The Michigan Psychoanalytic Foundation will hold its annual benefit on Friday, November 14th at the Rock Financial Showplace/Onyx Ballroom in Novi. The event will honor Judge Edward Sosnick of the Oakland County Circuit Court, whose contributions to mental health and juvenile justice have been recognized by professional and service organizations for many years. The evening will begin at 7:00 with a cash bar and music reception, followed by a buffet dinner. **A (Habeas) Chorus Line**, formed in 1992 by a group of Detroit lawyers, will perform material that pokes fun at local issues, national and international events, politicians, and celebrities. The group describes itself as “an equal-opportunity lampooner.” The evening will conclude with a gala dessert buffet.

The benefit is the only major fundraising event of the Foundation. It supports the programs and operations of the Institute. The Benefit Committee has worked since last November to bring you what promises to be a memorable and fun-filled evening. Please contact the Institute office for information and tickets (248-851-3380).

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**Doors Open at Walnut Lake Preschool**

This October, the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute realizes a long-awaited dream—Walnut Lake Preschool. Our school will help children 3-5 years old whose emotional, behavioral, and developmental challenges interfere with their success in a regular preschool or daycare setting. Our comprehensive, multidisciplinary model combines best practices in early childhood education with a psychoanalytic understanding of child development. In our classroom, where the teacher-student ratio is 1:4, we blend an educational curriculum with therapeutic services to strengthen the child’s emotional resources, social capacities, cognitive development, motor skills, speech and language. Teachers collaborate with parents, family consultants, clinical staff and each other to create a learning environment that supports creativity and growth in each individual as a whole person. Our curriculum is designed to enable the child to enter a regular classroom when ready.

Walnut Lake Preschool was developed by the Committee for Early Childhood Development, an outreach program begun in the 1990s whose purpose was to improve the social and emotional life of young children and their families in our community. The members of the committee sponsored public dialogues with parents and future parents on child development, trained early childhood education teachers, and consulted with daycare centers, schools, and early intervention programs throughout the larger metropolitan area. Through these activities, the need was identified for a psychoanalytic therapeutic preschool for children who couldn’t function in a regular preschool or daycare center.
An Evening of Tribute for the Honorable Edward Sosnick

The 24th Annual Benefit of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Foundation will pay tribute to the Honorable Edward Sosnick on Friday, November 14, 2008 at the Rock Showplace in Novi.

Judge Sosnick is a member of the Foundation’s Advisory Board and has served three six-year terms on the bench in Oakland County Circuit Court. He is Presiding Judge, Options, in the Oakland County Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court. Judge Sosnick has a long history of commitment to the mental health needs of the community and has been an especially strong voice and advocate for family mental health. He is Co-Founder of SMILE (Start Making It Liveable for Everyone), a court-sponsored program for divorcing couples whose focus is to minimize the impact of divorce on children, and Co-Chair of SAVE (Serving Adults who are Vulnerable and Elderly). In addition to the Michigan Psychoanalytic Foundation’s Advisory Board, Judge Sosnick is on the Advisory Boards of Common Ground Sanctuary and Childhelp USA.

We are privileged to have this opportunity to recognize the Honorable Edward Sosnick. A caring and outgoing family man, he is personally invested in the outcomes of the challenges faced by the adolescents he adjudicates and their families, often involved in ongoing relationships with them.

Judge Sosnick enjoys reading and spending time with his family – his wife Darlene, step-daughters, Karen and Meredith, and three grandchildren. To his delight, his backyard looks like a daycare center and his mailbox is often filled with toy catalogs! He has two dogs, Scout and Gus, and Gus recently received his own award for being the cutest dog of more than 24 entries at the Troy Daze Festival.

Judge Sosnick has been continually praised for his dedication to disadvantaged youth, youth-at-risk, victims of domestic violence, and substance abuse prevention and rehabilitation. Of his many commendations, he has been honored by the Parents of Murdered Children and the Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County. Judge Sosnick was also a recipient of the Certificate of Appreciation Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy from HAVEN, Oakland County’s only domestic violence shelter.

Edward Sosnick graduated from the University of Michigan and Wayne State University. Prior to his election to the bench of the Oakland County Circuit Court in 1989, Mr. Sosnick left private practice and became Senior Trial Attorney, Office of the Oakland County Prosecutor. Then, for two consecutive two-year terms, he was appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court as Chief Judge of the Oakland Circuit Court. In addition, he served as Presiding Judge, Oakland County Circuit Court, Family Division from 1998-2000.
Professional recognition of Judge Sosnick by his peers is evident in his numerous honors and awards. To name a few, he was recipient of the State Bar of Michigan's Champion of Justice Award, Distinguished Public Servant Award of the Oakland County Bar Association, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Award for Meritorious Service to the Children of America, four-time honoree of the Michigan State Police for Professional Excellence, and five-time recipient of the Award of Appreciation, Family Law Section, State Bar of Michigan.

Plan to join us for a delightful evening including a musical reception, dinner, and the hilarious entertainment of the musical parody troupe of local attorneys, A (Habeas) Chorus Line.

Please call 248-851-3380 to place a business ad or a message of appreciation for Judge Sosnick and to obtain tickets. Visit the website at mpi-mps.org to learn more about the Foundation’s many community outreach activities.

The Evening’s Entertainment

“Athough we’re lawyers, our philosophy is simple - no, really... With all the pressures, tension, and craziness in the world, if we can’t laugh at ourselves... we’ll laugh at you! Satire is our game and we take no prisoners. Well, except for Mike Leibson. He’s an Assistant U.S. Attorney.”
MPI President's Column

Our Most Important Asset
By Dwarakanath G. Rao, M.D.

As I assume the role of MPI President and talk with colleagues and friends, I note that we at Michigan are admired nationally for our strength and innovation in recruiting candidates, for offering a rich array of courses and programs, for fundraising and, perhaps most of all, for our collegial efforts at outreach in our community. As we plan for this year and beyond, we can build on these real accomplishments. In the short time I have had the opportunity to see the many projects and tasks ahead of us, I am impressed by the dedication and tireless hard work of so many colleagues, and have come to conclude that our greatest asset is our “people power.” For this reason, I invite each of you, in whatever capacity you are affiliated with MPI, to share your ideas and energy in promoting the cause of psychoanalysis in Michigan.

