapy Review*. Dr. Sajnani has received awards from the American Psychological Association, the North American Drama Therapy Association, and as well received the first Diversity Award from the American Society for Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama.

Her keynote will address the emotional geography of change and the role of improvisation in bringing about moments of artful dissonance and wonder that can stimulate new patterns of being and relating. Drawing on the theory and practice of Developmental Transformations (and a little amateur magic!) she will invite reflection on communities as complex living organisms that thrive at the borders of difference.

**PLENARY SPEAKER**

*Sociatry Offers Added Wisdom*

**EDWARD SCHRIEBER, DD, EdM, LADC, TEP**

Edward Schreiber was trained by and apprenticed with Zerka, with Sociatry and J.L. Moreno’s mysticism as a focus. He co-edited *The Quintessential Zerka*, and was editor of *To Dream Again*, Zerka’s memoir. He is the recipient of the Scholar’s Award, Collaborator’s Award, Neil Passarelli Award, Zerka T Moreno Award, and is a Fellow of the ASGPP. Ed directs the Zerka T Moreno Foundation, making available the teachings of Sociatry and will soon publish the *Autobiography of a Genius* (unpublished from J.L. Moreno). Ed is an adjunct professor at Lesley University and he directs an outpatient substance use program in Northampton and Greenfield, Massachusetts.

At the center of the psychodrama, sociometry, group psychotherapy method is a not as well-known directive: “Awakening of the Autonomous Healing Center Within” a group and within an individual. It is a mystic practice that corresponds with the understanding that humanity is one organism with forces impacting the whole and its many parts. These forces have a determining impact on groups, organizations, society, and individual lives. To know these forces and attend to the awakening of the Autonomous Healing Center is called “Sociatry: the healing of society”. This is the introduction of Sociatry for the ASGPP Conference Plenary.

**DIVERSITY FORUM**

*Think Globally and Enact Locally*

**JENNIE KRISTEL, REAT, APTT, RMT & JOSHUA S. LEE, LCSW-C**

This diversity forum will offer participants a process of exploration to up-level the conversation about diversity that acknowledges and honors who we are as a community, and “stick a pin” in what we think we know about diversity, creating an opening for embracing the diversity in the room. Drawing from our individual and collective wisdom as well as current examples of diversity, we will playfully explore elements that create space for willingness, courage and self-discovery to emerge, drawing from the tools we know best.

**FRIDAY NITE LIVE AT THE ASGPP MOVIES**

*A Movie Debut of “A Cinematic History of Psychodrama”*

Interactive panel moderated by Jacqui Siroka with film participants Nina Garcia, Jaye Moyer, Nan Neily-Seif and Kelley Brower

This film was conceived and directed by Robert Siroka, founder and Director of The Sociometric Institute of New York. As Executive Producer, Robert extended and supported J.L. Moreno’s foresight about the value of having a visual history of Psychodrama. This film contributes both to the cinematic conservation and as well, to the new development of media accessible for educating the general public as well as clinicians about Psychodrama. Robert has generously allowed us to debut the film at this years’ ASGPP conference.

**SUNDAY MORNING**

*Envisioning the Creative Arts Therapies*

**SAPHIRA LINDEN, RDT-BCT, LCAT, TEP**

and a Panel of distinguished experts in their field

We know as Group facilitators that the ‘whole is greater than the sum of its parts’ and yet, we stay as separate entities. The Creative Arts Therapies’ would be stronger and more effective working together to truly make a difference. Let us envision and dream together about what this would look like….all the new possibilities to transform our lives and communities.
The Psychodramatic International Tele’Café is Now Open....

Mark Wentworth

On Friday 18th January we opened the doors for the first time to our “International Tele Café”. Director of the proceedings and welcoming guests to the café was Daniela Simmons, whilst I myself was hosting the affair.

Thirteen people from around the world “Zoomed-in” to join us. They came from as far away as India, Brazil, Ukraine, Austria, UK, Romania, Turkey, and closer to home, Florida, Texas, New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts.

Where is this café? In Surplus Reality, of course. Start on the stormy sea. When you get to Bucharest facing south, make a right into Vienna, then straight ahead over Atlantic until you come to Beacon and there you’ll find the early beginnings of the “Psychodramatic International Tele Café. Well that’s the directions the man on the balcony gave us. I’m sure you know him, he’s very familiar.

The Café we created is a meeting place for diversity, creativity and sharing of ideas, stories and laughter. Our Café has open spaces with comfortable seating for all. We can sit outside to enjoy the warm sunshine and inside when we want to be cozy and warm ourselves by the fire. There are toys of all types all waiting patiently to be played with to bring healing, joy and understanding. Every table is complete with its own chocolate supply, which is ever replenishing. Whether you want dark, milk or white, you’ll find it on one of our tables.

If you look closely, better if you look up first, you’ll see a balcony with two seats. If you blink you’ll wonder whether those same two people were the ones just serving you, cooking for you or simply encouraging you to carry on. If you lean against the big tree in the Café garden, the tree will share its secrets with you, and how on certain afternoons there’s a man here, quite similar to the one who sits on the chair on the balcony or was he the waiter that just served you? That same man is often here with children — he plays, tells stories and helps them to continue believing in the imaginary. He helps them to play out their hopes and fears, and if you look closely these children are between 3 and 103 years old. The woman who accompanies him looks on fondly, smiles and says “Aaah, to dream again!”

Within hours of The Café’s opening we received our very first review:

“I can still smell the warm, comforting tea smells and a slight aroma of Chocolate nearby. Someone has brought some unique miniatures to add to our collection, and overhead I just saw some movement on the balcony. Everyone is happily engaged and someone new is coming thru the door to join us. And they are well received!! What a warm, comfortable, inviting environment that almost feels better than family (if I can say that out loud)”

Even Jelaluddin Rumi, the 13th Century Poet and Sufi Master joined us, and he left us with a poem — it’s for any of you who have uncertainty about whether it’s your kind of Café:

“Come, come, whoever you are. Wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving. It doesn’t matter. Ours is not a “café” of despair. Come, even if you have broken your vows a thousand times. Come, yet again, come, come.”

Opening times

Friday, March 15th
12 noon Eastern Time

Friday, May 3rd
Time: 9-11 PM
Following Friday Night at the Movies
Location: Manchester, NH

If you would like to “Zoom-in” to the café and join us on March 18th, which we really hope you will, please contact Daniela Simmons: danielatsv@gmail.com to receive your zoom link.

Until we meet again I’ll be at the table by the turquoise blues of the Arabian Sea.

