

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



I am truly excited to have the opportunity to lead AFTA. It is an extraordinary honor and privilege to be President of AFTA and it is truly one of the high points of my career. It is a challenging time for our organization and our field. We know the healing potential of our treatments and the creativity available in our ideas and practice. We also know the value of AFTA for each of us: friendships, collegiality, support, the excitement of new ideas and practices and the thrill of learning from each other. We also know the importance of the issues that concern us and the challenges of building healing in relationships, in our workplace and in the social structures we engage with. I am not shy in promoting these values and I am not shy in promoting AFTA as a community within which

to share these commitments and values.

I invite you to join with me over the next 2 years to help AFTA continue the efforts John Rolland initiated to build membership across generations through the Next Generation Initiative and the work of John Lawless who served as Program Chair for the past 2 years and orchestrated a truly memorable meeting this past June in New Orleans.

Leadership through Martha Edwards as Vice President, Rachel Dash as Secretary, John Lawless as Treasurer and Corky Becker as Program Chair and through Pilar Hernandez-Wolfe, Larry Levner and Martha Sullivan as Committee Chairs is in place to promote AFTA's growth and its traditions of excellence, collegiality and inclusiveness. I want to build the meaning of your AFTA membership through an

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## REFLECTIONS ON THE AFTA CLINICAL RESEARCH DAY IN NEW ORLEANS

-- Guillermo Bernal, Clinical Research Day Program Chair



Last year at the AFTA meeting in Philadelphia, John Rolland asked me to consider organizing the 2009 Clinical Research Conference (CRC). As we talked about this project it soon became clear that for a number of reasons it made sense to hold the CRC in conjunction with the regular AFTA Annual Meeting. First, having the CRC just before the regular meeting rather than at a different time and place

might move us closer to the ideal of integration between research and practice. The juxtaposed meetings, we reasoned, might be more inviting to both researchers and clinicians and it might set the stage for the exchange of ideas. Second, given the economic climate, a joint meeting reduces the costs since the infrastructure is in place for the regular conference. So in a relaxed sunny afternoon in Philadelphia's Society Hill district I agreed to lead the effort for the next CRC. On the way home to San Juan, Puerto Rico I wondered what I had gotten myself into!

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## NEW ORLEANS 2009- AFTA ANNUAL MEETING OPENING PLENARY

*Dear America,*

*I suppose we should introduce ourselves; we're South Louisiana. We arrived on your doorstep on short notice... and we might be staying around for a while. (We've been) evacuated to your towns, enrolled in your schools and looking for jobs. We know you didn't ask for this and (we didn't either), so we're just going to have to make the best of it.*

*We thank you for your money; your water; your food; your prayers; your boats and buses and the men and women of your National Guards, fire departments, hospitals and (anyone) else who has come to our rescue.*

*Where're a fiercely proud independent people and (don't much) cotton to outside interference but we're not ashamed to accept help when we need it, and right now we need it.*

*You already know we talk funny and listen to strange music and eat things you'd ... hire an exterminator to get out of your yard.*

*You heard many of us stayed behind. As bad as it is, many of us cannot fathom a life outside of our border, out in a place ... (called) Elsewhere.*

*We are what made this place a national treasure. We're good people, and don't be afraid to ask us how to pronounce our names. It happens all the time.*

*(When you move back and) we move back, we will repay your hospitality and generosity of spirit that your offer us in this season of our despair.*

*That is our promise (and that is our hope.)*  
Rose, 2005, pp. 5-6

These thoughts and paraphrases all come from a book called *1 dead in attic* written by Chris Rose, who chronicled the experience of Katrina in his column in our local paper, the *Times Picayune*, and

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then wrote this fascinating, sad, hopeful, explanatory book about the experience. There are many wonderful books written about the effects of Katrina, and the only reason why there isn't one for every citizen of the city is that there just isn't time to read them or write them or understand the various things that happened to us.

-This introduction captured the opening of the *AFTA Annual Meeting, June 2009 in New Orleans*, as presented by George Greenberg. He went on to say:

"Each of us here in this room has been affected differently. You've heard and seen the most devastating aspects - places like the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> and Gentilly, and Lakeview, the highway overpass, the Superdome, but what you don't see is the inside of us, multi-cultural, multi-racial who suffered and didn't suffer material damage or, at least, those who did suffer not much material damage, but also had lives turned around and blown apart and the fabric of their relationships torn asunder. People lost jobs and you know about that. You saw the underbelly of human poverty exposed in this city and by extension in many cities in the country. People lost houses and you know about that. People died and you know about that. Some of you know about the deaths of people who couldn't stand to be forcibly separated from their loved ones or children; the ones that couldn't stand the 15 hours road trips just to get 90 miles to Baton Rouge; the ones who had to remain to care for others; those who had no means of transportation out of the city, and those that had businesses destroyed that left employees without jobs, and the physicians and other healthcare providers suddenly with no agencies or practices because hospitals

and offices were GONE, not just water in the building, but the structure GONE - social workers and others who slept in their offices for a year because they had no homes any longer. Everything broken down, as if, in a war zone - no basic human services, electricity, plumbing, water, natural gas - limited judicial systems including the police- virtually all educational systems collapsing or on the verge of same.

And where did the children go? Where did the people go? Who would care for them? Who would care for us, the treating professionals in the middle of this exploding world? We too needed assistance to be able to offer assistance - dead bodies and ruined health care systems, health care workers looking for missing relatives. Where were the people to help all of us find solid ground? We were dispersed; we were evacuated. We all wanted to come home, and come home we have. Not all of us are back- some still exist in the Diaspora waiting to come home, waiting to rebuild. Others have been forced to remain in exile.

Thank goodness many of you came to help. College kids who could have been thinking about Florida came to New Orleans to help; high school groups came, religious missions came here to gut houses and to rebuild. National organizations reached deep into their pockets to help meet basic needs. The government wasn't here as it should have been, but you decided to come here, to this city - some early as first responders, some later when ongoing response was needed. You showed interest, understanding and desire.

We are here, now, at this AFTA Conference, to study and to learn and to discuss the ramifications of this catastrophic event where we will be dealing with **Systemic**

**Responses in Recovery from Disaster and Widespread Trauma.** We have a day devoted to community interaction and discussion. We need you here. We want

you here, as we learn from each other and apply our old and new understandings to a human mission to repair the world. Not just here but everywhere with here being the metaphor.

As Aiden Gil, a local merchant said in an interview with Chris Rose, "A time will come when someone asks you, 'What were you doing about it?' You can't tell them, 'I was just watching it. I was just an innocent bystander.' Let me tell you something: There are no innocent bystanders in this."

Rose, 2007, p.361



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excellent annual meeting and through regional AFTA organizations that meet and develop a life of their own.

I hope you have enjoyed my monthly letters to you all and found them informative about what is happening in AFTA. I want you to know what is going on in your organization, to feel connected to your AFTA community and to participate in your own way in AFTA.

Our organization must grow, it must diversify its relevance to members and it must maintain its unique identity. I value and stand for AFTA's commitment to excellence and compassion. I plan to lead these efforts relentlessly. I invite your involvement and your thoughts and ideas. -- John Sargent



## REFLECTIONS ON THE 2009 AFTA ANNUAL MEETING

-- John Lawless, Program Chair



AFTA's 2009 Annual Meeting was held in New Orleans. The Annual Meeting began with a moving introduction by George Greenberg. George welcomed us to New Orleans and challenged us to think about the future but not to forget the past. Then Elaine Pinderhughes discussed the complexity and nuances of New Orleans with particular focus to issues of race. She then introduced our keynote speaker, Andrei Codrescu. Andrei continued the discussion about the complexity of life in New Orleans with particular focus on Katrina. It was a wonderful opening night for the Annual Meeting.

We were not disappointed the following days with the other plenary sessions. Celia Falicov and Stevan Weine discussed their clinical and research work around immigration and refugees. Allen Eskew and Mindy Fullilove gave masterful and politically-charged presentations on working with communities struggling with disaster. Lastly, Froma Walsh, Hugo Kamya, and Melissa Elliott discussed their clinical work around issues of spirituality with a focus on healing and resilience.

