

The Analytic Observer

The Newsletter of The Chicago Psychoanalytic Society

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Fall 2007

President's Column

Robert M. Galatzer-Levy, M.D

AN OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS

Over its long and distinguished history the Chicago Psychoanalytic Society (CPS) has functioned primarily as a forum for psychoanalytic scholarship. We plan to continue this core function at the very highest level. Under the leadership of Christine Keiffer, the program committee has put together an extraordinary year of meetings that are in the society's best tradition.

However, many of us feel that the CPS has not reached its full potential in its mission to serve its members and the cause of psychoanalysis. Many of our members have difficulty finding sufficient patients to maintain a vigorous psychoanalytic practice. At the same time many people who could greatly benefit from psychoanalysis and psychodynamic psychotherapy fail to receive appropriate treatment. Some years ago the society made a brief foray into "marketing" which came to an end because of the seemingly unpromising results of our efforts. I think the time has come for the society to work vigorously to help support and expand analytic practice. We can learn from other societies, like the Michigan Psychoanalytic Society, who have succeeded in enlarging psychoanalytic practice through sustained and thoughtful effort.

Some of the steps are clear. Increasingly people find their way to mental health professionals through the Internet. Our website must both attract patients and help them easily locate appropriate analysts. We should join in the extraordinarily successful public relations effort spearheaded by Dottie Jeffries of the American Psychoanalytic Association (APsaA) to return our field to the arena of public attention it deserves. But most of all we need to start thinking systematically about how the society can serve its members and the community by assuring that analysis and psychoanalytic psychotherapy

take their appropriate place among mental health services.

We share these interests, and many other interests, with analysts trained outside of APsaA institutes. It is time that CPS came to embrace our colleagues who have come to psychoanalysis through other routes. In the coming months we will be examining proposals to make our membership more inclusive and to create a society that truly represents the interests of Chicago's psychoanalysts.

In many areas our society can work best through a strong relationship to APsaA. Struggles about governance and "standards" have obscured the vital work the Association does for its members. Particularly in Chicago we have not taken full advantage of services only a national organization can offer. We must also continue to influence APsaA policy to ensure that it represents the interests of our members. In my view these two membership organizations perform complementary functions and our active engagement with APsaA is vital to the health of analysis in Chicago.

As CPS president I hope to help the CPS evolve toward greater activism in the service of its members and psychoanalysis. I want to invite all of you to join me and the executive committee in this effort. Ideas and thoughts are always welcome. I hope you will contact me with them. Even more important, your help will be badly needed to accomplish the goals of which I am sure we are capable. Please become involved by contacting me to let me know of your interests.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Galatzer-Levy, M.D.

President, Chicago Psychoanalytic Society

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Interview with Sandy Weisblatt:

Marching to the Beat of a Different Drum

Sandy Weisblatt was born and grew up in Portland, Oregon. His parents both emigrated from Russia. His mother's family had been sponsored by a generous but misguided Jewish organization that tried to ease the family's transition to the U.S. by choosing a place "as cold and sparsely populated" as their birthplace in Russia! After escaping to Portland, his mother met Sandy's father and they married. His father became a ladies ready-to-wear jobber, and Sandy was expected to forego college for the family business. His uneducated parents thought going to college was turning against them by trying to "rise above" them.

Sandy's younger sister was born when he was eight. Following her birth, his mother was hospitalized for several months with a post-partum infection. This painful separation formed the substrate for depression later in his life.

Sandy was shy and easygoing as a kid. "I was a conventional good kid on the surface," he related, "but not interested in school and did poorly." However on his own he read constantly. He read a wide range of topics - mostly fiction - and developed an interest in becoming a writer.

"I also loved sports, and although I wasn't good at them I worked really hard." He played third-string guard on his high school state championship football team. When he was a senior the team gave him a special award "for effort," he smilingly remembered.

At the end of high school, he quietly took the Stanford entrance exam. He was accepted and decided to go, in spite of his parents' objections. Sandy enjoyed Stanford, did well, and flourished; "I didn't know anybody like me until I got to Stanford." He had to leave after his first year, due to family pressure. He transferred to the University of Washington in Seattle and gave up his plan to be a writer in favor of taking pre-med courses.

