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## President's Column

Fall 2008

Peter Lawner, Ph.D., ABPP

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Dear MAPP member,

We begin this September with significant developments underway. Some key leaders are moving on, their posts being taken up by others. All who have worked with John Rosario-Perez, our outgoing president, are in his debt. He has been a dedicated, skillful, warm, generous, and effective steward for our complex organization, and I thank him for helping me to a much better grasp of MAPP's workings.

MAPP is revitalizing. It is poised to further its members' learning, exploration, and engagement with colleagues in relation to the myriad issues, struggles, and satisfactions of psychoanalytic psychotherapy. The designation *psychoanalytic* psychotherapy in our name deserves comment. Some take it to connote an exclusive realm and therefore to imply that others do not belong within it who, in truth, share our sensibilities, understandings, and values. We do not accept this "narcissism of small differences." *Psychodynamic* is surely a good alternative description to *psychoanalytic* psychotherapy, as are *exploratory* or *intensive* psychotherapy (some of you will recall Frieda Fromm-Reichman's fine introductory work on "intensive" psychotherapy). I emphasize this issue because definitions in our field carry significant ambiguities and can discourage and alienate those who read their meanings differently from what we intend. For example, one highly accomplished man whom I encouraged to join MAPP initially demurred because he thought it was an organization only for psychoanalysts. MAPP's uniqueness rests in no small measure not only on including a variety of orientations to psychotherapy, but upon its broad inclusiveness of those with very different backgrounds.

MAPP accommodates a wide range of mental health practitioners as well as professionals from other fields who are in sympathy with its concerns, values, and perspectives. It includes the graduate student who wishes to enlarge her/his familiarity with and competence in applying psychoanalytic principles as well as the seasoned psychoanalyst. It includes psychodynamic practitioners with the greatest sophistication in their work. The mingling of these different kinds of students and practitioners of our enterprise yields a rich ferment. We hope to orient MAPP so that these personal/professional associations occur not merely willy-nilly but in such a way that members of each of these groups will increasingly support and enhance the work of the others. For example, there are many in the social sciences, "hard" sciences, and literature who are interested in the perspectives and methods of psychoanalytic psychotherapy and who greatly benefit from their association with those of us who are practitioners. Reciprocally, they broaden our intellectual horizons and bring us into a world that we would otherwise find harder to access.

Similarly, senior psychoanalytic practitioners are in a position to mentor their junior fellows who are neophytes into the field. Doing so nourishes newcomers' dawning talents and enthusiasm for the therapeutic work and the perspective on humanness and psychological suffering on which it rests. At the same time, veterans have the satisfaction of standing up for our typically beleaguered younger colleagues. Nowadays, in their graduate programs, residencies, and social work programs they are, as a rule, marched toward dismissal of psychodynamic ideas in favor of more narrowly instrumental perspectives and remedies.

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## Jonathan Slavin, Ph.D., ABPP Offers “Technically Subversive Thoughts” on the Role of the Analyst

By Nancy M. Sweeney, Psy.D.

In his MAPP presentation on April 30, 2008, Jonathan Slavin considered the role of the psychoanalyst, bringing an impressive breadth of knowledge and experience to his reflections on the evolution in thinking about the analyst as a unique individual in a particular professional role. Dr. Slavin’s credentials, in addition to private practice, include Founding President of the Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis; membership on the faculties of a number of psychoanalytic institutes; international teaching and consultation; and clinical instructor at the Harvard Medical School. His extensive influence in the local community was reflected in numerous comments by participants at this workshop attesting to his role as supervisor and mentor.

Dr. Slavin opened with a consideration of the historical debate on the role of the analyst, and more specifically the thinking about the effect of the analyst’s “personal self, personal agency, and personal influence as an individual—as a specific subject—on the treatment process, and on the evolution and shaping of the patient’s post-analytic self.” Slavin described the classical view of the analyst’s role, namely that the analyst’s personality should be “excised” or otherwise prevented from unduly influencing the treatment. He notes, however, that even Freud’s oft-quoted “surgeon analogy” may be misunderstood if it is taken to mean that an analyst should aspire to be a type of “medical instrument,” impersonal and aloof. Slavin suggests that Freud was, in this analogy, more specifically addressing the question of how the analyst’s ambition and narcissism may be detrimental to the treatment, rather than prescribing some “idealized coldness or absence of personal feeling or involvement.” As his review of the history made clear, there has long been debate about how to understand the analyst’s personal, subjective, individual self as it relates to analytic treatment.

Slavin quoted Anna Freud’s early observation that, in addition to having a connection based on transference, the “analyst and patient are also two real people, of equal adult status, in a real personal relationship to each other,” an observation that she herself termed “subversive.” These “subversive” thoughts presaged later trends in thinking by writers such as Winnicott who moved in the direction of a two person psychology. However, as Slavin pointed out, even Winnicott’s

concepts (such as that of the “holding environment”) “are not the same as authorizing the analyst’s specifically personal subjectivity to influence the patient.” Slavin took note of the “truly revolutionary contribution” of the Kleinian perspective in proposing that the patient and his/her unconscious have a profound impact on the analyst. Even here, however, the analyst continues to be viewed as an “analyzing instrument,” even if not explicitly described in those terms. As Slavin put it, the goal of analysis was long understood to be “to provide the patient with the most ‘true’ picture of themselves, unbiased by the contaminating and distorting effects of the analyst’s personal influence.”