The certification debate and a challenging paradox

In our fast-paced times, we have come to value and cope with change and innovation. Our cars, clothes, social customs, values, and language—nothing is off limits. Some of the changes are profound, others no more than fads. Psychoanalytic clinicians, as members of society at large, are as fascinated and influenced by these forces as anyone else. As professionals, we eagerly welcome advances in the field, and like to apply them in our consulting rooms. At the same time, we recognize that psychoanalysis is prone to being conceptually over-inclusive. This is because the field has long striven to be a comprehensive theory of mind. More recently, this may be a response to our history of being protectively under-inclusive. It is well known that there are scientific reasons for hedging theoretical bets in our field. In this context, a psychoanalysis-friendly researcher recently lamented that the problem with psychoanalysis is that it is “concept-rich and hypothesis-poor.” A consequence of this problem is that we sometimes idealize openness to change and innovation, as if the human tendency in ourselves, in our patients, and in our critics to seek certainty is inherently bad. A second result is that we are not as rigorous as we ought to be in matters of clinical evidence and occasionally glorify our uncertainty. What works and what doesn’t work in psychoanalytic treatment is increasingly a scientifically legitimate problem, not merely a matter decided by how inclusive, ingenious, or original we are. Our critics feel we don’t join hands often enough with disciplines adjacent to our own, such as the neurosciences, where the goal is to seek concordance, replicability, and generalizability.

It seems as if the more open we are theoretically, the more scientifically fettered and opaque we seem to be to others and to ourselves. For every hard-fought clinical innovation that addresses a patient’s idiosyncratic distress, we are left with a need for more, not less, theory. The more idiosyncratic the theory, the more difficult it is to study it scientifically. The better we get, the harder it is to demonstrate it scientifically. This paradox is worth resolving because our advances in theory are far-reaching and immensely useful to our patients, and because this paradox influences our teaching, writing, and evaluating ourselves as clinicians and fellow-travelers in the field of mental health.

In the next few weeks, the American Psychoanalytic Association will ask its members to vote on two bylaw amendments on national certification in psychoanalysis. The local Option/Institute Choice amendment would allow institutes to decide whether to require certification as a prerequisite for training analyst status. The BOPS Amendment to strike certification from the bylaws would allow BOPS flexibility in applying national standards. While there are many possible perspectives on this debate on national standards, I suggest that the paradox above may provide a means of reconciling competing demands. The paradox causes polarization. We find ourselves at the two ends of a spectrum: there are those who feel the best clinical work should be generalizable, should create new systematic understanding that improves treatment and training, and should not leave clinical progress to be based on luck; others feel the best clinical work, being so highly, if idiosyncratically successful, makes generalization the wrong measure of progress. Proof and evidence in this latter view become the province of obsessional scientists, who disregard the virtuosity and individuality of the analytic encounter. These two positions are being used to make points about standards and measurement of standards. For example, some say that since everything is extremely personal, we cannot measure progress during analytic training or develop valid standards. Others assert that a group of experienced clinicians can be expected to make nuanced and fair judgments about clinical work.

How might we understand and resolve these apparent contradictions? One of my favorite descriptions of clinical psychoanalysis was offered by an
Milestones

Sally Rosenberg, D.O., was appointed Training and Supervising Analyst in June, 2008. She is Co-Chair of MPI’s Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Fellowship (in Farmington Hills) and Co-Chair of the Continuing Education Division Committee. She is Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Michigan State University. She teaches and supervises residents there as well as at Henry Ford Hospital. Dr. Rosenberg previously held these Society and Institute positions: Program Chair, Visiting Professor Chair, Co-Chair of the Adult Psychotherapy Program, Society Treasurer and Councilor to the Executive Council.

Dr. Rosenberg has a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Michigan and an M.S. in Physiology from Wayne State University. She received her D.O. degree from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Her certifications are in Psychiatry and Adult Psychoanalysis.

She enjoys teaching gender and sexuality, personality theory and treatment of personality disorders, clinical case conferences and psychoanalytic psychotherapy technique and practice. She is active in the American Psychoanalytic Association and is excited to be a part of the changes in the American, serving on the Task Force on Psychotherapy and as Co-Chair of the new Committee on Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Training Programs and Co-Chair of the Workshop on Psychotherapy Training Programs. She represents the American on a Committee of the Psychoanalytic Consortium to create national psychotherapy standards. She lives and works in West Bloomfield, Michigan with her husband. They have two children. She enjoys music, vegetarian cooking, and swimming.

Alexander Grinstein Interdisciplinary Scholarship Award Fund

By Deanna Holtzman, Ph.D.

We are delighted to announce that thanks to a generous donor we now have Scholarship funds for academicians (professors, scholars and graduate students in non-clinical fields) who are interested in psychoanalytic training. The Grinstein Scholarship Fund is now available to partially defray expenses such as personal analysis, tuition, APSaA and MPS membership dues, and conference travel for academicians who have been accepted by MPI as either Academic Candidates or CORST Candidates. Academic Candidates (full but non-clinical psychoanalytic training) and CORST Candidates (which includes training to become a clinical psychoanalyst, and requires special preparation and waiver application) will also be provided with a list, maintained by the Institute, of Training Analysts and Certified Analysts who have agreed to do reduced-fee personal psychoanalyses with these candidates as part of their training.

It is our hope that these funds will allow interested academics to obtain psychoanalytic training which will enhance their scholarship and careers, enrich the psychoanalytic community with their academic expertise, and provide bridges between psychoanalysis and the academic communities.

If you are an academic or know of an academic who might be interested in these programs, please contact Deanna Holtzman, Ph.D., Chair, Academic Programs Committee of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute at (248) 642-6411 or dholtzphd@aol.com.