One of the unique aspects of this Annual Meeting was the close work the program committee had with the community of New Orleans. Peter Fraenkel and

Gonzalo Bacigalupe did a full day workshop for the Porter-Cason Institute for the Advancement of Practice with Families. The Human Rights Committee, Family Policy Committee, and Cultural Economic and Diversity Committee came together to invite three New Orleans activists to discuss the rebuilding efforts in New Orleans. In addition, the mental health and community workers were welcomed into the Annual Meeting on Friday. While we did not get the response we wished for, the community members that attended were very grateful for the opportunity to interact with AFTA members.

Overall, this was a wonderful meeting with many exciting things happening. The Next Generation Initiative came to fruition with many new faces at the Annual Meeting. The plenary sessions gave us a lot to think about and the Interest Groups and Brief Presentations were absolutely wonderful. I want to take this opportunity to thank the program committee for their support and to thank John Rolland for his continued support and friendship during this past year. I hope that you will be able to join AFTA next year as the Annual Meeting makes it way to beautiful Boulder, Colorado.



## INTEREST GROUPS

-- Michael Ungar



Of the many unique things about AFTA, one of the most compelling is the interest groups. My experience has been that they provide me a forum to find people asking the same questions about their practice and research. Presenting in New Orleans at Peter Fraenkel's invitation, I met people with an interest in resilience and innovative community based approaches to engaging families. Vicki Dickerson and I also convened a group on how to evaluate outcomes from post-structuralist, constructionist, and narrative approaches to therapy. Both experiences made networking possible in ways that more formal sessions cannot. Conversations start, networks build, and hopefully, family therapy grows through the cross-disciplinary seeding of ideas.

## Help Us Grow AFTA

- Encourage and help people you respect (including outstanding "ECMs") to join! Check the website for membership categories and criteria.
- Talk up AFTA with students and trainees, and at your talks! Contact Jane Ariel, Chair of Membership ( [janeari@igc.org](mailto:janeari@igc.org) ) with recruiting questions.
- To request AFTA Brochures, contact the AFTA office.

## PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP PRESENTED TO NEW ORLEANS MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

*Community Practice and Programs: The Heart and Soul of Effective Collaborations*

-- Peter Fraenkel & Gonzalo Bacigalupe



We were honored and excited to accept a request from 2009 Program Chair John Lawless to co-present a day-long workshop on collaborative approaches to strengthening family and community resilience at Tulane University's School of Social Work. Co-sponsored by AFTA and TU's Porter-Cason Institute for the Advancement of Practice with Families, the workshop took place the Tuesday prior to the AFTA conference, and was attended by 120 New Orleans social work students and faculty, as well as front-line community mental health professionals. As we've both spent much of our professional lives developing and evaluating col-

laborative community-based programs for marginalized, multi-stressed families, we viewed this as a wonderful opportunity to share what we've learned, and to learn from New Orleans' colleagues about the approaches they've developed to address the many challenges of families and communities in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In the morning, with a mix of presentation and experiential exercises, Gonzalo demonstrated the positive impact of questions developed within an affirmative appreciation of the other. In the afternoon, Peter presented practices of utilizing the rich information that emerges from such interviewing to create culturally-sensitive community-based programs that are directly responsive to families' needs

and suggestions. The group's response was overwhelmingly positive.

Parker Sternbergh, LCSW, Assistant Director of the Porter-Cason Institute, recently told us the workshop stimulated Department and Institute faculty to formulate a plan to "enhance the family therapy skills we teach, especially in a post-Katrina world." The Institute also plans to invite AFTA members to join their board. Most importantly, we saw this as a way for us, as informal representatives of AFTA, to give New Orleans colleagues unfamiliar with our organization a taste of some of the ways of thinking and working of AFTA members.

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The organization of a meeting of this nature does take quite a bit of time and effort. Together with the help of John Rolland and John Lawless we were able to bring together a group of stellar presenters in cutting edge themes for the field. The morning panel was on "Family Research on Responses to Complex Emergencies: Implication for Practice". Jack Saul presented on Implementing Collective Interventions In the Wake of Disaster in New York City. Joy Osofky presented on her experience three years after Hurricane Katrina, noting that the work still continues. Liz Wieling presented her work on "Trauma in a Global Context: Towards the Development of Evidence-Based Family and Community Interventions. Nadine Kaslow, as discussant, commented on each of the presentations and also highlighted her own experiences in responding to the events after Katrina. The afternoon

panel was on "Research on Dissemination of Evidence Based Family Interventions". Here the panel was composed of Howard Liddle, who presented his work on Multi Dimensional Family Therapy and argued convincingly that family therapy should care about implementation science. Marion Forgatch presented on the dissemination of the Oregon Model of Parent Management Training (PMTO) on a nationwide scale in Norway. Daniel Santisteban discussed a statewide initiative on Brief Systemic Family Therapy and how bridging science and practice is much easier said than done. Peter Fraenkel, while commenting on the presentations, managed to channel Michael White and give musical interludes.

The presentations were rich, diverse, and stimulating. They set the stage for many questions and conversations that spilled over into the morning, lunch, and after-

noon breaks, as well as into the regular AFTA meeting. In the space of the CRC we truly met the goal of engaging in a rich dialogue that integrated the science of practice and the practice of science. Personally, I learned a great deal on the diversity of responses to complex emergencies and on the science of dissemination. From what I heard from many of the participants, their experience was also enriched. If we can apply the lessons from the work conducted by the multiple CRC speakers, and attend to the lesson learned from the success of this meeting, it seems that having the CRC alongside the regular AFTA meeting is a shift in conference practices that is bound to bring us all closer to our goals of a more integrated evidence-based practice and practice-based evidence.

## THE PLENARIES

### The Thursday Morning Plenary: Uprooting and Resettlement: The Complex Challenges of Immigrants and Refugees

--Evan Imber-Black's Introduction for Celia Falicov and Stevan Weine

"When he was 11 years old, my Romanian maternal grandfather, Joseph Leib, was handed a small suitcase and put on a train alone to prevent his conscription in to the Tsar's army. His multi-migrations led first to relatives in Paris, then London, then South America and finally, alone, at age 27 to an entry port here in Louisiana from where he made his way to Chicago. I grew up hearing this very short story from my mother as my grandfather, forever severed from his original family, lived with a stern and stony silence, no doubt born of sadness and all that it took to survive. Migration permanently severed family connections, confronting him with the silent yearning and immutable loss woven into the fabric of immigrant families of his time.

Where prior generations of immigrants faced the painful reality of severing connections, today's immigrants, including refugees, may function as a large, interconnected, intercontinental relationship system replete with new and unanticipated dilemmas. Recent immigrants are the first generation able to maintain intense connections with their original countries and families via the new technologies of global communication.

My grandfather's story was told from the vantage point of individual immigrant as taciturn hero. Today's immigrants require, rather, voices – their own and we who witness – capable of addressing complex collectivist and tri-generational families, working with the intricate and simultaneous duality of absence and presence. Our role is to develop models able to engage the exquisite dilemma faced by immigrants coping with the complex

imperative of simultaneously holding and expressing transnational and assimilative ways of living.

Our presenters today – two clinician scholars – will offer groundbreaking work with immigrant families struggling with the trauma of political violence and war; gender, race and class discrimination; ambiguous loss; maintaining meaningful relationships across geographic distance; and promoting reconciliations despite deep differences."



### The Friday Morning Plenary: Mending and Healing Our Community Through Connection

-- Dick Chasin and Vicki Dickerson

Dick Chasin introduced this very moving plenary. Allen Eskew and Mindy Fullilove explored the meaning of rebuilding a community struck by disaster. Each, from their own perspective, showed how city planning policies can devastate or rebuild urban neighborhoods.

Applying perspectives of public health and history (personal and researched), Mindy Fullilove started with the post World War I period when African-Americans brought vitality and community to ghettos like Harlem, previously inhabited by waves of immigrants who later joined the American melting pot. She argued that in the second half of the century, policies such as Urban Renewal dismantled these communities, removing a step to the melting pot. The Afro-American urban

poor were packed into public housing, which became sites of extreme social and individual pathologies. She posited that real renewal requires political action and other efforts that connect neighborhoods in transition with resources, networks, and stakeholders outside these areas.

Using the lens of architect and city planner, Allan Eskew highlighted how the built environment—from levees and superhighways to exterior paint—affects every aspect of the life within an area. Levees can imperil or protect; roadways can connect or isolate; paint or lack of it can uplift or demoralize. He thinks that in post-Katrina New Orleans, planners must take pains to integrate expert engineering and effective, aesthetic design with the needs of affected individuals and communities.

