

# Phoenix Rising

Psychoanalytic Center of California Newsletter

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jennifer Langham, Ph.D.

Since an organization is so often identified with the premises in which it operates, it has always made me a bit sad that whenever we needed to gather as a Society, we did so in the rented space of other Societies or in various venues on the Westside. We had to scramble to coordinate the availability of guest speakers for our Conferences with the availability of places to present them—a tricky and time-consuming business. Now, at last, we can afford to rent a splendid office that will accommodate classes, a library, and Scientific and Business Meetings of up to fifty people. One floor up, we have access to a Conference Room that seats many more. We can now take pride not only in our membership and curriculum (second to none in the country!) but also in having pulled together to support a lovely gathering place that truly suits our needs. In addition, we have been extremely fortunate in finding a stellar Office Manager in Lynette Adams who diligently attends to the needs of our Institute and Society in her own efficient and personable manner.

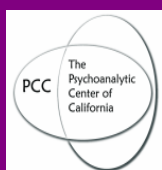
I would like to emphasize that this new office represents the time and efforts of many—beginning with the Board of Directors who approved this major step. It is only because we have become financially secure that

such an advance could be even be contemplated. For decades our Faculty has taught and mentored Candidates in a way that has built a strong reputation for our Institute. Our curriculum emphasizing the work of Klein, Bion, and Infant Observation has made us unique as a Training Institute and is largely responsible for our attracting a significant number of applicants each year. For decades our Continuing Education Committees have coordinated interesting and important Conferences that have raised funds for us as well as visibility for our psychoanalytic perspective. For years our Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Program has drawn a consistent number of quality students, providing welcome revenue and inspiring many to matriculate into our Core Program. For years our membership has supported Fundraising Concerts that have also stabilized our financial future. And our Finance Committee, chaired by Patty Antin, has run an especially tight ship in recent years, responsibly taking care of the monies that we have earned.

So, if you have taught students, or sat on any Committee, or been an Officer or a Board Member, or perhaps contributed to PCC in a less visible way, you are partly responsible for the office we now have at 11500 West Olympic Blvd. This achievement, greatly enhancing our identity as a Society, represents the culmination of the tireless efforts of so many over the years since PCC was founded. The Board of Directors and I hope this exciting transition marks the beginning of a new era of enthusiasm and cooperation among Members and Candidates to sustain our unique voice in the world of psychoanalysis. **CONGRATULATIONS, EVERYONE!**

### IN THIS ISSUE!

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <i>President's Column</i> .....                                  | 1  |
| <i>Past-President's Article</i> .....                            | 2  |
| <i>Dean's Message</i> .....                                      | 2  |
| <i>Dr. Jennifer Kunst</i> .....                                  | 4  |
| <i>Editor's Column</i> .....                                     | 5  |
| <i>Art Talk</i> .....  | 6  |
| <i>Dr. Joe Aguayo's review of the Grotstein Conference</i> ..... | 7  |
| <i>Outreach Committee</i> .....                                  | 9  |
| <i>CIPS News</i> .....   | 10 |
| <i>Community Bulletin Board</i> ...                              | 12 |
| <i>Editorial Board</i> .....                                     | 12 |



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PAST-PRESIDENT

Chris Minnick, M.D.

### PCC WANTS YOUR PW

As your PP, that is Past President, I have to ask you all for your PWs. Don't worry, it's not as grave as a contraction of POW, or as trivial as Palin's Wardrobe, but it is a serious matter. We have recently lost two esteemed members and would have really benefited if we had had their Professional Wills.

This spring we are going to ask our entire membership to submit a Professional Will notification to our office. It will be in a sealed envelope containing the names of two people who are designated, with appropriate contact phone numbers, to act on your behalf to notify your patients if there is an emergency preventing your doing so yourself. The two designees may be anyone you feel is appropriate for the situation, family, professional colleagues, etc.

The designated individuals will each have a list with contact information for all of your patients. These lists can be in sealed envelopes, to protect the privacy of your patients, and would be opened only in the event of a situation preventing your own notification of the patients. We will be giving you more information about all of this in the Spring of 2011.

The Board of Directors of PCC believes this matter represents a professional imperative. The policy will be implemented this summer at the same time that we send out dues and tuition notices. At that time every member and candidate will return their dues/tuition with a sealed envelope listing the contact names of two individuals who are to be contacted in case of an emergency. The names will not need updating unless there is a change in contact name or phone number. We also recommend that everyone review patient names and contact information annually to determine any changes, additions or deletions.

