

aapcsw

American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work

2024, issue 1

newsletter

From the President and President-Elect

Janice Berry-Edwards, PhD, MSW, LICSW, LCSW-C, BCD, and Louis Straker, MSW, LCSW-C

Psychoanalytic Clinical Social Work: A Time of Transition, Healing, and Protection of the Profession

Greetings, colleagues. We are living and practicing during a time of external changes that have the potential to impact the standards of practice. To work through the impending changes facing our profession, we find that collectively we must find ways as a united association to advocate and educate the public regarding changes that impact how we admit practitioners to practice through licensure and graduate education.

Many states are considering or have instituted new licensure requirements, in response to concerns regarding the challenges many groups have with passing the licensure exams. We are in the midst of a mental health crisis. The demand for clinical social work services exceeds the capacity of the number of master's level licensed social workers. In response to this crisis, states have begun to offer alternatives and special initiatives for those that have not been able to pass the exams. As an association, we must consider how we make a difference in educating policy makers and legislators regarding the ethical standards of Social Work practice that

speak to the need for licensure and for those who can refer to themselves as a social worker. We have initiated a licensure task force to explore the regulatory ramifications of the issues and ways we can make a difference. In addition, we are considering the makeup of an education task force to take a fresh look at the different aspects of Social Work education that contribute to the issues associated with licensing exams pass rate.

Internally, we are also continuing our efforts in providing continuing education opportunities for pursuing our organization's goals in promotion of excellence in psychoanalytic social work practice. As an example, in addition to our other educational offerings, we are exploring the implications of the Final Report of the Holmes Commission on Racial Equality in American Psychoanalysis 2023 (tinyurl.com/HolmesCommissionFinalReport). To date, we have had one town hall under our past-president's leadership and two study groups sponsored by the Diversity and Social Action Committee. We will continue to hold more study groups on this topic and other aspects of diversity, sponsored by the Diversity and Social Action Committee, for further integration of our psychoanalytic perspective with the issues of diversity for the enhancement of clinical and advocacy issues.

There are challenges ahead, and together we can make a difference!

—Janice and Louis

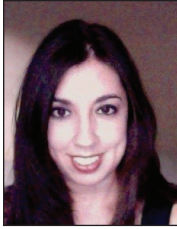
In this issue . . .

From the President and President-Elect	1
Editor's Word	2
Race, Gender, Life, and Liberty.....	3
In Memoriam: Joyce Edwards	5
Meet the New AAPCSW Board Members	6
Biennial Conference 2023.....	9
Conference Panel Summary: "Encountering the Other"....	9
Seeking Book Review Editor....	12
Committee Reports	13
Admin Corner	15
Member News	16
AAPCSW Boards.....	18
Membership Information	19

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editor'sword

Christie Hunnicutt, PhD, LCSW



I am hoping that this issue of the *Newsletter* finds you all well and welcoming in Spring in a healthy and restorative way! I hope you enjoy this issue, which takes us down a path of important member columns, interesting member news, excellent professional development opportunities, and celebration of our 2023 conference award winners, and also gives homage to the great Joyce Edwards.

It is important to share a huge thank you to Wendy Winograd for her many years of service in the Book Review Editor role. She has decided to shift her focus to other areas within AAPCSW and is giving a warm handoff to a new member to take the lead in this position. Please refer to the content shared on page 6 to learn more information about this role and the book review submission process.

It is also always important to acknowledge the contributions of and show gratitude to all who have contributed to this *Newsletter* issue. Thank you to all members who submitted content for this edition, including Josh Abrahams, Carl Bagnini, Karen Baker, Kevin Barrett, Janice Berry-Edwards, Linda Chernus, Jonathan Lebolt, Stacy Nakell, Brian Ngo-Smith, Natalie Peacock-Corral, Corbin Quinn, Louis Straker and Wendy Winograd. Special thanks to Kelly Martin, Barbara Matos, and Olivier Massot.

Please continue to send all your wonderful accomplishments, experiences, news, thoughts, and ideas to us so that we may fully represent the content that is most relevant, contemporary, and inclusive of subject matter that our members are truly passionate about. We always seek any contemporary commentary, perspective, and/or clinical practice that recognizes the ongoing mission and values of our organization.

Be safe and be well!

Grow with aapcsw



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Race, Gender, Life, and Liberty: A Psychoanalytic Perspective

Corbin Quinn, MSW, PhD, LGSW

At the November 2023 AAPCSW conference in Chicago, “Reaching Across the Divide: Bringing a Psychoanalytic Sensibility to Culture and Practice,” the Diversity and Social Action Committee organized a series of presentations titled “Race, Gender, Life, and Liberty: A Psychoanalytic Perspective” that grappled with various social and cultural conflicts that frame the work we do as clinicians, advocates, and educators. Questions of race and gender, specifically, continue to be contested at the global level, in our communities, in our professional associations, and in our clinical work. While emergent social movements offer glimmers of hope, unacknowledged, unresolved traumas—individual and collective—continue to persist. In such a climate, how, we asked, might we use our clinical and theoretical tools to think about urgent threats to the life, liberty, and wellbeing of our patients, our colleagues, and ourselves?