Dick Chasin commented that AFTA members are familiar with micro-aggressions that affect the oppressed, but are invisible to the privileged oppressor. Using the ironic term, "invisible macro-aggressions," he wondered whether Fullilove and Eskew had helped us to appreciate aggressions that can only be seen clearly when we stand back and consider long stretches of time or when we climb to a perch high enough to see patterns in the urban terrain.

We were fortunate to have this counterpunctal understanding of community, connection, and the need to engage larger political forces in the process of "mending and healing."



## The Saturday Morning Plenary: Tapping Spiritual Resources in Healing and Resilience

-- Vicki Dickerson

Just when we thought the plenaries couldn't get any better we were treated to three of the finest presentations one could hope for—on the subject of spirituality. How do spiritual concerns, religion, and matters of faith, interconnect with clinical practice?

Moderator Marsha Mirkin whose own background and expertise inform us in understanding how to tap spiritual resources ably introduced the plenary.

Froma Walsh, who has written extensively on this matter, particularly focusing on spirituality as a resource for resilience, shared with us some salient slides depicting a way of thinking and working with others that can call forth their preferred beliefs and practices for spiritual meaning. Hugo Kamyra, likewise, invited us to join him as he described his work with refugee communities, looking at the role of faith in refugees' healing processes. And Melissa Elliott inducted us into her connection with others in their stories—where often their relationship with spirituality may have been lurking in the shadows. She illustrated how, using our attentive ears and eyes, within thoughtful and concerned conversation, we can draw these important issues into the light of day. Her stories touched our hearts.

Those who previously thought that spirituality has no place in clinical work came away from this plenary wondering how to respectfully allow spiritual matters to enter the room when the salience of their force may be critical to client progress.



## PERSONAL UPDATES

**Sandra Anderson:** I am continuing my private practice after retiring from the School of Social Work at Portland State University. My partner and I spent July traveling in Italy and France. My book, *Substance Use Disorders in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Clients: Assessment and Treatment*, was published last month by Columbia University Press.

**Jane Ariel:** I went with dear friends this summer to Venezuela to experience something of the Chavez revolution. We met many dedicated Venezuelans in rural environments working hard to provide education for all as well as the open-hearted Cuban doctors and engineers sharing their expertise in exchange for oil - some 30,000 of them. Village musicians played for us using the "quatro," singing and dancing with all their hearts. In the city, though, middle class folks feel unheard by Chavez. Not knowing exactly how to relate to the many faces of Venezuela, we suddenly were already coming back to teaching and clinical work and sweet grandchildren.

**Andrea Blumenthal:** I returned from my first Annual Conference in New Orleans feeling enriched and invigorated and am looking forward to many more stimulating interactions with fellow AFTA members. Thanks for such a warm welcome to the AFTA community! On a personal level, I continue to be humbled by the complexities of family life as I prepare for the upcoming arrival of Baby #3 in November.

**Doug Breunlin:** In a return to administration after a decade hiatus, I have assumed the role of Program Director of the Master of Science Program in Marriage and Family Therapy at the Family Institute at Northwestern University. I feel energized to be in this role and see it as evidence that I successfully stared down cancer a few years ago and have my energy back. I am looking for colleagues in AFTA who do what I do for collaboration and mutual hand-holding.

**Laurie L. Charlés:** I moved to Cairo, where I have taken a position as incoming director of a new Master's program in International, Cultural, and Community Psychology at the American University in Cairo. Learning ALOT about Islam, Arab families, and this month, about Ramadan . . . (It's fascinating watching people here NOT eat all day, after coming from the U.S. where it seems we are eating all the time and in every possible place.) Cairo is intensely vivid and totally alive, and we love it. Recently had two pieces accepted for publication, one in *Qualitative Inquiry*, and another

in the UK's *Journal of Family Therapy*. lcharles@aucegypt.edu. Hope to see you in Boulder!



**Rachel Dash:** Though I generally never volunteer to take notes during other meetings in my life, I'm honored to serve as AFTA's new secretary. The commitment to AFTA's mission has been evident in each conversation leading up to October's board meeting/retreat. It is a privilege to participate. I continue to enjoy the stimulation and connection of working with psychiatry, psychology, and social work trainees and look forward to a new joint research project studying the effects of yoga training for families in which a child has been diagnosed with ADHD. Hanging out on a lake in Minnesota this summer was rejuvenating.



**Vicki Dickerson:** A great sadness befell me in late June/early July. After participating in a fantastic AFTA Annual Meeting and many celebrations of my birthday, I returned home to experience

that my wonderful golden dog, Andante, a large presence not only in my life but also in the lives of many others, was gravely ill. I had to put him to sleep on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, and have sorely missed him ever since. The healing presence of animals in our lives has never been so salient. Fortunately, I have a savvy dog, Sadie, and a clever cat, Tigresa; both of whom are very good at making me laugh.

**Lia Fernandes:** Actually I will publish, in next October, the book *Dos Factores Biopsicológicos às Intervenções Multifamiliares e Psicoeducacionais na Asma* (From Biopsychological Factors to Multifamily Psychoeducational Interventions in Asthma) – Lia Fernandes, Edições Bial, 2009. This book has the preface of Prof. Daniel Sampaio, Founder of Portuguese Society of Family Therapy (SPTF). This work is

## EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT AFTA

Pledge your support through annual giving with a check to: AFTA, 1608 20th St, NW, 4th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20009. Or, you can visit the AFTA homepage, [www.afta.org](http://www.afta.org) and click on the box "Pay Dues Donate On-Line. Thank you.

published in Portuguese, and obtainable: <http://www.bial.com/pt/>. I am a family therapist (since 1995) and teaching (since 1996) in SPTF belonging to the board (1999-2004), member of AFTA (since 2004) and also IFTA (since 2000). Recently I was elected to the IFTA Board – Class of 2012.

**Charles Fishman:** I went to New Zealand to do a project on Teen Suicide for 6 months—9 years ago. I direct a large residential and community program for troubled youth as well as an eating disorders program. It has the capacity for (unpaid) Family Therapy interns here in “100 % pure” New Zealand” (just a myth but still beautiful), and working with Maori and Pacific Islanders is unique. [charles@fishman.co.nz](mailto:charles@fishman.co.nz)

**Ellen Fox:** I am very happy to be back in Santa Fe. I have been integrating Narrative Therapy practices, interpersonal neurobiology, (Dan Siegel) and EMDR and Brain Spotting in my work with individuals, couples and families. This in turn cultivates my own neural integration and makes therapy more playful and fun. I am designing curriculum for the treatment of addictions from this integrative template. I take an acting class and dance as much as possible. I hope to attend AFTA in Boulder next June. Y’all come out and visit!

**Jerry Gale:** Overall it has been a good year. Our family had trips to Oregon and Virginia. We again spent a week at yogaville for children’s camp, but at the loss of missing the AFTA Conference. In May I was invited to speak to the Korean Family Therapy Association. I had a wonderful time in Korea both meeting many people and also visiting beautiful areas, including Buddhist temples over 1000 years old. My newest adventure is teaching 4th grade Sunday School, which my daughter ‘recommended’ that I do. I may now get the Jewish education I didn’t get/retain as a kid.



**Serena Galloway:** In May, I completed required coursework as a third year student at Alliant, CSPP. I moved from San Francisco to San Diego over the summer to live with my husband, who has been working full time in SD this past year. It’s been great getting settled and sightseeing. I am excited to attend my first Chargers games this fall. Now in my fourth year, I am applying for APA internship and focusing on my dissertation, entitled “Mexican-American Women in Couple Relationships: A Comparison of Intra-ethnic and Interethnic Couples.” It explores areas of acculturative stress, perceived social support, and relationship qualities.



**Mary-Joan Gerson:** I continue to direct the Advanced Specialization in Couple and Family Therapy at the N.Y.U. Postdoctoral Institute, which integrates psychoanalytic and systemic thinking. Since this is my abiding passion, I have just published a second edition of my book: *The Embedded Self: An Integrative Psychodynamic and Systemic Perspective on Couple and Family Therapy* (Routledge). I’m shedding my luddite status by writing a paper on internet betrayal, for an October conference of the New York State Psychological Association. I’ve started studying abstract painting, which gives me perspective on my joyfully crammed life as a grandmother of four, academic and clinician.

**Ira Glick:** Gabe Keitner, Alison Haru, and I have finished a manual on marital and family therapy to be published by the American Psychiatric Press this year. My text *Marital and Family Therapy* (4th Ed.) and the *Companion Concise Guide* continue to be used by the field.



