

Please share this Newsletter with your colleagues and circulate among organization staff.

The Call for Papers for Symposium 30 in Cologne/Köln in July 2008 is on page 28.

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SOCIAL WORK WITH GROUPS NEWSLETTER



Current News and Cumulative Reference
A Report to the Membership
ISSN 1084-6816

Advocacy and Action in Support of Group Work Practice, Education, Research, and Publication. Enhancing the Quality of Group Life throughout the World.
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Vol. 23, #2, Issue #63

September 2007

PRESIDENT'S PEN THE AUTUMN SEASON REVS UP

It's always a marvel to me that summer comes and goes in a blink, and we're into the fall so quickly. Here in Canada, stores are full of Thanksgiving and Hal-lowe'en goods. Students are filling the classrooms, and agency workers are back in full force after the vacation season. There's a major difference for us AASWG folks this year, however, in that we do not have our annual symposium looming in October. This year, we celebrated together at the end of June in Jersey City at the 29th Annual International Symposium of AASWG. The local planning committee of Susanne Palombo, Kathy Sweeney, Maureen Hagan, and Greg Tully, assisted by numerous other volunteers, hosted a wildly successful and much enjoyed Symposium. Because of the short time since the 28th symposium in San Diego in October 2006, I can tell you there were many moments of anxiety and chewed fingernails over the winter and spring this year, worrying whether enough people would submit abstracts and attend to balance the costs.

MENSCH. WILLKOMMEN! PLAN NOW TO ATTEND 30TH SYMPOSIUM IN COLOGNE

The Thirtieth International Symposium on Social Work with Groups joined with the 14th European Groupwork Symposium welcomes you to Cologne from June 19th until 26th to experience the first international conference outside the North American continent.

The German Chapter is working hard and enthusiastically to make our common event a great success. We have forty people involved. There are five committees each concentrating on different fields: programme, logistics, public relations, entertainment and culture.

What awaits you in Cologne? Well, we'll start with the board meeting on Wednesday, so all board members will be able to fully participate in the Symposium. We'll gather together on Thursday afternoon before all participants split up to explore Cologne's institutes and out-
Continued on page 13, Symposium 30

JERSEY CITY WAS GREAT REVIVES CHAPTER INTER- EST

Once upon a time there was an AASWG Chapter in New Jersey. And..... we're back. If you haven't heard, this June Jersey City was host to the 29th Annual Symposium, giving a grand boost to the future New Jersey Chapter. Jersey folks and all who came found Jersey City and Hoboken to be charming and entertaining and a wonderful compliment to the New York skyline.

Members and members-to-be came by bus, plane, train and car. Bad weather

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Continued on page 2, *President's Pen*

President's Pen, continued from page 1

Our worries are now history, and unfounded. I thought the setting overlooking the water in San Diego was wonderful, but then followed the richly active view of the Hudson River outside our windows in New Jersey and the incomparable skyline of Manhattan. Of special note, Susanne and Kathy were key organizing people for this year's excellent symposium in the midst of learning and carrying out the duties of Administrative Support for AASWG - double duty performed so well by two extremely talented people.

It gets better and better - bringing our attention to next year's Symposium, which for the first time ever will take us off the North American continent to Köln/Cologne, Germany. I invite you to check out <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cologne>, a website providing a wealth of interesting info on the city. Ingrun Masanek and Sonia Spelters, with a group of about 40 people in six communities throughout the country, are immersed in planning what is shaping up to be a most memorable time. Please see other places in this newsletter, and on the AASWG website, as well, for more on next June's Symposium.

This fall also is full of work by various committees and task forces of the AASWG Board. The Bylaws Revision Task Force is preparing the next draft in preparation for the November meeting of the Board. Dominique Moyses Steinberg, our treasurer, is continuing to streamline and update our accounting systems. Her first Treasury Notes column is included in this issue of the newsletter, in the interests of keeping you informed about AASWG operations. Ellen Sue Mesbur and Marty Birnbaum are working hard to adjust the election cycle timeframe to coincide with June Symposia. Thanks all who have cooperated to make this possible. Greg Tully is committed to maintaining and increasing our membership numbers, and generally infusing all our work with wonderfully contagious enthusiasm. Sue Henry has taken on the position of Chair of the Symposium Planning Committee, a crucial role for our organization. Sincerest thanks to you, Sue. Alison Johnson has handed over leadership of the Chapter Development Committee to

Linda McArdle, who brings relevant abilities and experience to this important function. Thank you, Linda, for moving into this central role. To our benefit, Alison remains active in committee work.

A final area of intense activity to mention is our website. You will know already that our Association has been working toward greater use of the website <http://aaswg.org/>. The Board voted in June to contract with a web consultant to help us maximize this vehicle of information, networking, and all money-related functions. Tim Kelly, our Webmaster, has done a substantial amount of work to bring us to the present time. Now, in conjunction with the consultant and Andrew Cicchetti, incoming Webmaster, we are looking to the new Marketing Committee to set a course of action that uses primarily the website to present the Association to the world and serve as a useful resource to support the purposes of AASWG.

For those of you who were at the New Jersey Symposium, you will know about the Town Hall meeting, masterminded by Marty Birnbaum and Greg Tully, that elicited the diverse and important views and voices of members, yet-to-be members, old-timers and first-timers about perceptions and hopes for AASWG, and significantly highlighted student participation. It is the intention of the Board not only to keep you informed about what's happening, but to offer a standing invitation to all who are interested to join actively in the efforts and initiatives of AASWG. We, after all, are groupworkers, and understand and value the achievements possible when we work together.

With best regards, and welcoming your feedback,

Nancy Sullivan
nancys@mun.ca

SUBSCRIBE TO THE JOURNAL

Be sure to subscribe to *Social Work with Groups: Journal of Community and Clinical Practice* when you renew your membership. Members receive a fifty percent discount making the cost just \$37.50 per year. The discount is only available through the AASWG membership office, membership@aaswg.org, or the web site,

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Regarding memberships and for changes of address contact Susanne Palombo or Kathy Sweeney, AASWG Administrative Support, 2303 Winfield Street, Rahway, NJ 07065, 732-669-7852, membership@aaswg.org. Send changes of address for Haworth's *Social Work with Groups Journal* directly to the publisher.

For questions about credit charges or checks, please contact Susanne Palombo or Kathy Sweeney at the AASWG Administrative Support directly rather than the credit card company.

In the USA, AASWG is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, contributions to which are deductible as allowed by law. AASWG is incorporated as a not-for-profit charitable organization in the State of New York. A few chapters in the USA are separately incorporated. Chapters and affiliates outside of the USA are incorporated in their respective countries.

AASWG Home Page: <http://www.aaswg.org>.

Discussion Group: Send e-mail message to listserv@listserv.barry.edu. In body of message type **subscribe groupwork-aaswg your first name your last name**. Tim Kelly, administrator: tim.kelly@gcal.ac.uk.

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The AASWG logo is by artist John Morrell, Rochester, New York, and is used with permission. It is titled "Life Is Sharing the Same Park Bench." The original may be seen as a wall mural on the *Continued on page 3, AASWG Information*



CICCHETTI DEVELOPS ON-LINE GROUP WORK SITE

Andrew Cicchetti of New York City is pleased to announce that he has developed an on-line resource, Mutual Aid Based Group Work.com. On-line since June 2007 the site features original essays about group work theory and practice, in particular with people with substance use disorders and people who are LGBT. The site includes interviews with group work scholars and currently features interviews with Larry Shulman and George Getzel. The site also features a link to an on-line virtual bookstore featuring books about social work and social work with groups and is powered by Amazon.com. Amazon pays secondary vendors 4-8% of the total profit. Andrew will donate all profits to AASWG. When you have a moment, check out the site at www.mutualaidbasedgroupwork.com.

Andrew Cicchetti
atcicchetti@worldnet.att.net

AASWG Information, continued from page 2
building on the northeast corner of East Ninth Street and Rockwell Avenue in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. Our use of it as a logo recognizes and celebrates our diversity, our commitment to diversity, and our bringing our diverse peoples together.

Personal and institutional materials for the Group Work Archives should be sent to David J. Klaassen, Director, Social Welfare History Archives, 321 Andersen Library, 222 21st Avenue South, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, 612-624-4377, e-mail dklaa@tc.umn.edu, <http://archon.lib.edu/swaha.htm>. Shipping will be reimbursed.

Manuscripts and letters sent to the editors may be published without further communication and will not necessarily otherwise be acknowledged. Letters and reports may be edited.

Letters, reports, and signed articles reflect the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions of AASWG, Inc.

The deadline editorial and advertising copy for the next issue, January 2008, is January 3, 2008. The following issues will be May 2008 with a copy deadline of April 15 and September 2008 with copy deadline of August 15.

AASWG OFFICERS

Nancy Sullivan, President, St. John's, Newfoundland
Timothy B. Kelly, Vice President, Glasgow, Scotland
Michael W. Wagner, Secretary, Tappan, New York
Michael H. Phillips, Treasurer, Brooklyn, New York

WELCOME 68 NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the sixty-eight colleagues who have joined AASWG since May. It's through constant growth with new members that AASWG will continue to build strength in support and advocacy for Group Work.

As we expect each year, a large number of new members are from the vicinity of the Symposium. This gives Chapters in those regions an extraordinary opportunity for growth. But we also note the wide spread of locations of new members.

We also noted that one listing here is Lisa Valadares Goldberg who is a returning member after several year's absence. See the special article elsewhere in this issue.