A challenge to the classical view of the analyst arises from the relational perspective; Slavin noted that in this perspective, “personal participation is as inevitable as our unconscious process, for all analysts and all analytic perspectives.” To illustrate a new conceptualization of the role of the analyst, Slavin turned to the work of Franco Borgogno (2004). As Slavin put it, in Borgogno’s work with his patient M, one sees “a very clear illustration about not simply the inevitable, but the essential nature of the analyst’s personal participation.” Slavin described Borgogno’s emphasis on “the necessity of the patient experience or witnessing how the analyst is processing and internalizing the patient’s process.” Slavin focused on the phrase (in the title of Borgogno’s paper) “on the patient’s becoming an individual” and associated it to the concept of personal agency in the analytic context. In Borgogno’s work one sees the patient growing a new sense of personal agency out of the experience of having an impact and effect on the analyst.

Slavin takes his exploration of Borgogno’s work one step further when he speculates on what is meant by Borgogno’s phrase, “becoming an individual.” He suggested that we are inevitably led to look at the “*personal, individual* role of the analyst,” with the analyst as a “specific individual” rather than a “generic agent,” in contrast with the points of view that would “narrow, contain, proscribe, and de-individualize” the analyst’s role. Slavin further suggested “the patient needs this experience – the unique, idiographic, personal responsiveness of the analyst...in order to help re-

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## Bringing the somatic experience into work with couples: A Carolynn Maltas Workshop

Nancy M. Sweeney, Psy.D.

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On March 5, 2008, Carolynn Maltas, Ph.D. offered members of the MAPP community an intriguing method of accessing the deep and hidden undertow of visceral experience that can undermine a marriage - or a therapy. Dr. Maltas is the Director of Education for the Psychoanalytic Couple and Family Institute of New England (PCFINE), and in addition to a private practice in Cambridge, she teaches and publishes on the topic of couple therapy. In her presentation titled "When a body meets a body: somatic experience in couple therapy," Dr. Maltas described a method of intervention that uses the somatic experience of participants in couple therapy to gain access to deeply held emotions. In this approach, the body becomes the vehicle for recognizing and accessing emotional states that may be difficult to access intellectually or verbally.

To open, Dr. Maltas oriented the audience to this somatic perspective with the work of Gendlin (1970), who wrote, "Before we have explicit words, concepts, or other symbols, we understand the 'now' viscerally through our experiencing of it. Experiencing is bodily felt, rather than thought, known, or verbalized." Dr. Maltas emphasized the way that neuroscience and attachment theory have illuminated the connections between mind and body, as the early caretaker/infant interactions lead to the development of the infant's internal linkages between bodily sensations, emotions, and connectedness.

Like the caretaker/infant dyad, "the adult couple is also a psychosomatic entity from the beginning" according to Dr. Maltas. Because of this psychosomatic link, when the couple is unstable or insecure the partners may experience physiological dysregulation and mental anguish. These feelings in turn activate interpersonal survival strategies first developed in very early life, strategies that arise rapidly out of the limbic system and are not immediately subject to cognitive evaluation. Because these "fight, flee, or freeze" survival strategies are more strongly linked to bodily sensation and are below the level of consciousness, adult relational conflicts or threats may activate emotions and behavioral responses without the conscious recognition that the survival strategies are excessive or inappropriate to the current situation. The body is flooded with a neurochemical cascade which may overwhelm the higher integrative

and moderating brain functions. Lacking a conscious awareness of the linkage between current reactions and early experience, a spousal partner may be left unable to take in their partner's viewpoint, and may "seek in the other's behavior the justification for their pain or distress."

The experience of facing an angry couple who are unable to hear each other is very familiar to most (if not all!) couples therapists. Dr. Maltas offers a way to use the somatic aspects of patients with this type of impasse to access greater awareness and possibility of connection. In a case vignette, she offered a moving depiction of a breakthrough moment in a couple's treatment when a husband is invited to attend to his bodily sensations in the moment. He noticed a physical sensation of tension and was encouraged to contemplate further what it felt like and what it might mean. In the act of slowing down and noticing, other dimensions of the couple's experience came to light. Maltas writes, "One way to think about this kind of experience is that it links bodily, emotional, self-reflective and interpersonal experience in a new way, strengthening the integrative abilities of the brain." In the case vignette, the man's awareness of his physical sensation of tension became a doorway to other aspects of his experience in the moment. As Maltas puts it, "Focusing on the body brings higher level brain functions to bear on lower ones."

The topic of physiological arousal levels has been pursued in research and practice with trauma survivors, with the goals of integration of various dimensions of thinking/feeling/reacting, and decreasing the level of arousal. The body-focused intervention has been explored by several theorists including Diane Fosha, Bessel Van der Kolk, John Gottman, and in particular E.T. Gendlin, who pioneered the basic theory behind these experiential interventions. In Dr. Maltas' presentation, clinical vignettes were interwoven with theoretical constructs in a way that illustrated and amplified the constructs.

The audience response reflected a high degree of interest in learning body-focused treatments and integrating this type of intervention in practice. Dr. Maltas noted that the therapist's attention to her/his own level of arousal is essential to effective treatment. She emphasized the importance of patience and pacing during the session, with a careful attention to language.

