



AAP News

The Newsletter of the Association for the Advancement of Psychosynthesis

November

2007

Assagioli and Maslow Meet Notes From a Conversation at Brandeis University, May 29, 1958

Maslow expressed his keen appreciation of the validation of ideas (re: the Self and integration) from so many sources all over the world. He said “there has been a wave of thought over the last decade” about these subjects. In comparing European and American psychology, Maslow said, that, in his opinion, in Europe there was a more synoptic, holistic way of thought; whereas in the U.S.A. there is more “ortho-psychology,” more of an empirical approach, and research into particular aspects.

Discussing the Will, Maslow pointed out that Assagioli’s ideas are paralleled in America under different names. He, Maslow himself, considered ‘responsibility’ to equate with the Will. Other writers in Maslow’s opinion equated “cultivation” with Assagioli’s ideas on the Will.

There is much use in this country of the Freudian concepts, although many psychologists (Maslow included) are not completely satisfied with them. The great problem, per Maslow, in American psychology is that of the search for identity, for the self. He said that Erikson with his writings on ‘Identity’ is having a great influence.

Dr. Maslow stressed that he himself is trying to relate European and American thought.

Reverting to the discussion of the Will, Maslow agreed “in principle” that empirical experiments can be made. He mentioned that one thing disturbs him, because “he had seen it so often”, i.e., the use of such words as ‘the fusion of polarities’, the high and low, the deep and high. Maslow is dissatisfied because he thinks these terms overlook language limitations. “How can the highest be also the deepest?” Maslow said that he is now using these terms less and less, i.e., spatial terms.

He also referred to what is to him a problem, the relation of the unique individual to universality. He said that the more you “dig” into him (into the unique individual) for his “peaks”— the deeper you dig operationally into the individuals — the more alike they become. He is puzzled by the paradox of “uniqueness leads to universality.” He asked, “what to do with these paradoxes?”

(Assagioli answered: “The intuitives will understand; the rest, never!”)

Maslow hopes to *demonstrate* what the intuitives know. Assagioli pointed out that, first of all, research will be on the Will, then on genius and the higher consciousness. Maslow referred to the Institute of Personality Development in California but explained that they are doing strictly empirical research.

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You Asked, We Answered! Professional Development Committee News

By Mary Kelso

The Professional Development Committee has surveyed psychosynthesis trainers several times. About a year ago the request for more training in guiding surfaced, so the committee invited some senior trainers to conduct demonstrations of their particular style of guiding.

Thirty psychosynthesis trainers met at JFK University for two days during the Trainer Development Program in July. Judith Broadus and Mary Kelso served as the facilitators for the program. We discussed applications of psychosynthesis in five areas of interest: clinical counseling, education, body work, organizational development and spiritual counseling. We all deeply appreciate the skill and goodwill of Betty Bosdell,

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AAP News

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Yes, Send Ideas, Art, Photos, and Letters

Send ideas helpful in your life and work, your poems, book reviews, art work, articles—especially about your use of psychosynthesis.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the editors or of AAP. We may edit submissions for grammar, syntax, and size.

Help Your Editors Edit

We're volunteers, so if possible please make your submissions "camera-ready," **Goings On** notes 75 words or less, and **articles** 500 words or less.

Submission Deadlines

Mar. 15, June 15, Sept. 15, Dec. 15

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The Association for the Advancement of Psychosynthesis

Founded in 1995, AAP is a nonprofit association with tax exemption in the United States. It is dedicated to advancing and advocating on behalf of synthesis and conducting psychosynthesis educational programs. Donations are welcome.

Goings On

ANNE YEOMANS Circle Set for Women

Anne Yeomans will teach her course, *Holding the Circle* , a training/workshop for women, in the spring of 2008. The class will be held at the Synthesis Center in Amherst, MA, and will meet for six consecutive Wednesday evenings (March 26 though April 30 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) and also on Sunday April 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information call Anne at 413-522-5285.