Ileana Alvarez, Chicago, Illinois
Melanie Alves, Brooklyn, New York
Scott Anstadt, Hayes, Kansas
Nancy I. Ayer, Portland, Maine
Desiree Barber, New York City
Ady Ben-Israel, Brooklyn, New York
Teresa Bennett, Summit, New Jersey
Christiana Best Cummings, Riverdale, New York
Isora Bosch, Guttenberg, New Jersey
Rachel Braswell, Akron, Ohio
Scott Brinkman, Copley, Ohio
Maureen Brogan, Rahway, New Jersey
Carol Campbell, West Orange, New Jersey
Sylvia Carrington, Mount Vernon, New York
Gerardo Castro, San Diego, California
Heather Church, Edison, New Jersey
Byron Coleman, Yonkers, New York
Urania Curtis, Southwick, Massachusetts
Kim Dennis, Bronx, New York
Felicia Devine, New York City
Marianna Donnally, Brooklyn, New York
Alison Edwards, Jamaica, New York
Audrey Elliott, Poughkeepsie, New York
Ronni Fuchs, Brooklyn, New York
Stephanie Furness Kearns, Bound Brook, New Jersey
Elisa V. Goldberg, Clearwater, Florida
Susan Gordon, Jamaica, New York
Cynthia Grant, Brooklyn, New York
Naomi Greene, Brooklyn, New York
Connie Green-Fritz, Boyertown, Pennsylvania
Cecilia A. Hawkins, Brooklyn, New York

Cecilia Hawkins, Brooklyn, New York
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Andres Jimenez, Woodhaven, New York
Ellen Krug, Brooklyn, New York
Linda Lembo-Alonso, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey
Kristina Lind, St. Charles, Illinois
Edward Madara, Cedar Knolls, New Jersey
Robin S. Mama, West Long Branch, New Jersey
Yvonne Mariano, Brooklyn, New York
Pecolia Matthews, Brooklyn, New York
Nancy Mohammad, Chicago, Illinois
Winsome Moses-Johnson, Staten Island, New York
Kristen O'Brien, Whittier, California
Dawn Owens, Brooklyn, New York
Robert F. Peck, Warwick, Rhode Island
Gilberto Perez, Jr., Goshen, Indiana
Lee Perkins, East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania
Dawn Picone, Staten Island, New York
Kate Reiss, New York City
Elizabeth Roberts, Brooklyn, New York
Susan Rogers, Brooklyn, New York
Nancy Smith, Lake Hiawatha, New Jersey
Mark W. Smith, Portland, Oregon
Elizabeth Swart, Sebring, Florida
Cynthia M. Tao, North White Plains, New York
Eve Taylor, Rego Park, New York
Gitanjali Thadhani, New York City
Debra Tomlinson, Chicago, Illinois
Jenie Umana, Addison, Illinois
Diana Verna, New York
Antwan Walker, Bronx, New York
Ronnell Walker-Jackson, Brooklyn, New York
Myrna C. Williams, Brooklyn, New York
Robin D. Wilson, Brooklyn, New York
Juan Pablo Zapatel, Chula Vista, California

Add "Proud member of the Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups, Inc." at the end of each e-mail communication.



PAPERS NEEDED FROM SAN DIEGO FOR PROCEEDINGS

If you wish to have the paper you presented at the San Diego Symposium in 2006 considered for publication in the proceedings, please send a hard copy ASAP (within the next month).

Readers are Cheryl Lee, Jean A. Gill, Anne Hyman, and Paul and Sonia Abels.

Mail the copy to Paul Abels, 1160 Gleneagles Terrace, Costa Mesa, CA 92627, reflections@earthlink.net.

ALISON JOHNSON SAYS FAREWELL TO BOARD

Hello everyone:

I am so glad to have seen many of you recently in New Jersey and am sorry to have missed those of you who were unable to attend the Symposium. It was a mixed experience for me. I love the camaraderie and stimulation of thought; the fun in learning new perspectives and skills and the satisfaction of belonging with all of you. This was an especially powerful gathering for me as I was leaving the Board after many years in various roles (Chapter Chair, Social Action Committee Chair, Chapter Liaison, Chapter Development Chair). I love being in a group as a worker and a member. Every one of you has helped me to become more authentic, comfortable, and more confident as a human being -- a mensch. I have no doubt that this is reflected in my relationships with others and that they are grateful for your tutelage.

As you might expect, I have figured a way to continue my involvement with AASWG and you. I will be a member of the Marketing Committee, though not on the Board. I am looking forward to the Symposium in Germany. I've never been there despite family ties there. And I hope to see many of you there!

As you have heard from Nancy, Linda McArdle is the new Chapter Development Chair. I am so glad that such an energetic and capable woman is available to move the organization forward.

Please note my current email address: ajcounseling@bellsouth.net.

Warmest regards, Alison Johnson
Louisville, Kentucky, July 11, 2007

CONTRIBUTIONS

Since May we have received generous contributions to the Operating Fund from members in memory of several of our distinguished members who have died in these past few months. We know that the contributions will serve to perpetuate their memories through the work of AASWG. We thank these contributors for their thoughtfulness.

In Memory of Marjorie Witt Johnson and Al Alissi, from Jeanne A. Gill, San Diego, California

In Memory of Janice Andrews, from Marcia Cohen, Portland, Maine

In Memory of Marjorie Witt Johnson, from Molly Brudnick, Shaker Heights, Ohio

In Tribute to Al Alissi, from Andrew Cicchetti, Brooklyn, New York

To the Operating Fund In Honor of Marty Birnbaum from Andrew Cicchetti, New York City

Vernon Grier, Teaneck, New Jersey

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SOCIAL WORK WITH GROUPS

Group workers from many parts of the world, including the United States, Canada, England, Spain, and Australia, have responded quickly and enthusiastically to the Call for Entries for the *Encyclopedia of Social Work with Groups* (tentative title) which will be published by The Haworth Press.

Alex Gitterman and Bob Salmon are editing the volume. They reported that about 110 entries were invited, and they have received about ninety first drafts as of the middle of October. The editing process is moving along quickly, and over fifty-five entries already have been reviewed and accepted.

The hope and expectation is that the completed volume will be submitted to the publisher by the end of January.

Most of the entries are approximately 1000 words, with a few longer invited entries of up to 2500 words. Readers will be stirred and moved by the scope of group work practice that is presented in the volume. The many authors who have contributed to the volume are creating a

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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The Executive Committee meets at the Symposium, in New York City in the fall, and in other months by telecon-

significant work that will highlight the range and depth of group work practice in the world today.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Efforts to recruit new members and to renew the memberships of existing members during the current 2007 membership year were successful. Various membership outreach strategies were effective, including several AASWG letters and e-mails sent from November through April, membership promotions at both AASWG chapter events and international social work events, and membership outreach efforts led by some of the AASWG chapter leaders. In addition, the great success of the recent AASWG Symposium in Jersey City helped with membership recruiting. Finally, the recent revitalization of the AASWG Support Team also helped to increase membership numbers as the new Support Team, Kathy Sweeney and Susanne Palombo, contributed greatly to membership enrollment success. Over the past two years, membership has been stabilizing nicely with a bit of growth occurring. Increases in both new memberships and membership renewals in future years will depend upon additional strategizing both within the chapters and throughout the entire AASWG membership.

The 2007 membership numbers for Institutional Memberships were also good. AASWG matched the number of Institutional Members from last year. We did this by renewing the majority of the 2006 members and replacing the few non-renewals with new members. We offered some additional benefits in 2007, and we made sure that all the benefits we offered were realized.

Despite the Support Team transition during early 2007, updated Membership Lists were sent to each Chapter twice (January and March) in order to assist chapters with membership outreach efforts. Several chapters used these lists effectively for contacting members about joining/rejoining. Some chapters also tried to recruit/renew members through chapter events. The Membership Committee Chair was able to attend several of these events and witnessed the wonderful recruiting and renewal activities of these chapters. Because approximately 80% of current AASWG members live within existing chapter areas (and 5% live within forming chapter areas) it is so helpful when chapters do their best to create and sustain membership. In addition, the entire

AASWG Board needs to consistently work toward assisting chapters and chapter leadership in both their chapter work as well as in their recruitment/renewal activities if AASWG membership is to remain stable or grow in the future.

The Membership Committee communicated by e-mail during the year and convened at the Jersey City Symposium in June to assess current membership efforts and to address future work. Membership diversity is a priority of AASWG, and it is hoped that the Membership Committee can play a role in this priority. A motion made by the Membership Committee and passed by the AASWG Board to extend the student membership rate for student members two years after their graduation should help to diversify AASWG in terms of age and ethnicity.

Several members of the Membership Committee became actively involved with many other AASWG members in helping to create and run the 2007 Town Hall event at the 2007 Jersey City Symposium. The Town Hall meeting had many positive benefits. These benefits included assisting the Membership Committee in getting feedback from long-term existing members, newer members, and even non-members about issues concerning membership recruiting/renewal and the marketing of AASWG.

Please continue to spread the word to potential new members that obtaining an AASWG membership can be done immediately either by mailing the membership form (it can be found on the website if copies of the form are needed) or by joining on-line through our AASWG website www.aaswg.org. Questions about the membership process can be e-mailed to our new Support Team, Susanne and Kathy, at membership@aaswg.org.

AASWG remains the only international professional organization in the world dedicated to the advancement of social work practice with groups. We all participate in the wonderful AASWG mission by joining or rejoining AASWG each year!

Greg Tully, Chair
gtully@barry.edu

ELISA RETURNS TO AASWG

Elisa Goldberg O'Rourke, formerly Elisa Valladares Goldberg, rejoined us this past summer after an eight year absence from AASWG membership. Elisa first joined AASWG in 1992 while a student at the Hunter College School of Social Work (an AASWG Institutional Member) in New York City. Elisa tells us that she entered social work school with visions of becoming another little Anna Freud, but soon discovered social group work. A student of Bob Salmon, Elisa recalls "with greatest affection and poignancy thanks to him I came to understand the specialness of group work theory, tradition and practice".

After first joining AASWG Elisa recalls having felt like she found a community of colleagues and collaborators who contributed to her professional development. She recalls, "I joined AASWG as a student because Bob Salmon nagged us. And it's a good thing, too. I would have missed out on the opportunities membership in AASWG provided for ongoing learning and support."

Elisa makes mention that in 1995 she, along with Ronnie Glassman, Ella Harris, and Mary Pender Green, were the originators of the New York City Red Apple Chapter, later to be joined by Andrew Cicchetti as the Founding Members.

An expert on the group treatment of people with Substance Use Disorders (SUDs), Elisa has authored a chapter on treatment for chemically dependent people of Hispanic heritage. While an author and frequent presenter, it is group work practice based on mutual aid and humanistic values that Elisa has found most rewarding professionally.

A long and painful illness forced Elisa to withdraw professionally. She is well now and ready to resume active membership in AASWG. Of her return, Elisa says, "I am pleased and happy to refresh my identity as a group worker and to rejoin the AASWG."

We are glad you are well again and glad to welcome you back!

Submitted by Andrew Cicchetti
atcicchetti@worldnet.att.net

"It's been a good twenty-one years." John H. Ramey, Editor, *SWwG Newsletter*.



