



DSPP BULLETIN

Dallas Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology

Exploring and promoting the psychoanalytic perspective

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Volume XVII Number 9

June 2001

PRESIDENTIAL FAREWELL BY PAT WOOD, PH.D.

I like puzzles of all kinds: logic puzzles, word puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, people puzzles. Contemplating being president of DSPP almost 18 months ago, I wondered if I could put all the pieces of the puzzle together to form a coherent picture. Having watched my colleagues put those pieces together gratifyingly year after year, I figured I could do it with a lot of help from my friends. And loyal friends and true all of you have been to me and to DSPP. I think we put together a most satisfactory picture with this year's puzzle pieces. One of the great benefits of DSPP as an organization is that its experienced office holders can be relied upon to put together major chunks of the puzzle each year. In addition, they diplomatically influence, support, guide, and urge on the incoming president in conceiving and forming the central motif. When it all comes together, it fits every time. Thanks to all of you, it did so again this year. All that remains now is to thank all of you for bringing the picture together with me.

Initially, the Executive Committee under Myrna Little, Ph.D. met on retreat to offer me advice on everything from the mundane to the sublime. On the mundane end, they established the fee structure for the year to keep the organization fiscally healthy, which it continues to be. On the sublime end, they established the DSPP Distinguished Contributor Award. It was my great privilege to present the first award to William K. Gordon III, Ph.D.

Next the Program Committee, Drs. Ware, Pitts, Rathbun, and Roskos, initially said, "Huh? What?" to the topic: *From Despair to Hope: Psychoanalytic Perspectives on the Human Condition*. Eventually, they enthusiastically endorsed the topic and worked valiantly on it. This brings me to grateful thanks to the presenters, Drs. Rathbun, Bonnheim, Wagner, Roskos, Jordan, Pitts, and Marshall and Mr. Nelson, who made this an emotionally rich year of discussions of hope and despair. In my view, every presentation braved despair and found reason for hope.

We also presented two very successful Saturday workshops. One was luxuriously clinical: *Objects of*

Hope: Exploring Possibility and Limit in Psychoanalysis with Steven Cooper, Ph.D. and case presentation by Karen Strupp, Ph.D. The other provided us with lots of empirically based ammunition: *And the Winner Is? The Psychoanalytic Perspective vs. "Empirically Validated" Therapies* with Drew Weston, Ph.D. Dr. Weston also presented at Psychiatry Grand Rounds at the medical school as a subtle advocate for psychoanalytic thinking.

Sections of this year's DSPP puzzle were filled in beautifully by the organization's experienced committees. Our Education Committee, led by John Herman, Ph.D., has presented two well-attended graduate level courses. Jane Walvoord, LMSW-ACP taught *Contemporary Approaches to Classic Psychoanalytic Thought*, and Myrna Little, Ph.D., *An Introduction to Melanie Klein*. Both will teach again next year.

Judith Samson, Ph.D. led the Arts Committee in devising events ranging from monthly film groups and the annual public film forum to a variety of talks and gallery tours. The annual Public Film Forum was on Ariel Dorfman's film *Death and the Maiden*. Salomon Grimberg, M.D. presented a lecture and tour of the Gelman and Gerzso Exhibitions at the DMA. Daniel Kluge gave his winning paper *Psychoanalysis and Film*. Jim Woodson offered a tour of his gallery and discussion of the psychological aspects of his art. Alan Govenar, Ph.D. concluded the year with a gallery talk and tour on *Tattoo: Art and Impulse in the Western World*.