2008 MPI Open House and Complimentary Brunch

at the Allen Creek Preschool
2350 Miller Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Saturday, December 6, 2008

Join other professionals, students and renowned MPI faculty to learn about clinical training, research and teaching opportunities at the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute.

11 a.m. to Noon
Psychoanalytic Training, Education, Community Outreach and Affiliation Opportunities and what they can offer you.

Noon to 1 p.m.
Brunch and conversation with members of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute, Society, Foundation, Student Organization, and the Association for Psychoanalytic Thought.

For more information, please contact Mary L. Adams, L.M.S.W., Chair, Liaison Committee at 248-865-1164 or Monica Simmons at 248-851-3380, ext. 4, or go to our web site at www.mpi-mps.org.

We are looking forward to meeting with you!
Family and friends welcome!
In Memoriam

Gerry Schreier, M.S.W.
5/2/31 - 7/25/08

A Woman of Valor

By Marvin Margolis, M.D., Ph.D.

Gerry Schreier, a well known social worker and passionate supporter of psychoanalysis in Michigan, died at the age of 77 on July 25, 2008. She was a founding Board Member of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Foundation and the Association for Psychoanalytic Thought. She chose to die in her family home surrounded by her family and friends.

Gerry was a very positive force in our psychoanalytic community. Her hopeful attitude and radiant smile coupled with a commitment to our mission has left an enduring legacy. Our psychoanalytic community was central to Gerry’s professional life. She was a life-long learner and participated actively in our advanced seminars for mental health professionals. Many of her closest friends were analysts and mental health colleagues in the analytic community. Gerry was not just a consumer of analytic ideas. She was a doer and leader by nature and helped us organize our first fundraising efforts. Our Benefits were welcoming, entertaining, and a convivial experience for all—a true reflection of Gerry’s style and personality. She served as Benefit Chair for many years and then as a key member of the Benefit Committee continuously until a few months prior to her death. Gerry not only participated in the planning of each Benefit, but also helped organize the related fundraising and was one of our major solicitors. Gerry always gave generously herself and few could resist her requests for support of our treatment clinic and educational activities. Gerry was a prime mover in securing the funds that allowed us to eventually purchase our offices in Farmington Hills. Her husband Aaron (Hank) helped design the lay-out of classrooms, administrative offices, clinic and library.

She also attempted to organize community support for psychoanalysis by establishing our Psychoanalytic Foundation and the Association for Psychoanalytic Thought and served on the boards of these organizations for years. Gerry was easily the most active and valued mental health professional to lend her leadership, talent, and energy to the cause of promoting psychoanalysis. She wasn’t simply a member of our extended psychoanalytic community, she helped establish this community.

Gerry was born and raised in Detroit. Many of her core ideals and prodigious organizational skills were developed during her adolescence in Habonim, a labor Zionist youth movement. Here her love of Israel and Judaism was nurtured. It was in Habonim during her high school years that she met the love of her life, Aaron Schreier. They were a couple immediately and later went to University of Michigan where Hank became an architect. They married and settled in Oak Park to raise their family. They eventually moved to a home designed by Hank on a beautiful wooded lot in Beverly Hills. It was only after her children were well along in their school years that Gerry went to Wayne State University to study social work, a field that allowed her to channel her idealism and generosity to people in need. She interned at the Detroit Psychiatric Institute (DPI), where she first became interested in psychoanalytic psychotherapy. She then took a position at the Lakewood Clinic, a private clinic in Birmingham. All of these institutions no longer exist, but in their heyday they were dedicated to patient care and provided trainees and new professionals with a deep immersion in psychoanalytic education. Gerry left Lakewood after many years to enter private practice in Birmingham.

Gerry loved people and had many friends. Once a friend, you were a friend for life. Gerry was a witty, kind-hearted and generous spirit. She enjoyed entertaining. She loved art, fashion, music, theater, literature, and travel. Gerry was a deeply caring, thoughtful and gracious friend to many, many people. She would always remember birthdays and arrive with just the right present, elegantly wrapped. If you performed the smallest kindness to her, she would respond with an appreciative thank you note. Gerry had a long, challenging and successful life. She knew how to live and make the best of her opportunities,
especially to give of her energy and love. Gerry was able to seamlessly meld her family and social and professional lives. Her children remember Gerry as a vibrant, optimistic and caring woman who adored her husband Aaron, her four children—Naomi, Alisa, Joel and David—and their spouses—Judah, Marea, and Debbi—as well as her seven grandchildren: Jocelyn, Bethany, Zack, Carly, Jessica, Arava and Maayan. Her boundless energy and devotion to her family kept her flying between Washington, Chicago, and New York City where most of them lived so that she could play a vital role in the lives of her children and grandchildren. She also was a loving daily presence to Naomi, the only one of her children who still lives in Detroit, and Naomi’s daughter Bethany. Her children in their eulogies at times had everyone smiling at their memories of their mother’s exuberance and zest for life as well as her patience, kindness and proud support for their every accomplishment. Son Joel said it succinctly: "With my Mom in your corner, you couldn’t help but feel that everything was possible. 'You can do anything you want sweetie' was a lifelong refrain to all of us.” Naomi warmly spoke of her as super mom, teacher, and best friend.

In her final days, her son David asked his mother how she felt about having a disease for which there was no cure. She told him that she accepted it because she had led a rewarding life. "It was just another in a series of wonderful life lessons she gave," said David in his eulogy. Gerry indeed faced her last weeks of suffering often with a smile and without complaints about her lot. In fact, she attempted to call as many of her friends as she could to say goodbye and thank them for their friendship and love. Her daughter Alisa, in her eulogy, recalled her mother singing a folk song, "I gave my love a cherry,” as a lullaby to them when they were children. She quoted the lyrics: "I gave my love a story that has no end. How can there be a story that has no end? The story of I love you, it has no end." As we said goodbye to Gerry in the Hebrew Memorial Chapel, hearing the moving farewell eulogies of her four children, there was not a dry eye amongst us. So goodbye, Gerry. Your loving energy lives on in your children, grandchildren, friends and in the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute which you helped create.