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## **Bringing the somatic experience into work with couples: A Carolynn Maltas Workshop**

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She referenced the website [focusing.com](http://focusing.com) as a resource for those who want to know more.

In closing, Dr. Maltas made a plea that the body-focused approaches not become split off to form new schools of therapy. She prudently noted that “bringing the body’s knowledge into therapy should be a move toward integration... not a movement toward fragmentation.” This is a worthwhile perspective when, as she noted, schools are sometimes split into behavioral, cognitive, emotionally-focused or relational rather than being grounded in the innate assumption that any true description of human experience must encompass all these dimensions.

*Nancy M. Sweeney, Psy.D. is a clinical psychologist in private practice in Arlington, MA and a clinical instructor in psychology, Harvard Medical School.*

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## **Jeremy P. Nahum, M.D. presents: “How Do We Derive Meaning in Communication?”**

**By Harry L. Gracey, Ph.D.**

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Dr. Nahum addressed a small Wednesday Scientific Meeting on May 09, explicating some of the ideas in the most recent paper published by the Boston Change Process Study Group, “Forms of Relational Meaning: Issues in the Relations Between the Implicit and Reflective-Verbal Domains.” (*Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 2008)

The group has been investigating the two domains of communication which are the domain of implicit knowing and the domain of reflective-verbal communications. They are also studying the relationship between the two in the creation and communication of meaning. Deriving meaning from communication means ascertaining the intention of the communicator. Intention is first formulated and communicated on an implicit level, then may evolve into reflective-verbal communication using words and concepts. These ideas come from the Group’s study of infant-parent interaction as well as therapeutic interaction. As an example of

the first, Dr. Nahum described an incident of implicit knowing in a mother-infant interaction. Sitting facing each other with a high chair between them and a basket on the floor beside it, the mother picks an object off the table, holds it over the basket and drops it making sure it misses the basket. She then hands the object to the infant who invariably holds it over the basket and drops it in successfully, fulfilling the perceived intention of the parent—the communicated “meaning” of mother’s behavior.

Dr. Nahum pointed out that the communication of meaning is at the center of the psychotherapeutic encounter. The Group’s work is to study and describe this process and discover what has to happen in it for there to be a therapeutic change. They hypothesize that change is produced in an intersubjective connection which produces a “moment of Meaning” which they refer to in their writings as a “now Moment” of “implicit relational knowing.” Implicit knowing is pre-verbal and pre-symbolic, as when the infant “knew” the mother’s intention. The study of implicit relational knowing is a parsing of behavior into intentions in order to find meaning. Intentions are the motivators and they are continuous in behavior, stemming as they do from needs, wishes, desires, etc. The process of unfolding intentions gives meaning to interactions, permitting motives to unfold.

Dr. Nahum described neuroscience research which shows how we infer the presence of an intention, and thereby impute a motive to the behavior of the other. In observing the behavior of another, such as lifting an arm holding a ball, the neurons in the part of our brain controlling this behavior also fire as if we too were doing the action. The intention behind the act of the other is grasped intuitively as a result of this imitative neural firing. The firing of mirroring neurons also permits us to intuit the emotion accompanying the action we observe.

The reflective verbal interaction is rooted in the body and emerges from the implicit level of experience. Body interactions through looks, expressions, gestures, and movements create implicit notions about oneself, leading to the primary metaphors that come to permeate thinking and discourse. In what Dr. Nahum called the intention unfolding process the explicit verbal symbolic expression emerges from the implicit process as the intention to express one’s experience in words.

In the intention unfolding process from implicit experience to the reflective verbal expression there are always discrepancies, disjunctions, contradictions, breaches of coherence as well as compliments,

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## Jeremy P. Nahum, M.D. presents: “How Do We Derive Meaning in Communication?”

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elaborations and harmonies. Meaning is created interactionally in the communication process that always includes the gestalt of implicit experience, reflective verbal expression, and whatever discrepancies there between them.

Dr. Nahum illustrates the complexity of the communication intention unfolding process with the story of Mike. Mike came into a South Boston Tavern, sat at the bar and told the barman to line up three shot glasses in front of him and pour a shot of Irish whiskey into each. He sat there for some time quietly drinking them off, then left. This visit was repeated a number of times, and the bar tender, at a loss to understand it, asked Mike why he was doing this. Mike said the first glass was his and the other two were for his two brothers in the old country. It made him feel close to them “when I’m drinking with them.” Then one day Mike asked for two glasses with Irish Whiskey. The bar tender found himself puzzled and somewhat concerned. He asked Mike if something had happened to one of his brothers. No, Mike said, they’re both fine, but I’ve stopped drinking.

In a discussion of implications for therapeutic change, Dr. Nahum reported that the Study Group thinks understanding at the verbal, symbolic level doesn’t contribute much to change. Implicit relational knowing is what has to change, including the self representations and other representations. How does this come about? Dr. Nahum said by trying to find ways of coming together and finding a joint direction, for two people coming to the interaction with different implicit and verbal reflective experiences. It involves a different way of listening which asks, “What are we doing here in this process together?” This is the question rather than using the way of listening which asks of the patient’s communication, “What does this mean?”

