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**The Call for Papers for Symposium 27 is on page 25.**

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# SOCIAL WORK WITH GROUPS NEWSLETTER



Current News and Cumulative Reference  
A Report to the Membership  
ISSN 1084-6816

Advocacy and Action in Support of Group Work Practice, Education, Research, and Publication. Enhancing the Quality of Group Life throughout the World.  
Published at the University of Akron School of Social Work by the  
Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups, Inc., An International Professional Organization.

Vol. 20, #3, Issue #55

January 2005

## THE PRESIDENT'S PEN A PARTIAL VIEW

by Paul Abels  
**THE WEIGHT  
OF THE WORLD**

I am writing this during the period referred to as the "Holiday Season", to be more specific, Christmas night. By the time you to read this, the short period of time dedicated to "Peace on earth, good will to men"\* will have passed. Hopefully, we will never have such a week again. The terror in Iraq this past week saw the death of many and the grief and mourning of thousands more, and more to come. The survivors from the wounds and the grief, no matter what their native lands, sorely need all the support they can get. Hopefully, all will have the medical services to mend the physical wounds, and some will find help for the mental wounds, but not nearly in the numbers needed. Some may come from lands in which social work is a paragraph in a book, but, even here in the U.S., we will need to work hard to help those in need get services that are continually under-funded.

*Continued on page 2, President's Pen  
President's Pen, continued from page 1*

At this point I feel like the weight of

## IN MEMORIAM TOBY BERMAN-ROSSI

September 30, 2004  
by Tim Kelly

When I was asked to write a memorial for Toby for the *Newsletter*, I reluctantly said yes. My reluctance was due to the grief I felt at losing someone so important to me and the challenge of writing something that would be an adequate memorial for her. To start, I made a list of adjectives to describe her: supportive, demanding, tenacious, frightening, outspoken, visionary, complex, loving, giving, brilliant, challenging, funny, gentle, strong, hard, forgiving, loyal, stubborn, committed, influential. The list could go on and on and would contain many contradictions. I suppose the description of all truly great and influential people would be fraught with such contradictions. But, how in the world could I make sense of it all, and would my personal reflection be meaningful in any way to those who knew her or to those who did not know her?

Toby and I met during my interview for an academic position at Barry Univer-  
*Continued on page 8, Berman-Rossi*

## SYMPOSIUM 2004 - Michigan Recaps and Bids a Fond Farewell

The Michigan Chapter is happy to report on the success of Symposium 2004 - the 26th Annual International Symposium! The structure, content and process of the Symposium were designed to reflect its theme: "Group Work Reaching Across Boundaries: Disciplines, Seasons of Life, Practice Settings, Cultures and Nations."

Nearly 300 people gathered in Detroit over the weekend of October 21-24 to learn from each other, network, and discover the exciting work being done with groups in southeast Michigan and beyond. Of these 115 were first-time attendees, including nearly thirty people *Continued on page 12, Symposium 2004  
Symposium 2004, continued from page 1*

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### CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE

In the USA, AASWG is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, contributions to which are deductible as allowed by law. AASWG is incorporated as a not-for-profit charitable organization in the State of New York. Chapters and affiliates outside of the USA are similarly incorporated in their respective countries.

the world is on my shoulders, perhaps on yours as well. I recall other lines from Longfellow's carol, words that are easily echoed today, "There is no peace on earth I said, For hate is strong and mocks the song of Peace on earth good will to men". As a group worker for fifty years, and a social worker in the army, working in a psychiatric setting, I have familiarity with trying to offer service to those faced with the prospects and experience of war. A little more than a decade later I as did many others saw the disillusionment of the Viet Nam Veterans and their ordeals both in battle and upon their return home. I recall teaching a class in which I compared articles discussing service to those veterans. In one the vet was treated individually and diagnosed as having "Neurotic Guilt," the other article talked of helping the veterans in groups to protest and take action to show their opposition to the war. The sharing of experiences and the support, and the actions taken by these groups illustrated the difference between helping that is empowering, recognizing the problem is the problem, as contrasted to helping that isolates the person as the problem.^ In that sense group work carries out a unique aspect of social work. I believe that group work is more than group work, in that it serves as a force for democratic progress and social change beyond its mental health contributions. It is that vision and subsequent actions that distinguishes us and strengthens us, but it also "marginalizes" us in our profession which honors individual treatment (with an occasional cavalier bow to policy change and research.)

Social group work has an important role to play in actively serving those

suffering the ravages of this war. Now is the time to start to work to insure that services of all kinds shall be available for veterans, their families, and to prod those in power to expand services and oppose cuts to existing services that are at risk as social service trade-offs are being politically negotiated. Additionally, there is the continuing, perhaps growing disintegration of our civic society that hatred, financial inequalities, and a lack of political and social capital promulgate. Robert Putnam has pointed out the dangers of this decaying civic discourse in his book *Bowling Alone*.^^ The veterans' needs and our society's as well will not be met by psychiatric or mental health services alone but will call for social change support and leadership. We can make a major contribution if we make ourselves heard and illustrate our worth.

Of course, these are my own views, and you should not take them at face. When I started writing these "President's Pen" notes about a year ago, I put as a new title "A Partial View". (Change is slow and at least up to the last issue it bore both titles.) I have been asked what I meant by partial view. There are two meanings, related, but historically different. My first idea was to reflect a historic meaning in my own life, particularly when my wife and I could afford seats with a "partial view" which might be anything from sitting behind a pillar to sitting in extreme sections where only half a stage could be seen. One missed a lot and filled in a lot. This partial view is not unique to theaters as we often make decisions based on partial views, "What the thinker thinks, the finder will find" is a good maxim for researchers to bear in mind. It is at the root of group work with branches leading to member involvement, open discussion and decision-making. Group members offer a variety of partial views, as does the worker, each helps the group gain a more complete view, the inquiry and sharing can lead to discovery. (Remember the story of the blind men and the elephant).

Perhaps the weight of the world became heavier as you read this paper and are reminded of other catastrophic disasters, but the "weight" can also be the result of a more individual or family

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Regarding memberships and for changes of address contact Stacy Barrentine, AASWG Membership Service, P.O. Box 151643, Alexandria, VA 22315-9998, 703-971-6715, fax 703-922-9570 membership@aswg.org. Send changes of address for *Haworth's Social Work with Groups Journal* directly to the publisher.

For questions about credit charges or checks, please contact Stacy Barrentine at the AASWG Membership Service directly rather than the credit card company. Credit charges are cleared through Stacy Barrentine Event and Convention Services.

AASWG, Inc., Raymie W. Wayne, General Secretary, 30 North Canton Road, West Simsbury, CT 06092-2000, 866-90-AASWG (22794), phone/fax 561-515-7089, generalsecretary@aswg.org.

AASWG Home Page: <http://www.aswg.org>.

Discussion Group: Send e-mail message to [listserv@listserv.barry.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.barry.edu). In body of message type **subscribe groupwork-aaswg your first name your last name**. Tim Kelly, administrator: [tim.kelly@gcal.ac.uk](mailto:tim.kelly@gcal.ac.uk).

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The AASWG logo is by artist John Morrell, Rochester, New York, and is used with permission. It is titled "Life Is Sharing the Same Park Bench." The original may be seen as a wall mural on the building on the northeast corner of East Ninth Street and Rockwell Avenue in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. Our use of it as a logo recognizes and celebrates our diversity, our commitment to diversity, and our bringing our diverse peoples together.

Personal and institutional materials for the Group



**CANDIDATES SOUGHT FOR 2005 ELECTIONS**

The Nominating Committee is seeking names of potential nominees for the 2005 Elections. Three At Large Board Member positions will need to be filled. The Committee started its work at the Symposium in October and will need to finish in the next few months.

For information about requirements for being an At Large Board Member and to send names, brief biographical and supportive statements, contact either Martin L. Birnbaum, 372 Central Park West, 14M, New York, NY 10025, 212-222-9771, 212-960-0831, fax 212-960-0822, mbirnba@ymail.yu.edu, or Ellen Sue Mesbur, 1 Benvenuto Place, #522, Toronto, Ontario M4V 2L1, esmesbur@sympatico.ca and esmesbur@renison\waterloo.ca.

Life is a do-it-yourself activity - with others. That's mutual aid!

**ARTICLE OF THE MONTH AT AASWG.ORG**

Each month a new article from Social Work with Groups Journal is posted to the AASWG web site at [www.aaswg.org/members](http://www.aaswg.org/members).

Work Archives should be sent to David J. Klaassen, Director, Social Welfare History Archives, 321 Andersen Library, 222 21st Avenue South, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, 612-624-4377, e-mail [dklaa@tc.umn.edu](mailto:dklaa@tc.umn.edu), <http://archon.lib.edu/swaha.htm>. Shipping will be reimbursed.

Manuscripts and letters sent to the editors may be published without further communication and will not necessarily otherwise be acknowledged. Letters and reports may be edited.

Letters, reports, and signed articles reflect the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions of AASWG, Inc.

The deadline editorial and advertising copy for the next issue, May 2005, is April 15, 2005. The following issue will be August 2005 with a copy deadline of July 15.

**AASWG OFFICERS**

Paul A. Abels, President, Costa Mesa, California  
 Janice L. Andrews-Schenk, Vice President, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 Timothy B. Kelly, Secretary, Glasgow, Scotland  
 Michael H. Phillips, Treasurer, Brooklyn, New York  
 Raymie H. Wayne, General Secretary, West Simsbury, Connecticut

*Continued on page 3, President's Pen  
 President's Pen, continued from page 2*

tragedy, and often their actions can help us find a remedy that lessens our own load. An attempt to deal with that "weight" that somehow always amazes me as to its selflessness and effectiveness is illustrated by the actions of Peter and Linda Biehl. Their daughter, Amy Elizabeth Biehl, was a young Fullbright Scholar and a volunteer working with Nelson Mandela's party and with poor black women in a settlement in South Africa in the early 1990's just as the fight for freedom reached its goals. Some young black men, returning from a political rally, chanting anti-white slogans killed her as she drove some women home from a meeting. The young men were caught and imprisoned. Following Amy's death, her family started a foundation in South Africa bearing her name and supporting programs and a community center.

During the South African reconciliation period Amy's parents forgave the young men who had participated in her death. This was a requirement if they were to be released from prison. One of the men now works for the foundation. (Peter died this past year). The Biehls' outstanding ability to surpass their fears, their hatred, and to contain their sorrow, so that good could grow from evil has been an important tonic, to be taken not as "directed" but as a "balm" that heals the troubled soul and a necessity for survival.

Working for a more just society is a way to deal with the "weight of the world". If there is a better reason for social group work to exist, I don't know what it is. We are yet but a small band of sisters and brothers who share with others the important task of healing the world, or as Longfellow concludes:

The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
 With Peace on earth good will to men.

\* From a poem/carol written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow during the American Civil War.

^ Those interested in the references for these two articles should contact this author.

^^ Putnam, R. D., (2000). *Bowling Alone*. NY: Simon and Schuster.

The Weight of the World

**2005 DUES PAYABLE NOW**

Renewal notices for 2005 dues were mailed to all members in mid-December. We know that many members have already renewed. If you are one of those who has not done so yet, it would really help AASWG if you would hunt down your renewal notice or use the membership form in this issue and send it in as soon as possible. This will save significant time, money, and organizational energy which can be devoted to our primary purposes of promoting group work practice, education, research, and publication.

Dues should be sent to the AASWG Membership Service, P.O. Box 151643, Alexandria, VA 22315-9998 USA. Checks and credit cards will be cleared in the name of "Stacy Barrentine Event and Conference Services". Payment is to be made in US dollars by check, money order, or one of these four credit cards - VISA, MasterCard, Discover Card, or AMEX or their affiliates in other countries.

Membership is on a calendar year basis. Unless you were a new member in the second half of 2004 and not a presenter at the Boston Symposium, your membership must be renewed for 2005. (Symposia presenters' dues are due June 15 each year and, therefore, are valid for that current year only.)

Remember also to renew your subscription to *Social Work with Groups Journal*. (Or if you have not been a subscriber, now is a good time to start your subscription.) AASWG discount rate subscriptions must be paid through the AASWG Membership Service.

Trust us. If you received a renewal notice, it is time to pay your 2005 dues.

Our budget is small. But we need the income from dues to pay for those services and goods which can not be contributed and which help keep AASWG growing in importance and effectiveness in furthering group work throughout the world.

We look forward to receiving your 2005 membership renewal soon.

(Continued):

As this went for printing, a headline read:

Tsunami Death Toll Hits 60,000



### ABOUT OUR SWwGN FORMAT

In order to assist writers for *SWwGN*, we have prepared a short statement about our formatting and procedures and posted it on our web site, [www.aaswg.org](http://www.aaswg.org).

We cover spelling, names, content, etc., in the ways we present these which may differ from standard procedures. Because we forward all copy to our desk top editing service in "text", we do not need much in the way of standard formatting. That makes it easier for you to write and for us to forward articles as part of the main e-mail memo. Thanks. John H. Ramey, Editor

### ADVERTISE IN SWwGN

For promoting conferences, books, or workshops, searching for staff, celebrating events, memorializing, honoring, or recognizing colleagues and friends, place a display or classified ad in the May issue of *SWwGN*.

Full page \$400; half page \$250; quarter page \$135; classified \$5 per line; \$20 minimum. For more information check the AASWG Web Site, [www.aaswg.org](http://www.aaswg.org) or contact the Editor.

### SYMPOSIA PLANNING COMMITTEE

At the October Board meeting in Detroit the Board approved a motion brought by the Symposia Planning Committee to streamline the symposia planning process. For twenty-six years local planning groups have done the bulk of the work required for putting on symposia. As any previous committee can report, putting on a symposium is a labor intensive endeavor with a steep learning curve.

In future years the Symposia Site Planning Committee will provide much more support and take responsibility for many of the labor intensive tasks that essentially remain unchanged from year to year. This will allow local groups to focus their energies on more of the programmatic tasks that make each symposium unique.

So, if any local group thought of hosting a symposium in the past but decided they could not manage such an overwhelming task, please reconsider. Also, if any members would like to get involved in Symposia planning process, please contact Tim Kelly at [tim.kelly@gcal.ac.uk](mailto:tim.kelly@gcal.ac.uk).

The 2005 Symposium is being hosted by the Minnesota Chapter, and they are putting together an exciting and fun-filled event in the Twin Cities.

The 2006 Symposium will be held in San Diego. You can look forward to a hotel on the beach!

The 2007 Symposium site has not yet been selected. As the Council on Social Work Education and the Baccalaureate Program Directors are going to combine their conferences and hold them in October beginning that year, we will be looking at possibly moving the dates of our Symposium.

### PRACTICE AND TEACHING MATERIALS FROM AASWG

*Standards for Social Work Practice with Groups*. Single copies are free. Multiple copies \$.50 each plus s&h. May also be copied from AASWG's web page [www.aaswg.org](http://www.aaswg.org). Copies may be made for professional and educational uses under specific conditions. Contact AASWG for details. Now is the time to obtain needed copies for 2005 courses and workshops.

*Bibliography on Group Work*, third edition. Includes a listing of books by major subjects. Supplements are up-to-date through the date purchased. Keep your copy current by adding the "New Books" reported in each issue of *SWwGN*. US\$7 plus \$2 s&h in USA, \$3 s&h outside USA.

*Reflections on Group Work*. A video curriculum to teach social work with groups. Produced by Mel L. Goldstein. Two VCR cassettes and Instructor's Manual. Eight half-hour sessions. Suitable for both BSW and MSW group work courses. Immediate shipment. US\$100 including s&h. Next day delivery \$5 extra.

