



D S P P B U L L E T I N  
**Dallas Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology**  
*Exploring and promoting the psychoanalytic perspective*

4516 Lovers Lane #446 Dallas, Texas 75225-6993 \* Phone: 214-890-3351 \* www.dspp.com

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**JANUARY MEETING PREVIEW**

**Baer Ackerman, M.D.**

A Fascination with the Interaction of Forces  
 within the Mind: The Work of Paul Gray

As with other classic works, each reading of Gray's 1994 book, "The Ego and Analysis of Defense," yields more insight about the workings of the human mind. In his text, Gray thoughtfully weaves a philosophy of psychoanalytic treatment based on his own fascination with, and understanding of, intrapsychic forces. This presentation will utilize clinical material and will focus on key elements (as articulated in chapters two and six of the aforementioned book) of Gray's clinical theory and its relevance for the evolution of analytic and psychotherapeutic technique.

**FALL WORKSHOP MEETING REVIEW**

With

**Nancy McWilliams, Ph.D.**

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> the Dallas Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology welcomed Nancy McWilliams, PhD. Dr McWilliams teaches psychoanalytic theory and therapy at the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology at Rutgers - the State University of New Jersey. She is a graduate of the National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis and teaches for the Institute of Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy of New Jersey, the National Training Program in Contemporary Psychotherapy, the Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California, and the Minnesota Institute for Contemporary Psychoanalytic Studies. Nancy McWilliams, Ph.D. is the author of two textbooks, *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis: Understanding Personality Structure in the Clinical Process* (Guilford Press, 1994) and *Psychoanalytic Case Formulation* (Guilford Press, 1999), as well as numerous articles and book chapters on personality, psychotherapy, psychodiagnosis, and contemporary psychopathologies. During this year's DSPP fall seminar Dr McWilliams presented *The Person under the Problem: How Understanding Personality Structure Empowers Psychotherapy* in which she detailed her approach to psychodynamic case formulation and explained how it is applied in the therapeutic context.

Dr McWilliams began the morning session of the fall seminar by providing an excellent overview of contemporary psychoanalytic theories pertaining to developmental levels of personality organization, primary and secondary defensive processes, and types of character organization. Dr McWilliams' presentation synthesized a vast array of diverse psychoanalytic viewpoints in a manner that was cogent and utilitarian. By eschewing the complexity and contention that many psychodynamic constructs carry with them, she demystified difficult, sometimes seemingly incomprehensible, psychoanalytic constructs, which often stifle the enthusiasm of clinicians with limited exposure to psychoanalytic thinking. While, at times overly inclusive, her straightforward approach offered an accessible introduction to the major theoretical concepts

**JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday, January 16, 2002</b>
<b>Social Time:</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>Presentation:</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Pecan Creek Office Park 8340 Meadow Road Dallas, Texas</b>
<b>Speaker:</b>	<b>Baer Ackerman, M.D.</b>
<b>Topic:</b>	A Fascination with the Interaction of Forces within the Mind: The Work of Paul Gray

**Spring Study Group Begins January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Register Now!**

*Psychotherapeutic Technique: The Practical Implications of Psychoanalytic Theory*

The group will focus not only on how psychoanalytic theory influences what we do with our patients, but also discuss the theory of psychoanalytic technique as developed by Charles Brenner.

For questions contact: Jane Walvoord, LMSW-ACP  
 janewalv@airmail.net or 214-691-2171 or visit the DSPP web



## DSPP FILM GROUP

"Pollock"

Directed By: Ed Harris

Perhaps the consummate film for a psychoanalytic discussion of art and movies, "*Pollock*" portrays the pathological relationships and battered psyches that gave birth to the American abstract expressionist movement. "*Pollock*" dramatizes the events at the epicenter of the rapid postwar emergence of the United States as preeminent in oil painting.

Ebert selected "*Pollock*" as **one of the best 10 movies of 2000**. "Ed Harris has taken the biopic to a new level. Although the skeleton of the film is no more than the troubled life of an alcoholic struggling with fame, the power of the acting and sequence of the film take it a step further."

The New York Times said, "...**the first movie about a painter to transcend the gushy clichés that try to unravel the mysteries of artistic creation.** ..Jackson Pollock, whom Mr. Harris portrays with a riveting blend of pent-up passion and unleashed physicality, threw his entire body into his work. The scenes of Pollock standing over a giant canvas creating his famous drip paintings in graceful swooping gestures offer a visceral thrill similar to watching a brilliantly choreographed action-adventure sequence."