*Harry L. Gracey, Ph.D. is in private practice in Cambridge and Hingham.*

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## MAPP Surveys Graduate Students Interests and Needs

By John Rosario-Perez

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Among dynamically trained clinicians it is now common knowledge that academic and clinical research as well as managed care has relegated insight-oriented treatment to the sidelines. As a result, fewer graduate students are now trained in psychodynamic approaches to treatment, a trend also reflected in the decreasing graduate student membership in organizations such as MAPP. This past year, only 30 of its nearly 300 members were from the large pool of local graduate students.

In response to this climate, Lydia Onofrei, a student at the Smith School for Social Work, spearheaded a simple, online survey of Boston-area students in mental health programs in order to help identify the factors that contribute to the dwindling numbers of graduate student members attending MAPP events and to generate ideas for more responsive programming.

Ms. Onofrei’s own personal interest in psychodynamic theory as well as her sense that the curriculum at her social work program did not meet fully meet her growing curiosity underlay her initiative to develop the project. To recruit participants for her project, she drew assistance from members of the MAPP community who provided access to faculty and students at a variety of graduate programs.

All told, 106 graduate students participated in the survey, representing a variety of mental health disciplines, with the majority (86 percent) from social work programs. Of the total participants, only 8 percent had previously attended a MAPP event; and only 5 percent were current members of MAPP.

Participants were asked to rate their responses to 25 questions on a 5-point Likert scale. Among the topics surveyed were students’ level of interest in psychodynamic theory and practice; levels of satisfaction with their graduate training; and their likelihood of attending specific MAPP offerings. In addition, multiple choice questions helped identify barriers to attending events. Finally, open-ended questions elicited feedback about students’ areas of interest in psychodynamic theory and practice, and the kinds of programs most helpful to students and the clinical populations they served.

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## MAPP Surveys Graduate Students Interests and Needs

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### Results

Although 96 percent of those surveyed expressed an interest in attending educational events outside their academic institution, they reported that a number of impediments prevented them from attending such programs. Some 80 percent of the respondents identified “time” as a significant deterrent, while 75 percent indicated that the cost of programs prohibited attendance. Of those surveyed, 67 percent reported that a lack of publicity was another key impediment to their participation.

In terms of educational satisfaction with their respective programs, 59 percent of participants were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with their overall ability to reach their learning goals at their institutions of higher learning. Most were also satisfied with the quality of their clinical supervision (64 percent) and their access to current research and standards of practice (65 percent).

However, dissatisfaction with limited psychodynamic curricula was ranked by 30 percent of respondents as an incentive to pursue additional exposure to psychodynamic theory and practice outside the classroom setting. Despite this interest, only 10 percent were satisfied with their access to affordable psychodynamic lectures, seminars, and courses. In addition, more than half of the respondents (55 percent) were unsatisfied with their opportunities to network and build relationships within the psychoanalytic community.

Yet an interest in psychodynamic topics did not necessarily drive an incentive to attend extra-academic events or join a professional organization dedicated to such programs. Only 15 percent of participants stated that they were ‘very likely’ to pay a reduced annual fee of \$35 to be a student member of in spite of gaining access to free and reduced-fee MAPP activities during the year.

However, when polled about attending specific MAPP events designed with graduate students in mind, the number of those willing to pay the reduced membership fee rose by 30 percent. Approximately one-third of the respondents also indicated that they would consider attending an eight-week MAPP-sponsored course on a topic of interest to them for an additional fee of \$50.

In terms of volunteerism, 66 percent of participants indicated that they were not likely to participate in a MAPP-sponsored graduate student committee. Only 20 percent of participants unambiguously indicated that they would attend MAPP discussion groups on topics related to psychodynamic theory and practice, and would also consider presenting their work to the MAPP community. Thirty-two percent of participants expressed a strong interest in taking advantage of low-fee supervision from an experienced, licensed professional at MAPP or would utilize a directory of MAPP graduate student members.

Students’ responses were more ambiguous and sometimes misinformed when it came time to identify subject areas of interest, thus raising doubts about their actual familiarity with psychodynamic theory. Common responses included:

- “Not sure.” “Haven’t had much opportunity to learn about this in school.” “School is more systems and CBT focused. Psychodynamic theory and practice were only glossed over in grad school.”
- “Took one course entitled “Ego Psychology,” the only course on psychodynamic theory.” “Current evidence-based practices.”

In response to the question, “What kind of programs would enhance your graduate education?” answers included:

- “Concrete methods of implementing theory into practice, i.e., CBT, IPT, etc.” “More hands-on clinical therapy frameworks, e.g., CBT, DBT, narrative, solution focused.
- “More knowledge about the DSM-IV, CBT, the use of theory, programs that identify practice that is effective.” “Practical techniques; more skill based programs. Things more practice-oriented.”
- “Programs that are very convenient for me (‘at my institution’; ‘more lectures/meetings during after-work house or on the weekend’; ‘seminars at times that are easy for me to attend’; ‘located nearby or easily accessible’.)
- “Wider exposure to different clinical styles.” “Mentoring by professional with many years of experience describing their work and career path.”
- “Places to meet regularly with other students to network, share experiences, learn about available resources and practicum placements.” “Increased availability in support-type groups.”
- “Programs with a focus on the logistics of obtaining licensure, searching for jobs that will

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## MAPP Surveys Graduate Students Interests and Needs

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match one's needs and interests, getting adequate supervision."

