

aapcsw

American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work

Fall 2019

newsletter

Freud is Dead—Long Live Freud! A Note from the Co-Presidents

Daniel Buccino, MSW, LCSW-C, BCD | Teresa Méndez, MSW, LCSW-C

“Freud is still dead, but psychoanalysis may be experiencing a rebirth.” So proclaimed the opening line of a *New York Times* story covering the American Psychoanalytic Association’s annual meeting last year. The story goes on to introduce a twenty-five-year-old MSW student, just one of the meeting’s 1,600 attendees. For more than one hundred years, despite the dreary pop culture drumbeat that psychoanalysis is doomed or dead—killed off by medications, so called evidence-based practices, or the economy—the reports of its death are, as Mark Twain might have quipped, greatly exaggerated. As one might also infer from the *Times*’s opening vignette, were it not for social workers—as therapists, analysts, patients, supervisors, supervisees, and students—psychoanalysis may not have survived at all.

From Bertha Pappenheim, or Anna O., whose instrumental role in the development of the “talking cure” was credited by Freud himself (in 1895 he called her the “actual founder of the psychoanalytic approach”) and who went on to become a prominent social worker and activist, to the social work student featured in the 2018 *New York Times* piece, we would suggest that psychoanalysis began in conversation with a social worker and that the future of psychoanalysis remains intimately connected to social workers. This lineage is something for our membership to be proud of.

We are also proud and thrilled to be succeeding our past presidents and friends, Jerry and Jeff, and for the opportunity to build upon the momentum they have generated over the past two years. We are particularly grateful for the creativity, vision, wisdom, and generosity that they have extended to us, to AAPCSW, and to our members during their term. As the gifted scholar-practitioners that they are, Jerry and Jeff last year initiated a survey of our membership. The results will inform our efforts to further several current initiatives, including to recruit, retain, and sustain new members (through the One-2-One Campaign); to find ways to offer more benefits of membership (such as the new partnership with Taylor & Francis that made *Psychoanalytic Social Work* the official journal of AAPCSW); and to engage our membership between our biannual conferences (by growing and supporting more robust local events).

During our time as your fifteenth presidents, we hope to amplify the relevance of psychoanalysis for clinical social work. Yet even as the contemporary turn in psychoanalysis asks us to take up social, economic, political, and relational dynamics, considering the intrapsychic *and* inter-

In this issue . . .

From the Co-Presidents	1
Editor’s Word	2
Book & Film Reviews	4
Member News	9
AAPCSW Boards	10
Membership Information	11

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continued on page 3

editor'sword

Christie Hunnicutt, MSW, LCSW



Welcome to fall and another edition of the *Newsletter*!

I would like to use this platform to acknowledge the wonderful leadership offered by Jerry Floersch and Jeffery Longhofer in serving as our co-presidents the past two years. They have done an amazing job leading and supporting this organization during their tenure, and we can offer nothing but thanks and appreciation for their hard work and the diligence and dedication they have shown. As we watch them shift into other areas of focus, we welcome another dynamic co-president team—Teresa Méndez and Daniel Buccino—and are excited to experience their style of leadership and the ways they will continue to build on the legacy of this organization. Thank you, Jerry and Jeff, and welcome, Teresa and Dan!

As noted previously, the *Newsletter* will be updating its look and content focus, and 2020 will usher in a new format, so please keep an eye out for exciting changes! As always, please send all your wonderful accomplishments, experiences, news, thoughts, and ideas to us so that we may fully represent the content that is most relevant, up to date, and inclusive of subject matter that members are truly passionate about. We are currently seeking content related to Child and Adolescent Work, Film Reviews, Book Reviews, and any contemporary commentary, perspective, and/or clinical practice that highlights the mission and values of our organization.

It is always important to acknowledge the contributions and show gratitude to all who contributed to the *Newsletter*, both directly and indirectly. Thank you to all members who submitted content for this edition, and we look forward to highlighting many more members as we move forward with each edition. Special thanks to Kelly Martin, Wendy Winograd, Barbara Matos, Jeffrey Longhofer, Jerry Floersch, Dan Buccino, Teresa Méndez, Marilyn Palasky, and Bill Meyer.

aapcsw corevalues

- 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.

