Once upon a very, very long time in human history, the storyteller was “the keeper of the keys” in terms of human culture and experience. We have gradually departed from those roots and in so doing have certainly lost our “mind” and perhaps our soul as well.

My first experience in the art of the master storyteller was when I had the good fortune to have William Faulkner as a writer-in-residence during my years at the University of Virginia. The first book we were assigned was *The Sound and the Fury*. The first 90 pages of this remarkable book consist of what is quite literally free association in the mind of a retarded young man. I struggled with reading and re-reading it, knowing I was going to be tested on it. However, after discussing it with Faulkner, I finally got the idea. I re-read it once again and just let the affect and the wonderful words flow over me like a warm wave, and I understood.

A few years later when I started my psychiatric residency at Mass Mental Health in Boston, we were greeted by a legendary teacher of national fame, Elvin Semrad. On the first day Semrad gathered all 22 of us residents in his office. We had been to our wards and knew that we were going to be taking care of 50 of what were certainly the most disturbed people I had ever seen. Semrad smiled his Buddha-like smile and said, “Well I guess you’re all wondering what articles you should be reading to help you in this work.

The answer is none. If you want to know what this is all about, go find the sickest person on the ward and sit with him or her for as long as you can stand it.” Semrad went on, “What you have to understand is that what may seem to be bizarre symptoms to you do not seem at all bizarre to them. In fact, they have evolved these symptoms as a way of coping with impossible family situations. These symptoms represent a creative adaptive endeavor: They are a work of art as much as any other work of art. Your job, and your only job, is to appreciate all these wonderful stories you are going to be hearing.” Those words of wisdom have never left me.

At the 2013 National Meeting of our Association we had a double treat that I am sharing with you in this issue of TAP.

We had our own Newell Fischer, past president of our Association and a supervising and training analyst at the Center for Psychoanalysis in Philadelphia. Newell has written a marvelous book, entitled *Nine Lives*, about nine of his psychotherapy patients. Full of compassion, he recounts the stories of his patients and the psychodynamic process that helped to heal them. The book has been very well received by the public, the media, and was certainly well received in his presentation. [See “Nine Lives: A View from Within,” page 3.]

Bob Pyles, M.D., is president of the American Psychoanalytic Association.

Continued on page 3
Nine Lives: A View from Within  Newell Fischer

APsaA Elections

Can We Survive?  Lee I. Ascherman and Elizabeth Brett

How We Can Be Possessed By A Story That Cannot Be Told  Stephen Grosz

2014 National Meeting

The Psychoanalyst As Artist: Sixth Annual Psychoanalytic Art Show  Robert L. Welker

Poetry: From the Unconscious  Sheri Butler Hunt

APsaA Awards Third Annual Undergraduate Essay Prize: “To the Lighthouse and the Oedipal Triangle”  Caroline Beaton

Politics and Public Policy: Sovereign Right to Privacy of Americans, Patients and Clinicians  Graham L. Spruiell

Candidates’ Council: A Fresh View  Navah C. Kaplan

COPE: Candidates’ COPE Study Group: Challenges of Training  Navah C. Kaplan and Phoebe A. Cirio

Come to Chicago: APsaA 103rd Annual Meeting  June 6–8, 2014  Kimberlyn Leary

Lots to Do and See in Chicago in June  Kathleen Carroll

Film: Must the Artist Fall in Love with Death? Jean Cocteau’s Orphée  Lissa Weinstein and Bruce H. Sklarew, Film Column Editor

Correspondence and letters to the editor should be sent to TAP editor, Janis Chester, at jchestermd@comcast.net.
Nine Lives: A View from Within

Newell Fischer

A reporter came to my office a year ago to interview me for an article in the Philadelphia City Paper. This young woman seemed sophisticated and intelligent. She knew I was a psychoanalyst and despite the many pithy New Yorker magazine cartoons, she was amazed and bewildered when she saw my analytic couch. She thought psychoanalysis and the use of the couch were abandoned around 1940.

I wrote my book Nine Lives: A View from Within in an attempt to convey to the layperson some of our therapeutic work as analysts and to underscore the profound value of intensive psychoanalytic treatment. I did not want to write “fairy tales”—that is, that all our patients gain insight and live happily ever after—but to convey some of the experiences, pain, and struggles that unfold in our offices.

Mystification, idealization, and derision have often characterized the view of our efforts. Whereas some of these attitudes represent transferential distortions, our highly touted “splendid isolation” and our obtuse jargon (shorthand codes), have contributed to this perception. These views of what we do therapeutically and who we are as mental health professionals have not been helpful. Nine Lives is an attempt to better understand aspects of the human condition and to shed light on the process and the struggle we confront daily in psychoanalytic treatments.

Below is an excerpt from the Introduction to Nine Lives:

I have worked as a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst for nearly 50 years and I have consulted on and treated hundreds of patients. I have never met an Alien—someone who was beyond the boundaries of human understanding. Every person is unique, every case offers mysteries and surprises, but the common thread reflecting the human condition has always been visible. Some presentations at first appear extreme or even bizarre, but the underlying conflicts and the haunting demons my patients bring, I know “in my bones” because they reflect shared human conundrums. Unfortunately, for some, these challenges lead to emotional dysfunction, great pain, and suffering.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HARRY STACK SULLIVAN AND WALT C. KELLY

The well-known American psychiatrist, Harry Stack Sullivan, worked with very ill psychotic patients for many years and emerged from the experience observing, “Man is more human than otherwise.” Stated less elegantly and paraphrasing the comic POGO, “We have met them [our patients] and they are us.” If we look deeply into another person’s eyes we see ourselves. Sometimes that which we see leads to a sense of kinship. At other times, the reflection can be frightening, promote interpersonal detachment and self-alienation. Introspection, immersion, sensitivity, and a bit of courage will help the reader recognize himself in the clinical material to be presented. Such recognition may be enlightening.

To shed light on the human condition and to underscore how we all share this condition of being human, I will tell you the stories of nine patients (carefully disguised for confidentiality) whom I have treated in intensive insight-oriented psychotherapy. Their stories are dramatic and valuable. Of course, I can only relate fragments of their narratives, but I will tell you about the most vivid moments and hours I spent with these people and the times that were most alive and real for me. Though their past histories and surrounding life events helped me understand the moments we shared, such background was once removed from my immediate experience. It was my contact with these nine people that was intense, rewarding, and unforgettable.

Reflecting the human condition, these individuals struggled in life, largely with painful inner conflicts and battles with childhood fantasies and traumata. However, the resolutions they came to did not work for them. They were left with emotional pain and patterns that were self-defeating and compromised their potential for living a fuller life.

Story Tellers

Continued from page 1

The second treat was by Stephen Grosz who discussed his book as part of the Presidential Symposium, also telling the stories of his patients. It is entitled The Examined Life: How We Lose and Find Ourselves. Grosz has been a practicing psychoanalyst for more than 25 years and teaches at the Institute of Psychoanalysis in London. This is his first book and has received glowing reviews. It is a Sunday Times of London best seller and has been named a 2013 Book of the Year no fewer than 15 times by critics at leading publications, including the New York Times. [See “How We Can Be Possessed by a Story That Cannot Be Told,” page 7.]

Both Fischer’s and Grosz’s books are marvels of human warmth and clinical intelligence. They are certainly a must read for any psychoanalytic training program as well as for the general public. I invite you to enter their world.
Training and Supervising Analyst Appointments
Announced
By the Board on Professional Standards
January 15, 2014
2014 National Meeting, Waldorf Astoria Hotel

Training and Supervising Analysts
Nancy Blieden, Ph.D.
Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute
Andrea Celenza, Ph.D.
Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute
Margaretta Cerajejo, Ph.D.
Washington Center for Psychoanalysis
Sally A. Davis, Ph.D.
Center for Psychoanalytic Studies (Houston)
Ethan M. Grumbach, Ph.D.
New Center for Psychoanalysis (Los Angeles)
Oscar F. Hills, M.D.
Western New England Institute for Psychoanalysis
H. Randall Matthews, M.D., Ph.D., J.D.
Center for Psychoanalytic Studies (Houston)
Joanne Naegle, M.A., LPCC-S
Cleveland Psychoanalytic Center
Robert M. Smith, M.D.
New York Psychoanalytic Society and Institute

Geographic Rule Supervising Analysts
Neal Spira, M.D.
Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis
Salman Ahtkar, M.D.
Florida Psychoanalytic Institute
Stephen B. Bernstein, M.D.
Florida Psychoanalytic Institute
Richard G. Honig, M.D.
Western New England Institute for Psychoanalysis
Daniel H. Jacobs, M.D.
Florida Psychoanalytic Institute

Child and Adolescent Supervising Analysts
Alexander D. Kalogerakis, M.D.
New York Psychoanalytic Society and Institute
Pamela Meersand, Ph.D.
Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research
Jill M. Miller, Ph.D.
Washington Psychoanalytic Center

Child and Adolescent Supervising Analysts
The Cleveland Psychoanalytic Center/ Hanna Perkins Center Child-Focused Program
Devra B. Adelstein, LISW, BCD
Beatrice B. Griffin, LISW, BCD
Ruth L. Hall, M.A.
Judith L. Pitlick, M.A., LPCC
Carl J. Tuss, LISW, LPCC, LICDC
Barbara U. Streeter, M.S., LPCC-S
Lorraine Weisman, M.A., LPCC-S

Geographic Rule Child and Adolescent Supervising Analysts
Silvia M.V. Bell, Ph.D.
San Diego Psychoanalytic Society and Institute
Jill M. Miller, Ph.D.
Denver Institute for Psychoanalysis
Charles E. Parks, Ph.D.
Western New England Institute for Psychoanalysis