### Discussion

What conclusions can be generated from the responses of these students, and what guidelines do they offer MAPP for future programming and outreach to local graduate students?

First, the survey results appear to confirm the impact of a cultural zeitgeist that devalues psychodynamic thinking and privileges an approach to mental health that, according to the *Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual*, "define[s] mental problems primarily on the basis of observable symptoms, behaviors, and traits" in contrast to a growing body of literature that supports the long-term efficacy of psychodynamic treatments.

Closer to home, these results identify a range of barriers that interfere with MAPP's success recruiting graduate student participation. Evidently unaware of or armed with only a superficial understanding of psychodynamic theory, today's graduate students appear "not to know that they do not know." While the current state of graduate-level training and education

in mental health requires interventions on many fronts, MAPP is in an enviable position to sponsor more focused programming and to provide mentoring and networking opportunities. The question of whether to offer free membership to graduate students as an incentive to participate remains open at this point.

Ultimately, thanks must go to Lydia Onofrei for spearheading this project to address students' concerns "straight from the horse's mouth," so to speak.

*John Rosario-Perez, Psy.D., is past-president of MAPP, a candidate at MIP, and has a private practice in Cambridge, MA.*

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## Education Committee

After a long hiatus, the Education Committee has been revived and has some wonderful offerings and ideas. Holly Levenkron will offer a course on Relational Psychotherapy midyear, between Richard Geist's course on Self Psychology and Peter Lawner's on Freud. We are excited to be offering these excellent courses for free to our members (only a \$25 registration fee to non-sustaining members). Dick and Peter's courses have been lively and engaging, and we're happy to be able to expand our offerings.

Those of us who have been around since MAPP's beginnings remember the sense of excitement and community with which we began when we were non-physician therapists trying to open up analytic training to our members. With a vibrant analytic community now, we can easily go about our business and lose touch with that sense of community and welcome to younger practitioners.

Starting this fall, MAPP will once more serve as a clearing house/matchmaker to members who wish to form peer supervision groups. Some of groups from the early days are still going strong. We will also help match up study groups on topics that interest you and create beginning reading lists. There's more in the works for later, including opportunities for those members who want to offer courses to match up with members who would like to take them, and for beginning clinicians to match up with senior mentors.

The Education committee is enthusiastic and welcoming. Current members are Mary Calabrese, Barbara Caust, Kathryn Kirshner, Rivka Perlman, and Janet Sand. Let me know if you have ideas or interest in joining our endeavors at [drjanetsand@aol.com](mailto:drjanetsand@aol.com) or [MAPPMATCH@aol.com](mailto:MAPPMATCH@aol.com).

## MAPP presents: The upcoming program series.

By Holly Levenkron

Save the dates for MAPP's exciting program series. We are sponsoring an impressive group of speakers for 2008-2009. Join us to raise questions and discuss ideas at our talks and to work intimately at our hands-on workshops. Meet and mingle after events for refreshments to continue the conversations. (Location TBA).

**October 25th Workshop:** Dolan and David Power  
Accepting the Transference: A Here and Now Approach to Clinical Process

**November 8th:** Sherwood Waldron  
Examining Merton Gill's contribution through clinical audio tapes

**January 10th:** Paul Lippmann and Joseph Cambray  
Experiential Dream Workshop

**February 7th workshop:** Michael Healy  
Nuts and Bolts of Starting a Practice

**February 18th Panel:** Peter Lawner with a discussion by Daniel Jacobs "Creative and Dis-Creative Varieties of Immersion and of Detachment"

**March 21st Presentation:** M. Gerard Fromm  
"Murmuring Blood" The Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma

**April 18th Panel:** Judith Kuspit and David Mann  
Trouble in Paradise: Masud Khan's Afflictions (Alcoholism and Anti-Semitism)

**May 16th Presentation:** Darlene Ehrenberg  
"Boundaries and Risks: Working with Erotic Feelings and Fantasies"

## Members at Work and Play

Fall 2008

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

**Layton, Lynne, Ph.D.,** (2008) 'What Divides the Subject? Psychoanalytic Reflections on Subjectivity, Subjection and Resistance.' In *Subjectivity: International Journal of Critical Psychology* (Spring).

**Pizer, Stuart Ph.D., ABPP,** (2008) 'The Shock of Recognition: What My Grandfather Taught Me About Psychoanalytic Process'. *International Journal of Psychoanalytic Self Psychology*, 3: 287-303.

**Pizer, Barbara Ed.D., ABPP,** (2008) 'The Heart of the Matter in Matters of the Heart: Power and Intimacy in Analytic and Couples Relationships'. *International Journal of Psychoanalytic Self Psychology*, 3: 1-16.

**Slavin, Jonathan, Ph.D., ABPP** (in press 2008). 'Becoming an individual: Technically subversive thoughts on the role of the analyst's influence'. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*.

**Shapiro, Elizabeth Ph.D.** (2008) co-authored an article with Jerome Gans, M.D. 'The courage of the group therapist',

in *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, vol. 58, July.