Committee Chair Golnar Simpson set the stage with contemporary theoretical perspectives that privilege individuals’ “meaning systems” and work to understand the unconscious dynamics of Othering: projection, identification, the role of guilt and shame, and the concept of “implicated subjectivity” (Rothberg, 2019). Moving away from the more rigid and defined categories of victim, perpetrator, and bystander, the implicated subject offers a model of political responsibility that invites us all to reflect on the ways in which we may contribute to, benefit from, or even inhibit regimes of domination. Such a framework highlights the

necessarily interconnected and multidirectional ways in which power, memory, and history expand to touch all of us. This builds on Wachtel’s (2014) notion of a “unitary worldview,” which posits “the inner world, the intimate world, and the world of society and culture are reciprocally consequential for each other, continually maintaining and changing each other” (27). The dynamic currents moving among the mind, body, self, other, and the environments that surround all these (Simpson et al., 2007) mean that at some level, we are constituted by each other’s otherness.

This mutually constitutive dynamic of reciprocity and the implications it has for clinical practice was then explored through a presentation by Janice Edwards that examined the physical and mental impact of ongoing gun violence on the descendants of slaves. While much work has been done on the impact of gun violence on individuals and communities, less explored are the ways in which such violence activates what Caruth (2006) has called “collective memories.” As Edwards noted, African Americans have experienced the uninterrupted threat of gun violence since 1619, and contemporary examples of intra-community gun violence and police violence perpetrated on Black communities intersect with the stored and embedded memories of historical antecedents in ways that might not be immediately apparent (Yehuda et al., 1998). She advocated a model of listening that not only attends to a client’s observable trauma symptoms but also is equally

AAPCSW Diversity & Social Action Committee

Golnar Simpson, Kathryn Basham, Janice Berry-Edwards, Ellyn Freedman, Scott Graybow, Carolyn Gruber, Corbin Quinn, Penny Rosen, Avah Toomer, and Audrey Thayer Walker

Contact Golnar Simpson, golsimpson@verizon.net, 703.356.3033.

See www.aapcsw.org/about_us/committees.html#diversity.

attuned to at-times unconscious, palimpsestic memories of historical trauma.

Corbin Quinn approached the question of implied subjectivity through the challenges of working across racial and gender differences in therapeutic dyad rich with intersectional diversity. He presented a brief clinical example of his work with an immigrant client and the anxieties (for both therapist and patient) that can attend when working across multiple vectors of difference (linguistic, cultural, religious, ethnic, class, and gender). Specifically, he examined the ways in which the therapist's guilt, desire to help, and pressure to be "culturally competent" can at times inhibit the listening process and impoverish the rapport building needed to make contact with the patient's inner world.

Avah Toomer offered rich theoretical considerations in response to both presentations and reflected on the current state of our field from the vantage point of an early-career practitioner. She offered a close reading of the panel's title ("Race, Gender, Life, Liberty") and drew our attention to how life and liberty are often denied to many based on how they are identified, either by race or gender, and how the trauma of targeted violence based on one's identifiers manifests in individuals, communities, and society more broadly. The gunshot wounds evoked in Edwards's presentation are what Toomer called "wounds that cry out," revealing some deeper catastrophic reality beyond the initial traumatic event (Caruth, 2006). Such reality, Toomer argued, is the repeated, systemic violence that has long been committed against Black and Brown communities; once it is internally mechanized, it plays out in various ways—somatically, intrapsychically, and interpersonally—across marginalized populations.

Toomer also considered the ways in which the experiences and bodies of women and gender-expansive people are often policed, also within this same system of violence, and how gender and the flesh are sites of great political conflict from the attacks on reproductive rights and the LGBTQ+ community to societal, gendered expectations. She echoed Quinn's caution when approaching our patients from the perspective of our own subjectivities and the twin risks of either ignoring difference in the dyad or fixating on it. It is important that we not essentialize the positionalities of

marginalized people as inherently compromised, but rather, work to understand the critical need for broader environmental and social change to repair or undo systems and attitudes of harm.

This, the panelists argued, is where we can "bridge the divide" between our psychoanalytic expertise and our ethical duty as social workers to strive beyond practices of resilience and towards empowerment, so as not to further acclimate communities to catastrophe. Social workers and practitioners of the "talking cure" must recognize the political power of testimony and the inherence of solidarity to intersubjectivity (Breuer & Freud, 1895/2001). In our positions, we can engage in various forms of advocacy to transform the catastrophic conditions which precipitate so many social and internal ills. Life and liberty, in our current reality, are afforded only to a privileged few often at the expense of the many; thus, preserving the dignity and worth of all people requires us to reimagine liberty as part of a greater, political struggle toward liberation that allows our clients/patients to not only survive but thrive.

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inmemoriam

Joyce Edwards, MSW (1924–2024)

It is with a saddened heart that we inform you of the passing of our esteemed and honored member Joyce Edward on February 4, 2024. She was humble and wise, with a noble, elegant presence wherever she appeared. Her contributions to AAPCSW and the wider psychoanalytic field through her publications, presentations, and teachings will remain with us.

Her recent interview “A Life Well Lived” (video recorded June 12, 2023) was presented at the 2023 AAPCSW/NIPER conference (see youtu.be/OFDtg5NaJs8).

Another video with Joyce was on the *Inspiration Series* made in 2017 (see youtu.be/3YHDZyBhoK0).

There will be no services or memorial for Joyce. She celebrated her 100th birthday in January, and she wanted that to be her memorial. Her obituary in the *New York Times*, published February 8, 2024, is included below. Tributes in honor of Joyce are being collected for posting on our website (www.aapcsw.org/news/2024/joyce_edward_02-04-2024.html). Send yours to Penny Rosen at rosenpmsw@aol.com.