**Elissa Glickman:** I’m happy to be a new early career member. The past year has been fulfilling both personally and professionally. My husband and I celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer and always enjoy family time with our two wonderful boys. My first year on the faculty and as Director of Clinical Placements of the Mercy College MFT program in Dobbs Ferry, NY has provided challenge and growth. I work with wonderful people and enjoy the students. Now that I’m seasoned and settled in, I have decided to enhance and complement my work by embarking on my own private practice in Scarsdale, NY.

**Jan Goldman:** I was asked to be the honored Alumna speaker at Widener University’s graduation ceremony in November, as the Master’s degree is conferred and students move up to the doctoral level. I am also part of a symposium on DID and the Discourse of the Self as ISSTD’s annual conference this year in Washington, D.C.

Nick and I traveled to Alaska this summer and saw amazing sights of wildlife and glaciers calving, whales putting on the floorshow as the mountains provided a gorgeous backdrop to the scene.

**Rachel Hare-Mustin:** Although I missed the 2009 Annual Meeting, I was able to catch up with some AFTA friends this summer. Lee Combrinck-Graham, Lois Braverman, Connie Ahrons and I had a happy reunion get-together. And then Vicki Dickerson and I caught up with Kathe Weingarten and

her husband. All seemed to be doing good work, teaching, writing, and seeing families, children, and people in need.



**B. Janet Hibbs:** Just got a great review of *Try to See It My Way: Being Fair in Love and Marriage*. <http://feministreview.blogspot.com/2009/06/try-to-see-it-my-way-being-fair-in-love.html>. Had a great time presenting at AFTA in New Orleans this June, and Smart Marriages in July. Trying to decipher social media and blogdom and put up a new website: [www.trytoseeitmyway.com](http://www.trytoseeitmyway.com). I’m no longer a book virgin-- it’s a wild and wooly world.

**Sue Johnson:** I would like to tell my colleagues that over the summer we launched a new relationship enhancement program based on the book for the public that came out last year – *Hold Me Tight* ([www.holdmetight.net](http://www.holdmetight.net)) – it has a DVD of three couples working through the program and a facilitators guide and can be accessed at [www.iceeft.com](http://www.iceeft.com) - that is the center for resources in emotionally focused couple therapy. My dream is that some of my AFTA colleagues might use this program and then give us feedback on how to improve it further.

**Christian Jordal:** I started a twelve-month residency program at the Marriage and Family Counseling Service (<http://www.mfcsqc.org/>) in Rock Island, Illinois in September 2009. The service was founded in 1967 to serve couples and families in the Quad Cities area of Illinois and Iowa. The residency program includes training in the *Structured Initial Interview*, an assessment technique for use with couples co-developed by Executive Director, William J. Hiebert, D. Min. I successfully defended my dissertation proposal in May 2009 and am actively recruiting participant couples for my dissertation research project. It focuses on the experience of commitment and the processes of sexual identifying and gendering within bisexual-heterosexual marriages. Email: [icjordal@yahoo.com](mailto:icjordal@yahoo.com)

**Frédéric La Belle:** Back in Brittany (France). I celebrated my 71st birthday in Paris, in August, with my sons, new daughter-in-law and Claude, my partner. She (Claude) has been to two AFTA conferences (Miami and Vancouver) and sends Hello! to our friends. In 2010 I will be presenting my work on multiple-family therapy in San Diego (February) and Paris (October). Also Genograms (in Slovenia, possibly next Fall). My writing effort continues, and I’m looking for a publisher (international and bilingual). Any suggestions? My teaching, supervision and systemic team training goes on. That’s it for now.

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**Wai-Yung Lee:** I am an Associate Professor and Founding Director of the HKU Family Institute, University of Hong Kong, and also a Faculty Member of the Minuchin Center for the Family in New York, USA. Much of my work has been on dispersing the many myths about Asian Chinese families, while developing a framework for culturally relevant approach in different contexts. In addition to journal publications, I have also co-authored three books with Salvador Minuchin, including the first and second editions of *"Mastering Family Therapy – Journeys of Growth and Transformation"* and *"Assessing Families and Couples – From Symptom to System,"* together with Michael Nichols.



**Ari Lev:** This has been an exciting Summer! I just moved my office to a large space, hiring staff, and expanding a clinical training program in sex and gender issues.

Additionally, after 20 years of advocacy at the University where I teach part-time, we are (slowly) building an LGBTQ academic curricula focusing on clinical skills. On a personal note, my children are moving from a small independent Montessori school into city schools – my older one starting High School – from a middle school with 20 kids, to a freshman class of 900! Question: Is this a good time to adopt a little girl?

**Karen Gail Lewis:** I'm excited about my latest book, *Why Don't You Understand? A Gender Relationship Dictionary*. Yup, it's really a dictionary of 80 words/phrases men and women use differently. It includes practice exercises and a Personal Inventory List for couples to track what words trip them up. I assume all of us have favorites among our books. (Yes, I know, parents should not have favorites, but...) None of my other books make me smile like this one. And, of all my books, it's the only cover I love! Other than this, life goes on quite well for me here in Cincinnati.

**Howard Liddle:** CTRADA ([www.miami.edu/ctrada](http://www.miami.edu/ctrada)) has two new NIDA funded projects: One tests the MDFT + HIV prevention model in a juvenile justice run day treatment school. The other is an implementation study of the MDFT-Detention to Community approach in two Conn. juvenile detention centers. New research has found further evidence for one of the mechanisms by which MDFT achieves its effects (C Henderson, C Rowe, G Dakof, S Hawes & H Liddle in *American J Drug and Alcohol Abuse*, 35:220–226, 2009, Parenting Practices as Mediators of Treatment Effects in an Early-Intervention Trial of Multidimensional Family Therapy).

**Deanna Linville:** I am an assistant professor and the Program & Clinical Director for the Couples and Family Therapy program at the University of Oregon, and also a new AFTA member. My research publications and clinical interests focus on eating disorders, obesity prevention, couples issues and collaborative family healthcare. Along with my partner, Eric, we recently welcomed our second son into the world, Connor (6 months old). Our older son, Nathan is almost 3.5 years old. We also have a 12.5-year-old yellow lab, Dakota, who enjoys being a part of a running team and outdoor family activities.

**Rosa Macedo:** A new kind of systemic intervention "Community Therapy", created by Adalberto Barreto, has been developed at the public health centers around all the country, as a useful therapeutic tool, overall for the poor people in high risk and social Vulnerability situation. The Nucleus of Family and Community of the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo, under my direction is one of the centers for the training on this practice, conducted by our member Dra. Marilene Grandesso. The great value of this procedure is its applicability to a great many groups, in any place even public squares with very good results according the evaluations done.

**Bill Madsen:** After taking my daughter (20) back to college and my son (17) on our annual backpacking trip, I'm trying yet again to pursue a saner work life. With the closing of Family Institute of Cambridge, we have moved the Family-Centered Services Project ([www.family-centered-services.org](http://www.family-centered-services.org)) out on its own. We are currently consulting to a large scale organizational change project to help our state CPS department develop more collaborative ways of engaging families. I'm also working on a generic approach to "helping" that is grounded in inquiry, and trying to find ways to better appreciate the wonder of daily life.

**Laura Maggio:** I am currently beginning my 22nd year as Director of the Marriage and Family Therapy program at Springfield College. My students are great and I continue to learn much from them. Two years ago I published an article in *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, applying a narrative therapy perspective to the challenges of living with lupus. I am following up this article with some research on the impact of expressive writing and narrative letter writing on the health of people with lupus. I am excited about this new project, which I will be conducting during a sabbatical this spring.

**Joseph Micucci:** The second edition of my book, *The Adolescent in Family Therapy: Harnessing the Power of Relationships*, was published by Guilford Press in August 2009.

**Paula Ochs:** My husband, John, and I recently participated in a national ballroom dance competition in DC. My private practice supervising MSW's and MFT's is growing and I am enjoying it immensely. I also continue to work at Family Service League in Montclair, NJ, doing therapy with marginalized populations and supervising staff and students. Please visit my website: [www.familytherapytraining.com](http://www.familytherapytraining.com) and say hello.