*Syllabus for a Training Program for Leadership of Youth Groups, Second Edition*, edited by Ruby B. Pernell. US\$20 plus s&h \$2 USA, \$3 Canada, \$4 elsewhere. Order from Northeast Ohio Chapter AASWG, c/o John H. Ramey, 463 Moreley Avenue, Akron, OH 44320-2022.

*Social Work with Groups: Journal of Community and Clinical Practice*. Available at fifty percent discount to members with new or renewal memberships or by calling the Membership Office. Individual subscriptions \$37.50 per year in USA, US \$50.63 (plus GST) in Canada, US\$54.38 elsewhere. (Regularly \$75 in USA.) Institutional subscriptions also at AASWG member discount rates of \$87.50 USA, US \$118.13 (plus GST) Canada, US\$126.88 elsewhere. New subscriptions now will start with Volume 27. Haworth should be contacted directly for changes of address and for purchase of group work books at the AASWG 50% discount rate.

**Help build AASWG.  
Recruit  
a new member today.**

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Past General Secretary and Editor, *Social Work with Groups Newsletter*, **John H. Ramey**, 463 Moreley Avenue, Akron, OH 44320-2022. 800-807-0793 (USA and Canada), 330-836-0793 (elsewhere and local), fax 330-836-2136, [editor@aaswg.org](mailto:editor@aaswg.org).

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Chair, Endowment, **Carolyn Knight**, School of Social Work, University of Maryland Baltimore County, 1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, Maryland 21250-0001. 410-455-2016, fax 410-455-2974, [cknight@umbc.edu](mailto:cknight@umbc.edu).

**Groups R Us**



## KELLY AT GERMAN CHAPTER

At the 2001 Symposium on Social Work with Groups held in Akron, Ohio, Jürgen Kalcher presented a paper entitled "Social Group Work in Germany: An American Import and Its Historical Development". This important paper was recently published in the Proceedings of that Symposium, and it highlights how group workers were instrumental in developing democratic principles within Germany after World War II. Sixty years later the seeds that were planted by group workers are in full bloom and can be seen in the German Chapter.

As I participated in the Chapter's annual meeting in December 2004 I could not help but marvel at the strength, vitality, and the democracy in action within this chapter.

The Chapter's annual membership meeting begins on a Friday afternoon with social time and an educational workshop. That evening the first business meeting is held where the Board presents reports and issues that must be decided upon by the membership. No decisions are made at this meeting as it is designed to give information, explore the issues, and give members a chance to have informed discussions with each other over the weekend. Of course, the German Chapter manages to find ways to pepper the serious business with a few songs and comedic hysterics. Decisions are then made at the business meeting held on Sunday morning. This structure allows for maximum member participation in the decisions that impact the German Chapter. Of particular interest to me were their discussions relating to the international nature of AASWG and what the German Chapter could do to ensure the survival of AASWG. The Chapter currently makes up more than ten percent of the overall AASWG membership, and they are committed to keeping AASWG and group work values alive. The Chapter is also committed to making AASWG a truly international association, and they have begun to explore the possibility of hosting the AASWG symposium in Germany. Issues of language, differing symposia cultures, finances, and professional needs will be important items to be addressed, but with the energy, creativity, and commitment of the Chapter, these issues

## SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE

Subscriptions to *SWwGN* are available for agencies, schools and libraries for only \$15 per year in the US and Canada or \$20 elsewhere. Be sure that *SWwGN* with its current news and cumulative reference is part of your library's permanent collection. Contact John H. Ramey, Editor, 800-807-0793 or [editor@aswg.org](mailto:editor@aswg.org). The subscription form may also be accessed at AASWG's Web Site, [www.aswg.org](http://www.aswg.org).

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will undoubtedly be addressed.

So, look forward to the International Symposium being held out of North America sometime in the future.

Between the two business meetings the Chapter holds several blocks of workshops. All of the workshops involved the use of creative programmed activity, and active learning seems to be a central element in their group work. One workshop involved sub-groups drawing a life sized group worker to demonstrate what makes a group worker. Not only was it good fun, but the group work value base was illustrated. Another workshop involved small group work, large group discussion, and even a clip from Monty Python's "The Life of Brian" used to make an important point!

One of the highlights of the weekend is the group work cabaret and party. The cabaret is a fun-filled singing and dancing spoof on chapter activity, leadership, and history. Political commentary finds its way in as well. The party and dance afterwards goes on until the wee hours of the morning.

Being with the German Chapter gave me incredible hope for the future of AASWG and the importance of our international mission. The members were all very welcoming and gracious and, like good group workers, knew how to make an "outsider" feel like part of the group. The group work values and methods that were imported sixty years ago have taken root and are flourishing with a distinctive German flavor. I cannot wait to go back to next year's meeting, and I think I will learn some German before then!

## ONWARD TO THE SHELTER POINT HOTEL IN 2006

Late breaking news! The San Diego Symposium in 2006 will be at the Shelter Point Hotel. Plan now to attend!

## THE GENERAL SECRETARY REPORTS

A lot is happening in the AASWG world. There is a buzz of excitement surrounding several new AASWG products and projects. Let me fill you in.

### New Products

The AASWG Membership Committee has created two recruitment tools that are available to you. We have a new membership brochure (very similar to the renewal notice that you should have just received, but printed on a glossy paper). Brochures are available upon request. We have also created a power point presentation that can be used to introduce AASWG to potential members at events or in school settings. The presentation is available at [www.aswg.org](http://www.aswg.org) and can be modified to meet your needs.

Of course our usual standbys are still available. Please be in touch if you would like a *Membership Directory*, *Group Work Standards* or the *Bibliography* compiled by John Ramey.

### New Projects

Several new projects have captured the attention of the AASWG leadership. We are interested in creating a new group work video (see ad elsewhere this newsletter). The current video series, "Reflections on Group Work", is a popular seller and leads us to believe that there is a market for additional audio visual aids.

We are also investigating opportunities to receive a NIDA grant to create a special track at the Symposium. This would be an exciting addition to an already spectacular event.

An additional project in the exploration phase includes a group work certification.

This is an exciting time for AASWG. I welcome your feedback on these and other ideas and your continued membership in our association. 2005 membership renewals were mailed last month. If you have not already returned yours, I hope you will do so today. AASWG has a lot to offer you.



### CONTRIBUTIONS TO ANNUAL FUND

We very much appreciate the following contributions to the Annual Fund which have been received since August. The Annual Fund is a very important source of support for the mission of AASWG.

- In Memory of Toby Berman-Rossi from  
Janice L. Andrews-Schenk, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Stacy Barrentine, Alexandria, Virginia.
- Lucia Berman-Rossi, Brookline, Massachusetts.
- Molly Brudnick, Cleveland Heights, Ohio.
- Marcia B. Cohen, Portland, Maine.
- Marvin D. Feit, Chesapeake, Virginia.
- Holly M. Fischer-Engel, Hudson, Massachusetts.
- Linda B. Gaines, Boca Raton, Florida.
- Gail L. Harris, Miami Beach, Florida, in Memory of Toby Berman-Rossi, woman extraordinaire and social work mentor.
- Diane C. Haslett, Bangor, Maine.
- Carolyn Knight, Westminster, Maryland.
- Phyllis E. Koss, Miami, Florida.
- Joseph G. Moore, New York City.
- Danielle Nisivoccia, New York City.
- Karen L. Rutman, Cooper City, Florida.

In Memory of the Service men and women who gave their lives in Iraq, from Paul A. Abels and Sonia L. Abels, Costa Mesa, California.

In Honor of Paul Abels, from Chauncey A. Alexander, Huntington Beach, California.

In Memory of Margaret Berry, from Margaret Day Anthon, Washington, DC.

In Memory of Hyman J. Weiner, from Aaron H. Beckerman, Great Neck, New York.

In Memory of Jesse Feigelman, 10/05/70 - 07/12/02, from Beverly Feigelman, Jamaica Estates, New York.

In Memory of Jesse Feigelman, from Ellen M. Feinstein, New York City.

In Memory of Paul and Sheila Wellstone, from Janice R. Gagerman, Chico, California.

In Memory of Sumner Gill, from Jeanne A. Gill, San Diego, California.

In Honor of Paul and Sonia Abels, from Alex Gitterman, White Plains, New York.

In Honor of Solomon Green, from

Samuel M. Goldstein, Bellmore, New York.

In Honor of Jim Garland, from Michael D. Greenstein, West Newton, Massachusetts.

In Honor of Ruth Middleman, from Alison H. Johnson, Louisville, Kentucky.

In Memory of Margaret Berry, from Elizabeth Lewis, Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

In Honor of Ruth Middleman, from Cheryl A. Lieberman, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In Memory of Beulah Rothman and In Honor of Ruth Middleman, from Catherine P. Papell, Flushing, New York.

In Honor of Alex Gitterman, from Joan K. Parry, Vista, California.

In Memory of Margaret E. Berry, from John H. Ramey, Akron, Ohio.

In Memory of Beulah Rothman, from Lester Rothman, Boynton Beach, Florida

In Memory of Beulah Rothman, from Allan D. Turner, North East, Pennsylvania

In Memory of Saul Bernstein, from Joan C. Weiss and Paul H. Ephross, Rockville, Maryland

Virginia A. Abrams, New York City; Tom Caplan, Montreal, Quebec; The Children's Aid Society, New York City; Helene Ebenstein, Brooklyn, New York; Marcia B. Glenn, Kew Gardens, New York; Ruth M. Howell, Carlsbad, California; Jo Kelly, Acworth, Georgia; Iris Kupferstein, Brooklyn, New York; Irving M. Levine, New York City; Elizabeth A. Lewis, Woodstock, New York; Flavio F. Marsiglia, Tempe, Arizona; Michael H. Phillips, Brooklyn, New York; Camille P. Roman, Douglaston, New York; J. Wilson Watt, Columbia, Maryland; Mavis M. Spencer, Detroit, Michigan; Marie T. Sandoli, East Brookfield, Massachusetts; and Michael Westfall, Manchester, Connecticut.

**What have you done  
to increase our diversity today?**

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE JOHN AND CAROL RAMEY ENDOWMENT FUND

Since August the Endowment Fund has received the following generous gifts:

In Memory of Toby Berman-Rossi, from Diane C. Haslett, Bangor, Maine.

In Memory of Margaret Berry, from Elizabeth Lewis, Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

In Memory of Toby Berman-Rossi, from Ellen Sue Mesbur, Toronto, Ontario.

In Honor of John and Carol Ramey, from Jean and Ralph Ramey, Westerville, Ohio.

Joan K. Parry, Vista, California; and Bernard J. Wohl, New York City.

AASWG is very appreciative of these gifts. Only income is used, as needed, for support of the position of General Secretary. The John and Carol Ramey Endowment Fund is very important in building AASWG for the future.

Several lines on the Membership Application provide various options to contribute to the Operating Fund, to the Annual Fund, or to the John and Carol Ramey Endowment Fund. Gifts may be designated for memorials, honors, celebrations, beautiful thoughts, etc.

### IN MEMORIAM THOMAS G. RUHALA November 23, 2004 East Lansing, Michigan

Kirk Woodring of Deerfield, Massachusetts, writes, "Tom was a long time AASWG member and one who was truly passionate about his work with groups. I had the privilege of working with Tom as a co-facilitator in an HIV support group for two years before getting my MSW in 1993 at Smith. At the 1993 Symposium in New York, Tom and I presented a workshop on our work together. Since 1999, I have taught group work classes at Smith, often consulting with Tom along the way."

He was a good friend and colleague of many years. We will miss him.



### CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FOR THE OPERATING FUND

Since August generous contributions have been received from the following persons for the Operating Fund:

In Memory of Toby Berman-Rossi, from Paul A. Abels, Costa Mesa, California.

In Memory of Toby Berman-Rossi, from Janice R. Gagerman, Chico, California.

In Honor of Betty Lewis, from Norma C. Lang, Toronto, Ontario.

In Honor of Maeda Galinsky, from Andrea Meier, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

In Memory of Toby Berman-Rossi, from Debra Nelson-Gardel, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

In Memory of Gisela Konopka, from Bessie H. Pine, Brooklyn, New York.

In Memory of Toby Berman-Rossi, from Roberta Rohdin, New York City.

In Memory of George Brager, from Leonard W. Stern, Malibu, California.

Tom Caplan, Montreal, Quebec; William H. Fisher, Akron, Ohio; Hisashi Hirayama, Isezaki City, Japan; Mary F. Jean-Byk, East Lyme, Connecticut; and Joan E. Saltman, Columbia, Maryland.

We are very appreciative of these gifts. We share in the joys and sorrows of those dedicated to departed relatives, friends, and colleagues. We will use these to enhance the ongoing work of AASWG in 2005.

### SOCIAL WORK DAY AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Help celebrate Social Work Day at the United Nations in New York on Friday, February 25, just before the CSWE APM. It is sponsored by the International Federation of Schools of Social Work and the International Federation of Social Workers.

The program includes four sessions focusing on international women's issues. The registration form and complete program information are available at the web site, [monmouth.edu/~swork/UN](http://monmouth.edu/~swork/UN). Registration closes February 15.

### SCHILLER REMEMBERS KONOPKA

Heinrich Schiller of Nürnberg, Germany, has sent us a copy of his remembrance of Gisela Konopka. He reports as friend and colleague. It is too long to include in full in *SWwGN*. We will publish the entire paper on the AASWG Web Site, [www.aaswg.org](http://www.aaswg.org), in the English version which he has provided.

In his cover letter Schiller writes,

"As a member of the AASWG German Chapter and as a former student of Gisela Konopka, I had the privilege to become her teaching assistant and later a friend of Gisa and Paul. I worked together with Gisa whenever she visited Germany. A couple of years ago Gisa was still living and active. I wrote an article about her for a German newsletter, about her great activities in Germany and her big influence on German Social Group Work. On her 90th birthday I translated this article and sent it to her as a special gift. It was not published, neither in Germany nor elsewhere.

"During my professional career I became Professor and Dean of a German school of social work and through my doctoral thesis which was published with great success. I belong to the few German professionals who introduced Social Group Work to German Social Work. I was the official Delegate of the German Schools of Social Work for many years and became President of the IASSW (International Association of Schools of Social Work) between 1980 and 1988.

"I am sure that the activities of Gisa in Germany are of great interest to members of AASWG all over the world and, especially, to the chapters in the USA. The publishing of this article will be my gratitude to Gisa and all the other American teachers as Ruby Pernell, Kurt Reichert, Walter Friedlander, etc. I would be very thankful if this would be possible through our Newsletter.

"Sincerely yours,  
"Heinrich Schiller"

Schiller starts with a poem, "... because most of her own articles and books are full with these little spiritual and heart catching linguistic somethings."

### MALEKOFF IN UNCIVIL SERVICE

Andy Malekoff has prepared a statement about his experiences as a new civil service commissioner in Long Beach, New York. He calls it "A Group Worker's Education in Uncivil Service." He is the Chairman of the Commission and Associate Director of the North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center in Roslyn Heights, NY. Contact him, [amalekoff@northshorechildguidance.org](mailto:amalekoff@northshorechildguidance.org), or the *SWwGN* Editor, [editor@aaswg.org](mailto:editor@aaswg.org), for a copy.

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We held each other, a close circle,  
we stood linked to each other,  
part of a chain.  
The world was outside and we had to  
let go.  
Some laughed and shook their heads  
And left with ease.  
Yet another tore and tore,  
a bleeding wound  
opened.

When we broke the chain, that held us;  
He works hard in the gray day  
And red drops don't cease to fall.