2014 National Meeting
PRESIDENT-ELECT
Richard Lightbody—351
Harriet L. Wolfe—873—Elected

TREASURER-ELECT
Peter Kotcher—214
William A. Myerson—914—Elected

COUNCILORS-AT-LARGE-ELECT
Michael J. Gundile—Elected
David V. Orbison
Robert A. Paul—Elected
Fredric T. Perlman
Sandra C. Walker

BYPALYS
Two proposed bylaw amendments were voted on by the APsaA membership. With 43 percent of the members voting, both proposed bylaw amendments were passed. A vote of two-thirds of those members present is required to effect a bylaw change. The first bylaw amendment will make it possible for an Active Member of APsaA who is not certified or a training/supervising analyst to serve as one of the two Fellows of BOPS from an institute; an uncertified Fellow of BOPS may serve on BOPS subcommittees. The second bylaw amendment created a new membership category for non-clinical candidates. This was the first year APsaA conducted its elections via electronic voting. All members had the option of voting online or via the traditional paper proxy ballots. Of the 43 percent of APsaA members who voted, approximately 66 percent voted online, a high percentage for a first-time electronic election. Equally important, the election experienced no technical problems and members expressed delight at how easily and quickly they were able to vote online.
“Can we survive?” is the blunt question asked by many of our institutes and members. There are many survivals in question—the survival of psychoanalysis as a profession, the survival of the Board on Professional Standards, and the survival of the American Psychoanalytic Association as we know it. We also must contend with the definition of survival. When does survival entail adaptation for preservation, and when does survival entail adaptation or evolution of an entity barely recognizable from its original meaning? These are tough questions that reflect our tough times. Our debates would be purely academic if the challenges we face were not about survival.

THE INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE—
THIS IS NOT JUST AN AMERICAN PROBLEM

The International Psychoanalytical Association (IPA) has for many years recognized the problem of “graying” throughout their constituent components. Recent data suggest that in almost every IPA society there is an unmistakable shift in the average age of members and the average age of candidates from younger to older. Rare exceptions to this trend include groups from Central and Eastern Europe who experienced a resurgence of interest in psychoanalysis after the fall of the Iron Curtain. While we must still take seriously our internal debate about educational standards, the data suggest there is something more afoot contributing to the challenges our profession is facing. While some have alleged that it is our standards, the certification system, or the training analyst system that has placed a stranglehold on our survival, these cannot explain the international downturn in efforts to promote psychoanalysis.

OTHER EXPLANATIONS

What do the IPA components share that might explain the worldwide crisis regarding survival of psychoanalysis? We identify a number of cultural forces in the Western world that may contribute to the crisis. These include major economic and health care funding changes and vast cultural shifts emphasizing quick interventions and evidence-based credibility; evidence that is difficult for analysts to produce easily given our emphasis on privacy and a treatment that does not conform well to standardized protocols. Our presence in professional mental health training programs has diminished, with some notable exceptions that have proven successful.

Analytic career patterns have also changed. Many contemporary analysts have multiple professional identities and commitments, affecting their level of involvement in psychoanalysis. Other cultural and generational shifts contribute to expectations of more contained work commitments balanced with time for family and avocations and less emphasis on longitudinal commitments of depth to those we treat. Significant student debt reflecting the exponential rise in tuition from earlier education dissuades some intimidated by the cost of training and insecurity about future earnings. Despite these obstacles, some younger professionals looking for depth and longitudinal experiences with those we care for find a career in psychoanalysis an attractive alternative.

The Board on Professional Standards has established the following initiatives to respond to the acute challenges faced by some of our institutes.

1. The immersion requirements for training analyst appointment have been adapted to include a reduction of postgraduate hours to 3000 from 3600. These hours can now include control cases’ hours that continue past graduation. These adaptations continue to honor our obligations to IPA requirements.

2. Enabling consultation from the Committee on New Training Facilities (CNTF) to provide longitudinal, individualized guidance to institutes seeking assistance in securing their futures by reinvigorating practice environments and candidate recruitment.

3. Establishment of the Committee on Outreach, Growth and Development as an alternative portal for consultation on reinvigorating practice environments and candidate recruitment.

4. Financial consultation

5. Leadership consultation for directors of institutes and centers

6. Collaboration with the Society Presidents Meeting

7. Consultation on practice development

8. Website and social meeting consultation

9. Regional training/long distance learning consultation modeled on successful regional child analytic programs

10. Initiatives to develop scholarship opportunities for candidates

11. Continued collaboration with ACPE, Inc. efforts to gain Department of Education recognition of analytic training programs

WE MAY HAVE DIFFERENT FATES

While all of our institutes and members face the challenges we have highlighted, at present we are not all on the same trajectory. About one-third of our institutes are reliably maintaining classes of respectable size and do not experience the acute gap in certified members and training analysts. About one-third of our institutes have mobilized with or without consultation to turn their fortunes around.

Continued on page 30

Lee I. Ascherman, M.D., is chair of the Board on Professional Standards and Elizabeth Brett, Ph.D., is secretary.
Continued from page 3

Understanding their dysfunction tells us much about being human and about ourselves. Comparable to a finely synchronized and oiled machine, when the apparatus is not functioning well, we are more aware of how it works. Cases of pneumonia force us to learn more about infectious processes and the mechanics of breathing. Listening carefully to a child’s nightmares can tell us much about his unspeakable worries.

In telling these stories, I also want to reflect and describe through example an important therapeutic approach that puts a premium on the in-depth understanding of the individual’s inner world. The treatment was guided by an effort to unearth and understand those forces and structures within the individuals that were causing them to hurt or to be caught up in self-defeating and destructive life patterns. The in-depth analytic therapy that I will describe is time consuming, requires a certain personal sensitivity and a deep level of immersion. This psychoanalytic approach is based on the conviction that if a person has a greater understanding of himself, and the factors that are causing his dysfunction, this self-knowledge will be crucial in stimulating personal growth and in reducing psychic pain.

AN ALTERNATIVE TO PRESSURE DRIVEN TREATMENT

In the present age of seeking immediate gratification, of fast food, takeout dinners, drive-through religious affiliations and e-mail courtships, efforts to do in-depth, intensive, and lengthy psychotherapy may be out of fashion. My students, psychiatrists-in-training, tell me that they are required to interview three patients an hour. Therapy is driven by the pressures from insurance and reimbursement systems. Medications, primarily tranquilizers and anti-depressants, suppress unwelcomed symptoms, and are often the first and the only treatment modality offered. In such 20-minute sessions on alternate weeks, the therapist has to be sure he is looking at the correct clinical chart, check if the medications are causing any untoward side effects, quickly ask how things are going, and then confirm the time of the next scheduled visit.

A few patients can be seen for longer sessions and more frequently, but such cases are the exception. Unfortunately this McTherapy also prevails in private psychotherapy practices, again driven by economic forces and social pressures.

These are the two themes in my narrative: (1) an effort to heighten our appreciation of the complexities of the human condition, and (2) an attempt to underscore the importance of therapy that aims to understand the human condition and the deeper dynamics of dysfunction. These themes are inextricably linked.

In intensive insight-oriented psychotherapy, the primary goal is to ameliorate emotional dysfunction and to promote personality growth. In addition, the investigation of the inner world provides a vital avenue to better understand the human condition and better appreciate those inner forces and psychic structures that promote health and the conflictual elements that lead to dysfunction. If the opportunities for pursuing such insight-oriented approaches become greatly diminished by societal pressures, we not only compromise our ability to treat patients in distress but also we lose an avenue to learn about who we are as thinking, feeling human beings.

To expand on these themes, it is best and most direct to first tell you the stories of some of the people who have come to me for treatment, how I understood their struggles and how I worked psychotherapeutically to help them.

The patients described in this volume include, a woman caught in a life endangering pattern of repeated pregnancies with strangers followed by multiple induced abortions; a woman hating her skin color; an executive sleepwalking through life; a sad woman caught up in a delusional marriage; a mother terrified of her infanticidal urges; a self-loathing teenager; a young boy seeking out bullies to beat him up, and a girl starving herself to gain self-control.

It is my hope that Nine Lives will convey some of the complexities of the human condition and underscore the valuable contributions psychoanalytic thinking and therapy provide.
How We Can Be Possessed By A Story That Cannot Be Told

Stephen Grosz

I want to tell you a story about a patient who shocked me.

When I was first starting out as a psychoanalyst, I rented a small consulting room in Hampstead. One of my earliest patients was a young man named Peter. He was undergoing treatment at a large psychiatric hospital nearby. Three months before we met, Peter hid in the cupboard of a local church, where he tried to kill himself by taking an overdose of various drugs and then slitting his wrists. He also stabbed himself in the neck, chest and arms with a small knife. He was discovered by a cleaner. Although she was frightened, the cleaner held him as they waited for the ambulance. “Who did this?” she asked him. “Tell me, who did this to you?”

The consultant psychiatrist at the hospital asked me if I would see Peter five times a week for psychoanalysis. She felt that daily therapy, together with a weekly meeting with her, was Peter’s best chance for recovery, for returning home to his fiancée and to his work.

Peter was 27 and worked as a structural engineer. Before he was hospitalized, he and his fiancée had bought a one-bedroom flat outside London. He had been having difficulties at work and had grown increasingly disturbed and withdrawn. His professional life too he had quietly gone from going along with me to mocking me.

Peter attended all of his sessions, and was almost never late. After several months, he left hospital and was able to return to his life. But increasingly, in our sessions, I felt him disappear to a place I couldn’t find, let alone understand. “You’ve been silent for a long time—can you tell me what you’ve been thinking about?” I asked in one session.

“A holiday in Devon—when I was a child,” he replied.

There was a long pause. Could he tell me more? He replied that he was not thinking about anything in particular; he was just thinking about being alone.