COMMISSION ON GROUP WORK IN SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

The Commission members invite you to browse the AASWG website for updated educational resources. We are delighted with the revisions and additions to the Teaching Resources Section of the site and thank all of the contributors to the Syllabus Exchange, teaching resources ideas, and to faculty members who are willing to serve on doctoral committees or as external reviewers. The newest resource, submitted by Robert Salmon of Hunter College School of Social Work, is a wonderfully rich *Bibliography on Group Work*.

The efforts of Cheryl Lee (Coordinator of the Syllabus Exchange) and Tim Kelly (Vice-President) have contributed enormously to the richness of the site. We invite AASWG members to con-

tinue to submit syllabi and teaching resources ideas to Cheryl Lee cleeb6@csulb.edu.

The Commission is seeking more faculty who would be willing to act as External Examiners or Dissertation Committee members for PhD students focusing on social work with groups. If you are interested in allowing your name to be posted, please send your updated Curriculum Vitae (CV) to Ellen Sue Mesbur at esmesbur@sympatico.ca. Along with the CV, please submit the following to be posted on the website: name, institution, areas of expertise, and contact information.

The Commission will continue to focus on the Syllabus Exchange as we believe that by sharing teaching resources

our Association will contribute to social work with groups through education and practice. We are supporting the newest endeavour, which is the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Social Work with Groups*, edited by Alex Gitterman and Robert Salmon. We are also continuing to support and initiate publications and collaborations with schools of social work, the Council on Social Work Education, and the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work.

We anticipate setting some new goals for 2008-2009 when the Board meets in New York this November.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Sue Mesbur, Chair
esmesbur@sympatico.ca
October 2007

SUPPORT AASWG WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO OPERATING, ANNUAL, AND ENDOWMENT FUNDS

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

In consideration of the many contributions of others to the work of AASWG I am pleased to contribute to

\$ _____ to the Operating Fund

\$ _____ to the Annual Fund

\$ _____ to the John and Carol Ramey Endowment Fund

\$ _____ Total

My contribution should be recognized as follows:

In Memoriam _____

In Honor of _____

In Recognition of an Event _____

Please send a letter acknowledging this contribution to the persons being memorialized or honored as follows:

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Unless otherwise instructed, contributions will be listed in the next issue of *Social Work with Groups Newsletter*.

Checks should be payable to AASWG, Inc. Contributions may be charged to VISA or MasterCard.

Print name of card holder _____

Card number _____

Expiration date of card _____

Amount to be charged US\$ _____

Signature of card holder _____

Payment in US currency should be sent to AASWG, Inc., 2303 Winfield Street, Rahway, New Jersey 07065



SHULMAN, PHILLIPS, BROWN HONORED AT JERSEY CITY

We are pleased to reproduce the statements read at the Jersey City Symposium in honoring three of AASWG's distinguished members.

LAWRENCE SHULMAN

Larry has been an outstanding social work practitioner, educator, and researcher for over forty years. He graduated from Columbia University School of Social Work in 1961, immediately demonstrating his leadership skills in the role of president of the student association. After five years of direct practice experience, Larry accepted his first academic position at Rutgers University (1969-1971). In the classroom, Larry discovered his vocation as well as avocation: he was born to teach, to stimulate minds, and to challenge established paradigms. While completing his doctorate at Temple University in 1971, Larry held positions at University of Pennsylvania, (1967-1969) and McGill University (1969-1974). At McGill, Larry directed a research project at the Center for Learning and Development. (He also learned to speak French.)

In 1967 Larry published his first professional article, "Scapegoats, group workers, and the pre-emptive intervention" in *Social Work*. He boldly conceptualized that the role of scapegoat and the process of scapegoating served a latent function for the group and needed to be viewed and dealt with as a group obstacle rather than as properties of "deviant" individuals. To have your first published article become a classic is an impressive accomplishment! What does one do for an encore? He simply followed with three other important publications: in 1968, "A game-model theory of inter-personal relations" in *Social Work*; and in 1969, "The anatomy of a helping act, in *Social Work Practice*, and "Social system theory in field instruction," in Gordon Hearn (Ed.), *Social Systems Theory in Social Work Education*.

In 1974 Larry was hired as a Professor and Research Project Director at the University of British Columbia. His eleven years in Vancouver were extremely productive. He refined his commitment to the conceptualization and study of professional helping skills, publishing in 1978, "A study of practice skills" in *Social Work*. In 1979 he pub-

lished the first edition of his best selling textbook (four more editions would follow), *The Skills of Helping Individuals and Groups*. In 1981 Larry published *Identifying, Measuring and Teaching the Helping Skills*, and in 1982 *The Skills of Supervision and Staff Management*.

From 1985 to 1997 Larry joined the faculty of Boston University, taught group work and served as Clinical Chair. During this period of time, he co-edited *Mutual Aid Groups, Vulnerable Populations, and the Life Cycle*, published two entries in the *Social Work Encyclopedia* on consultation and supervision, and an important article on teaching, "The hidden group in the classroom: The uses of group process in teaching group work practice." In his "spare time," Larry fund raised for the first Clinton/Gore campaign, co-chairing an event in Boston that raised over 2 million dollars. In recognition of his efforts, he was invited to Little Rock for election eve and to the White House for a reception for the New England Finance Committee. Larry also served as state finance chair for the Mark Roosevelt campaign for Governor of Massachusetts.

Subsequently, he caught the dean "bug" and served as the Dean of the School of Social Work at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York from 1997 to 2003. Recently, at Larry's retirement party the former president of University at Buffalo, State University of New York, deans from other departments, and the current dean described his profound accomplishments. During this period of time and from 2003 to the present he has secured significant grants in such areas as school violence and clinical supervision.

As Larry looks back at his career, he can be proud of his many accomplishments, particularly conducting extensive research on the core helping skills in social work practice, supervision, and child welfare. He has made major contribution to the profession's literature, to the countless number of professionals who have participated in his classes, seminars and workshops, and to the curricula in the

schools he served as a faculty member. He is a gifted communicator. All members of the Association for the Advancement for Social Work with Groups can be proud of all his accomplishments. As his close friend, I certainly am.

--Alex Gitterman

MICHAEL H. PHILLIPS

Mike points to 1959 as his year of great professional fortune – he was just out of college, a conscientious objector as a Quaker, and ready to start "alternative service". He was assigned to a juvenile justice facility on Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn. It was there that he discovered two of his great loves – Social Work and Brooklyn. This work led to his enrollment and graduation from Columbia School of Social Work and subsequent employment at the Jewish Board of Guardians, where he participated in their training programs. He joined Columbia's doctoral program, and to prepare, worked with groups in East Harlem. In 1976 he found his academic home at Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service, retiring as a Professor this year. At Fordham he was an important member of the research faculty and was intensely connected to practice and organizations as an instructor, colleague and administrator.

Among his many influential research projects and publications in program evaluation, group work practice and organizational development, *The Mutual Aid Model of Group Services: Experiences of New York Archdiocese Drug Abuse Prevention Program*, gave voice to the experience of group members and poignantly illustrated the power of mutual aid in groups. Other articles, chapters, and reports related to social work with groups have included work on teaching group work and groups in teaching, incorporating resiliency themes in groups, confidentiality and norms for outside contacts, and focus group research methods.

Mike counts his three years in William Schwartz' monthly workshop on *Continued on page 8, Honorees*



Honorees, continued from page 7

group work and teaching as transformative, and he went on to lead the seminar for three years after Bill's death. Mike is perceptive, knowledgeable, demanding and supportive in his work as a group worker, trainer, researcher and teacher. He has been closely associated with the social service community in the New York Metropolitan area, including long term relationships with Henry Street Settlement's Urban Family Center and Francis Schervier Home and Hospital. He has worked across fields of practice, contributing in gerontology, child welfare, medical social work, homelessness, and poverty. Mike has been committed to the social work profession, serving NASW in many offices, and was honored by the association in 1993. He is a founding member of the Fund for the Advancement of Social Work Practice and has worked closely with the Lois and Samuel Silberman Fund.

Mike has been extraordinarily dedicated to AASWG and served as Co-Chair of the 2002 Symposium and as Treasurer from 2003 to 2007, during which time he worked tirelessly to insure the fiscal health of the association.

On September 11, 2001, he first checked in with his students at Fordham and then reported as a volunteer to the bus station, where stranded and stunned people were gathering. Mike's later relief work centered on a group of cleaners and service workers displaced from the World Trade Center as they moved towards recovery over the next two years.

Mike often tells the story of a fortune cookie he received many years ago that has served as a talisman. The fortune read: It is better to crawl along on the right road than to speed along on the wrong. Mike is known for respecting the process and investing the time and wisdom it takes to get the job done. He is guided by a potent combination of morality, curiosity, and tenacity – moving ever forward and, collectively, making a tremendous contribution.

-- Carol S. Cohen

LEONARD N. BROWN

After receiving his master's degree in social work as a group work major at Case Western Reserve University, Len worked with groups at a settlement

house, psychiatric hospital, and mental health center before joining the faculty at the Rutgers School of Social Work in New Brunswick, New Jersey, in 1960. Soon after arriving at Rutgers, he started taking doctoral courses at the Columbia School of Social Work, and after several years received his doctorate from Columbia, being one of last graduates to be able to major in social group work.

While at Rutgers he taught the full sequence of four courses in social group work, as well as group dynamics, direct practice, and electives in the master's and doctoral programs. He became chairperson of the Social Group Work Sequence. He was one of the first faculty members at the University to use video tape in his teaching, eventually producing seven video tapes. The last tape, Problem-Solving in Group Work, has been purchased by schools of social work in this country, Canada, and Australia. In 1991 Len published a textbook in social group work called *Groups for Growth and Change*. During the years at Rutgers he continued working with groups in the community, including men and women in the inner city of New Brunswick who had alcohol problems, at-risk adolescents in a middle and high school as part of a delinquency prevention project of a family service agency, and wellness programs at a hospital and child protective agency to help staff manage work stress.

In the early 1970's he and Martin Birnbaum helped to organize the New Jersey chapter of AASWG. In the ensuing years Len presented papers and workshops at the group work conferences, many articles being published in the *Social Work with Groups Journal*.

In 1991 Len retired from Rutgers after 31 years and visited Australia, where he taught some group work classes and did research at the school of social work in Melbourne and also taught a class in Adelaide. When he came back to the States, he did part-time consultation in group work at a Jewish Family Service agency and organized the Institute for Group Work Education, where he and others offered workshops to social workers in the community so they could fulfill their requirements for licensing. During this time he became interested in collage art and writing his autobiography, which included photos of his life and art work,

BOARD MEETS IN NOVEMBER

The AASWG Board will meet November 17 and 18 at the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service at Lincoln Center in New York City.