1 A Woman of Valor, who can find her? Her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband’s heart relies on her and he shall lack no fortune. She extends her hands to the poor, and reaches out to the needy. Strength and honor are her clothing. She smiles at the future. She opens her mouth in wisdom and the lesson of kindness is on her tongue. She watches over the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise and praise her and her husband lauds her. Many women have done worthy, but you surpass them all. Proverbs 31 (from Alisa’s eulogy).

**Partnership Between MPI/MPS and Shaman Drum Bookstore**

By Marc Rosen, Ph.D.

When MPI launched its new website in April 2008, it created a link with Shaman Drum Bookstore in Ann Arbor. This link is featured prominently on the home page on the lower left-hand side and is labeled “Readers’ Corner.” This link establishes a formal partnership with Shaman Drum owner and founder, Karl Pohrt. Mr. Pohrt, a longstanding supporter and friend of the analytic community, was honored in 2004 by the Michigan Psychoanalytic Society with the “Distinguished Friend of Psychoanalysis” award. This link will feature book reviews and commentaries on current literature from a psychoanalytic point of view and will be organized and edited by Joshua Ehrlich, Ph.D. Most contributors will be members of the Institute and Society, who will bring their own perspectives to the works discussed. Any book featured on the link can be purchased from Shaman Drum, with a portion of the proceeds going back to the Institute.

The relationship with Shaman Drum is important for all of us in the psychoanalytic community for a number of reasons. Karl Pohrt is known worldwide for his expertise as an independent bookseller and promoter of literacy. He has transformed his business into a non-profit center for literary arts in Ann Arbor that will increase its authors’ readings and has added writing workshops, poetry readings, plays, book clubs and other literary events. He has hosted a number of our own members, most recently Drs. Kulish and Holtzman, promoting their recent book, “A Story of Her Own,” which was reviewed in the Readers’ Corner by Mary Adams, A.C.S.W. He is highly esteemed in Ann Arbor and at the University of Michigan for his contributions to the community’s awareness of literacy and culture. Last March, the University held a day long conference to honor his contributions to the community in advocating for literature through the bookstore. They also established a professorship, the Karl Pohrt Distinguished University Professor of Contemporary History, in his honor. Mr. Pohrt’s importance to the world of literature and art cannot be underestimated, and the potential for us to grow together with common interests and endeavors is exciting and rich with possibility.

We encourage all readers to consider visiting the Readers’ Corner at www.mpi-mps.org and, if interested in the piece being discussed, make your purchase directly on the page. Proceeds support two fine institutions: Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute and Shaman Drum.

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Congratulations APPEP and CPPEP!

The Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute hosted a graduation dinner and ceremony to honor this year’s graduates of the Adult and Child Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Programs on Wednesday, June 4, 2008. Four colleagues completed the adult program (Drs. Gail van Langen, Doug Park and Rochelle Broder, and Ms. Katen Park) and one completed the child program (Ms. Linda Jones).

APT Annual Program: "I Won't Dance"
A Psychodynamic Perspective on Interferences with Performance

Jack Novick, Ph.D. and Kerry Kelly Novick will present their extensive work on the subject of interferences with performance. The subject of the presentation applies not only to those in the artistic and athletic fields, but to all fields of endeavor generally, including the work of psychotherapists. Drawing on insights derived from clinical work with infants, children, and adults, they will propose technical interventions that address inhibitions and blockages in patients and suggest ways to foster creativity and the development of freedom to choose healthy alternatives to old pathological solutions.

Saturday, November 8, 2008
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Wayne State University - Oakland Center
Farmington Hills

Association For Psychoanalytic Thought
Upcoming Programs


December 7, 2008, 12:00 noon to 2:30 pm
2.0 CME/CE Hours
APT Members $10, Non-Members $15, Students $5.

Both programs to be held at the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute, 32841 Middlebelt Road, Farmington Hills. For more information contact Monica Simmons at (248) 851-3380.
The Michigan Psychoanalytic Foundation received a generous gift from the estate of Stanley and Catherine Ellias for the purpose of setting up a therapeutic nursery school in Oakland County. Last year, Committee Chairman Richard Ruzumna, M.D. identified The Corners in West Bloomfield as a likely location for the new preschool.

Once our location was secured, the name, “Walnut Lake Preschool” was chosen, and Cathy Rozenberg, M.S. was signed on as the lead teacher/educational director. With the assistance of Kerry Kelly Novick, who had founded Ann Arbor’s outstanding psychoanalytic school, Allen Creek, and numerous other colleagues, the program offerings and curriculum were developed. The preschool will offer a five half-day per week program for seven children, and will expand as needed. The clinical staff, co-directed by Don Spivak, M.D. and Nancy Blieden, Ph.D., consists of child development specialists from our community. Through weekly observations in the classroom, discussion with teachers, staff meetings and individual meetings with the family, the clinical staff will be available to support understanding of each individual child and family.

Please help make this fledgling program a huge success as it grows and finds its place in our community and amongst the group of psychoanalytic preschools in the country. To learn more, receive a brochure, or become involved, please contact Dr. Blieden (248-352-5999), Dr. Spivak (248-540-7775) or Cathy Rozenberg at the school (248-339-6263). Your creative contributions, referrals, and spreading the word about the new Walnut Lake Preschool will be much appreciated.

Meet Cathy Rozenberg, our lead teacher and educational director of MPI’s Walnut Lake Preschool. She brings her expertise, talent as an educator and artist, and commitment to Walnut Lake Preschool. Cathy has worked with young children, educators, and families for 30 years as a certified teacher with a master’s degree in Early Childhood Education, and has had experience teaching preschool through college. She founded and ran her own school in Ohio for 9 years, and has worked with special needs children throughout her career. A warm welcome to Cathy from the MPI family of organizations!