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From the Co-Presidents, cont. from page 1

personal, we all know that these are the very tenets at the center of the social work perspective, foundational to our “person-in-environment” approach. In fact, they form one of AAPCSW’s Core Values: to acknowledge the intersection of our inner and outer worlds. In this way, contemporary psychoanalysis may be at once attempting a return to Freud, albeit to a more radical version than that initially transmitted in this country, and a return to core social work values and principles. So while we continue to advocate for the value of psychoanalytic principles in today’s mental health care landscape, we will also advocate for the unique role of social work in psychoanalysis. Some of what you will hear us talking about over the next few years is precisely this need to embrace and claim, as our AAPCSW founders did, our identities as both psychoanalysts *and* social workers, as psychoanalytic *social workers*. To never lose sight of this dual identity is one pillar of our commitment as co-presidents.

A second pillar is the recognition that social work is a profession expressly founded on a commitment to social justice, another of AAPCSW’s Core Values: to integrate concerns for social justice with clinical practice. Freud founded his “impossible profession” on a bedrock of social justice, envisioning an international network of free clinics to make treatment available to all. The *New York Times* piece from last year segues into a discussion of President Trump and how clinicians might respond to him, including whether to “diagnose.” Although the ways in which vexed social issues enter the clinical encounter is complicated, and we must be careful not to impose our agendas on our patients, we must also be ready to explore deep and painful issues with them. And, most importantly, we must be able to discuss these issues among ourselves. Highly credentialed and experienced professionals that we are, if we cannot tolerate certain conversations with each other, it

is unlikely we will be able to have them with our patients. Toward this end, we are committed to holding a space for these difficult conversations—on the listserv, at our conferences, and in our publications. As psychoanalytically informed clinicians, we must relentlessly question our own blind spots and impulses to foreclose certain topics or dialogues.

Finally, just as the *Times* article opens not with a profile of an APsA *eminence gris* but with a social work student, we believe another issue we face is how to open AAPCSW to more early- and mid-career professionals. Given that in Maryland, for example, about ten thousand of the twelve thousand total licensees are licensed clinical social workers, there is arguably no longer any such thing as clinical social work, since all social work is clinical. As a result, there are many young social workers looking to enhance their clinical skills, through affiliations with organizations like ours, as they work in a wide variety of frontline service agencies and human services providers. As the third pillar of our leadership, we must redouble our efforts to recruit and retain new members to our organization and find ways to sustain them by helping them find their voices at our conferences, in our publications, and in our leadership.

Again, we look forward to engaging more with each of you and with AAPCSW over the next two years. Thank you for this opportunity to reiterate our commitment to being social workers who are deeply committed to the principles of psychoanalysis, including psychoanalysis as an act of social justice, and to growing this organization. Please allow us to extend this invitation to share your thoughts with us, and with the rest of your board.

See you in Philadelphia in 2021 (roughly March 10–14, 2021—Save the Dates!), if not before!

All best,
Dan and Teresa

newprofessionals

m e n t o r s h i p p r o g r a m

An opportunity for AAPCSW members who are seasoned professionals (eight or more years post-license) to work with new professionals, giving guidance and direction to help with career development and career enhancement.

Contact Cole Hooley, LMSW, Co-Chair • colehooley@gmail.com, 801.636.3634

Being with Patients: An Introduction to the Psychotherapy of Harry Stack Sullivan and Otto Allen Will

by Carlton Cornett, MSW; foreword by Kim Chernin, PhD; Westview, 2018, 187 pages

reviewed by William S. Meyer, MSW

This is a wonderful book for the experienced clinician or the newly minted therapist, and here's why:

For some time now, I have had this fear that fewer and fewer contemporary psychotherapists are inclined to read from and learn about the most important theoreticians and clinicians of years past. Indeed, I have heard from several students of mental health professions that they have been discouraged from reading articles that are more than five to ten years old. It might have been for that reason alone I would be pleased to recommend this very special book by clinical social worker Carlton Cornett. Cornett, who has a degree in history and thirty+ years' experience as a psychotherapist, has devoted himself to mastering much of the relevant past and present contributors to the psychoanalytic literature. Some of those, including others from different fields, who appear in the pages of this book are Merton Gill, Owen Renik, Harry Guntrip, Irvin Yalom, Frieda Fromm-Reichmann, William Alanson White, Carl Rogers, Clara Thompson, Hilde Bruch, Sandor Ferenczi, Erik Erikson, Leston Havens, Ralph Waldo Emerson, R. D. Laing; Martin Buber and Erich Fromm. In support of the book's focus, however, Cornett no doubt spent countless hours interviewing friends, colleagues, and family members of the two luminaries to whom this book is devoted, psychiatrists Harry Stack Sullivan and Otto Allen Will Jr.