Schiller reviews her early years including her work in the German resistance movement, but focuses on the years after 1945. He was her student from 1949 to 1951 at the University of Minnesota. He met her there as an exchange student. He tells of various meetings and about working with her over the years in Germany and the USA. Of particular interest is her work following World War II. Schiller says, "Through all these events I got to know Gisa not only as the Professor of Social Group Work and a child welfare expert, but over and above I got to know her as a tremendously versatile person with keen interests in all matters around society and especially on human beings. He follows with descriptions of Gisa as an art-loving person with great artistic sense, as a philanthropic human being, as a politically minded and active person, as a philosophical, social and human sciences scholar.

"Therefore, she gave truly an example of life with 'Love and Courage'".

Of course, *Love and Courage* is the title of her autobiography.



*Berman-Rossi, continued from page 1*  
sity. Looking back on that interview process I cringe at how unprepared I was. I did not find out about the curriculum or who was on faculty before going, and it could have been a complete disaster. I had previously read some of Toby's articles, but I obviously did not connect the articles with the person sitting on the interview panel. One of the questions I was asked was about the practice courses I had taught. I described the curriculum at the university where I had taught as a PhD student, and then I said that I did not really like what they taught or the way it was organized. I bemoaned the fact that they did not teach enough about group work and then I admitted to incorporating as much as possible the works of William Schwartz and Larry Shulman. I asked if they knew their work. I saw Toby and the rest of the committee smile, and I thought I had said something really stupid. Later that day I found out that Toby's edited volume of Schwartz's writings had just been published! She was so gracious about my stupidity. At lunch that afternoon I presented some research I had done involving social work practice with older adults. I noticed Toby pointing at my plate of food and whispering to someone next to her. Again, I was afraid I had done something stupid, but it turned out she was just noticing that I had skipped all the meat items on offer as I am a vegetarian. Toby was too, and I had no idea that I had just scored major points on four fronts... the love of group work, working with older people, respect for the ideas of William Schwartz and a non-carnivorous lifestyle. I guess it is no wonder that Toby took me under her wing and for the next ten years we worked very closely with each other.

Toby had many amazing qualities and I would like to describe some of those and share a few stories that illustrate these. First and foremost, she had a keen and tenacious intellect and would work for ages on a single concept or idea. The process could be painful to watch at times. In our work together we would spend hour upon hour trying to figure something out. Eventually, we would be convinced that we had something sorted and move on. Inevitably she would come back a couple of days later and say, "but what about ..",

and we would have to reengage with the ideas until we were satisfied that this time we had it right. Predictably, she would think of something else, and we would once again think through our ideas. Occasionally, we would end up back at our original idea. Though the process could be frustrating at times, the end product was always much better for it as the ideas were fully thought out and crystallized.

One of the reasons Toby could spend so much time figuring out a single idea was her ability to see levels of complexity and connections among related concepts and events. For example, when she was revising her chapter in Alex Gitterman's second edition of *Handbook of Social Work Practice with Vulnerable and Resilient Populations* she spent weeks examining what is meant by the word risk. For Toby, risk was not simply the possibility of harm. She had to figure out for herself questions such as: The harm from what? Where does risk come from? What influences it? How is it related to and different from vulnerability? After working for a great length of time on the concept of risk and how it relates to numerous other concepts, her description of risk is articulate and appears effortless. So much of her writing appears articulate and effortless, and it is easy to overlook the incredible intellectual effort that went into her ideas.

The effort Toby put into her writing was only surpassed by the effort she put into her teaching. I had the great benefit of sitting in on her Practice 2 class my first year at Barry. I was also teaching a section of the course that semester, and Toby offered to allow me to sit in her class to see how she handled the content. Each week we would meet and go over teaching notes, class activities, assignments, and readings. The amount of detail and thought that went into each class was amazing to me. Despite having taught the course numerous times, she worked incredibly hard on how to make the content easier for each particular class to understand. I would leave our sessions together and prepare to teach my class. Unfortunately, my class was before hers so I would teach the content first. Then I would go to Toby's class and watch a master teacher in action. I would leave

her class thinking, "If only I had done it that way!" We would discuss our teaching following each class, and I was surprised to find out that she was rarely completely satisfied with her performance in the classroom. She reflected on each session and looked at ways to improve the next time. For her, every moment had the potential to be a teaching moment, and she hated when she missed one.

Toby was very demanding and had a reputation among students of being a difficult teacher. Some students would say things like, "You'll learn a lot with Toby, but do you want to have to work that hard?" Students were often afraid to enroll in her courses, so her classes were often made up of the most dedicated students and those that "got stuck". She described it as being similar to working with a group composed of voluntary and mandated clients! As you would imagine, once in her class most students ended up adoring her - even many of those who did not pass the course. She was able to blend her demand with equal measures of support. Students could not believe the amount of work and support she gave to them. Often the comments she wrote on students' papers were nearly as long as the paper itself. The practice of countless students has been changed through being in her class.

The mix of support and demand was not just reserved for the classroom. She was demanding and supportive as a colleague as well. Her drive for academic excellence and her clear understanding of purpose and role meant that she demanded her colleagues perform at their best. When a person is so focused others can be quite challenged. Though I never met Toby's mentor, William Schwartz, I heard stories about his level of intensity, sharpness of thought, and his ability to speak the truth. I sometimes wondered if he was looking on from somewhere with a pleased smile on his face. However, Toby was not all demand. Just like in the classroom she could be incredibly supportive. She never demanded more than what she could do herself and was always willing to share any resources she had to help someone achieve while also offering emotional support.

As a friend Toby was also very supportive. She constantly gave to those





## POWER POINT PRESENTATION AVAILABLE

AASWG has prepared a power point presentation for use in interpretation of our organization and, particularly, for membership recruitment. It can be used for regular or special recruitment meetings, classes or other student groups, and community interpretation. It was first shared with the Board and Chapter Chairs in October at the Symposium. It is now available on our web site, [www.aaswg.org](http://www.aaswg.org). An electronic version, incorporating later updates, was distributed by e-mail in December. Contact Raymie Wayne, [generalsecretary@aaswg.org](mailto:generalsecretary@aaswg.org).

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she cared for. Toby taught me much about the nature of true friendship. The level of honesty and integrity in her relationships with those she loved was breath-taking. She expected the same level of integrity and honesty in her relationships and was not afraid to ask for it. For example, I am someone who likes to avoid conflict, and Toby was fearless in her ability to engage. There were countless times when she would reach for what was going on for me. She would say, "I know you must be sore with me. Can we talk about it?" And of course we would. Likewise, when I did something that upset her, she was quick to let me know, and we would discuss the transactional nature of what occurred! Such interactions exposed the foibles and strengths we both had, and we loved each other because of our strengths and weaknesses. Such honesty and commitment to another is a rare thing for me.

She shared her life's work and ideas freely with others and, especially, with me. She opened so many doors for me, introducing me to the best and the brightest in the field. I shudder to think what my life would be like had luck not brought us together. Being mentored by one of the great thinkers of our profession has given me a sense of responsibility to continue her legacy. As she continued the legacy of William Schwartz, I hope that in some small way I can play a part in keeping her voice and vision alive. Surely Toby will live on through the lives of

## GITTERMAN, LEE, BERGART ELECTED

We welcome to the Board the three members who were elected to three-year At Large positions. They are Alex Gitterman of White Plains, New York, Cheryl D. Lee, of Long Beach, California, and Ann M. Bergart of Niles, Illinois.

**Alex Gitterman** is well known to members of AASWG. He has served in various roles over many years. He was President for six years and Chair of the Long Range Planning Task Force and Search Committee. He has been Co-chair of the Group Work Symposia at the Council on Social Work Education's Annual Program Meeting. He has been a member of several Board Committees including Endowment, Nominations, and Social Action. He says, "I welcome the opportunity to serve on the Board for an additional term and will do everything possible to help the Association survive and thrive". He is on the Faculty of the University of Connecticut School of Social Work. He previously served on the faculty of the Columbia University School of Social Work. He is widely known for his many professional books, articles, and workshops.

**Cheryl D. Lee** has been teaching group work courses at California State University Long Beach for four years as a tenure track faculty member. She says she loves teaching these classes! For many years she has facilitated political action, divorce recovery, adoption, and children's groups, and support groups for people with different illnesses and disabilities. She hopes to help increase membership, especially of minority racial/ethnic group members and international members, to help with the group work conference that may be held in California, and add a local unit in the Los Angeles area. She has served on the board of the Southern California Chapter. She founded and was president of a local unit of NASW in Long Beach and chair of its Child Welfare Committee for the State of California. She sees groups becoming increasingly important and recognized as an effective way to work with people in our communities. Her scholarly work includes articles on child welfare issues, on the aging population, and vulnerable populations. She has written several grants and is hoping to write grants for AASWG.

She says her greatest strength is her ability to galvanize students and members

of the community into action. This past summer she completed a fellowship on Japan. She would like to promote more international members, particularly from Asian and Latin American countries.

**Ann M. Bergart** caught the group work "bug" many years ago during her second year field placement in graduate school. After receiving her MSW, she worked in family service agencies and led various types of groups with a wide range of clients. Then she began to supervise and train others in group work and coordinate group services within the agency. For the fifteen years she has been teaching group work, trying to pass on the bug to graduate social work students. She is an Associate Professor at the George Williams College of Social Work, located at Aurora University.

She says, "I am very distressed about the limited opportunities my students have to be mentored in group work in their field settings, and I want to work with other committed social group workers to do something about this situation. In my view, AASWG is the best vehicle for such efforts. As group workers we are still too isolated from one another to effectively ensure the future of this field we love. Through AASWG we can create stronger local networks of group workers and educators. Such networks could support and empower us to increase our impact on practice, professional education, and continuing education in group work."

She has participated in Symposia for several years both as a presenter and as an eager attendee. An article on doing group work with stigmatized populations, was recently published in *Social Work with Groups*.

Seven years ago she earned her doctorate in social work so that she could teach group work to social work students. She's continued to lead groups whenever possible, and to provide agency training and consultation in group work. In addition, she is a committed member of many informal peer support groups, some of which she has initiated. Groups are an essential part of her personal as well as her professional life. She wants to "help keep group work thriving!"



**IN MEMORIAM  
TOBY BERMAN-ROSSI  
September 30, 2004**

Toby Berman-Rossi, 62, Immediate Past President of AASWG and a professor at Barry University's School of Social Work, died September 30 of cancer. She was Chair of the last Symposium in Miami and had served as Chair of the Florida Chapter. Family, friends, and colleagues say she dedicated her life to the field of social work and to helping her students achieve their dreams, even after they graduated.

Berman-Rossi was born in New York and met her husband while attending Hunter College. They were both counselors at a camp for underprivileged children. After graduating, she became a teacher at an elementary school in the South Bronx where she became impressed with the plight of poor, underprivileged people and felt she could contribute more to their lives as a social worker. She earned her MSW at Columbia University and attended Yeshiva University.

She worked as a social-work practitioner for agencies including the Jewish Home and Hospital for the Aged and Hillside Hospital in New York. She also taught at Columbia University's School of Social Work.

She authored many articles. In 1994 she wrote the book *Social Work: The Collected Writings of William Schwartz*.

Berman-Rossi specialized in working with groups and the aged. She was a leader among the faculty, an educator who served as a model for other professors.

In addition to her husband, Peter, Berman-Rossi is survived by daughters Lucia and Simone Berman-Rossi, mother Anna Berman, and brother Lester Berman. Peter and Lucia are both members of AASWG. Lucia was Co-chair of the recent Symposium in Boston.

(Some information from the notice by Kathleen Fordyce in the *Miami Herald* October 3 as forwarded by Andrew Ciccetti.)

Many thanks to readers who have provided us the information used in this issue.

who attended the special Institute for Field Instructors. We hope that many of the first-timers will be encouraged to come back for more AASWG events!

The first day featured five Institutes and two Outstitutes. Our feedback indicates that these were all very worthwhile. We were pleased that one full-day Outstitute was viable, since these have been hard to fill during recent Symposia. Reports are that this Outstitute, including a focus on UAW organizing and a tour of an auto plant, was stimulating and well-designed.

The first night set a lively tone for the rest of the Symposium. The food at the reception was outstanding and easily served as dinner. We have fond memories of the chicken satay, the chocolate fondue, and the carving station, especially! Michigan member Tony Alvarez led the group in a "Human Bingo" activity to help people mingle and get to know one another. Then the Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit performed "The Children of Abraham Project". The crowd, including tired travelers, was riveted by their talent and by the content of the performance and its relevance to social justice, global human relations, and group work. (Are other people also still humming, "Father Abraham"?!)

Each of the following three mornings began with a plenary presentation. Paule McNicoll, Joan Pennell, and Michael Spencer each helped enrich and further develop the Symposium theme as well as relating it to concrete examples in their own work. This was also true of other presenters, who are too numerous to mention by name. In all, more than 130 individuals developed and presented nearly ninety papers, plenaries, institutes, and/or outstitutes. Representing the composition and focus of AASWG as an international professional organization, presenters were from Canada, the USA, Germany, England, Jamaica, Japan, and Scotland. The importance of this was displayed to advantage during Friday's interactive panel discussion on international group work.

Friday night, attendees enjoyed "A Taste of Detroit", participating in several well-attended Dine-Arounds at local restaurants. This feature received many favorable comments in the Symposium

evaluations.

During Saturday's AASWG Membership Meeting, an award was presented to this year's International Honoree, Judith A.B. Lee. The meeting was followed by a moving memorial tribute to Toby Berman-Rossi, long-time AASWG member and Immediate Past-President. The remembrances and sentiments people shared spoke clearly of their love and respect for Toby and her importance in their lives.

The Saturday night Banquet and Gala proved a fitting celebration and continuation of the weekend of fun, sharing and learning. The host Chapter presented awards to four distinguished and beloved local honorees: Virgil H. Carr (In Memoriam), Alice Lamont, Dale Swaisgood, and Mavis Spencer. We're sure that no one who was there will ever forget the presentation speech Ted Goldberg made for Mavis Spencer or her cogent and hilarious rejoinder!

A plenary panel of presenters proved equal to the task of following this exchange, sharing well-honed remarks on "Crossing the Boundaries: Use of Social Group Work Skills in Non-Traditional Settings". Wayne State University Dean Phyllis I. Vroom facilitated the presentations of panelists Maryann Mahaffey, Peter Vaughan, and Edward S. Egnatios, each a powerhouse in his or her own right and remarkable in combination.

Following the panel, a disk jockey played tunes for the listening and dancing pleasure of those who stayed on. Quite a few of us worked off some of the banquet dinner to the tunes of the "Motown Revue."

We have to admit closing out the Symposium on Sunday with bittersweet feelings. As much as we wanted to go home and put our feet up, it's hard to see something come to an end when it's become so much a part of your life! We collected a good number of evaluations and will be producing a report later that will include data from these. Thanks to those who took the time to share their valuable feedback with us!

For those who may be curious about specifics, problems identified included thin walls between presentation rooms, the shortness of the 45-minute presentation blocks, and low numbers of



## ARE YOU PRESENTING AT APM?

Raymie Wayne would like to know who is presenting at the forthcoming CSWE APM in New York so she can prepare a flyer listing all groupwork sessions for distribution at the AASWG exhibit booth there February 26-March 1. Send information to [generalsecretary@aaswg.org](mailto:generalsecretary@aaswg.org).

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attendees at some presentations. The feedback about the structure of the Thursday night reception and the Saturday banquet was overwhelmingly positive. A comment we especially appreciated was, "You changed the perceptions of Detroit and the vital and creative social work being done here." Finally, we want to share one evaluation from someone who apparently experienced the Symposium to be just as inspiring, informative, and enjoyable as we had hoped it would be: "Fantastic overall! Very inspiring and practical info. Wonderful networking opportunities. Professionally solid yet friendly and warm atmosphere. I learned so much that I will really be able to apply immediately. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!!!"