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**Education flourishes within healthy relationships.**

A warm, nurturing, and creative environment where parents, teachers and child development specialists work together to realize each child’s fullest potential. We help children 3-5 years old whose emotional, behavioral and developmental challenges interfere with success in a regular daycare or preschool setting. By providing the tools they need, we enable them to feel capable, creative, curious and ready to grow and learn.

**Is your child...**

More spirited, energetic, sensitive, thrown by change and transition?

**Are you...**

Exhausted by your amazing, high maintenance child and left feeling unappreciated?

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**Enroll Now for Fall!**

Walnut Lake Preschool  
2075 Walnut Lake Rd., W. Bloomfield, MI 48323 • 248.339.6263

A private non-profit program of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute
Book Review

Dale Boesky’s “Psychoanalytic Disagreements in Context”
Michael Shulman, Ph.D.

Some have referred to an earlier era of psychoanalysis as an “era of certainty” in regard to psychoanalysts’ understanding of their patients. Such an era has given way to one dominated by uncertainty and by an embrace of the value of multiple perspectives as tools to challenge the potentially illusory certainties of the psychoanalyst. Amidst this vision of psychoanalysis’s complexity and analysts’ diminished certainty, the idea that, perhaps, there is no enduring truth to be discovered within a person which determines his or her responses in free associations, save one created now, in the new relationship of patient to psychoanalyst, has gained a certain traction.

Psychoanalytic Disagreements in Context is a book written by Dale Boesky, whose psychoanalytic writing has contributed importantly to the downfall of the earlier era of certainty. His seminal 1990 paper “The psychoanalytic process and its components” leaves its reader with an impression of the rich ambiguity of indicators of movement for a patient who is changing over the long course of intimate intensities which is a psychoanalysis. That paper contributed to an appreciation of the ineluctable complexities introduced by “two-person” conceptualizations of psychoanalysis (its conception as a process in which the effects of the unconscious of the analyst on the process can never be removed, entirely controlled or known in advance or in “real time”). As a result of an increasing interest in two-person conceptualizations of psychoanalysis, some analysts have proposed that the truths of the patient’s unconscious mind cannot ever be discovered, but can only be “co-created.” Taken to its current extreme, it might be said of these analysts that they propose there is no real past of the patient’s alive in the present. To paraphrase Gertrude Stein, it is as if “there isn’t any there there” of a patient’s mind and past; there is only a “here now.”

Such a trend of thought is deeply disturbing to Boesky and to others, but Boesky is ahead of many in articulating the grounds of this disturbance. Here, he joins Charles Hanly in proposing that a critical realist view of reality and truth is the only one sensible as a psychoanalytic view. Critical realists hold that there is a distinct and knowable past of the patient’s alive in the present, rather than a never-knowable past, or one the “knowledge” of which can never be extricated from the analyst’s or therapist’s theories. Boesky proposes that critical realism is the only sensible one for a psychoanalyst because it is the one philosophically presupposed as the basis for understanding the meaningfulness of an individual patient’s unfolding associations. For Boesky, a core problem over the course of psychoanalytic history is that different meanings, perhaps sometimes almost any meaning, can be made of groups of such associations. Through chapters in this book in which he discusses two published clinical discussions of analysts’ work, he shows that debates about understanding patients and making interpretations often arise because different analysts fail to identify the specific assumptions (called by Boesky here “contextualizing criteria”) that guide their listening and understanding of individual psychoanalytic sessions.

To see these discussions of clinical material unfold is to share with Boesky a view into the sometimes ludicrous nature of clinical arguments. His reader is shown, first, the astonishing variety of formulations of meaning which can emerge from discussing the same clinical material and, second, the lack of attention to the details of what patients actually say and do, which, from a critical realist’s view, ought to helpfully constrain what can otherwise become the arbitrariness of these ways of making meaning. Boesky’s discussion of a published case from the Boston Change Process Study Group, a group of analysts exploring the possibilities of applying ideas from chaos theory, dynamic systems theories and theories of indeterminacy to an understanding of change in the psychoanalytic process (chapter 3 of the book), illustrates vividly both a loss of clarity in concepts evident in the group’s written work, a loss which has progressed to such an extent as to abrogate essential psychoanalytic assumptions about mind, and a frightening inattention to the details of the clinical material being discussed.

These chapters reviewing clinical materials could serve as a sort of etudes for psychoanalysts, in particular as studies for their use of evidence. They open a window onto the world of a searching and passionate psychoanalyst at work as he thinks about the details of associations and about how to select from competing contextual frameworks in which to understand them. This book is also a decisive prolegomena to psychoanalysis as it enters a second century, one in which the largest issue for psychoanalysts is looking less like “will the ideal psychoanalysis please stand up?” than it is “how can we understand, and
Psychoanalysis in the 21st Century

Reflections on Conducting Psychoanalysis via Internet to China
By Rebecca Mair, Ph.D.

The China American Psychoanalytic Alliance (CAPA) is a non-profit organization that was established in 2007 to promote psychoanalysis, psychoanalytic psychotherapy and psychotherapy in China. Members of the American Psychoanalytic Association (APsaA) and the International Psychoanalytic Association (IPA) make up significant portions of those who are treating patients and supervising mental health professionals in China.

Treatment is conducted over the internet via Skype, a live audio/video connection. Psychoanalysis in the age of computers is expanding its boundaries to reach remote areas of the world. Conducting analyses in China presents an opportunity to reflect upon the psychoanalytic process beyond the consulting room. When I came upon a request through APsaA to provide analysis for someone in China it intrigued me on many levels.

Late in the fall of 2007, I began working with a female student in her late twenties, with all the uncertainties inherent in the early stages of an analysis--along with the added elements of cultural differences and 6000 miles between us. I had no knowledge of Skype and precious little knowledge of Chinese language or culture as I ventured into this unknown territory with my analytic skills, computer, and technical assistance. Surprisingly, much of what has occurred over time has been a rather standard analytic encounter.