ABBIE SEIXAS Book Now in Paperback

Abby Seixas' *Finding the Deep River Within: A Woman's Guide to Recovering Balance and Meaning in Everyday Life* is now available in paperback at bookstores nationwide and online. Now that the paperback is out, Abby offers signed and inscribed hardcover editions on sale (\$15 including shipping) through her website:
www.deepriverwithin.com.

CONNECTICUT INSTITUTE Class, Community Events

The Connecticut Institute for Psychosynthesis had an Open House September 9 to raise money for wounded vets. This is an

ongoing effort, and we have been given citations for our work over the past year.

We continue to offer Open Sundays for our large community. Upcoming dates are Oct. 2, Nov. 18, and Dec. 16. Gatherings near holidays often include potlucks and holiday celebrations.

Anyone interested in psychosynthesis classes should contact us now to be interviewed! Our Steering Committee is Cynthia Russell, Rosalind Till, Donna Reisinger, Susan Curtiss and Brad Roth. Contact is psynnie@aol.com or 203-377-2421

MARY EILEEN KINIRY & SCOTT THOMPSON International Conference Off for Now

We'd like to inform all AAP members who were called or sent an e-mail about the possibility of a 2010 AAP international conference in the New York City area that we have decided not to go forward at this time. The time, energy, finances and focus needed to put on an international conference were not there, so we have made the difficult decision to let the idea go for now. Thanks to all who responded with such enthusiasm and promises of support when we proposed the idea of an international conference. We did not want to leave anyone wondering why he or she never heard from us again!

Mary Eileen Kiniry
Scott Thompson
AAP Steering Committee
Co-chairs 2003-2005

Art by Bonney Kuniholm



Report: Training Conducted by Ilene Val-Essen on Psychosynthesis in the Family

By Sharon Mandt

One of our members, Ilene Val-Essen, PhD, MFT, has created a unique and comprehensive program that has the potential to empower families to relate with mutual respect. The program, Quality Parenting, is based on the theory and principles of psychosynthesis and is presented in an easy-to-understand manner.

In mid-September, 2007, Ilene trained 14 educators from the rural area of south-central Kentucky to present the Quality Parenting course to parents. That is the factual side of what happened. As you might imagine, there was much more in the way of empowerment and breaking through to a higher level of awareness. I am at a loss for words to describe the dynamics and spiritual energy present in this training—especially knowing the culture here in my home area.

How valuable it is to have a trainer grounded in the theory and living the principles! The word “quality” is an apt description of the training, the trainer, and the materials. I have a new appreciation and understanding of how psychosynthesis can be presented as a *way of life*.

Speaking for professionals in this area of Kentucky, we are already planning how to follow up on the information and bring the message to families, other educators, and organizations. Congratulations to Ilene for a job well done.

Co-chair Report

AAP Developing its Web Site, Responsiveness

It was heartwarming to see so many of you at the AAP conference in San Francisco in July. We thank conference organizers David Shirley, Mary Kelso, Suzanne West and Ruth Carter for their hard work and dedication. We keep hearing from people about their experiences, how much they enjoyed the speakers, how glad they were to have the opportunity to see old friends and to make new ones. There is a feeling that psychosynthesis is on the move.

Our 2008 conference chair, Jan Kuniholm, is already hard at work with his committee—planning another great conference for June 27 to 29 in beautiful Brattleboro, VT. The conference theme will be “Healing and Transformation in the 21st Century: Creating Personal and Global Change.”

We invite you to take the time to look at the new and evolving AAP Web site at www.aap-psychosynthesis.org. David Shirley is hard at work with our new professional Web site person, Susan Hanley, as they move us forward. Building on the work done by volunteers over the years, Susan is now working on expanding our capabilities in this ever-evolving new technology. We will be able to offer exciting new services to our membership relatively soon. Thank you to all who donated money to this project so it can become a reality.