A couple of weeks after the Symposium, the hardworking members of the Symposium Planning Committee combined a celebration and debriefing event over lunch at Mario's, which was one of the featured Dine-Around restaurants. Lots of suggestions were generated to pass on to the next planning group, and the overall sentiment was that things had gone very well - so well that even Committee members had managed to enjoy themselves! Thanks again to all of those who participated in so many different ways - attendees, presenters (of papers, institutes, and plenaries), substitute hosts, Symposium co-sponsors, vendors, those who made donations, AASWG representatives (staff and Executive Committee and Board members), and the many volunteers who helped pull everything together.

Michigan thanks you, salutes you, and passes the torch to Minnesota! We look forward to seeing all of you and many more for the 27th Annual International Symposium, September 29 -

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING... A PC CLUB MEMBER

by Russ Musarra

politically correct. In fact, we - the members of the PC Club - would not have understood the term if we had heard it.

We were kids, boys eight to ten years old, in post World War II Cleveland, who were encouraged to form a club at the Mount Pleasant Community Center's branch that operated at our elementary school

Half of us wanted to call the club the Panthers.

The other half opted for the Cavaliers.

Our counselor, a Japanese gentleman named Frank Hijikata, suggested that we call ourselves the Panther Cavaliers. So we did.

We lived in a racially integrated community, although we had never heard the term before. The PC Club, as we preferred to call it, was for whites only. If Frank ever tried to discourage that decision I don't remember hearing it. But in hindsight I'm confident he knew we would in time reconsider our position and revise our thinking.

The PC Club met after school for athletic activities and other kid stuff such as field trips. Sometimes we met at each other's homes and would conclude our meetings with milk and cookies, cupcakes or other refreshments served up by the hosts' mother.

We took on new members at the start of the school year. One of these was a boy named Jack who transferred into our school from another neighborhood. When it was Jack's turn to host the meeting, we all gathered at his home and after the meeting flocked to his kitchen for refreshments. His father came home while his mother was serving our treats.

His father was black.

His mother was white. We were chagrined.

Jack was our friend. But while his skin was as fair as any of the others in the club, he wasn't exactly what he appeared to be. Or, at least, he wasn't what we thought he was.

Frank, our counselor, whose own people spent World War II in internment camps because of their ethnicity, left it to us to decide whether the PC Club would

PC in this case does NOT stand for broaden its membership policy.

We dropped the whites-only policy with little fanfare and the PC Club came to better reflect the whole community from which its members came. It took me years to fully appreciate the lessons of this childhood experience.

One of my assignments as a young reporter was to cover the social service agencies in Cleveland, of which the Mount Pleasant Community Center was one. Murtis Taylor, the gentle black woman who guided our youthful activities, was still at it and would go on to see a center named in her honor. And, I learned, Frank Hijikata went on to head his own agency in St. Paul, Minn.

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Reprinted from *FOCUS on Boomers and Beyond*, November 2004, p. 7, with permission from the Casey Publishing Company, Akron, Ohio,

Musarra is a regular columnist for *FOCUS*. He is retired from the *Akron Beacon Journal*.

**HELP BUILD AASWG:  
INVITE A COLLEAGUE TO JOIN**

### "GROUPWORK AND SOCIAL ACTION" - A SPECIAL ISSUE

The latest issue of *Groupwork* includes five important articles on its theme, "Groupwork and Social Action."

"The Roots and Process of Social Action" by Jo Aubrey.

"The Beginning Stages of a Social Action Training Event" by Jennie Fleming.

"Social Action and Education for Citizenship in Scotland" by Ian Fyfe.

"Involving School Students in Social Action in America: The Youth Dreamers Group" by Cierra Cary, Chekana Reid, and Kristina Berdan.

"Framing Educational Groupwork" by John Bamber.

David Ward is the Special Issue Editor and contributes the introductory editorial. *Groupwork* is published by Whiting and Birch Ltd and is available at fifteen percent discount to member of AASWG. [savpub@dircon.co.uk](mailto:savpub@dircon.co.uk).



## **FOUR HONORED IN DETROIT JUDITH A. (BEACH) LEE**

In recognition of her long and distinguished career and her contributions to group work, our Past President, Judith A. B. Lee, was named the International Honoree for 2004 at the Annual Meeting in Detroit. Alex Gitterman wrote the statement which was included in the Symposium Program and made the presentation.

Judy grew up in Brooklyn, where her extended family, the multi-cultural neighborhood, her school, and her church influenced her thinking and development. She graduated from Hunter College, worked at the New York City Bureau of Child Welfare, and then attended Columbia University School of Social Work where she studied both casework and group work. She taught and supervised field work at Columbia, working with Alex and with Carel Germain. She taught eight years at the New York School of Social Work while she completed her doctorate at Yeshiva University. Her reflections as a scholarly practitioner were on teaching and on her work with homeless women.

In 1984 Judy moved to the University of Connecticut School of Social Work where she chaired the casework curriculum.

Judy was Chair (now President) of AASWG from 1985-1991. She provided strong leadership and gave several moving keynote presentations about activist group work origins, the vision of the group as empowering oppressed and marginalized populations, and providing human connection in a post modern world. She worked with the homeless in Hartford and practiced and consulted in work with homeless and abused women and children in Guyana, South America.

In 1998 she moved to southwest Florida to start a MSW program and continued her work in Guyana. She retired in December 2000. She now works part-time with troubled middle school adolescents and combines social work with the visitation ministry at her church.

In concluding his statement Alex says, "Judy is a brilliant scholar who finds the illusive connections between abstract ideas and the complexities of the real world." She has written three books, served as

editor for two books, published twenty-two refereed articles, and eighteen book chapters. In 2001 she published the second edition of the highly acclaimed *The Empowerment Approach to Social Work Practice: Building the Beloved Community* (Columbia University Press).

## **VIRGIL CARR, ALICE LAMONT, AND MAVIS SPENCER: LOCAL HONOREES**

**VIRGIL H. CARR** was recognized in memoriam for his many years and vital role in the Detroit community. He had been a leader at the United Way for twenty years and helped merge its predecessor organizations into the strong new organization.

Carr was born in Iowa. He earned his MSW from Washington University in St. Louis. He worked as Director of a multi-service center for the Family Service of Omaha-Council Bluffs, Iowa. This involved raising the funds, working with public housing officials and residents, and negotiating the contracts with over a dozen agencies who participated in the program. The program was used as a demonstration model for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In 1979 Carr became President and CEO of Family Services of Detroit and Wayne County. Then after a few years as head of the United Way of Chicago, in 1993 he returned to the United Way of Metropolitan Detroit as the first African-American head of the organization.

Virgil Carr was the kind of social worker, administrator, leader and man who inspired great admiration, affection, and loyalty among those who knew him.

A tribute by the Alliance of United Way Executives stated, "His warm and engaging personality never failed to win over an audience of agency executives who frequently had divergent perspective and special needs which demanded his attention... he had the unique ability to make each one of us feel that our concerns were important to him. Virgil Carr never forgot his roots; he could mingle quite easily with the 'movers and shakers' of our community, and yet, he always had the concerns of the disenfranchised, the impoverished, and those who had lost their way close to his heart and at the top of his daily agenda."\*

**ALICE E. LAMONT** graduated

from Marygrove College as an art major. She substituted for a friend in an art class at a small settlement and was offered a job on a trial basis. She took courses in art, early childhood education, and social work at Wayne State University, then went to Fordham University in New York for her MSW to prepare for work in settlements.

On returning to Detroit, she worked in a small settlement, then moved to coordinate social services at three settlements. She accepted field work students and began to teach courses. In 1967 she joined the Wayne State faculty as field coordinator. After receiving her doctorate from the University of Chicago, she returned to Wayne State where she provided leadership for various aspects of the program. From 1988 to her retirement in 1999 she was Coordinator of the MSW Program. She attended the first Symposium in 1969 and most since then. She was a Co-Chair of the Ann Arbor Symposium in 1996 and a member of the Planning Committee of the 2004 Detroit Symposium.

"But beyond these facts, it is important to know that Alice Lamont has been respected, admired and beloved as a teacher, mentor and colleague. Her dignity, wisdom, compassion, and passion for teaching and learning have infused all of her work. She has inspired by example, and her legacy will always live in the hearts and minds of those who have known her and worked with her."\*

**MAVIS SPENCER** started working with groups in her neighborhood and formalized her interest when she enrolled in Wayne State University School of Social Work. Her field experience was working with groups at a settlement house. After graduation she moved to working with adolescent gang members. She was invited to join the faculty in 1968 as part of a team developing group work education. She developed an Inner City Learning Center at one of the settlements. Her career has been in development of field sites and the placement of group work students. Because of her leadership in this area, Mavis was appointed Coordinator of Field Education and has spent the rest of her career giving leadership in this area. She has never lost her commitment to group work and has continued to



## PLAN NOW FOR MINNEAPOLIS

The Minnesota Chapter is preparing a spectacular Symposium for this coming September 29 to October 2. "Bridges of Hope over Troubled Waters" is an appropriate theme in this disaster plagued year. "The Land of 10,000 Lakes"\* is an aptly named place to consider the needs of people for groups to deal with ever more difficult life circumstances from the personal to the societal level.

Janice Andrews-Schenk is the Symposium Chair. She reminds us that late September is "a lovely time of year in Minnesota" and that the Symposium will be held in the beautiful downtown of Minneapolis at the classy Hyatt Hotel. Somewhere also we recall that the Mall of America is nearby. And St. Paul, home of the weekly "Prairie Home Companion" public radio show with Garrison Keillor as the story telling, singing host, is the other half of the Twin Cities. It's a group worker's delight. We're certain to enjoy Minnesota.

A stimulating and meaningful program of plenaries, institutes, workshops, and social activities is taking shape. The creative minds of the Minnesota Chapter members have gathered together (in a group, no less!) that meets monthly at Jan's home. The next meeting is January 28.

Jan reports that "We have an exciting

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encourage opportunities of students to develop competence in that area. She is known throughout the region by literally thousands of social work practitioners, and her strong ties with local agencies have helped her to be enormously effect in her personal work with many community groups as well as in her professional role.

"Her legacy is abundant, but those of us who have worked with and know Mavis will never forget her wonderfully spontaneous laughter and good humor."\*\*

\*Quotes from statements prepared by the Symposium Planning Committee.

\*\*Quotes from the statement prepared by the Ted Goldberg.

Material in this article is condensed from the statements in the Final Program of the Detroit Symposium in 2004.

list of international speakers, but can't give names quite yet because they are not confirmed. We are building a number of bridges with an emphasis on bridging the settlement house movement and groupwork. We hope to have with us a number of settlement people who are part of the International Federation. Many of them will give major presentations." Another theme for a major plenary is "Inter-generational Bridges: Building theory and practice principles on the shoulders of those who created the foundation." Building bridges for new immigrants and refugees into our existing communities will address the needs of new immigrant populations. There will be sessions on "Building bridges through art, song, and activity." The annual free Institute on Field Education will be held on Thursday for field instructors and coordinators.

The "Call for Papers" is printed on page 25 of this issue. The deadline for submitting proposals is gaining on us. It's March 24. Send in your proposals now. Carol Kuechler is waiting for them.

The Symposium is being created in honor and memory of Gisela Konopka who was not only a major group work force in Minnesota but throughout the world.

Jan says, "Folks can take light rail from the airport to about five blocks from the hotel for only, I believe, \$1.50. They can either walk or take a bus or cab the remaining blocks."

It should be noted that the Symposium will be in a healthy context... *USA Today* reports "Minnesota has again been named the healthiest state. The annual survey sponsored by the United Health Foundation considers the number of citizens with health insurance, heart disease rates and infant mortality. Since 1990, the state has never ranked below second." (11/9/04)

"Let's build bridges using group work in Minneapolis."

## GROUP WORK PROMOTING HEALTH AND JUSTICE

The 2004 issue of *Sahayog Annual Magazine* from the Tirpude College of Social Work in Nagpur, India, features an extensive and interesting report on the recent "International Seminar on Social Group Work in Promoting Health and Education Justice". Miss Hemlata David, Executive of AASWG in India, was the Coordinator. Dr. S. S. Bhasarkar, Principal of Tirpude, initiated organization of the seminar in cooperation with Manohar Golpelwar, President of the AASWG Affiliate in India.

The issue also contains an extensive list of "Websites for Social Workers" prepared by Jobin Mathew.

For copies write Tirpude College of Social Work, Civil Lines, Nagpur-400 001.

## INGRUN MASANEK WRITES

Dear Group Work Friends and Colleagues:

Since I won't be able to come to the Symposium this year, I want to make sure to greet all of you this way and wish you a good board meeting and a wonderful conference. My thoughts will be with you especially when you gather to remember Toby.

While I really regret that I won't be with you all in Detroit, I'm glad that Sonia Spelters (new Board member from Germany; many of you met her in New York in June) and Suse Kunz (German Chapter Chair) will be there and plan to attend the Board meeting, too.

Maybe you can sing together anyway.

"We are the old people,  
we are the new people,  
we are the same people deeper than before.

There's sacred ground we walk upon,  
with every step we take..."

Best wishes and a safe journey to all of you.

Ingrun Masanek  
Norden Germany

## GROUP WORK AT CSWE APM IN NYC

If you are going to CSWE APM February 27 to March 1 in New York City, be sure to check out the group work sessions and the AASWG exhibit booth. It's the gathering place for group workers.



## **INTERGENERATIONAL GROUP WORK: One Group Worker's Experience Bringing Together Young and Old to Address Issues Relating to Substance Abuse**

by Loretta Hartley-Bangs

"I can relate to that..."

This is not an unusual comment to hear in a group. After all, groups are built on this concept. The members have common issues which bring them together to form a group with common themes and goals.

However, it is not an expected comment to hear in a group consisting of adolescents and senior citizens.

Or is it? That was the question I had when I thought about bringing together my Senior Recovery group with a group of adolescents from a substance abuse day treatment program.

Over the course of my work day I travel down the hallway of my agency between the day treatment program for adolescents and the outpatient programs which include a program for senior citizens being treated for their own substance abuse.

It is not unusual to end a conversation with an adolescent about the importance of proper attire and language to enter a room to facilitate a group of senior citizens lamenting the stress of changes brought about by aging while trying to maintain abstinence from substances.

While traversing these two seemingly very different worlds, I was at times struck by the similarities.

So, to satisfy my curiosity, I put the issue to the adolescents who were intrigued by the idea that older people could also be in treatment for substance abuse. When the issue was put to the seniors, they too, were intrigued. Both groups quickly agreed that it could be interesting to come together and see.

With that an idea was put into action. The youth were given parameters within which to develop a plan for the group. We met approximately one-half hour each week in an informal session over lunch to work on the group plan. Throughout the process I was impressed with the attention the youth gave to what they thought the physical needs of the seniors would be. Planning included: securing a room large enough to hold 13 people, arranging seats, who would greet the seniors and welcome them to group.

While there was no predetermined decision about who was hosting, it quickly became apparent that the youth were making this their own, therefore they were the hosts and would greet the seniors in the waiting room and bring them to the group room. One adolescent felt it was important to review with her peers proper behavior so as not to offend the older members.

The youth decided an activity was needed to facilitate discussion. The result was a pile of cards with open ended questions that the facilitator would use.

The goal of the group would be to open a dialogue between two generations regarding substance abuse.

What followed was an amazing dialogue between two generations, both trying to find their ways in the world.

The group consisted of three senior males and two women whose average age was 70, and six adolescents, one female, five males with an average age of 16.