He attended the University of Oregon Medical School in Portland, and married during his senior year. He then interned and took two years of medical residency at Indianapolis General Hospital, after he was told "it was a great learning experience, like a smaller Cook County." He was deferred from military service during the Korean War, and then was to be inducted into the Army. When he found that his induction was postponed for 6 months, he and his wife went to Seattle so his wife could be with her parents when their first child was born. While waiting for his induction, he had 5 months of psychiatric residency at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Sandy was sent to Frankfurt, Germany to the largest Army hospital in Europe for training and supervision as a psychiatrist. He was fortunate enough to be supervised by 2 advanced candidates, who encouraged him to take long-term cases.

Although he had liked internal medicine, he found that the depth understanding of people and the ability to influence people's lives in a meaningful way was compelling.

After getting out of the Army, Sandy resumed psychiatric residency at the University of Chicago. By the end of his residency he had a wife and 4 children to support, and he decided to stay in Chicago and go into private practice. He went into analysis and several years later entered the Chicago Institute for analytic training. "We had a good class," he commented; "among others, it included Mike Hoit, Cliff Wilkerson, and Tom Pappadis."

Sandy reflected, "I think of myself as a classical but eclectic analyst.... A lot of how I conceptualize is a response to reflections on my own life and that of my patients." In addition to practicing analysis, Sandy has found teaching particularly rewarding. He has been teaching a dream course to candidates for 16 years, and a continuous case conference in the adult psychotherapy program since that program's inception. This past spring he was awarded the Joan Fleming Award by the Candidates Association in recognition of the quality of his teaching.

Music has been an important part of Sandy's life. He had started violin lessons as a child and his mother told him "Stop - you don't have any talent!" However he always loved the violin, and while in Germany he was fortunate to start violin lessons with the head of the string department of the Frankfurt Conservatory. He continued weekly lessons in Chicago for many years. "I was never very good at the violin but I loved it At the Institute we formed a string trio with Tom Pappadis playing piano and Henry Seidenberg playing cello, and we played together for years. We played very badly but we enjoyed it. In fact Henry's daughter dubbed us "The Bozo Arts Trio," he laughed.

In the early 1980's Sandy took a "bootleg" conservatory curriculum from a distinguished faculty member of the American Conservatory, seeing her twice weekly for five years. Following this, he studied composition privately for another eight years, and began composing mostly for voice and chamber groups. A string quartet that he composed was recorded at the Arts Club in 1998.

In contemplating the future of psychoanalysis Sandy commented "I don't think analysis is on its way out. There will always be a place for psychoanalytic work and training, because there will always be those who are most interested in a depth approach to understanding themselves and gaining relief."

THE QUESTION OF EVIL IN SHAKESPEARE:

LITERARY & PSYCHOANALYTIC PERSPECTIVES

No writer has surpassed Shakespeare in dramatizing the human potential for evil. The Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis is sponsoring a one-day conference for the psychological and psychoanalytic exploration of Shakespeare and his great evil-doers.

A live rehearsal of excerpts from Othello, directed by Michael Halberstam of the Writer's Theatre, anchors the exploration. David Bevington, an internationally renowned Shakespeare scholar, and Richard W. Wheeler, one of the foremost experts on the psychology of Shakespeare, provide a broader context for our understanding. Dorothy and Jerome Grunes, Jeffrey Stern, Harry Trosman, and Jerome A Winer, all from the Institute for Psychoanalysis, have done specialized investigations of Shakespeare and bring their expertise to bear on the psychological dimensions of evil in Shakespeare.

The conference is Saturday, November 17, 2007 at the Knickerbocker Hotel, 163 East Walton Place, Chicago. Registration is \$100.00 in advance and \$110.00 at the door. Contact Christine Susman at the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis, 122 South Michigan Ave., Suite 1314, (312) 922-7474. Website is www.chicagoanalysis.org.

THE 46TH IPA CONGRESS IS COMING TO CHICAGO!