Cornett recalls a conversation, decades ago, with noted psychotherapy researcher Hans Strupp, who was once a student of Sullivan's. Strupp recounted a quote from Sullivan, "Nobody is schizophrenic when I'm talking with him." For Cornett this was "a luminous moment" which initiated a life-long study of first Sullivan, and then Will, and the

clinical school of "interpersonalism." While interpersonalism eludes precise definition, it is more a way of being with another person. Interpersonalism points to the active and authentic therapeutic relationship through which growth occurs, with the goal of expanding the patient's awareness of what, on some level, the patient already knows. Reduced to its essence, interpersonalism is "the importance of humanity and caring in the therapist."

Sullivan, Cornett tells us, was one of the most celebrated and controversial American psychiatrists. Loved and hated, admired and detested, considered a genius by some and a fraud by others, he could be brilliant, critical, harsh, and tender. Before his death at age fifty-six, he helped establish the Washington School of Psychiatry and co-founded the Washington-Baltimore Psychoanalytic Society. At the age of twenty-nine, he began work at St. Elizabeth's hospital, and from there went to Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital, where he built his reputation as an expert on male schizophrenia. He cultivated the process of detailed inquiry, seeking to discover all he could about the patient and the patient's life history. He believed that stimulating patient's thinking was more important than offering interpretations, and he rejected the term *psychopathology* in favor of "problems in living." He introduced the concept of "participant-observation," emphasizing that the presence and actions of the therapist have a constant influence on the patient and the evolving relationship. His work emphasized loneliness, love and intimacy. He is perhaps best known for his idea, expressed variably, that "we are all more human than otherwise."

One subgroup treated by Sullivan, himself a gay

continued on page 6

Leave the Lights On When You Go: A Memoir

by Janis Ahlenberg; Sky Street Press, 2019, 352 pages

reviewed by Marilyn Palasky, PhD, LCSW

The lyrical title of this memoir is taken from a gorgeous Beck Hansen song that starts, “How fast can a heart shatter,” and ends, “The day hides all that the night left behind, please turn a light on when it dies.” Thus the reader joins the writer in her life’s experiential journey filled with a gripping level of angst that is of classical proportions. Ahlenberg’s writing is emotional and full of quirky, symbolic behaviors; she gives the reader a visceral sense, a breathless experience of her own double bind.

Illness throughout her family of origin triggers a slow reveal of negativity shot throughout with antisocial behaviors, such as her brother’s recreational pest control of shooting squirrels that are undermining the parent’s house. An abundance of idiosyncratic information, off kilter thoughts, and out-

rageous feelings are the foreground to her own deep insights as a psychotherapist. How she comes to live with love and to proceed through the mayhem is what makes this book an important read. It is exciting. All the while, she, the writer, and we, the readers, are totally out of control and thrown off any stable idea of what might or should come next; we are thrown into the middle of multiple disorders.

Written by a psychotherapist, the memory of childhood to current times promises to tell something about how a person who is in the profession of therapy comes to perceive life as they live it. Ahlenberg’s childhood games with her parents and younger brother are wildly creative and prosaic enough in the context of harking back to remember early days.

continued on page 7

Book Reviews

Psychoanalytic social workers are writing more and more books! Following is our new system for handling reviews:

- 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 the Book & Film Review Editor, Wendy Winograd (wendywinograd@gmail.com).
- Copy Barbara Matos, our administrator, on the e-mail (barbara.matos@aapcsw.org) and send the book to her. She will keep records of all books received. Once she receives the book, we will choose a reviewer, and Barbara will send the book to the reviewer.
- If you have a colleague in mind as a reviewer of your book, please let us know. We are always interested in adding reviewers to our list.
- 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 Wendy so she can read it. She will then send the review to Newsletter Editor Christie Hunnicutt (christiehunnicut@gmail.com) for publication in the *Newsletter*. We review only books; we do not review book chapters or articles.
- On some occasions, a film relevant to our field may be reviewed, and if you see such a film and would like to review it, please write directly to Wendy.



