From the **President**

*So Long, Farewell, auf Wiedersehen, Adieu To You and You and You*

It’s time to say goodbye as my presidency of AAPCSW is coming to an end. It’s been a wonderful two years and of course I will continue on in my new capacity as past president.

I’d like to share with you some of my experiences and reflections from my time as your president and also summarize some of the key events and accomplishments.

Let me start by recalling my utter surprise when Marsha Wineburgh and the other board members approached me and asked if I would be interested in running for president. Nothing could have been further from my mind. I was flattered, but worried whether I could add yet another responsibility on top of all my other activities and commitments. I thought carefully about it, consulted with others, including my husband. Then, with some trepidation, I concluded I could take on the presidency.

The key factor that led to my deciding affirmatively was my belief and commitment to our organization and its mission, coupled with my fondness and respect for our board members, and, indeed, for our membership at large. This is an organization that works well because of the quality and interest of our members and the warm, friendly, and inviting atmosphere (as you can tell when you attend our conferences). We are a “functional family,” where people get along, respect each other, and get the job done by working together. That’s what sold me, and I have not had a whit of ambivalence during my entire tenure. It has been a very gratifying experience and I thank you all for the help and many contributions.

Let me briefly tell you a bit about what we’ve done these past two years and conclude with heartfelt thanks to some specific people.

Of course, much of our focus and energy was directed to our conference in NYC this past March. Those of you who attended know what an outstanding event it was, successful on essentially all counts. Our plenary speakers were highly praised, as were our workshops and panels, and individual presentations won impressive evaluations. Our luncheon speaker, Jenny Allen, performance artist and writer extraordinaire, offered us a funny, profound, and poignant piece about handling serious illness, its effects, and recovery. Our study group’s preconference presentation, “The Impact of the Outside World, War, Politics, Environment, Education and Health Care: A Dilemma for Clinical Practice,” could not have been more timely or erudite. These special events set a tone that...
Editor’s Word

Time flies! It is hard to believe that Samoan’s term is so quickly coming to an end. Her accomplishments are many and have been voiced by Cathy and others. I personally am most grateful to her for heading the committee to change the organization’s name. This undertaking had so many potential problems—finding a suitable name, avoiding stepping on toes, pleasing a variety of people, and getting support for the name. I love the new name. The change appeared to be seamless. Thanks, Samoan!

Welcome to Ashley Warner, our new assistant editor. Ashley will be working with the areas and with individual members to keep us better informed about what is going on around the country. I am excited about this opportunity to connect more closely to our members.

The Newsletter welcomes readers’ letters, articles, and opinions on topics of the day, clinical issues, book reviews, notices or reports of conferences, and news of interest to our membership. We encourage social workers with an interest in writing to use the Newsletter as a vehicle for converting that interest into the writing process.

Thanks to all contributors to this issue: Penelope Andrew, Terrie Baker, Samoan Barrish, John Chairamonte, Elizabeth Glass, Beatriz Ledesma, William Meyer, David Phillips, Joan Rankin, Karen Redding, Cathy Siebold, Diana Siskind, Ashley Warner, and Yvonne Young.

Aims & Purposes of the AAPCSW

- 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 effect 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.

American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work

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It is hard to believe that two years have passed since I assumed the position of president-elect. In that time, Samoan Barrish has been an excellent mentor, educating me on the myriad issues that are part of being president of our organization. I can only hope that I will be able to provide Karen Baker, our new president-elect, a similar experience. The elections are now complete and we have an approved slate of officers. Along with Karen Baker, president-elect, we have Kim Sarasohn, who will join the executive board as our secretary. At the risk of repeating Samoan, I want to express appreciation to Kim, who was willing to jump in when we needed her help. Marsha Wineburgh as treasurer will continue to oversee the budget, a worrisome task in the best of times. Thanks, Marsha.

Samoan’s vision for our organization has resulted in the development of several new committees that expand our attention to issues such as diversity, psychoanalytic education, and the political surround. These are important topics and relevant to social work psychoanalysis. During her tenure, our bi-annual conference (this year in New York City) was well attended, despite the economic meltdown, and maintained the high quality that we have become accustomed to at AAPCSW functions. Samoan provided much behind-the-scenes assistance so that we were able to have presenters such as Jenny Allen. I look forward to participating in the next conference in Los Angeles in 2011.

As Samoan aptly notes, AAPCSW is a vibrant group with continued growth, and along with that growth comes continued emerging needs. To that end, I have supported ongoing efforts in the development of our CEU website. This site—psychoanalyticce-credit.com—provides distance learning for our members who are not able to attend in-person conferences and workshops. We have recently added a new course created by Leah Harp, who has been a great help in developing courses for the site. The title of this latest course is “The Problem of Perversion: The View from Self Psychology,” by Arnold Goldberg. I encourage everyone to go to the site (there is a link on the AAPCSW website) and see the course offerings, most of which are by social work authors. If anyone would like to acquire free CEUs by developing a new course, please be in touch with me. Similarly, if anyone has authored a book that they would like included on the site, he or she can take a tutorial and develop a course for our members.

One of my hopes is to provide subscriber access to our members for the PEP-WEB. PEP provides online access to psychoanalytic journals (see www.pep-web.org) and many of you have expressed interest in gaining access to PEP through AAPCSW. We continue to try to negotiate with the PEP-WEB, and to seek partners to increase our subscriber base. This is more of a challenge than it might seem in that our potential subscriber base is still smaller than is necessary to be eligible for the lowered rate. As our membership continues to grow so too will our ability to acquire this valuable membership benefit. Deborah Dale has been a great assistant over these past two years and she is keeping track of all who want to subscribe. I look forward to working with Deborah on this and many other issues. Anyone who has not already been in contact with me about subscribing can let Deborah know (contact her at deborah.dale@aapcsw.org) of his or her interest in the PEP-WEB.