Mark
Mark Wentworth
mark@colourforlife.com
Psychodrama in Hungary is well established and is one of the biggest psychodrama populations in Europe. Some 1000 people are continuously participating in psychodrama groups and every year dozens of new psychodrama trainers get Certified.

And things are changing. The first big wave of psychodramatists created the first Association, and managed to unite despite fragmenting forces due to different backgrounds (the German wing Pffe, the Hungarian Mérei tradition, the Claytonians). As well there were tensions left behind by Moreno himself that are now embodied in the conflict of therapists and “plain” dramatists, research-based therapy and traditional spontaneity-driven thinking. And, definitely, there is an emerging void in the psychodramatist identity.

While organizing the 30th anniversary congress we keep an eye on these issues. Our first approach is to embed the Hungarian Psychodrama Community into the greater whole, the International psychodrama movement. We are going to invite many from abroad, hopefully Manuela Maciel, Maurizio Gasseau, Leandra Parrottá, Kostas Leitsos and Judith Teszary of course will be here and hold workshops. We will come up with a blog and invite everyone from all over the world to contribute, focusing on the Fabric of Life, the network connecting people inside and outside.

Anna will be the team leader of international relations (the third from left, the beautiful blond lady), while I am responsible for the whole project (second from left).

Our focuses for the next sprint until the middle of January are:
- setting up a website
- starting a blog in Hungarian and English
- find out how we can attract more international presence

If you have any idea how we could connect internationally, please let us know.

Our website will be up and running from the end of February at www.kongresszus.pszichodrama.hu and we are available currently at fabricoflife30@pszichodrama.hu.
Psychodrama in Russia started in the 1990s with four training programs, headed by psychodramatists from Europe and the United States. All four training programs were in Moscow, the capital of Russia; and they taught the first generation of psychodramatists in the country, who founded the main Russian psychodrama institutes that exist today.

Besides the Moscow branch of psychodrama, there were training programs in Rostov-on-Don, offered by the Moreno Institute in Germany. Those two cities hosted the two major psychodrama events in Russia: the annual Moscow Psychodrama Conference that began in 2003 and the annual Moreno Festival in Rostov-on-Don that began in 2001.

The Moscow Psychodrama Conference is an annual psychodrama event for all Russian-speaking psychodramatists from Russia and other post-Soviet countries. During the past few years it has been gathering up to 450 participants.

The Rostov-on-Don psychodrama school uses an education standard from the Moreno institute (Germany). The four Moscow psychodrama schools aim to follow the FEPTO (The Federation of European Psychodrama Training Organizations) educational standards. Unfortunately, there is not an analogue of the American Board of Examiners in Psychodrama, Sociometry and Group Psychotherapy (ABE) in Russia. If a similar institution is created, it would improve the level of professionalism, and encourage the development of new psychodrama schools.

There are some issues with psychodrama in Russia – there are a lot of training groups, but there are just a few psychodramatists of the second generation with a reputation and level of professionalism comparable to the first generation. As a result, the number of high-level supervisors in psychodrama is insufficient. Also, even though there were many training groups in Moscow and other Russian cities during the past 25 years, training institutes unfortunately weren’t developed outside of Moscow.

I was trained in the 2000s by Russian psychodramatists. I attended training modules in all of Moscow psychodrama’s institutes. Each institute had a different approach to offering psychodrama, with various modalities. In 2008 I started offering psychodrama training. Since 2012 I have directed several four (4) year training programs in one of the Moscow psychodrama schools. In 2015 I created my own psychodrama training institute in Moscow called the “Contemporary Psychodrama Workshop”. It is interesting that in 2015 I selected the word “contemporary”, because I needed to review a psychodrama in the format I was taught. However, directing seven (7) long-term training programs and workshops as a psychodrama trainer, I found some lost pieces of the puzzle in “psychodrama”, and was inspired by classical psychodrama. As a result, even though my psychodrama institute is defined as “contemporary”, the program primarily offers classical psychodrama.

As a psychodrama trainer, I worry about the insufficient level of knowledge and practice in clinical psychology among trainees and graduated psychodramatists. We have a lot of clients with various types of mental illness in our practice. Working with many different types of clients requires specific psychotherapy and psychodrama applications based on their needs. Techniques that we apply in groups for personal growth with healthy clients, may not be appropriate for clients with a mental illness. I am always interested in discussing with colleagues how we can include this area of knowledge in psychodrama training. I believe in the importance of support and developing international cooperation in the field of psychodrama; and also common standards of practice and training. Psychodrama in Russia must live and continue to develop, as psychodrama in general is needed all around the world!

Pavel Kornienko is a psychologist, psychodramatist, IAGP member, psychodrama trainer and supervisor from Moscow. He teaches Psychodrama in long-term courses in various cities in Russia and other post-soviet countries. In addition to classic Psychodrama, Pavel has two areas of expertise: working with trauma via the completion of psycho-physiological reactions, and with relationship problems by focusing on interpersonal communication. He is an author of articles about basic techniques and therapeutic aspects of psychodrama, and psychological work with trauma, loss, aggression and shame. Email: pavel.kornienko@gmail.com
IN MEMORIAM

Yaacov Naor, CAGS, TEP

Yaacov was born in Munich, Germany in 1948 however from 1949 on he grew up in Israel. He served three years in the Israeli Army and was married with two children. From 1973 to 1981 Yaacov spent time in the USA. He was fluent in English and Hebrew with a working knowledge of German.


Yaacov Naor was the Founder and Director of THE INNER THEATER: a Psychodrama and Intermodal Expressive Arts Therapy Center in Tel Aviv. He was a certified therapist and trainer in Psychodrama, Group Psychotherapy and Expressive Arts and had taught in Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia, Colombia, Brazil, South Africa and Israel for the last 35 years. Yaacov was a specialist in Transgenerational Transmission of Trauma and since 1986 had led special psychodrama dialogue groups for second and third generation Holocaust survivors together with young Germans, Palestinians and Israelis. He was the Co-founder of The International School of Transgenerational Therapy.

Yaacov served on the council of FEPTO (Federation of European Psychodrama Training Organization) and on the board of IAGP (International Association of Group Psychotherapy and Group Processes) where he was Chair of the Psychodrama Section. His professionalism and generous giving is evident from his many professional memberships: IEATA (The International Expressive Arts Therapy Association); ASGPP (The American Society Of Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama); The Israeli Association of Psychodrama (founding member); The Israeli Association of Creative and Expressive Therapies; The International Network of Creative Arts Therapy Training Centers (institute member); FEPTO (Federation of the European Psychodrama Training Organizations) – founding member, Chair of the Networking Committee since 2008; and lastly, PIJE (Psychodrama Institute fur Europa).