The 46th IPA Congress will be held in Chicago July 29 - August 1, 2009. The conference topic is "Psychoanalytic Practice: Convergence and Divergence." This congress will focus on differences and similarities among psychoanalytic traditions in different countries. A number of panels are planned in which a case will be presented and then several commentators from different cultures -- e.g. an Argentinian Lacanian, a British Kleinian, an American self-psychologist -- will each speak from his or her own perspective so participants can compare and contrast. The Chicago Congress promises to be an exciting and important event!

REMINDER: MEMBERS OF THE CHICAGO PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY A study entitled "An Exploration of the Development and Maintenance of Psychoanalytic Identity" has received IRB approval and will soon be under way. Your participation is vital to its completion. This fall you will receive a survey that asks questions about your development as a psychoanalyst. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Jorge Schneider. (312-922-5190)

Candidates Association News

As the incoming president of the Candidates Association I'm hoping to enhance an atmosphere of dialogue between faculty and candidates. This is essential for our professional development and benefits our patients as well. Faculty and candidates, we are all on the same boat, and it's a small one, currently going through rough waters and high seas. Times of crisis are also times of opportunity -- if we embrace them.

We candidates ought to take ourselves seriously. My plan is to highlight one issue for this year. I would like us to initiate a faculty panel to discuss the "Seven Years Rule" from a theoretical point of view. This panel could be scheduled for a Chicago Psychoanalytic Society scientific meeting on Tuesday night.

This might be followed by a Wednesday Research Meeting devoted to a faculty / candidates dialogue. Several candidates could present brief papers on their thinking relevant to graduation, and faculty and candidates could share thoughts in an organized manner.

As chairperson of the CA Executive Committee I hope to facilitate exploration and discussion.

Ruth Hedvat Shorr

SOLDIERS PROJECT/CHICAGO

Soldiers Project/Chicago is pleased to invite you to "Rebuilding the Bridge: Helping the Veteran Come All the Way Home," a training and discussion led by Alison Lighthall, on Saturday October 27th, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the 10th floor conference room at 30 N. Michigan.

Alison Lighthall, RN, MS, is the founder of HAND2HAND CONTACT, a nonprofit organization that educates civilians about the psychosocial impact of war on our returning service members. Her specialization as a psychiatric nurse is PTSD and combat and operational stress. She served as a Captain in the US Army Nurse Corps for 3 years, training those who were deploying to, and debriefing those who were returning from, OIF/OEF.

Soldiers Project provides free therapy/counseling to returning soldiers and their families, including children. We are a group of experienced clinicians, many of us psychoanalysts, who are volunteering one hour each week to work with people impacted by their service in Iraq or Afghanistan. We invite you to stay after the presentation to help us plan our next steps -- all are welcome!

RSVP to Kate Schechter (kschecht@uchicago.edu) if you are planning to come on the 27th or if you have any questions.

CHICAGO PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY PROGRAMS 2007-2008

- September 25, 2007 Nathan Szajmberg, M.D. "Reluctant Warriors"
Discussant: James Fisch, M.D.
- October 23, 2007 Christopher Lane, Ph.D. "How Shyness Became an Illness,
and Other Cautionary Tales about the 'DSM'"
Discussant: Art Nielsen, M.D.
- November 27, 2007 Erika Schmidt, Ph.D. "The Complex Legacy of Franz Alexander"
Discussant: David Terman, M.D.
- January 22, 2008 Stefano Bolognini, M.D. "The Complex Nature of Empathy"
Discussant: Paula Fuqua, M.D.
- February 26, 2008 Christine Kieffer, Ph.D. "A Ship Made of Paper: From Dissociation to Engagement to Empathy"
Discussant: Marian Tolpin, M.D.
- March 6, 2008** Lewis Aron, Ph.D. "Rethinking Psychotherapy vs. Psychoanalysis:
What Does Feminism Have To Do With It?"
- April 22, 2008 Irwin Z. Hoffman, Ph.D. "Therapeutic Passion in the Countertransference"
- May 27, 2008 Samuel Weiss, M.D. and Harry Trosman, M.D. "Jim Dine: A Psychoanalytic Perspective on His Art"