I would like to also thank our area chairs, with whom I have had the pleasure of working over the past two years. They provide invaluable assistance through their ideas for and support of our educational efforts, as well as outstanding programming across the country. I am looking forward to continuing to expand AAPCSW’s educational activities over the next two years.

From the President-Elect

Cathy Siebold, ds w

AAPCSW Member Discounts for Books and Journal Subscriptions

See page 13 or visit www.aapcsw.org and click on Books & Journals

**Member News . . .**

**Terrie S. Baker**, MSW, has graduated from the Psychoanalytic Institute of the Carolinas as an adult psychoanalyst. Ms. Baker is a licensed clinical social worker in private practice providing psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic psychotherapy in Chapel Hill, N.C. Ms. Baker, who also holds a master’s in chemistry, returned to UNC after a career in chemistry and toxicology to earn her master’s in social work at the School of Social Work in 1996. An outstanding student, she was awarded the Rubin Blanck Award for rising-second-year clinical social workers. Before Ms. Baker pursued the rigorous training to become a psychoanalyst, she completed the advanced program at the Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Study Center of North Carolina. She is active in many organizations that seek to promote psychoanalysis and serves on the board of both the North Carolina Psychoanalytic Foundation and the North Carolina Psychoanalytic Society.

**Frances Levine**, MSW, LCSW, has been appointed adjunct instructor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Her role will be to enhance the training of psychiatric residents in learning more about psychoanalysis and empathy. Frances is a graduate in psychoanalysis from the New York Institute for Psychoanalytic Self Psychology and is in private practice in Teaneck, N.J.

**Karen K. Redding**, LCSW, PhD, recently exhibited her photography in a show titled “Travels Through Humanity,” in Laguna Beach, Ca. Her work documents her travel in third world countries such as Ethiopia and Papau New Guinea, and draws on her experience as a clinical social worker and psychoanalyst. Karen is in private practice in Laguna Beach and is the Orange County area chair for the AAPCSW. She can be reached at kredding@mac.com. Her “Travels Through Humanity” series of photographs can be seen and purchased (with 20% of proceeds going to humanitarian efforts) at www.karenkredding.com.

**Joan Rankin**, PsyD, LCSW, has published a commentary in the *Clinical Social Work Journal* (37 [2009]: 150–54) titled “Commentary on Treatment of Infertile Couples Using Reproductive Technologies: A Complex Matrix.” Joan is in private practice in Los Angeles, Ca., and is the Los Angeles area chair of the AAPCSW.

**Margaret Arnd-Caddigan**, PhD, LCSW, and co-author Richard Pozzuto have published an article titled “The Virtuous Social Worker: The Role of ‘Thirdness’ in Ethical Decision Making,” in the July–September 2009 issue of *Families in Society* (vol. 90, no. 3). The issue is also available online. Margaret is an assistant professor in the School of Social Work at East Carolina University and is in private practice in Greenville, N.C.

After giving a multimedia presentation for the Duke University Department of Psychiatry’s Grand Rounds, **William S. Meyer** received invitations to present in other venues, including the US Army, Department of Psychiatry at Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, Hi. The title of his presentation is “On the Diagnosis and ‘Treatment’ of Homosexuality: When Prejudice Masque- rades as Science; An Ethics Retrospective.” Bill explains: “The psychoanalytic community was slow to acknowledge its role in contributing to and sustaining the idea that homosexuality is pathological and something to be ‘cured.’ Many groups relied on these
Share Your News

Please contact me with any announcements of your achievements or other noteworthy member news. Institute graduations, paper presentations, book publications, awards, and honors are an incomplete list of items you are encouraged to share. Let’s recognize the successes that contribute to our collective strength in the analytic community! I look forward to hearing from you.

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In Memoriam . . .

Micki Alperin

Micki Alperin, a member of AAPCSW (formerly NMCOP) since its inception, passed away peacefully on Friday, June 10, 2009, after a three-month battle with a bone marrow disorder called Aplastic Anemia. Her daughters Ilene and Karen share: “Mom was surrounded by love and held on to her elegance to the end.” Those who knew Micki remember her wisdom, warmth, and gentleness. She will be greatly missed.

Betty Jean Synar

From Dallas Morning News: Betty Jean Synar, of Dallas, passed away August 1, 2009. She was born August 2, 1923, in Galveston, Texas. Preceded in death by her husband Joe Synar. Graduated from Texas Christian University in 1945. Received her Master’s in Education from the University of Colorado in 1948 and Master’s in Social Work from Smith College in 1951. She married the love of her life, Joe J. Synar, in 1951. After a few years with Family and Children’s Services in Schenectady, New York, she returned to Texas, where she joined the staff of Child and Family Guidance Center of Dallas. In 1957 she was promoted to Chief Psychiatric Social Worker for the center, a position she occupied for over thirty years. She continued her career with her private practice until her death. Love, guidance, and compassion for her patients fueled her life. She was a past board member of Jewish Family Services of Dallas. She served on the board of the Autism Treatment Center of Dallas and was the chair of the 1918 Fellowship Society for Smith College School for Social Work. She had an endless love and devotion to children, families, higher education, and social services. From David G. Phillips, DSW, LCSW: This summer saw the passing of one of our most eminent members, Betty Jean Synar of Dallas, Texas. She died on August 1, 2009, one day before what would have been her 86th birthday.

I first met Betty Jean in the late 1980s, when we were co-chairs of the Professional Standards Committee of the Clinical Social Work Federation. (It was called the National Federation of Societies for Clinical Social Work in those days). I had the pleasure of working directly with Betty Jean for something like fifteen years. Our contact was mainly by phone (in spite of my urging and, I’m sure that of others, she never did get a computer) and once or twice a year at national meetings, but I got to know her well and to appreciate her wisdom, her humor, her generosity, and her integrity.