We absolutely expect 100% compliance with this long overdue aspect of our professional lives. We are in the business of taking great responsibility for our patients who entrust their well-being to us and deserve no less than this piece of professionalism in return. The preparation of my professional will took me less than an hour, so I know it is a very reasonable duty for all of us to perform.

Thank you all for reading this. We have a great institute and this act by our membership will add to the pride we can have in being, in Elliot Jacques' words, a 'requisite organization'!

*(Editor's Note: This task, a daunting one to consider, can be less intimidating in company. I am planning a small group meeting to work on our professional wills. I would urge other candidates and members to meet in groups of like-minded souls, ones whom you trust, and construct your will and lists of needed data together).*

## DEAN'S MESSAGE

Sandra E. Fenster, Ph.D.

### PASSIONS, INVESTIGATIONS, BEGINNINGS, AND...ENDINGS

My life at PCC has recently proffered a number of opportunities to think about beginnings – not, of course, to exclude endings and the passionate investigations in between. I started my own academic year with a Case Conference for a small group of fourth year Candidates, in which we focused on the projective identifications informing our presenter's countertransference. The countertransference clues we discovered led us to investigate the subtleties of a deeply ingrained psychic retreat from the patient's transference anxieties. This group of dedicated Candidates will be ending their coursework soon. I have no doubt they are looking back

at their beginnings, reflecting on what they learned, and wondering where these four years have gone - as four years seemed like such a long time when they began!

Since one of my most consuming passions is working in the transference-countertransference relationship, I was delighted to help introduce these complicated ideas to our new group of PPP students. Although some of them are virtually neophytes to psychoanalytic thinking, the class came alive when I suggested they pay attention to their countertransference reactions. Our ensuing discussions of extremely difficult cases and provocative countertransferences brought the readings and theoretical material down to these students' every day clinical realities.

I just completed teaching the first six weeks of Freud II with our eager and curious first year class. As they embraced the ideas in some of Freud's most interesting clinical cases and classic papers with admirable ardor, I watched the wheels making connections in their intelligent minds and was the fortunate recipient of their challenging questions. To turn to the beginnings of Freud's theoretical and technical developments is an undeniable treat. Did his brilliant and humbly questioning mind actually touch on all the seeds of later theoretical developments? I can't help but think so. Each time I read Freud, I find something new. This trimester I noted the following quote in "Formulations on the Two Principles of Mental Functioning" (Volume 12, footnote 4, p. 20): "It will be rightly objected that an organization which was a slave to the pleasure principle and neglected the reality of the external world could not have . . . come into existence at all. The employment of a fiction like this is, however, justified when one considers that the infant – *provided one includes the care it receives from its mother* – does almost realize a psychical system of this kind . . ." (italics mine). Isn't this the kernel of Winnicott's later theory that there is no infant without a mother?

In addition to my admiration for Freud's fecund mind, reading the Rat Man again made me very aware of just how much we owe him. In 2010, we commemorated the centennial of the establishment of the IPA. Can we not help but recognize the importance of Freud's determination to make his discoveries public, leading to the creation of forums for the transmission and development of psychoanalytic thought? We now have such forums in psychoanalytic institutes, in our classes, supervisions, conferences, and scientific meetings – as well as in informal discussions with colleagues. Freud, himself, began with his Wednesday Society, and it was at the inaugural International Psychoanalytic Congress in Salzburg, in 1908, that Freud first spoke about the case of the Rat Man. His formulations of this case aroused so much interest that he was persuaded to extend his discussion to more than four hours. Via his understanding of the compromise formations underlying obsessional neurosis, he was well on his way to discovery of the Oedipus complex. Re-reading the Rat Man with my first year students, I was once more enthralled with Freud's understanding of the immobilizing anxieties induced by love and hate. What he has offered us in his theory of the conflict of ambivalence, the foundation from which Melanie Klein expanded his findings, is truly astounding.

How could one man cover so much territory? Not unlike Leonardo, Freud had a passion for investigation. I think we can assume that he was able to carry out his own infantile sexual researches freely, having understood the attendant anxieties and potential inhibitions in both "The Sexual Theories of Children" and in Leonardo. Freud found answers to his questions; not succumbing to unsuccessful sublimations and crippling obsessional mechanisms as Leonardo did. Reading Freud makes me wonder what sort of threat he poses to the Freud-bashers that they are impelled to find fault with his thinking, instead of acknowledging the contributions he made? There is not a doubt; we would have no psychology of the mind without him.