May her memory live on.

In sympathy,

AAPCSW colleagues and friends: Sue Fairbanks, Sheila Felberbaum,
Karen Redding, Penny Rosen, and Golnar Simpson



Obituary: Joyce Ann Levy Edward passed away peacefully on February 4, 2024, just a few weeks after celebrating her 100th birthday. She was a loving daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, cousin, and friend. Joyce was born in Freeport, NY, where she met her husband, Jess Edward, MD, who died in 2010, after a long, happy marriage. Joyce received degrees from Antioch College and Northwestern University, beginning a career in social work that transitioned to a career as a psychotherapist and psychoanalyst, following study at the Institute for the Study of Psychotherapy. Joyce’s professional life included writing valued texts and articles on psychoanalytic theory and its applications to studying human nature. She taught at Smith College, Hunter College, and Adelphi University, and within various psychoanalytic institutes. Well into her later years, she continued to be a learner and a teacher. She dedicated her life to helping those struggling with issues of mental health. She was a beacon for social justice and a generous supporter of those who sought peace and equality. Joyce Edward brought her kindness, grace, and style into the world in so many ways. She was a thoughtful friend who will be missed by many. She will be remembered for her love, generosity, and intense spirit to keep striving for a better world.

—*New York Times*, February 8, 2024

AAPCSW Continuing Education

In-Person: Attend AAPCSW’s local chapter and national events to obtain in-person CE hours.

Online: We have partnered with CE-Credit.com, which allows individuals to fulfill continuing education requirements by reading books or articles that are of interest to psychoanalytic practitioners.

Additionally, CE hours are offered through our online courses—see www.aapcsw.org/resources/ceus.html.

Please check your state license renewal requirements for CE hours.

Meet the AAPCSW Board of Directors . . .



Josh Abrahams

Josh Abrahams, MS, LCSW • Josh is **Member-at-Large, Membership, Co-Chair of the Membership Committee, and Area Chair for Illinois.** He has a private practice in Chicago and is mental health consultant to a local Head Start / Early Head Start Center. Before having his own practice, he worked in community mental health and in the child welfare system. He received his MSW from Loyola University–Chicago and his MS in child development from the Erikson Institute. Josh enjoys having a mixed caseload of individual children and adults, couples, and families. A current interest of his is looking at how essential human connectedness and alienation color our subjective sense of self and relationships, and the implications for the therapeutic encounter.



Karen E. Baker

Karen E. Baker, MSW • Karen, **Member-at-Large, Education,** is a clinical social worker–psychoanalyst in Ann Arbor, where she works with children, adolescents, and adults. She is the previous Child Development Director of Allen Creek Preschool. She is on the faculty of the Institute for Clinical Social Work (ICSW), serving as a clinical consultant and dissertation committee member. Karen is a consulting editor of *Psychoanalytic Social Work*. She is a *Past-President* of AAPCSW, *Co-Chair of the Education Committee,* and *Co-Chair of the Child and Adolescent Committee.*



Kevin Barrett

Kevin Barrett, AM, LCSW • Kevin is **Member-at-Large, Membership and Co-Chair of the Membership Committee,** and has been a member of AAPCSW since 2014. He received his MSW from the University of Chicago and is in private practice in Chicago. Kevin was an APsaA Teachers' Academy Fellow in 2020 and currently lectures at the University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work.



Janice Berry-Edwards

Janice Berry Edwards, MSW, PhD, LICSW, LCSW-C, ACSW, BCD • Janice is a clinical social worker and is the current **President** of AAPCSW. She received her MSW from Howard University School of Social Work and her PhD from the National Catholic School of Social Work, Catholic University. Dr. Edwards has served as a professor in the School of Social Work at Howard University since the academic year 2011/2012, and she was recently the principal investigator of a Health Resources Services Administration \$1.8 million grant to train social work students in behavioral health and OUD/SUD disorders in medically underserved communities. Dr. Edwards maintains a private practice “The Art and Science of Healing in Connection.”

Daniel L. Buccino, LCSW-C, BCD • Dan is currently **Treasurer and Area Co-Chair for Maryland.** He is a longtime member and a *Past-President* of AAPCSW. He is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University

and the Smith College School for Social Work and undertook his Lacanian psychoanalytic formation in New York and Paris. Though his primary career focus has been in the public sector, where he was the founding clinical director of the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center Mood Disorders Clinic and the clinical manager of the Johns Hopkins Hospital Broadway Center for Addiction, Dan has recently transitioned to full-time private practice. He is the first social worker ever to be promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Johns Hopkins University School for Medicine, and he is the longtime director of the Johns Hopkins Civility Initiative. Dan was on the adjunct and clinical faculties of the Smith College School for Social Work and the University of Maryland School for Social Work for decades, and he has been teaching recently in the Sue Fairbanks Psychoanalytic Academy at the University of Texas School of Social Work. Dan is a past chairman of the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners, and he has published and presented widely on topics that include psychoanalysis and consumer culture, civility and (mental) health care, trauma and substance use disorders, and professional ethics and expert performance.