Our Community Relations Committee, chaired by Cheryl Martin, RN, LPC, worked tirelessly this year to maintain our fabulous web site, to acquire an official mailing address and telephone number for DSPP, and to complete brochures promoting the society to potential participants and analytic treatment to potential clients. The committee invited Stuart Twemlow, M.D. and Peter Fonagy, Ph.D. for an afternoon Professional Seminar and an evening Public Forum entitled *Preventing Mass Murder in Schools: Understanding Violent Children from 'Peaceful' Families*, which were very well attended and a wonderful outreach to the community. Finally, the committee awarded the Fourth Annual DSPP/Fairhill Scholarship Award to Helen Krieger for *Gender Differences in the Experience of Guilt: Anguish and the Ideal Self*.
(Cont'd)



The Membership Committee hummed along in the hands of Sarah Aberg, LMSW-ACP and Ken Farr, Ph.D. Sherry Lundberg, MS, LPC kept our credits in good order as Chair of the Continuing Education Committee.

This year's Executive Committee made sure that the edge and corner pieces kept the whole puzzle together and squared away. Many thanks to Drs. Ware, Little, Aberg, Harris, Gordon, Black, Rothmeier, Field, Patrick, Pitts, Farr, Herman, and Samson and to Ms's. Aberg, Martin, and Lundberg.

This year we welcomed back several members who had been away for a while. It was wonderful not to have their pieces missing from our puzzle. We also welcomed several new members who will help us expand our puzzle beyond its previous borders.

At my office, two people were putting together puzzles this year. Dr. Laurel Wagner was putting together a big puzzle as president of Division 39 of APA while I was working on DSPP. She showed me where many DSPP pieces would fit, and I hope I helped her find the places for a few of hers. We didn't even get the pieces of the puzzles mixed up.

My job as president of DSPP has been a joy because psychoanalytically-oriented professionals are puzzle solvers, born and bred. I rejoice in this year's completed picture. At breakfast recently, Dr. Deann Ware was telling me about how well the pieces of the puzzle are coming together for her year as president of DSPP. I can't wait for us to see it.

EDITOR'S NOTE

I'd like to thank Pat Wood for putting together such a lovely puzzle this year. Some puzzles are not meant to be solved, just enjoyed. I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of this mosaic and of the DSPP community. In addition to the persons mentioned by Dr. Wood in her presidential farewell, I'd like to thank those who contributed to the 'DSPP Bulletin' this year. A newsletter without content is analogous to a puzzle without pieces. I am deeply grateful to the reviewers who took the time to thoughtfully summarize the monthly meetings and workshops: Krista Jordan, Don Brix, Steve Patrick, Scott Nelson, Deann Ware, Craig Field and Myrna Little. This year we were gifted with original articles authored by Dale Godby, Myron Lazar, Robert Aberg and Peter Fonagy. Judith Samson has a knack for whetting our appetites with her pre-event write-ups for the Arts Events. Thanks to you all!

--Cheryl Martin--

MAY MEETING REVIEW

Hopeless in Hopeless Places: The Analytic Professional Advocates for the Defense on Death Row

Presented by: Rycke Marshall, Ph.D.
Reviewed by: Myrna Little, Ph.D.

Life, after all, is itself a survival strategy of finesse against the cold numbers of atrophy...raising the stakes, delaying the payment of physical debt, changing the rules so as to keep ahead of the literalistic determinism...

Frederick Turner

To Dr. Rycke Marshall, *DSPP* owes a generous thank-you for the grand finale of this year's series of lectures – the case of Kerry Max Cook – a man who was sentenced to death row for 16 years, and whose life found meaning in psychotherapy with Dr. Marshall. Defining herself as a storyteller, Dr. Marshall issued to her audience a compelling invitation to share the experience of her patient, who is easily viewed as a scapegoat of the Texas legal system. The interested reader will find the original publication of his troubled life, “Innocence Lost,” at www.observer.com/issues/1999-07/feature.html/page1.html.

By choosing *story* as the vehicle for including her audience, Dr. Marshall situated herself in an ancient and oral tradition, a tradition which demonstrates through verbal and nonverbal means a kind of literary ritual. Beyond mere narration and semantic meaning, this is a ritual that is characterized throughout history by its appeal to rhythm, by its association to pleasure, and by its universality. Its rhythm is rooted in the body by the cadence of the voice, tuned to the three-second lyric match of the auditory information processing system. It is associated to pleasure and the adaptive function of linguistic aesthetics because the acoustic rhythm – in synchrony with its narrative meaning – produces a sense of “fit” which is itself a delight, and has long been associated with the deepest human values of truth, goodness, and beauty. It is universal because story telling is a shared, collective experience from Homer to the present.