A number of technical problems would arise intermittently, including poor quality of voice transmission and even disconnection while in session. The disruption in the analytic session paralleled the history of traumatic loss and disruptions in the analysand's life. The breaks in the relationship created an opening to find words and meanings related to those experiences that could now be talked about analytically and which ultimately led to deepening the analytic relationship.

Prior to the first scheduled break in treatment last fall, the analysand's anxiety expressed itself around the differences between the analyst and analysand and fear of our not having much in common. As we talked about those fears, Skype was intermittently breaking up. Despite that disruption, we were able to elucidate her concerns about my difficulty understanding "her language," even in English. This concern about the lack of similarity and our ability to communicate was understood as reflecting both a concern about cultural differences and as a developing transference. Ongoing communication was facilitated by some emails during the break. Multi-layered transferential themes involving differences and separation were heightened and articulated.

In this analytic relationship, I found an affective flow much like I have found with other analysands, which allowed us to communicate and deepen the process. This transends ordinary communication and speaks to one’s deepest longings and fears in a lyrical way. The psychoanalytic frame takes shape and form with the ebb and flow of these differences. This facilitated the creation of ways to communicate and understand one another. Alongside the transferential themes, conflicts, and repetitions, there is an unconscious process that creates a language to negotiate the differences. A narrative is developed from within as the analysand makes use of the analyst to bear witness upon her experience. The language and cultural differences themselves become the building blocks of multiple meanings in the analytic space. The use of the internet and web cam creates an almost eerie space, a remoteness that paradoxically can create closeness within private spaces where the most intimate parts of oneself can emerge. The analytic process unfolds as two people negotiate a way to communicate and to connect at a deep level that speaks to the universal language of emotions.

With the communication breaking up at a critical point in the developing therapeutic relationship, I corresponded with my supervisor, Melvin Bornstein, M.D. via email. This parallel process created a bridge to understanding how disruptions reflected discontinuities in the analysand's early life. This allowed words to be put to her experience, creating continuity in the analysis wherein the depth of communication was palpable. This was evident recently in the wake of the Myanmar earthquake. The direct impact on the analyst and analysand was akin to living through a facsimile of trauma and loss that was intercultural, international, and personal and played out in the analysis.

For further information on CAPA, contact www.capachina.org.

Suggestions
Ideas for future issues? News we need to know? We welcome all comments and suggestions. Write to:

Michigan Psychoanalytic Society
32841 Middlebelt, Suite 411
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
Or email us at: newsletter@mpi-mps.org.
Pan’s Labyrinth
By Richard Fish, Ph.D.

In considering this complex and multilayered film, I think it best to focus on the overriding reason that Guillermo Del Toro made this film (due to budget problems he even gave up his director’s fee to get it made). On the DVD, Del Toro comments extensively on the technical and thematic aspects of the film. He explains that he wanted to illustrate a particularly tender moment in life.

To quote Del Toro:

…it is that moment in which we put away our toys; we put away our fairy tales; we put away our souls and become just another adult. That crossroads we all go through, the moment of loss of childhood, is a profoundly melancholy moment in all of our lives.

This is a decidedly bleak view of adulthood. But from his commentary on the movie, it is clear that Del Toro intended his film to illustrate spiritual transcendence over the emptiness and cruelty of adult life. He says that immortality and magic are real in the spiritual sense. The central theme of the movie is contained in the story of a rose. There is a rose that grows on a mountain giving immortality to those who dare to pluck it. In order to pluck it one has to go through a forest full of deadly thorns. In this view, the ordeal of the protagonist, Ofelia, demonstrates a path to transcendence. If she is brave and true-- if she can face death with acceptance-- she can become truly immortal. The fairies and monsters aren’t just Ofelia’s fantasies. They are quite real and begin to affect events in the real world.

I will set aside the spiritual theme because, in my view, matters of the spirit are not the purview of psychoanalysis (Freud’s comments on religion as purely magical thinking notwithstanding). From a psychoanalytic point of view, our task is not spiritual transcendence but integration of the demands of adult reality and the press of our instinctual selves. This film has a lot to say about the difficulty in transitioning to adult life, especially in a place where the world of adults is so terrifying. As children transition to adulthood, they must relinquish childhood ways. However, adulthood is not barren and devoid of childhood pleasures. Such pleasures are alive in the world of the unconscious. The delightful aspects of this world are available to us through intimacy, sexuality, dreams, play, fantasy, and works of art such as the one Del Toro has given us. He has composed a compelling film that illustrates the counterpoint of the delicate, tender sexual awakening of this little girl in the midst of the most violent sadistic human cruelty, her entry into adulthood in the midst of the worst adulthood has to offer -- the loss of her father, her home, civility and the social order. Ofelia is a precocious girl at a crucial crossroads of life.

In “Pan’s Labyrinth,” Del Toro presents this life moment in a traditional way, as a fairy tale. But this is a fairy tale with a twist or two. In most traditional fairy tales, an obedient and mostly passive female is rescued from some distress by a male and ushered into adult sexuality by him. She then lives happily in union with him sans mother and father. This theme is most obvious in the tales of Little Red Riding Hood, Sleeping Beauty, and Cinderella. In contrast, Ofelia is a more modern girl. She is aggressive and resourceful, and she must struggle with these developmental issues alone with her fantasies.

She is coping with typical early adolescent issues: her body is awakening; she is filled with desire; and her fantasy life is animated. Her relationship with adults is in a state of flux. She is trying to separate from her mother and is disgusted by some of her ways, yet she remains childishly dependent. This normal developmental step is occurring under the most extreme circumstances. In order to develop a mature, non-conflicted adult female identity, a girl must separate from but also identify with her mother or another important female. What are Ofelia’s choices here? She has a mother who, in a desperate bid for survival, has sold her own soul to the devil. In her efforts to conform she admonishes Ofelia to do the same. Mercedes is a better role model. She doesn’t surrender to despair but must live a very dangerous life under the thumb of a sadistic man. If she is cunning enough she may be reunited with her prince in the forest. Still, neither the passive nor the active identification is safe.