I had the thought that he wanted to be away from me, on holiday from analysis, and told him so. “Could be,” he replied.

It was as if Peter was trying to protect himself from my intrusiveness, as if he was complying with the conventions of analysis—being on time and answering my questions, for example—but in such a way as to prevent any meaningful connection developing between us. He seemed to have little faith in our talking.

But I did learn that Peter had a history of making friends and then turning on them. In his professional life too he had quietly gone about his work, then suddenly get into a row with his boss and quit. This had happened several times. I tried to use this information to show Peter that he seemed to have two psychological positions open to him—acquiescence or blowing everything up. He seemed to agree, but I never felt this idea was meaningful to him. And soon this pattern was enacted in the analysis. Peter went from going along with me to mocking me.

Peter stopped coming to his sessions. I wrote to him, proposing that he talk to me about his decision to end his treatment, but I received no reply.

I contacted the psychiatrist, who told me that Peter had stopped seeing her too.

Two months later, a letter arrived from Peter’s fiancée, informing me that he had taken his own life. She explained that, during the month leading up to his death, Peter had grown increasingly disturbed and withdrawn. The family had held a funeral at West London Crematorium the week before. She wrote that she was grateful for my attempts to help him. I sent a letter of condolence to her; and then informed Peter’s psychiatrist.

I’d known that Peter was a high-risk patient. When I took him on, I’d enlisted the help of a supervisor; an experienced psychoanalyst who’d written a book on suicide. He had repeatedly pointed out to me the many ways in which Peter seemed to idealize death. Now I went to see him again, anxious that there was something I’d missed. My supervisor tried to reassure me. “Who knows?” he said. “Being in analysis with you might have kept him from suicide for the past year.” Still, Peter’s death disturbed me greatly. Of course, I knew that we all have the capacity to act in self-destructive ways, nevertheless I had a kind of faith that the desire to live was more powerful. Now, instead, I felt its fragility: Peter’s suicide made me feel that the battle between the forces of life and death was far more evenly pitched.

Six months later, I received a message on my answering machine. I heard the unmistakable sounds of a public telephone—the pips, the coins falling—and then Peter’s voice: “It’s me. I’m not dead. I was wondering if I could come and talk to you. I’m at my old number.”

The instant I heard Peter’s voice, I felt faint, confused. For a moment I persuaded myself that the answering machine was malfunctioning; that I was listening to a very old message from Peter that had never been erased. And then I laughed—out of anger; out of relief. And because I was stunned.

Continued on page 18
Award Winners from the 2014 National Meeting
January 2014

CORST Essay Prize in Psychoanalysis and Culture
The Committee on Research and Special Training (CORST) presented the award to Ann P. McMahon, Ph.D., for her essay “The Power of Processes: The Integration of Engineering, Psychoanalysis and Education.”

Distinguished Contributor Award
Steven Levy, M.D., for his 10-year tenure as Editor of JAPA

Distinguished Service Award
Stephen Sonnenberg, M.D., for his leadership as Chair of ABPsA’s Committee on Public Information, Coordinator of the Social Issues Division, and as the first Head of the Education Department.

Educational Achievement Award
Carrie Catapano, L.C.S.W., Head of School, Leon Hoffman, M.D., Chief Psychiatrist, and the West End Day School of New York City

Award for Excellence in Journalism
Laura Tillman, Pacific Standard, for “What Does It Take for Traumatized Kids to Thrive?” which appeared in May 6, 2013 issue.

Honorary Membership
Jack Barchas, M.D.
Beatrice Beebe, Ph.D.
Jeffrey Berman, Ph.D.
Frank Lachmann, Ph.D.
Jonathan Shay, M.D., Ph.D.
Robert Stolorow, Ph.D.
Estela V. Welldon, M.D., D.Sc. (Hon), F.R.C. Psych

Helen Meyers Traveling Psychoanalytic Scholar Award
Dorothy Holmes, Ph.D.

Poster Session Award
Katie C. Lewis, M.A., Kevin B. Meehan, Ph.D., Jane G. Tillman, Ph.D., Nicole M. Cain, Ph.D., and Philip S. Wong, Ph.D., for their poster “Impact of Object Relations and Impulsivity on Persistent Suicidal Behavior.”

Ralph E. Roughton Paper Prize
Avgi Saketopoulou, Psy.D., for her paper: “Developmental Considerations in Mourning the Natal Body When Working Analytically with Transgender Patients.”

Edith Sabshin Teaching Awards
Adam Goldyne, M.D.—San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis
Luba Kessler, M.D.—Psychoanalytic Association of New York
Stephanie McEwan, Psy.D., J.D.—New Center for Psychoanalysis
Kathleen R. Miller, Ph.D.—Baltimore Washington Center for Psychoanalysis
Jonathan Schindelheim, M.D.—PINE Psychoanalytic Center
Paul Schwaber, Ph.D.—Western New England Psychoanalytic Society
Anna R. Schwartz, M.D.—Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training & Research, and the Association for Psychoanalytic Medicine (NY)
David Stevens, Ph.D.—Denver Institute for Psychoanalysis
Richard F. Summers, M.D.—Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia
Nancy C. Winters, M.D.—Oregon Psychoanalytic Institute

2013 Scientific Paper Prize
Anna Buchheim, Roberto Vivani, Henrik Kessler, Horst Kächle, Manfred Cierpka, Gerhard Roth, Carol George, Otto F. Kernberg, George Bruns, Svenja Taubner—“Changes in Prefrontal-limbic function in major depression after 15 months of long-term psychotherapy” PLOS ONE 7 (3): e33745.

2013 Undergraduate Essay Prize
Caroline Beaton, B.A., from Colorado College, for her paper “To the Lighthouse and the Oedipal Triangle: Impotence, Erotic Degradation and the Oedipus Complex from Freudian and Self-Psychological Perspectives.”

2014 Courage to Dream Book Prize
John Burnham, Editor, for his book After Freud Left: A Century of Psychoanalysis in America (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2012)
Highlights of the Executive Council Meeting

The Executive Council deliberated and approved two governance related issues, two important position statements, and organizational issues affecting APsaA internally and externally at their recent January meeting in New York.

The APsaA auditors were authorized to complete the fiscal year 2014 audit. In addition, the Council received news that FY 2014 ended with a $137,525 operating surplus. A new Affiliated Study Group—the Lexington (Kentucky) Psychoanalytic Study Group—was approved.

New Position Statements Approved

The following organizational position statements were approved:

A new position statement on race-based violence and racial profiling from the Social Issues Department and a revision of a position statement from the Committee on Gender and Sexuality on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people serving in the U.S. military.

New Expanded Membership Pathway Continues

As at the previous three Executive Council meetings, there was a historic moment when the Executive Council approved seven new APsaA members who were joining the Association through the Expanded Pathway membership process. The membership had approved this change in the bylaws in June 2010 and these were the fourth set of applications from analysts who were not trained at either an APsaA institute or an IPA institute.

The Council also heard an update from a new Task Force on Governance and Bylaws. The task force is charged with addressing the feasibility of rewriting APsaA’s bylaws. The task force will function as a “think tank,” attempting to incorporate the views of members as much as possible.

And finally, the Executive Council heard from Will Schweitzer, a senior editor at Sage Publications, JAPA’s publisher. In 2013 JAPA’s circulation increased an incredible 17 percent, which defies the trend in peer-review journals. Prior to joining Sage, JAPA’s total circulation was just over 4,800 copies and, now—seven years later—JAPA’s circulation is just over 10,300. More importantly, the journal is available to millions of end users in 8,000 libraries and discoverable by just a few keystrokes in over 120 countries around the world. It is expected that JAPA sales in 2013 will exceed a half-million dollars and revenue to APsaA continues to increase every year.
2014 National Meeting

Photos by Geralyn Lederman, Mali Mann, and Philip Valentini

Plenary

Plenary Speakers Bonnie Litowitz, Warren Poland, and Mark Smaller

Fred Griffin and Harriet Wolfe

Betsy Auchincloss and Eslee Samberg

BOPS
2014 National Meeting

Photos by Geralyn Lederman, Mali Mann, and Philip Valentini

Malkah Natman, Miriam Tasini, and Ruth Fischer

Monisha Akhtar, Peter Rudnytsky, and Gennifer Lane Briggs

Warren Procci, Bob Pyles, Jim Pyles, and Janis Chester
2014 National Meeting

Photos by Geralyn Lederman, Mali Mann, and Philip Valentini

The Waldorf

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The Sixth Annual Art Show of the American Psychoanalytic Association was held at the 2014 National Meeting on Friday, January 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The show was initiated and developed by Jon Meyer whose absence this year was felt by all.

Although unconscious processes involved in creativity—its complex dynamic functions and myriad forms of expression—become apparent to analysts in the course of their scholarship and clinical work; opportunities to view and discuss original artwork with analytically-informed artists are rare. That is why I volunteered to organize the art show in Jon’s stead, and why I support its continuance.

Twenty artists, an enriching mix of first-time exhibitors and veterans, invested considerable effort transporting and displaying their art, a collective feat for which I am most appreciative, and engaged in lively conversation among themselves and with the steady stream of viewers. Discussion ranged from artistic techniques and materials to psychological inspirations to personal experience of presenting one’s intimate creations publicly. Many viewers, moved by the enthusiasm of the event, shared digital images of their art on cell phones and electronic tablets.

Out of the individual uniqueness and diversity of exhibits and exhibitors emerged a cohesion that took on qualities of an affable salon or forum. Black and white and color photographs, watercolors, pastels, acrylics, collages, oil paintings, jewelry, wood carvings, and stone sculptures adorned the Herbert Hoover Suite with artistic perspectives varying from highly representational to the surreal to abstract.