From Colleagues:

From Adam Blatner: “He was a significant member of the psychodrama powers-that-be over the last 40 years.”

Vlada Zapetosky now of Sunnyvale, California, wrote: Yaacov was my psychodrama teacher in Israel. I graduated from the 3-year program he led in Psychodrama and Art therapy that was a part of the Bar Ilan University. He was a wonderful teacher and a very generous man! We had a very special connection and kept in touch when I moved to California. He was one of my big supporters in going through the certification process here and helped me to prepare for the exam.

Here is a special story that I remember about Yaacov:

Yaacov was teaching one of the lessons on psychodrama for children and a part of the training was that each of the students took a role of the therapist and he played a child. When it was my turn, he began to play a child that was abandoned by his mother and was seeking for attention. He was so good in his role that I immediately felt empathy toward this poor, messy, playful and lonely child and tried to give him the best support and comforting that I could. I remember that at some point I totally forgot that this was Yaacov, a strong and wise man- my teacher, and began to treat him like a young kid. When we finished the session, he cried, hugged me and said: “You were such a good mommy! You know, I have trouble falling asleep these days. Could you come and sing me a lullaby before I go to sleep?” The whole class burst out laughing. We all were amazed by his ability to be real, open and vulnerable without losing a sense of humor and a powerful presence of a teacher and a truly special human being.

He will always stay present in my inner social atom as a man who had a great influence on my personal and professional growth, and I will always be grateful for having him in my life!!!

May he rest in peace!

From Rozei Telias:

When I think about Yaacov, and above all his warm and loving personality, these words come to mind: “a bridge over troubled water”. In his... [Continued on Page 24]
Dear Colleagues,

The ASGPP Executive Council and the Fundraising Committee are announcing this fundraising event for an urgent issue. ASGPP immediately needs a new WEBSITE!

**History:**
The ASGPP website was built on a platform called 1&1 IONOS (formerly 1&1 Internet). The platform was created in 1988 by a web hosting company owned by United Internet, a German Internet company. The platform has been providing ASGPP with the following services: Domain name registration; Website builder, Email, Web and an Internet Forum (a message board or an online discussion site) hosting.

**What is the problem:**
For the last several months, the platform performance has slowly but surely been degrading and crashing. Some examples are: basic things that should work, do not; form-functioning failed errors with unknown error source; damaged files and links; the need of ongoing maintenance mode after an upgrade; interruptions and conflicts between existing plugins, the upgrade and the custom coding.

**What we have experienced:**
The submitted data through the forms (e.g. membership application, conference registration, etc.) has been getting lost; passwords for the “Membership Only” page and the Internet Forum are not functioning; issues with registration and payment options; links not working or being accessed only through certain browsers or computer systems.

**How we have handled the problem:**
We have created an alternative platform for payments and data submission and analyses; not always user friendly, but providing a temporary solution.

**What we fear:**
The ASGPP website and email server may crash hard, which could lead to an inability to communicate and stay connected. We don’t know how long that condition could last.

**What we need:**
To hire a web development firm that will migrate from the old to a new secure platform and system, to handle the ASGPP website, email, forum, listserv.

**What we have done so far:**
The problems were examined; various web professionals were consulted, a task force was formed to assess the problem, determine our needs, and gather various bids for the website migration.

The issue is urgent and we need to take immediate action. The guesstimate cost of the entire website creation, setup and migration of current data is $15,000.00. We need to raise the amount by the end of March, 2019 to ensure we have a stable website.

Please consider donating for this highly important cause!

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.

To donate, go to: [https://www.gofundme.com/donate-for-a-new-asgpp-website&rcid=r01-154914186418-34fd04096b5e4bc3&pc=ot_co_campmgmt_w](https://www.gofundme.com/donate-for-a-new-asgpp-website&rcid=r01-154914186418-34fd04096b5e4bc3&pc=ot_co_campmgmt_w)

If you prefer to make a donation with a personal check, please make it out to: American Society of Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama (ASGPP) 301 N. Harrison Street, #508, Princeton, NJ 08540

Make sure to include the words “NEW WEBSITE” on the MEMO line of the check.

Thank you kindly,
Executive Council, ASGPP
Fundraising Committee, ASGPP
I am a 10' by 10' concrete storage space in Lawrence Township, New Jersey ($238 a month). I have been the ASGPP "garage or attic" for many years. No one comes to see me much except for maybe once or twice a year to grab some boxes, which they whisk away quickly; and then a month or so later someone fills me up again, even more quickly with more boxes. I am pretty much left unattended and I don’t think anyone cares or even knows what is inside of me.

This past October and January I was very excited to have multiple visits, first from Ron Collier, Janell Adair and Rhona Case and then Nancy Kirsner, Rhona and her husband, Rich. They spent nine hours with me! I felt so seen and valued! On the coldest day in January the three of them came and looked into every box, bag, and container inside me. Their goal was to organize, label, tidy, and remove unnecessary items — to ultimately move me into smaller quarters.

The rumble began...My space was mostly filled with boxes of old financial records going back to the 1980’s, conference related supplies; 2 decades of flyers, workshop evaluations (1990’s on), signs, posters of beautifully calligraphed award winners, table decorations, old history reports and many old photographs. My major tenants were boxes and boxes and boxes of old and newer journals. Some of these old friends were damp and moldy; however, most were saved. Look for ribboned packages of five journals each to appear at your 77th Annual Conference in Manchester for $10 a bundle around the auction and basket area. Also, you may find some of my old photos scattered on a table or two at Special Events for you to have - see if you can identify some of your trainers and friends from back in the day.

After a nine hour overhaul — I was lightened, tightened, cleaned, and relocated to a 5x10’ space a few aisles over ($99 month). The most fun they had was looking at the old photos together and putting names to faces. Most interesting was that two task force reports on ASGPP from 1988 and the early 2000’s, so paralleled some of today’s issues that it provided a bigger perspective that was instructive and helpful. Finally, all those heavy boxes of hard copy journals just sitting there was a useful reality check as you all discuss the Journal and printing versus digital options; and as well, mindful and greenwise ordering.

I would like to request that the Executive Council discuss having a few individuals in the New Jersey area take responsibility for monitoring my “filling up” again and catalog what actually gets stored in me. I am told all my named boxes will be put into an inventory. I will feel good staying “tidy” and having names for my streets and neighborhoods. "Boxes up" to Rich Case for doing all the heavy lifting.