Ofelia is also struggling to consolidate her body image. This is represented creatively in the movie by three enclosures: the tree she enters to slay the toad, the dining hall where she meets the pale man, and by the labyrinth itself. These are places of mystery, awe, and danger.

Many psychoanalytic theorists propose that girls, due to the internal nature of their sexual organs, are filled with more of a sense of mystery and discovery about their bodies and their sexuality during puberty than are boys, for whom things are more external and straightforward. I believe this idea is nicely portrayed in Ofelia’s fantasy world. For a girl living in her circumstances, it is not surprising that these fantasies are so disturbing.

We can look at the three terrifying tasks assigned
to Ofelia as metaphors for sexual development. It is interesting to note that each one requires her to resist her urges in order to remain a true and chaste girl. She pursues these tasks not as a way of exploring and attaining adult sexuality but as a way to reunite with her father and mother in a state of perpetual childhood. This is not a surprising wish given that she grieves for her real lost father and the realities of the real adult world are grim. Men are sadistic and women can either submit to abuse or face grave danger.

In task one she approaches a tree clad in a dress that Del Toro intends as a reference to Alice in Wonderland. Alice is another pubescent girl trying to manage her growth and development. In Alice in Wonderland, the adult world is represented by absurd, ridiculous, hypocritical figures like the Mad Hatter, the Red Queen and the rabbit. The adult world of Ofelia’s fantasies is much, much scarier. She enters a portal in the tree that is unmistakably vaginal. This is a voyage into her own interior which is filled with mystery and fear. Yet she proceeds with curiosity and bravery. What is her task there? She must slay the monster within, the monster that is selfishly and voraciously killing the tree. Is this an Adam and Eve reference to the tree of life where one regains Eden by resisting the temptations of the snake—or in this case the toad—by slaying him instead? The toad represents her fantasy that the appetites of the adult world lead to the rape of the land. She wants to extinguish these forces. This is not surprising given the real world in which she lives.

Task two is similar. Again, Ofelia enters through a portal, this time into a beautiful internal world where a sumptuous feast is laid out before her. Her task there is twofold. First, in a metaphor for sexual intercourse, she must insert a key into the correct lock and extract a dangerous but beautiful phallic symbol, the knife. This is consistent with common childhood fantasies of the sexual act as mysterious and dangerous. Her second task is to resist the feast. Her life depends on it. If she gives in to the Pale Man—another representation of sadistic masculinity and the fate that befalls the careless female—he will devour her. Yet, she is hungry and quite tempted. If she resists the temptation, her childhood is safe and reunification with parental figures is possible. If she gives in to her appetite, she awakens the slumbering, nightmarish man who will devour her. She beats a hasty retreat from this tempting inner world. She is nearly trapped, narrowly escaping through another portal she draws with her magic chalk. Nevertheless, she is severely chastised by the faun for her brief loss of control and she is told that paradise is forever denied her.

In task three she must deliver her brother to the faun so he can shed innocent blood to open the portal in the womblike labyrinth. Though she doesn’t know it, again Ofelia is called upon to exercise restraint and self denial in order to see her fantasy of childhood safety and reunification with protective parents gratified.

Adolescence is a tumultuous time. In order to optimally negotiate the transition to adult identity and sexuality, it is necessary that a child have a secure base from which to explore and secure trusted adults to depend on. Ofelia has neither and I think her fantasies represent one possible outcome of adolescent development gone awry. Faced with fear of internal developing impulses and external examples of the hopelessness and destructiveness of adult life, many children cannot proceed. Ofelia chooses a kind of ascetic self sacrifice and denunciation of her instincts. Her situation is truly hopeless and in my opinion she comes to a bad end either way we look at it. If we deny the reality of her fantasies, all her bravery has been for naught and she lies dying. If her fantasies are true and she does transcend, she is eternally a dependent but secure child, always the princess, never the queen.

Del Toro intends to suggest that Ofelia’s fantasy world is real. He says this in his commentary on the DVD. He accomplishes this by skillfully and gradually blending the cold gray color palette that he uses to depict the real world with the soft bronze hues of the fantasy world. He also does this by allowing some of the magical objects like the chalk to be seen and touched by the real characters. Del Toro tells us that he believes fairies and the world of imagination are real. Ofelia transcends through sacrifice. Viewed psychoanalytically, however, we have a desperately frightened little girl on the cusp of womanhood who lives in a real world which lacks hope. She bravely flirts with the pressure of her instinctual development. Unlike the fairy tale princess who lives happily ever after with the prince, Ofelia wants nothing so much as to return to a childhood world of safety and protection.
Meet the Candidate

Gail van Langen, Ph.D.

began her professional
career with a special
interest in non-Western
cultures and religions,
etics in interna-
tional affairs. She
became fluent in
Swahili and worked for
five years in Tanzania
assisting young women
to develop small busi-
nesses and become
effective leaders in
their communities. Upon her return to the U.S., she
earned Masters degrees in Theology and Nursing.

As a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Psychiatry, she
received her first psychodynamic supervision while
providing five times per week outpatient group
therapy to schizophrenic patients. She was deeply
moved by all that she learned from and with her
patients about the depth of understanding and
growth made possible by psychoanalytic
approaches.

Dr. van Langen earned her Ph.D. in clinical
psychology from the University of Detroit Mercy in
1997, and is currently in private practice in Ann
Arbor. She has taken many MPI Extension Division
classes, and completed the Adult Psychoanalytic
Psychotherapy Program in 2008. In her spare time,
she enjoys long walks in the woods and doing
yoga and Tai Chi. She and her partner, Tom, also
enjoy classical music, playing Ultimate Frisbee,
and competitive Scrabble. But far and away their
favorite activity is hiking in the mountains, most
recently scaling a 13,000 footer in the Rocky
Mountains.