Investigation involves curiosity. Are you ever curious about how PCC works? Come to our Faculty Senate Meeting on Monday, February 7, 2011. We encourage the attendance of all Members and Candidates. Candidates – you ARE invited! The Faculty Senate is the round-table where issues of policies and procedures (the P & P) are discussed, and where the various committees of PCC present, and we vote on, proposed changes. Get involved. Let your voices be heard. Ask questions. Understand the whys and wherefores of the P & P; the reasons we have this structure in place.

Our Open House, on Sunday, March 27, 2011 from 11-2 PM is another forum for investigation. Please promote the presence of your students, your supervisees, and your colleagues. We rely on all of you for the dissemination of your passion for psychoanalysis. Your passion is the best assurance of encouragement, to anyone who might benefit from training, to investigate our programs – both Core and PPP. We need your help.

The enthusiasm of one of our Candidates, Meme Rhee (as well as her talent for interfacing with the community) has been so contagious that she is the inspiration for forming an Outreach Committee, a branch of the Public Relations/Fundraising Committee already in place. Please read Meme's piece on the work of the Outreach Committee in this Newsletter to find out what you can do to support PCC's future.

The present and future of PCC involves beginnings and endings. This year marked the beginnings of first year Core and new PPP classes. Let's put our collective energies towards a good-sized first year class in the fall of 2011, and to enrolling as large a PPP class as possible. While many of our PPP students aren't yet ready to take on the full Core training, with a taste of what PCC has to offer, they are often moved to do so in the future. Our PPP committee is continuing to enhance our PPP graduate program, to provide special graduate activities and lectures, and to keep our PPP graduates involved. We also have endings. In December, one of our Candidates, Howard Hertz, Ph.D., completed his analytic training, and graduated as a certified Research Psychoanalyst. Our fourth year class is setting their sights towards graduation. The Progression Committee is actively working with our post-seminar Candidates to advance them towards certification. I will soon end my three-year tenure as Dean. Are these really endings – or only forms of new beginnings? Hopefully, what we see as endings in our Candidates, PPP students, analytic patients, and our own involvement in committee work - are incentives for new energies directed somewhere else.

Are we ever finished? Training may finish, a case may terminate, but we are in a profession that involves a lifetime of learning. I find this a lucky thing – to never suffer the burnout of other psychologists. The constant thinking and investigation that analysis demands keeps passions burning; even if those passions, at times, are confusion and frustration. The challenges in “figuring it out”, getting to the heart of the patient's fears and anxieties, or of a stalemate, are endlessly intriguing. Every new patient presents a new beginning, as does every session. My Deanship comes to an end in June. I value what I have learned, the new connections I have made, my extraordinary Education Committee, and the opportunity to put my energies to new beginnings as Outreach Chair, and towards my own creative life.

## THE YEAR OF THE CONTINUOUS CASE CONFERENCE

Jennifer Kunst, Ph.D.

I would like to propose that we commemorate the PCC 2010-2011 academic year for the core program as “The Year of the Continuous Case Conference”! Why, you ask? This year we have lively classes of both third and fourth year candidates. With six continuous case conferences throughout the course of the year for each group, that makes twelve 6-week case conference seminars. Daunting to begin with! But then, the fourth year class is divided into two groups to accommodate the nine bright, engaged candidates—so six more 6-week seminars to boot! As chair of the Curriculum Committee charged with the task of recruiting instructors for *eighteen* continuous case conferences, I was a bit nervous. But my fears were quickly alleviated. When I sent out the call to our supervising and training analysts last spring, I was met with generous and enthusiastic responses. Not only were instructors found for all eighteen seminars, but first-timers joined the ranks of the seasoned. As the poster-analyst for “pitching in,” Dr. Linda Lasater also stepped up to teach two seminars! There are even several analysts available in the wings should the need arise for additional help.

Candidates, too, have engaged heartily, preparing and presenting for case conference seminars, often beyond their minimum requirements. Such sacrifice for the sake of the group is key to making the training work, and work well.

The Curriculum Committee, too, has engaged thoughtfully to improve the case conference experience. As one example, we were fortunate to have Dr. Lee Herzog present a child case to the fourth year candidates. Training analyst Dr. Jim Gooch led the case conference for all nine candidates.

The Curriculum Committee also drafted a new instructor/course evaluation form for continuous case conference, in an effort to obtain feedback that is more specific to the dynamics of the case conference experience as compared to a didactic class. Drs. Robert Byer, Joan Hellinger, Richard Tuch, and our new candidate representative Devra Fischer held two meetings and a very inspired brainstorming session to put together a focused and user-friendly draft of a new evaluation form. With the support of the Education Committee, we will be piloting this form in the winter trimester, hoping to refine it so that it can be used on a regular basis in the future.