Christie Hunnicutt, PhD, LCSW • Christie serves on the AAPCSW Board as **Member-At-Large, Communications/Outreach**, and is the Chair of the Communications/Outreach Committee; she also manages the role of Editor for the AAPCSW Newsletter. She is currently an Assistant Professor at Southern Connecticut State University and is in part-time private practice in the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York. She has served as an adjunct faculty member at Columbia University, Smith College, and Southern Connecticut State University and for the past eight years has held the position of clinical instructor for the Yale University Post-MSW Fellowship Program, where she continues to provide clinical supervision and consultation to students seeking postgraduate training for clinical licensure. Christie recently defended her PhD dissertation and will be graduating from Smith College in August 2024 with her PhD in Social Work. She also holds a BSW and MSW from the University of Texas. She has co-authored articles on the topic of clinical supervision and post-graduate education and continues research in this area of practice.

Rebecca Mahayag, LCSW-C • Rebecca previously served as a *Member-at-Large* before transitioning to her current role as **Secretary** of the AAPCSW Board. She received her MSW from the University of Maryland and is currently School Counselor at Indian Springs School, Indian Springs, Alabama. She also maintains a private practice in Frederick, Maryland.



Dan Buccino



Christie Hunnicutt



Rebecca Mahayag

continued on page 8



Brian Ngo-Smith



Golnar Simpson



Louis Straker



Wendy Winograd

Meet the AAPCSW Board of Directors, continued from page 7

Brian Ngo-Smith, LCSW, BCD-P, FABP • Brian is a psychoanalyst and clinical social worker in Denver. He has worked in the mental health field for 20 years and completed his analytic training at the Denver Institute for Psychoanalysis, where he is now on faculty. Brian also teaches at the Sue Fairbanks Psychoanalytic Academy at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the current **Past-President** of AAPCSW.

Golnar A. Simpson, PhD, LCSW • Golnar serves as **Member-at-Large, Diversity and Social Action**, and is the *Chair of the Diversity and Social Action Committee* for AAPCSW. She is the former founding dean of the Clinical Social Work Institute, Washington, DC; former president of the Clinical Social Work Federation; and distinguished practitioner and former chair of the National Academies of Practice. She received the AAPCSW Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017 and the National Association of Social Workers Social Work Pioneer award in 2019. She is the author of papers on neuroscience, clinical theory and practice, and clinical education and is in private practice in McLean, Virginia.

Louis Straker, MSW, LCSW-C • Louis is a psychotherapist in private practice in Columbia, Maryland, where he sees adults and adolescents. He received his MSW from the University of Pennsylvania and completed a 2-year post-grad program, Psychoanalytic Studies Program, at the Washington Baltimore Center for Psychoanalysis. Prior to working in private practice, Louis worked in community mental health centers, schools, and outpatient mental health clinics. Louis currently serves on the board as **President-Elect** and has been a member of AAPCSW since 2013.

Wendy Winograd, DSW, LCSW, BCD-P • Wendy is a psychoanalyst and clinical social worker in New Jersey. She provides psychotherapy to adults, couples, and children in private practice and in a school. She completed her psychoanalytic training at the New Jersey Institute for Training in Psychoanalysis, where she serves on the faculty. She is on the faculty and serves as Director of the Writing Program at the Center for Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis of New Jersey. She serves on the Board as **Member-at Large, Education**, and is *Co-Chair of the Child and Adolescent Committee* and also *Co-Chair of the Education Committee*.

See page 18 for the full list of AAPCSW Committee Chairs, Administrative Staff, and Area Representatives.

From the Biennial Conference 2023



www.aapcsw.org/events/2023/reaching_across

AAPCSW 2023 Award Recipients

At the November 2023 conference—“Reaching Across the Divide: Bringing Psychoanalytic Sensibility to Culture and Practice”—in Chicago, AAPCSW Awards were given to:

Carol Tosone, PhD, LCSW—Lifetime Achievement Award

Wendy Winograd, DSW, LCSW, BCD-P—Selma Fraiberg Award

George Hagman, MSW, LCSW—Professional Writing Award

Please read the remarks made to the award recipients by their colleagues. The 2023 Awards Recipients page: www.aapcsw.org/news/awards/recipients_11-11-2023.html.

Congratulations to the Awardees for their accomplishments!

Sent by the AAPCSW Board via e-blast



Summary of AAPCSW Conference Panel “Encountering the Other: Lessons from Our Patients on the Future”

Brian Ngo-Smith, LCSW, BCD-P, FABP, and Josh Abrahams, MS, LCSW

Brian: For the first half of our panel, which I titled “Canceling Oedipus: Generational Collisions and the Hoarding of the Future,” I shared reflections on a hateful impasse that emerged with a young male patient who was approaching the end of school and as I was approaching my board certification as a psychoanalyst. This patient and I became entangled in what O’Shaughnessy has described as an “abnormal superego to abnormal superego” confron-

tation. In order to immerse attendees in this dynamic, I showed clips from the film *The Lighthouse*, which follows the time-collapsing tale of a young “wickie,” or lighthouse keeper, Ephraim Winslow, who arrives for a four-week stint under the supervision of the experienced lighthouse keeper, Thomas Wake. These two characters—one a newbie, the other an elder—become locked in a cross-generational battle, which ultimately results

in tragedy and begs the question: what if they both could have survived? My patient and I have thankfully made our way to the other side of this regressive deadlock, but I ended my presentation with an invitation to link this clinical vignette and its illustration through the film to a broader consideration of the sadomasochistic collisions that have come to define our cross-generational lives. In particular, I highlighted how these emerge in psychoanalytic institutes and professional membership organizations, struggling as many are with what can feel to be intractable conflicts “across the divide” of the generations.