After the initial go around in which all participants introduced themselves and shared their stories, the facilitator explained the format of using incomplete statements, randomly chosen, to generate discussion. While there were approximately fifty questions available, only three were used. Prior to picking the first question, a younger member asked a senior about something he shared, quickly identifying with some of the substances he had used. This led to a discussion among the group about progression of substance use and switching substances. An older member shared her inability to continue pain medication and picking up alcohol to relieve her pain. The topic moved to peer groups. A senior spoke of his long history of alcohol use and only socializing with other drinkers. Two of the youth quickly identified and shared their concerns about socializing when they return to their community schools. The seniors commiserated.

The first question randomly picked was, "I can't stand when my family....." This led to a lengthy discussion of losing the trust of family members due to

substance abuse and the long time it takes to gain it back. All members identified.

The second statement was "I hope my future will be..." This led to a lively discussion of the future and regrets regarding recent losses, especially from the adolescents who felt they had lost much of their childhood and teenage years.

When it came time to prepare to end the group all members verbalized their surprise that the time had gone by so quickly. One of the adolescents spoke for the group and thanked the seniors for spending time with them. The seniors responded in kind, one making the comment "I think we learned more from you than you could learn from us." The youth disagreed.

All said their good-byes and the experienced ended.

When reviewing the experience with the individual groups, the comments were all positive. Both groups asked if they would have the opportunity to do it again. Each age group said that the other was not what they expected.

What this taught me is that where adolescents are concerned, if you raise the bar, they will reach for it. For example, when going over the parameters with the youth, the issue of "appropriate behavior" was not mentioned by this writer. The group came to this on its own. To everyone's surprise for the length of the group not one profanity was uttered. This included one adolescent whose tendency toward profanity is legendary among the program staff and clients. Another missing component that some thought would occur was the "lecturing" that some of the youth expected.

For each group there was a feeling of pride that what they had to say was important to someone, especially to those who seem to be so different from them. What we discovered is that their similarities far outweighed the differences. All ages want to be respected, listened to, and feel that they belong somewhere. Both age groups had that experience on this day. Both age groups left feeling that they had



## TRAGIC ENDINGS FOR MANY CHILD BRIDES

Catherine Papell continues her work on behalf of the Afghan people who have been caught in the war against terrorism and the struggles for freedom and democracy. In late December she sent an e-mail message telling stories of "Tragic Endings for Many Child Brides" there. She said "Dear Friends and Family: These stories are sent to me by my Afghan American friends. Probably you have received others from me. I find it amazing to know something of what is happening to Afghan people, particularly women. The news does not let us know. Women for Afghan Women (WAW), the organization with whom I have identified myself since 9/11, is doing small but wonderful things to help women in Afghanistan. I will be sending to you a report of their work this year, with a request for financial aid. With hands-on efforts, quite remarkable things can happen. The report that I will send will tell you what a small group of intelligent and deeply caring women can do. Love and Peace and Justice, Catherine Papell, Katy."

Readers will remember the earlier article Katy wrote about her participation with the Afghan women of the local mosque in developing the WAW and the work to support the women of Afghanistan. If you would like to receive these stories and other reports of life in Afghanistan and the work of WAW, contact her at Katy11216@aol.com.

SWwGN is interested in receiving brief practice vignettes of publication in future issues. We would like to have one or more for each issue. Please write your favorite group work practice narrative today and send it in. No more than 1200 words.

accomplished something... something that not many people have the opportunity to experience. The opportunity to reach out to others who on the surface are worlds apart but in reality can relate more than anyone could have imaged.

To sum up, the outcome was a question asked by each group...."When are we going to do that again?"

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Loretta Hartley-Bangs is on the staff of the North Shore Long Island Jewish

## CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Welcome to a New Year and renewal time at AASWG. Local groups and organizing areas should take note of the need to actively work to renew members. Publishing newsletters, announcing winter or spring meetings or calling old members are all effective ways to remind your core groups that the association appreciates their membership. The beginning of the year helps many potential members in your areas to think about ways that they can grow and develop this year and chapters can certainly encourage people to "think group!"

Chapters are now working to assemble their annual reports which will be coming due to the Chapter Development Committee in mid February. Annual reports are written by chapter chairs and treasurers to capture the activities that have occurred in our organized and organizing groups during the previous year. In completing reports, chapters are advising the Board of the work being done on behalf of AASWG in each of our areas. The chapter development chair compiles an association-wide report once the chapters have each shared their year's work.

As has been reported in past issues of the *Newsletter*, the Chapter Development Committee has an obligation to work with chapters and to reach out when necessary to clarify issues that rise in chapter life. At times this work may be to assist organizing areas to develop membership or programming but it also occurs at times to address issues wherein chapters are struggling. During the course of the Fall, we have been discussing with the leadership of the Georgia Chapter to discuss the status of the Chapter. At our Board meeting in October we reported to the Board and now to the membership that the Georgia leaders indicated to Chapter Development that they did not feel they could maintain their chapter status and agreed that the Chapter should be closed. There continue to be some steps that will be necessary to gather chapter materials or consolidate old chapter records but once that is done the Chapter Development Committee will be presenting a report to the Board to confirm the closure of the Georgia

Chapter this year. We do acknowledge that we continue to have active members in Georgia whom we hope will continue to be members of the Association and that at such time that the group feels they would again have the ability would be encouraged to reapply and reopen the Chapter if they so desire. We are saddened by their closure and hope that it is a temporary situation.

On brighter notes the chapter chairs workshop at the Detroit Symposium reminded all of us gathered there that we have much to share with one another about how we work to meet the needs of our local membership. As always this meeting represents an important way that chapter chairs discover the resources that we share and we find encouragement to continue the local work of chapters. Development of more and more tools and ideas for the in-progress Manual for Chapters is an important side benefit of the meeting. The more direct impact comes from questions and answers that the groups give one another to questions about maintaining contact with members, building chapter membership, capturing information from AASWG web resources, and getting the most return on investments of time and resources in programming or workshop development.

Chapter Development continues to be interested in hearing from any AASWG members who would like information regarding becoming an organizing area, exploring chapter or affiliate status, requesting the AASWG Internal Grant or who has questions regarding AASWG and its Chapters. All inquiries can come to the Chapter Development Chair, Michael Wagner at

**Three funds** are available for your contributions to AASWG - the Annual Fund, the Operating Fund, and the John and Carol Ramey Endowment Fund. Give in honor, memory or celebration of a person, group, or event. A line has been added to your Membership Renewal forms to provide for such gifts. But, you don't need to wait for the form. Send your gift now for listing in the next issue of SWwGN.



## Chapters and Affiliates

### CONNECTICUT

As some of you may know the Connecticut Chapter has been largely inactive for some time now. I approached Raymie with an interest in becoming involved with AASWG because I was excited by all I had learned in group work classes at the University of Connecticut (UConn). I had come to see many of the values I felt underappreciated elsewhere were virtues in group work literature. I was becoming more involved with a small Board of Directors (I am currently serving as vice president) and training to be part of a local emergency response team. I have not given up hope on serving on my town's Human Relations Commission. All of these are voluntary positions. My colleagues would question why I was doing all these things when I would not be getting paid for them. This endless question made me realize that others were not getting the same lessons in their course work and, more sadly, were not getting these values elsewhere in their lives. Though my minor epiphany may sound snobbish or self-righteous, it has led me to the first panel discussion I have ever tried to put together, a panel discussion on Group Workers on the Board. I want to get people to discuss how they got on a Board of Directors, why they got on, and what about group work makes for a good Board Member. Hopefully, I will be pulling new group work students on-board to help get the panel discussion off the ground. Those I have spoken with thus far have been excited about the proposed panel discussion. I am planning at this point for sometime in late February or early March. Early in February, UConn will be hosting a Social Workers' Network to allow students to make contacts with the organizations they will soon be interacting with. AASWG will have a presence there. Anyone in Connecticut who is interested in being more involved please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be speaking in group work classes at UConn in the future and hopefully expand to other social work programs in the near future.

I am very open to suggestions for future offerings. Presently, I am thinking about the value of group work specifically

in a field that is increasingly pathology oriented. I am also looking into a presentation on qualitative methods for the general practitioner. So again, this is a great time to become more involved in Connecticut.

Michael Westfall, Chair, 860-241-0317, mpwestfall@sbcglobal.net.

### FLORIDA

These past few months have been terribly difficult for our Chapter as we have lost one of the leaders in group work, Toby Berman Rossi. It is almost impossible to mention social work with groups and not think of Toby. Her contributions were innumerable, her energy, unrivaled and her ability to make all feel an integral part of the group, inimitable. We will do our best to carry on in the tradition that Toby set as a standard for all social group workers. We also thank all of those persons who generously contributed to the Toby Berman-Rossi Memorial Fund.

We dedicated our October 2 and November 13 Workshops to Toby Berman-Rossi as we committed ourselves to carry out her work here in our chapter. Our fall workshop series was extremely successful. The October 2 workshop offered an exciting interactive workshop fostering group development at each stage of group work with Alison Bregman-Rodrigues. This was followed by our second workshop on November 13 with Sharron Singleton. This proved to be an educational, enlightening, interactive workshop addressing group work with older persons. Approximately fifty persons attended each workshop.

The final workshop for the Fall/Winter Series, the Beulah Rothman Lecture, is scheduled for January 29 and will include a continental breakfast as well as a membership luncheon following the workshop. Please note that there will be a change in our schedule as Judy Lee is unable to be our presenter. Mark Smith has graciously accepted the invitation to be our speaker for this special workshop. Please plan on attending this exciting educational program.

Over the years the Florida Chapter of AASWG has consistently offered high

quality educational programs. They have served to further the development of knowledge and skills of working with a wide range of groups representing our practice community. This workshop will be held at Barry University's School of Social Work from 9:00 AM to 12:15 PM and is free to members.

Additionally, we are pleased to announce that Margot Breton will be the keynote speaker for our Fall Conference slated for November 11. This conference will also take place at Barry University. Barry is located at 11300 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami Shores, FL, 305-899-3900. We have applied for CEU's for clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and mental health counselors.

For further information about the Florida Chapter, please contact Laura Farley at 305-758-0067 or lfarley@aol.com.

Submitted by Laura E. Farley, Chair

### GERMANY

The Chapter sends its best wishes to all Groupworkers in the US. We hope you will have a prosperous and interesting year with many energizing and touching relationships within groups.

The German chapter has ended the year 2004 with its annual meeting on December 3-5.

Our meeting dealt with the very actual theme: "Groupwork under new, more difficult conditions".

We offered workshops as "Self-Understanding - My Self-Definition as a Groupworker". Besides that we worked on marketing strategies and thought about innovative ways to make Groupwork more common.

Not to forget we had a workshop called "Best Practices - Learning from Each Other".

I am very happy to tell you that the international issue was a central theme during the whole meeting.

Sonia Spelters presented her insights and reported about the work she has done in the international Board.

She and I together told the other members about our exciting and helpful experiences gained in Detroit.





I would like to emphasize here how happy we were to have Tim Kelly with us. There were plenty of opportunities to talk with our international guest during the afternoon session, "Tea Time with Tim". He was so enriching for us, especially due to his knowledge about the US and a European country like Scotland. It was wonderful for all of us to have the chance to look above and beyond our own boundaries.

Many of you might have realised that we Germans sometimes think a bit strange and unusual ....so I can betray that we dared to think about the vision to organize the International Symposium in Germany in a few years. But first of all we will be busy with our own concept of how to develop internationality within the German chapter.

We definitely want to learn from you folks overseas, and we are, of course, happy to share our knowledge and way of doing Groupwork with you in the future!

I am glad to contribute my bits and pieces as the German Chapter Chair and will always motivate my colleagues to strengthen the discussion and relationships with all of you abroad.

To contact the Chapter send e-mail to me at [as.kunz@gmx.net](mailto:as.kunz@gmx.net).

Suse Kunz

## **INDIA AFFILIATE**

The recent International Workshop on "Social Group Work in Crossing Barriers" was opened by Nagpur Vice Chancellor Dr. Rode. About forty participants, all teachers of Social Work and practitioners, attended the programme. The representatives were Mrs. Ujawala Masdekar from Karve Institute of Social Science Pune, Mr. Bipin Jojo from Tata Institute of Social Work, Mumbai, Dr. Surekha Rao from Tirupati Women's University, Dr. Prajakta Tangsale from MSS Institute of Social Work, Dr. Banmala from NISWASS, Professor and Chair of K. R. Narayanan, Bhubaneshwar, Mrs. A. Patil from Karve Institute of Social Work Pune, Mrs. Hemlata David, Mrs. Meenakshi Ganvir from Tirpude College of Social Work, Nagpur, Prof. Rotale and his colleague from Bhandara, Dr. Thote, and his colleague from Nagpur, Principal from Chimur, College of Social Work, Shri Khaparde from Chimur, Ms. Bharati

Shah of Mayo Hospital, Mrs. Vijaya Shah and Mrs. Megha Peshkar from Indian Institute of Youth Welfare and many others who attended and participated in the three-day workshop. About eighteen papers on various themes were presented and discussed. Mr. Mayank Shukla from Orange City School of Social Work, and Dr. (Mrs.) Beena Chouguley from AASWAG also attended the workshop.

Miss Bindu Babbar was there to write the report. Mrs. Kunda Bapitwale from Tirpude College of Social Work also presented a paper on HIV-AIDS. Mrs. H. David presented a paper on "Sustainable Development".

Major papers were on "Environment and Group Work", "Disabled and Group Work", "HIV and Group Work", "Women Empowerment through Groups", "Inter-disciplinary Approach in Group Work", "Advancement in Methods of Group Work", and "Group Work and Democracy".

The concluding programme was addressed by Shri Niloo Choudhary, a Rotary Governor. The main focus of the workshop was on gender quality, environmental issues, promotion of secularism, value in democracy, social groups in inter-disciplinary society, people with disabilities, and social group work in HIV-AIDS. Both the inaugural and valedictory programmes were attended by Shri Manohar Golpelwar, President, India Affiliate, and Dr. (Mrs.) Banmala. Ms. H. David presented a paper on "Sustainable Development".

On the whole the programme was very well received.

Manohar Golpelwar, President

## **KENTUCKY**

Three members from the Kentucky Chapter attended the Symposium in Detroit and enjoyed the experience. Currently we are starting to build a closer relationship with the Kent School of Social Work at the University of Louisville by offering a "Group Work Student of the Year", with the award being a paid registration at the Symposium in St. Paul. Also, on the KENTUCKY NASW web site has a link for AASWG as a source of Social Work trainings. In November Sherry Fairchild presented "Play Therapy Applications to

Social Group Work". It was very well attended. We had requests for Tim Schladand to present again on "Men Working with Men: A Live Men's Group", so that is scheduled for January. In February Ursula Melhuish and Jean Kellett will offer a presentation from the Symposium, "Roselle Kurland's Social Group Work: Five Key Components of Superb Practice". On March 17 we will cover "Working with Women in Groups". In June Helen Deines will conduct an HIV training related to group work. And, finally, sometime in the spring Trudy Duffy of Boston University will offer an all day training on "Ethics and the Use of Self as Change Agent".

Please contact Ursula Melhuish at [n.melhuish@insightbb.com](mailto:n.melhuish@insightbb.com) or Alison Johnson at [kjajcj@prodigy.net](mailto:kjajcj@prodigy.net) to receive a copy of upcoming presentations and workshops or for more information about Kentucky Chapter membership.

Ursula Melhuish, Chair

## **LONG ISLAND**

The Chapter is very pleased to have presented two outstanding programs that have been extremely well received by all who attended:

November 3, in collaboration with Adelphi University School of Social Work, "You Want Me To Do A Group? That's Easier Said Than Done" with Eileen Smith, Andrea Green, Alissa Cohen (recent MSW grads) and Carol S. Cohen, Associate Professor, Adelphi University School of Social Work. Integrating theory, practice examples, humor, role-playing, questions, and answers, this presentation, attended by many first-time field instructors who were enrolled in the "Seminar in Field Instruction", looked at some of the challenges faced by students and their field instructors in assigning and teaching group work practice skills.