The meeting will begin on Saturday by assembling together for breakfast in the McMann Room at 8:30 AM. From there the Board will disperse for committee meetings which will be held through the morning, meet back at the McMann Room for lunch, and continuing with committee meetings for the first part of the afternoon. The Board meeting will begin mid-afternoon. On Sunday, as in past years, the Board will gather for breakfast in the McMann Room and remain there for the continuation of the Board meeting until around noon.

The Committees have been working hard since the last Board meeting in Jersey City in June. The Executive Committee has met regularly by teleconference. The agenda and reports have been prepared and distributed.

In forwarding the agenda Nancy Sullivan says, "I am looking forward to sharing together the excellent work and ideas that have been generated since June and to advance our accomplishments even further."

The Board appreciates the hospitality of Fordham for these meetings which take place annually in that half of each year when there is no Symposium. The work of Mike Phillips in arranging for the meetings for the past few years is particularly appreciated.

Please share information with *SWwGN* about what is going on in your communities, agencies, or schools, etc., that is relevant to group work. Help keep us and your colleagues informed. Send your comments or articles to *SWwGN*.

as well as stories of his life. His passion for teaching has continued with seniors, offering short courses in collage art and memoir writing. He will also teach Group Dynamics at Rutgers in the fall of 2007, continuing his involvement in social work education.

--Martin Birnbaum



2009 SYMPOSIUM HEADS TO CHICAGO

In late breaking action Chicago has been selected as the location for Symposium XXXI in 2009.

In relaying this announcement President Nancy Sullivan sent the following message on Friday, October 12

“Dear AASWG Board Members,

“I have the distinct pleasure of sharing the news with you that Symposium 2009 will be hosted by the Illinois Chapter!

“Thanks to all of you who have worked through a very thoughtful process of decision making and have come to this outcome. I echo the comments of Sue Henry,...the Chair of our board’s Symposium Planning Committee,... (Ed. Note: See below.)

“We now have two wonderfully promising symposia in the works. Can’t wait...

“Best to everyone,

“Nancy”

A day earlier Ann Bergart had communication to Nancy Sullivan and Sue Henry, “It’s official!!! Symposium 2009 will be hosted by the Illinois Chapter!”...

“Best regards,

“Ann”

And Sue Henry replied to congratulate her on her success in arranging for Symposium 31.

“What very, very good news. Good for you to keep your eye on the prize and to persevere with the process. It will be really great to be in the part of the country where group work has so many roots and such a rich heritage...

“Please stay in touch about anything we can do to help; our resources are fully available to you.

“TERRIFIC!!! What a toddlin’ town!!

“Sue”

In a flurry of e-mails immediately following this correspondence there was a burst of enthusiasm supporting the choice and expressing how appropriate Chicago is for a group work Symposium.

Readers will realize that locating and securing a site is a long and detailed process. The memos give a peek at a bit of this, even though we did edit some of the comments on administrative procedures, etc. The Chapter will need the support of the

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Members of the Nominations Committee include Ellen Sue Mesbur (Chair), Martin Birnbaum, Maeda Galinsky, Alison Johnson, Joan Letendre, and Linda McArdle.

Background Information for New Election Cycle

The change to a late spring/early summer symposium required us to make changes to the nominations cycle. Historically, we have recruited for board positions following the fall Symposium, develop a slate in the winter/spring, presented the slate at the June board meeting in New York, then prepared the ballots over the summer for an early fall election. The Executive Committee considered this new state of events, so that the election will be held in the early spring with the announcement at the spring/summer Annual Membership Meeting.

In order to help us manage the new cycle of Symposia dates and maintain as much stability as possible, at the June 2007 meeting of the AASWG Board a motion was unanimously approved to maintain the Board membership as currently constituted and transition to a new elections structure. Therefore, no elections were held in the summer of 2007. A final draft of the necessary By Laws revisions will be sent to the membership for approval in June 2008.

Members-at-Large Positions

The following members have agreed to extend their terms for one year for the sake of smooth transition: Ann Bergart, Cheryl Lee, and Alex Gitterman (2007/now 2008); Joan Letendre and Mark Doel (2008/now 2009); and Carol Cohen, Paul Johnson, and Lynne Mitchell (2009/now 2010). Marcia Cohen has decided to end her term in June 2008. We thank everyone for their dedication and continuing commitment to AASWG.

President and Vice-President Positions

Nancy Sullivan has graciously offered to extend her term until June 2009 (originally 2008). This is indeed good news for AASWG, and we thank Nancy for her continued leadership. Tim Kelly has agreed to extend his term as Vice

entire membership. Only one Symposium has been held in Chicago and that was 1985. The Illinois Chapter is an enthusiastic group. We can all look forward to 2009.

President until June 2008. Tim has contributed enormously to AASWG for many years, and we thank him for all he has done.

Elections for June 2008

The Committee is actively seeking candidates to consider for Vice-President and four member-at-large positions on the Board.

We are looking for people who bring these leadership qualities:

- * Commitment to Board service;
- * Understanding of the diverse areas and different perspectives of social group work practice;
- * Ability to bring new ideas and a vision of social group work;
- * Acceptance of responsibility;
- * Demonstrated ability to follow through on responsibility taken;
- * Commitment to building social group work practice and education in their own communities;
- * Solid track record of responsibility taken at the Chapter, Community, and/or Professional Organizational levels.

Board members are expected to:

- * Attend the Symposium of the year in which they are nominated;
- * Assume responsibility for being a member of, or chairing, at least two committees of the Board;
- * Attend meetings of those committees at the June and fall meetings, and correspond with committee members {as required} during the year.

In addition to the leadership qualities, the Nominations Committee considers diversity qualifications such as ethnicity, gender, age, geographical representation, and a balance between practitioners and academics. We will be developing our slate for the summer 2008 elections over the next few months and are seeking nominations now. Check out the AASWG website at www.aaswg.org for further information. If you are interested, or, if you know of people who would be interested, please contact the Chair of the Nominations Committee: Ellen Sue Mesbur, esmesbur@sympatico.ca.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Sue Mesbur, Chair



"WHAT WE REALLY NEED..."

by Andrew Malekoff*

As each month of the year approaches I am reminded of special occasions like birthdays and anniversaries. My wife and I were born in May. Our wedding anniversary is in July. But, over the past few years too many months are closing in on me in a different sort of a way. As September approaches, 9/11 is the first thing that jumps to mind. And April, this month, brings Columbine to consciousness.

Although the April 20, 1999, high school massacre took place in Littleton, Colorado, it affected young people, parents, and school officials all across the United States. At the time, schools redoubled efforts to ensure security, emergency rooms and outpatient clinic emergency visits spiked, and a general sense of anxiety filled schools across the US.

This brings me back to the one-month anniversary of the Columbine shootings in one northeastern suburb when I met with a group of twelve teenagers and eight adults from several of our communities who were doing their best to cope in the aftermath of the tragedy.

I recall asking the group, "Although you're over a thousand miles away from Columbine, what impact has the shootings had on you?" A mix of amazement and shock were expressed.

A slight girl, Alison, the only eighth-grader in the group wondered, "What could have happened to these kids that made them feel so hopeless to push them to this point?" Sitting directly across from her an older girl with red-streaked hair and purple lipstick chimed in, "I always thought school was the safest place." After a flurry of comments about how insensitive kids can be, a younger teen who was sandwiched between two adults remarked, "Everyone was nice to each other in school for about a week after the shootings. But now (as if they forgot) they're still making fun of kids who get tortured everyday. Here we go again."

The discussion seamlessly shifted to the unpredictable nature of life today and how, as one young group member ironically put it, "Just going to school these days is an act of courage."

One mom, Maria, who is also a guid-

ance counselor recalled, "As a kid I grew up in a poor neighborhood in the inner city, which was not a safe place to be. The school doors were always locked and chained. You never used the bathroom and didn't know when you might get beat up, when you might be a target of rage. If you wanted to be protected you had to connect with a gang, a group. So now I live in the suburbs, which I thought would be safe for my kids. It's quiet and there are no fights, yet the terror is the same. The fears I thought I had escaped have returned, only in a new form. It (Columbine) could happen anywhere... It's very scary to the whole society."

Carlos, an immigrant from El Salvador, was reminded of a recent incident when he was stopped by a police officer who asked to check his arms. "He was looking for gang tattoos. He thought I was MS 13 (a notorious Salvadorian gang)," he explained while slowly pulling his shirt sleeve back across his forearm as if back in the moment. "I told the cop, 'First of all, I'm Salvadorian and proud of it. Second, I'm not a gang banger.' A week later," Carlos continued, "I saw the same cop at my job at Pierre's (restaurant). It was the same cop! Well, I work as a maitre de at Pierre's and I was wearing my tuxedo. He looked me over and seemed really confused, puzzled. I smiled and said to him 'See I'm the same person.'"

Jackie, a 15-year-old girl with a stud in her tongue then told the story about how when she got her tongue pierced, all of a sudden, "Everybody looked at me differently, like I was from another planet, a dirt bag. But I'm the same! I'm still a good student. I'm the same kid as before."

After awhile the students in the group talked about, as one 16-year old girl stated, "What we really need." To everyone's surprise they said that what they really needed and wanted was closer relationships with adults in home and at school. I remarked to the teens, "You seem to be starving for someone to simply listen to you." When asked, the teens openly admitted that they push grown ups away. I followed up by asking, "Is this what you really want to happen, to push

IN MEMORIAM KATHERINE VAIL April 20, 2007

Katherine Vail died in Denver on April 20 at the age of 82. She was a group worker on the faculty of the University of Denver from 1967 until her retirement in 1989. She also had served as Associate Dean and Acting Dean before returning to the classroom during her final years before retirement. She received her BA from Baker University and her MSW from the University of Denver. We thank her for her lifetime dedication and contribution.

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Recruit a new member today.

the adults in your lives away?" The overwhelming response was an emphatic "No!" The interchange that followed revealed a paradoxical side of young people that often confounds adults, the tension between seeking intimacy and suffering isolation.

As the meeting winded down to a close I asked the young people, "Can you tell the adults, before we say goodbye, what it is that they don't understand about you, about kids in general, that they should?"

Their responses included, "Be more open minded and less judgmental," "Everybody has a little something weird about them, whether a freckle or a pierced tongue or a tattoo," "There is no normal, normal is everyone. There are numbers and quotas and averages; but people are not numbers and averages. People need to learn that they're not just one thing," and "We need to celebrate rather than fear differences."