Case conferences are an essential aspect of candidates' training. It takes a unique set of skills to lead a case conference well. The instructor seeks to find a balance of several factors: contributing insightfully to the understanding of the case; sharing a point of view while fostering the kind of thinking that leads to varying points of view; seeking to enhance candidates' technique and case conceptualization skills; drawing out the presenting candidate so that he or she can develop confidence in sharing clinical material; developing each candidate's skills in becoming a consultant to other professionals; and, above all, facilitating the group in such a way that it moves toward becoming a real "work group" in a Bionian sense. For both instructors and candidates, respectfulness, creativity, sensibility, empathy, and intuitive capacity are to be prized in such experiences.

So, to instructors, candidates, and my colleagues on the Curriculum and Education Committees, I offer my gratitude and honor your hard work. Well done!

## **EDITOR'S MESSAGE**

**Elisabeth O. Clark, Ph.D.**

It may not be kosher to grouse in an editor's column, but, hey, I'm going to do so anyway, in part because my "holiday" difficulties allowed me to think about our Institute and the value and ubiquity of primitive mental states.

My flight to Heathrow in December was delayed, causing me to miss my connection to my planned destination, India. Then the debacle erupted. Londoners simply throw up their hands and don't even shovel snow from their sidewalks, let alone de-ice airplane wings or toss sand or salt on runways. As a result, I spent one night on the airport floor with my baggage clustered around me, three nights in a dump--a B&B in name only--near the airport, then finally gave up on getting anywhere and moved into London proper where I spent four days before I could catch a flight home.

From time to time, my woeful, lonely baby self had to shed a few angry, frightened tears, but once I got to a homey B&B near Russell Square, things improved. I must say, though, there was a bit of salt in the wounds even there: the only wall-art in my small chamber was a large frontal view of the Taj Mahal! Okay, grouching over...

Christmas Eve I chose to attend the Midnight Mass at St. Paul's Church in Covent Garden, also known as The Actors' Church. The service was lovely with the inclusion of many familiar and a couple of unfamiliar carols. At the end we all gathered around the crèche as the Vicar placed the infant Jesus in his cradle and blessed him while we sang "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful."

I write this to you for consideration of the infant born anew in each of us—maybe not just at Christmas but surely at other times during the year. The Vicar's short, jolly sermon gave me some new perspectives on the infant self as did that baby doll in his manger. The Vicar discussed our usual view of a "powerful," even magisterial god figure, vividly illustrating the image by donning a cellophane crown and wielding a lavender light saber! Then he began to sound more like a PCC devotee. He said that the true "power" of the Christmas story is in the love of a mother looking into her infant's eyes and the love of that infant gazing back into hers. Surely those gifts of love are more "powerful" than the contents of boxes under a tree.

When I finally returned to Los Angeles on Christmas Day—I'll spare you the rest of the harrowing aspects of the tale—I decided to enjoy "my" city as a consolation prize/holiday. The Olmec exhibit at LACMA

was due to close shortly. I only got there once, but it was truly powerful: all those mammoth heads carved out of many ton boulders.

As I gazed from one to another, making my way slowly around the open room, I began to have a rather eerie feeling. I was surrounded by babies! Huge, scowling, petulant infants, one of whom even had on a baby's cap with the strap dangling downward. I know the statues were designed to represent the intimidating, powerful warriors, but their infant selves were equally present. I felt as if I were engaged in a covert Infant Observation hour, and I reveled in the surround of so many ancient, young representations of those states we so often experience in ourselves and our patients.

Now I'm glad to be back in my "grown-up" role as editor of our newsletter. We have a new "grown-up" home to call our own, as Jennifer Langham has told you. We get to learn and work anew every day, as Sandra Fenster has demonstrated. We can all put our infant selves together more peacefully once we complete our professional wills, as Chris Minnick has advised us. We can revel in the struggles and rewards of creativity, as Desy Safan-Gerard demonstrates. We can be grateful for the wisdom and shared experiences during conferences such as that with Jim Grotstein, as reviewed by Joe Aguayo.

And we can marvel in the ways our collective "family" works together in powerful ways on committees, in classes, in supervisions and in multiple case conferences as Jennifer Kunst shared with us and as Meme Rhee urges us to do. Here's to the birth of a new, creative year with more fascinating seminars and conferences. The next one concerns aspects of madness and creativity with Desy Safan-Gerard joined by Peter Loewenberg. AND...it takes place in our own new digs!

*(Editor's Note: We welcome Desy Safan-Gerard's contribution to our new column Art Talk. She has provided us with intriguing thoughts about creativity and freedom—along with photos of one of her recent paintings that triggered this essay).*

## ART TALK

Desy Safan-Gerard, Ph.D.