"Because it's art that's being made, there's an added emotional kick. What we're witnessing isn't a succession of exploding cars, but an **utterly convincing release of pure feeling deployed with the discipline of a natural athlete executing an unparalleled feat** after years of preparation."

"..No actor is better suited than Mr. Harris to portray the artist, who knew Tennessee Williams and was said to have been an **inspiration for Stanley Kowalski, the instinctive brute who galvanizes "A Streetcar Named Desire."** And in "*Pollock*," the tense domestic clashes between the artist and his wife, the painter Lee Krasner (Marcia Gay Harden), are subtly staged to recall the electrifying chemistry of Marlon Brando and Kim Hunter in the film of "Streetcar." More than any contemporary actor, Mr. Harris **has always resembled the young Brando** in his projection of an archetypal manliness devoid of vanity, the kind of guy whose swagger doesn't have a trace of affectation."

"Besides its Action Painting sequences, **the film's biggest triumph is its richly shaded portrayal of the complicated Pollock-Krasner relationship.** "*Pollock*" reminds us that great art isn't about creating beauty out of misty-eyed Hallmark moments but about discovering and communicating messy truths that spill all over the place, just like the lives of the artists driven to uncover them."

**Date:** Saturday January 26, 2002  
**Time:** 6:30 pm-drinks; 7:30- dinner  
8:00- film; 10:00 pm- discussion  
**Dinner:** Bring a dish. Hosts provide wine and basics.  
**Location:** John and Susan Herman's  
**Please RSVP:** 214 880 9970 or [remsleep@sbcglobal.net](mailto:remsleep@sbcglobal.net)

underpinning diagnosis and treatment in a psychodynamic context. By incorporating a broad array of well-established psychoanalytic concepts, she provided a solid foundation for the further discussion of personalities types and diagnosis for both beginning therapist and seasoned clinicians. The primary framework for her diagnostic method was based upon the basic premise that accurate and meaningful diagnosis involves an understanding and appreciation of two distinct dimensions: development level of personality organization and defensive style within that level. She went on to describe each diagnosis in terms of their developmental levels of personality organization and characterological traits, while cataloging their typical defenses. Throughout her discussion Dr McWilliams gave clarifying clinical vignettes and demonstrated how appropriate diagnostic observations translate into effective therapeutic techniques. She gave a clear explanation of how accurate diagnosis of an individual's personality structure informs the therapist's focus and intervention, thereby, enhancing treatment planning and, ultimately, therapeutic outcomes.

During the afternoon session, Dr. Steven Huprich, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Baylor University, presented a case of a college student presenting with numerous symptoms and complaints including anxiety, substance abuse, depression and possibly disorganized thinking. The case presentation was provocative and initiated a lively discussion among colleagues regarding the client's level of organization and character structure. The group discussion ultimately lead to identifying a useful method for clarifying the client's diagnosis while offering direction for future interventions. Thus, the case vignette presented a prime example of how psychodiagnostic formulation is an iterative process that cannot only enlighten the initial therapeutic approach but also enhances ongoing treatment. Moreover, the case presentation demonstrated how accurate case formulation can mitigate potential therapeutic impasses and empower both patient and psychotherapist alike.

*Craig Field, Ph.D.*

### DSPP/Fairhill Scholarship Competition

DSPP will offer cash awards of \$1,000 each to an undergraduate and graduate student submitting the scholarly papers judged best by a panel of DSPP readers. Awards will be presented at the DSPP Spring Workshop, April 4, 2002.

**Submission deadline is March 4, 2002**

For details visit the DSPP web site at [www.dspp.com](http://www.dspp.com)



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2001-2002**

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**Correspondence**

Send address changes or membership inquiries to:

**DSPP Membership**

**4516 Lovers Lane #446**

**Dallas, TX 75225-6993**

Or contact Sarah Aberg, LMSW-ACP

Sarahaberg@aol.com

Send **DSPP Bulletin** subscriptions and material for publication in the **DSPP Bulletin** and / or **Web Site** to Cheryl Martin, RN, LPC 6532 LBJ Freeway Suite 203, Dallas, TX 75240 or e-mail cam@dspp.com.

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