Nancy Kirsner
Rhona and Rich Case
Voices for ASGPP Storage Space # CD703
at Extra Space Storage
I am humbled and grateful for the resilience and care that you, our membership, shows for the ASGPP. Your gifts of love, resiliency, perseverance, teamwork, mutual respect, and transparency are evident. True, our membership has worked and played hard in many group situations, over many years, to nurture and strengthen the many values and relational gifts we have been given from our sociometric predecessors. We look for what is trying to emerge, and we are not surprised by difficulties. As Members of the ASGPP, how many difficult transitional dramas and challenges, both real and enacted, have we been through? Zillions. These trials help to make our organization and us strong. We are here to help one another grow and be our best selves.

The Conference is coming up and it will happen, once again, in glory. Thanks be to our presenters for stepping forward and giving of their creativity and skills, and to our Conference Co-chairs, members and Executive Council for volunteering countless hours of organizing, deliberating and working with each other to craft another very elevating, enriching, and fun event.

Change has happened — some abrupt and unpredicted; and much transitional needed changes, and we are repairing and rebuilding. People have been hurt along the way, and we are attempting to repair these ruptures. The goodness that we are and have been is not lost. We are thankful for the philosophies we believe in and the shoulders we stand on.

One challenge is that parts of our very old website (nearly 20 years old) are no longer working. Our Web Development Task Force (Chaired by Anne Kitts Remley) is getting bids to construct a new website, from the ground up. Resurrection is an ongoing process, complacency is part of the phase, yet in crisis, we know how to respond as a Society.

There are currently 375 paid members. We had to take 60 members off our membership list, as their renewal dates were expired. We hope that they will reinstate their memberships. Of these 375 members, 353 are regular members, students or retirees, and 20 are International members, 2 have Diplomate status. In addition, we now have two Organizations who have joined the ASGPP. We have created a New Comers Task Force, Chaired by Aida Hernandez. The membership Committee is engaged and active.

Membership News

Marianne Shapiro, LMHC, TEP, Membership Chair

ASGPP SAFE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

1. ASGPP’s goal is to provide a safe and welcoming environment for people of all races, gender identities, ethnicities, ability levels and socioeconomic class. All participants at ASGPP events, live or online, are expected to cooperate in creating this atmosphere of physical and emotional safety. “Participants” includes administrators, volunteers, vendors, presenters, contractors and attendees. All participants are asked to be respectful of the personal space of others in all contexts, and to remember to seek permission if there is any doubt about what level of contact will be welcomed.

2. Psychodrama work is often intensely personal. All participants are expected to honor the confidentiality of those involved in ASGPP classes, workshops and events. However, an exception to strict confidentiality is that participants are encouraged to report unsafe instances to the ASGPP Executive Director [asgpp@asgpp.com], to the ASGPP President [president@asgpp.com] or to the chairperson of the event [event-specific contact info]. All reasonable efforts will be made to restore a safe environment, and to protect the confidentiality of all involved.

3. Psychodrama and sociometry often include physical contact and touch. The leader / teacher / director of any workshop /class/psychodrama that might include physical contact will advise participants of that possibility, and to remember to seek permission if there is any doubt about what level of contact will be welcomed.

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THOUGHTS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP, EXPANSION OF OUTREACH, USING THE BEST OF CURRENT TECHNOLOGIES

David Silverman

Dear PNN Readers,

I have recently become active in the ASGPP again, and am happy to see the spirited efforts of the various service bodies to keep the organization going. It can continue to guide and assist the psychodrama community in our efforts to share the benefits of what we have learned with others, in a strife-ridden world that sorely needs them. NOTE: when I say ‘psychodrama’, I am also including sociodrama and related therapies.

I am going to quote from a letter I wrote to the ASGPP recently (somewhat revised):

I agree that to provide the most benefit for the most numbers, we must be familiar with and make use of the newest technology (which is constantly changing), as well as preserving the flesh-and-blood face-to-face encounter which is at the heart of psychodrama.

As an example, I am a member of an online 12-step group that holds meetings via video conferencing. These meetings have been very helpful to me, even though I have never physically met the other participants, who hail from all parts of the globe. Naturally, face-to-face meetings would be more helpful, but it would be truly impractical to gather such a geographically diverse group of people together in the same room, week after week. Many of us have become very good friends, in spite of the physical separation, as we walk the path of recovery together.

Another benefit to using the latest technology is that organizations can now distribute their literature freely to the world over the internet, and in return take donations to support their service bodies. I am constantly encouraging organizations to do this, but naturally they are afraid that their book revenue would suffer, although I believe that just the opposite would happen, and that they would reap a great windfall, both financially and in achieving the goals of the organization, the reason they exist in the first place.

In addition to providing a platform for information, literature, classroom teaching, coordination, and collaboration, the internet could possibly also be used for onstage teaching and to perform psychodrama, if proper screening and safeguards were implemented. Perhaps each participant would need to have a partner involved who was physically present, as a safety measure.

A psychodrama or sociodrama performed by a group in one physical location could also be broadcast, via the web, around the world, to address various individual, social, cultural, and political problems and aspirations. This could reach a wide audience and perhaps have profound salutary effects for the world.

As new worlds of technological opportunity emerge more and more every day, it behooves us to be alert, to use whatever means we can, in order to share with others the great gift that has been so freely given to us.

You will notice that I mention giving away program literature in my letter. For the psychodrama community, this would include our journal and its articles, to be made freely available to everyone in the world via the internet. You may say, but then how will we support our organization, which is already suffering financially. I believe that if our literature proves helpful to others, then they would be prompted to make a heartfelt donation to the organization that is providing this priceless literature free of charge, to help defray its expenses and promote its educational activities and outreach. And they would be happy that the ASGPP is providing priceless resources to impoverished people around the world, many of whom have no easy or affordable access to physical books or mail delivery – people who would otherwise remain ignorant of a great treasure. If psychodrama ‘goes viral’ by spreading knowledge of its activities and methods everywhere in the world, easily and for free, using all the various platforms of the internet and social media, not only will it reach and inspire many more people, but it may reap a financial boon many times over what it is making now.

I would encourage not only ASGPP as an organization, but also its individual members who have written and published wonderful books about psychodrama, to consider creating websites where their works can be downloaded for free, and include a donation box next to the download link, any amount accepted. Perhaps this could lead to something like the dandelions in my front yard whose seeds the wind blows through the air to land near and far from the original plants, until there arises a beautiful field of yellow! [Unfortunately, fear of my neighbor’s reaction causes this dream to remain a dream!]

However, maybe it ‘takes a thorn to remove a thorn’, and it may be that we can use the internet, with all its positive aspects, to actually promote more face-to-face encounters in the world.

I’m happy to be back in the ASGPP again, and hope to be a productive member!