Josh: Brian, the collisions, deadlocks and impasses in your paper and in the viscerally evocative scenes from *The Lighthouse* inspired me to write for our panel about my yearslong work with a highly dysregulated young child and his very capable but overwhelmed mother. Being in their presence, I often longed for them to find some mutuality—to shift their zero-sum dynamic, zealously upheld by both. It was as though they each absolutely had to pull out

the rug from the other’s potential fulfillment and sense of stability. I felt the same longing for the two lighthouse “wickies” to move through deadlock and “share the light.” In the film, it would have to have been the mentor “wickie” that would relinquish some power in order to move them through the impasse. Similarly in my work with the parent and child, it would have to be the mother who would change first in order to move her son and her through theirs. This made me think about how you and your patient had created the conditions whereby he would ultimately help you see your role in the “hateful impasse,” and how you were open to “change.” My challenge was to support the mother to “change” but it turned out I had to open to something painful in myself first so I could be usable to her in new ways. I called my paper “The Walrus: Relational and Existential Threat and Opportunity Each Time We Meet . . . and Part.” In my presentation, I wanted to convey how uncertainty and impermanence can be unbearable to us humans; and that these existential conditions, along with our inevitably conflicting self-interests, make living lives of

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vitality and reciprocally fulfilling relationships true achievements rather than foregone conclusions.

Brian: I was so moved by the arc of this treatment you presented, Josh, and was particularly struck in your helping the mother understand her role, including the ways she was enacting the dynamics of a “family romance” with her young son, positioning him as the lover with whom to have a quarrel, even, which may have served to defend against her ambivalence about his dependence on her. I think the erotic dimensions of these dependent relationships certainly come alive in *The Light-house*, and also highlighted a feature in my patient’s need to defend against feelings of dependence toward me. I wish we had had more time to field questions from attendees and open this up for more discussion but unfortunately our presentations pushed us right to the edge of our time limit. I do think there was a growing interest in the implications for these intergenerational dynamics I linked to at the end of my presentation. What would you have moved us to think about as a group if only we’d had more time?

Josh: Yes, I wish we’d had more time to talk together about the underlying forces that make dependence and provision of care so fraught among dyads and groups. Care providers’ unconscious vulnerabilities can readily activate an identification with the aggressor that might lead to resenting and

shaming—and withholding from—the dependent other. And, as you said in your talk, referring to the work of Schulz and Kilgallen, mistrust and fear of abandonment can lead to using “negativism” to be “warmed by friction” as a less vulnerable way to gratify dependency needs, like you felt your patient’s jabs at you during the impasse.

I also had hoped to move the group to share impressions about the how we see themes of the tragic existential—uncertainty, loss, aloneness, and death—emerge in our work with patients, and how we imagine the existential to be playing out in the world beyond—in group divisions including intergenerational and political. My sense is that existential pressures can drive us, like relational defenses, and even healthy normative self-interest, to create rigid beliefs about ourselves, others, and life to insulate us from the deep vulnerability of ultimate aloneness, not-knowing and impermanence. The pull to embed ourselves in our beliefs for a sense of safety risks vitality and openness to experiencing the “other” as a source of enhancement rather than threat. McLaughlin captures an aspect of this challenge in the context of analytic work: “As we thread our way through the patient’s brambles, we trip over the big feet of our self-interest then stumble to those same feet to resume the quest for the Other.” I would add that as we go on trying to find realness and make meaning internally, we stumble over our self-interested parts that long for safety in the

continued on page 17

Saturday, May 18 • 10:00am–12:00pm EDT • Online via Zoom

Nervous System Regulation as Ethical Function of Psychoanalytic Social Work Presented by the NC chapter of AAPCSW

Please join us for a rich discussion from Dr. Beverly Simmons connecting the latest science on nervous system regulation to our psychoanalytic roots and the NASW Code of Ethics.

Affective Neuroscience and Interpersonal Neurobiology are rapidly bringing greater understanding of how analytic practitioners can provide more effective interventions to regulate their clients nervous systems. However, content from these disciplines can be incredibly dense and difficult to comprehend. In this lecture, Dr. Beverly Simmons will translate complex research and theoretical constructs into practical and accessible language that can be used by all analytic practitioners. Novice through senior analytic clinicians are welcome to attend! [See bit.ly/NCAAPCSW5-18](https://bit.ly/NCAAPCSW5-18)

AAPCSW Book Review Editor

We would like to announce the departure of Wendy Winograd, DSW, LCSW, BCD-P, as the Book & Film Review Editor for the AAPCSW *Newsletter*. Wendy held this role for many years and has worked closely with Barbara Matos and the AAPCSW *Newsletter* Editors to organize and manage book review submissions and publications for the wider membership. Wendy has been such a wonderful support in this role and we offer immense gratitude for the work, time and effort she has provided over time!

We are now looking to fill this voluntary role. It is important to share that the time commitment for this role varies based on the number of reviews being requested each year; however, it is minimal overall. The general tasks and criteria associated with this role includes, but is not limited to, the following:

Book Review Duties

- Manage all reviews that are submitted throughout the year and edit and submit to the *Newsletter* with the intent of sharing with the larger membership.
- Work directly with Barbara Matos (AAPCSW Administrator) to maintain a database of current

reviewers and maintain the list of books previously/currently reviewed.

- Manage/maintain a list of any film reviews or other media items that may be of interest for review and publication.

Book Editor Position Criteria

- Interested parties should have some experience with reviewing/editing/publishing and have interest in contributing to AAPCSW in this manner.
- This is a voluntary role and is connected to the Communications & Outreach Committee, which reports directly to the Board.
- If interested in joining the *Newsletter* in this capacity, please submit a brief blurb highlighting desire and experience related to this role. The Communications Committee Chair will bring any interested parties to the Board for additional review and discussion before finalizing this role.