The Steering Committee is busy working on finding ways to streamline the day-to-day functions of the AAP as well as responding to evolving membership needs. We will report on some of these things next time. It is a very rewarding time to be involved in

this work. We are here to serve you, and we invite any input you may have to fulfill our mission.

We wish you all the best as we enter into the holidays and a new year.

Carla Peterson and Hedwig Weiler

TDP cont'd from page 1

Brad Roth, Mark Horowitz and Phil Brooks, who demonstrated guiding sessions with members of the group. Betty Bosdell, Mary Kelso, and Sharon Mandt presented a panel discussion of their experiences utilizing psychosynthesis in educational settings.

Thursday evening we held a banquet and honored the mentors and mentees who had participated in the Trainer Development Program. The “Transformational Assistant” (a costumed figure who humorously “transformed” the graduates) appeared, adding levity to the evening. Kudos go to Mary Ondov (the creator of the TA) for mentoring Mary Kelso to carry on the tradition of fun.

But the main event of the evening was a surprise for John Parks—honoring his service and dedication to advanced training in psychosynthesis. Many expressed their thoughts about the dedication, kindness and caring that John has provided over the years.

The committee named a star in John’s honor, deeming it a fitting gesture for such a special person. His light has shone brightly in our circle and illuminated the way for many psychosynthesis trainers.

Vincent Dummer videotaped the entire program of this TDP. The committee intends to make the tapes available for future use in training programs, so stay tuned!

Notes, cont'd from Page 1

Dr. Maslow stressed that if we do not move in the direction of “public research” then these ideas (such as he and Assagioli have been talking about) would remain with the few—and not be accepted.

Maslow referred to the “biological hierarchy of values” and of them being paralleled psychologically. He went on to mention that this leads to another paradox: in the mystic experience, in the “great moment,” there is perceived the essential nature of the world in an objective manner. Therefore, bridges need to be made in which the viewer and the viewed become one. In this connection he used several times the phrase “the leap needs to be made into another kind of values” wherein we are selfless, not needing, nor needed. Here he seemed to be touching closely Dr. Rugg’s (of Columbia) thought.

[The original archive referred to the participants as “M” and “R.A.” which have been here spelled out as “Maslow” and “Assagioli.” — editor]

The AAP recently received a copy of the above notes taken by an unknown person who attended the conversation on May 29, 1958 between Roberto Assagioli, M.D., and Abraham Maslow, Ph.D., at Brandeis University. AAP received these notes on Sept. 26, 2007, from John Cobb, President of School of Esoteric Studies in Asheville, N.C.

In August of 2006, SES transferred to AAP several boxes of archives from the Psychosynthesis Research Foundation (1957-1976), which was the first organized effort to promote psychosynthesis in North America. AAP celebrated the 50th anniversary of the formation of the PRF at the annual AAP conference in July. Among the archives was a letter dated July 25, 1963, to Frank Hilton, Administrator of the PRF, from Abraham Maslow. In the letter, Maslow supported the publication of the Psychosynthesis Manual after receiving and reviewing a “working draft of techniques.”

Maslow states in the letter, “My strong feeling was that this manual is very important to many people and should be published as a book as soon as possible. I would recommend not waiting too long to perfect it but rather revising and printing the editions after the first one had appeared. — Cordially, Abraham H. Maslow, Professor of Psychology.”

AAP members will soon be able to view this letter and these notes as well as other archives on the AAP Web site, currently being reformatted.

AAP Members: Please visit our website “Members Only” Section and make sure your information is correct—email info@aap-psychosynthesis.org if you need help.

50 Years of Psychosynthesis in North America

By Sharon Mandt

Fifty years ago Nov. 27, the Psychosynthesis Research Foundation (PRF) became incorporated. This nonprofit organization was the first organized effort to disseminate psychosynthesis information in North America. The goal of the PRF was to expand the awareness of psychosynthesis, a task they fulfilled for 19 years.