Exhibiting artists were: Graciela Abelin-Sas, Rosa Aurora Chavez-Eakle, Newell Fischer, Richard Honig, Lee Jaffe, Anna Janicki, William Kenner, Ellen Kolansky, Valerie Laabs-Siemon, Mali Mann, Paul Mosher, Judith Pitlick, Raymond Raskin, Arnold Richards, Cheryl Seaman, Moisy Shopper, Helen Stein, Victoria Todd, Sebastian Zimmerman, and me. Special thanks to APsaA’s Carolyn Gatto without whose support and guidance the show could not have gone on.

**CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST**

The Cartoon Caption Contest was a delightful addition to this year’s art show; choosing three winners from the 87 witty submissions proved equally difficult and entertaining. Victoria Todd provided the watercolor cartoon and awards for winners, cards from her Standard Edition of SigiCartoons.

**First Place:**
“On that note—let’s stop for today.” Kay Levine

**Second Place:**
“Pink Freud and the Light Side of the Moon.” Jessica Brown

**Third Place:**
“The title of Tootem and Taboo is first conceived of.” Alan Kessler

Given that a picture may still be worth a thousand words—notwithstanding the ease of making tails appear to wag dogs by digital editing—I will let the photos of your colleagues’ artwork speak for themselves.

To view a larger sample of color digital images of exhibitors’ work go to http://www.flickr.com/photos/robert_welker_elements/ and open the set labeled APSA Art Show.
Arnold Richards
“Woman in China”

Rosa Aurora
“Real”

Judith Pitlick
“Mother and Child”

Ellen Kolansky
“The Painted House”

Lee Jaffe
“Shadow”
The *Psychoanalyst* As Artist

Sebastian Zimmerman
“Jamieson Webster”

Mali Mann
“Modigliani’s Woman Repainted”

Robert Welker
“Fireworks Storm”

Paul Mosher
“View of Manhattan from Pebble Beach, Brooklyn”

Newell Fischer
“Brigita”
The Psychoanalyst As Artist

Cheryl Seaman
“Essence”

William Kenner
“Riders”

Valerie Laabs-Siemon
“Kunta Hora”

Bowls by Moisy Shopper
Photo: Mali Mann

Jewelry by Raymond Raskin
Photo: Mali Mann
Possessed By A Story

Continued from page 7

That evening, when I wrote to the consultant psychiatrist to tell her that Peter wasn’t dead, I did what many people do when they’re angry: I made a joke. “Unless there are payphones in hell,” I wrote, “Peter is still alive. He left a message on my answering machine earlier today, asking for an appointment.”

Peter came to see me the following week. In a matter-of-fact way, he told me that he, not his fiancée, had written to inform me of his death. He’d also intercepted my condolences note. “It was touching,” he said.

“Oh, that is interesting,” my supervisor said. “It’s surprising this doesn’t happen more often. When you think of all those adolescents who say ‘you’ll be sorry when I kill myself’—you’d think more of them would fake it.” We decided that I should only take Peter on again if I felt he was really prepared to make a serious commitment.

After several meetings, Peter and I agreed to resume his sessions. Ultimately, his disappearance and return proved helpful, because it clarified something that we had never understood: his need to shock others.

In the sessions that followed it slowly became clear that Peter enjoyed thinking about the distress he caused when he suddenly quit work or ended a friendship. He’d blown up the analysis twice—first when he quit and then, a second time, when he faked his suicide. In the first phase of his analysis, I hadn’t realized just how attached Peter was to violently upsetting others. But why?

Peter’s parents had divorced when he was two and his mother had remarried soon after. During this second phase of his analysis, Peter sought out his biological father and spoke frankly with his mother. He discovered that his mother had been having an affair with the man who became his stepfather; and that his father and mother both drank heavily. He also discovered that the first two years of his life were very different from the story he’d been told. His mother and father both admitted that they couldn’t cope and had been violent with him when he was a baby.

Her confession gave Peter some relief. For as long as he could remember, he had felt afraid. He told me that it helped to know that he was frightened of something. For a small child, violence is an overwhelming, uncontrollable and terrifying experience—and its emotional effects can endure for a lifetime. The trauma becomes internalized, it’s what takes hold of us in the absence of another’s empathy. So why did Peter turn on those close to him?

Peter’s behavior made it clear that he couldn’t allow himself to feel weak. Dependence for him was dangerous. Peter’s story might be summed up as, “I’m the attacker who traumatizes, never the baby who is hurt.” But Peter also felt bound to turn on himself. When Peter assaulted himself in the church, he enacted this same story. As he told me, “I thought—you pathetic little crybaby. I can do this to you and you can’t stop me.”

I believe that all of us try to make sense of our lives by telling our stories, but Peter was possessed by a story that he couldn’t tell. Not having the words, he expressed himself by other means. Over time I learned that Peter’s behavior was the language he used to speak to me. Peter told his story by making me feel what it was like to be him, of the anger, confusion and shock that he must have felt as a child.

The author Karen Blixen said, “All sorrows can be borne if you put them into a story or tell a story about them.” But what if a person can’t tell a story about his sorrows? What if his story tells him?

Experience has taught me that our childhoods leave in us stories like this—stories we never found a way to voice, because no one helped us to find the words. When we cannot find a way of telling our story, our story tells us—we dream these stories, we develop symptoms, or we find ourselves acting in ways we don’t understand.

Two years after Peter left his message on my answering machine, we agreed to stop his psychoanalysis. I thought there was more work to do, but he felt that it was time.

All of this happened many years ago. Since then Peter hasn’t asked to meet again, but I did run into him recently, at the cinema. We recognized each other across the lobby. Peter said something to the woman he was standing with and they walked over. He extended his hand and then he introduced me to his wife.
On a plane heading East

Like an icebreaker through this lonely life
You travel
Fearlessly friending whoever’s about
Getting on beyond making do
Mining opportunities as they present
So different are we
My fellow traveling partner
By sheer happenstance
Upgraded were we
Out of the bowels of coach
To sit side by side
In near luxury
And freely converse
About, you know, whatever
In free dialogue
It was all quite unexpected
Though not by you
Seeing that your life’s composed
Of just such encounters
As I came to learn
During our flight together
On that pre-Thanksgiving night
You reached out to me
In ways I would never do
Into my all too shy soul
Mercifully providing me
A momentary sense of companionship
During an otherwise impersonal flight
On that dark and cold November night
Heading East
To be with those
We love

Some flight-long conversations prove ghastly
The product of sheer circumstance
Held captive by those who are needly
Who seize upon any chance
To borrow an ear
That’s not freely lent
Oblivious to how unwelcomed
And tortuous
Such chatter can be

Thankfully spared of that fate
By your ample intellect
And the fact we instantly recognized likeness
In one another
That spans generations
You provided great entertainment
For which I say
“You’re very welcomed”
And, of course,
“Thank You”
My fleeting companion
By sheer happenstance.

—Richard Tuch

Sheri Butler Hunt, M.D., is an adult training and consulting analyst and a child consulting analyst in the child division at the Seattle Psychoanalytic Society and Institute. A published poet and member of TAP’s editorial board, she welcomes readers’ comments, suggestions, and poetry submissions at annseattle1@gmail.com.
APsaA Awards Third Annual Undergraduate Essay Prize: “To the Lighthouse and the Oedipal Triangle”  
Caroline Beaton

APsaA’s Committee on Psychoanalysis and Undergraduate Education, co-chaired by Michael Shulman and Naomi Janowitz, is pleased to announce it has awarded its Third Annual Essay Prize to Caroline Beaton of Colorado College for her essay “To the Lighthouse and the Oedipal Triangle: Impotence, Erotic Degradation, and the Oedipus Complex from Freudian and Self-Psychological Perspectives.” The author summarizes her essay:

In “To the Lighthouse and the Oedipal Triangle,” I use Freudian and self-psychological models of the Oedipus complex and erotic degradation to explore the Ramsay family’s psychical impotence and fragmentation in Virginia Woolf’s novel. The “Oedipal triangle” refers both to the intricate, ambivalent relationship between mother, father, and son and to the connections between their Oedipal conflicts, degradation dynamics, and psychical impotence.

Freud argued that unresolved Oedipus complexes stimulate feelings of powerlessness, emptiness, and incompetency—in a word, impotence—thereby giving rise to erotic degradation dynamics by which the male seeks to degrade and then rescue his sex object to convince himself of his superiority and restore his masculinity. The first part of my essay points out how Mr. Ramsay and James’s Oedipal rivalry for Mrs. Ramsay’s affirmation and affection worsens their psychical impotence and increases their need to degrade and then “save” her to ensure their dominance and potency. Mr. Ramsay degrades his wife by persuading himself of her simplicity and ignorance. After internally satisfying his need for superiority, Mr. Ramsay can both rescue Mrs. Ramsay from her supposed senselessness and allow himself to be attracted to her.

In line with Freud’s assertion that every hysterical symptom is accompanied by some degree of “compliance” and “participation of both sides,” To the Lighthouse presents Mrs. Ramsay as a necessary, though likely unwitting, enabler of these dynamics. Mrs. Ramsay acknowledges that she “did not like, even for a second, to feel finer than her husband” and defers to Mr. Ramsay in all her judgments. Ironically, Mrs. Ramsay’s collaboration in mitigating her husband’s psychical impotence facilitates James’s Oedipus complex. The loser of an Oedipal battle and without undivided female affirmation of his own manhood, James is cast out, castrated, and destined to repeat these same erotic degradation patterns with Mrs. Ramsay herself or a replacement, such as his sister Cam, after Mrs. Ramsay dies.

Seen through a Freudian lens, it appears that James’s and his father’s Oedipal rivalry activates and then exacerbates their psychical impotence. The men degrade Mrs. Ramsay and Cam to remedy their feelings but these dynamics prove ineffective because they reengage the Oedipal situation and because Mr. Ramsay’s and James’s need for female sex objects to restore their masculinity signifies dependence, which is counter to their desire for wholeness and autonomy.