We thank all the authors and reviewers who have made such excellent contributions to the *Newsletter* over these many years.

Wendy Winograd, DSW, LCSW, BCD-P • Book & Film Review Editor •
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Being with Patients, continued from page 4

man, was other hospitalized gay men. Sullivan, light years ahead of conventional treatment of that era, promoted an atmosphere of affirmation of these patients and their sexuality. (On a side note, Sullivan maintained a twenty-two-year relationship with an intimate partner, “Jimmy,” which began when Jimmy was a mere fifteen [!] years old.)

Otto Allen Will Jr., initially Sullivan’s analysand for three years, was then an analysand of Frieda Fromm-Reichman, for eight. Will first heard Sullivan and Fromm-Reichman at St. Elizabeth’s, and rather than hearing patients discussed as “cases,” to which he was accustomed, he heard Sullivan talk about troubled people. Of interest is that Sullivan and Will both had oppositional qualities, had difficult childhoods, and shared a sense of loneliness and alienation, even despair, in their early lives. Both were convinced that it was love and intimacy—the need to know and be known by another person—that gave meaning to our lives, and this belief had a profound influence on how they conducted psychotherapy.

Will revered and adored Sullivan, who could be quite gruff with him, once saying during an analytic

session, “For Christ’s sake, stop talking and say something.” Sullivan’s death, in 1949, was a major blow to Will.

With an impressive 6’4” frame, Will was inspirational and intimidating but had a core of sadness about him. His clinical work focused primarily on loneliness, and he was especially known for his ability to treat psychotic patients. He began his psychotherapy career in 1947 at Chestnut Lodge where he spent twenty years, ten as the director of psychotherapy. Chestnut Lodge had the reputation of treating some of the most difficult patients in the world. In 1967, and for the ten years that followed, Will became the medical director of the Austin Riggs Center, a facility that required patients to commit for a minimum of a twelve-month inpatient stay. He deemphasized transference interpretations as the

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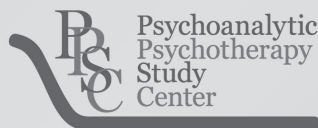
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central focus of psychotherapy and believed that the therapist's self-disclosure was more effective in addressing transference phenomena than interpretation. Moreover, he taught that the more you knew of a person, the less he seemed like a disorder or diagnosis but rather an unhappy, despairing, discouraged person, confused by his relations with others.

Kim Chernin, who writes the foreword to this book, consulted with Will for eight years. "We never discussed theory," she says, "which didn't interest him." He taught that the way to be with anxious people was to be reassuring and to help them feel comfortable. "Help them not to be anxious." Chernin goes on: "I was gradually shown how to make use of my natural capacity to express caring and connection to a person who had come to consult me. . . . Indeed, a great teacher inevitably teaches you to be yourself."

Cornett notes that part of the reason he may have been drawn to Sullivan and Will was his identification with their willingness to be oppositional. Throughout this book, Cornett adds his own personal view of psychotherapy, and he concludes with a full chapter that describes his therapeutic approach, so clearly influenced by Sullivan and Will. Cornett enlivens and invigorates the book by his candor, vulnerability, and intimacy, such that the reader feels seated in a front-row seat with a master clinician who addresses such topics as confidentiality, privacy, comfort, forming a partnership, diagnosis, humanity, the therapeutic frame, being present, listening, resistance, self-disclosure, and counter-transference.

In one especially memorable example, Cornett describes a first session with a patient. The patient was angry and used the word *fuck* but then stopped in mid-sentence, visibly anxious. When Cornett asked for an explanation, the patient said that his previous therapist, a religious woman, forbade the use of profanity. Cornett, presumably no stranger to the healthy use of profanity, spontaneously exclaimed, "Well fuck that! You can say whatever you want, godamnit. Let's talk!" As Cornett explains in the book, "It was an introduction to the idea that all psychotherapists are not the same. It was also perhaps a jostling of his expectations and assumptions."