December 7, in collaboration with School of Social Welfare at Stony Brook Field Instruction Department, "Empowering Clients Through Self-Help and Social Support: A Model for Group Workers" with Len Tuzman, Roz Pearlman, and several members of the Consumer Support Network Program of Zucker Hillside Hospital. The presenters spoke about their professionally supported self-help program which



focuses on enhancing the quality of life for chronic mentally ill individuals through a social support model. After the program, several members of the audience expressed interest in setting up meetings to discuss ways to replicate similar programs in their communities.

**Future Program Plans:**

February 16, in collaboration with Molloy College School of Social Work, a panel presentation, "Creative Group Work: Meeting the Needs of Seniors", will address the use of group work with a population that is growing and also represents diverse service needs.

April, still in the planning stages: "Dialectical Behavioral Group Therapy for Adolescents: What is it? How does it work? When is it used? Who can do it?"

We are pleased to report that the Chapter has added several new members. We are hopeful that as we continue to provide programs of interest to the community, we will bring in even more. The new attractive application brochures are a big plus! We are also very appreciative to the various schools of social work that have provided much support in the way of publicity, refreshments, and hospitality for our programming.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Feigelman, Chair  
feigelma@aol.com

**MASSACHUSETTS**

The Chapter has had a busy fall. We kicked off the academic year with a Board Retreat at Holly Fischer-Engel's home in early September. After some food, fun, and a little more food, we got down to work to plan our agenda for the upcoming year. The board is committed to increasing the number of opportunities for group workers in Massachusetts to come together for networking, learning, and community building.

On November 16 we held our first event of the academic year. Bill Chiaradonna, one of our current board members, presented a workshop on "Group Work with Difficult Clients". The workshop was well attended; over thirty students and practitioners came to hear Bill talk about the challenges of working with resistance in groups and the ways in which our outreach, planning, and engagement with clients reinforces or

diminishes that resistance. The importance of meeting clients where they are at and tailoring group purpose to meet the expressed needs of clients was emphasized. Participants left the workshop inspired and excited to integrate the ideas presented into their group work practices.

The next big event for the Chapter will be our Conference and Annual Meeting, "The Many Faces and Places of Group Work: Challenges and Opportunities." The conference is going to be held on Friday, April 1, at the Jordan Boys and Girls Club in Chelsea from 8 AM to 2 PM. The board was thrilled that Julianne Wayne agreed to be our keynote speaker. Her topic will be "Offensive Behavior in Groups: Challenges and Opportunities", based on an article she co-authored with Alex Gitterman. Awards for Group Worker of the Year, Group Work Student of the Year, and Group Work Agency of the Year will be presented during the lunch program.

Several Chapter and Board members attended the Detroit Symposium and enjoyed the range of activities the program had to offer. The Thursday night reception and the Saturday night banquet were highlights for the Massachusetts crowd. The Red Sox clinching a World Series spot while we were there helped add to the fun and excitement of the Symposium. We send our best to the Minneapolis Symposium Planning Committee who is working hard to plan a fantastic event! See you in Minnesota!

For more information about the Massachusetts Chapter or the upcoming conference on April 1, contact Meg MacPherson, Chapter Chair, at 617-678-1273 or contact the Board at maaaswg@yahoo.com.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meg MacPherson, Chair

**MINNESOTA**

We are just at the beginning of what is proving to be an exciting program year. This year our overarching theme is about "Getting Grounded in Group Work". Jan Andrews-Schenk was the keynote speaker at our Annual Meeting, giving a talk by the same title. Her talk provided the philosophical roots of social group work, the stages of a group, and the

values of social group work. After her presentation a panel of practitioners provided their direct service examples of how they use the principles and values of social group work. This program was a huge success and resulted in not only an increase in knowledge, but an increase in members as well.

The rest of the program year will consist of speakers who will discuss their groups and explain how they use the values of social group work in their practice. The last program of the year will be in May and will provide an appropriate conclusion of this year's theme by having a panel of actual group members sharing their experiences.

Aside from the aforementioned programs relating to Social Group Work values, in January the Chapter program will provide an opportunity for members to hear about the presentations of the many members who attended the International Symposium in Detroit. It will also be an opportunity for members to brainstorm possible presentations for the 2005 conference right here in Minnesota.

The Minnesota Chapter is preparing for the 2005 conference. Committees have been formed and have been meeting regularly. Everyone is hard at work creating what is sure to be an amazing Symposium. We can't wait to see you September 29-October 2, 2005.

For additional information about the Minnesota Chapter contact Jenny Schwartz, Secretary, at 612-823-3237 or e-mail at jenniferschwartz@hotmail.com or contact Shelly Rottenberg, Chair, 651-690-8786.

Respectfully submitted, Jenny Schwartz

**NEW YORK CITY  
RED APPLE**

The Chapter hosted a thought-provoking and well attended evening program conducted by Dominique Moysé Steinberg entitled "A Mutual Aid Approach to Dealing with Conflict (Who Died and Left You Boss?-Uh Oh!)" on November 29 at the Hunter College School of Social Work. The program included attention to the philosophical underpinnings and key practice principles of working with and through group conflict. Participants were also invited to



explore their own personal experiences and feelings regarding conflict in service of professional development. To paraphrase Steinberg, in our personal lives we are free to react to conflict but in our professional roles we need to respond productively.

The program was followed by a brief chapter meeting. Roberta Rohdin's resignation due to relocation was announced and the new Co-chairs, Andrew Cicchetti and Shantih Clemans, were introduced. Also an announcement was made soliciting candidates for the positions of Secretary and Membership Chairs.

Regarding membership we initiated discussion regarding the Chapter's goal of expanding our membership base by reaching out to group work students, agencies and other interested parties.

The leadership committee will meet in January to plan the remaining academic year's programming and to discuss strategic issues.

For information about the Chapter contact Cicchetti at [atcicchetti@worldnet.att.net](mailto:atcicchetti@worldnet.att.net) or Clemans at [shantih@aol.com](mailto:shantih@aol.com).

Respectfully submitted by  
Andrew Cicchetti

### **NORTHEAST OHIO**

The Chapter's Education and Membership Committees have developed and executed plans within the past six months.

As we have reported in previous months, the Education Committee has taken on the challenge of impacting the curriculum at local universities as it relates to group work education. Several meetings have been held with field coordinators from these universities in an attempt to begin to gather data about group work practice at their placement agencies. A questionnaire is being developed which will be distributed through the universities in order to gather this data.

The Education Committee continues to be represented on the curriculum committee at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University (MSASS at CWRU). Representatives from the Education Committee are conducting focus groups at targeted agencies in order to gather

information to contribute to this process.

The Chapter is also planning a spring workshop for group work practitioners. We will obviously be using information generated from all of the above resources. We will also be offering during the spring another workshop on ethics as it relates to group work.

Through the generosity of a few local AASWG Chapter members, an endowment has been established at MSASS at CWRU for a Lectureship on Group Work. The first lecture is to take place in the fall of 2005.

We are pleased to announce that we have recruited eight student members from four local universities. Their one year memberships will be paid through the Ruby Pernell Memorial Student Member Scholarship Fund. Plans for their participation and inclusion are progressing.

For more information concerning the Northeast Ohio Chapter contact Claudia Carson, Co-Chair, 216-687-4516, [carson@csuohio.edu](mailto:carson@csuohio.edu), or Lynne Rose, Co-Chair, [lrose@myexcel.com](mailto:lrose@myexcel.com).

Submitted by Claudia Carson, Co-Chair

### **TORONTO**

#### **The Toronto Region Groupworkers Network**

It was wonderful to see our colleagues in Detroit at the Symposium. Toronto was well represented at the event and we would like to thank the organizers for a stimulating and enjoyable experience. I think there should be a dance party on the Saturday night of all Symposia!

The program committee of the Toronto Region Groupworkers Network organized a wonderful event to launch our program year. On November 19 we held a workshop, "Building Teamwork through Groupwork", led by Donna Occhipinti, a social worker at Trillium Health Centre, and Helene Borts, a chaplain at the same setting. They presented a unique perspective on team building using group work as a methodology.

We are planning our next event for February 18. We will host a workshop on using activities in group work with children and adolescents. The event will be led by several social workers who are

experienced in using activities. We are looking forward to an interesting and fun event.

We are very excited to report that our chapter was invited to lead a pre-conference half-day workshop on group work at the Annual Conference of the Ontario Association of Social Workers. The theme of the conference is "Social Workers: Challenging Systems, Leading Change". It will be held at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, June 9-12. Our workshop is entitled "Social Work with Groups: Facing Today's Challenges with Creativity and Innovation". We will have an opening presentation on challenges to group work, followed by a panel on innovative group work practice. There will be break-out sessions to discuss how to support group work in centres across Ontario.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing everyone in Minneapolis.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Muskat, Chair  
[bmuskat@integra.on.ca](mailto:bmuskat@integra.on.ca)

## **ORGANIZING AREAS**

### **ARIZONA**

For information about the Arizona Chapter organizing efforts, please contact Flavio Marsiglia in Tempe, [marsiglia@asu.edu](mailto:marsiglia@asu.edu), 480-965-6185 or Marshall Rubin in Tucson, [mrubin@aol.com](mailto:mrubin@aol.com), 520-577-7718.

### **GHANA**

For information about Chapter organizing activities in contact Simons Boamah, Chair, [simonsgh@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:simonsgh@yahoo.co.uk).

### **THANKS FOR PROCEEDINGS**

Dear John,

I just wanted to thank you and the other editors for having finally produced such a fine book. I'm speaking of course of the *Growth and Development Through Group Work*, the proceedings of the unforgotten Akron conference, about four weeks after 9-11.

We had a good AASWG meeting of the German Chapter in Herzigenrath near Aachen over the last weekend, attended by about 60 people. Among them Tim



## INDIA AASWG HOLDS GHANDHIYAN SOCIAL WORK SEMINAR

The India Affiliate AASWG and Athawale College of Social Work held a two-day jointly sponsored seminar on "Gandhian Concept in Social Work Education" on March 25 and 26 at Bhandara in Maharashtra. Mahatma Gandhi's objective was to establish a society based on truth, non-violence and justice, according to him the aim of education is to produce a whole person, to make the people socially useful, and to build character that is development of courage, strength, virtue and ability to forget oneself and work for the good of others. All social workers must find active roles in creating a democratic political atmosphere where every citizen shall be free to participate rightfully and dutifully.

The primary objective of this workshop was to promote and motivate professors, practitioners, students, and social workers towards practice in social group work and for strengthening democracy at the grass root level for human happiness and human dignity.

There were thirty-five participants from various social work colleges of Maharashtra. Twelve participants presented papers during the two days.

Renowned expert in the education field and former Vice Chancellor Dr. P. Bhandarkar was chief guest of the opening session. Shri Manohar Golpelwar gave introductory remarks interlinking the Gram Swaraj concept of Mahatma Gandhi with social work. The Gandhian concept of development is still in practice in the society. Khadi was given by Gandhi as a symbol of self-reliant and self-employment. Dr. Bhandarkar emphasized that the Gandhian concept in social work education should be properly evaluated. Gandhian thoughts influenced the course of social work. Gandhiji was great because he loved poor and miserable, he was deeply spiritual and an activist, and he worked for human dignity and human happiness. Mr. Wamaji Dafare, social worker, and Dr. Beena Chauguley, Secretary of India AASWG, spoke on the Gandhian, holistic approach for development and compared today's social work education with practice of group work and decentralization of leadership.

The second session was chaired by Shri Manohar Golpelwar, President of India AASWG. The following papers were presented: Prof. Chundrashekar Malviya, Athawale College of Social Work, Bhandara, "Mahatma Gandhi Yanche Tatvagyan Va Samajkarya"; Prof. L. G. Bepari Liyas, Athawale College of Social Work, Bhandara, "Gandhijinchya Vicharanche Samajkaryala Yogdan"; and Prof. G. J. Khangar, Social Work College, Chirmur, "Mahatma Gandhijinchya Jivan Mulyanche Samarkaryath Yogdan".

In the early afternoon session chaired by Mrs. Megha Peshkar three papers were presented by Prof. Sarala Shanware, Athawale College of Social Work, Bhandara, "Mahatma Gandhi Ki Vichardhara Main Samajkarya"; Prof. C. J. Khangar, Athawale College of Social Work, Chirmur, "Mahatma Gandhijinchya Jivan Mulyanche Samajkaryath Yogdan"; and Prof. Naresh S. Kolte, Athawale College of Social Work Bhandara, on "Mahatma Gandhichi Etihasik Parshavabhoomi va Samarkarya".

After these presentations there was discussion and experience sharing by all participants. Mrs. Megha Peshkar summed up the session expressing her view on Gandhian Philosophy and Social Work Education.

Shri Sunil Zade, Principal of Athawale College of Social Work, Chirmur, was Chairperson of the first session on the second day. After opening with a prayer, presentations were given by Prof. Deshmukh, Athawale College of Social Work Bhandara, "Gandhiji Ki Vichardhara Main Panchayat Raj." Prof. D. S. Choukhunde, Athawale College of Social Work, Bhandara, "Gandhijinchya Vicharatil Samajkarya"; and Prof. Baban Meshram, Pragati M. College and J.M. Patel College, Bhandara, Samajik Parivatan Samajkarya Va Mahatma Gandhi Vichar Dhara."

Prof. Waman Turale, Nagpur University, presented a paper on Gandhian Philosophy.

Principal Chandansingh Rotele College of Social Work, Bhandara, wrote "Gandhiji and Social Work Education." On behalf of Shri Rotele his two students, Mr. Pawar and Mr. Ramteke presented his paper.

Prof. Bhimraw Meshram, Kumbhalkar Social Work College, Ganeshpeth, Nagpur, presented on "Yug Purush Mahatma Gandhi."

After the above paper presentations there was an excellent question and answers session. Prof. Sunil P. Zade summed up the session expressing his thought on Gandhian Philosophy and social group work. He wrote a paper on the same topic.

Dr. John was chief guest at the concluding programme of the seminar. Shri Rotele, Shri Golpelwar, and Shri Dafare were on the dais, Shri Manohar Golpelwar presided over the program.

Dr. John spoke on "Imperative Social Work - Gandhian Approach." He said social work is to work for betterment of life of people with the feeling for people who had voluntarily driven commitment. This is where Gandhi is found relevant today. His understanding of freedom, especially after 1930, expanded from political freedom to liberation from every shackle. It's not the freedom of a few or a selection of the society but uplifting of the masses in toto. So it is both a comprehensive all around development and development of the masses.

Prof. Kasare and Principal Mrs. N. S. Padole expressed their appreciation for the seminar and the twelve excellent papers which had been presented on "Gandhian Concept and Social Work Education." Gandhian concept is relevant very much with social work education in general and with group work in particular. Social work teachers should include Gandhian values among social work students keeping in mind all round development of the whole community particularly rural and tribal area for shining India in the world. They appealed to AASWG to organize such a seminar twice in a year for social work teachers, professors, and students.

While summing up the seminar, Shri Golpelwar said that social work teachers and professors should inculcate Gandhian values among students, and focus should be given on Social Group Work method because group is a power and strength to develop community and society and to empower people.

The two days ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Prof. Hemant Deshamukh, Athawale College of Social



## RESPONDING TO THE TSUNAMI DISASTER

We are all living through a particularly traumatic period in history in which the huge natural disaster of a tsunami devastated large portions of southeast Asia, India, and southeast Africa. Although there are regularly other natural disasters, this one has affected us throughout the world as together we viewed it in "real time".