The adults' final words complemented those of the kids and included, "Maybe reaching out with our hearts as well as our brains will make a difference...it's good to be reminded of this... we tend to forget, I tend to forget...after all, all of our kids are everyone's kids."

* This essay, appearing originally in April 2007, is one of a series of monthly columns written by Andrew Malekoff for the Anton Newspapers, a chain of eighteen local Long Island, New York newspapers.



LIFE IS.....

This is one of a monthly column that I write that appears in a chain of eighteen Long Island, New York, newspapers known as the Anton Newspapers. Although it is not about group work practice per se, this column that appeared on August 2, 2007, is about a fascinating group of people that I think we have much to learn from – Andy Malekoff

WORKS IN PROGRESS

In 1964 movie producer Michael Apted conducted and filmed interviews with fourteen seven-year-old children from diverse backgrounds living all across the United Kingdom. *Seven Up* is the first in a series of films that have been produced in seven year intervals over the past four decades. I recently watched the latest installment - *49 Up*.

Imagine having your life portrayed on film for public consumption at regular intervals for as long as you live; facing questions about your work and family, your successes and failures, your joys and disappointments. Imagine having to dig deep to consider and then share with the world whether or not your hopes and dreams have been fulfilled.

In the beginning of the early episodes the film presents viewers with a maxim attributed to Jesuit missionary Saint Francis Xavier, "Give me the child until he is seven and I will give you the man." In an interview Apted says that he believes that there is a core personality at seven years old that doesn't disappear. Some of the children he interviewed were raised in privileged surroundings and boarding schools and others in poverty and group care. Yet their early socioeconomic status did not necessarily predict stability or happiness in later life.

Following *Seven Up*, each successive film includes interspersed clips from previous ones, enabling viewers to see the individuals mature from childhood to adolescence to young adulthood and beyond. Many, but not all, get married and become parents. Some separate, some divorce and some remarry. Many speak to the challenges of marriage. Their physical maturation is presented before our eyes in a sort of time-lapse photography style, accompanied by the music of childhood dreams, adolescent angst and

adult realities. Older age awaits them (and us) and is only a few multiples of seven ahead. Having lost contemporaries of my own by their age, I found it remarkable that this random sample of fourteen people were all still living at 49, although we are just now beginning to see signs and symptoms of ailing health among the group.

I was also surprised to learn that only one person dropped out (after 21 *Up*) and especially after hearing several reflect on how painful it is to be a part of the series. They talked about the difficulty of having their lives (and families) intruded upon, being placed under a public microscope and, to add insult to injury, being subjected to random (mis)interpretations and judgments by strangers based on edited celluloid snippets of their lives.

Some of them recognize the contribution and importance of their ongoing participation in the project. I think that their sacrifice is a gift to the rest of us. Their lives portrayed at seven year intervals over forty-two years and counting, offer us a message of hope. By laying their lives on the line they demonstrate, in graphic terms, just how resilient human beings are and how powerful family life is.

What about Saint Francis Xavier? Is his contention correct? : "Give me the child until he is seven and I will give you the man [or woman]." At first glance, when I look back at myself at seven, I find little to predict what has become of me today. I cannot quite remember myself at seven. There is no filmed documentary available of anyone asking me questions about my life and my future in 1958. The best I could do was to dig up old report cards. In one of them my first grade teacher Mrs. Finkel wrote, "Andrew tends to go to extremes lately. He is either the best boy in the class, or he creates mischief by loud laughter." In her next report she upgraded me and wrote, "Splendid worker."

If I look closely at myself at seven and fourteen and twenty-one I can find some clues that lead me to where I am today. But the clues don't appear to me in a straight line. The path is a crooked one with many twists and turns and detours. When I look at my own sons, now 18 and 22, it is good for me to remember this, to remember that like me and the *Seven Up*

RAMEY RETIRES AS EDITOR OF SWwGN

Dear Friends:

This is the last of *SWwG Newsletter* which I will edit. I have asked Nancy Sullivan to seek a new editor beginning with the January issue.

It has been a good run. This is the sixty-first issue in the twenty-second year in this position. I hope it has been useful and interesting. It has been challenging.

One of the important processes in any organization is the communication link among its members. This is particularly so with a world-wide organization like AASWG.

Thank you to all readers over the years. Thank you to the members whose dues in part supported it. Thank you to those who have contributed articles, reports, and other information.

Thank you to my family for their support. Carol has provided primary support through her proofreading and help in distribution. This was in addition to her other work with membership. Susan has done the desktop editing, that is assembling all the material into its readable form.

Thanks for the support of the Presidents, the Board, and the Chapters. These twenty-one years included the presidencies of Nancy Sullivan, Paul Abels, Toby Berman-Rossi, Alex Gitterman, Jim Garland, and Judy Lee.

We have been the beneficiaries of and appreciate the tremendous support of the University of Akron, its School of Social Work and various other administrative support services.

In early years I shared the editorship with our late colleague Ruby B. Pernel. Joseph Lassner did the desktop editing for several years. The first two issues, volume I, were edited by Urania Glassman. Their helping getting *SWwGN* up and running was most appreciated and valuable.

It's been a good and long run. We still have a lot of work yet to do together.

John H. Ramey
Editor, *SWwG Newsletter*

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kids they are and will continue to be forever works in progress.

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An International Professional Organization www.aaswg.org

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IN MEMORIAM

ALBERT S. ALISSI, July 6, 1930 – August 21, 2007

AASWG joins with the many friends and colleagues of Albert Salvatore Alissi in mourning his recent death. He was killed in a tragic accident when struck by a car while jogging early in the morning near his vacation home on Cape Cod.

His obituary in the *Hartford Courant* said that “Al was an extraordinary teacher, humanitarian, friend, and family man, tirelessly devoted to helping those in need and improving people's lives. He was a professor at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work for nearly 40 years, and was widely known for his dedication to group work, his popularity among students, and his work outside of the classroom putting ideas into practice throughout the community.”

Alissi was Chair of the Committee in 1971 which investigated whether the Symposium attendees and other group workers wanted to create a formal membership organization, and, if so, what form that should take. AASWG in its present membership form grew out of the report of that investigation and the meeting which reported it at a Symposium. Prior to that it had only existed as the “Committee for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups”.

Alissi was Chair of the Connecticut Chapter for many years and was Chair of two Symposia in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1982 and 1994, and Editor of the Proceedings volumes from those years. He served on the Board for several years. He was a fixture at the Symposia over the years.

Alissi, 77, lived in Simsbury, Connecticut. He grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts, where he was an active member of many social and recreational groups, including the Boys Club. He graduated from Springfield College in 1952, then moved to Cleveland, Ohio, to earn his Masters Degree in Social Work from Western Reserve University. After serving in the U.S. Army for two years, he returned to Cleveland where he directed the Group Work Service Treatment Program for Children's Aid Society. He then joined the Alta House Social Settlement as Research Director for the Outreach Street Corner Gang Project, and became Executive Director of Alta House and Collin-

wood Youth Association. At the same time he earned his Doctorate Degree in Social Work at Western Reserve University, and published his dissertation, *Boys in Little Italy*, a subject of great interest to Al because of his own working-class origins as a member of an extended Italian family. In 1967 Al joined the faculty of the University of Connecticut School of Social Work. In 1974 he received a Master of Studies in Law degree from the Yale Law School.

“Al's contributions to the academic world, his profession, and especially the local community are immeasurable. He was president of the Open Hearth homeless shelter in Hartford from 1984-1992, and remained a board member thereafter. He served on the board or held leadership positions at organizations including Families in Crisis, Hartford Neighborhood Centers, Community Partners in Action, and the Springfield Boys Club. Among his many honors and distinctions are the 2003 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and the 2003 International Social Group Work Award from the Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups. He was a member of several professional societies, served on many state advisory committees and task forces, and authored numerous publications including the book, *Perspectives on Social Group Work Practice* (Free Press, 1980).”

Al spoke fluent Italian and loved Italy, especially the Valtellina region of the north, and was president of the Caspano Club. His wonderfully unique hobbies included winemaking and collecting hats. Al particularly loved music, playing the accordion, the piano, and the stand-up bass, and liked studying music theory. Always the teacher, he generously shared his knowledge of everything with his family and friends. Nothing meant more to him than his family, and his welcoming smile, wisdom, and good heart will be sorely missed.”

(Quotations are from the *Hartford Courant*, 8/23/07.)

As word of Alissi's death spread

quickly among group workers throughout the world we received many messages of remembrance by mail and e-mail.

In her first message after learning of Alissi's death, Nancy Sullivan said, “Al Alissi is another of our icons now gone, an invaluable member of the social work with groups family. His publications, presentations, and terrific spirit helped countless of us to be aware of our history and our characterizing essence. His death is a blow.”

Ellen Sue Mesbur responded, “What sad, sad news. Al was an interesting and dynamic man who made many contributions to the profession and to the furthering of social work with groups. He was a great storyteller and had a terrific sense of humour. Many years ago I invited Al to Ryerson University in Toronto to do some workshops. He was a huge hit and added so much to our program.

“My heartfelt condolences to Al's family and colleagues.”

Joan Letendre, Chair of the Connecticut Chapter and a member of the faculty at the UConn School of Social Work, in forwarding the obituary from the *Hartford Courant*, said “Hello colleagues. Here is the most beautiful tribute to Al. Just looking at his photo made me remember his incredible, indefatigable spirit. believe me that lives on.”

Later, after the wake, she wrote the following, “Hi John, it is hard to believe. I went to the wake today and it took 1.5 hours to get to the family. there were lots of people who Al had touched over the years but part of what took so long was that the family had the same grace and interest in all of us that Al did and they just had a personal connection with everyone who went through, despite the enormous shock that they had been through. His younger brother looked so much like him that it was eerie.

“Photos of Al in all the phases of his life. What a guy! Many, many people will miss him greatly....and I only knew him for 3 years.”

And after the memorial service she wrote again, “John, was at a faculty meeting today and we were discussing our
Continued on page 14, Alissi



Alissi, continued from page 13

plan to have some sort of memorial service for Al.