We look forward to hearing from you!

For current Review Requests, please see below.

Book Reviews

Review Request Protocol

- When you have written a book you wish to have reviewed or have read a recently published book that you feel would be of interest to our members, please send the book title and a sentence about the subject of the book to Barbara Matos at barbara.matos@aapcsw.org.
- Please send a copy of the book or provide information related to it to her directly. She will work with the Book Review Editor and maintain records of all books received. Once she receives the book, a reviewer will be selected.
- If you have a specific colleague in mind as a reviewer of your book, please inform Barbara Matos of this. Reviewers may be added to the current list and will be outreach ed when needed for future reviews.

Review Guidelines

- Reviews should be four to six double-spaced pages.
- The book title and publisher should appear at the top of the page followed by the reviewer's name. At the end of the review, the reviewer should include a sentence or two about themselves.
- The review should then be sent to Barbara Matos and she will work with the *Newsletter* Editor for publication in the next *Newsletter* issue.

committeereports

Membership

Josh Abrahams, MS, LCSW, *Co-Chair*

Kevin Barrett, AM, LCSW, *Co-Chair*

The Membership Committee would like to highlight some of our student volunteers from the conference in November. Volunteers are a vital part of making the conference run smoothly and a great way to introduce social workers in training to AAPCSW.

Here are some words from five of the volunteers this year:

Austin McCann: I'm a second-year master's student at the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice at the University of Chicago. I'm also a fellow at the Chicago Center for Psychoanalysis. My clinical internship is at the Kedzie Center, a tax-funded community mental health center that offers psychodynamic clinical care to diverse populations. My first AAPCSW conference was a treat. I met so many kind, brilliant people, and took a lot of notes. I'm looking forward to the next one.

Yesha Shukla: I'm a second-year master's student at the University of Chicago's Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice. I hope to practice psychoanalytic psychotherapy with folks who have survived gender-based violence. I thoroughly enjoyed my first AAPCSW conference—it was wonderful to meet and learn from practitioners who are deeply committed to psychoanalytic thought.

Antara Anand: I am a first year MSW student at the Smith School for Social Work. My clinical interests are broad, but focus around psychoanalytic theory and clinical practice. I thoroughly enjoyed attending this year's AAPCSW as a volunteer. I learned a lot about how psychoanalysis can operate at the clinical level, as well as at the political and cultural. I'm glad to have made lasting connections with fellow volunteers and professionals in the field.

Kamryn Hinkle: I am in my final year of the Erikson Institute's MSW program. My clinical

internship focuses on individual therapy with children, adolescents, and their caregivers, and I hope to continue in this setting following graduation. I value the opportunity I had at the AAPCSW conference to learn more about the psychoanalytic lens from so many real perspectives. It made me realize how eager I am to continue my learning even after graduation, especially in this realm!

Jessica Adamusik: I am in my final semester as a social work master's student at the Erikson Institute, with a concentration working with children, adolescents and adults. I am interested in furthering my application of psychoanalytic theory, and how that may be demonstrated working with military or veteran families. It was both inspiring and thought provoking to learn from practitioners' clinical experiences. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have attended my first AAPCSW conference

Submitted by Josh Abrahams

Communications/ Outreach

Christie Hunnicutt, PhD, LCSW, *Chair*

The Communications & Outreach Committee continues to meet 2–3 times per year to discuss all items related to communication across platforms and both internally and externally to AAPCSW.

The most recent meeting included special guests Janice Berry-Edwards and Barbara Matos to discuss and reflect upon support and management of the AAPCSW website in an ongoing manner, specifically highlighting the need for consistent updating of content and continued management and organization to ensure previous important content is archived and readily available to members.

Additional conversation focused on addressing replacements for Wendy Winograd as the Book Review Editor (see page 6) and also to discuss the need for

voluntary support to manage any/all social media sites for AAPCSW (previously held by Mark Ruffalo).

Continued future goals and discussion topics include the following:

- Recruitment of more members to join committee in various capacities
- Continued inclusion of Diversity & Social Action Committee representatives at meetings to offer better integration of diverse content and information across all communication platforms
- Continued collaboration with the Membership Committee to support retention/recruitment goals
- Evolution of newsletter content/process to better meet needs of membership (freq, delivery type, topic focus, cost)
- Intent to create and disseminate survey to membership in 2024 to seek better understanding of membership perspectives and priorities regarding use of all informational process and platforms (*Newsletter*, social media, website)

If you are interested in joining this committee and contributing your knowledge and skills, and/or just have thoughts/suggestions to share, please reach out at anytime to the Committee Chair, Christie Hunnicutt, at christiemhunnicut@gmail.com. All information will be shared with committee members and the Board at subsequent meetings.

Submitted by Christie Hunnicutt, with Joel Kanter, Mark Ruffalo, and Penny Rosen

Child & Adolescent

Karen E. Baker, MSW, *Co-Chair*

Wendy Winograd, DSW, LCSW, BCD-P, *Co-Chair*

In the Summer 2020 issue of this newsletter, the AAPCSW Child & Adolescent Committee, co-led by Karen Baker and Wendy Winograd, reported on the first virtual Town Hall meeting. At the time, we were contending with the COVID-19 pandemic, wondering how we would provide psychotherapy to children and adolescents online. There were many



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questions and uncertainties brought into our initial conversations. We needed to figure out the nuts and bolts of transitioning from working in the office to working remotely. Those meetings allowed us to feel less isolated as we connected with one another to share our anxieties, challenges, and triumphs in working remotely with teens, as well as our young clients and their parents.