Cornett concludes the book by saying, "Above all else, psychotherapy is predicated on a meeting of two human beings—imperfect, flawed and anxious—but willing to use these qualities to estab-

lish contact and learn something of each other. . . . 'Technique' can interfere in the use of our humanity to be with our patients. And it is this quality of being with a patient which is the most helpful thing we have to offer."

Amen, Carlton. Thank you for this gift of a book.

Leave the Lights On When You Go, continued from page 5

Indeed, she values the childhood fun and games with mom and dad and little brother as "good enough" to sustain her "happy enough" into adulthood and into her senior years.

The real action of the book centers around the triplets born to her mother and father when Ahlenberg was twelve years old, and when she is told there's no longer room for her as a child. She learns that she'll have to caretake, get to school herself, and earn money for the family. This becomes an injustice she hopes to talk about with her parents for the entire book, as we witness the gravity and depth of her hopelessness. She is excruciatingly detailed in the heart shattering delineation of the mental illness that descends on her family of origin, hijacks her life, her story, her plans for the future, and takes us all into the confused, psychotic, non sequiturs of the emotionally disordered, severely ill.

I believe this book tells us exactly why one studies to become a therapist—it's an attempt to add order, stability, and sagacity to life. As a psychoanalyst in training, if I ever got stuck in not knowing what to say or how to make "therapeutic action" while being on the couch, my analyst would prompt me: "You know the five subjects—your dream life, your love life, your work life, your family/friends life, and your money life." When I still couldn't shake anything loose and form words, she would say, "'I don't know' means 'I won't tell you.'" After devouring every word in this book, I can testify that all five subjects have been covered, and there is nothing the author won't tell us! She does it in a balanced sense, with a trained veracity which is at once insightful, poetic and inspiring.

Ahlenberg has generously fulfilled all the promises that her memoir makes. First, she is realistic as a professional psychotherapist writing her memories. She knows, scientifically, about the pain and suffering into which her siblings and parents are locked. With their descent into mental illness, all

the family shares an inexorable misfortune. She must witness, participate, relate as the oldest child but cannot connect with any of her family as a mental health worker—their delusions say there's nothing wrong.

Second, she's done it poetically; throughout the telling of her story there are references to the meaningful music and lyrics which she associates to people, places, events, and times. Melody is a personal companion of hers that adds meaning and value to moments that otherwise might prove intolerable. Along with a lifetime of deep concern and real love for her family, connecting to music serves as an illustrative background to the bad and the ugly. Elements of this book might otherwise be unbearable without the accompanying recall of a beloved lyric, tune, or rhythm that contextualize the author's story and offer beauty and poetry. I particularly enjoyed the ways she references familiar music, in that the music itself offers respite from the troubling events of the narrative. Like whistling in the dark, the thought of a musical sound memory becomes a counterpoint to the relentless downward spiral being conveyed by her cacophony of crazy comings and goings. Like in the kettle drum ending of a big symphony, her story inevitably builds into a crescendo, adding madness and distraction, formerly unimagined, to the increase of emotional trauma, disablement, despair and death.

Finally, she's done it thoroughly, in a very specific way that includes the deep love and high-level training of a senior psychotherapist. For me, this was the most profound aspect. I found a pleasing stability in Ahlenberg's writing; it has to do with her fidelity to memory that is not linear but totally rational in its stream of consciousness. It's the way the human mind works, and throughout her writing, she allows us to follow her mind with our own certain kind of enlivening empiricism.

I want to say more about the unconventional

way the reader is invited to go along and experience the unexpected trip off the tracks in this bizarrely meaningful journey. I don't think my instinctual urges were triggered to escape as much as it felt as though something came up from my unrepressed unconscious to preserve life. What's so good about this kind of fearsome story is that safety responses come with new awarenesses, new care for life and the living. I've never read anything like this book, and I'm sure hers is a new contemporary voice. There is a darkness which pervades the entire book and it is scary; the pages hold truths we'd rather not know, be told, or be made to hear.