Betty tended to be rather quiet at federation board meetings, to not get too openly involved in the debates or the politics, and I was never sure if other people always appreciated what a dynamic and important person she actually was. She was a virtual legend in Dallas where she had served as a mentor to a good part of the clinical social work community, and a proud and active alumnae of the Smith College School of Social Work. She was also active in many other national organizations, especially the National Academy of Practice in Social Work, a division of the National Academies of Practice. She was one of the founders and charter members of the academy, and also served as its first president.

The final years of her life were not easy for Betty. She had to deal with the loss of her husband, a World War II
Every therapist who works with children has had an opportunity to deal with learning disabilities. It is generally the case that the therapist refers the child for help with the learning disability and then the therapist deals with what is known as the emotional overlay. Emotional overlay is a term that conjures a film lying over a person’s feeling states. All the therapist need do is remove the film and—voila—the patient is free to be a happy well-adjusted child. Except of course we all know that nothing is that easy. We can thank Joseph Palombo for helping us understand what an emotional overlay is and why that term is not sufficient to describe what has happened to a child with a learning disability.

Joseph Palombo has written two books about learning disabilities: Learning Disorders and Disorders of the Self in Children and Adolescents, and Nonverbal Learning Disabilities: A Clinical Perspective. Each is well organized. Each is full of clinical examples and vignettes. Each includes a chapter on working with parents.

In the first, Learning Disorders and Disorders of the Self, Mr. Palombo provides a tour de force: Kohutian theory of the development of the sense of self; self cohesion; complimentary functions necessary for the development of a sense of cohesion; self objects and their functions as idealizing, mirroring, and alter ego self objects; adjunctive functions and compensation; and the development of a coherent self-narrative. (For those of you who are not familiar with Kohut’s ideas, this will be a helpful introduction.) In addition, the author distinguishes neuropsychological deficits from neurobehavioral disorders and then addresses their respective impact on development. He also provides a thorough description of several of the most common learning disorders seen in clinical practice, which are dyslexia, AD/HD, executive function disorders, nonverbal learning disabilities and Asperger’s disorder. My head is spinning as I think about the material covered.

This book is an integration of neuropsychology and psychoanalytic developmental thought. The thesis of the book is that neuropsychological deficits have an impact on development. The extent of the impact has to do with the particular deficit or weakness, as well as with the context in which the child lives and what the child brings (their endowment, defenses, etc.) to their context.

In terms of treatment, the author asserts that technique is the same as in treating any child. The difference lies in the therapist’s awareness of and empathy with the child’s deficits and their context and how that impacts the child’s dynamics. The goal of therapy with a child who has a learning disorder that has led to a disorder of the self is (1) to provide the child with an experience that can lead to reliving a past pattern of interaction and then create a new pattern, with the associated feelings more magnified and the child deeply engaged with the therapist, and (2) to co-create a new narrative for the child by helping the child understand their strengths and weaknesses, as well as what happened in their history, and, then, to learn how to use this information in the future. Mr. Palombo uses Pine’s concept of “moments” in his understanding of treatment of children with learning disabilities.

One unique aspect of the treatment of children with...
Belgian-born actress Yolande Moreau (Vagabond, Amelie) gives a stunning and heartbreaking performance in the biographical film about the painter Seraphine, a simple woman who drew most of her inspiration from the beautiful French countryside of Senlis. There is a touching, early scene in which Seraphine, already no youngster, heads home after an exhausting day of hard work, yet stops to climb a tree just to sit and visually savor the bounty of the landscape she loves so much.

Like for Barcelona’s modernist, Catalan architect Antoni Gaudi (who, in terms of education, social class, and other privileges, couldn’t be more different), the spirit of Seraphine’s work is to be found in her devout Catholicism and in the wisdom of nature. Her feral intensity and use of color, light, movement, and thick impasto are similar to Vincent Van Gogh’s in his paintings of sunflowers and starry nights.

Seraphine de Senlis (a.k.a. Seraphine Louis) lived from 1864 to 1942. So extreme was her passion to paint that the laundress and maid by day would stay up all night in her tiny, rented room mixing her own paints, which she made from everyday items: blood stolen from the local butcher, carefully poured into a bottle; melted candle wax from votives pinched from church; what appears to be pigments yielded from fruits and flowers; and homemade red wine.

Seraphine painted quietly for seven years before she met Wilhelm Uhde, the famous German art dealer, curator, and collector, played flawlessly by Ulrich Tukur (Solaris, The Lives of Others). In addition to a love of art, the humble Seraphine and the sophisticated Uhde shared other things in common: both have “secrets,” suffer from bouts of melancholia, and are outsiders—she because of her eccentricities and poverty, and he as a German living in France and a man “who will never marry.” Their chemistry is palpable and helps carry this fascinating story forward. Both also feel money has nothing to do with ultimate happiness. Uhde explains that he does not collect art to sell but sells art to be able to collect. After Uhde places a large sum of money on his desk in the rented house that Seraphine cleans (as a gesture of affection and possibly pity), she becomes offended and chastises him with a classic line, “You cannot buy me!”

She is also distraught because she is about to lose him and seems unaware of the grave dangers ahead. It is 1914, and invasion by the Germans is imminent. Uhde must flee Senlis or risk being shot as a deserter.