INNER FRAGMENTATION, PSYCHIC IMPOTENCE

In the second half of the essay, I turn to self psychology to propose that Mr. Ramsay and James’s insufficient self-object relationships, in combination with their Oedipal conflicts, cause their inner fragmentation, a concept akin to psychical impotence. Mr. Ramsay and James lack self-object relationships with each other as well as with Mrs. Ramsay, whose frantically scattered attention does not allow her to remain with either long enough to give them a sense of worth.

Following Heinz Kohut’s understanding of Tragic Man as one motivated by the desire to restore a cohesive self, I suggest that James and his father may reestablish their self-object connection with each other, and consequently diminish both their Oedipus complexes and erotic degradation dynamics with Mrs. Ramsay and Cam, during their journey to the lighthouse. On the other hand, Woolf’s ambiguous ending may indicate that, despite their journey, the men do not overcome their Oedipal triangle.

Regardless of whether they rectify their impotence through improved self-object relationships by the novel’s end, the Ramsay’s journey to the lighthouse signifies a quest for coherency that renders them Tragic Men in their final acceptance of the inevitability of failure. Mr. Ramsay’s maxim, “We perished, each alone,” and James’s realization, “We are driving before a gale—we must sink,” reflect their coming to terms with their ultimate powerlessness and death. Yet in their acceptance of mortality, a kind of existential impotence, Mr. Ramsay and James can finally find peace with their identities and completeness.

“To the Lighthouse and the Oedipal Triangle” attempts to supplement traditional Oedipal interpretations of the Ramsay family with an appreciation of self-psychological pursuit of integration that encourages recognition of a multi-faceted, multi-problem, multi-healing self. Furthermore, by placing Freud’s notion of psychical impotence alongside Kohut’s concept of fragmentation, the essay encourages the possibility of considering that soul precedes sexuality. The paper ultimately unifies some dichotomous aspects of Freudianism and self psychology toward a broader understanding of the Oedipus complex and its constituents in psychoanalytic theory and literature.

Caroline Beaton, B.A., graduated from Colorado College with an English major and psychoanalysis minor. Currently living in Vancouver, she is applying to graduate English programs, hoping to continue integrating psychoanalysis with literature, and aspires to teach and undertake psychoanalytic training.
Sovereign Right to Privacy of Americans, Patients and Clinicians

Graham L. Spruiell

Psychoanalysts await the implications of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) as it unfurls in fits and starts. Psychoanalysts sometimes speak as if we are the only clinicians affected by significant changes in health care, when in fact it is a concern for all Americans, clinicians and patients. Psychoanalysts, who have witnessed the false promises of managed care organizations and preferred provider organizations to improve the quality of care and to reduce costs, now wait to see if the ACA can fulfill its promises, hoping, despite dwindling reimbursements and increasing insurance reviews in the fee-for-service model, there will be a viable path for psychoanalysis.

But health care is only one shining scale on the dragon of societal transformation wherein privacy is subjected to balance testing and pragmatic analysis. The privacy of customers in relation to corporations and, more important, the privacy of citizens in relation to the government are both undergoing similar transformations. The penumbral references to privacy in the Constitution refer to the citizen’s right to privacy in relation to the government and are an essential part of the social contract; but it is fair to say privacy has also been the essential principle in the clinician-patient contract since Hippocrates. The promise of privacy underlies trust in one’s doctor and in one’s government.

MORE THAN WORRISOME

It is worrisome that credit card readers at Target get hacked with malware, breaching sensitive information of 100 million customers, and another worry that Google, Yahoo, and Amazon keep tabs on personal information of their customers and sell that information without customer consent. It is a quantum leap of worry however, when the Justice Department listens in on personal telephone conversations of reporters and their contacts without a warrant, or NSA conducts surveillance of Americans on the Internet, telephone conversations, business transactions, and text messages without proper oversight by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) court.

But trust goes by the wayside when the President of the United States on 37 separate occasions promised American citizens that they could keep their doctors and insurance, when he knew that millions of Americans could not. On one of those occasions President Obama explicitly said, “No matter how we reform health care, I intend to keep this promise: If you like your doctor, you’ll be able to keep your doctor; if you like your health care plan, you’ll be able to keep your health care plan.” Upon being confronted about this misstatement, President Obama made a further misstatement when he said, “Now, if you have or had one of these plans before the Affordable Care Act came into law and you really liked that plan, what we said was you can keep it if it hasn’t changed since the law passed,” when in fact he did not originally include that stipulation. Imagine that in the United States it would be up to the president to determine whether citizens could keep their doctors or insurance.

There is not much that APsaA’s Committee on Government Relations and Insurance (CGRI) or other clinicians can do to address malware on credit card readers or to curb Internet corporations about their use of information they collect from customers. Nor is there much CGRI can do about surveillance of citizens by the Department of Justice or NSA, or misleading statements by the president, except to affirm that all citizens—especially patients—have a right to privacy guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, and that government surveillance without a warrant or judicial order represents a gross violation of that right.

DEFENDING PRIVACY AND PRIVATE PRACTICE

In this respect, CGRI has a responsibility to jealously defend patient privacy and the right to freely contract in private practice according to professional ethics. Despite reassurance from some of our members, CGRI objected vehemently to the elimination of the consent requirement in HIPAA which allowed transmission of personal health information without patient consent for billing, treatment, and health care operations.

CGRI efforts initially succeeded when President Clinton at the end of his term reinstated the consent requirement largely due to the advocacy of Bob Pyles and Jim Pyles as well as other privacy groups, all of whom predicted that the removal of the consent requirement would spell the end of patient privacy. Both of the Pyles brothers received commendations from President Clinton for their patriotism. President George H.W. Bush initially agreed with President Clinton about the removal of the consent requirement and briefly referred to himself as the “privacy president,” but he then eliminated the consent requirement, resulting in the loss of patient consent and ownership (regulatory control) of personal health information. Consequently, our government for the first time in history could lawfully disclose personal health information without patient consent, contradicting a central tenet of consent in the Constitution and medical ethics.

Continued on page 31
A Fresh View

Navah C. Kaplan

The co-editors of the Candidate Connection, Marian Margulies and Holly Crisp-Han, and I think hard about the organizing theme we select for each edition of the newsletter. We look for something of primary importance to candidates, and this has been reflected in themes from the recent past such as the supervisory experience, the “widening scope” of patient selection for analysis and, most recently, creativity and candidacy. Since our last issue came out, an APsaA political divide has found expression in a lawsuit, with one component of the organization in legal dispute with another. I believe most candidates struggle to locate their own opinion on the many weighty matters under debate, and it may feel like the arguments continue a thread with a long tail in the historical past, difficult and time-consuming for those newly arrived to follow.

Candidates are engaged in learning to be psychoanalysts today. Which brings me back to the theme of the latest newsletter: We proposed a counterpoint to the perhaps necessary but rather depressing expressions of the problems we face in our profession. We decided to ask candidates to offer their own, fresher visions of the field. The editors broadly invited candidates to contribute material celebrating their experiences of candidacy and the value that psychoanalysis has brought to their lives and professional growth.

As president of the Candidates’ Council of APsaA, I focus more particularly on the enormous contributions APsaA makes to candidate education and to developing an analytic identity. Despite the political roiling and the shouting that sometimes bursts from the lines of a listserv post, APsaA remains not just a good-enough parent to candidates. It is an exceptional one. In my contribution to the issue, I highlight some of the work being done by candidate leaders who chair the many committees of the APsaA Candidates’ Council (CC). I invite all candidates to come to the APsaA National Meetings and to attend our meeting of the Candidates’ Council. We will orient you to help you navigate the program and learn of opportunities to get involved in the Association.

Candidates’ Council officers have been involved in various projects over the last year. President-Elect Phoebe Cirio has been working to revive the Committee on Psychoanalytic Education (COPE) Candidates’ Study Group [See “Candidates’ COPE Study Group: Challenges of Training,” page 23]. She and I have liaisoned with the International Psychoanalytical Studies Organization (IPSO) vice-president for North America, Marco Posadas of Canada. We aim to forge a stronger connection between our two organizations, thus expanding the opportunities for collaborative work among candidates from a national to an international arena. Marco is eager to help us grow our candidate membership because he correctly notes that every APsaA candidate member is automatically enrolled in IPSO membership as well.

Our mutual interest to enlarge our professional organizations is thus served by enrolling candidates in APsaA.

Our treasurer Jamie Cromer has been working on the CC budget. She also serves as the candidate representative to the American Psychoanalytic Foundation. This year, Jamie has been engaged in applying for certification. You can read her article in the current edition of the Candidate Connection where she describes a contemporary experience of the certification process.

Secretary Gennifer Lane-Briggs has been assiduously compiling a candidates’ directory of the names of all Candidates’ Council members, which comprises its officers, chairs of committees and representatives of each institute to the CC. She has been painstakingly contacting the institutes with the earnest request that each one designate a candidate representative to attend our Candidates’ Council meeting during the APsaA National Meetings. We are hoping her efforts pay off so that the majority of institutes will be represented at our next CC meeting.

Gennifer has engaged with the chair of our Digital Media Committee, Anton Babushkin, to develop ways of using technology to promote candidates’ professional interests. Most recently, Gennifer has taken on the role of chair of the Mentorship Committee. She will be conducting the follow-up to this pilot program begun by our immediate past CC president, Hilli Dagon-Clark.

I have begun to visit candidate organizations at institutes local to me in the northeast corridor for informal dialogue in the nature of a focus group. I exchange information, telling candidates about APsaA’s many programs and the benefits of candidacy membership, and I ask for candidate impressions of APsaA. I ask what candidates want of a professional organization and how informed they are about what APsaA offers candidates. My hope is such dialogue will provide information useful in the effort to recruit candidate members.