"I never did send you any more information on him for the newsletter. I only have to add that his wake and funeral were so moving. He was so beloved by faculty, students and people in the field. The line at the wake took a really long time to get through because his family was so interested in hearing any story that we had to shareand as you can imagine there were many. There were wonderful photos of Al at all the different stages of his life. At the funeral the family had chosen the Beatitudes from the New Testament as a reading. The priest commented that Al personified these precepts. A colleague, Julius Newman, gave a eulogy and said that Al never forgot where he came from.....a poor Italian kid from Springfield MA. His spirit of the settlement houses came through in all of his work...a belief in everyone's inherent potential. A jazz quartet played during the service.....'When the Saints' as we exited. It was quite a farewell!

"So the school is actually setting up a scholarship fund in his name. I can get the details if you want to print that information. Joan"

Sue Henry recalled, "He was Program Director at the Alta House when I did my first year field placement there. He was a great proponent of social group work and a man of wide and deep knowledge about our profession."

"Although I don't know much about his family (except that they really were 'settlement workers,' living in staff housing next door to the Alta House in Little Italy in Cleveland.... I've known him since September 1962."

We wrote back, "I did hear about Al's death very quickly. I knew him for many years. It is a real tragedy. We were in Hartford for a couple of years in the early 50's and then knew him when he was at Alta House as we were in at Hyde Park Neighborhood in Chicago.

"Thanks for thinking of us and briefly sharing your remembrances."

On August 23 Andrew Cicchetti reflected on an irony of this sad occurrence, "Here I am sending out an announcement on the publication of a poetic memoir of the beginning of one's life....and then a notice, just minutes later, to this website,

GET YOUR VISA NOW

Get a head start in planning to attend the Cologne Symposium. If you don't already have a visa, start now. Particularly in the US this has become a time consuming process since visas have begun to be required for many destinations where they were not required until recent years.

It's also time to look around for discount air fares. Our e-mails regularly offer really sharp discounts to Europe from other major departure points.

Discount air fares combined with the all inclusive Symposium fee should make Cologne a very reasonable symposium destination in 2008.

SHULMAN ON CICCETTI'S BLOG

Be sure to visit Andrew Cicchetti's blog and read the interview with Larry Shulman. Go to www.mutualaidbasedgroupwork.com. It is part of the "Mutual Aid Based Group Work interview Series" which Cicchetti began on June 27, 2007, with "Five Questions for Larry Shulman". Upcoming interviews are in the works with Catherine P. Papell, George Getzel, Martin Birnbaum, Norma Lang, Maeda Galinsky, Bob Salmon, Carol Cohen, and others. Stay Tuned!

on the sudden, tragic and much too early loss of one of our own. Another sad and untimely death and great loss. Al was a good man."

Catherine P. "Katy" Papell shared this reflection with us. "How tragic a loss! and how unnecessary!... As a social group worker I find it difficult to bear all the losses. Al Alissi was a precious member of our professional family, precious in conveying our love and values to many, many social workers and other good human beings, and leaving us many written messages. I can only guess how his loved ones will miss him. Please know that the social work world, in the past, now, and in the ongoing future, have needed the heart and mind of Al Alissi, and will be poorer by his death. We will carry him in our hearts and minds."

Thus we remember our good friend and colleague, mourn his passage, and rejoice in his contribution to all the people with whom he had contact, to our profession, and to the world.

NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW FOR 2008

Now is the time to renew your membership for 2008. The membership year is January 1 through December 31. Unless you have already renewed or have joined for the first time since July 1, your membership renewal is due January 1.

For your convenience a membership form is included with this issue of *SWwGN*.

Or you may renew by internet through the secure AASWG Web Site, www.aaswg.org.

By renewing now members in the US, and perhaps others, may be able to deduct the payment when computing 2007 income taxes.

Don't forget to make a contribution to the Operating, Annual, or Endowment Funds at the same time.

AASWG is dependent on the support of its members for its program of advocacy and action for practice, education, research, publication, and program support for group work throughout the world.

SEND GROUP WORK MATERIALS TO ARCHIVES

We hope that Chapter and Symposium Chairs, other officers and committee chairs, writers and researchers will send materials which are no longer in active use to the Group Work Collection at the Social Welfare History Archives. As Jack Hansan notes elsewhere in this issue in relation to the Social Work History Website, there is precious little about group work history.

In response to our sending several cartons, we were pleased to receive the following response.

Hi, John

Thanks for the alert about incoming material. As always, we appreciate your efforts in assembling, preserving, and organizing these materials before sending them to us. We received a small carton from you last week containing several binders of materials from preparations for the 2001 AASWG symposium. I will acknowledge the remaining cartons when they arrive.

Dave

David Klaassen, Director



TREASURY NOTES

Hello, everyone. Welcome to autumn and all it signifies. To some of you, here's wishing you a wonderful school year. To others, here's wishing you the resumption of a productive life in social work after a restorative summer vacation. I spent my summer mostly in Vermont. It was beautiful in the northeast, and I'm sad to see it go even as I look forward to the splendid turn of leaves.

As you all know, those of us in the planning loop are hard at work trying to successfully decentralize all the tasks that our intrepid John and Carol Ramey did for so many years, and in the spirit of wishing to keep our connections strong as we do so, I've asked John to include regular updates from me about our finances. Our finances are not exactly hedge-fund material (phew!), but nonetheless, they are ours, and you should know what they're up to and how we're doing.

On a higher note, many of us are hard at work developing the AASWG web site as a central space for all kinds of things from expressing value for what we have to creating important connections to the future. At some date we expect our web site to take on a stronger central place in keeping us connected, and John and others are working steadily to transform the site into a space that is capable not only of news flow but makes possible the interactive exchange and discussion of news on a moment's notice.

From a financial point of view, this is great news! It means that we can look forward to both decreasing some existing costs related to how we have traditionally learned about who's doing what, how, and why. And I think it also means that we can increase our potential for revenue by developing and better flexing the full potential of our world-wide web muscle.

On a lower note, I am in the process of moving all of our various bank accounts into one branch. (Who knew that virtuality exists everywhere but in the bank-document area!?!). Over the past years accounts have been opened in different branches, and I learned over the summer that I could not ask one branch to effect necessary action with regard to an account opened at another branch! So September and October see me walking the streets of New York - one branch at a

time - in an effort to consolidate and streamline. I have also managed to get Citibank to include us in a promotion that was intended for new customers, which is a Money Market Fund at about 5% interest, a little higher than our previous CD but just as safe (I know, I know - does anyone have a mattress?)

Building on the broad shoulders of Bob Salmon and Mike Phillips, Susanne Palombo, Kathy Sweeney, and I continue to work at streamlining our intake and recording processes, and I hope we can have full transparency and clarity within a year. In September I worked with our auditors to finalize our 2006 tax report, and a few kinks notwithstanding, the books are in good enough order to move on.

I extend my gratitude to all the San Diego folks who tenaciously organized and closed out the books for 2006. Many trials and tribulations stood between the conference and closure, and they have done a great job at finding a bottom line!

I also extend my congratulations to all the Jersey City folks for bringing closure to our last Symposium so quickly! I will forever think of them as the David who "smote" Goliath (or the little train that could - choose your metaphor!). Not only did they put on a great party in so little time, they managed to provide us with a profit!

Finally, I am thrilled that the Minnesota Symposium was finally able to close its books -- and to do so in the black. As treasurer, what can I say but... keep it coming! :-)

Meanwhile, it's wonderful to be on the giving end to chapters. I'm sure Mike is jealous that during his tenure such support had to be withdrawn, even if temporarily. It is now my great pleasure to be able to write that kind of check!

Up next: We have a board meeting coming up in November, and I plan to ask for some serious attention to development. The helm of a daunting transition has been amazing at keeping us afloat so that Alex Gitterman was able to happily report not too long ago, "We are planning to have a future!" To me, this means that today we have a strong enough sense of stability today to begin to turn our eyes to tomorrow. As I see it, we have success-

Symposium 30, continued from page 1
stitutes. The evening is reserved for an interactive opening night with live music.

All Friday you'll be invited to attend various workshops and sessions related to our theme "Mensch". The dinearound night will take you to Cologne's most favorite places. Let the local brewery or a boat-restaurant on the river Rheine give you a taste of Germany.

On Saturday an extended plenary session gives you the opportunity to find out more about the systems approach of Social Group Work.

The afternoon hours will take you out to broaden your perspective at different cultural and historical sights in Cologne.

Saturday night our big party with dance and fun is waiting for you.

Last but not least a paper (af)fair will entice you to get new impulses from many presentations.

Please don't forget to register by May 15, 2008. Proposals for contributions should be submitted via the AASWG website.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact our Symposium Coordinator ingrun.masanek@freenet.de

We are very happy to have you with us and host you.

Suse Kunz

Chair, German Chapter

as.kunz@gmx.net

Three funds are available for your contributions to AASWG - the Annual Fund, the Operating Fund, and the John and Carol Ramey Endowment Fund. Give in honor, memory, or celebration of a person, group, or event. A line has been added to your Membership Renewal forms to provide for such gifts. But, you don't need to wait for the form. Send your gift now for listing in the next issue of *SWwGN*.

fully passed through most of a long and narrow tunnel, we now see light at the end, and it's the perfect time to take on the future.

I hope this update gives you a sense that someone is watching your store and invite anyone with questions to contact me at dmsvt@earthlink.net.

Sincerely,

Dominique M. Steinberg, Treasurer



SUE HENRY IS NEW SYMPOSIUM PLANNING CHAIR

Sue Henry has been appointed as new Chair of the Symposium Planning Committee. She lives in Pinecliffe, Colorado, and is Professor Emerita, Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver. She was Chair of the Denver Symposium in 1999.

Henry has a long a distinguished career in group work practice and education. Before retiring from the Graduate School of Social work at the University of Denver, she was on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work.

Prior to entering the academic world she worked with the Y.W.C.A. as Special Services Director in Denver from 1967 to 1970, as Branch Executive Director in Cleveland from 1964 to 1967, and Teenage Program Director in Lima, Ohio, from 1956 to 1962.

Henry received her A.B. from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, in 1956, her M. Sc.(Soc.Admin.) from Western Reserve University in 1964; and her D.S.W. from the University of Denver in 1972.

Henry has been a Member of AASWG since its beginning and attended formation meetings at other national conferences even before it existed. She has attended eleven Symposia and presented papers at four. She has been a discussant and session moderator at three others. She has attended three European Group-work Symposia. She has held offices in professional organizations in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Colorado and is a member of the International Federation of Social Workers. She has served as a Delegate to the House of Delegates of the Council on Social Work Education.