Since then, we have continued to meet on the third Saturday of each month, 4:00–5:30 p.m. EST. With a core group of 15–18 participants, our discussions have moved beyond the challenges of working remotely. The consistency of 7–10 participants attending each month has generated group cohesiveness, facilitating a sense of safety for members to share their challenges, countertransference reactions, vulnerabilities, and successes. We have moved beyond the notion of a town hall meeting, answering questions regarding the shift to remote therapy, to functioning more like a peer consultation group. The connectedness and trust that has developed over time, has promoted authentic interactions and thoughtful responses around case presentations. Occasionally, we read an article and discuss it, but most of the time a group member volunteers to present case material with specific questions, hoping to gain insight or additional perspectives into the clinical dilemma. Over time, an organic shift has occurred in which a group member has presented the same case for three consecutive months. This has been an interesting shift because it has afforded the group an opportunity for a more thorough case study in terms of considering clinical process, the role of play in child therapy, interpretation in child therapy, defenses, transference, and countertransference.

In conjunction with our progressive group development, the Child & Adolescent Committee was well represented by two panel presentations at the November 2023 AAPCSW biannual conference, “Reaching Across the Divide: Bringing a Psychoanalytic Sensibility to Culture and Practice,” held in Chicago. The first panel, “Fostering Hope and Creativity in Child Welfare Settings,” featured the work of Benjamin Lang and Claire Haglund. Child welfare settings can be oppressive and unwelcoming of psychodynamic perspectives to children’s suffering. Benjamin’s and Claire’s presentations were inspiring and admirable. Benjamin skillfully utilized

Member Profiles

It was so special to see so many new and longtime members at the 2023 biennial AAPCSW/NIPER Conference in Chicago. As always, this was a very educational and fun conference.

A few reminders:

- If you would like to be included in the online Members Only Directory and/or the Public Directory, you can go to your member profile and indicate this. This is a quick and easy way for your colleagues to be in touch.
- If you change your contact information (email, phone, address)—please update your member profile or contact me to let me know.
- If you feel like you are not getting listserv emails or other information from AAPCSW, please remember to check your Spam folder.
- If you have questions regarding any aspect of membership, please be in touch.

Thanks!

Barbara Matos, MS
Administrator

barbara.matos@aapcw.org • 301.7995120

psychoanalytic research, history, and theory to survive, and dare I say thrive, while working in a DCFS residential therapeutic center.

Claire’s complimentary presentation explored how she artfully integrated psychodynamic theory within an urban child welfare setting with at-risk youth. Using techniques of play therapy and drawing, she was able to interpret her client’s transference as well as metabolize the defense of projective identification to deepen their work together. Despite the impingements of the legal system and the restrictions of the child welfare system, Claire demonstrated that psychodynamic work can be woven into the therapy she provides to youth with multi-complex trauma.

The second panel, “The Bridge Must Hold: Sustaining the Alliance with Parents in Child and Family Therapy,” highlighted the work of Glynis Kristal-Ragsdale and Josh Abrahams. Parent work can be daunting and challenging, yet it is essential

continued on page 17

membernews

Carl Bagnini, LCSW, BCD, taught his new course, “Planned and Unplanned Termination,” at the Adelphi Derner Postgraduate Programs in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy, fall 2023. Carl is currently



teaching “Object Relations Case Consultation” at Adelphi, and “Couple Case Consultation” at the Training Institute for Mental Health in New York. His book chapter “Object Relations Couple Therapy” has been submitted for inclusion

in a new book on comparative couple therapy models applied to a single couple case, to be edited by Michael Reiter, PhD.

Linda Chernus, LCSW, BCD, DPNAP, is sharing a recent publication in the *American Journal of Psychoanalysis* titled “Through a Glass Darkly: A Clinical Journey.” This marks her 56th publication in refereed journals since beginning her faculty career in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, in 1976. The abstract for the article reads:

The use of the empathic mode for engaging and communicating with patients has become widely accepted by many psychoanalytic psychotherapists since Kohut’s early formulations (Kohut, 1971; Atwood & Stolorow, 2014). However, diagnostic understanding based on ongoing empathic immersion with our patients is often complicated because it is continually being modified as we know them more deeply and as transference and countertransference factors influence our perceptions. To illustrate the complexity of diagnosis when it is grounded in ongoing empathic engagement with our patients, I describe in detail my treatment of an elderly woman who initially presented with severe and acute symptoms of psychological, cognitive, and physical impairment. As the

treatment has progressed, my diagnostic understanding has been continually modified to include a combination of psychodynamic and organic factors including PTSD, intense unresolved grief, and extreme feelings of guilt and need for punishment. Adding further to this conundrum, I have been frequently challenged by my own responses to the fluctuations in her progress, especially to periods of hopefulness followed by periods of despair and regression.

The article can be found in the *American Journal of Psychoanalysis* (2022) and at doi.org/10.1057/s11231-022-09371-w.

Jonathan Lebolt, PhD, LCSW-R, presented on psychoanalytic practice with LGBTQ patients to the New Jersey Society for Clinical Social Work, the National Association of Social Workers New Jersey Chapter, and the Anatolian Association of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapists of Turkey. He is the Director of Continuing Education at the Center for Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis of New Jersey, where he teaches Relational Theory.