Continued on page 23

Navah C. Kaplan, Ph.D., is president of the Candidates’ Council.
Candidates’ COPE Study Group: Challenges of Training

Navah C. Kaplan and Phoebe A. Cirio

Candidates now have a Committee on Psychoanalytic Education (COPE) Study Group on Challenges of Training. Our study group has a designated number of 12 members, who are expected to make a longitudinal commitment to attend group meetings and contribute to the work. Similar to every APsaA COPE study group, our group will focus on a topic relevant to psychoanalysis and will aim to make an educational contribution that advances the discipline and/or psychoanalytic education.

At our second meeting in January 2013, during the APsaA National Meeting at the Waldorf Astoria, we considered the objectives we were going to set for ourselves. We began our meeting by brainstorming for ideas inspired by the title of our study group. We tried to design an approach to the topic and begin implementing a work plan that involves each member and results in an educational product.

Candidate members of the study group must make a commitment to attend the study group when it meets during the APsaA national meetings, usually twice a year—in January in New York and in June in changing locations across the United States. In addition, there may be scheduled conference calls during the year to exchange ideas and progress with the project. Any candidate interested in joining the study group or learning more is encouraged to contact the chair at Phoebe777@aol.com or at 314-862-0345.

Navah C. Kaplan, Ph.D., is a graduate of the New York Psychoanalytic Society and Institute. She is president of the APsaA Candidates’ Council. Her private practice includes psychoanalysis and psychotherapy.

Phoebe A. Cirio, M.S.W., is in private practice in St. Louis. She is currently an advanced candidate in adult psychoanalysis at the St. Louis Psychoanalytic Institute and an advanced candidate in child and adolescent psychoanalysis at the New Orleans–Birmingham Psychoanalytic Center.
APsaA has reconfigured the Annual Meeting in June in accord with your recommendations. After much debate about the future of the spring meeting, the Association is experimenting with ways to meet the needs of clinicians in today's world.

The June 2014 meeting will be held at the Palmer House in Chicago, a city conveniently accessible to colleagues on both coasts. The Palmer House, a classic and comfortable venue, is close to the Chicago Art Institute and the Loop.

The meeting takes place over three days, largely over a weekend, June 6–8, making it possible for colleagues to attend to their practices and still participate in popular events like the Plenary Sessions, Two-Day Clinical Workshops, Symposia, Special Programs for Trainees, and a large portfolio of Discussion Groups with member generated content that many attendees feel are the lifeblood of our conferences. As always, the spring meeting also hosts the Ticho lecture, which features Christine Kieffer this year, followed by a reception for all conference attendees.

APsaA is looking outward. This spring's University Forum is focused on psychoanalytic engagement with the challenge of severe weather and climate changes.

NEW PROGRAMS
In addition, the June 2014 meeting inaugurates several new programs. “Psychoanalysis Here and Now,” moderated by Hans Agrawal, showcases a set of short TED-style talks by APsaA members and invited guests, followed by an evening social event. Nancy Kulish will chair our first Clinical Plenary, where Al Margulies will offer in-depth clinical reflections on a patient treated over many years, across shifts in psychoanalytic thinking and as the analyst consolidated his own expertise. Clinical Field Studies uses a two-day format to engage analysts in the work of intervening in communities.

WORKSHOPS
The Program Committee is also pleased to sponsor three workshops aimed at helping analysts build and expand their base of professional operations. Prudy Gourguechon and Jeff Lieb will conduct a workshop on helping

Kimberlyn Leary, Ph.D., M.P.A., is the chair of the APsaA Program Committee, chief psychologist at the Cambridge Health Alliance, and an associate professor at Harvard Medical School.

On-line Transference-Focused Psychotherapy (TFP) Training
Eve Caligor, MD and Frank Yeomans, MD, PhD

Transference-Focused Psychotherapy (TFP) is an evidence-based treatment for the severe personality disorders, particularly borderline and narcissistic personality disorders.

The goals of the treatment are ambitious – personality change, as reflected in modifications in patients’ defensive structure and better functioning and satisfaction in their interpersonal and work lives, as well as symptom change. Research has shown TFP to improve reflective functioning and security of attachment as well as symptoms.

TFP builds on a psychodynamic object relations model, combining it with an emphasis on the treatment frame in order to allow for a neutral stance and analytic work in patients with a tendency to act out.

The course begins with a review of the theory, principles, and techniques of TFP in light of the special clinical challenges presented by borderline and narcissistic patients. It moves on to case material. The instructors will provide the initial case material, including videotaped sessions. The course moves on to discussion of participants’ cases.

Participants will receive a certificate from the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research for the course as well as CME credits.

Meetings are weekly from September through June. The training is open to licensed Psychiatrists, PhDs, PsyDs, and Master’s level therapists who are members of a psychoanalytic institute that is part of the American Psychoanalytic Association.

Tuesdays from 4:00 to 5:00 PM EST, Conducted by videoconference, Cost $3,000.00

For an application or further information, please e-mail Judy Mars at jks2@columbia.edu

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint sponsorship of the American Psychoanalytic Association and the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research. The American Psychoanalytic Association is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American Psychoanalytic Association designates this live activity for a maximum of 50 AMA PRA category 1 credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURE INFORMATION: none of the planners and presenters of this CME program have any relevant financial information to disclose.
Lots to Do and See in Chicago in June

Kathleen Carroll

This year’s annual meeting, June 6–8, will again be held in Chicago. Home base for our meeting will be the historic Palmer House Hotel, at the corner of State and Monroe Streets, walking distance from the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis. Originally built as a wedding present from retail magnate Potter Palmer to his bride Bertha Honoré, the Palmer House has been reconstructed twice since. It is only blocks away from Millennium Park and the Art Institute.

Millennium Park, first planned in 1997, covers about 24.5 acres of parking lots and railroad tracks. An open bridge directly connects the park with the Art Institute of Chicago. You will find evidence of the Art Institute’s influence throughout the park, from the many public pieces, including “Cloud Gate,” locally referred to as the “Bean,” and an interactive multimedia fountain and tower display. The park also houses the Jay Pritzker Pavilion designed by Frank Gehry. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra frequently performs in this venue, and many Chicago residents and visitors make use of the lawn for picnics during the performance. For information on the many free and public concert events, visit the website link for the Jay Pritzker Pavilion Schedule, which will be posted on the Millennium Park page in May: http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/millennium_park.html.

If you decide to explore the Chicago Art Institute, be sure to visit the French Impressionists. The Art Institute is home to “A Sunday on the Grande Jatte” by Seurat, as well as a number of others. Many of these world-renowned paintings come from the private collection of Bertha Honoré Potter, who discovered Renoir and Monet before the rest of the world caught on (she also posed for Rodin). If you are looking for a fine dining experience, visit Terzo Piano, located in the Modern Wing. Alternatively, Café Moderno offers the perfect outdoor location for a quick bite or glass of wine in Griffin Court.

GREEK MARBLE, TIFFANY GLASS, AND PURPLE PIG

Continue your walk north along Michigan Avenue. You will pass the People’s Gas Building, a classic example of Chicago architecture, at 122 South Michigan (once the tallest building on this block). The marble in the entrance was quarried from the same source as the Parthenon in Athens. Today it houses the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis, headquartered on the 13th floor. Similar historic landmarks, including the old Chicago Public Library, share our neighborhood. The Chicago Public Library is the nation’s first and most comprehensive free municipal cultural venue, crowned by a dome made of Tiffany glass. If you would like more information concerning Chicago’s history, this building now houses the Chicago Cultural Center, which offers free information on current events in Chicago as well as free musical performances. Of the more popular performances are “Juicebox!” for children, and the “Sunday Salon,” featuring various classical music artists.

If you are more interested in Chicago’s architecture than its cultural heritage, visit the Chicago Architectural Foundation down the street at 224 S. Michigan Avenue. Enjoy walking tours of Chicago’s most famous architectural locations, such as the Modern Skyscrapers Tour, or see Frank Lloyd Wright’s homes in suburban Oak Park.

While you are touring along the landmarks on Michigan Avenue, take a shopping break. Visit Macy’s, the former Marshall Field’s building, which retains most of the original structure. Those of you traveling with children, try the Water Tower Place, home to the American Girl Place and Lego Store.

We suggest you enjoy a meal during your touring at one of the several restaurants within the Loop. The Purple Pig on North Michigan Avenue is perfect for an experimental palate. This restaurant is acclaimed for its creative “pig inspired” cuisine. For a more traditional meal, try Quartino, Italian small plates, located on North State Street. If you are feeling particularly hungry and would like to try Chicago cuisine, make a trip to the Billy Goat Tavern made famous by the iconic SNL sketch with John Belushi and Dan Ackroyd. Alternatively, a takeaway slice of Chicago’s deep dish pizza after a long day of conferences may be the best course of action.

BIKE AND BOAT TOURS

If this is not your first trip to Chicago, and you are interested in exploring new neighborhoods, consider taking a “City Bike Tour.” The “Friendly Neighborhoods Tour” or the “Bike at Night” options allow you to visit such neighborhoods as Lincoln Park or Hyde Park. If you would prefer to travel by foot, consider a walk along the river, about 10 blocks west of Millennium Park. The Riverwalk is perfect on a warm day. For a more comprehensive architectural tour along the river, take a boat tour. The boat tours allow you to explore both the Chicago River and some parts of Lake Michigan, traveling as far as Navy Pier. If short on time, you may find this the most efficient method for viewing the city.