We extend our sympathy to all the families, communities, societies, and nations which have suffered so much.

We extend our appreciation to all those who have responded so generously and quickly to help people rebuild their lives.

We urge all AASWG members to support the efforts in whatever ways they can.

Of course, the first requirements were for food, safe water, shelter, medicine, survival, and public health measures. Direct support for small children and others in need to survive is also critical. Beyond that begins the rebuilding of life which will take years, even decades. We know that life for those who experienced the tsunami can never be the same. We know from our own experiences in smaller disasters that many will never recover the quality of life they enjoyed before. The most important thing is to pick up what one can and begin the rebuilding.

In watching the reports we looked for evidence that somewhere there might be efforts to gather people together to assess and pool their strengths and resources in families and small groups. Some of these groups would even have to be people who had never worked together before. Only briefly have we seen or heard of such efforts being encouraged. The reports are mostly about outsiders rushing in with material goods and directions of what to do. In one instance the residents were watching while foreign troops worked at cleaning up an area. An international strategy should have included encouragement for people to get together in small groups to do what they could in the immediate aftermath and in working to rebuild their futures.

We are encouraged by the statements from the International Federation of Social Workers and various national social work organizations which recognize the need to

## LEAVING A LEGACY

In past years AASWG has received several generous legacies from the estates of deceased members. These have greatly assisted in carrying out the programs of our organization and have been very much appreciated.

You can arrange to have your interest in AASWG continued for many years by specifying a gift to AASWG in your will. In making such arrangements consult with your attorney and AASWG for specific wording and designations. You may want to specify the Endowment Fund, the Operating Fund, the Annual Fund, some other purpose, or that the use be at the discretion of the organization at the time.

In the USA AASWG is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization gifts to which are tax exempt to the extent allowable by law. There are similar provisions in the laws of other countries.

Conditions in our societies indicate that the need and the opportunity have never been greater. Now is the time to assure yourself and your colleagues that your interest in AASWG will live on into the future.

## "CIRCLE OF FRIENDS",

A feature article in *Life Magazine*, December 10, 2004, tells of the importance of a life-long group of friends holding reunions for over forty years. "Late nights. Laughter. Pound cake. Author Cassandra King celebrates four decades of friendship -- and shares the inspiration for her upcoming novel, *The Same Sweet Girls*."

## WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR GROUP WORK TODAY?

involve the people affected for the decision and action processes. It was good to hear one of our members, Christianne Besson, reporting on National Public Radio from Geneva, on the losses and needs of people.

It will be a long process. We know that group workers will do their part. Group work knowledge and skill can be critical in rebuilding life after disaster.

## LISBETH MATTSSON DIES

We extend our sympathy to Tom Johannesen, Secretary General of the International Federation of Social Workers on the death of his wife, Lisbeth Mattsson, on December 13 in Geneva, Switzerland. She was the IFSW Communication Officer. AASWG has appreciated working with Lisbeth and Tom over many past years.

Johannesen sends his "Thanks to all of you who have sent greetings, and for all your support during these last difficult months."

The funeral was December 16 at the churchyard of Schosshaldenfriedhof Bern. Johannesen may be contacted at [secr.gen@ifsw.org](mailto:secr.gen@ifsw.org).

## TOBY BERMAN-ROSSI

10/6/41 - 9/30/04

by Darcy Schiller

Toby Berman-Rossi - a remarkable woman

Omniscient in all areas of social work  
Best known for her group work skills and knowledge

Yearning to educate and share herself with everyone

Beyond being a social worker, Toby Exuded her love, warmth, compassion, and nurturing

Rewarded greatly by her altruism  
Maternal concern and support to all who crossed her path

Always helping them develop and maximize their strengths

Never accepting or demonstrating the words, "I cannot"

Renowned internationally for all her contributions

Offered to people, through the profession of

Social Work, exemplifying the definition of a

Stellar social worker, leaving the deepest Impression on the lives of all she touched

Toby Berman-Rossi will live forever in the hearts and minds of all who knew her, and social work students of the future.



**Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups, Inc.**  
**An International Professional Organization** www.aaswg.org

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL**  
All memberships are on a calendar year basis\*

Name & credentials \_\_\_\_\_  
Street address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State/Province, 9 digit Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Country \_\_\_\_\_ Office phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Employer name & address \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Dues** (All dollar amounts are in U.S. currency) **Amount**  
Regular: US & Abroad \$70, Long Island Chapter \$75, Canada \$50 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Special: (circle one) Retired, Unemployed, Student (degree \_\_\_\_\_) \$35, Canada \$25 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership Directory (prepared August 30, of membership year and shipped after that date) \$7 (\$5+ \$2 s&h) .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Fund Contributions** (For acknowledgment to a third party for a contribution please provide address).  
Operating Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Endowment Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Total..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Contribution in memory or honor of (circle which) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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\*First time members joining after 6/30 will have a membership through 12/31 of the following year unless attending the Symposium.

**Ofc use:** Rec'd \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Rec# \_\_\_\_\_ Mbr# \_\_\_\_\_ 2004# \_\_\_\_\_ Mbshp yr \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_



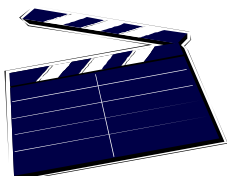
## Help Wanted!

AASWG is interested in creating a 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Group Work Video



**We need a talented work group that can contribute:**



Ideas  
Live Group Work Examples  
Videography Expertise  
Production Expertise  
Marketing Know How

**Call or e-mail Raymie Wayne, General Secretary  
to see how you can get involved**

1-866-90-AASWG

or

generalsecretary@aaswg.org

**Please be in touch by March 15 so that we can launch this exciting project quickly!**

## FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

**The Eleventh National Conference on Alternatives to Expulsion, Suspension, and Dropping Out of School. February 10-12, 2005**, Rosen Center Hotel, Orlando, Florida. The International Center for the Study of Social Issues and Education at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay in collaboration with the UWGB Division of Outreach and Education. Contact Fritz Erickson, Dean of Professional and Graduate Studies, or Barbara McClure-Lukens, Director of Outreach Continuing Professional Education, 920-465-2222, 800-892-2118, fax 920-465-2552, mcclureb@uwgb.edu, www.uwgb.edu.

**51st Annual Program Meeting, Council on Social Work Education**, New York City, **February 27-March 1, 2005**. "One World, Many Cultures, New Challenges". CSWE, 1725 Duke Street, #500, Alexandria, VA 22314-3457, 703-683-8080, fax 703-683-8099,

apm@cswe.org, www.cswe.org. Attend the "Group Work Symposium" and visit the AASWG exhibit at the APM. Combined conference includes 3rd National Gerontological Conference and 8th University of South Carolina Technology Conference.

**"Professional Social Work and Its Contribution to Africa's Development"**, 6th Pan-African Social Work Conference, **10-14 April 2005**, Nairobi, Kenya. Mbuguacharles@yahoo.com.

**"Supporting Promising Practices and Positive Outcomes: A Shared Responsibility"**, 15th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, **April 18-23, 2005**, Boston, Massachusetts. The Children's Bureau Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families. Contact Kim Amos, Pal-Tech, Inc., 1901 North

Moore Street, Suite 204, Arlington, VA 22209, 703-528-0435, kamos@pal-tech.com.

**"Social Work in Disability and Rehabilitation: Policy, Program Development, and Service Provision in Community Based Settings."** The international conference of YAI/National Institute for People with Disabilities (NIPD). **May 9-11**, Crown Plaza Manhattan Hotel, New York City. For information call Ben Nivin, YAI's Conference Director at, 212-273-6203 or Tina Sobel, Senior Manager of Professional Information, 212-273-6457, or e-mail to tina.sobel@yai.org.

**International Federation of Social Workers European Seminar "Social Work Challenges for Social Cohesion"**, **23-25 May, 2005**, Lefkosia/Nicosia, Cyprus. www.socialwork2005.org.

**"Making Practice Learning Work in a Global Culture."** The 4th International Practice Learning Conference,



St. John College, York, UK, **July 4-5, 2005**. Call for Papers deadline: February 25. Contact Lynda Deacon, [surgamus@aol.com](mailto:surgamus@aol.com). This just precedes the 11th International Groupwork Conference there. Both are sponsored by Whiting and Birch Ltd.

**11th European Groupwork Symposium, "Interprofessional Groupwork". July 6-8, 2005**, St. John College, York, England. Mark Doel, Chair, Groupwork Symposium Steering Group, c/o Surgamus Ltd, Holly House, Little Skipwith, YO8 5SL UK, [surgamus@aol.com](mailto:surgamus@aol.com). Sponsored by Whiting and Birch, Ltd. Deadline for proposals extended to March 31.

**"Social Work Theories and Practice with Cultural Variations"**, 18th Asia-Pacific Social Work Conference. **10-15 July 2005**, Seoul, Korea.

**100th Annual Meeting, "Comparative Perspectives, Competing Explanations: Accounting for the Rising and Declining Significance of Sociology"**, American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, **August 13-16, 2005**. ASA 1307 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 700, Washington, DC 2005-4701, 202-383-9005, fax 202-383-0882, [www.asanet.org/convention/2005](http://www.asanet.org/convention/2005).

**27th International Symposium on Social Work with Groups**, Minneapolis, Minnesota, **September 29-October 2, 2005**. For more information contact Janice Andrews-Schenk, Chair, 651-962-5803, fax 651-962-5819, [jlandrews@stthomas.edu](mailto:jlandrews@stthomas.edu). The "Call for Papers" can be found elsewhere in this issue. Check the AASWG web site for continuously updated information, [www.aaswg.org](http://www.aaswg.org).

**52nd Annual Program Meeting, Council on Social Work Education**, Chicago, **February 16-18, 2006**. CSWE, 1725 Duke Street, #500, Alexandria, VA 22314-3457, 703-683-8080, fax 703-683-8099, [apm@cswe.org](mailto:apm@cswe.org), [www.cswe.org](http://www.cswe.org). AASWG promotes the "Group Work Symposium" at the APM. See Call for Papers in the next column.

Members are encouraged to submit proposals for presentations on group work and to participate for discussion of group work themes in these and other relevant conferences. A number of the conferences listed for later dates still have open calls for papers.

## CALL FOR GROUP WORK PAPERS FOR 2006 CSWE APM

The Call for Papers for the 52nd Annual Program Meeting (APM) of the Council on

Social Work Education (CSWE) to be held in Chicago February 16-18, 2006, will be available beginning February 1. The statement of the theme for this APM is not yet finalized. Information about the program including the forms and instructions for submitting abstracts will be available at the APM section of CSWE's web site, [www.cswe.org](http://www.cswe.org). Check periodically for updates.

We invite members to submit abstracts for the Group Work Practice Symposium at this APM. This symposium seeks contributions that discuss innovative ideas as in direct group work practice and in teaching for practice. Of special interest are abstracts with new theoretical models, empirical grounding (qualitative and quantitative), and social work programmatic and practice approaches that explore the unique qualities of group work in meeting the needs of oppressed and vulnerable populations.

Maintaining our status as an "Approved Symposium" is important for the survival and growth of group work in social work education. This requires that we have a minimum of four papers accepted at each APM. The number of proposals we can accept is a percentage of the number we receive. For that reason it is very important that we receive a large number of proposals so we can offer a high quality and diverse selection of group work sessions. We must receive a minimum of ten abstracts to maintain our approved status. You should, therefore, consider submitting a proposal even if it is at an early stage of development. Not only will you strengthen the symposium, but you will also receive feedback that will enable you to polish the abstract for future submissions.

It is required that proposals be submitted electronically. Visit [www.cswe.org](http://www.cswe.org) and follow the APM links to view the Online Proposal Submission Checklist. If you are absolutely unable to submit online, you may access a printable copy of the application form online or contact CSWE to request a form that you may send by mail. Persons submitting

forms online must log into the Members-Only section of CSWE Online to access the form. You will need the user name and password that are printed on your 2004-5 CSWE membership card.

There is no disadvantage to submitting a proposal for the Group Work Symposium. Papers not selected are given a second review by the panel of the CSWE program planning committee for the main APM program.

As in past years AASWG is promoting the "Group Work Symposium" of the APM. Group Workers are encouraged to submit proposals designated for the "Group Work" section by making the appropriate entries on the "Proposal Submission Form".

For more specific information call CSWE at 703-683-8080 or send a message to the e-mail address, [apm@cswe.org](mailto:apm@cswe.org).

Information will also be posted to the AASWG web site, [www.aaswg.org](http://www.aaswg.org). Readers are invited to check periodically to get the latest updates on the Group Work Symposium at the 2006 APM.

Many members have found it useful to work with mentors, experts, or peer consultant groups in preparing proposals. Some chapters and agencies have established committees to improve the quality of submissions and the chances of acceptance. In past years some proposals have not qualified for consideration due to failure to strictly adhere to submission guidelines. It is absolutely required to include the references that were used in preparing the abstract.

Please contact one of the Co-chairs if you would like to be a member of the initial panel of experts that reviews the abstracts. Final selection of reviews, however, rests with the CSWE staff.

Group workers should begin now to develop proposals. It is best, but not required, that papers focus on the theme of the APM and on education. The deadline for proposals is May 15, 2005.

Alex Gitterman and Lawrence Shulman are again Co-chairs of the Group Work Symposium. They will be responsible for the process of selecting the papers to be presented.





## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups, Inc. -  
An International Professional Organization

**27<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Social Work with Groups**

Minneapolis - September 29 - October 2, 2005

**Bridges of Hope Over Troubled Waters**



Come to Minneapolis and talk about **Bridges of Hope over Troubled Waters**. The Minneapolis/St. Paul area, collectively known as the Twin Cities is renowned for its cultural and recreational opportunities and beautiful natural surroundings. Minneapolis is host to some of the country's finest art and theater. Our community is comprised of many diverse ethnic groups. Minneapolis is literate, lush, and loaded with lakes.

The conference theme, **Bridges of Hope over Troubled Waters**, encourages participation and presentations by practitioners, group members, students, field work instructors, teachers, researchers, and professionals across disciplines in order to make this symposium a bridge building experience for all. Presenters are encouraged to offer papers, workshops and poster sessions, which elaborate on the role of group work in building bridges across ages, cultures, sexual orientations, race, abilities, gender, and communities.

Abstracts and proposals directly related to the theme are encouraged, but not required. Papers and workshops are sought, particularly in these topic areas:

- Group work and social justice
- Group work provided with professionals from other disciplines
- Sustaining group work through education
- Research and group work
- Stories of successful group work
- Diversity and group work
- Local and global connections and collaborations
- Innovation in group work practice

### **TYPES OF PRESENTATIONS**

**PAPERS** are 45-minute didactic and discussion-orientation presentations.

**WORKSHOPS** are experiential and last up to 90 minutes.

**POSTER SESSIONS** are visual presentations displayed at designated times during the symposium.

**ABSTRACTS:** Send four (4) copies of a 500-word abstract of your proposal with the title only on the first page of each copy. On a separate face sheet, list the presentation title, type of presentation, names of presenters (indicate if a first time AASWG presenter), addresses, organizational affiliations, telephone numbers, fax numbers, e-mail addresses, and a 50-word summary to be used in the program if your presentation is accepted. Workshop proposals must include a separate page describing the objectives, structure and method of presentation. Collaborative proposals and proposals by students are encouraged.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ABSTRACTS:** March 24, 2005.

**SEND ABSTRACTS TO:** Carol Kuechler, Ph.D., School of Social Work, Mail #F-15, The College of St. Catherine/University of St. Thomas, 2004 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105-1794, 651-690-6719.