**Molly Parks:** As a new member and recent graduate, I was thrilled to be welcomed into the open-arms of AFTA this year at my first conference in New Orleans, and am already looking forward to reconnecting in Boulder next year. This summer I moved from Boston to Durham, North Carolina where I am very much enjoying being close to family and old friends. I have started work at a wonderful private group practice, Lepage Associates, where I am seeing a broad range of clients and getting to do some assessments and trauma evaluation work. I am looking forward to connecting with AFTA members in the Raleigh-Durham area. Email: [mparks@lepageassociates.com](mailto:mparks@lepageassociates.com)

**Ellen Pulleyblank Coffey:** Six months filled with family (one new grandbaby and another about to be born), visits from all over the world and my tenth wedding anniversary to Patrick. I'm sculpting almost every day in my studio putting together bus stop bench scenes for a show I hope to get together in a year or so. Still into work every day seeing families, working with colleagues and even finishing a paper that seemed like it would never get done. Good times.



**Karen Quek:** I am the director of clinical training and assistant professor in the department of marriage and family therapy at Pacific Lutheran University. My

research interests are family diversity issues; gender construction in couples; family and community systemic practice; and the therapeutic use of self. As a licensed Marital and Family therapist and an approved AAMFT supervisor, I have extensive clinical and supervisory experiences nationally and internationally.

**Helena A. Rempala:** I closed my practice in Louisville, KY and reopened it in Augusta, GA. New address: 3633 Wheeler Road, Suite 110, Augusta GA, 30909. Well . . . Georgia is definitely "on my mind". My family and I enjoy the proximity to the sugar sand beaches, Atlanta's airport and Charleston's (SC) irresistible charm. I have been networking hard, looking for like-minded family therapists. Augusta has a unique feature - it has its own Augusta Area Psychological Association - it became a refreshing and unique experience to be

a part of a small professional organization devoted solely to recognize the local needs of its members.

**Ruediger Retzlaff:** A number of good things have happened in my life: The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of my new textbook *Spiel-Räume* on systemic therapy with children and adolescents (in German) has just appeared- three printings within one year! In December 2008, systemic therapy was recognized as an evidence-based treatment approach in Germany. The Systemische Gesellschaft (Systemic Society) awarded a number of colleagues, including Jochen Schweitzer and me, with an honorary membership for our resilient effort on behalf of systemic therapy. I now hope that the German board of health insurers will decide to put systemic therapy on the list of treatments, which are paid for by the public health insurances.



**Laura Roberto-Forman:** I bid a fond farewell as the AFTA Monograph Series Editor in Chief and welcome its new head, Melissa Elliott. I am studying for Level 1 certification in flow yoga and mindfulness, teaching yoga, and also continue my practice of girls, women and families in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Cats, husband in retirement, and engaged children and their wonderful partners keep things very lively.

**Janine Roberts:** My book of poems, *The Body Alters*, was recently published. Go to <http://www.slateroofpress.com/Roberts.html> to see a sample poem and the cover and/or to order it via Pay Pal. Or order it on Amazon. I continue seeing families and my work in LA with street working children and families. Forthcoming in the *Networker* is an article I wrote on transparency and self-disclosure. For *Family Process*, I help get abstracts and articles translated into Chinese and Spanish, and search for good articles from countries outside the U.S. If you know of any, please contact me.

**Peggy Sax:** I've started an online "Narrative Practice & Collaborative Inquiry Study Group." The dream is to create an international meeting place where members come together to study articles and recordings according to a schedule, and then share reflections, discoveries, and inquiries with each other. The outline of readings, recordings and guest authors begins in Sept, so this is an excellent time to join. See: [http://reauthoringteaching.com/home\\_study.html](http://reauthoringteaching.com/home_study.html) Help me spread the word to the folks you think might be interested. Feel free to write [peggysax@gmail.com](mailto:peggysax@gmail.com) or call 802-388-1032 (w) or 802-233-5925 (c) with any questions.

**Richard Schwartz:** I'm doing well--promising new romantic relationship and enjoyed spending time with each of my 3 daughters at different points this summer. For better or worse they're all doing social service type stuff, so I'll probably be supporting them forever.

I just returned from opening IFS training programs in Stockholm and in Caen, France, so the model keeps spreading and keeps me busy and on the road a lot. I also published a new book on IFS and relationships this year called *You're the One You've Been Waiting For*, which is available on our website [selfleadership.org](http://selfleadership.org). Hope to see some of you at AAMFT next month.



**Jay Uhler:** Labor Day weekend, my sons and families gathered in Kentucky to celebrate my Mother's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. She lives alone. Bicycle training rides with Team Trinity along the beautiful Atlantic Coast in Massachusetts have been wonderful. The Rodman Ride for Kids last September raised 6.3 million dollars for disadvantaged youth in the Boston area. It is my favorite day of the year. September 16 begins my term on the Board of Directors of the Boston Minstrels. We sing in homeless shelters and prisons. To see a description of my articles, book, and professional activities, go to <http://jayuhler.com>.

**Michael Ungar:** Greetings from Colombia. I'm travelling a lot these days, researching resilience, and the family and community interventions that make it possible. I'm enjoying, just as much, getting to know more about AFTA. As a new board member, the opportunity to help grow the organization is wonderful. In between all the fun, I'm releasing two books in the US. In October, *The We Generation: Raising Socially Responsible Kids* will be on book shelves. In February, a textbook titled *Counseling in Challenging Contexts* will appear. I welcome comments on both...Really, I do!

**Kaethe Weingarten:** Hilary and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary with a week-long visit from our children, their spouses and our grandson at our cabin in Maine. It was even more memorable than my two years' worth of fantasies imagined it to be. I leave for a two-week teaching stint in New Zealand as a Fulbright Specialist September 14. I have good friends there, so it will be a happy reunion for me as well as two weeks of rigorous work. We will spend January in the Bay Area, again, to have time with our children, working by SKYPE in Boston.

## THE SPECIAL EVENT: A COOKING EXPERIENCE



## AFTA AUTHORS



## NGI INITIATIVE

Martha Edwards, NGI Task Force Chair



The Next Generation Initiative (NGI) had a stellar run under President John Rolland and Chair, Carmen Knudson-Martin. In the past two years, a student membership category was pilot tested and over 100 new regular, early career and student members joined AFTA. Our new members have infused many of the traditional AFTA activities with ideas and energy that have benefited us all. As Vice President and new NGI Chair, I am so pleased to be able to build on these wonderful accomplishments. In addition to our focus on building membership, I am also thinking about the NGI as the “Never-ending Generativity Initiative” for us all. We will be exploring venues other than the Annual Meeting (e.g., regional meetings, online study groups) that will enable us to inspire each other and share our knowledge and wisdom. To that end, I’d like to suggest that we think of and share the burning questions or issues that are currently taking up residence in the front (or back) of our minds. Are you looking for research instruments that would help you demonstrate the effectiveness of interventions? Are you thinking about how to help couples have a different experience of each other in the therapy room? Are you pondering how to help students have conversations about social justice with the families they see? Soon, we will start a list serve conversation to bring forth the questions or issues that interest us or with which we are grappling. I look forward to hearing from everyone.



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ECM Committee

-- Jean Malpas

The first time I attended AFTA’s conference in 2006 in Chicago, I was certainly impressed with the quality of the presentations and the cloud of the crowd. I was delighted to find a welcoming LGBT group who would become my dear colleagues and friends. I however had found myself a bit shy, hanging out safely with the folks from New York. My experience this year in New Orleans was very different. One can partially explain it by the fact that I am not new anymore and that I have friends I am happy to see every year at AFTA. But it is more than that. This year’s conference, by all accounts, was one of the warmest and most welcoming. Every generation of AFTA members, new, students, ECMs, and more seasoned ones, went out of their way to introduce themselves and get to know one another. Whether at the Next Generation Initiative meetings, the welcoming breakfast, the “ECMs host a lunch” event or at the final Gala, I experienced a rare and genuine sense of interest and belonging. That’s why I keep going back! See you all in Boulder in 2010!