Try an enjoyable evening in the nearby theater district, for fine dining and theatrical performances. Many Chicago residents prefer the critically acclaimed Goodman Theatre, while others like the off-Broadway productions at the Oriental Theater. During our conference, the Goodman Theatre will be performing “Ask Aunt Susan,” a comedy written by Seth Bockley. The Oriental Theater houses a permanent production of “Wicked,” and “Motown The Musical” will also be showing this June. Any of these performances will certainly be a terrific way to fill the evening and round out your Chicago experience.

We hope you enjoy your stay in the city. Please feel free to contact us with questions or recommendations for food, entertainment, and more at KC41691@gmail.com.

Kathleen Carroll, B.A., is a recent Colorado College graduate, volunteering for the current president of the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis. She manages a non-profit called “Grow” that assists college students to create peer-based mental health support groups on their campuses.
New Members
2014 National Meeting
Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York

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Deisy C. Boscan, Ph.D.
Nancy Butler, M.D.
Russell B. Carr, M.D.
Sun Ju Chung, M.D., Ph.D.
Alain Cohen, Ph.D.
Deisy C. Boscan, Ph.D.
Nancy Butler, M.D.
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Sun Ju Chung, M.D., Ph.D.
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Kristin Whiteside, Ph.D.
Micki Wierman, M.A.
David J. Williams, M.D.
Garret Wyner, Ph.D., Psy.D.
Lazaro Zayas, M.D.

ACADEMIC ASSOCIATE MEMBER
Kuan-Yu Chen, M.D.

Come to Chicago
Continued from page 24

analysts to develop a footprint as a public intellectual. This hands-on workshop will focus on the mechanics of writing letters to the editor and blog entries using psychoanalytic experience as a framework for commentary. Joining us from Peru, by way of Cambridge, Mass., Stefan Reich will engage colleagues in an interactive workshop of adaptive leadership, illuminating how to meld analytic concepts with ideas from leadership consulting to create opportunities for consulting and teaching. A third workshop, offered by Will Braun and Geralyn Lederman is oriented to strengthening the capacity of analysts to use microsites (like APsaA’s “Find an Analyst” and Psychology Today’s “Find a Therapist”) and social media to expand their practices. Each workshop will be offered twice, over the course of the June meeting, to maximize opportunities for participation.

Come to Chicago! Engage with colleagues, update your referral network, develop new skills to use your psychoanalytic knowledge, and extend your base of operations. Be part of shaping the future of psychoanalysis.

Andrew Kopelman, M.D.
Andi Lyn Kornfeld, LMFT
Hamin Lee, M.D.
Evan Leibu, M.D.
Shirley C. Malove, M.S.W.
Deborah Manegold, M.D.
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Kuan-Yu Chen, M.D.

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Must the Artist Fall in Love with Death?
Jean Cocteau’s Orphée

Lissa Weinstein
Bruce H. Sklarew, Film Column Editor

The word myths describes a spoken narrative that is altered, inevitably each time it is retold. Myth functions as a pre-text; hence its similarity to the dream. Manifest versions are communicated as written (or filmed) texts, through which we ascertain the underlying latent unconscious structures. Myth, like the Janus-faced ego, turns outward to connect with society, as well as the interior.

A most generative archetype, the legend of Orpheus bears multiple meanings as particular strands are altered to fit individual expressive needs and shifting historical contexts—a story of undying love, a metaphor for the pain of relinquishing an absent object, a depiction of the permeable boundary between our world and death, a meditation on the creative process.

In Orphée, we find Cocteau’s lifelong preoccupation with the myth as an expression of the artist’s search for creative rejuvenation through the “beyond”; Orpheus, poet and priest who, Christ-like, returns from the dead.

Conceived in the traumatic aftermath of occupation during WWII, the film locates its underworld in the bombed out ruins of St. Cyr, exploring the nature of Eros in a world permeated by death and destruction.

By transforming Death into a character rather than an abstract concept, Cocteau allows us to observe the usually silent permutations of Thanatos. By altering the affective heart of the myth so that the relationship between Orpheus and Death is central, Cocteau is able to study the transformation of loss into more integrated states of selfhood, the route from narcissism to generativity, the role of subliminatory outlets in binding the death instinct and the journey into the unconscious as a necessary prerequisite to creativity.

Cocteau’s Orpheus, a staid bourgeois poet whose inspiration failed him, is scorned by the avant-garde, who prefer the inscrutable verses of the young Cegeste. Orpheus first glimpses the coldly elegant princess, “Death,” through a window in the Café des Poets. Inexplicably drawn to her, he obeys when she summons him to her Rolls Royce after the transcribed poems that Orpheus sends the princess’s Rolls Royce, betraying both his wish to be near her and to own the phrases of the poems that stream from the radio in exact repetitions, their invariance representing the intrusion of death’s stasis into language. Unbeknownst to Orpheus, Death comes to his bedroom nightly to watch him sleep.

The landscape, shot using negative film, proposes death as an inverse reality, a realm of dark reflections. Heurtebise, Death’s chauffeur, is filmed from the back seat, as he looks into his rearview mirror. The theme of reflections and reversibility continues at Death’s chateau; Death’s henchman carry Cegeste upstairs, the scene first shot from below with Orpheus looking up and then with Orpheus looking down from the top of the stairs. The surfeit of doorways, portals, and stairs and the numerous camera angles from which they are filmed serve to present the descent into Hades as a journey into the labyrinth.

The dead Cegeste rises as if alive to be initiated into the “other world,” leaving Orpheus to wonder whether what he sees is dream or reality. Orpheus observes as Death, her henchman and Cegeste exit through the mirror, the door through which Death comes and goes. Orpheus faints, awakening next to a puddle that reflects his image and is driven home by Heurtebise.

Cocteau’s Orpheus, close to Narcissus, shows little interest in devoted, bourgeois Eurydice, who tries unsuccessfully to tell him she is pregnant. Instead, Orpheus is enamored of the poems that stream from the radio in the princess’s Rolls Royce, betraying both his wish to be near her and to own the phrases he believes will “astonish” the bohemians. The poems emerge from the other world in exact repetitions, their invariance representing the intrusion of death’s stasis into language. Unbeknownst to Orpheus, Death comes to his bedroom nightly to watch him sleep.

The transcribed poems that Orpheus sends to his editor turn out to have been written by the dead Cegeste. The police call Orpheus into the city for questioning. The filmed city is reminiscent of a De Chirico painting, its ominous arches offering passage into the unknown. Spotting the elusive princess, Orpheus pursues her as she moves in and out of the dark solitude; she remains an obscure object of desire. The labyrinthine streets anticipate the descents to the underworld reminding us that death penetrates the “upper” world, always present even when hidden by noisy Eros.

Continued on page 28
Jean Cocteau’s Orphée
Continued from page 27

Eurydice’s death will similarly involve passages through doors and portals. Heurtebise, seeing Eurydice run down by Death’s cyclists, carries her to her bedroom. The princess enters through the mirror followed by Cegeste, who keeps Orpheus from interfering by transmitting repetitive nonsensical “poetry.” Heurtebise, aware of Death’s fascination with Orpheus, accuses the princess of having killed Eurydice in order to have him for herself. In an all-too-human rage at Heurtebise’s accusation, Death loses her ability to pass smoothly through the mirror, leaving it shattered on her return to the underworld. Heurtebise offers to accompany Orpheus into the underworld to retrieve Eurydice, aware that Orpheus is more enamored of Death than his wife.

Passing through the mirror, the two men careen past shattered doorways, burnt out walls, and half-window jambs to find Death before a harsh tribunal, on trial for her transgression of arranging Eurydice’s death without “orders.” The judgment: Orpheus can leave with Eurydice provided he does not look back or tell what he has seen. Orpheus wants only to be with Death, who has confessed her love for him to the judges.

After Orpheus and Eurydice return to the upper world, the scene is comical, more like the French slang for a bored lover (he can’t stand to look at her anymore) than eternal love. Tormented Eurydice arranges her own death; Orpheus’s famous look back takes place in the car’s rear view mirror. When the bohemians who blame him for Cegeste’s disappearance attack, Orpheus submits, welcoming his fate. He descends again to the underworld, where the Princess awaits. Transformed by desire, she is now subject to the painful affect of longing. Yet Death conspires to undo what has taken place. With Heurtebise’s help, she “labors” to strangle Orpheus; her pained ecstatic expression suggests birth. Now, their love will exist only in the poetry he will create—their child. Orpheus’s death in the underworld signals his return to life. Orpheus and Eurydice awaken as from a midsummer night’s dream, in what appears to be a parody of heavenly ecstasy while Heurtebise and Death will face an even deeper circle of hell where unimaginable torments await.

CIPS - NAPsaC CONFERENCE

TRAUMA, DESTRUCTION AND TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL

MAY 16 - 18, 2014 Ritz-Carlton Battery Park, NYC

The CIPS Board is delighted to announce a co-sponsored Biennial Clinical Conference with NAPsaC, our North American Regional Association. The conference opens on Friday afternoon with a distinguished panel, featuring Maxine Anderson, Fred Busch, Michael Diamond and Robert Pyles. Alexandra Billinghurst, Vice President of the IPA, will serve as moderator.

The Clinical Conference is unique in that it focuses entirely on group process. No papers are presented at the clinical conference. Participants will meet in small groups and take turns presenting their material related to the theme of this year’s conference. At the Plenary Session on Sunday, each facilitator will summarize their groups’ experience to the larger conference group. Discussion of the theme co-mingles with comments about the conference experience. This year’s theme of “Trauma and Transformative Potential” will be further highlighted by the setting for the weekend at the Ritz Battery Park, and a tour of the 9/11 Memorial Site.
Death undergoes the more profound transformation from narcissism to generativity. Her chilling demeanor vanished, she sacrifices herself for Orpheus’s immortality. Like timeless Eros, she believes their love has always existed; Orpheus’s description of her as “burning like ice” is a well-known representation of desire from Sophocles. Thus Cocteau reaffirms the inextricable tie of Thanatos and Eros in creativity.