### TURMOIL AND FREEDOM

For some years I had been attracted by the paintings of artist Tom Wudl. Following a visit to my studio, he invited me to spend time painting in his large studio in downtown Los Angeles, where I would be working alongside other artists. I was excited by the prospect of working with a mentor I so admired. I arranged my schedule to paint with Tom on Thursdays. It was not easy; it meant that I could hold one patient hour before heading downtown and three upon my return in the late afternoon — a very full day indeed.

I began working with oils, something I had not wanted to do in my own studio. I was also able to work in a five-foot by six-foot format. I have benefited greatly from Tom's suggestions, although at times we don't see eye to eye. In those cases, as a respectful mentor, he retreats and lets me do what I think is right.

One day recently, I was working on a painting I was quite happy with. Like my other recent work, it was an abstract with browns and soft greens and blues. Finishing up, I told Tom I didn't see anything else I could do with it.

"You may want to add an element of surprise," he said, suggesting I put some bright red in one of the shapes. I told him I thought the red would make the subtleties in the painting irrelevant. He argued that, on the contrary, it would enhance the subtleties. Reluctantly I followed his advice. I told myself that if I had a mentor, I should open myself to his ideas.

A couple of other artists in the studio were observing. One said the red was nice. Another suggested the shape of the red should be changed. But I wasn't happy; I photographed the painting so I could study it later from the photo in my camera, something I do often. The next week I brought the painting home. I entitled it "Willful Red." In its real home, my own studio, it still didn't feel right.

I started showing the photo to friends and family. My son, who doesn't know much about art but has an artistic sensibility, wrote, "What is that red doing there? It doesn't belong!" Other people said it was interesting but there was no conviction. My colleague and friend Elisabeth Clark wrote that she wanted to

know how the red ended up there — she was upfront with her doubts.

When I sent the photo to my German dealer, I asked him what he thought of the red and he responded: "The painting would be better without it." "He knows me," I thought. "He knows my work and likes it." It was all I needed to make up my mind.

Last night, after dinner, I did it! I got rid of the red! It wasn't easy to cover it, but everything is possible with oils.

Why did I decide to write about this? Because of the great turmoil I was in debating whether to follow my mentor or stick to my own conviction. When one talks about freedom, and especially artistic freedom, one has to deal with the anxiety of opposing an authority figure and risk losing their love. I am sure Tom is not going to like hearing that I got rid of the red. He may be mad at me, or even disappointed in me. But I followed my own beliefs. This is what I have to accept if I want to exercise my freedom.



"Compromised Subtleties", 2010, oil on canvas, 72" x 60"



"Uncompromised Subtleties", 2010, oil on canvas, 72" x 60"

**AT THE SAME TIME AND AT ANOTHER LEVEL...". PCC Conference on Technique,**

**November 6, 2010**

**Joseph Aguayo, Ph.D.**

The long awaited Part II of the Grotstein conference on technique, based on clinical work written up in two volumes of the same name, took place at the UCLA Semel Auditorium. In agreeing to provide a report of the conference itself, I considered the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus' aphorism, 'You cannot step into the same river twice' as an apt metaphor for the experience of listening to Jim Grotstein on any topic, let alone one with which he is so experienced as psychoanalytic technique.

First of all, it is always a bit hazardous to characterize any analyst's work, so the vertex I take is a comparative one--how does Jim Grotstein's work compare with those of his colleagues who till the same field? I would characterize Jim's work as that of an American Kleinian/Bionian 'Intersubjectivist.' That is, building on the work of Klein, Jim has elasticized fundamental notions of projective identification and splitting in the direction of intersecting asymmetrical subjectivities. It assumes for example that *both*

patient and analyst project differently into one another--the patient may use projective identification both in communicating unconscious phantasies and as a mode of communication, all evacuated into the analyst. The analyst may do the same (hopefully at a much more diminished level) but as a function of countertransference reactions that are activated by the patient's transference. This is after all the 'narrow' aspect of the countertransference, one that reflects the analyst's own pathology and the one that we all seek a training analysis to domesticate, so that it does not interfere with our analytic functioning. At the same time, Jim's work cautions us that no training analysis is so exact and so complete as to preclude the analyst's being affected by the patient's unmetabolized beta-elements. This is the 'wider' notion of countertransference that the analyst also listens for, so that he or she can know the difference between what psychic material has been and remains his own personal pathology vis-a-vis what has been induced in him by the patient.