David Silverman
dear david0@gmail.com
IN MEMORIAM
Tom Schramski, PhD, TEP

Tom Schramski, Founder, President & Managing Partner of Vertress, a mergers and acquisitions advisory and consulting firm in health care and human services, passed away peacefully on December 30 at his home in Tucson, AZ, after a prolonged battle with cancer. Tom had just returned home a week prior from a family trip to Europe. Prior to his work with Vertress, Tom was a psychologist for many years in Tucson, and he worked tirelessly throughout his career on behalf of people with developmental disabilities.

Tom was born in Mankato, MN on December 18, 1951. He attended ST. Peter-Paul Elementary School and Loyola High School, where he graduated as the salutatorian of his senior class in 1970. He also attended St. John’s University and the University of Minnesota. He treasured all the friendships he made all of those years.

After leaving Minnesota in 1972, Tom lived most of his life in Arizona, primarily in Tucson. He received his BA from Prescott College and his PhD from the University of Arizona in Psychology. He practiced with a number of important figures in psychodrama and eventually focused his clinical work on those experiencing developmental disabilities.

Ever the entrepreneur, Tom chose to focus on establishing group homes and was an early leader in the sale of healthcare businesses to their own employees, including his own. He later expanded his repertoire into other aspects of the healthcare industry and even real estate. Tom was known to be an independent thinker: opposed to the Vietnam War in his younger years, an early supporter of disability and LGBT rights before it was mainstream, and, as he grew older, a proponent of immigrants’ issues a — cause of particular importance to his wife, Christy.

Tom had sundry interests throughout his life, including cycling, blues music, travel, photography, meditation, literature and film, and of course the Vikings. He was an occasional fan of the Twins, though his California grandson, Hatch, tried to convince him otherwise. As he grew closer to leaving this Earth, Tom became especially close to his music and musician friends, with whom he also shared a passion for bacanora.

He was the consummate hard-driving professional, but his final moments with friends and family showed how loving and compassionate he was. He is survived by his mother, Jean; siblings, James (Mary) and Nancy; wife, Christy; sons, Paul (Katie) and Samuel (Ana Carolina); stepdaughters, Akilah and Daisia; and grandchildren, Hatch and Magnolia.

From Dena:
Tom Schramski studied psychodrama with Elaine Goldman and Leo Fine. He brought the Federation of Trainers conference to Tucson in the early eighties and wrote many articles for our journal on various populations – see articles at www.zotero.org/psychodrama/items/g/schrams-ki. Tom was an advocate for individuals and families with developmental disabilities. He started CPES, an agency that dealt with that population, and then sold it to the employees. Tom started the Tucson Center for Psychodrama and did trainings and ran open sessions with me for the community for five years. Tom left psychodrama in the nineties but took his skills and his love of psychodrama and sociometry to many successful business ventures.

Tom was my friend of forty years, my colleague and the man who turned me on to Psychodrama. I will be missing him as I know those of you who knew and learned from him will as well.

Dena Baumgartner
Welcome to our New ASGPP Members

The following are new members who have joined us in recent months.

Welcome!
Ava Atzram (PA)
Tracy Muklewicz (IL)
Susan Parcell (IL)
Cristina Manole Schmidt (Austria)
Annalissa Vicencio (NY)

Ava Weinstein Atzram, LCSW

After a career in public service, Ava established a private practice in Bucks County, PA when she joined Crossroads Counseling. She was exposed to psychodrama through her colleagues who have been deeply involved with ASGPP. Ava was excited to realize that she had been utilizing some psychodrama that she learned during her first internship while working with groups. With her colleagues’ encouragement, Ava attended her first ASGPP conference and has since attended additional workshops. She has recently become a member of ASGPP and the Delaware Valley Psychodrama Collective. Ava looks forward to continuing to learn psychodrama methods to employ in her practice with individuals and couples.

Dana Sayre, MA

Dana has a BA in Theatre and English from Fairmont State University and a MA in Performance Studies from Texas A&M University. Dana is enrolled in the alternative training program to become certified as a Registered Drama Therapist through the North American Drama Therapy Association. Dana discovered psychodrama through the NADTA and is training at Centerwood Institute, currently holding the title of Assistant Director of Psychodrama. Dana is currently working as an advocate for survivors of domestic violence, and has experience working with trauma, addiction, mood disorders, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQIA+ community.

Cristina Schmidt, CP

Cristina Schmidt, CP (Vienna, Austria): I was certified in Romania in 2005. My education and work are in psychodrama, transactional analysis, gestalt therapy and systemic therapy. I work with individuals, groups; offering self-growth groups, training professionals, soft skills corporate training classes like (Leadership, Communication, Emotional Intelligence, Selling Skills for companies such Coca Cola, Telekom, etc.); and writing columns for journals. I work with anger management, conflict resolution; body-health issues and transgenerational topics. I have delivered transgenerational psychodrama workshops for many groups in Indonesia, Italy, Romania and Austria. I am happy to be a member of the ASGPP and already joined the ASGPP International Committee.

Annalissa Vicencio, LCAT, MT-BC

Annalissa Vicencio is a native Bronxite, and proud to be working as a full-time Licensed Creative Arts Therapist at Montefiore Medical Center - Wakefield, the very building in which she was born. She is a doctoral student in the Rehabilitation Sciences PhD program at NYU Steinhardt, where she also received her master's degree in Music Therapy; she holds a BA in Biology-Neuroscience from Manhattanville College. As a Recovery, Integrative Nutrition Health Coach, and transpersonal practitioner, Annalissa founded Whole Health Power to empower her clients toward transformation and holistic health. Annalissa is working toward the CP with the Hudson Valley Psychodrama Institute and Valerie Simon. Annalissa first experienced action methods and techniques via Diane Austin's Vocal Psychotherapy. Annalissa is passionate about working in neurologic, psychiatric, and addiction rehabilitation and ultimately endeavors to integrate her background in the creative arts, research, neuroscience, nutrition, and health coaching to promote wellbeing from the individual level to society at large.

If you know of someone who is a new ASGPP member who has joined within the past two years and you would like to see featured, please ask them to submit a profile and a photograph to the PNN so we could all get to know them better. We are interested in who our new members are. It gives us all hope and trust in the future of the ASGPP.
CONFERENCES AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES


May 2 - 5 — “Discovering New Worlds: Transformational Advances in Psychodrama, Sociometry and Group Psychotherapy” 77th ASGPP Annual Conference. DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown Hotel, Manchester, NH. Contact: www.asgpp.org

May 8 - 11 — Foro Iberoamericano de Psicodrama (FIP) - Costa Rica XII. Congreso Iberoamericano de Psicodrama. Contact: www.facebook.com/XIIiberoamericanoPsicodrama


June 14 - 17 — 17 International Association for Group Psychotherapy and Group Processes (IAGP), 2nd IAGP International Research Congress Trauma and Crises. Thessaloniki, Greece. Contact: http://iagpresearchcongress2019.com

June 20 - 22 — “Rupture and Repair: Remaking Relationships in Families and Communities” American Family Therapy Association (AFTA). Oakland Marriott City Center, Oakland, CA. Contact: https://afta.org/conferences

Check the ASGPP website, www.asgpp.org, for additional Upcoming Conferences.