Nonetheless, we are not alone in the reading; Ahlenberg is right there with us and she never leaves us wandering. She takes the reader along, like a sure psychological guide, working nonchronologically, giving us our free associations, while she remains ever present in the writing, the way a well-examined mind works and remembers. In her words, "Feelings are never without their opposites. And each one has its range. All of it has music."

Marilyn Palasky considers herself to be semi-retired, even though she just started three ongoing ninety-minute groups in her office that she calls HICA Memberships (How I Come Across). This was her first year as a student in the New Directions Psychoanalytic Writing Program, and she just came back from an ND Writing Retreat in Cape Cod, Massachusetts—fun!

AAPCSW members
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the topic of psychoanalysis in clinical social work.

Contact Scott Graybow, PhD, LCSW •

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child&adolescent

Working with children, adolescents, and their parents? The *Newsletter* welcomes your articles pertaining to child and adolescent practice. Contact kembaker1@comcast.net.

Karen E. Baker, MSW • Child & Adolescent Column Editor



membernews...

Carl Bagnini, LCSW, BCD, was a featured presenter at “Technology and Ethics in Training and Treatment: Best Practices,” an International Psychotherapy Institute weekend conference, October 4–6, in Rockville Hilton, Maryland. His paper was titled “Teletherapy Access to the Use of Pets as Displacement Objects.” Then in Toronto, Carl was a featured panelist at the International Forum for Psychoanalytic Education 30th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference, “BORDERS,” October 17–19, at the University of Toronto. His paper was titled “The Duadic Space and its Existential Tensions.”



Jerry Brandell and **Shoshana Ringel** are contributing co-editors of *Trauma: Contemporary Directions in Trauma Theory, Research, and Practice*, published in early November by Columbia University Press. In October, Jerry taught the short course “Therapeutic Storytelling with Children” at the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration, Professional Development Program. Last February, he was a visiting social work scholar at the University of California–Berkeley and at UCLA, and in March, traveled to Taiwan, where he presented a paper at the International Forum on Family Assessment, held at National Taipei University. He then conducted a full-day workshop on metaphorical communication with children in Taipei, as well as a two-day clinical workshop on therapeutic storytelling in Taitung, Taiwan (see below). On a trip to Vienna in late



Taken at the conclusion of a two-day workshop on therapeutic storytelling for social workers and psychologists led by Jerry Brandell in the southeast coastal city of Taitung, Taiwan.

2018, he was received by Monika Pressler, director of the Sigmund Freud Museum, and Peter Nomaier, chairman of the Sigmund Freud Foundation, in Vienna, Austria, where he was presented with a special edition of Edmund Engelman’s iconic photos of the Freud residence as it appeared in May 1938, shortly before the Freud family fled Vienna to escape the Nazis.

Beverly Kolsky, LCSW, BCD-P, was recently published in *Voices: The Art and Science of Psychotherapy* (vol. 55, no. 2, 2019), the journal of the American Academy of Psychotherapists. The article is titled “To Be or Not To Be: The Search for the Lost Mother.”

Bill Meyer delivered the Sue Fairbanks Lecture in Psychoanalytic Knowledge for the Steve Hicks School of Social Work in Austin, Texas, on September 27. The title of his talk was “No ‘Evidence’ for Psychoanalytic Therapy? Let Me Tell You Some Stories . . .”

Mark L. Ruffalo, DPsa, LCSW, instructor of medical education (psychiatry) at the University of Central Florida and AAPCSW’s Florida membership chair, recently published an article titled “Understanding Schizophrenia: Towards a Unified Biological and Psychodynamic Approach” in the *Psychoanalytic Social Work*, AAPCSW’s official journal. The article bridges current biological findings with psychoanalytic conceptualization and uses Silvano Arieti’s theory of schizophrenia as an exemplar of a unified biological and psychodynamic approach.

Aliya Hanna Saulson graduated with her MSW from Smith College in August. Shortly after, in September, she began work as a social worker on the Adult Outpatient Social Work Intake and Care Coordination team within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University Medical Center. She is beyond excited to continue her professional journey in North Carolina!

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 christiemhunnicut@gmail.com.

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American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work

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newsletter

aapcsw 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.