### PUBLICATIONS

**Elizabeth Corpt LICSW** wrote a commentary on Donna Orange's Kohut Memorial Lecture given at the October 2007 Psychology of the Self Conference in Los Angeles. The commentary appeared in the 2008 spring issue of the on-line journal of the International Association of Psychoanalytic Self Psychology.

### BOOK REVIEWS

**Lynne Layton, Ph.D.** (2008) Book review of Victor E Wolfenstein. 'A Gift of the Spirit: Reading. The Souls of Black Folk'. In *IJP*, 89 (2008).

### PRESENTATIONS

**Andrea Celenza, Ph.D.**

- Presented paper: "Disavowed Aggression: The Hated Aspect of Sexual Boundary Transgressions," as part of a symposium on Erotic Transference in New York, March, 2008.

- Presented Paper: "The Analyst's Need and Desire" at the Division 39 Spring Meeting, New York, 2008 and at the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, April, 2008.

- Presented Paper: At the International Assoc of Relational Psychoanalysis, (IARPP) "The Absence of the Third in Murderous Dyads: Male to Female Erotic Transference". Baltimore, MD, June, 2008.

**Elizabeth Corpt LICSW**

- Represented MIP at the Psychoanalytic Educational Forum of Boston's panel, Choosing Psychoanalytic Training on January 23, 2008, joining Judy Kantrowitz from BPSI and Harry Smith from PINE.

- Served as moderator for the March 22, 2008 MIP program, From the Inside Out, with presenters Melanie Suchet and Neil Altman.

**Lynne Layton Ph.D.**

- Invited speaker: "The Lived Experience of Bisexuality" at Div 39 Spring Meeting.

- Invited speaker: George Washington University Psy.D. Program's 2008 Colloquium paper titled "Who's Responsible: Our Mutual Implication in

Each Other's Suffering."

- Invited speaker: Brown University's Pembroke Center Roundtable on the topic of "Self Among Others: The Social Fabric of Subjectivity".

- Paper Presented: "Neoliberal Subjectivities and the Decline of Mutuality" at Cardiff University conference on Subjectivity. June 2008.

#### **Suzi Naiburg Ph.D., LICSW**

- Presented a clinical paper entitled "Metamorphoses in Trauma and Treatment" in October, 2007, at the meeting of the Rhode Island Association for Psychoanalytic Psychology.

- Taught a clinical writing workshop at the Massachusetts NASW Symposium in April, 2008, and taught the Issues in Research Seminar for doctoral students in education at Lesley University during the 2007-2008 academic year.

#### **Stuart A. Pizer, Ph.D., ABPP**

- Discussant of Panel, "Thou Shalt Not Know Thy Emotional Context," Spring Meeting, Division of Psychoanalysis (39), American Psychological Association, New York, April 13.

- Discussion Leader, Annual Conference, International Association for Relational Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy, Baltimore, June 1.

#### **Barbara Pizer, Ed.D., ABPP**

- Paper Presentation: Psychiatry Grand Rounds, Cambridge Hospital, "Tracking Analytic Liveliness While Working In The Dark: Experiencing Ambiguity And State-Change Signals". May 2008

#### **David G. Power, Ph.D.**

- Presented paper: "I'll Do It Tomorrow"-Psychic Retreats and Not Knowing as part of the panel Uncertainty in Three Acts: Clinical Encounters with Not Knowing", at the Division 39 Spring Meeting in New York City, April 11, 2008.

#### **Ken Reich, Ed.D**

- Workshop: "Strategic Outreach to Families of All Reservists". American Psychoanalytic Association. Winter Meetings, NYC.

- Conversation Hour: Division (39) of Psychoanalysis of the American Psychological Association, spring meeting, New York City.

- Lecture: "Hidden Casualties of War: Promoting Healing and Resilience for U.S. Service Members and their Families". University of South Florida, Pensacola, Florida.

- Lecture: Invisible Casualties of War, discussion of the film "Ground Truth". Western Massachusetts and Albany Association for Psychoanalytic Psychology.

Austen Riggs Center, Stockbridge, Mass.

- Lecture: Aerospace Nursing Society. 79th Annual scientific meeting, Aerospace Medical Association. Strategic Outreach to Families of All Reservists. Boston, Mass.

#### **Michael Reison, Ph.D.**

- "When Grace Falls From Adolescence: The Dissolution of Ideals and Interference of Appropriate Negations in Noah Bombach's film The Squid and The Whale," discussion given at MAPP workshop, Jan. 2008.

- "Being in the world is emotional experience," paper presented at Subjectivity Conference, University of Cardiff, Cardiff, Wales, June 2008.

#### **John Rosario-Perez, Psy.D.:**

- Participated on a panel, "Erotic and Otherwise: Gay and Lesbian Analysts Discuss Transference and Countertransference Experiences With Heterosexual Patients of the Opposite Sex," at the Division 39 section of the 116<sup>th</sup> annual APA Convention in Boston, August, 2008. He was also a co-chair of Division 39's 2008 Convention Planning committee.

- Presented at the Discussion Group On Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity of the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, Spring, 2008.

#### **Jonathan H. Slavin, Ph.D., ABPP:**

- Seminar: "The Analyst's Influence and Authority," Presented at the Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California, May 2008.

- Workshop: "The Place of Agency in Human Life" presented to the Counseling Service, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, July 2008.