The first conference was held in 1958, and Roberto Assagioli, MD, was the main speaker. All of this took place in Greenville, Delaware, in a 30-room mansion, which was later donated to the PRF.

An exhibit and workshop on the formation of the PRF was featured at the AAP 2007 Annual Conference in July in California.

An effort is being made to catalog and scan the archives before housing them with an official archivist sometime early next year. The most likely location for storing these archives will be at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

(See request for archival materials on page 8.)



Art by Bonney Kuniholm

Join the AAP Steering Committee! Nominations Needed by Dec. 1

The Nominations Committee is looking for members who will serve the cause of psychosynthesis as members of the AAP Steering Committee. The qualifications include AAP membership, training and experience in psychosynthesis, enthusiasm for the process, and a desire to provide leadership in the advancement of psychosynthesis. Serving of the Steering Committee is challenging and rewarding. If you would like to suggest someone (including yourself), please e-mail Edwin Miller at speople@sbcglobal.net or call him at 405-823-5608. Nominations will close Dec.1, 2007.





MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**The 2008 AAP Conference:
Healing and Transformation
in the 21st Century:
Creating Personal and Global Change
at the Campus of
Vermont College of Union
Institute & University
Brattleboro, VT
June 27, 28 and 29, 2008**

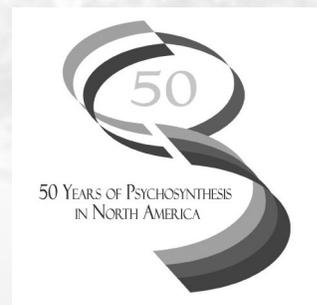


Feeling fragmented and disconnected ~ like the world has spun out of control and we have all lost some pieces? The Association for the Advancement of Psychosynthesis invites you to reconnect, recreate and renew ~ personally and professionally ~ at our 2008 Conference.

Experiential workshops and keynote presentations offer you the opportunity to share ideas with attendees from around the globe. Take home practical ideas for healing our 21st century wounds through the timeless transformative power of personal synthesis.

**Association for the Advancement of Psychosynthesis
Celebrating 50 years of Psychosynthesis in America**

**For more information, contact Jan Kuniholm, Conference Chair,
at jkuniholm@roadrunner.com, and in the near future,
information and registration will be found at the AAP website:
www.aap-psychoanalysis.org**



INVITATION TO PRESENTERS



The 2008 AAP Conference:
Healing and Transformation
in the 21st Century:
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at the Campus of
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June 27, 28 and 29, 2008



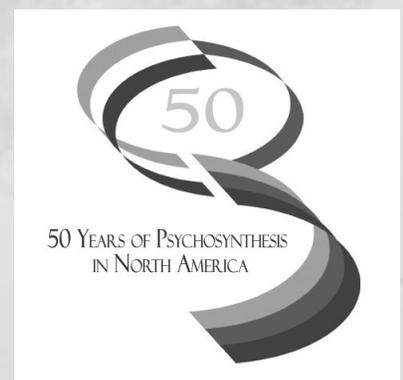
We invite Psychosynthesis teachers, trainers and practitioners to submit proposals to present workshops at this exciting conference. People from all over North America and beyond, including faculty and students of Vermont College, will be attending and participating. This is an opportunity for you to share your insights, your questions, your experience, your growth with peers and students.

Workshops may be 75 minutes or 2 hours and 45 minutes.
Please contact Jan Kuniholm, Conference Chair,
at 413-743-1703 or jkuniholm@roadrunner.com
for more information, or to obtain a proposal form.
Proposals must be received by January 15, 2008.

Association for the Advancement of Psychosynthesis
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Graphic Design by Marjorie Hope Gross



Baptized Anew

By John Overbeck

Silhouette against the dawn
The chair and she
Beside the gentle whisper
Of the restless sea.

Ninety years and nine and more
Of motion
Reposed in prayer
Before the altar, Ocean.

The coming light reveals
With its first ray
A face with gentle lines
And now the eyes, a steel cold gray.