In accepting the position she stated that, "the Annual Symposia are a rich opportunity for social workers, especially social workers with groups, to interact around our common interests, to enhance ideas, and to create an international community. For AASWG it represents an important source of revenue that maintain our presence in the profession. Chairing the Symposia Planning Committee under its new charge of centralization of many

SUPPORT GROUP SECRETLY RECORDED

As this issue was going to press we heard a report on television about a couples' self-help group which had its meetings secretly recorded by one couple acting as investigators for an insurance company.

The wife in the leadership couple, who were both ministers, had been in an automobile accident. She was severely and permanently injured with physical, mental, and behavioral problems. The case had been settled but the insurance company wanted to know if the injuries were permanent and for real so they hired the investigators who attended the meetings as regular participants.

We don't recall if it was reported how the ruse was uncovered. Of course, the leak of highly personal information was reported to the group. Their reaction was one of devastation, betrayal, etc. The content of discussions had involved incest, infidelity, abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, etc.

The insurance company (which we will not name) claimed that it had done nothing wrong but did change its policies to prohibit similar occurrences in the future.

We do not know the outcome but are interested in whether any other group workers have encountered such practices, how one would act to prevent such invasions of the group, and how one would react professionally. Is this another item which we have to more consciously deal with in intake and group formation?

Did any reader also hear this report and have any other reaction to it?

Since we will not be editing the future issues, we will share these through the AASWG Listserv.

SYMPOSIUM 30, COLOGNE, GERMANY,
SUMMER 2008.
PLAN NOW TO ATTEND.

tasks will be challenging, but, because of the committed and experienced people who form the committee, the work will stabilize and strengthen the Symposia."

Welcome and support Sue Henry as the new Chair of the Symposia Planning Committee. She can be contacted at shenry@du.edu.

CICCHETTI IS NEW WEBMASTER

Welcome Andrew Cicchetti as the new Webmaster.

Andrew Cicchetti is a graduate of the Wurzweiler School of Social Work where he studied social group work for four semesters under the instruction of Martin Birnbaum. He first joined AASWG in 1993 and presented on group work with people with HIV-related dementia at the Symposium the following year. More recently Cicchetti has presented on "sessional endings" with Birnbaum. They have co-authored three papers on that and related subjects. Under the leadership of Urania Glassman, Cicchetti was a Founding Member of the New York City Red Apple Chapter where he served as Secretary. Some of you may recall him from the Symposium in Brooklyn as he was the Hospitality Chair. More recently he Co-chaired the Chapter with Shantih Clemans. He relinquished this position a year to focus on academic pursuits. As a member of the Practice Committee he co-authored the Standards for Social Work Practice with Groups, writing the section on "Beginnings". Cicchetti is currently in private practice and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Social Welfare at the Graduate Center/CUNY. He is also a member of NASW and NAADAC.

Cicchetti looks forward to working as the Webmaster. He envisions that "there will be rewarding opportunities for collaboration with the membership as we seek to maximize the potential of web-technology for our organization". At the same time he imagines that there will be some trial and error involved and so he asks, "Please be patient." Finally, he wishes to express gratitude to all who have been supportive as he adjusts to the webmastering tasks at hand, especially to John Ramey for advice on how to get things done.

Some readers will note that Cicchetti has recently developed his own Group Work Blog and that he is working on various other web information services related to group work. Some of these are reported elsewhere in this issue. Wish him well and give him your support in this new endeavor.

Contact Cicchetti at atcicchetti@worldnet.att.net.



McARDLE APPOINTED CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

Linda J. McArdle has been appointed Chair of the Chapter Development Committee. Since 2004 McArdle has been a member of the faculty of the University of Akron School of Social Work, where she teaches the group work course. Prior to that she was at Cleveland State University. She received her MSW from Cleveland State University and her BASW from Kent State University.

McArdle has been an active member of the Northeast Ohio Chapter for the past several years. As a member of the Executive Committee she is the Membership Chair and has chaired the committee on Student Membership Awards for the past several years. She has worked with John Ramey and Mamadou Seck on presenting workshops on the Uses of the Standards for Practice of Social Work with Groups, including one at the Jersey City Symposium.

After receiving McArdle's acceptance of the position, Nancy Sullivan commented, "I cannot tell you how thrilled I am that you will take on the role of Chairperson of the Chapter Development Committee. You are following in a line of committed and sometimes renegade people, as we have transformed into a chapter organization, decentralizing much of our essence out from the original core management group.

"In this role, you have the interesting perspective of relating to the chapters, advocating for them, empathizing with them, assisting them. You also have the useful advantage of being part of the Executive Committee, bringing the voice of Chapters directly into the inner circle, for their benefit and that of the organization as a whole.

"No doubt you are steeped in chapter knowledge from your Northeast Ohio experience. I encourage you to begin to learn how other chapters work, as well, in order to see the rich diversity among us.

"Before long we'll have a telemeeting of the Executive Committee. Perhaps you and Alison will partici-

pate in that one to assure a smooth transition? You two can let me know at the time whether this would be a good idea or not. In the meantime, I will leave you in Alison's care and tutelege for orientation to the position. She is a most capable, astute, and honourable woman. Greg also will be a valuable resource for chapter issues, most particularly related to membership. He's extremely bright and energetic, as well as personable. I truly like working with these folks and the full board. AASWG is a wonderful human group. Welcome, and thank you for joining us.

"Be in touch as you wish or need (and tell me a bit about yourself?!). I will try to be responsive and helpful."

In accepting the position McArdle replied, "I would like to thank you (and all of the Board members) for the heartfelt welcome. I am excited at the prospect of working with such a dedicated group of individuals. Greg has graciously spent much time instructing me as to the role of the Chairperson of the Chapter Development Committee and responsibilities related to the Executive Committee. I plan to contact Alison today so she can further explain roles and duties of Chapter Development. I look forward to connecting with the chapter chairs to gain a perspective on some of the creativity that they bring to their individual chapters.

"My background is a rather unique mix of practice and academia. I have practiced as a medical social worker in Ohio for over twenty years. My areas of concentration were related to rehabilitation, head injury, and acute cardiac care. I managed a social work department for a number of years where I developed an interest in becoming a field instructor for the local universities. This interest led me to an adjunct position teaching a field seminar class at Cleveland State University. I had been teaching that class for a number of years before I accepted a full-time position as an instructor for the University of Akron. I am happy to say that the University of Akron has embraced group work and our undergraduate curriculum requires a group work practice course. I currently teach the group work course as well as other practice courses. In addition to my teaching responsibili-

ties I assist with the field practicum program at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

"I look forward to the telemeetings and the opportunity to meet those Board members who I have not had the opportunity to meet at the symposium. Thank you for your support and words of encouragement."

Welcome Linda McArdle and give her your support in this very important position. She can be contacted at linda15@uakron.edu.

Chapters, Affiliates, and Organizing Units

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

On June 2 the Chapter elected Ted Kennedy as Membership Chair and has encouraged members to assist Ted. We have gained a few new members. We recognize that it is indeed a tireless effort to increase membership; we are reminded that the task of recruiting members is a very personal one. Our Chapter needs new members to energize, revitalize and sustain its growth. We have started to connect with Northern California AASWG members by email.

The Chapter will be appointing a Continuing Education Committee Chair in the near future. This will allow us to begin our brainstorming sessions for continuing education events to include workshops, programs, and outreach.

On behalf of the Chapter, Board member Mary Ann Pollock wrote a letter to California State University San Marcos in an effort to assist with restoring the MSW program that was offered through extended studies with California State University Long Beach. The Dean at CSUSM proposed that if AASWG could help to identify students for the program, this would re-open discussions with CSULB. The Chapter will investigate further.

On August 18 the Chapter's 14th Anniversary Luncheon Meeting was held *Continued on page 18, Chapters*



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at Café Mozart in San Juan Capistrano. Jeanne Gill and Joan Parry, founding members, were honored. The 2006 Symposium Planning Committee was also recognized. A Moment of Silence was observed in memory of Marjorie Witt Johnson, local modern-dance pioneer, social worker, educator, arts-education advocate and oral historian.

Chapter Chair, Judith Schieberl, gave a report of the 2007 Symposium. Special mention was made of the Town Hall meeting. Ideas generated from both internal and external questions were shared and encouraged for incorporating into the Chapter's approach to market AASWG.

Special Guest Speaker was Flavio F. Marsiglia, Foundation Professor of Cultural Diversity and Health, School of Social Work, SIRC Director, Arizona State University. His topic was "Past, Present, and Future of the Southern California Chapter of AASWG". His presentation was a chronology of events from the Chapter's beginning in 1993 to 2007. He explained the Chapter's stages from the foundation phase to the continuing education, consultation, and outreach development phases. He also provided a visual map of the Chapter in the context of AASWG. There are only two chapters west of the Mississippi, Southern California and Texas. Marsiglia reminded the Chapter that AASWG is not yet represented in this part of the country. The Chapter has a leadership role to play. A resource idea that is a challenge and opportunity would be to "rescue" members in our geographic region who are members of AASWG but do not have a Chapter. He identified other opportunities: the US-Mexico border region (Tijuana), the American Indian connection, universities' research and teaching connection, and social services agencies connection. There is also the possibility of regional focus, Southern California and the Southwest region. He stated that "the potential for growth of this Chapter is enormous, and the challenges with opportunities to serve basically half of the country". He urged us "start small but start thinking globally". He encouraged the Chapter to use technology, email, telecom, u-2, whatever, to connect. He concluded with a challenge to the members – "What can you do about tomorrow, what can we do

to continue this Chapter, to help this Chapter to survive, to serve in a role, to respond to a need. I think you have the assets to do that, I think you need to decide, especially the Board, what can we do, it might be a small step in that direction for you to decide, but these ideas are for brainstorming". It was a very encouraging, stimulating and invaluable presentation. A question and answer session followed but members only commented on the presentation and did not pose any questions. We were certainly enlightened, educated, and informed.

Paul Abels offered the concluding remarks with a call to action. He proposed that our Chapter seriously consider offering the members' group expertise and experience to those who are providing support and services to our veterans who are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. He also stated that the Veterans Administration and others simply do not have adequate staffing to serve the needs of our numerous returning veterans. Such a supplementary program would be a win-win-win scenario. The veterans would win because there would be increased resources available to serve their needs. The Veterans Administration would win because their support of and services to the veterans would be enhanced by group social workers with the credentials, experience, and expertise necessary to provide meaningful professional services to our veterans. And our Chapter would win because such a project would bring needed recognition to our Association as well as go to one of our objectives – namely to serve the community at large.

