



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY AND PSYCHODRAMA

ASGPP Tele'Gram

November/December 2020

TELE'GRAM

Established June, 2018

"The 'Present' is ... a transition of the past to the future, it is always there; [but] through a spontaneous-creative process, the 'Present' attains dynamic meaning, when it turns into a 'Moment'. (Sociatry, 1948a, vol.2, p.435-436).

Dear ASGPP Members,

We are saddened to say goodbye to our dear colleague and friend, John Mosher. He died peacefully in his sleep on Sunday, November 22, 2020.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving is a day of giving thanks for the blessings of the harvest and of the preceding year. At this time of the year, the Executive Council wants to express our appreciation and gratitude to each one of you!

We are grateful for being in a community that believes in the J.L.Moreno's methods – a community that consists from people from several generations. We are grateful for all the volunteers for your efforts and enthusiasm! We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you and meet our organization's future needs! We value the experience of working and co-creating with you and appreciate your confidence in our team. We are especially grateful that we can count you as a valued and caring ASGPP member!

Sincerely,
Your 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.

We are publishing below excerpts from the Fall 2020 Committee Reports:

FROM THE ASGPP COMMITTEES:

Awards Committee

Ron Collier, Chair

Based on the recently-approved change to the Bylaws, the Honors Committee establishes the criteria and identifies those people in the Society who have made significant educational or research contributions in psychodrama, sociometry and group psychotherapy, and who may be eligible for awards as established by the Society. Because the 2020 conference was cancelled, honors that were to be given at that conference will now be awarded at the 2021 conference. One new award, the "Young Professionals Award" will be submitted to the membership.

Continuing Education Committee (CEU)

Tzivia Stein, Chair

The Continuing Education Committee reviewed the company and mechanism through which continuing education credits are offered for the annual conference and other ASGPP-sponsored trainings. The Committee explored many different options and contacted other similar professional organizations. The Committee recommended to the Executive Council that at this time, the current company and mechanism was the most cost and labor efficient for providing continuing education to our members and conference/training attendees.

Publicity and Social Media Committee

Patty Phelps, Chair

This Committee is active in publicizing ASGPP events via eblasts and social media posts. Additionally, solicit and review advertising for the PNN and Conference material and work with other organizations re. trade publicity/advertising.

also help publicize their event on their social media accounts. The Committee could also use additional social media-savvy members. If interested, please contact Daniela Simmons or Patty Phelps.

History Keepers Committee

Anath Garber, Chair

The purpose of the History Keepers Committee is to acknowledge ASGPP members of 20 years or more, attend to their needs and solicit their help. The Committee is exploring ways to acknowledge members in this category and is exploring with the Council and ASGPP Conference Committee ways to increase the sociometric connections between new and longer-term members. The committee is open and inviting members who may be interested in the activities of this committee and could particularly use tech-savvy members!

International Committee

Mark Wentworth (UK) and Cristina Schmidt (Austria/Romania), Co-Chairs

This Committee is reaching out to international colleagues and organizations to foster connection and co-create projects around the globe which support both the individual and the collective. The Committee has sponsored Tele'Cafe zoom meetings, and emotional support groups in different languages.

Membership Committee

Rhona Case and Deb Shaddy, Co-Chairs

The focus of this committee at present is to reach out to members who have not renewed their membership.

Nominations Committee

Darlene Vanchura, Chair

The Nominations Committee is tasked with collecting nominations, determining the nominee's eligibility to run for office, and creating a ballot for the open positions on the ASGPP Board and Committees.

We, Darlene Vanchura, Tzivia Stein-Barret, Colleen Baratka and Deborah Karner are navigating through this process. We were all newbies at the start of this year but we have learned much about the workings of this committee. Our work continues until a ballot is accepted by the Board.

The Nominations Committee wishes to stress that: when the "Call for Nominations" comes to your email box, it is important that you give this "Call" thoughtful consideration. Please consider those whose talent and expertise would benefit ASGPP. Then, take the next step and respond to the "Call" by submitting the names of those members.

We are so grateful to have become a part of this caring community!!

Professional Liaison Committee

Scott Giacomucci, Chair

The most recent initiative of the Professional Liaison Committee has been focused on further integrating Moreno's methods into academia - specifically university programs. The committee created and published a "Best Practices" for teaching psychodrama in university settings in collaboration with over a dozen psychodrama trainers who have experience teaching psychodrama at universities. Furthermore, we collected a database of over a dozen psychodrama syllabi from various university programs and obtained permissions to make them publicly available on our website.

The Professional Liaison Committee is in need of new members and support!

Professional Standards Committee

Rebecca Walters, Chair

The purpose of this Committee is to maintain the ethical and professional standards of the ASGPP by investigating complaints. This fall, the Committee has reviewed the current policy and is recommending updates to the Executive Council to guide future considerations of Professional Standard Committee reports.

Research Committee

Scott Giacomucci & Rob Pramann, Co-Chairs

This Committee is meeting bi-monthly and exploring psychodrama application for Evidence Based Practice; developing a mentorship program for research; and promoting psychodrama research in the ASGPP. The Committee is collaborating with international psychodrama researchers and group therapy researchers; developing a survey for ASGPP membership on research; reevaluating the multisite research project created by previous co-chairs; and creating an annotated list of research instruments for psychodrama. The Committee organized the first international psychodrama research panel for the 2020 ASGPP conference which was cancelled due to COVID.

Sociatry and Social Justice Committee

Deborah Karner and Paula De Franco, Co-Chairs

The Sociatry and Social Justice Committee is to create space to discuss, enact, use

sociatry, sociometry and sociodrama to explore issues of social justice. These explorations will be brainstormed into workshops and other formats to assist psychodramatists to facilitate in their own communities and, to use the social microscope in our own ASGPP community. Ultimately, the members of ASGPP, the organization itself can become a center for change in the world.

Our actions are to work with Executive Committee and Paula De Franco and Ed Schrieber to gain clarity and structure for the careful building of a foundation that will contain the inevitably messy conversations in a safe manner. We need to look at how we can offer encounter sessions. We need to figure out how to create a working committee with the intestinal fortitude to face strong emotional knee jerks and other responses without taking them personally. Our current actions are to implement sociatry workshops and explore future actions.

Website Committee

Regina Sewell, Chair

The Website Committee navigated several challenges to bring the new ASGPP website to fruition. It continues to go through refinements and upgrades. In addition, the Committee created a new YouTube Page and migrated videos from the old page to the new page.

We need to connect with publicity committee people to get us and our events “out there” beyond the bubble of our membership. We would like ideas for monetizing the website to bring in money for the ASGPP and that also get us greater positive visibility. We are now thinking about the future and would like ideas from visionaries who are willing to join the committee and bring the website into the future. We’d also love dynamic pictures (with consents) to put on the website and for members to remember to send their events to the calendar.

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>

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*P.S. The term 'telegram' is an Americanism dating back to the mid-1800s and comes from the Greek *têle*, "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*)*