RAO from 4

anthropologist, who puzzled mightily about the highly
personal aspects of psychoanalysis in a course she
was taking. After hearing over and over how personal
and individual our enterprise is, she finally declared
in exasperation that in her field, she would call
psychoanalysis “radical particularism.” Our contem-
porary challenge is to recognize the value inherent in
both approaches—radically particular and radically
generalizable, and to appreciate that every clinician
in the course of working with a patient thinks in both
ways. As we treat, teach, and train, and do research,
we must realize that clinicians, educators and
researchers must work together, since we are so often
the same people. I favor the BOPS amendment
because it affirms in equal measure the principle of
generalizability as well as the principle of radical
particularism, allows flexibility in applying these prin-
ciples, and fosters dialogue between institutes and
BOPS. The local option/institute choice amendment, in
my view, is tilted in favor of radical particularism, is
biased against the principle of generalizability, will
likely change national dysfunction to local dysfunc-
tion, and impede the development of a national peer
review process.

BOESKY REVIEW from 10

compare, the inevitable differences which occur in
the psychoanalyses different psychoanalysts
conduct?”

In this new century, a burning question has
become, at the micro-level of psychoanalytic process,
how do we understand psychoanalytic disagree-
ments other than as a revelation of psychoanalytic
errors, in which one formulation is ‘right’, the other
‘wrong’? Related questions include: what are the
limits of differences that do not constitute errors? and
how can one begin to conceptualize non-error-based
differences in the thought processes of analysts
within interactive, unfolding processes as complex as
psychoanalytic ones? These questions engage age-
old difficulties in the consideration of the nature of
complex interactive processes, and the complexity
(perhaps an impossible one) of modeling how differ-
ent individuals (i.e., different psychoanalysts) could
be understood to interact with another individual
who is changing, and will change differentially in
sequences of interactions with different others.

Boesky’s work here helps analysts to discipline their
listening, as a result of which debates in the nascent
field of comparative psychoanalysis, over time and in
the slow forge of psychoanalytic history, might reach
their most productive settlements.

Member News

Deanna Holtzman, Ph.D. has been elected President
of Freud Archives, Inc. Drs. Nancy Kulish and
Deanna Holtzman presented “Jocasta’s Legacy: The
Female Superego” at the American Psychoanalytic
Association meetings in January 2008.

Dale Boesky, M.D. will speak on the Panel “Bending
the Frame” to be chaired by Nancy Chodorow, Ph.D.
at the January 2009 meeting of the American Psycho-
analytic Association. Dr. Boesky’s book, Psychoana-
lytic Disagreements in Context has been selected for
the Meet the Author program at the January meetings
of the American Psychoanalytic Association.
Ronald M. Benson, M.D. has been elected Vice-President for Accreditation of the Accreditation Council for Psychoanalytic Education (A.C.P.E.). He has also been re-elected for a second three-year term as a Trustee and is a member of the Executive Committee.

APT Member Karin Ahbel-Rappe, Ph.D., M.S.S.W. has been appointed Editorial Associate on the editorial board of the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association as of June 16, 2008.

Alan Krohn, Ph.D. has published a psychoanalytic suspense novel, The Mind's Eye (ExLibris 2008). Available in both hardcover and softcover, it can be ordered online from Amazon or Barnes and Noble, or from most bookstores. All royalties will go to Dr. Krohn’s international mental health work (though the purchase price of the book is not tax-deductible).

Cassandra Klyman, M.D. presented her paper, "Bipolar Illness throughout the Life Cycle" at the Depressive and Bipolar Alliance on June 23, 2008.

Julie Jaffee Nagel, Ph.D. received the Karl A. Menninger Memorial 2008 Award for "Psychoanalytic and Musical Perspectives on Shame in Donizetti’s Lucia di Lammermoor," which was published this year in the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association. Dr. Nagel was featured in Alumni Spotlight: The Juilliard Journal (May 2008).

Jean-Paul Pegeron, M.D. contributed an article, "A Course on the Supervisory Process for Candidates ... and Supervisors: An Attempt to Address Inconsistencies in Psychoanalytic Education and the Fundamental Paradox of Psychoanalytic Training," to the July-August issue of Psychoanalytic Inquiry, 28 (3), 344-360. The issue is devoted to the topic, "On Becoming a Psychoanalyst: Reflections on Contemporary Psychoanalytic Experience."


Richard K. Hertel, Ph.D. has been involved in developing theory and technique for working psychoanalytically with severe psychological trauma.

In addition to chairing and participating in ongoing American Psychoanalytic Association discussion groups on this topic, he also chaired a panel on "Psychic Trauma and DID" at the International Psychoanalytic Congress, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in July 2005.

Dr. Hertel also was on the faculty of a conference, "Experience of Hate, and Culture of Violence" sponsored by Department of Social Research, Delhi University and The India International Center, New Delhi, India, September 11–12, 2008.

Michael Shulman, Ph.D. has been appointed Co-Chair of a new Committee of the American, the Ad Hoc Committee on Psychoanalysis and Undergraduate Education. The other Co-Chair is Dawn Skorczewski of Brandeis University. Dr. Shulman will present, "Is the Common Ground Disappearing between Clinical Psychoanalysis in the U.S. and Psychoanalysis in the American Academy?" at the 2008 Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society Annual Conference at Rutgers University in October.


Publication Notices


CALENDAR

November 8       Farmington Hills
APC Program - "I Won't Dance"
Jack Novick, Ph.D. and Kerry Kelly
Novick

November 14      Novi
Michigan Psychoanalytic Foundation
24th Annual Benefit

November 16      Bloomfield Township
Reel Deal - Lars and the Real Girl

November 22      Ann Arbor
"Working Through the Analyst's Contribution to the Patient's Creative Inhibition"
Robert Cohen, Ph.D.

December 6       Ann Arbor
MPI Open House

December 7       Farmington Hills
"So Sexy So Soon: The New Sexualized Childhood, and What Parents Can Do to Protect Their Kids"
Diane Levin, Ph.D.

January 24       Farmington Hills
"Expanding the Domain: Privacy, Secrecy and Confidentiality"
Jack Novick, Ph.D. and Kerry Kelly
Novick

February 1       Bloomfield Township
Reel Deal - In the Valley of Elah