In their twelve years apart, Seraphine continues to paint. She and Uhde are reunited after he visits a local art show in the town of Senlis, where he realizes not only that Seraphine has survived the war but that her work has evolved and flourished. Uhde arranges to give her a monthly allowance and send her proper art supplies. As she paints more frequently, rents the entire floor of her old flat, and

See Seraphine on page 11
In this unique book, Susan Levine creatively explores the individualistic nature of each psychoanalysis and all that makes it so, while highlighting the ways in which the “good enough” analysis and analyst adhere to principles and values that keep the idiosyncratic nature of each analysis at its most therapeutic. Levine uses unconventional even playful entry points to open up the discussion and exploration of the psychoanalytic experience for both participants. In her introduction, Levine states that this book is attempting to address the fit, or match between analyst and analysand. Her choice of the word loving for the analyst’s experience grabs our attention. She then proceeds to articulate the sources of the analyst’s pleasure and satisfaction, lying in the use of sophisticated theory and finely honed technique applied to the exceptional task and goal of healing another individual through this specialized relationship. Most seasoned analysts know that they love being analysts, this book takes stock of what that love encompasses. Because Levine is so comfortable in her “analytic skin,” she bravely and rigorously spells out and deepens our thinking of what we are aware of but maybe at risk of taking for granted. This is accomplished by her use of terms not typically used in psychoanalytic discourse. Although most of what is explored is well traveled, transference and countertransference issues, unconscious fantasies of analyst and analysand, enactments both regressive and progressive, the vicissitudes of self revelation and self disclosure, the complexity of our patients internal object world and how the analytic relationship interfaces with it. Levine adheres to understanding these facts as they pertain to the analysts experience and use of self. The themes and ideas in this book are introduced and developed through Levine’s use of theater, film, art, and science as well as the more traditional use of case examples. For instance, she uses the story of Pygmalion to illustrate the challenge that arises for the analyst by the mainly unconscious wish of many patients to be “created” by the analyst, or to be changed into someone new. Levine’s development of the themes and dynamics in Pygmalion remind us that the tension between the wish to be created and the wish to create involves “both loving and aggressive components,” and that “we must be acutely aware of enacting either participant’s desire to create or be created” (8).

In chapter 2, Levine invites us to consider courage as elemental to psychoanalysis, and what she sees as its counterpart—masochism—through the lens of the film Bringing Up Baby, with Katherine Hepburn and Cary Grant. In this film, Hepburn’s character mistakes a dangerous circus leopard for her aunt’s pet tame leopard, Baby. She is not at all frightened of her encounter with the dangerous animal until her mistake is pointed out to her by Grant’s character. Levine is interested in Hepburn’s character’s inadvertent courage (and the possibility that she is unconsciously aware of the danger). Grant’s character is able to maneuver the dangerous leopard into a jail cell where it can be contained. Here Levine sees a metaphor for the analyst in helping the analysand to make safe dangerous conflicts, memories, and affect states.

A detailed analysis of the colloquial term courage is undertaken and its place in the psychoanalytic work is fully explored, as well as its interconnectedness with masochism, in Levine’s view. She defines courage as a “conscious decision to tolerate risk or pain for the purpose of achieving a higher goal” (35). The writings of a few analysts on masochism are enlisted. She includes the Novicks’ definition of masochism as “the active pursuit of pain . . . in the service of adaptation, defense, and instinctual gratification at oral, anal, and phallic levels” (37; Novick and Novick 1987, 381). Levine argues that the psychoanalytic situation evokes both courage and masochism in both participants. Reading this chapter encourages us to consider the possibility that an inherent (moral or characterological) masochism may be an initial ingredient to the courage that is employed to help the analysand move past adaption and defense and into true mature growth.
In the third chapter of Loving Psychoanalysis, evocatively titled “Beauty Treatment,” Levine explores all that she finds to be beautiful in the psychoanalytic process. Levine feels, as many seasoned analysts do, that participating in this process over a long period of time and employing concentrated, skill, patience, empathy, and theoretical knowledge is a “thing of beauty” (5) in its transformative nature for both participants. She proposes that there are aesthetics embodied in four distinct aspects of psychoanalysis. She argues for the existence of an aesthetic of meaning making and interpretation, of communication and the therapeutic alliances, of love, and of professional craft in psychoanalysis. Clinical examples are presented to illustrate Levine’s discussion on all that she finds beautiful in the psychoanalytic situation. She also examines the place of destructive impulses and aggression in a treatment that still has an essential “beauty,” that is, meaningful, well crafted, intimate, theoretically informed, principled, and clarifying.

Her fourth chapter is titled “To Have and To Hold.” Here, Levine reviews aspects of object relation theory again using an unconventional descriptor in order to open up the subject of the vicissitudes of “having or not having” the object, and on the many ways this impacts the adults ability to “hold” a consistent positive internal self and object world. Having and holding is explored, particularly as it relates to the corrective nature of the therapeutic relationship. Psychoanalysis is seen particularly through the transference work as a real “having” relationship for the patient. She explores this in sections titled “Having an Analyst” and “Having a Patient,” expressions often used without consciously thinking what it is that is being captured in these expressions. These are Levine’s openings for her views on the nature of object relations.

In chapter 5, “Nothing but the Truth,” Levine focuses her attention on the nature of honesty in the psychoanalytic relationship as it pertains to how “truthful” the analyst is and can be in who they show themselves to be to their patients. Self-disclosure and self-revelation are seen to happen in the course of the work, not by sharing personal information, but through what is revealed about us and our character style as we make interpretations, develop boundaries and structure, and invest ourselves in the therapeutic alliance. K. A. Frank is quoted for clarifying that “analytic authenticity demands a willingness to reveal one’s personal involvement” (97; Frank 1997, 309). The analyst’s persona, while a largely authentic representation of aspects of their self and style of relating must contribute to and foster the therapeutic alliance, honoring that the patient, according to Hanly, is placed “at the center of the analyst’s interest and occupation” (97; Hanly 1998, 564).

In the final chapter, Levine’s intellectual reach and curiosity is shown to extend to mathematical and scientific theories, and she uses this knowledge to make a comparison between psychoanalysis and chaos theory and fractals. I must confess I do not have the same reach, however I was able to grasp an essential point made. At the most general, she suggests that patterns interacting and interconnected are basic parts of these theories and structures, seemingly chaotic and yet related and organic. I assume that we have been at times impressed that the same rings true of the patterns (themes) of a personal history, psychoanalysis, or of an evolving single session. The themes seem interconnected, with details coming in and out of view at times confoundingly so, yet inevitably always part of a complex, mysteriously organized whole session/treatment/person.