****N.B.: MARCH 6 IS A THURSDAY EVENING**

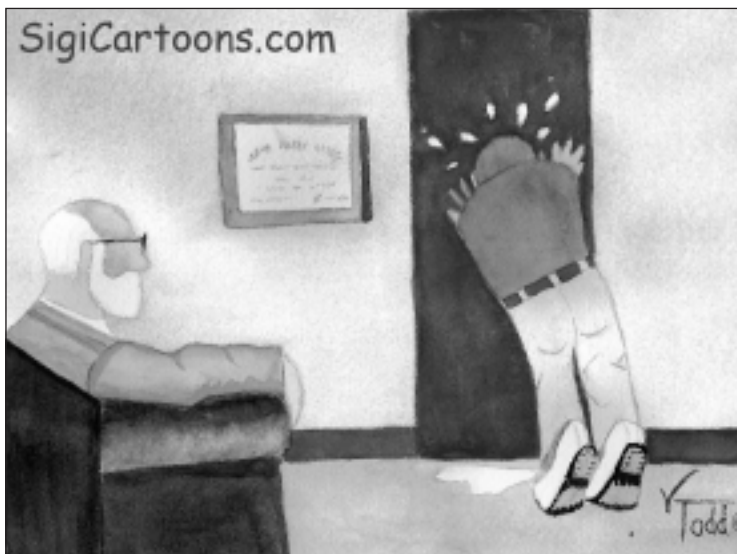
All regular programs will be held at National-Louis University, 122 South Michigan Avenue, Rm. 5006. CEU's will be offered.

CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST WINNER

About the Artist:

Vicki Todd is an advanced candidate at Hanna Perkins Center for Research in Child Development in Cleveland, Ohio

The winning caption was submitted by Marian Tolpin.



"Well, it beats working through."

Please send news items, announcements or comments to:
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COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Steve Flagel, M.D., Councilor

The Executive Council (Board of Directors) of the American Psychoanalytic Association (APsaA) met on June 21, 2007 in Denver, Colorado. The atmosphere was less charged and the tone of the discussion more constructive than in previous meetings. The perception among Councilors of a new openness, flexibility and spirit of cooperation on the part of the Board of Professional Standards (BOPS) along with the determination that the BOPS had, in fact, been functioning in compliance with APsaA bylaws seemed, for the moment, to dampen some of the politics and conflict between the two groups. I think APsaA's close encounter with a "meltdown" has led each side to step back. However several highly contentious issues remain unresolved, such as the fate of certification, the future of the training analyst system and the freedom of local institutes to appoint training analysts, as well as establishing criteria for the expansion of membership and the emerging new relationship between the Executive Council and the BOPS.

The Council devoted a large part of its meeting to a discussion about certification. The Congress of Institutes (a BOPS created entity of representatives from each Institute, distinct from the BOPS) had met the day before in what was reported to the Council by one of the chairs of BOPS as an open discussion. In a "straw vote" the consensus in that group was that the majority of Institutes wanted to remain in one organization and wanted some sort of national standards. Many in that group believe there is a basic incompatibility between membership functions and certification/accreditation/standard setting functions. A proposal was submitted to the Council by the co-chairs of the BOPS inviting the Executive Council to join with the BOPS in a "fully collaborative joint committee" to explore the "advisability and feasibility of a process in which the APsaA would evolve, in a series of graduated and mutually supportive steps, into two independent corporations, one solely as a membership committee and the other solely as an accrediting, certifying and standard-setting body". The Committee would be appointed by APsaA president, Lynn Moritz. The Executive Council approved the formation of such a committee. If recent history is any indicator, the key to the success of this committee or, for that matter any committee in APsaA, is the composition of the committee and the perception of the membership that committee members represent the broad range of opinion in APsaA. One need only recall last year's painful experience with the Task Force on Reorganization and the bitter divisions that arose around the composition of that committee.