- Invited Weekend Workshop: "The Imprisonment and Liberation of Love: The Dangers and Possibilities of Love in the Psychoanalytic Relationship," To be presented to the Kansas City Association of Psychoanalytic Psychology, October, 2008.

- Invited paper: "Becoming an individual: Technically subversive thoughts on the role of the therapist's influence," presented to Massachusetts Association for Psychoanalytic Psychology in April 2008 and will be presented to the Rhode Island Association for Psychoanalytic Psychology, November, 2008.

#### **Malcolm Owen Slavin, Ph. D.**

- Presented a Weekend Workshop in Rome, Italy: Existential Anxiety and Over-Accommodation: An Evolutionary Perspective on Human Intersubjectivity and the Therapeutic Process," and "Art and Human Existential Anxiety: Solitude, Longing and Eros in the World of Edward Hopper," sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Relational Psychoanalysis and the Psychology of the Self, in March-April

2008.

- Presented an All Day Workshop with Jessica Benjamin, Ph.D., Recognition, Otherness, and the Human Condition Two Perspectives On Mutual Influence, Over-Accommodation and Therapeutic Change, at the Institute for Contemporary Psychoanalysis, Washington, D.C., May, 2008.

- Presented An Invited Plenary Talk: Attachment Theory and Relational Psychoanalysis, at the Annual Meeting of the International Association for Relational Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy (IARPP), Baltimore, MD, May-June, 2008.

- Gave the annual Bruce A. Gibbard Lecture in Psychiatry, A Natural History of Existential Anxiety and Intersubjective Conflict, University of Vermont Medical School, Burlington, VT, June, 2008.

### **APPOINTMENTS, ELECTIONS & PROMOTIONS**

**Antonia Halton, Ph.D.**, served as President of Section VIII, Couple and Family Therapy and Psychoanalysis, for Division 39 (Psychoanalysis) of APA, from 2006-2007. She is now serving a 2-year term as Past President. She continues to be the Editor of the Section VIII Newsletter.

**Lynne Layton, Ph.D.** edits the Journal of Psychoanalysis, Culture & Society.

**Carol Reichenthal, Ph. D.** continues to serve as Chair, Psychotherapist Associates Committee of the American Psychoanalytic Association and on the American Psychoanalytic Association Task Force on Psychotherapy.

### **AWARDS**

**Barbara Pizer, Ed.D., ABPP** Received the Division of Psychology Second Annual Teaching Award for Dedication to Excellence in Teaching Psychology.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Antonia Halton, Ph.D.**, has formed a Continuing Study Group on Psychoanalytic Couple Therapy, which meets twice a year.

**Frank Marotta Ph.D. ABPP**, Carolyn Hicks and Andrea Cousins have been working in Western Massachusetts to build a coalition of health care workers of all disciplines who oppose the participation of healthcare providers in the design, implementation and refinement of interrogation of detainees at Guantanamo and other such sites around the world. Such prisoners are being held without rights and in violation of Geneva Convention rules. They intend to join the protests planned for the APA convention

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## Members at Work and Play

*(Continued from Page 9)*

in Boston this August, with the goal of getting the Governing Council to declare ANY involvement by psychologists in the interrogation of illegally held prisoners to be a severe ethical violation.

**Suzi Naiburg Ph.D., LICSW** is working on a book manuscript entitled "Structure and Spontaneity in Clinical Prose: A Writer's Guide for Psychoanalysts and Psychotherapists." In July she completed a year-long externship on attachment with Dan Brown and in August she completes a year-long externship on hypnotherapy with Dan. In the fall she returns to MIP as a clinical-track candidate (after graduating in 1998 as their first non-clinical candidate).

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## President's Column

*(Continued from Page 1)*

They thus endure a disturbing disjunction; they are hostage to the kind of questionable militant advocacy that dismisses their visceral recognition that the best prospect for ameliorating the injurious effects of their patients' difficulties is a concerted exploration of these emotionally troubled persons' private worlds.

No one today fails to notice the rapid changes that are occurring in our world. Moreover, all of us, to a greater or lesser degree, recognize that narrow adjustments and expedients that fail to address the true impact of the more worrisome recent developments simply push them out of view for the moment. If this is true in the world in general, is it not also strikingly so in our own professional world? Psychotropic medication commonly is prescribed as a first resort for deeply ingrained personality problems. The relief that may be provided by strategically reorienting a person's thinking or behavior often is purported to solve their difficulties in living. But much of these efforts rest upon the now widespread tendency to regard people as if they were complicated machines whose functions, when dis-regulated, can be put right by readjustment of their body chemistry or cognitive or behavioral mechanics. We do not accept this reading. The perspective and practice of psychoanalytic therapies remains the "inconvenient" alternative to those tactical approaches so often adopted in the world at large and in the sub-world with which we are engaged. Psychoanalytic psychotherapy rests on fundamentally different values and visions from others that today enjoy widespread approval. In a committedly humanistic spirit, we believe that people have depth, an inner world that is signally important, and that they struggle to find and create meaning in their lives in such ways as to make them and their lives feel worthwhile. We believe that we each of us shares a bedrock need to have our distinctive emotional universe and the personal particulars of our experience heard by another, and, when we are tangled in and undermined by these, by a skilled, professional other. We at MAPP share a distinctive

sense of what people are about and the fundamentally personal help they require when they are psychologically in trouble with themselves and their fellows, in order to have the opportunity to recover themselves.