With this orienting template, John Lundgren skillfully interviewed Jim on aspects of his technique--he drew Jim out on the 'two person' nature of his intersubjective approach. Jim made it clear that it is not to replace but to incorporate classical Kleinian technique, which many of us learn through our own analysis, supervision and seminars. When one is through with one's training apprenticeship, when one has learned one's analytic/musical scales to put it in Jim's terms, one can advance to forgetting them (in a healthy way) and develop other capacities, such as working directly with countertransference reactions. Immersing oneself clinically in the 'bi-personal field' that Jim has outlined for us leads to rich clinical discoveries as a function of the use of projective *trans*-identification. As Jim so succinctly put it, we have the analysis of the patient as patient; we have the analyst influenced by the patient's communications, conscious and unconscious, and the analyst learning how to listen to himself *as* he listens to his or her patient. This was after all one of Bion's admonitions to Jim: listen to your own reactions, as you are the final arbiter of what truth you attempt to convey to the patient.

I have found listening to the many analytic dialects in which Jim speaks to be very useful over the years that I have read Jim's work. We do live in a pluralistic society after all, where one maintains a monocultural or analytically mono-lingual attitude only at the ultimate cost of our effectiveness, working with patients from different ethnic, social and experiential backgrounds. Some take away linguistic sound-bites from this conference: maintain a focus on the once and forever infant; that is, the vulnerable, innocent, ageless 'suffering' infant that makes its needs known via unconscious phantasy. Every session is a first session--set aside memory and desire--start with a fresh mind and allow the patient's communications to congeal into a 'selected fact,' which in turn serves as a template for how to structure and 'scroll through' the patient's free associations during the course of the session. The analyst does 'mandatory psychotherapy' in any effective analysis--in other words, we take seriously the external events and personal relationships reported by the patient, acknowledge them empathically, only to allow them to dissolve into the primary materials we draw upon to enter and articulate the patient's internal world.

Faithful to Freud and Klein's notion of psychic reality, the analyst enters in to help articulate to the patient what that world looks like from the inside. Along the way, animating the patient's internal world in experience-near interpretations, the analyst imparts such notions as 'autochthony,' which is a fundamental idea of Jim's that illustrates how we all have to feel that we have created the psychic reality in which we live (for better or worse). To feel imprisoned by unconscious psychic structures is what we both have to recognize as well as ultimately attempt to free ourselves and our patients from, which is why we orient our patients towards a balanced acceptance of their responsibility for their psychological lives, neither living in omnipotent self-blame nor in the shadows of excessive projective identification.

Jim also had a good deal to say about what he terms the microscopy of the analytic session--how he listens to the patient's free associations, linking them together into a selected fact, which forms the orienting listening template of the hour. Attuned, empathic listening leads the analyst into the world as subjectively perceived by the patient in the here and now with the analyst. The analyst features regularly as a prominent player, donning a number of stage costumes in this interior psychic landscape, so as to help the patient understand what his or her recurring psychic dramas may be. Jim intones fervently that psychoanalysis is, after all, a passion play, one in which the patient unwittingly 'ensorcles' the analyst into various role relationships as a function of his own unconscious. The analyst has to articulate and

understand how he has been organized in a role-responsive way in order to better serve the patient's becoming conscious of what he or she would invite others to believe about who he is. The analyst understands that the basic requirement here is to enter the patient's passion play, then analyze it. Jim is clear here: as analysts, all of us are subject to enactments with our patients--but we have a responsibility not to idealize them, but to find our way out of our own countertransference labyrinths. Jim's own version of the countertransference as the 'Piéta' is crucial here--the analyst is innocent and yet suffers the unarticulated neurotic and psychotic residues of his patients. He ultimately has the responsibility to bear what the patient's own parents could not bear, as they themselves subjected their own children (who are now our patients) to their own unconscious demons that now haunt the transferences we attempt to analyze.

While in London recently, I saw a colleague from Milan looking at Jim's technique book at a Karnac book display--her perplexity was expressed aptly: 'I am going to buy this book but I find the range of all the psychoanalytic ideas contained in it very overwhelming.' I assured her that she would soon accustom herself to reading the work of a true analytic polymath, so I now give my own personal synopsis of some of the very interesting ideas I heard at this conference.

I close now, not because there isn't much more to say, but only to reiterate that what has been covered here is only a small sampling of this very rich learning experience with our colleague, mentor and friend, Jim Grotstein.