Film offered Cocteau the ideal medium to examine death, creativity, and the unknown. In film, people are both present and absent, a parallel to the underworld where the dead exist in itinerant forms while their immobile remains are buried. Film’s technological tricks allowed him to represent the reversibility of time; vanishings by fade-out and materialization by fade-in became visual metaphors for reversing death. Montage worked to depict the non-sequential, dreamlike narrative. Opposites form the core of the film: presence and absence, contrasts of light and dark, and the doorways that mark the boundaries between zones of life and death. These images form the visual poetry of the film, superior to dialogue in decoding its multiple levels of meaning and reference. The interpenetration of opposites drives the narrative structure—itself constructed out of fragments that do not always cohere.

Although Orphée is autobiographical, it captures much of the beauty of the original myth. Like Orphée, Cocteau struggled with his place in French literature. His mixing of modern context with mythical allusions created a film both real and supernatural, mimicking the confrontation of ordinary life with the invisible mysteries that feed creativity. While its overt form is a thriller, a French gangster movie melded with a war/resistance drama, it is an immortal thriller with every image a condensation. Death’s Rolls Royce is simultaneously a conveyance across the River Styx; her headquarters in the ruins of St. Cyr condense Hades and the hell of German occupation. Death’s “orders” from unknown superiors mimic the pyramidal structure of the resistance, while expressing the inherent unknowability of the drive. The tribunals copy the Communist purges after France’s liberation while still representing the judgmental punishing superego.

Both the underworld and the creative, generative aspects unconscious share an absence of time and distance, lack “whys and reasons,” and equate opposites. Both are storehouses of memory and repetition. It is Cocteau’s genius to have shown us the interpenetration of the underworld, with its lost inhabitants mired in delusion and invariant repetitions, and the “heavenly” ending scene, to suggest that the mirror that births the self also opens the portal of death. His magnificent images of paradox remain long after the dialogue fades from memory.
Can We Survive?
Continued from page 5

They have gone from grave states to renewed enthusiasm reflected in sizable new classes after years of drought. But of concern, about one-third of our institutes are vulnerable to very uncertain futures. Many of these have a “lost generation” of members who have not pursued certification or training analyst careers.

We have also noticed important trends. Our youngest institutes often are our smallest and tend to be among the most vulnerable. Institutes more substantially integrated into university and medical centers tend to be in the healthiest category. Institutes with internal acrimony or which have faced trauma tend to struggle, especially without assistance. Importantly, despite the challenges we are facing, the national numbers of matriculating candidates are and have been stable during the last 10 years.

THE ROLE OF STANDARDS IN OUR PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL CRISIS

In the face of threat groups tend to battle, either against the external threat or among each other. It is not coincidence that our conflicts over standards crescendo as our external threats mount. There is always a fantasy in groups that if Jonah can be found and thrown overboard, the seas will calm. In the context of clamor by some that certification, the training analyst system, and our standards are to blame and against the backdrop of serious questions about the place of educational functions in our organization, the Board on Professional Standards invited an expert on professional organization structures, Dr. Ulric Chung, to inform us on these matters. Chung is not a clinician or attorney but is nationally recognized for his knowledge of professional organizational structures. His goal was to impart information relevant to the serious questions we face and not to sway us one way or the other. He was aware that a primary objective of APsA’s Strategic Plan is to “move to a governance structure, operations, and policy and procedures consistent with model professional association best practices.” While his presentation and the discussion that followed are too lengthy to include in its entirety, we have highlighted below key points he made relevant to our professional and organizational crisis:

1. A certificate of graduation is not certification, and would carry no external credibility as such.
2. Certification is a credential that should be promoted in our representation of ourselves to the public and other professions, and we have undercut ourselves as a profession by not doing so. He knows of no profession that does not have certification.
3. Although accrediting agencies and credentialing bodies should have procedures for taking and considering input from practitioners and the public, federal rules and non-governmental best practices include firewalls to prevent the governing boards of professional/trade associations from having undue influence that might jeopardize the independence of accrediting agencies and credentialing bodies in making decisions in the public interest.
4. Modern professional organization structures demand that credentialing and accrediting bodies be firewalled for autonomy if they remain a part of the membership organization or are fully externalized into three organizations: credentialing, accrediting and membership. The latter model has been the expectation of the Department of Education since October 1991.
5. Multiple standards and levels of credentialing and accreditation detract from any profession’s ability to credibly and effectively advocate for that profession to the public, government, licensing boards, insurance industry, and modern health care table. In a later discussion, Chung stated, “You have to know who you are to represent yourself or advocate...if you are anyone you are no one.”
6. Every group believes they are different enough for these modern expectations to not apply to them.
7. The reason for separating education and membership functions is for the very circumstances we find ourselves in. The pressure to lower standards in order to recruit more student and graduate members leads to a slow erosion of quality. This erosion is increasingly visible to outsiders. The profession becomes less rigorous and less credible to others.

After an inquiry from one of our members as to why we are bothering with these issues when our profession is in such crisis, the question was reframed to Chung as “What would happen to us if we ‘took our hands off the wheel’ and relinquished credible credentialing and accreditation functions?” His response was “You will die as a profession.” He elaborated that successful professions include a rigorous, standardized education system and a credentialing process to give a final stamp of approval on the graduate. The dilution of credentialing and accrediting becomes part of a larger process eroding the general significance of evaluation and standards of competence. The difficult work of articulating, assessing and ensuring levels of competence gives way to increasingly diffuse, unformulated and unexamined goals for professional skills, conduct and identity. Chung pointed out that while every professional group believes that it is an exception, that it does not need to demonstrate that it has high standards, when that task is ignored, the group begins to operate at lower and lower levels of functioning, and ultimately fails to distinguish itself from other treatments and professions.

CONCLUSION

Chung’s words are sobering. We can destroy the messenger or listen and think carefully. If we continue to fight each other within our organization any victory will be pyrrhic. Alternatively we can work together to thoughtfully consider how in these perilous times we can adapt while still preserving the knowledge and skills that define our profession and by doing so, survive as a credible profession in the modern era.
The prediction of the Pyles brothers has largely come to pass as it has become clear that the HIPAA Privacy Rule was no longer about patient privacy but had morphed into a rule about unconsented disclosures. True, HIPAA technically protected patient privacy in certain respects, but while the front door was bolted tightly, the back door was left ajar, and what was intended to be the “floor” of privacy protection for patients has become the “ceiling.” Such is the case in Hawaii, where pharmaceutical companies, insurance companies, and employers pressured legislators to forgo stronger state laws in lieu of less restrictive HIPAA regulations.

Since HIPAA went into effect, patient privacy has continued to be degraded. In Sorrell v. IMS Health Inc. (2010), the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit concluded that a Vermont law banning data mining companies from selling prescription information to pharmaceutical companies was unconstitutional. This decision was appealed to the United States Supreme Court in 2011 by the state of Vermont, but the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the First Circuit and agreed that the Vermont law limited the right to free speech of the data mining companies, arguing that since the government already had access to this information for purposes of research, industry should have similar access.

This begs the question about why the government should have access to such data to conduct research without patient consent and is contrary to the Nuremberg Code, which largely forms the basis of the Code of Federal Regulations issued by HHS to govern federally funded human subject research. Here the research interests of the government and the commercial interest of data mining companies trump the right of patients.

Consequent to this decision, in January of this year one such data mining company, IMS Health Holdings, announced it would begin selling stock on the New York Stock Exchange. It along with other listed corporations are deriving significant revenue from the sale of personal health data to over 5,000 clients.

Our own Deborah Peel of Patient Privacy Rights stated in her blog, “All purchases and subsequent sales of personal health records are hidden from patients.” She stated further, “Despite claims that the data sold is ‘anonymous,’ computer science has long established that re-identification is easy.”

IMS Health Holdings boasted, “We have one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of health care information in the world, spanning sales, prescription and promotional data, medical claims, electronic medical records and social media. Our scaled and growing data set, containing over 10 petabytes of unique data, includes over 85 percent of the world’s prescriptions by sales revenue and approximately 400 million comprehensive, longitudinal, anonymous patient records.” Such data mining companies profit from information derived from patients without their knowledge and without compensating them, which should be considered a form of confiscation and a violation of the sovereign rights of patients and clinicians.

Again, anonymity is a term that had more meaning before the computer age.

EXCHANGES EXEMPTED FROM HIPAA

The inevitable distrust of patients when they realize that their personal health information is being sold in the marketplace will be exacerbated when they learn that the federal health insurance exchanges are not subject to the suboptimal privacy protections of HIPAA, and if there is a breach of medical records on federal exchanges, patients would not be notified unless “harm” could be demonstrated.

In an effort to restore trust in the transformed health care system, Jim Pyles has written a letter to Congressman Joe Pitts (R-PA) in behalf of APsaA supporting the Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act of 2014 that would require notification of patients in the event of breaches of personally identifiable information through federal exchanges. That bill has already passed in the House of Representatives and is expected to pass in the Senate.

Sixty million Americans have had their personal health information breached since 2005, 21 million since September 2009. We are certain that there will be breaches in the exchanges. When those breaches occur, it will be in the backdrop of wider societal concerns about the loss of privacy in relation to corporations and the government, affording an opportunity for CGRI to reintroduce the Patients’ Bill of Rights. Our aim is to reinforce trust in health care by recognizing sovereignty of patients to contract freely with clinicians without sacrificing privacy.
APsAA
American Psychoanalytic Association

309 East 49th Street
New York, New York 10017

103rd Annual Meeting
Palmer House Hilton | Chicago

Save The Date: June 6-8, 2014