If we indeed have this encompassing perspective in common, then MAPP can be a valuable community and venue for us to support and learn from each other. We are finding new life and energy. Our new Program chair, Holly Levenkron, and her committee have arranged an exciting set of programs for the coming academic year. See her column in this newsletter for a description of upcoming topics. Education chair, Janet Sand, and her committee also are bringing us lively new opportunities for extending our learning and for engaging with our peers. Read her column about this. Our executive committee meetings have zest. If you would like to be on one of our committees, let us know. We're doing a lot and hope to do a lot more to enrich and enliven MAPP. We're on a roll! Join us by renewing your membership, or, by affiliating for the first time. We'd like to have you with us in this venture.

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### We are pleased to announce the first MAPP course of 2008-2009 **SELF PSYCHOLOGY SEMINAR** with Richard Geist, Ed.D.

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This seminar will discuss major clinical concepts from Self Psychology and, through the use of verbatim clinical dialogue, study their implications for conducting dynamic psychotherapy. Emphasizing patient centered rather than theory centered treatment, we will focus on implementing an empathic listening stance, responding to resistance and rage, handling selfobject transferences, re-interpreting oedipal development, understanding frustrations and gratifications, and study the meaning and importance of interpretation. Throughout this clinically oriented seminar we will emphasize the impact of the therapist on the treatment process.

#### Learning Objectives:

- 1) To understand the theoretical underpinnings of self psychology.
- 2) To deepen a sense of how the theory alters our clinical perspective and interaction with patients
- 3) To begin to become comfortable integrating the clinical perspective into therapeutic work.

**DATES:** Fridays, October 17, 31;  
November 7, 14, 21;  
December 5, 12, 19, 2008

**TIME:** 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** at the home of Richard Geist,  
1905 Beacon Street, Waban, MA

#### REGISTRATION FEE:

\$25 MAPP Members; Free to MAPP Sustaining Members

#### COURSE FEE:

Free for MAPP members; \$100 for non-MAPP members

For further information, please contact Mary Loughlin at mloug23@aol.com or (781) 446-8450.

## Jonathan Slavin, Ph.D., ABPP Offers “Technically Subversive Thoughts” on the Role of the Analyst

*(Continued from Page 2)*

create, or even create for the first time, the particular, highly individual configuration and nuances of his own personality.” As Slavin pointed out, children develop in the context of relationship with their own specific parents, not with “generic parenting figures.”

Slavin shared material from one of his own patients who beautifully articulated the way in which she needed her analyst to be present and available, not just as a professional in a role, but as a person. She wanted to matter to him in a very real and human way. Acknowledging (with Anna Freud) that this is “technically subversive,” Slavin stated simply, “I believe she is right about that.”

Slavin recognizes and acknowledged “the destructive potential of object usage” while encouraging us to recognize its “essential and constructive role in the course of development”. He arrived at the key recognition that a major difficulty analysts have when confronting the inevitability of personal influence on a patient is “the absence of a formulation for the necessary and constructive role of our influence.” He proposed “a shift from an acceptance of the *inevitability* of personal influence on the part of the analyst, to a genuinely deep embrace of its *necessity and even primacy* in the process of analytic change.” Here is the invitation and challenge of Slavin’s presentation. It is an invitation to reformulate some of the most basic assumptions of the work.

A thoughtful discussion was offered by Alisa R. Levine, Psy.D., a Training and Supervising Analyst at the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute. She reflected that “Jonathan tilts us in a direction that has been neglected largely due to our concerns about the potential for abuse,” but raised her concern that this may be an over-correction. She went on to propose that “though we are always ‘irrepressibly ourselves’ and necessarily engaged with our patients in an ordinary human interaction, a hallmark of analytic treatment is the paradoxical relationship,” and that “sustaining the creative tension between the analyst’s personal and analytic subjectivity is the art of analysis.” Dr. Levine also raised the question of whether the dichotomy of “the personal and the analytic may be artificial, because one permeates the other.”

Levine noted the importance of Slavin’s contribution in creating this discussion since, in the

interests of neutrality, the preoccupation and worry about the “slippery slope” of the analyst’s narcissistic needs can foreclose “spontaneity and authenticity,” creating “a straw man for community critics to knock down” as seen in the “austere, impersonal caricatures of psychoanalysts.” She described the evolution of the individual analyst who may be trained in the classical notion of neutrality and who, with clinical and personal experience, becomes increasingly comfortable being one’s “personal, creative, and real” self.

The discussion sparked by Slavin and Levine attested to the way in which these issues hold meaning and relevance to the clinicians in the community. It could perhaps go without saying that the seminar did not produce a consensus regarding how to understand and utilize the analyst’s moments of personal involvement. However it was a welcome opportunity to hear experienced and thoughtful clinicians explore an issue of great importance to their work in a way that fostered a greater understanding of its complexity.

*Nancy M. Sweeney, Psy.D., is a psychologist in private practice in Arlington and a clinical instructor in psychology, Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School.*

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Please e-mail Janet Sand at [MAPPMATCH@aol.com](mailto:MAPPMATCH@aol.com) with the following information:

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Topic

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