## **THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

### **The Future of the PCC Begins with YOU!**

**By Meme Rhee, MFT**

Inspired by an unprecedented turnout of thirty-five professionals at our last Open House, a few of us marveled at this unusually robust attendance and thought, "What would have happened if we had dedicated our energy toward a specific intention?" The question illuminated many possibilities and sparked the enthusiasm of Sandra Fenster, Bonnie Engdahl, Andrea Kahn and Meme Rhee to form the Outreach Committee, which is dedicated to expanding PCC's reach and reputation in the mental health community.

Thanks to the collective efforts of our Members and Candidates and the impact you have had on your supervisees, students and patients, our Core Program and PPP programs welcomed three new candidates and eight new PPP students in the Fall of 2010. Our goal of maintaining steady, and eventually thriving, matriculation in our programs can only be realized with your support.

Here is how you can help:

1. We encourage Members and Candidates to invite your supervisees, students and colleagues to our Open House, to be held on March 27, 2011. We will be sending invitations via email and snail mail and ask that you forward the addresses or emails of those you think would be interested to the PCC office.
2. Please forward the names of any facilities and teaching institutes (with which you have a connection) that might be interested in an in-service lecture by our Outreach Chair, Sandra Fenster. If you send the name and contact information, we will set up the rest!

We also welcome any suggestions you have in expanding our reach.

Sandra Fenster, Ph.D., Chair

Bonnie Engdahl, Ph.D., Admissions

Andrea Kahn, Ph.D., PPP

Meme Rhee, MFT, Candidate Representative



CONFEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETIES

## Leigh Tobias, Ph.D., CIPS President

The Board met for a productive face to face meeting in September in Washington, D.C. We hosted a CIPS Book Series cocktail party featuring Steven Ellman and his book, *When Theories Touch*, the first book of the series. Several other CIPS authors attended, including Harriet Basseches, Carolyn Ellman, Paula Ellman, Norbert Freeman, Nancy Goodman, Marvin Hurvich, Peggy Porter, and Arnold Wilson, each of whom introduced their upcoming contributions to the Book Series. We were happy to see them and get to know them a little better.

We all look forward to the next volume in the series *A New Freudian Synthesis*, to be published in early 2011. CIPS colleague Lew Aron comments:

*“This book presents the theory and clinical practice (with lively and well-told clinical tales) of contemporary Freudian psychoanalysis, and while respectfully highlighting similarities, it also differentiates this approach from both the more conservative models of drive and conflict as well as from more radical approaches of relational psychoanalysis. The contemporary Freudian approach emphasizes the development of psychic structure through the synergy of insight and relational factors. Call it modern or contemporary Freudian theory, modern structural theory, self and object Freudians, or relational-Freudian psychoanalysis—this book is the essential text to clarify the present state of the field.”*

For more information on the book series, go to the CIPS website [www.cipsusa.org](http://www.cipsusa.org) and look under the tab “New and Announcements” and then, in the contents column on the left side of the page, click on >Book Series.

## IPA AND NAPsaC

The face-to-face meeting proved to be quite fruitful. In addition to our regular business, the Board discussed the IPA Congress in Mexico City and the current governance issues that have surfaced on the IPA Board. The Board addressed concerns that had been raised by the “Broomhills Reorganization” report, distributed by NAPsaC to all members in August 2010. This report, written by four North American representatives to the IPA Board—Harriet Basseches, Fred Busch, Arthur Leonoff, and Fredric Perlman—revealed the existence of a major governance crisis in the IPA.

The CIPS Board, distressed by the events reported in the document, voted to request that the NAPsaC Board meet with all seven North American IPA representatives. The NAPsaC Board subsequently voted to support this CIPS proposal. On November 14, 2010, the NAPsaC Board held a teleconference with six of the seven North American IPA Board representatives (Nadine Levinson, who represents the North American delegation on the IPA Executive Committee, declined to attend the meeting.)

In preparation for the meeting, all the IPA reps were invited to submit reports on the Broomhills reorganization and the state of the IPA governance. The four representatives who had written the original “Broomhills Reorganization” document submitted a second major paper, “Broomhills, Budapest, and Beyond.” The other three representatives—William Glover, Nadine Levinson, and Beth Seelig—originally declined to attend the meeting, citing as one reason the fact that three of the other four NA IPA Board representatives were current or past leaders of NAPsaC. Subsequently, William Glover agreed to attend, and in preparation, issued a short independent statement. Shortly before the meeting, Beth Seelig also agreed to attend.

The NAPsaC meeting proved to be very productive. We were all able to ask questions, hear different points of view, and share concerns. It was genuinely democratic, collaborative, and informative. The open discussion that took place between NAPsaC Board members, who collectively represent each of the IPA component societies in North America, and the six North American IPA representatives enabled the NAPsaC Board to arrive at two recommendations:

1. The NAPsaC Board recommended the engagement of an organizational consultant or consulting team to help resolve the organizational and governance issues raised by the Broomhills reorganization effort.