In reading Loving Psychoanalysis one finds oneself enriched by Levine’s unabashed openness regarding all of what her love of psychoanalysis encompasses as well as the intellectual rigor she applies to this endeavor. We are also exposed to her playful and original use of language and concepts typically outside the purview of psychoanalytic discourse, as well as her use of themes from the arts and sciences.

References

Elizabeth Glass, LCSW, is a graduate of NYSPP and is in private practice on the upper west side of Manhattan. She also has supervised doctoral students from the City College Graduate Center clinic for several years.

The Newsletter welcomes reviews of books and films relevant to membership concerns. Contact Diana Siskind, MSW, Dwsiskind@aol.com
learning disabilities is the amount of time the therapist spends with collateral people in the child's life. The importance of the child's context requires consultation not only with parents but also with teachers, tutors, and other significant persons.

In the second book, *Nonverbal Learning Disabilities: A Clinical Perspective*, Mr. Palombo focuses entirely on this little-known clinical diagnosis. The book is an outgrowth of a study group in which Mr. Palombo was a participant, beginning in 1992. Following is Palombo's definition of a nonverbal learning disability:

A nonverbal learning disability (NLD) is a developmental brain based disorder that impairs a child's capacity to perceive, express, and understand nonverbal (nonlinguistic) signs. The disorder is generally expressed as a pattern of impaired functioning in the nonverbal domains, with higher functioning in the verbal domain. The neuropsychological deficits associated with this disorder constrain children's capacity to function in the academic, social, emotional, or vocational domain and lead to a heterogeneous set of neurobehavioral symptoms. The brain dysfunctions affect the children's behaviors, their social interactions, their feelings about themselves and others, and their emerging personality patterns—all of which may manifest as symptomatic behaviors. (2)

The author approaches this disability from a variety of points of view consistent with the first book. He addresses the neurobehavioral perspective in the first section. This is a one person psychology point of view that is largely descriptive of symptoms. Mr. Palombo addresses not only the neurobehavioral profile of NLD but also the neurobehavioral theories of the social features of NLD. In the second section we find ourselves addressing the social perspective that is the interplay with the context. There are chapters on impaired social functioning, impaired social communication and impaired emotional functioning. There is a chapter in which four subtypes of NLD are delineated along with a more thorough definition of NLD.

The third section is concerned with the sense of self and the intrapersonal perspective. In this section Mr. Palombo revisits some of the material from the first book. It is in this section that the author looks at the disorders of the self, self narratives, and self cohesion. Mr. Palombo finishes this section by comparing NLD with Asperger’s Disorder. One has the feeling that the controversy that suggests that NLD is on the autistic spectrum is the raison d'être for the book; Mr. Palombo makes it quite clear that he does not believe that is the case.

The author is very consistent in his recommendation for clarity in diagnosing. He is very insistent throughout both books that when dealing with a child with a suspected learning disorder the therapist must use outside neuropsychological support. He feels it is of utmost importance to have a diagnosis that will provide an accurate understanding of the child, their strengths as well as their neuropsychological deficits or weaknesses.

Part four is a section on treatment. Chapter 12, “Restoring Self Cohesion and Narrative Coherence,” is a terrific chapter for child therapists. The clinical vignettes excellently demonstrate how a therapist works with a child to help them construct a coherent self narrative. Chapter 13, “Attending to Caregivers,” is another excellent chapter, demonstrating to the therapist how to be helpful to the parents of these difficult children.

Both books are appropriate for professionals who work with the learning disabled. Clinical social workers who work with the learning disabled will find their work greatly enhanced by the knowledge from these books.

Yvonne Young is a psychoanalytically trained clinical social worker. For over 30 years she has had a practice in downtown Manhattan where she works with people of all ages.
receives more respect as an artist, these “great expectations” become stressful and begin to produce more typical symptoms of (what we would today classify as) mania. She goes on spending sprees—buying an expensive, handmade wedding dress replete with tulle veil—and wants to purchase a palatial, six-bedroom chateau. In the Great Depression of the 1930s, Uhde is in no position to buy an extravagant home with the Paris art market no longer clamoring for the work of Rousseau, Seraphine, and other artists he has discovered.

With mania in full swing and growing grandiosity now mixed with paranoia, Seraphine’s beliefs and perceptions are truly distorted. She feels certain that Uhde hates her work and is refusing to sell it. Their relationship deteriorates as her symptoms worsen. The film’s third act is sketchy and somewhat confusing, especially in terms of the reasons for Uhde’s later behavior, which I will not go into here, as it is “spoiler” material, but suffice it to say that the results are tragic.

Martin Provost has directed only two other features (Le Ventre de Juliette, Tortilla y Cinema), so sweeping the 2009 Cesars with seven wins must have been a thrilling experience. In his script (written with Marc Abdelnour), he took aspects of Seraphine’s life from a thesis and the letters of a psychiatrist who knew Uhde’s sister, Anne Marie (played by Anne Bennent), and created a very compelling narrative.

The frisson between Provost and Yolande Moreau parallels some of the same magic between Seraphine and Uhde. According to Provost, his writing “was nourished by her presence at [his] side.” This spirit is present in the film with its painterly design, lighting, framing, and beautiful cinematography by Laurent Brunet, and in the inspired performances by the entire cast.

Provost has tackled two difficult subjects: the life of an artist and the subject of mental illness. Two other French films come to mind in their depictions of female artists who were touched by psychological adversity: Camille Claudel (1988) and La Vie en Rose (2007); each is unique but similar in how creatively and successfully they convey real-life stories on film.