Check the organization website for Calls for Proposals and other information.
IN MEMORIAM

Dr. John Casson

John Christey-Casson from the United Kingdom died on February 1, 2019 after a short illness. He passed away peacefully. At John’s funeral and open reception guests were told there was to be NO BLACK, only bright colors please at John’s request. All donations to the Bolton Hospice.

John was a drama therapist, Psychodrama therapist, Supervisor and Senior Trainer. He also taught English and Drama. His MA research was into the shamanic healing dramas of Sri Lanka (Birmingham 1979). He has written numerous academic articles and contributed seven chapters to edited books on dramatherapy and psychodrama, as well as writing his own book. He also taught English and Drama. His MA research was about shamanic healing dramas of Sri Lanka and he wrote numerous academic articles and contributed seven chapters to edited books on drama therapy and psychodrama, as well as writing his own book.

John was one of the most experienced therapists in his field. During a decade in adult mental health, he set up the largest team of Arts Therapists in the North of England and he established a service for women survivors of sexual abuse, (1990). He later ran the first groups for male survivors of sexual abuse with Madeline Andersen-Warren, (1999-2000). Throughout this time he worked with people who struggled with serious and enduring mental health problems including psychotic experiences. He registered for a doctorate at the Metropolitan University of Manchester in 1996 and completed his PhD research in 2002. In this ground-breaking study he showed how drama therapy and psychodrama could be safely and effectively used by people who hear voices. His book “Drama, Psychotherapy and Psychosis: drama therapy and psychodrama with people who hear voices” is based on that research and is published by Routledge. He wrote a five act play “Voices and Visions” also based on his research.

He was a founder member of the Northern Trust for Drama Therapy and the Northern School of Psychodrama. He was given a Life Time Achievement Award at the 2012 conference of the British Psychodrama Association. Before training as a therapist, John’s background was in theatre and education. From 1973-84 he worked in theatre as a puppeteer, mask maker, playwright and director, performing in England, Europe, USA, Turkey, Iran and India.

A note from Bud Weiss to his daughter, Anna-Marie:

Your father will be sorely missed. In addition to his brilliant scholarship and co-author partnering on the issues of Sir Henry Neville and Shakespeare which have so enriched my and thousands of others joy in the works. John’s contributions to his version of psychodramatic work and the inventive tools he developed in helping to heal those whose lives were seared by trauma leading to breakdowns is singularly inspiring.

His wonderful spirit filled comical grace in his theatrical offerings which were both entertaining and often inspiring needed dialogue. His poetry, which I was blessed to read in our exchanges, was of the finest most rewarding I have been privileged to read and deeply enjoy including his patience and support for my poor offerings in return. I hope you will be publishing his poetry and let us know of it’s publication. I was inestimably graced by our brief relationship in email exchanges.

John left this world having fully contributed to the betterment of all lives touched by him in the words of G.B. Shaw, John, in joy and with courage indeed helped the torch of life to burn as brightly as possible, passing it on so gloriously enhanced:

“This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of (Continued on Page 28)
Research Opportunity

AEP (Spanish Psychodrama Association) has a new initiative to encourage New Research in the field of Psychodrama. The J.L. Award in Research in Psychodrama. Research works can be presented in Spanish and English. The research project will have to follow scientific methodology and will have to be a new unpublished work. The date line to present the work is October 1st of 2019. If anyone is interested, Daniela Simmons <danielasv@gmail.com> would be glad to translate the basis of the contest or you can contact directly the committee in charge of the award at: info@aepsicodrama.es

The link to the information is the following: http://www.aepsicodrama.es/novedades/noticias/premio-jl-moreno-de-investigacion-en-psicodrama?fbclid=IwAR3lwB4mV0RHjK6Wmz3eDNxKmMdgwQQi4R1dEzOYliBq7VGlF-U_OVsK9k
Yaacov Naor
(Continued from Page 14)

personal life as a second generation survivor of the Holocaust, he was forced to cross over stormy waters but he chose to create a bridge for dialogue among the second generation survivors and the second generation of Nazi Germany. He thus revealed empathy, compassion and most of all he gave us examples as Psychodramatists about how to create encounters between human beings the Moreno style.

My first meeting with Yaacov was as a young student of psychodrama and later he was the second reader of my master’s thesis entitled, *The relationship between the life story of artists such as John Lennon, and Dean Gems to their art work*. Among others things, he wrote “Art is a bridge between, personal interpersonal and universal”. Who knew that Yaacov built bridges that become for so many people in the world as examples of how to pass through troubled waters. Leonard Cohen wrote and Sung to commemorate victims of the Holocaust:

"Dance me to your beauty with a burning violin
Dance me through the panic until I am gathered safely in."

I dedicate these words to you, Yaacov Naor.
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.

Residential Psychodrama Intensive

AT BLUE MOUNTAIN RETREAT CENTER, KNOXVILLE, MD.
AUGUST 14-19

WITH
Linda A. Ciotola, M.Ed., CET III, TEP AND Catherine D. Nugent, LCPC, TEP

35.0 Continuing education credits
(NBCC, MD Board of Social Work Examiners, ABE)

INVESTMENT: $975 – includes workshop, meals and lodging
DISCOUNTS: $900 - early registration by June 1;
$925 - LPTI cohort members or 3 or more from the same training institute.

The intensity and cohesion of a small group living and working together for five days helps create a safe space for deep and powerful healing, learning and personal growth. Opportunities for personal work, as well as skills practice, theory presentations and application to various populations and settings, are included.

Blue Mountain is located in the beautiful hills of Western Maryland. Delicious, organic home-cooked meals are provided.

Yoga and massage are offered daily onsite.

TO REGISTER, CONTACT CATHY AT 401-746-7251 OR CATHYNUGENT@VERIZON.NET
From the President
(Continued from Page 1)

I loge with children that let us know he saw us so well!

In the summer and fall of 2018, 15 years after Mr. Roger’s death, several documentaries and books demonstrated that his quiet words and teachings still have something to say to help us deal with daily ups and downs, contentious and often painful cultural and political climates, standing up for who we are and what we believe in, and how to respect and come together across our differences. I’m going to share some of my best lessons from Mister Rogers’ that guided and supported me during the first 9 months of a challenging leadership role as your President. I learned these lessons anew with added twists in our ASGPP Neighborhood.