2. The NAPsaC Board also recommended that NAPsaC serve as the “link” organization for the North American delegation to the IPA Board. In the past, each of the seven representatives reported to a small group of “link” societies, but this policy was abandoned some years ago. As a result, the North American representatives have had no “link” societies—a situation that leaves North American members without communicative links to the IPA Board, and therefore unable to participate fully in IPA governance as envisioned in the IPA bylaws.

If you want more information on these issues, there are four documents available on the CIPS website: a copy of the NAPsaC report of the teleconference; “Broomhills, Budapest, and Beyond;” and two documents that more fully explain the possible options regarding the first recommendation of an organizational consultation. Bill Glover’s independent statement will be circulated at his request. I feel it is worth your time to read these documents.

I want to further express my conviction that the two NAPsaC recommendations—for the organizational consultation and for the designation of NAPsaC to be the link organization for the seven North American IPA representatives—are both very strong and timely recommendations. The joint teleconference meeting revealed marked differences among the representatives in their understanding of the IPA Rules and of their application. It seems likely that the resolution of these conflicting views will require an outside and authoritative expert to function, as one NAPsaC representative put it, as a “third.”

I particularly feel that the designation of NAPsaC as the “link organization” for the North American IPA delegation is a very appropriate and useful measure. At present, the North American representatives have no link societies. As noted above, there were striking differences in the views expressed by the representatives who attended the meeting. If each representative “linked” with only a handful of societies, each of those societies would get only one view of the situation. The NAPsaC Board heard all sides of the issues discussed, putting us in a position of forming a more encompassing understanding than would have been possible if we had heard only one view.

In conclusion, I want to emphasize the value of this meeting for me. I have come away from this process with a much keener understanding of the IPA and the challenges of IPA governance. I want our CIPS members to be as fully informed as the NAPsaC Board so that each of our CIPS members is in a position to make up his or her own mind about the issues we have been addressing.

As an organization, CIPS has always been committed to the principles of democratic governance. Accordingly, we have always supported the principle of “transparency.” We believe that the workings of our professional associations should be open so that our members can participate in the thinking and deliberations that give rise to organizational policies and plans for action. That is why the minutes of CIPS Board meetings are posted on our website, and major decisions of the CIPS Board are referred back to member society boards for discussion and debate. Transparency is fundamental to democracy.

I am hopeful that all our PCC members and candidates will read the NAPsaC report and accompanying documents. I urge each of our members to discuss their reactions, ideas, and views with each other, and of course with their CIPS representatives so that the CIPS Board is aware of the views of the membership. I am particularly eager that members consider and discuss the two NAPsaC proposals.

## COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Dr. Persila Conversano would like to announce the opening of her new office located at 360 N. Bedford Drive Suite # 406, Beverly Hills, CA 90210. Telephone remains the same: 310-205-0107.

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The Mitrani's were abroad and very busy during November, 2010. In Milan Dr. Judith Mitrani presented her paper "The Past Presented: Bodily Centered Protections In Puberty & Adolescence" at The Interschool Forum for Child Analysis ISFCA)Third International Congress. The conference theme was "The Memoir of the Future and the Future in Memory, Puberty and Early Adolescence." (See the included photograph.)

She presented the paper "Excogitating Bion's Cogitations: Technical Implications for Psychoanalysis" for the Italian Psychoanalytic Society in Milan as well. Both papers were well received and she and Dr. Ted Mitrani were treated to the Milanese first class hospitality.

Judith's paper "Minding the gap between neuro-scientific and psychoanalytic understanding of autism" was published in the Journal of Child Psychotherapy. Her paper "Trying to Enter The Long Black Branches: Some Technical Extensions for the Analysis of Autistic States in Adults from the Work of Frances Tustin" will be published in the February issue of The International Journal of Psychoanalysis.

The Tustin Trust earned over \$7,000 during 2010 between a very successful Berlin conference (in spite of the Volcano in Iceland which blew its top the day before, there were 300 in attendance) and the conference co-sponsored by PCC this month was attended by nearly 100 people.

*Please remember to visit the PCC Website regularly to view the Community Bulletin Board.  
The Website Address is [www.psycc.org](http://www.psycc.org)*

*Please email Elisabeth O. Clark, Ph.D. at [eoclark@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eoclark@sbcglobal.net), with your notices, needs, achievements, travels, etc., for the next edition of the Phoenix Rising Newsletter.*

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