Oral tradition was utilized by Freud and continues in the long legacy of psychoanalytic case histories. Only recently this important ritual was the object of a lengthy internet symposium (Gabbard, 2001) that addressed the ethics of our public use of case material. To this reviewer the most remarkable comment offered in that debate was from a young analyst who wrote that, what interested her from undergraduate days was *story*, real

events about real intervention with real people.

Unlike the Gabbard essay, there is no debate over whether Kerry Max Cook’s debacle of justice should be made public or not. What made Marshall’s presentation *story* – compelling oral tradition – was the rise and fall of human voice, the pleasure of her careful onomatopoeia, its rhythmic tonality, its refusal of grandstanding. Simultaneously we were shocked, culture-shocked and psychic-shocked by what we know – in general – but do not want to know in specifics, the abuse of power eclipsing the humanity of its victim. It was a *story* whose horrific narrative was a stark contrast to its gentle telling.

This audience did not applaud. While other audiences also may not have applauded, this serious atypicality revealed – not indifference – but evoked feelings of helplessness, a disquiet, perhaps even a sense of guilt that we all belong to such a collective. In Bion’s “basic assumption” mode, we as a group perhaps shared feelings of dependency, sans a good, authoritative and safe governance. Perhaps as individuals we considered our birth, and the privilege that finds us the audience rather than the author. With the exception of a question about aggression and masochism, and another about developmental history, we didn’t get very analytical. We seemed not to think about, to question, e.g., how the vicissitudes of the transference manifested themselves. Was there ever a negative transference? And how did the countertransferences play out? Were these always the same? How changed over time? Was Kerry Cook’s only resistance an initial difficulty in beginning to talk?

That this former prisoner escaped his prison mentality is a living tribute to Dr. Marshall’s affective presence and containment. And because many persons come to us in prisons of their own making, it could be instructive to know more of *her* story. Did she think about him after work? Dream about him? In tripartite terms, how was his superego experienced? Or in object relations terms, had he no bad internal objects? Was a good internal object the source of his endurance, or was his belief in his innocence enough? David Tuckett (2000), arguing for case presentations to provide detailed description of the here-and-now unconscious relation of the therapist and patient, urges for “...a dense and detailed illustrative reporting of patient and analyst interactions (which are) detailed enough to have an argument about it” (p. 245). He contends that ideas develop in a robust dialogic context, and are transmissible even to the neophyte when readers or listeners of case material are called upon to

think for themselves.

It will be apparent that I experienced this moving presentation as a parallel process, artfully conveyed, and told by someone with obvious sufficient “negative capability” (Bate, 1963, p. 232-263) to receive, to contain, and to transform the unspeakable – into *story*.

References

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Gabbard, G. (2000). Disguise or consent: problems and recommendations concerning the publication and presentation of clinical material. *IJPA*, 81, 1071.

Tuckett, D. (2000). Theoretical pluralism and the construction of psychoanalytic knowledge. In Joseph Sandler, Robert Michels, and Peter Fonagy (Eds), *Changing Ideas in a Changing World: The Revolution in Psychoanalysis*. London: Karnac.

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DSPP STUDY GROUPS 2000-2001

SOME PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

I very much enjoyed the class, and felt it was a wonderful opportunity to learn about Klein!

I really enjoyed the classes with Jane and Myrna. Although I had to miss several of the classes with Myrna toward the end of the series, I felt I truly benefited from the ones I was able to attend, and I hope to attend another series next year or in the near future.

Thanks to DSPP for offering these unique study programs. I’m looking forward to expanding the Kleinian concepts next year with contemporary works and integrating theory with clinical practice. I appreciate Ms. Walvoord and Dr. Little for providing their time and expertise.

*Wishing all a pleasant summer.
See you in the fall!*