The Council addressed several other important governance issues before turning to what I consider the most compelling work of the APsaA. The Bylaws Committee proposed three amendments to the bylaws that would be submitted to the membership for approval in the near future. These amendments

would finally bring APsaA into compliance with New York State law regarding not-for-profit organizations. The Executive Council voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the Bylaws Committee and submit the bylaws changes to the membership for final approval.

APsaA president, Lynn Moritz announced that the Board of Professional Standards had voted to allow child-only training in psychoanalysis, eliminating the requirement of prior training in adult psychoanalysis. This ultimately will allow for child-only analytic training programs and their graduates, currently unaffiliated with APsaA, to join APsaA. This is an historic shift for the BOPS and important to APsaA as we consider expansion of our membership. Dr. Moritz also reported on the work of the Task Force on Research and Science whose task is to develop a structure within APsaA to encourage and fund psychoanalytic research and work toward making it a major focus of the Association. Dr. Moritz announced a joint scientific meeting with Division 39 of the American Psychological Association to be held in the near future at both the APsaA and Division 39 national meetings. She also noted the financial support that APsaA is providing to a five-year research project involving outcome studies, comparing psychoanalysis, psychoanalytic psychotherapy and cognitive/behavioral therapy. She pointed out that the BOPS support of child-only psychoanalytic training emerged out of a research project studying the matter for BOPS. Finally, the Executive Council approved a position statement developed by the Division of Societal Issues: "The American Psychoanalytic Association joins with other mental health professional organizations to urge strong and comprehensive government and private support for the mental health treatment of returning veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and their families." The full text of the statement can be found on APsaA's website (www.apsa.org).

Finally, I would like to welcome Neil Spira as our next Councilor and Chicago Psychoanalytic Society representative on APsaA's Board of Directors. My term as Councilor ends just prior to APsaA's winter meeting in New York City in January, 2008. Neil has served as Alternate Councilor during the last two years and I am sure will ably represent our interests at the national level on the Executive Council and locally on the Executive Committee of the Chicago Psychoanalytic Society. During my term as Councilor over the last two years there have certainly have been moments of excess on all sides. I eventually came to believe that the sometimes wrenching debate was part of a process within APsaA to redefine and remake itself as it adapts to the pressures of the world. In that sense I believe APsaA is moving to a place from which it can address the future.

NEWS OF MEMBERS FALL 2007

David Dean Brockman, M.D. has a chapter titled "Gustav Klimt 1962-1918: Revolutionary Artist and Arrested Adolescent Development" in the Annual of Adolescent Psychiatry published in September. He is currently working on a book on Psychoanalysis and Spirituality that involves a study of Dante's entire work.

Christine C. Kieffer, Ph.D., ABPP presented the following papers:

"The Co-Construction of the Analytic Third: how attachment theory and non-linear dynamic systems theory add to our understanding of what is mutative in psychoanalysis", presented at the annual conference of the International Association for Relational Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy (IARPP), Athens, Greece, 7/7/07.

"Beyond Bullying and Being Bullied: From Dissociation to New Modes of Relational Engagement", presented at the Division 39 Spring Conference, Toronto, 4/19/07.

"Obstacles to Succession in Psychoanalytic Organizations: A Group-As-A-Whole Perspective", presented at Division 39, American Psychological Assn. Convention, San Francisco, 8/18/07.

Art Nielsen, M.D. again chaired his Discussion Group: "How Scientific Is Psychoanalysis? Many Questions, Many Methods" at the Winter Meeting of the American Psychoanalytic Association. He also was the course coordinator and lead instructor for the seventh year of the course, "Marriage 101: Building Loving and Lasting Relationships" for Northwestern Undergrads. The course, which had 53 students, was covered nationally on TV by NBC news. In connection with the course, he chaired a panel, "University-Based Pre-Marital Education," at the annual Smart Marriages Conference (for marriage educators) in Atlanta. He and society member Jim Fisch continued their community outreach movie series, "Cinema on the Couch" at the Winnetka Community House, where this year's movies centered on relationships between family members.

R. Dennis Shelby, PhD has been appointed Director of Doctoral Programs at the Institute for Clinical Social Work and Division Leader of the Porter County Sheriff Department Reserve Division.

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