1. It’s okay to feel whatever we feel... even if our feelings seem chaotic and complex. Naming our feelings and speaking them out-loud to those we trust is vital. Everyone’s feelings matter and people need to be seen and heard.

As President, I experienced a lot of hurt and anger all around – from EC and our Community who did not understand why all these changes were happening? Everyone’s feelings needed to be heard and acknowledged — EC, the Executive Committee, the resigned Executive Director, and the members of our Community.

2. Our feelings aren’t an excuse for bad or hurtful behavior towards others.

Mister Rogers also gave us anger-management lessons. Even though he spoke of acceptance, kindness and love, he understood that getting angry is a fact of life. Rather than trying to get rid of it, his message was to manage it – we’re in control of our anger.

I learned that electronic communications — emails, texts, the Forum – sometimes allow people to detach from realizing there is a human being on the other end. Setting verbal boundaries with phone etiquette and reminding people to share their ideas and opinions without putting others down or attacking was sometimes difficult to sustain around heated thoughts and emotions. This reminded me of another of Mister Rogers’ lessons:

3. Mister Rogers taught us to stand up for what we believe in.

In a famous video of Mr. Rogers speaking to the U.S. Commerce Commission in 1969 when government support for public broadcasting was threatened, Rogers speaks calmly about his feelings, specifically anger. He quoted his song, “What do you do with the mad you feel?” making suggestions about how to channel anger. In the song he talks about the “good feeling of control...It’s great to be able to stop when you’ve planned a thing that’s wrong and be able to do something else instead...I can stop anytime.” Rogers stood up for what he believed in – his testimony secured PBS $20 million dollars in funding.

4. Mister Rogers’ neighborhood constantly affirmed the co-existence of self-expression and respect for self and others.

This theme was central in a majority of episodes and not surprisingly, I found this a main focus in my leadership. Emails, texts and electronic contact on Zoom and the Forum didn’t always lend to this naturally. Missing face-to-face contact, without soft eyes, and nonverbal cues, made this challenging. I chose to make a lot of phone calls during this time to talk directly to people.

I believe in our ASGPP Community and that our Society is thriving through much needed change in structure (Bylaws and Operations Manual), organization, more contemporary visioning of our goals, and oversight management and accountability built into our core functioning. I believe that “you and all people matter above all else.”

5. Other people are different from us — and just as complex as we are.

During a time when media, social networking, news, and politics can lock us into closed mindsets, it’s easy to demonize and oversimplify those who are different and with whom we disagree. Mister Rogers showed us another way when he wrote a song that said, “It’s the people you like the most who can make you feel maddest. It’s the people you like the most who can manage to make you feel baddest.”

However tempting it is to call ourselves good and call others bad, all of us are more than we seem. These words and thoughts soothed and guided me when I was hurt, mad, sad, and felt conflicted and polarized. We are all more alike than different.

6. It’s our responsibility to care for the most vulnerable.

Fred Rogers was an ordained Presbyterian minister with a unique charge to minister through the mass media. Fred took seriously the scripture mandate to care for the most vulnerable — he worked in prisons, sat on hospital boards, spoke on behalf of children to the Senate and Commissions and visited the sick and dying.

Mister Rogers was as gentle and loving in life as on the screen. He was deeply committed to Christian values and worked every day to emulate Jesus who welcomes children and loves us just the way we are, and calls us to love self and neighbor alike.

Upon becoming ASGPP President, I inherited many vulnerable situations that all involved people I loved, knew and cared about. The ongoing challenge for me is about seeing the person and their true heart, beyond the content, behavior, or issue. My work was right here and now and related to another Mister Rogers’ lesson:

7. We can work to make a difference right where we are.

Fred did his work and made his mark within his own context. For example, by inviting black actor Francois Clemmons (Officer Clemmons) to come soak his tired hot feet in a small pool with him, and then they shared a towel together drying off their feet. This touching episode was during the late 60’s when racism and segregation were plaguing our country. While marching, writing, and picketing are all good ways to make change, Fred’s life reminds us we can work for the well-being of the most vulnerable wherever we are.

As Fred would say, “there are many ways to say I love you. These are the most important things you will ever learn to do.” I learned to listen (to everyone; even people and things difficult to hear), make contact when I knew folks were upset or hurting, and reminding folks of their strengths and positive contributions as we were navigating dark waters.

8. It’s important to make time to care for ourselves.

Fred took good care of himself — he swam every day, and didn’t smoke or drink. He spent his life giving to those he knew well and never smoked or drank. He swam every day, and never smoked or drank.

During these 9 months, the changes, workload, and surprise resignations have left significant roles empty. We are rebuilding and reorganizing having grown and learned from it all. The word I keep wrapping myself around is overwhelmed. I have worked hard to

(Continued on Page 27)
keep my self-care in place despite long ASGPP meetings and hours. My friends, my family, my grandchildren, working out, ballroom dancing, my dog Jasper and my singing lessons. As well, maintaining my religious community and connection.

9. We are neighbors.

Why did Mister Rogers call us “neighbors?” Neighbor is old-testament biblical language which Fred knew well. It instructs us to love our neighbor as you love yourself. Mister Rogers called us “neighbors” for over four decades warmly inviting us into his Neighborhood.

It was a gentle, however firm tug, nudging us out of our aloneness and differences into lives of mercy and caring for one another. He saw children as good and lovable and that if we cultivated this when young, that we could teach and demonstrate mercy and maybe grow into real neighbors to one another. Our ASGPP Journey this year has been one whereby we are becoming real neighbors.

WON’T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

The Warm-Up Box
By Carl E. Hollander

The Warm-Up Box is a reservoir of warm-up ideas useful for anyone who works with groups. These warm up suggestions may be augmented by ideas you already use. The introductory booklet explains the warming-up process. A section on sociometry and group cohesion follows. Finally, there is a discussion designating for which populations each of these warm-up techniques are most suited. Over 150 warm-up techniques are included. Each card and each exercise tells the kinds of groups and levels of cohesion for which the particular warm-up is appropriate.

To order, go to: www.asgpp.org/pub/pubindex.html
2019 Conference
(Continued from Page 1)

Therapy Review. Dr. Sajnani is the co-editor of two books, including Trauma-Informed Drama Therapy: Transforming Clinics, Classrooms, and Communities. Nisha’s research areas include culturally responsive pedagogy in the arts therapies, embodied and performance research, trauma-informed care, and global mental health.