--and from Tziporah Rosenberg

The ECM Committee is in full gear and going full steam ahead since last year. We have welcomed several new members (Amy Tuttle, Norma Scarborough, and Tziporah Rosenberg) in addition to several new ECMs, and began an initiative around social networking and

other means to engage ECMs, including developing a Google group and listserv to provide electronic, easy-to-read snippets of information about new members, upcoming events, and news items of interest. After hosting a wildly successful ECM and senior AFTA member lunch in New Orleans, we implemented the first in a series of workshops on leadership training that we hope will be an ongoing feature at the Annual Meeting; this year’s event consisted of a panel and participant discussion of mentoring relationships, how to find them and how to make them work. We continue to pilot inventive ways to recruit new ECMs to AFTA, including consideration of colleagues from our training program who might make valuable additions to the organization and extending personal invitations to the Annual Meeting to “meet” AFTA and consider membership. We look forward to working with the NGI and Membership committees around these important initiatives. We are proud to say we have an energetic and dynamic committee eager to continue to establish a solid core of leaders and innovators in the Early Career Membership of AFTA.

### Student Committee

-- Tom Wooldridge

As an integral part of the Next Generation Initiative, AFTA now has a new category of membership for outstanding students entering the field. Student membership is a pathway toward Early Career and regular AFTA membership. With student membership in place, AFTA can actively engage future leaders during the time when they are being mentored. To this end, the Student Committee is intended to promote the recruitment, retention, and integration of student members. A committee including students, ECMs, and members who have belonged to AFTA for many years has recently come together to explore how to serve the needs of students within the community.



## Cultural and Economic Diversity Committee

-- Pilar Hernandez

At the 2009 AFTA conference, the Cultural and Economic Diversity Committee transitioned into new leadership. After 5 years of dedication to this committee and its social justice agenda, Jane Ariel passed the torch to Pilar Hernandez. Under Jane's leadership, the committee worked on writing a new mission statement, defining carefully and collaboratively a definition of social justice and helping to specify the notion of social justice in AFTA's Mission Statement. The committee proposed to the Board, which agreed, that the definition of social justice along with AFTA's Mission statement would appear on all written documents.

Some of the projects that the committee worked on this year involved creating a brochure in order to document the committee's history and accomplishments, further developing and facilitating the second year of listening circles and helping to develop the Community Day at the New Orleans conference.

The function of the Cultural and Economic Diversity Committee is to ensure AFTA's accountability in maintaining economic and cultural diversity and upholding its agenda of social justice. I will continue to stay true to this mission.

In considering what is going on presently in the United States, our committee is hoping for the adoption of a public option in health care. Many disenfranchised individuals and families suffer heavily without the benefit of health insurance, which continues to widen the gap between different groups in our country.



## Human Rights Committee

-- Larry Levner

The Human Rights Committee needs members!! Please contact Larry Levner at [llevner@verizon.net](mailto:llevner@verizon.net) if you are interested.

With AFTA's community involvement in New Orleans as precedent, we are especially looking for ideas about involvement with the Boulder community before, during and after the upcoming Annual Meeting. Possibilities include asking local groups to identify how we might get involved, offering training/CEUs to agencies and professionals, and inviting community members to be presenters at the conference.

The Human Rights Committee is also interested in learning about the ongoing human rights activities of AFTA members to see if there is space for AFTA to lend it's organizational support and resources to endeavors that are important to AFTA members.

## AFTA WEBSITE

-- Anne Bernstein



Check out the newly-redesigned AFTA website. This summer, we did extensive renovations to the AFTA website, improving its "look and feel," and adding new capacities.

The old site allowed visitors to the site to search for members by last name or city and state. Now there is an "Advanced Search" function that allows searches based on interests, work roles, language, theoretical orientation and other variables. But to make this as valuable a resource as it can be, we need the entire membership to fill out a membership profile.

(The instructions for logging on to the site and updating your profile can be found as a separate pdf included with this *Update*.)

Be sure to check out the "For Members"

page. This is where you can find archived issues of the AFTA Update, descriptions of committees and interest groups, and the answers to frequently-asked questions about the use of the website. In the near future, we expect to put Powerpoints and/or podcasts of the plenaries from the Annual Meeting on this page. Some time later, we hope to develop the capacity to post videos here.

Some areas of the website are still under development. The "In Memoriam" page is currently being re-designed. In the interim, I would very much appreciate people sending me pictures and obituaries, or links to printed obituaries, for any of those we are remembering for which these materials are not yet on the site.

We hope to have the site fully operational—including being able to do more online, like apply for membership or recommend prospective members—very soon.

But the website will only realize its potential for continuing collaboration and contact if we actually use it. And please do let me know of your ideas for making it an even more valuable resource.

## AWARDS NOMINATIONS FOR 2011

AFTA is soliciting nominations for its annual awards for 2011. The awards that may be given in a year are:

Distinguished Contribution to Family Systems Research

Distinguished Contribution to Family Therapy Theory & Practice

Innovative Contribution to Family Therapy

Lifetime Achievement Award

Distinguished Contribution to Social Justice

Descriptions of these awards are on our web site.

Submit nominations to Jay Lebow at [j-lebow@northwestern.edu](mailto:j-lebow@northwestern.edu) by January 15, 2010.

## A Deeper Experience of Katrina:

### Four Years Later

-- Jane Ariel



As an informal part of the New Orleans Conference, a tour was arranged to see the lasting effects of Hurricane Katrina. Although many fewer people were expected to join the tour, some 50 people - members, friends and family - boarded the bus in the French Quarter to experience the neighborhoods most seriously affected by the storm. Our articulate and passionate guide told us the story of what happened during and since the flood. She spoke of current struggles, which include a desire by community members to keep open Charity Hospital, a haven for many working and poor families, which the City is threatening to close. She asked us if we would like to take a short detour in order to join a demonstration that was taking place that day in opposition to the hospital closure, which people believed was another attempt by city officials to gentrify New Orleans and disregard community desires. We chose to join the demonstrators and by doing so swelled their ranks. All together we were filmed for the evening news.

We continued driving through different neighborhoods, and our guide spoke of her personal experiences during and after Katrina as we witnessed the many destroyed and deserted houses. Many were marked with lines showing the level of the flood waters and with numbers of how many people were found there, in some cases with numbers of how many had died. In the middle of the Lower Ninth Ward, the most devastated area, we stopped the bus and sat still for a moment of silence in memory for all that has been lost. So many families still cannot return, those with the least resources being sent the furthest away. They have not been able to come back to rebuild their age-old family homes or continue life as part of their tight-knit, mostly African-American

community. We returned to the hotel saddened, yet glad to have shared in some part of this enduring tragedy, natural and man-made.

## In the Groove:

### AFTA Dances to the Sounds of New Orleans Funk and Soul

-- Peter Fraenkel



Although we've had some great bands for the AFTA Awards Dinner Dance over the years, I think we topped out this year with New Orleans's Trac-One. As usual, I mobilized my music network from undergraduate days at the New England Conservatory of Music, and reconnected (after, umm, 33 years!) with Charlie Kohlmeier, a New Orleans native and fabulous fellow drummer. He contacted his mates, and a band was formed! Led by trumpeter and vocalist Tracy Griffin, the band included bassist Sylvester Andrews, pianist Clark Knighten, and tenor saxophonist Emile Hall, with Charlie on drums and yours truly on percussion. Many of the tunes we played -- covering a wide range of the soul, funk, and R&B repertoire -- were doubtless familiar to those shaking it up on the dance floor, and were not New Orleans specialties per se. But New Orleans musicians are famous for bringing a "deep groove" (or as we say in drummer lingo, a "deep pocket") to whatever they play. Many of the original recordings of those tunes -- whether recorded in Motown, Memphis, Philly, or L.A., had session players from New Orleans, like the great Earl Palmer, the most recorded drummer of all time. And we also peppered the evening with New Orleans classics like Hey Pocky Way and Fiyo on the Bayou (made popular by the Neville Brothers). The band loved playing for us, so we'll just have to do another conference in New Orleans!

## AWARDS

-- Jay Lebow



AFTA honored its 2009 award recipients at the banquet on the final night of the Annual Meeting. Celia Falicov presented the award for Distinguished Contribution to Family Systems Research to Guillermo Bernal, highlighting his pioneering work in culturally sensitive treatment research. Elaine Pinderhughes presented the award for Distinguished Contribution to Social Justice to Marlene Watson, stressing her incorporation of a social justice framework in numerous settings including family therapy training. Froma Walsh presented the award for Distinguished Contribution to Family Therapy Theory and Practice to Charles Figley, highlighting his work with families and trauma. SallyAnn Roth presented the award for Lifetime Achievement to Richard Chasin, accenting the depth and range of his contribution to our field as a teacher, clinician, and administrator. Vicki Dickerson presented the award for Innovative Contribution to Family Therapy to Jill Freedman and Gene Combs for their development of innovative ways of working with narrative in family therapy.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### CENTER FOR FAMILY CONNECTIONS (CFFC)

#### Upcoming Events and Trainings

~**October 21, 2009**- FaCT Training: Core Issues in Adoption-Therapeutic Strategies with Adoptive Triad Members- Cambridge, MA

~**November 10, 2009** – Courage and Curiosity Fundraiser – Cambridge, MA

~**November 18, 2009**- FaCT Training: Attachment and Pre and Post Adoption Issues for Birth and Adoptive Families- Cambridge, MA

-**July 11-14, 2010** - ARC 25th annual Summer Intensive Training – Provincetown, MA

--Contact CFFC at 617-547-0909 or [cffc@kinnect.org](mailto:cffc@kinnect.org) for more information.