**NOTIFICATION REGARDING ABSTRACT:** Will be sent by May 30, 2005.

**FINAL PAPERS FOR PUBLICATION IN PROCEEDINGS:** Submit four (4) copies of the final paper and a computer diskette in MS-Word for consideration for inclusion in the selected Symposium Proceedings. Deadline: October 2, 2005.

***ALL PRESENTERS MUST BE MEMBERS OF AASWG BY JUNE 15, 2005 FOR THE YEAR 2005  
AND REGISTER FOR THE SYMPOSIUM BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2005.***

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Contact the Symposium Coordinator, Janice Andrews-Schenk, School of Social Work, Mail #LOR 406, College of St. Catherine/University of St. Thomas, 2115 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105-1096, E-mail: jlandrews@stthomas.edu, 651-962-5803, Fax: 651-962-5819.

***Let's Build Bridges using Group Work in Minneapolis***



### STILL TIME TO SECURE VISAS

There is still time for persons planning to travel from outside the United States to Symposium 27 in Minneapolis to start arranging for visas if these are required. Due to increased security policies and processes in recent years, it takes much longer to process the necessary paper work to travel to the USA to attend meetings.

Other than providing the usual programs and web site information, AASWG can not assist in this process. The US Immigration and Naturalization Service and the various US consulates inform us that letters and telephone calls are not useful.

The Preliminary Program will be available sometime in July. Information will be made available on AASWG's web site, [www.aaswg.org](http://www.aaswg.org), as it is developed.

Other than invitations to authors chosen to make presentations, letters of invitation cannot be provided.

We provide this information not to discourage but rather to encourage members from outside the USA to attend by starting now to make travel arrangements.

### ALUMNI CONFERENCE AT BARRY UNIVERSITY

The Barry University School of Social Work Alumni Conference is scheduled for April 1 on the North Miami campus.

Toby Berman-Rossi organized the conference in past years and had begun planning this year's conference. Due to her recent passing, this year's conference has been dedicated to her.

The one-day conference's theme is "Resiliency".

In the morning Alex Gitterman will do the conference's featured presentation, and Tim Kelly has accepted the invitation to be the featured presentation reactor.

In the afternoon Barry University faculty and alumni and other social work practitioners will present sixteen workshops on a variety of topics.

At the end of the day there will be a special tribute ceremony for Toby where her work and life will be reviewed and celebrated by students, faculty, family, and other friends.

The Conference Committee invites you to attend what they hope will be a great conference and a wonderful tribute to Toby.

For a conference program or more information phone the Barry University School of Social Work and speak to the School's receptionist Mary Consuegra at 305-899-3900.

**SYMPOSIUM 27, MINNEAPOLIS,  
SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 2, 2005. BE THERE!**

### INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE AT BUFFALO

A new international and interdisciplinary conference will be held June 16-18 at the University at Buffalo. The conference is supported for the next five years by grants from the National Institutes of Health and The Haworth Press. The planning committee has representatives from a number of disciplines that use clinical supervision with students and practitioners. These include psychology, counselling, social work, nursing, etc. To get more information access the conference Web page at [www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/csconference](http://www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/csconference).

The web page provides for on-line submissions of proposed presentations (papers and poster sessions) and registration. The complete schedule, including pre-conference workshops, plenary sessions, round tables, etc., will be added to the site as presentations are confirmed.

Lawrence Shulman and Alex Gitterman will lead the Pre-conference Workshop on "Advanced Skills of Clinical Supervision: The Parallel Process".

Madonna Constantine is the Opening Plenary speaker talking on "Multi-cultural Clinical Supervision for Practice with Under Served Populations". L. DiAnne Borders is the Respondent. Constantine is Professor of Psychology and Education, Columbia University Teachers College. Borders is Professor and Chair,

Department of Counseling and Educational Development, University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Shulman will present the Friday Plenary on "The Clinical Supervisor-Practitioner Working Alliance: The Parallel Process". He is Professor at the School of Social Work, University of Buffalo. Rod Goodyear, Professor, Counselling Psychology Program, Rossier School of Education, University of Southern California, is the Respondent.

Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning will feature the juried papers and presentations by the National Institutes of Health on funding mechanisms and application procedures, along with PhD students in a conversation about research with senior researchers.

The Sunday plenary on "Tracing the Development of Clinical Supervision" will be by Marion Bogo, Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, and the Respondent will be Janice Jones, Clinical Associate Professor, School of Nursing, University of Buffalo.

I hope you will consider submitting a presentation and/or attending this first and only interdisciplinary conference that will bring together educators, practitioners and researchers, all of whom have an interest in clinical supervision.

### Hey, group worker!

Group worker  
keep your poise;  
in the midst of  
mess and noise.

Group worker  
keep your cool;  
even when you  
feel like a fool.

Group worker  
give up control;  
be good to your body  
be good to your soul.

By Andy Malekoff



## DESIGNING AND PLANNING PROGRAMS

for Non-profit and Government Organizations, by Edward J. Pawlak and Robert D. Vinter, is a comprehensive guide for practitioners who must carry out program planning projects in non-profit or governmental human service organizations. Experts in planning, Pawlak and Vinter show how planning is a goal-directed activity that will succeed when its tasks are carried out in orderly, progressive stages. The authors walk practitioners and students through the entire process from initiation to completion or planning projects and examine the relationship between planning, implementation, and program operations. The book's online instruction manual offers additional case studies and other tools.

Pawlak taught planning and other subjects in the Graduate School of Social Work at Western Michigan University for twenty-two years. Vinter taught at the University of Michigan School of Social Work for thirty-two years. The flyer which accompanied this volume says his expertise includes funding, budgeting, fiscal management, agency administration, program design and management, juvenile and criminal justice, and organizations studies. He has also taught and written in group work.

Pawlak, Edward J., and Robert D. Vinter. 2004. *Designing and Planning Programs for Non-profit and Government Organizations*. San Francisco, Jossey-Bass.

## WIDENING THE CIRCLE:

*The Practice and Evaluation of Family Group Conferencing with Children, Young Persons, and their Families* by Joan Pennell and Gary Anderson is about developing family leadership, cultural safety, and community partnerships to safeguard children, youth people, and other family members. The practices involved in family group conferencing are based on the authors' extensive experiences in the United States and Canada in child welfare, juvenile justice, and family violence services.

A unified overview of the model is presented. International findings are incorporated. A question and answer

## Systemic Parenting: An Exploration of the Parenting Big Picture

After much talk and several years, *Systemic Parenting: An Exploration of the Parenting Big Picture* is finished. This book was written for social workers, psychologists, family therapists, counselors, and parenting educators as well as parents with children of all ages. There are few books on the market that explore systems and parenting. There are even fewer that present the subject in a manner that is applicable to both professionals and parents. I would welcome any feedback, criticism, or personal reviews. I am hopeful *Systemic Parenting* will be a helpful tool for those of us who work with parents as well as parents themselves.

*Systemic Parenting's* eight chapters examine factors - "systemic laws" - that are crucial to raising children well. These factors are relevant to all families regardless of their size, race, religion, or the unique parenting challenges each faces. These systemic laws are brought to life through relevant clinical examples and vignettes.

Again, I look forward to any and all feedback.

Sincerely,

Mark Gaskill,

markgaskill@systemicpartners.com

*Systemic Parenting: An Exploration of the Parenting Big Picture*, Mark Gaskill, (ISBN: 1-59330-085-9), paperback, 424 pages, Aventine Press. Available on amazon.com, borders.com, booksamillion.com, bn.com, and bookstores everywhere.

format is used to address commonly raised questions. Extensive family examples are provided. Steps for practitioners regarding organizing, facilitating, and following up on conferences is presented. It addresses issues of physical, emotional, and cultural safety. Ways of evaluation are outlined. Future directions for shaping child welfare are projected. Pennell and Anderson have incorporated the expertise of several guest authors in preparing this comprehensive guide to family group conferencing. 2005. Washington, DC: NASW Press.

## BLACFAX HAS MOVED

The new address for ordering Blacfax Calendars and Blacfax Journal is PO Box 625, Pelham, NY 10803, phone/fax 914-667-2749, bigedd@aol.com, R. Edward, Lee, Publisher. Order your 2005 Blacfax Calendar today.

## What It Takes to Pull Me Through: Why Teenagers Get in Trouble -- And How Four of Them Got Out

Andy Malekoff has told us of a new resource on group work adolescents that he believes might be of some interest and value.

Dave Marcus, formerly the chief education reporter for the US News and World Report, has written a book that you might find to be of some interest: *What It Takes to Pull Me Through: Why Teenagers Get in Trouble -- And How Four of Them Got Out*. It's the true story of four kids who have to deal with their problems with the help of a group of social workers and counselors. It is on sale at bookstores across the country and addresses issues related to adolescence, social work in therapeutic communities; the media; substance abuse; troubles of schools; strains on families; and spirituality. It is not an academic book per se and might be of interest to parents, teachers, professors, coaches, social workers, counselors, etc. It's been recommended by *Vanity Fair* and *Reader's Digest*.

I had an opportunity to read the manuscript before it was published. Aside from its value to a lay audience, I think that it will be of value as a case study of group work that is provided in the context of the wilderness (Costa Rica) with a group of kids who are identified as having serious emotional disturbances. I think it will offer students a chance to learn from and critique the practice. The fact that it is written by a journalist rather than a practitioner or social work academic offers an interesting perspective.

For info: [www.DaveMarcus.com](http://www.DaveMarcus.com).

*What It Takes to Pull Me Through: Why Teenagers Get in Trouble -- And How Four of Them Got Out*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, ISBN 0-618-14545-1.



## Editorial Board Members needed for JSGW

Applications are now being sought for a three-year appointment on the editorial board of the *Journal for Specialists in Group Work* beginning January 1, 2006. Interested applicants should send a letter of application, vita, including information about past editorial experience and an electronic copy of the vita in IBM-compatible Microsoft Word format, and reprints of recent articles in hard copy. Send to Dr. Donald Ward, Editor, *Journal for Specialists in Group Work*, Department of Psychology and Counseling, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS 66762.

Applications are being accepted until September 1, 2005. For more information, contact Dr. Ward at Email: [dward@pittstate.edu](mailto:dward@pittstate.edu).

## BOOKS NOTED since August

Ciardiello, Susan. *Activities for Group Work with School-Age Children*. Warminster, PA: Marco Products, Inc.

Helton, Lonnie R., and Mieko K. Smith. (2004) *Mental Health Practice with Children and Youth: Strengths and Well-Being Model*. Binghamton, NY: The Haworth Press, Inc.

Marcus, David. 2004. *What It Takes to Pull Me Through: Why Teenagers Get in Trouble -- And How Four of Them Got Out*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin.

Pawlak, Edward J., and Robert D. Vinter. 2004. *Designing and Planning Programs for Non-profit and Government Organizations*. San Francisco, Jossey-Bass.

Pennell, Joan, and Gary Anderson, with Expert Guest Authors. 2005. *Widening the Circle: the Practice and Evaluation of Family Group Conferencing with Children, Young Persons, and their Families*. Washington, DC: NASW Press.

Senn, Diane. *Small Group Counselling for Children (Grades K-2)*. Warminster, PA: Marco Products, Inc.

Senn, Diane. *Small Group Counselling for Children (Grades 3-5)*. Warminster, PA: Marco Products Inc.

If you own any version of the *Group Work Bibliography*, keep it up to date by adding the entries under "New Books" from each issue of *SWwG Newsletter* after you obtained your copy.

## USEFUL FILMS

From postings on the Group Work Discussion Group in June about how and what to discuss in relation to the recent political campaign in the USA emerged brief descriptions of several useful films.

Bart Grossman wrote, "There were three films I used this week:

" 'The Women of Hull House' is a brief (about 30 minute) history of Hull House with emphasis on the activist women who got their start there and eventually carried a variety of key issues like workplace reform, child care, social security, etc., in federal policy - women like Julia Lathrop, the Abbott sisters, Florence Kelly, etc. What's really interesting is how many of the programs of Hull House dealt with issues that seem so contemporary, like drug abuse, day care, women's sports, cultural preservation, and, of course, a clear but unstated issue of same sex unions. This is available from the Hull House Foundation.

"Another is 'Legacies of Social Change' from NASW. I used the piece on Mary Richmond and the piece on E. Franklin Frasier which has a very nice lead on the development of African American Social Work.

"The Last is a section of Ken Burns' great series on New York City. I think it is section 9 and called something like 'Power to the People'. About 30 minutes of it is a very powerful exposition of the formation of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and a harrowing piece on the Triangle Shirt Waist Fire and its catalyzing effect on the progressive movement in New York. Among the people it focuses on is Francis Perkins who, as I'm sure you know, was a social worker who became the first woman cabinet member as Secretary of Labor in the Roosevelt Administration.

"Another really useful film in this class has been 'The Orphan Trains' which is a PBS documentary on the program created by Charles Loring Brace in the 1840's to take street orphans from New York and distribute them to farm families in the South and Midwest. That program went on for seventy-five years so the makers were able to interview elderly folks who were among the last of the orphans. It raises so many important issues about the contradictory and unanticipated impacts of well intended social policies on people's

## DISABILITIES CONFERENCE

The International Conference on Social Work and People with Disabilities will be held May 9-11 at the Crown Plaza Manhattan Hotel, New York City. The theme is "Social Work in Disability and Rehabilitation: Policy, Program Development, and Service Provision in Community Based Settings."

The conference will provide an international forum for the exchange of knowledge and ideas pertaining to research and practice. Major areas will include policy, administration, program development, social work education, residential services, day programs, employment, mental health, and health care.

The conference is being organized by the YAI/National Institute for People with Disabilities (NIPD) and is co-sponsored by several prominent schools of Social Work.

For information, please call Ben Nivin, YAI Conference Director, at 212-273-6203 or Tina Sobel, Senior Manager of Professional Information, 212-273-6457, or e-mail to [tina.sobel@yai.org](mailto:tina.sobel@yai.org).

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lives."

Alex Gitterman responded,

"Finally...some group conflict! :-)

"One caution on 'The Women of Hull House' - it is an all white video - if one uses it, the social context of segregation must be addressed."

Tim Kelly also responded,

"Alex,

"I used to assign Martin and Martin's 'The Helping Tradition and the Black Family and Community' (I don't have the title just right...but it is something like that).. to help bring in the social context and to show how the African-American community organized to support themselves in the face of segregation and being left out of social services. It has some problems too...but it was very useful as a teaching tool."

In response Carlean Gilbert wrote,

"Thank you, Bart, for this list and your impressions. They sound very useful for a number of courses that I teach such as HBSE, and I know that my colleagues at Loyola will appreciate my forwarding your information. Thanks."



### **POETRY AS A GIFT TO THE GROUP**

Occasionally I write poetry to capture a group experience and offer it as a gift to the group. Autograph and Outrage is based on a group I was invited to participate in at Erasmus High School in Brooklyn, New York. The group's major focus was a discussion of their experience at a protest, attended by celebrities, related to proposed school budget cuts. As the poem suggests, this theme was interspersed, in true adolescent group style, with planning a group party, reflections on the meaning of dreams, and more.

#### Autograph and Outrage

autograph and outrage  
roaches dressed as clowns  
harry potter by the pool  
drip-dry-merry-go-round

two-dollars for the party  
and bring your own cds  
i'll bake a cheese lasagna  
no one's afraid of bees?

j-z on the platform  
wyclef dragged away  
the suits divert our budget  
to build another cage

rats immune to poison  
feast on pork fried rice  
the cats around the corner  
are witches in disguise

a rose may be a rose  
and a dream is just a dream  
but, according to my grandma,  
they're much more than they seem

babies in the ice-box  
closets filled with snakes  
snarling mutts and centipedes  
can sex be a mistake?

autograph and outrage  
music and dissent  
hand-in-hand in protest  
under one vast tent.

Andy Malekoff, June 5, 2002