Stacy Nakell, LCSW, CGP, published a book in 2023 with the Routledge Focus on Mental Health series, *Treatment for Body-Focused Repetitive Behaviors: An Integrative Psychodynamic Approach*. The book establishes a psychodynamic treatment approach for behavior disorders that involve harm to the nails, hair or skin.

The book is primarily for therapists who want to work with this population; however, many clients with other primary concerns engage in some form of body-focused behavior (cuticle biting, hair twirling). This book is a primer on how to use somatic awareness to translate these

What’s your news? We would like to acknowledge your professional accomplishments; feel free to provide a photo. **New to AAPCSW?** We invite you to introduce yourself.

Contact *Newsletter* editor Christie Hunnicutt at AAPCSWNewsletter@gmail.com

behaviors into words, a process that can deepen any therapy.

Nakell outlines the contrast between the prevailing cognitive-behavioral approaches that specifically do not attend to the roots of these behaviors and the psychodynamic approach. From the relational, attachment-based perspective, behaviors are seen as symptoms of deeper psychic pain. Rather than focusing on getting rid of unwanted behaviors, as their role as coping mechanisms is understood, healthier emotional regulation strategies, including assertiveness skills, are developed within the container of the therapeutic alliance.

Nakell leads institutes and workshops nationally and is on the faculty at the American Group



Psychotherapy Association. They are passionate about training therapists in this relational, attachment-based treatment approach and run ongoing training groups in their practice.

They have also added to the literature on treatment with population with two peer-reviewed articles involving both individual and group psychotherapy case studies, www.routledge.com/Treatment-for-Body-Focused-Repetitive-Behaviors-An-Integrative-Psychodynamic/Nakell/p/book/9781032284880.

Brian Ngo-Smith, LCSW, BCD-P, FABP, was featured on the podcast *Ordinary Unhappiness* to discuss his 2018 paper on working with homelessness, as well as his more recent writing on psychoanalytic care. The episode aired on December 30, 2023, and is titled “Hate, Help, and Housing: Psychoanalysis and Social Work, Featuring Brian Ngo-Smith.” You can find *Ordinary Unhappiness* on any of the podcast platforms.

Committee Reports, continued from page 15

when working with young children. In their presentations, Glynis and Josh bravely revealed their individual vulnerabilities as therapists in relation to the treatment of their young clients and their parents. Each focused on the perspective that the work requires bridging a myriad of divides; the divide between parents and therapist, between child and therapist, between parents and child, and between parents themselves. Bridging these divides can be quite difficult, regardless of how invested the therapist is in the work with the child and the family. According to Glynis and Josh, there are greater forces beyond the control of the therapist that interfere with building the necessary bridges that ultimately affect the treatment.

Both panels were stellar! Claire, Glynis, and Josh were first-time presenters at AAPCSW. Kudos to them and Benjamin on their success and contributions to child therapy as well as within the town hall meetings. If I say so myself, the town hall ROCKS! It is a vibrant and supportive group to learn from and be inspired by. Please join us if you are interested.

Submitted by Karen Baker and Wendy Winograd

“Encountering the Other,” continued from page 11

static. In order to move towards reciprocity with others, do we have to first have some capacity to experience our internal (potential) “other” as a source of enhancement rather than threat, so that we go on creating ourselves even if it means perpetually fearing and grieving the loss inherent in change? Could acknowledging the despair we all have to endure help us reach “across the divide” for mutuality rather than just trying to stay warm through friction?

Conversation to be continued, I hope.

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AAPCSW Child & Adolescent Town Hall

Every Third Saturday on Zoom • 4:00–5:30pm ET

See www.aapcsw.org/events for dates • No CE hours

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American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work

AAPCSW promotes psychoanalytic education, advances clinical social work, facilitates the production and dissemination of knowledge, and advocates for high standards of practice. The AAPCSW website (www.aapcsw.org) offers an array of information about AAPCSW. Information on benefits, listservs, programs (both local and national), activities, our history, resources, newsletters, video series, and other items of interest can be found there.

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By Mail: At www.aapcsw.org, go to **Membership / Join by Mail** and download and print the membership form. Return the completed form with your payment check payable to AAPCSW or credit card information to AAPCSW; Attn: Barbara Matos, MS, AAPCSW Administrator; PO Box 67; Boonsboro, MD 21713.

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newsletter

core values

- Recognize the dignity and worth of each human being.
- Acknowledge the intersection of each individual's inner and outer worlds.
- Convey a psychoanalytic sensibility in our work with all populations and in all settings.
- Integrate concerns for social justice with clinical practice.
- Promote inclusivity and affirm the diverse identities of our colleagues and of those with whom we work.
- Cultivate a community of professionals that advocates for open inquiry and respect for difference.

aims & purposes

- To represent and protect the standing and advancement of psychoanalytic social work practitioners and educators.
- To provide an organizational identity for social work professionals engaged in psychoanalytically informed practice.
- To promote and disseminate the understanding of psychoanalytic theory and knowledge within the social work profession and the public.
- To affect liaisons with other organizations and professions who share common objectives for social work and the advancement of psychoanalytic theory and practice.
- To advocate for the highest standards of practice and for quality mental health care for the public.
- To bridge social work and psychoanalytic discourses by integrating concerns for social justice with clinical practice, and to conceptualize psychoanalytic theory and practice within its broader social-political context.