**CFFC is proud to announce a new training program for adoptive parents, birth parents, adult adopted persons and professionals touched by international and transracial adoption.** Thanks to funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, we are pleased to offer the full course **free of charge** to families and individuals touched by international or transracial adoption. Professionals looking to expand their knowledge can take this course at a discounted rate of \$800 (some partial scholarships available) and will receive a post graduate certificate of completion at the end of the course.

--Contact CFFC at 617-547-0909 or [cffc@kinnect.org](mailto:cffc@kinnect.org)



In *The We Generation: Raising Socially Responsible Kids*, Michael Ungar shows how parents and other adults can raise a generation that cares as much about others as they do about themselves. Using examples from his clinical practice and research with children around the globe, Michael shows that

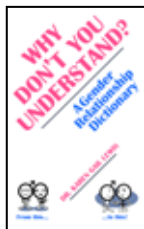
one parent or two, step-parents or caring grandparent who takes over when needed, we all play a role in showing children how to think we in me-thinking times. Chapters discuss how parents can model compassion, encourage adults to touch children more, downsize their homes, and create communities where everyone is watching the kids.

<http://www.perseusbooksgroup.com/dacapo/>



*The Embedded Self: An Integrative Psychodynamic and Systemic Perspective on Couple and Family Therapy* (2nd edition), by Mary-Joan Gerson, covers

the latest research in neuroscience and the transmission of affect within intimate relationships, with a new chapter on attachment theory and emotionally focused therapy. Sections on narrative therapy and psychoanalytically-oriented family therapy are expanded as well. This second edition provides extensive case examples, which illustrate how family therapists can enrich treatment through a deeper focus on psychodynamic theory and practice. Routledge: August 2009. Check Routledge/New titles/ for endorsements by Virginia Goldner, Salvador Minuchin, Marcia Sheinberg and Paul Wachtel.



*World's 1st Gender Relationship Dictionary* -- by Karen Gail Lewis Mars and Venus describe the problem. This DICTIONARY provides the solution.

Now, you can have the security of a pocket dictionary and a road map while traveling in the foreign country of Relationships. Don't *BE* home without it! [www.Gender-Dictionary.com](http://www.Gender-Dictionary.com)



*Substance Use Disorders in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Clients: Assessment and Treatment* – by Sandra Anderson.

Internalized homophobia, alienation, poor support structures, and high levels of depression all contribute to substance abuse among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals. The threat of bias in treatment programs also prevents many from seeking help. This book includes the latest research on these unique issues, featuring both state of the art practice methods for treating substance use disorders and up-to-date analyses of sexual orientation and gender identity issues. The volume includes practice with individuals, couples, families, and small groups. The author draws on case studies with her own clients and from social service agencies that treat LGBT clients.



*The Body Alters* by Janine Roberts: poems about Latin America, the Pacific Northwest, and the world of the body and illness. Available for \$11 on Amazon or at <http://www.slaterroofpress.com/Roberts.html>.

(You can see a sample poem there, too.) “Janine’s handsome poems plummet into life; births and deaths collide in both intimate moments and far-flung adventures. They are full of hope for all of our changing selves.” ~ Mary Clare Powell, author of *Things Owls Ate*, *Academic Scat*, & *In the Living Room*

#### AFTA Annual Meeting Tapes and CDs

that have recordings of all plenary sessions from 1992 to 2009 are available for purchase through Cambridge Transcriptions. The direct link is: [www.ctran.com/orders/AFTA](http://www.ctran.com/orders/AFTA). You can also find this link on our web site, [www.afta.org](http://www.afta.org).

## REVIEW CORNER – BOOKS, FILMS, MUSIC

### THE BRIEF WONDROUS LIFE OF OSCAR WAO

Juno Diaz, New York: Riverhead Books, 2007

-- reviewed by Ellen Pulleyblank Coffey

This is a story of an immigrant Dominican family almost obliterated by history, and “fuku” (the curse of Trujillo’s Dominican Republic that has followed the family to the US). Family members are saved by their resistance to fuku; they speak and write of past horrors, thereby making room for real and magical images of what is possible.

I was particularly moved by the story of the mother in the family whom we first meet raging against her children. Pages later we meet her in a flashback as a beautiful young girl filled with desire for life. We see her captured and beaten almost to death by the Dominican police, only to barely escape while she holds onto an idea of her future children. We then understand her rage as her attempt to protect these children in a dangerous world.

The book throws the reader back and forth between life’s miseries and its miracles. Diaz ultimately tells us to celebrate life even in the face of fuku. Oscar, the book’s hero, writes a letter to his sister just before he is killed. He tells her about the intimacy he has discovered in his first experience of making love to a woman, after years of rejection. She tells us what Oscar wrote:

... he couldn't believe he'd had to wait for this so goddamn long. (Ybon was the one who suggested calling the wait something else. Yeah, like what? Maybe, she said, you could call it life.) He wrote: So this is what everybody's always talking about! Diablo! If I'd only known. The beauty! The beauty!

### THE DRUMMER, THE READER, AND REVOLUTIONARY ROAD

-- reviewed by Gonzalo Bacigalupe\*

*The Continuous Search for What Really Matters*

Summer is often a time during which our family watches the latest summer blockbusters at the local movie theater, but it is also a time in which I treasure the opportunity to check out the latest films appearing in DVD format, often of a more serious tone. Three movies that definitely fall under the heading of serious drama are “must see” and that I will be recommending to trainees, clients, and friends: *The Drummer* (Bi, 2007), *The Reader* (Daldry, 2008), and *Revolutionary Road* (Mendes, 2008). The dynamic interplay of context, family, and individual desires are richly narrated in what appear as very different plots in quiet different localities and historical locations: contemporary Hong Kong and Taiwan, a Connecticut suburb in the mid 1950’s, and Germany during the Nazi and after the liberation periods.

In *The Drummer*, a young adult, the son of a mafioso, is shown in a self-destructive pattern leading him to escape into a Zen drummers’ school retreat camp. In *Revolutionary Road*, a recently married young white upper mobile middle class couple moves to “the ideal” suburban home to raise a family. In *The Reader*, an adolescent boy begins an intimate love relationship with a tram conductor (Kate Winslet is the same protagonist in these two films).

Why would one of these movies be relevant to a client, besides the obvious connecting dots embedded in the specific narratives that characterize each film’s plot? In each of these films, the protagonists are confronted with truly core ethical existential decisions that will impact their life course as well as that of others. For the couple in *Revolutionary Road*, denying the needs of real meaning-making in a relationship despite the comfortableness and predictability of suburban life, or as in *The Reader*, hiding and burying a historical

truth while protecting the status quo, can have poisonous consequences. In *The Drummer*, the ambivalent search for constructing a healthy identity, although risky, can also find a truly rewarding end.

The search for what really matters, the task of our protagonists, while at times successful and at others a failure, are at the core of what many of the individuals, couples, and families come to demand from us as therapists. I found these films one potential path to open up this conversation. As one couple told me, “I do not want to have to be Kate Winslet in *Revolutionary Road*, I do want to be able to go to Paris, even though it may only be Massachusetts Ave. at the moment.”