The genre of the biopic can often disintegrate into one-dimensional parody, but Provost and Moreau made a pact to portray Seraphine without trapping her in hysteria, sentimentality, and the stereotypes often associated with women, artists, and the mentally ill. They have presented us a sometimes funny, always charming, but, ultimately, tragic portrait of a woman who is more than an artist or a mental patient. Seraphine is an authentic character we feel we know and care about.

Penelope Andrew maintains a private practice in NYC and is a member of the Women Film Critics Circle and writes film reviews for the Huffington Post, WBAI.org, and Critical Women on Film.
The Value of Membership & the 2010 Dues Increase

by John Chiaramonte, LCSW

While many like organizations are shrinking, AAPCSW continues to grow. I must think that this is not just happenstance but rather a combination of things, not the least of which is the quality of our membership.

Professional & Practice Growth

Hardly a day goes by without one of our members seeking to refer a patient or family to another member's practice. Our listserv not only provides this valuable networking service, but also offers a forum to share information, opinions, suggestions of books, recommendations of conferences and other sources to the benefit of all who share the listserv.

Other member benefits include our online membership directory, online journal, online courses and CEUs, discounts on professional journals and books, discounts on professional liability and office insurance, and our high-quality local and national conferences. Several members have told me, however, that the most important thing for them is being affiliated with an organization that states unequivocally its support for the analytic method whether via psychoanalysis or psychoanalytically oriented psychotherapy. While many of our members utilize cognitive and behavioral techniques in their practice, it is their analytic theory and method which forms the basis of their practice approach. It is this shared belief that underlies the respect and bond that members feel towards each other no matter what state (or country) they practice their profession.

We have made significant efforts to keep our membership fees low so that our members could have the ability to subscribe to several journals in addition to the membership fee and still pay much less than most other professional membership organizations. We have added on the option for our members to contribute to fund legislative activities on their behalf. Many members have welcomed this opportunity to help in the ongoing effort to support legislation which is supportive of their profession and practice. Most recently, we are exploring the possibility of offering PEP subscriptions to those members who are interested. PEP provides online access to many psychoanalytic journals such as Psychoanalytic Dialogues or the International Journal of Psychoanalysis. To access PEP one must subscribe, and we are attempting to negotiate with the PEP providers so that members of AAPCSW who want to subscribe can do so at a substantial discount of the individual rate.

However, having not had a dues increase in many years, the time has come for our dues for full and general members to be increased by $10, to $75 per annum. This increase has been necessitated by the increased costs of maintaining the organization and of continuing to offer our members the services which support their professional practices. We hope that you will continue to see that AAPCSW still remains a great value and an asset to your professional and practice growth. As one humorous member recently said to me, “What is $10? For that you can get two Frapacinos and just expand your waist, not your practice and certainly not your mind.”

Membership to AAPCSW is not something to hoard but rather to share with your colleagues. Please feel free to share the benefits of membership with other like-minded professionals so that we can continue to prosper and grow. They will thank you. And remember, the larger our organization, the more power we will have to be heard and to protect this valued profession of ours.

As part of our new member enhancement, those new members who join between October and December of 2009 will pay the 2009 rate of $65 and their membership will run through December of 2010.

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Area Representatives’ Corner

California (Southern • Los Angeles)
Area Representative: Joan Rankin, PsyD, LCSW

The Los Angeles chapter of the AAPCSW, along with the Orange County chapter, will be hosting the next AAPCSW national conference March 17–20, 2011. The title of the conference is “Connection in a My Space World: Embracing Culture and Creativity in Psychoanalytic Thought.”

The venue will be the picturesque Marriott in Marina del Rey, which is surrounded by beautiful boats in the marina and close to top-rated restaurants in Venice and Santa Monica. The hotel also offers a gorgeous dining room with a 360-degree view of the city from the beach to the Hollywood sign. Please save the dates!

The Los Angeles chapter also kicked off their 2009 Fall Reflections Series on September 12 with a presentation by Carole Tosone, PhD, titled “When the Professional Is Personal: Shared Trauma and Self-Disclosure in the Therapeutic Relationship,” about the effects of shared trauma for therapists who experience collective catastrophic events, such as natural disasters and 9/11.

Among many distinctions, Dr. Tosone is associate professor at New York University Silver School of Social Work and recipient of the NYU Distinguished Teaching Award. She is also the editor in chief of the Clinical Social Work Journal and author of numerous professional contributions.

California (Southern • Orange County)
Area Representative: Karen K. Redding, LCSW, PhD

The Orange County chapter of AAPCSW continues to offer seminars in the spring and fall, as we have since our “birth” as a chapter in 2006. We generally hold our seminars in the lovely and intimate home setting of our treasurer, Ann Stern, MFT, where a light lunch is served and participants have an opportunity to meet and mingle. With the co-sponsorship of my psychoanalytic institute, the Los Angeles Institute and Society for Psychoanalytic Studies (LAISPS), we are able to offer continuing education units to psychologists (as well as clinical social workers and marriage and family therapists). In the last year, we have a growing number of psychologists attending our seminars and expressing interest in the growth and direction of AAPCSW.

In May, we hosted Pat Walter, ATR, MFT, and Paula Shatsky, ART, MFT, who presented a beautifully written paper titled “Losing Rose: Countertransference Aspects of Collaborative Work with a Patient Facing Dementia.” Their paper described the complications and nuances of two psychotherapists collaborating in the care of a brilliant woman who, in middle age, developed dementia. Both therapists explored how their individual and couples work with this patient had to be adapted to the radical change in the patient’s behavior as a result of her loss of cognitive skills. In addition to examining the clinical aspects of such a shift, they shared how their very different countertransferences impacted the course of treatment. Ann Stern, MFT, committee member and host, was the discussant who added warmth, depth, and meaning to the discussion that ensued.