- Plenary Speaker: Edward Schriebber, DD, EdM, LADC, TEP will be focused on Moreno’s mystical tradition of Sociatry. A key concept in sociatry is the Social Microscope, which is able to show “the whole of mankind” — its structure in a group. The group becomes a microscope to the time in which we are living. Through careful application of Moreno’s existential codes and symbols, the ASGPP as a whole will awaken its collective autonomous healing center. Ed studied extensively with Zerka Moreno and worked with her as editor of her two books, The Quintessential Zerka, and To Dream Again: A Memoir. Additionally, he is currently co-editing to publish the full autobiography of Jacob L. Moreno.

- Diversity Forum facilitated by Jennie Kristel and Joshua Lee: Think Globally and Enact Locally. This diversity forum will offer participants a process of exploration to up-level the conversation about diversity that acknowledges and honors both who we are as a community; and “sticks a pin” in what we think we know about diversity, creating an opening for embracing the diversity in the room.

- Friday Night at the Movies with a Unique Film Screening and Panel of “A Cinematic History of Psychodrama: From Moreno to Modern.” This Interactive panel will be moderated by Jacqui Siroka with film participants Kelley Brower (videographer of film), Nina Garcia, Jaye Moyer and Nan Neily Seif. This film was conceived and directed by Robert Siroka, founder and Director of The Sociometric Institute of New York. As Executive Producer, Robert extended and supported J.L. Moreno’s fore-sight about the value of having a visual history of Psychodrama. This film contributes both to the cinematic conservation and as well, to the new development of media accessible for educating the general public as well as clinicians about Psychodrama.

- The International Tele’Café – Friday night following the movie and panel. Hosted by our International Committee. Join us for coffee, teas, desserts at our surplus reality Tele’Café. you never know who you might meet ?

- Sunday Morning Panel: Envisioning the Creative Arts Therapies with Saphira Linden and a Panel of distinguished experts in their fields. Creative Arts Therapies’ would be stronger and more effective working together to truly make a difference. Let us envision and dream together about what this would look like….all the new possibilities to transform our lives and communities.

- Playback theatre will help us integrate, share, savor and close our Conference.

- Silent and Live Auctions; Baskets – an ASGPP traditions that we all enjoy while raising money through donated, created, items and generosities of our members. There are always beautiful and interesting items, trainings, trips, and surprises involved.

- Let’s Have a Ball Saturday dance and karaoke with D.J. Frank Pietroski, a local celebrity who has been in broadcasting and music for 40 years. Frank is also a clown and does magic shows !

- The beautiful Doubletree Hilton provides an exquisite ambiance that brings outside nature in through large glass walls and windows and carpets that look like the streams and rivers around New Hampshire. There is a full spa and indoor-outdoor pool. Walk to over 60 restaurants within 10 minutes of our hotel and experience the natural beauty and warm ambiance of Manchester and its people.

Our team is planning a conference that includes new creative ideas while igniting the untapped reserves of spontaneity within the community. The conference will continue its traditions of ceremonies, silent and live and entertainment while also introducing new cultural conserves into the event. We look forward to co-creating a conference full of incredible experiences and memories that increase our cohesion as a community and advance the methods of Jacob and Zerka Moreno. We look forward to welcoming you to New Hampshire!

Scott Giacomucci & Maria Mellano
Conference Co-Chairs

John Casson
(Continued from Page 22)

ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.

I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the hard-er I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no “brief candle” for me It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.”

George Bernard Shaw

My deepest condolences to you, your family and all John’s friends in his loss. He will come again no more; “Never, never, never, never, never!”

Bud Weiss
PNN Submission and Policy Guidelines

The Editorial Staff has created the PNN Guidelines to help you get your submissions accepted and also to make our decision making process transparent to the community.

In the last two years with generous help from our writers in the U.S. and International, we have a robust diverse colorful newsletter. We know that many of you write professionally and well. In an ideal world, you would like to see any changes to your submitted copy. We are not able to do this. Please understand these policies before you make your submission to us.

**EDITED ARTICLES ARE NOT RETURNED TO AUTHORS FOR THEIR REVIEW.**

**THE EDITORIAL STAFF HAS THE FINAL SAY IN WHAT GETS PRINTED INTO THE PNN.**

The PNN is the official newsletter of ASGPP and it is our goal to provide opportunities for connection, support, sharing of ideas, and communication within the society as well as between the ASGPP membership and other groups, organizations and communities in the United States and internationally. The Editorial Staff welcomes submissions from many sources and strives to have high standards that are clear and transparent. The PNN is published three times a year; Winter, Spring/Summer and Fall. It is emailed to our membership and posted on our website. Previous issues remain on the site indefinitely.

The PNN Editorial Staff (Executive Director, PNN Editor, Designer, ASGPP President and other contributing editors or designees) reserves the right to accept or reject any article submitted and to edit submitted articles in any way deemed appropriate and necessary. **EDITED ARTICLES ARE NOT RETURNED TO AUTHORS FOR THEIR REVIEW.** However, the Editorial Staff may request additional information from authors when they deem it necessary.

**THE EDITORIAL STAFF HAS THE FINAL SAY IN WHAT GETS PRINTED INTO THE PNN.**

The PNN does not accept stories or features that promote trainings or workshops done by any individual or group. No names of training groups or training workshops will be included.

The PNN Members in Action feature welcomes highlighting past events of our community. While individual names may be used, names of training groups or training workshops will be excluded.

The PNN would be delighted to highlight any psychodramatist who is an ASGPP Member that has received an award from any organization, university or not for profit organization.

ASGPP Members who have presented workshops at conferences, as part of community outreach, or not-for-profit organizations, or published articles in professional journals are also accepted submissions.

Articles should have a title and list the full name(s) of all authors. Please send no more than a three line bio for each author including title and place of work. When possible, submit photos of author(s) or related to that event. Any links to source material are encouraged.

*The PNN does not feature stories or information previously disseminated by our sister organization, The American Board of Examiners (ABE).*

As the PNN has grown in size and variety of submissions, please check the word count requirements before submission. Documents which greatly exceed word counts will be returned to you.

**WORD COUNTS:**

**ARTICLES** – 800
**COLUMNS** – Presidents, Editors, Trainers Corner, Unsung Hero/Heroine, International, etc. - 600
**MEMBERS IN ACTION** – 75
**REGIONAL, CHAPTERS, COLLECTIVES** – 100

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the ASGPP office at asgpp@asgpp.org, 609-737-8500 and denote that your communication is for the PNN.

Respectfully submitted,

PNN Editorial Staff

Send submissions only to E-mail: asgpp@asgpp.org

Please put “PNN Copy” in the Subject

**Copy and Publication Deadlines:**
Winter: January 23 for publication February 28
Spring/Summer: June 2 for publication July 15
Fall: September 26 for publication Nov 1