\*Gonzalo is the chair of the *Film, Families, and Family Therapy Interest Group* at AFTA. And . . . once again, many thanks to Gonzalo for producing most of the excellent pictures for this *Update!*



### MUSICAL PLAYGROUND

Sasha Masakowski Music  
Available on: iTunes  
Artist: Sasha Masakowski

-- reviewed by Peter Fraenkel

One steamy night during this summer’s AFTA 2009 conference, a group of us ventured out (some for the third time that week) to New Orleans’ premiere jazz club, Snug Harbor, to hear a group called NOLA NOVA. We were unexpectedly treated to a family jazz event: The great Steve Masakowski on guitar, his 19-year-old son Martin on acoustic bass, and on vocals, his 23-year-old daughter, the brilliantly talented Sasha Masakowski. Filling out the group was the astoundingly

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creative young vibraphonist James Westfall, and veteran swinger and funk-master Ricky Sebastian on drums. Just as she did that evening, on her wonderful debut CD *Musical Playground*, Sasha combines a youthful, adventurous, ebullient, and -- true the title -- *playful* approach, with a high level of vocal technique, refined during her high school years at the prestigious New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, and then on a full scholarship at the Rotterdam Conservatory of Music. The first cut, "Russian Lullaby," swings from the opening gate, with Sasha intoning the lyrics in her cool stream clear voice, followed by a great bass solo by New Orleans Nathan "Kirk Nasty" Lambertson on bass, some scat singing by Sasha, her dad Steve on guitar, and a swinging vibe solo by James Westfall. The CD is a fantastic mix of classic and more obscure Brazilian tunes (like the well-known "E Preciso Perdoar" – given new energy by Sasha in flawless Portuguese), innovative treatments of jazz standards from the songbooks of Gershwin and Rodgers & Hart ("Summertime," "My Romance)," and contemporary jazz classics by composers like Steve Kuhn and Kenny Wheeler. The family Masakowski (minus mother Ulrike, an accomplished concert pianist) displays their unique family musical rapport on "Interplay." With her graceful singing and riveting performance style, I am certain that Sasha Masakowski is on the brink of becoming one of the top singers of her generation – check her out now! (Learn more about her on [www.sashamasakowski.com](http://www.sashamasakowski.com).)



## 2010 AFTA MEETING: PUBLIC ISSUES, PRIVATE LIVES

Boulder, Colorado, June 23-26, 2010

-- Corky Becker,

2010 AFTA Meeting Program Chair



The theme of the 2010 AFTA meeting is *Public Issues, Private Lives*.

We are thrilled with our keynote speaker Dr. Spero Manson. Dr.

Manson is Pembina Chippewa, a medical anthropologist, boarded in Psychiatry; he directs the Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health in the Colorado School of Public Health, University of Colorado, Denver. His programs include 8 national centers, entailing research, program development and training among 102 Native communities, spanning rural, reservation, urban and village settings. He will bring Native American drummers and dancers to do an opening greeting and welcome us to their land.

We are very excited about our plenary speakers: The speakers on mental health disparities and bridging cultures include Dr. Margarita Alegria, who does research on cultural issues at Harvard University, Dr. Douglas Novins, who does research, program development, implementation and evaluation with Native American communities at University of Colorado, Denver, and Dr. William Turner, who is Betts Chair of Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt University. During 2007-2008 he was a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow in the office of then Senator, President Barack Obama.

The speakers on Couple Therapy include Dr. Mona Fishbane, Jill Freedman, MSW and Gene Combs, MD, and Jean Malpas. The speakers on Vulnerable Youth and Resilience include Dr. Michael Ungar, Dr. Chris Behan and Dr. Rebecca Harvey. Dr. Harvey has co-authored *Nurturing Queer*

*Youth*. Chris Behan works for the Annie E. Casey Foundation overseeing several state foster care programs.

The special event will include the option to walk on some beautiful trails in the late afternoon by the foothills of the Green Mountains, and then arrive at the Chautauqua Dining Room. The Chautauqua movement began in the late 1890's as a vehicle to bring educational and cultural events to rural families. The community in Boulder has been a place where people spend the summer since then. Free tours will be available.

We are sending out a request for brief presentations very soon. We encourage people to present on issues related to the Public Issues, Private Lives theme. There were many topics we wanted to include in the meeting and were unable to because of time. We would like to have people address issues related to post war reintegration of military families, and the impact of incarceration on families and couples. We would like to hear about how family therapists are working with families on the impact of the economy and job loss, and working with aging and the elderly.

Please encourage your AFTA colleagues to attend the meeting. It is in a beautiful place. We hope people will see it as an opportunity for families to vacation, as well as join us at the meeting.

Thanks to all on the Program Committee who have generously given their time in helping create what promises to be a wonderful meeting: John Lawless, Jane Ariel, John Rolland, Pilar Hernández-Wolfe, Michael Ungar, Arlene Istar Lev, Marianne Wamboldt, Judith Landau, Jean Malpas, Martha Sullivan, Roxana Llerena-Quinn, Jerry Gale, David Wohlsifer, Laura Roberto-Forman, Anne Fishel, and Jackie Hudak.



## THE CHANGING CULTURE OF AFTA, AN EDITORIAL

-- Vicki Dickerson, AFTA *Update* Editor



In the October 2008 issue of the *AFTA Update* Carmen Knudson-Martin wrote of a new story evolving in AFTA; her thinking captures the imagination and reflects John Rolland's hope in creating the Next Generation Initiative. How might AFTA continue to change and evolve as we invite the newest, brightest, and best to join our organization? In some small, but significant ways, we noticed some early signs at this year's annual meeting.

Read, for example, Jean Malpas' account of the *ECM Committee* and scan some of the *Personals* to hear of new members' experience (e.g., Andrea Blumenthal and Molly Parks). Rarely have I heard in the past such a ringing endorsement: "... thrilled to be welcomed into the open-arms of AFTA," and Jean writes: "This year's conference, by all accounts, was one of the warmest and most welcoming. Every generation of AFTA members, new, students, ECMs, and more seasoned ones, went out of their way to introduce themselves and get to know one another." For an organization that, in the past, has had the reputation of being "elite" and somewhat closed, these comments do, indeed, constitute a "new story."

A further example of a changing culture can be found in the observations and suggestions made at the *Town Meeting* on the last day of the *Annual Meeting*. It is worthy of note that many of the concerns of the past (often around social justice issues and/or whether the conference was "clinical" enough), simply were not

voiced. Could that be because we are getting better at addressing them?

Instead, concerns were about better video; how to manage conflicts in scheduling (e.g., the LGBT group meeting simultaneously with the People of Color and White Privilege groups). How does one attend to multiple layers? And are there some things we are still doing that we need to either drop or revitalize?

In turn there were comments about utilizing our ongoing, increasingly rich technology; can we post things on the web; is web conferencing an option? And how about Twitter? Facebook? The intention is to post powerpoints and streaming video from the Plenaries in the near future.

The vitality of AFTA was evident in these conversations.

Accountability became a salient issue: how are these feedback comments incorporated into future decisions? Can we make use of regional meetings? Will we continue to work with local communities when we organize a conference in their area—honoring their space?

Transparency: what gets shared, made visible, kept open for conversation?

These issues seem to be what are now driving AFTA—a good sign, it seems to me.

In closing, I thank you all for your collaborative efforts in helping me create and publish five issues of the *AFTA Update* for your enjoyment. You will see a fine addition in this edition: *The Review Corner*, which I hope you all find enlightening. Beginning with this issue, all future publications will be available online only. And beginning with the next issue (March 2010), there will be a new editor. I hope you will keep reading, contributing, and supporting the new and renewed versions.

## IN MEMORIAM

### John Visher

Dr. John Visher, a California psychiatrist whose struggle with remarriage issues led him to co-found a national organization to advocate for stepfamilies, died April 17, 2009 at his home in the Bay Area city of Walnut Creek. He was 88.

With his psychologist wife Emily, Visher launched the Stepfamily Association of America in 1979, a time when counseling professionals and the public at large had little understanding of the challenges facing stepparents. It eventually had 1,000 members in 28 states and Canada, with 18 chapters in California alone.

### Susan H. Horwitz



The University of Rochester Medical Center mourns the death of Susan H. Horwitz, Ph.D., associate professor of Psychiatry, a master teacher and clinician of family therapy and advocate for families. Dr. Horwitz, a faculty member since 1988 who studied interventions to prevent domestic violence, died Sept. 24 of brain cancer. She was 62. Dr. Horwitz taught family therapy theory, research and clinical practice in the Institute for the Family's Family Therapy Training Program at the University's Medical Center since 1988. She was clinical supervisor for Strong Family Therapy Services and associate director for education of the Department of Psychiatry's Laboratory of Interpersonal Violence and Victimization. Susan McDaniel says of Dr. Horwitz, "She was a revered and beloved teacher of marriage and family therapists, physicians, and many other professionals."