On November 7, 2009, we will be hosting Sanford Shapiro, MD, a training and supervising psychoanalyst from several psychoanalytic Institutes in southern California. Dr. Shapiro will discuss Bernard Brandchaft’s paper “Systems of Pathological Accommodation and Change in Analysis.” This paper will be pre-circulated to registrants prior to this seminar to allow for a more enlivened discussion. Committee member Paula Clark, MFT, will share a case presentation to elucidate how an unrecognized system of pathological accommodation in either the patient or the psychotherapist or both can become an obstacle in treatment.

For more information, please contact me at kredding@mac.com.

North Carolina
Area Representatives: Terrie Baker, MSW, LCSW, and William Meyer, MSW, BCD

The North Carolina chapter of the AAPCSW will present “Trauma’s Impact on Children, on the Therapist, and on the Therapeutic Process” at the UNC School of Social Work. See Area Reps on page 16.
Area Reps, continued from page 15

Work in Chapel Hill on Saturday, October 10, from 9–11:00 a.m. The talk will outline three different types of trauma that confront child (and other) therapists: trauma caused by catastrophic events in the child’s life, relational trauma, and the experience of life and relationships as traumatic for a child with neurocognitive or biologically based fragility.

The presenter, Amy Eldridge, PhD, is the dean of the Institute for Clinical Social Work in Chicago. Among many other credentials, she is a distinguished social work practitioner in the National Academies of Practice and is the author of numerous published papers on clinical work. She has a private practice working with adults, adolescents, and children in downtown Chicago.

The discussant, Judy Byck, has worked in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings and is currently in private practice in Durham, N.C., where she specializes in relational psychodynamic work with adolescents and adults.

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NEW COURSE: Finding a Place for Theory: An Excerpt from Learning from Life, Becoming a Psychoanalyst • Patrick Casement
This course introduces clinicians to the complex issues associated with trying to have patients fit our theories. Casement draws on his experiences as an agency social worker to develop his thesis.

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Elaborating on her prior book about psychoanalytic diagnosis, McWilliams provides an understanding of the way that dynamic case formulation can help to develop treatment decisions. Clinicians will find this a useful tool, both for deepening their understanding of dynamic assessment and for teaching assessment to others.

Other AAPCSW authors include Rosalyn Benitez-Bloch, Jerry Brandell, Nancy Bridges, Joyce Edward & Elaine Rose, Carol Ganzer, Crayton Rowe, Shoshanna Ringel, Carolyn Saari, and Diana Siskind

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paved the way for our delectable and exciting conference. We are appreciative beyond words of Penny Rosen, Cathy Siebold, and their committee for doing such a fantastic job of organizing such a very stimulating conference.

On a different note, our membership roles are continuing to grow, thanks to the more-than-able stewardship of John Chiaramonte (who is also is a terrific jazz pianist). We are a thriving organization in large part due to John and the rest of our board members. We have added chapters in several new areas, and the local activities, vibrancy, and range of offerings make for continuing activities for local members. Our areas are the heart and blood of our organization and I would like to give warm thanks to all our area chairs.

We have expanded our committee structure, adding some new committees and reviving others. Our Research Committee, headed by James Drisko, and our PR Committee, co-led by Karen Baker and Marilyn Palasky, are again up and running. We have also filled in some very important needs by creating several new committees. We have added two committees that cover different psycho/social/political/cultural matters that we felt required attention, namely, the Diversity/Otherness Committee, which is ably spearheaded by Golnar Simpson, and our Social Responsibility/Social Justice Committee, energetically led by Jennifer Tolleson. The chairs and members of these two new committees are brimming with novel ideas and actively hold meetings. (Both committees presented at our 2009 conference). We are also in the process of adding yet another committee, one that will attend to our members’ well-being, aptly called the Wellness Committee. This committee will be co-chaired by Carol Thea and Myrna Ram. Richard Karpe has initiated our International Education and Membership Committee and is also spearheading our Technology Committee. Under his leadership, we have developed a state-of-the-art, new website. I’m sure many of you have seen it and used it, but if not, please do, as it is comprehensive and user-friendly. It is a big step forward and we are all thrilled with it!

Under the leadership of Ellen Ruderman, the Study Group, our think tank, is further developing the work they did for the preconference. Of course, we wouldn’t be
where we were if it weren’t for Barbara Berger, our liaison and ongoing exec board member, who contributes her vast knowledge of our organization as past president and two-time national conference director. William Meyer, also a past president and leader of an extremely active area in North Carolina, has graciously agreed to serve as our representative for large areas. July Kaplan, a past president, also continues to be active and attends board meetings, making innumerable important contributions. We owe a big thank you to Leah Harp, who has taken on the New Professionals Committee, with a goal to reach out to new people and welcome them as part of AAPCSW. We are all indebted to our listserv moderator, Joel Kantor. Our listserv is a communication tool—a critical one for such a dispersed organization. It links us together very painlessly and provides a treasure trove of important communications and information. Donna Tarver’s work on this newsletter is equally invaluable. Where would we do without Donna? The newsletter basically serves as the official organ of communications for AAPCSW. It has been a true labor of love for Donna, and we have recently brought on board Ashley Warner to assist her.

As an organization, we continue to participate in the Consortium, working collaboratively with the American Psychoanalytic Association, Division 39, and Dynamic Psychiatry. Last January we were invited to participate in the APSSA education division. We have created a clinical social work group to brainstorm on ways to disseminate psychoanalytic ideas to social work students and social workers in the field. This committee is ongoing.

Last year we initiated a modification in our membership categories. An adhoc committee, spearheaded by Joan Rankin and Karen Redding, was formed to study our membership categories and to make possible changes. As a result of their work, the executive board decided to open up our membership to other mental health professionals. This new policy has been put into effect and I’m pleased to say we now have other mental health professionals as members.

We are currently in the process of negotiating with a national social work organization that engages in legis-
lative advocacy, an essential activity for our profession in these times. We will keep you posted on our progress.