Chipped blue coffee cup
"Thank you" it smiles.
"My only caffeine contact of the day" –
Her wink beguiles.

In her lap the book
The Bible – from the hand of James I –
That and coffee both satisfying
Her early morning thirst.

Each morn her heart recalled
This water just beside,
How it – and war – had swallowed up her boys –
And how her soul had died.

The time was just past seven when
She stood and walked slow-gaited
To the ocean's edge,
And moved up to her knees – steel-eyed –
into the liquid world she hated.

*One hundred years ago this very minute
I came wading from my mother's womb,
Baptized into a world that cares indifferently
And pointed toward my tomb.*

*More than half my years my soul's been dark
With grief for sons asleep beneath this ocean's wave,
Until just now – I felt their souls
My spirit gently lave.*

*I think it was the clouds – remains of last night's
cleansing storm,
Receding east below the rising sun.
Ecclesiastes too – so often read – at long last
warm.*

*"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every
purpose under the heaven" –
Even unto one's second century – praise be!*

Then she took a thermos from beneath her chair,
Refilled her cup – it smoked of coffee hot –
And smelled of single malt.

She smiled – her mouth and eyes together warm –
And sipped.

September 24, 2006

*John Overbeck is a teacher and writer.
He is founder and headmaster of
John Scott Academy in Fairfield, OH.*

In the Valley of Elah

by Mary Eileen Kiniry

This is a movie named for a valley in Israel where David and Goliath had their classic battle. On a day described in the bible, the young boy, David, armed only with a slingshot, found the giant's vulnerability and defeated him by a blow to the center of his forehead—right into the area of the third eye. The movie focuses on the Iraq War and the toll it is taking on the young soldiers who are participating in it.

In a review posted on EW.com Sept. 5, 2007, Owen Gleiberman wrote, "The roadside bombs, in their relentless anonymity; the orders to regard every civilian, even children, as a potential threat—how, exactly, does all of this shatter the nerves, and maybe shred the souls, of the men (and women) who are there? That's what drives the movie—the slow, accumulating revelation of how the war in Iraq, in its unique physical and moral circumstances (which can't be divided), has molded the soldiers fighting it." As I watched this brilliantly acted and immensely sad movie unfold, I thought about our country and wondered for the thousandth time what I, as a psychosynthesist, could do to assist the healing of wounds from this terrible war. In addition to the war's financial cost (according to recent estimates the tab grows by at least \$200 million each and every day) and the horrific damage to the daily life of Iraqis, there are the unseen wounds suffered by men and women who are serving in the US army in Iraq, a dehumanizing and debilitating environment.

Are we just looking away, keeping it out of our awareness as the environment we live within now corrosively eats away at our collective soul? Are we losing all that we value as we look away and do nothing? Have we been blinded in our seat of wisdom by a child nation with a sling shot, because we allowed our hubris and fear to rule us? We must, as psychosynthesists—whatever our politics—choose not to look away any longer. The first step is to sit in the pain with the fullness of what is being done every day in our name. Let us not numb ourselves any longer. Without the numbing, new ideas may come for us all.

Wanted for the AAP Archives:

Pictures taken at AAP Events

Please identify persons, place, event, and date as closely as you can.

AAP Conference brochures

We need all except for the years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2007.

AAP Newsletters

We need all except for 1996 (Spring, Fall), 1997 (Spring, Fall), 1998 (Spring, Fall), 2000 (December), 2003 (Winter, Fall, Late Summer), 2004 (Summer, Autumn, Winter), 2005 (Spring, Winter), 2006 (Winter), and 2007 (February).

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 114 JANLYN AVENUE
 SOMERSET, KY 42501

Please include your name, e-mail address, and phone.

If you want pictures copied and returned, also please include your mailing address.

If you are not a member of AAP, this is a complimentary copy! Please consider joining and supporting AAP's work.



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Explore This Issue:

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- ... and much more ...