We are also hoping to increase the number of area mini-meetings during the “off” years that we don’t hold our national conferences. The New York City area, under the leadership of Penny Rosen, is already developing a mini-conference to be held next spring.

Last, but by no means least, are the planning activities for our 2011 conference, which will be held in Los Angeles, near the beach in Marina del Rey. Joan Rankin is energetically and enthusiastically leading a large committee that is making the complex preparations. The title of the conference will be “Connection in a My Space World: Embracing Culture and Creativity in Psychoanalytic Thought.”

Karen Baker, who has been our secretary for many terms, will now be our president-elect. Karen has done an absolutely marvelous job on the minutes and we know she will be a wonderful president. Kim Sarasohn pitched in at the last minute when we needed help and will now officially be our secretary. Deborah Dale will continue on as our administrator, and she remains utterly essential to our everyday functioning. We certainly couldn’t do without her.

I want to give a very special thanks to Marsha Wineburgh, who served as a terrific mentor for me while I was president-elect. Now she wears two hats! She is our very competent treasurer and also our legislative chair. We are very fortunate to have Marsha’s continuing involvement in our organization.

Cathy Siebold and I have forged a very productive and congenial working relationship over these past two years. She has been active in AAPCSW for many years, so many of you are familiar with her and her scholarship. I am confident she will be an outstanding president.

Summing up, I hope you can see why I have been so proud to have served as AAPCSW president for the last two years. I send my heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved in our organization, and especially to our members. We wouldn’t exist without all of you.

I thank you for the opportunity and privilege of serving as your president.
veteran, and a brother to whom she was very close. She also experienced the loss of a cherished nephew of whom she was very proud, former Congressman Mike Synar. Mike’s story illustrates something about what both Betty and America have lost in recent years. Although he was a liberal Democrat Mike was reelected to eight terms in Congress, representing a conservative district in Oklahoma. His district included Muskogee, Oklahoma, made famous in Merle Haggard’s song “Okie from Muskogee,” the first example of the right-wing patriot type of song now so popular in country music (check it out on YouTube).

By 1994 times had changed, however, and an able Democrat could no longer represent a Republican district. Mike was defeated in a primary fight which made national news for a viciousness which was new then but is all too common now. His opponent, a retired school principal, defeated him with billboards comparing Mike to Hitler, Stalin, and Mussolini. In 1996, following his retirement from Congress, Mike developed a devastating and aggressive brain tumor. His funeral in Washington was attended by over 200 members of Congress, as well as then president Bill Clinton. I know that being a witness to all of this was particularly difficult for Betty Jean.

A variety of health problems also limited Betty Jean in recent years and made it hard for her to participate in the traveling and attendance at professional meetings she loved so much. She never complained about things when we talked, however. She instead talked of how much she valued the work she was still able to do, the professional meetings that took place at her home, and the constant visits from nieces and nephews. Betty was a rare person, and after a long and productive life she leaves behind many friends and many fond memories.

From Donna Tarver, MSSW: Few people in their lives manage to have significant impact on so many people at so many levels as did Betty Jean Synar. From her patients and students to a wide variety of local and community organizations, Texas state social work organizations, national social work organizations, and, most important, Dallas Child Guidance Clinic and Smith College School for Social Work—Betty had her hand in every one of these and seemed to be working full time at each one. Her generosity of time and resources in all of these endeavors no doubt changed the face of social work and made everyone’s life she touched a little richer. I could not begin to name all of the boards or committees Betty served on, nor all of the awards she received, but I will briefly describe Betty’s impact on my professional life because I believe that it is a story that could be told by so many other social workers whose lives she similarly impacted.

Betty and I couldn’t have been more different when

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A number of our members are interested in subscribing to PEP, an online database of journal articles from the late 1800s to 2005. But we have yet to recruit sufficient subscribers to be able to offer PEP as a member benefit.

If you are interested now or would like to subscribe in the future, please contact Deborah Dale at deborah.dale@aapcsw.org.

We will continue to add new names to the list, and as our membership grows, so too does the possibility of acquiring this member benefit.
I came to Dallas Child Guidance as a student in 1971. I was awkward, shy, insecure—somewhat of a hayseed—and there was Betty beautifully dressed, composed, sophisticated, warm, and friendly. I couldn’t have felt more intimidated nor wished harder to fade into the woodwork. Though my mind seemed blank, Betty did not seem to notice. She carried on conversations with me as if both of us were talking—my one-word or one-syllable answers did not seem to and bother her at all. Looking back, that first meeting was prophetic of our forty-year relationship. Betty talked with me as if I were a socially adept person capable of sustaining a conversation, and over time I developed more confidence and social ease and found myself able to do that and many things that I had never imagined I could do. If Betty ever had doubts that I could do anything, they never showed. Time proved that Betty and I did have a couple of things in common—a stubborn loyalty to things we cared about and a penchant for hard work. Betty was the consummate professional that I can only work toward. Betty will be missed by all, but the remarkable legacy she leaves is timeless.

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AAPCSW Membership Directory Update
Following is a listing of AAPCSW members who either joined or renewed after the 2009 membership directory was printed. Please remove this section and add to your directory. (The online directory is updated at the beginning of each month.) Also included here are miscellaneous changes to directory listings.

**Akhtar, Salman, MD**  
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Practice Areas: IN/CH, ADO, YAD, AD, I, G, F

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Graduate School: Univ. of Chicago, Sch. of Soc. Serv. Admin. (MA), NYU Sch of SW (PhD)  
Post-Grad. Training: IPTAR  
Work: Private Practice  
Practice Areas: CH, ADO, YAD, AD, I, C

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Practice Areas: YAD, AD, OAD, AD/O, EOL, CISD, I, C

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Practice Areas: ADO, YAD, AD, CISD, I, C, F

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