Paul and Sonia Abels provided copies of "Reflections Narratives of Professional Helping, Collected Reflections Articles on Work with Groups" for all in attendance.

The Chapter will be working on plans for the year ahead, probably a challenging one but hopefully exciting. Our next meeting will be November 3.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Schieberl, Chair
jeschieberl@verizon.net

FLORIDA

The chapter continues to plan for its 2007 fall/winter conference. It has been somewhat difficult for the board to meet

during the summer months but we will be back "in swing" during the next two weeks. The schools of social work are back in session and many of the students are looking forward to learning more about social work with groups.

Please check the Florida Chapter website for updates.

We are continuing with our efforts to contact former members and encouraging them to renew. Regarding membership, once again I wish to quote Toby Berman-Rossi:

Each of us must own the effort to sustain and generate new membership. We must think of AASWG as "our group" and very personally take on its survival. While the Board can work on membership benefits and strategies, the task of recruiting members is a very personal one. Members join because of affectional ties and/or because they are committed to the Association's mission. These affectional ties come face-to-face, one on one, call by call. For you, our members and greatest recruiters are needed. Your efforts must continue against great odds.

Group workers are enlightened, educated and informed, so why not make a difference and become a part of our active organization?

We wish to thank the International Board for their support, the Florida Chapter Board for their tireless efforts and contributions to keeping our chapter afloat and finally, Barry University School of Social Work for their ongoing support of our Chapter.

For further information about the Florida Chapter please contact Laura Farley at lfarley@aol.com or log on to the website www.AASWGFlorida.org.

GHANA

Earlier this year Ghana submitted the documentation requested for full recognition as an Affiliate. In response Nancy Sullivan has written to Simons Boamah, "I would like to confirm with you that the AASWG Board has approved Ghana as an Affiliate with AASWG." We should all join in welcoming Ghana to full Affiliate status in our organization.

President Simons Boamah is hoping to make a trip to the USA to visit Chapters and share information about their
Continued on page 19, Chapters



Chapters, continued from page 18
activities and operations.

We are looking forward to Ghana's participation in the Cologne Symposium.

For information about the Ghana Affiliate contact Simons Boamah, simonsgh@yahoo.co.uk.

ILLINOIS

The Illinois chapter has had the good fortune to grow from a small group of thirteen to fifty members. This is quite exciting. Any issues that used to come up were settled at a big breakfast table at a local restaurant. But now we are wondering what decision making processes should be in place for deciding bigger issues such as local programs, possibly hosting the symposia, nominating people for national positions, etc. I am wondering what systems you have put into place with your chapters. I find that there is always the tension between wanting to be inclusive, which is very important in AASWG, and also being efficient and effect. Any ideas on the organizational structures that you have used and learned from, both those that offer success and feedback, would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Carlean Gilbert, Chair
cgilbe2@luc.edu

Ed. Note: Since this report was submitted on September 28, the Illinois Chapter has submitted a bid and been accepted as the host Chapter for the 2009 Symposium. This is an activity which will keep them busy for the next two years or more. See the article elsewhere in this issue. JHR

INDIA

We had two meetings to discuss the Programme held September 6 to 9 at the Ladnun School of Social Work in Rajasthan. At the first meeting it was decided to hold the conference in Rajasthan. At the second meeting we decided to have the programme on "Panchayatiraj and Social Group Work". It was agreed to have the papers prepared by those from Nagpur chapter who would be attending the conference. Dr. (Mrs) Banmala, Mrs. Rashmi Urade, Dr. (Ms.) K. Bapitiwala and Shri Manohar Golpelwar prepared papers on various topics. Dr. (Mrs.) P. Mishra from Rajasthan School of Social Work was the

Convener of the conference. Those who attended the meeting include Principal Chandansing Rotele, Athawale College of Social Work, Bhandara, Mrs. R. Urade, Ms. K. Bapitiwala, Miss Bindu Babbar, Mrs. Megha Peskhar, and Mr. Manohar Golpelwar, President of India Affiliate.

Dr. Banmala Golpelwar, who was a Professor of Tirpude College of Social Work, has been appointed to the position of Secretary of Kasturba Gandhi Rashtriya Samarak Trust at Indore. KRS is a multi-purpose agency with headquarters in Indore in M.P. It has several branches in the country. Her job will be to coordinate work of all branches. She expects to bring new dynamics and activities to the organization.

Manohar Golpelwar, President
Youthwelfare@sify.com

LONG ISLAND

Greetings from the Long Island Chapter. Our Steering Committee met in mid-August to begin planning programs for the coming academic year. We had a report on the successful Jersey City Symposium including the attendance of Chapter members Steve Kraft and Katy Papell and the wonderful plenary session presented by Andrew Malekoff.

We welcomed back long-time Chapter member Lois Carey from Molloy College, who is returning after a long illness. We also welcomed new Steering Committee member Ron Shor, visiting Professor at Molloy, who comes from Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

This year we hope to once again offer meaningful, collaborative educational programs that are accessible to field instructors and students as well as group workers in the Nassau/Suffolk community. With active Committee representation by faculty from Adelphi, C. W. Post/LIU, Molloy/Fordham, SUNY/Stonybrook as well as new interest expressed by Nassau and Suffolk Community College, our Chapter is greatly supported and most fortunate.

Our Steering Committee will meet again on September 19. We welcome your participation or suggestions for future meetings.

Beverly Feigelman, Chair
feigelma@aol.com

NORTHEAST OHIO

The Chapter has had a busy summer and is now launched into the new academic year of activities.

The highlight of the summer was the Third Annual Grace Coyle Lecture held at Case Western Reserve Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences in Cleveland on Friday, July 30. Jürgen Kalcher, Professor Emeritus at Hamburg University Applied Sciences in Germany, was the guest lecturer. His subject was "Social Group Work in Germany: An American Import". He emphasized the profound importance of American group workers in Germany after World War II in helping Germany learn democratic procedures and in teaching the new generation of German group workers who carry on and develop the tradition today. He invited attendees to travel to Germany in 2008 to attend the 30th Symposium which will be held in Cologne. It was a pleasure and privilege to have Professor Kalcher as our guest. The lecture is co-sponsored by MSASS and the Chapter with endowment funds provided by Anna Fritz and the late Robert Lauretig.

Elections were held for 2007-08 Officers and Executive Committee. Chair, Mamadou Seck; Treasurer, Marsha Blanks; At Large: Linda McArdle, (Membership Chair), Anna Fritz (Education Committee Chair); Tracey Hagan, Lynne Rose, Julius Toth, Lonnie Helton, Joseph Coleman, Leslie Campbell, Paul Theodore; Hillary Brotzman (Student Representative); Claudia Carson (Nominating Committee Chair); Thelma Silver (Education Committee Co-Chair). The Nominating Committee consisted of Claudia Carson, Chair, and Lynne Rose.

The Chapter mourned the passing of Marjorie Witt Johnson at the age of 97. She was a faithful founding member. Readers of *SWwGN* will remember that she was honored by AASWG at the first San Diego Symposium.

Mamadou Seck has been appointed to the faculty of the Cleveland State University School of Social Work.

AASWG member Timothy McCaragher has been appointed Acting Director of the School of Social Work at the University of Akron. He succeeds Virginia L. Fitch, who retired and was married.
Continued on page 20, Chapters



Chapters, continued from page 19
ried this summer. He has presented at several Symposia.

Linda McArdle and Mamadou Seck presented a workshop on the Group Work Practice Standards On October 12 for the staff of the Berea Children's Home in Cleveland.

The Annual Meeting was held on Monday, May 14, at the Holiday Inn in Independence. It was a celebration of our accomplishments of the past year and a look forward.

One of our founding members, Betty Lewis, has moved to Eastham, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod this summer. She was a founder of the Chapter, a past Chair, Secretary, and Executive Committee member. We wish her well.

Many thanks to Jay Toth for his faithful and careful tending to the affairs of the Chapter as Chair and Co-chair during the past several years.

Mamadou Seck recently presented a workshop on the Use of the Standards. The workshop was held in Youngstown.

We are pleased that Linda McArdle has been appointed as the new Chair of AASWG's Chapter Development Committee. She also presented the Standards Workshop at the Jersey City Symposium.

With Anna Fritz and Thelma Silver as Co-chairs, the Education Committee continues its monthly meetings to work on educational policy and teaching practice throughout the chapter area.

Student members were invited to attend the meeting of the Executive Committee on Friday, September 7, at the Mustard Seed Restaurant in Fairlawn, just northwest of Akron. The Membership Committee is seeking and screening applications for the 2007-08 group work student membership awards. Information has been sent to group work faculty and students at all undergraduate and graduate schools in the chapter area.

The Executive Committee meets at noon on the second Monday of each month at Applewood Center on East 22nd Street in Cleveland.

For information about the Chapter contact Mamadou Seck, sekman2@hotmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,
John H. Ramey
jramey@neo.rr.com

ENTRIES WANTED FOR SOCIAL WELFARE HISTORY WEB SITE, ACCESS OPEN NOW

Jack Hansan has sent out this invitation to group workers to send in their historical information for the Web Site.

Dear Colleagues: I am writing to invite the group workers and community organizers who have expressed interest in the Social Welfare History Web site to submit entries and visual materials describing their group work/community organization agencies, experiences, role models and other subjects appropriate for a Web site dedicated to the history of American social welfare.

CONTACTS FOR ALL CHAPTERS, AFFILIATES, AND ORGANIZING UNITS

Southern California – Judith Schieberl, jeschieerl@verizon.net

Connecticut – Joan Letendre, joan.letendre.uconn.edu

Florida – Laura Farley, lfarley@aol.com

Germany - Suse Kunz, as.kunz@gmx.net

Ghana – Simons Boamah, simonsgh@yahoo.co.uk

Illinois – Carlean Gilbert, cgilbert@luc.com

India - Manohar Golpelwar, youthwel@sify.com

Kentucky - Ursula Melhuish, n.melhuish@insightbb.com, or Alison Johnson, alisonkevin@bellsouth.net.

Long Island – Beverly Feigelman, feigelma@aol.com

Massachusetts – Donna McLaughlin, dmmclaug@bu.edu

Michigan - Robert Sisler, robertsisler@cssw.wayne.org

Minnesota – Shelly Rottenberg, rferottenberg@stkatee.edu

New York Red Apple - Shantih Clemans, shantih@aol.com

New Jersey – Susanne Palombo, membership@aaswg.org

Northeast Ohio – Mamaodou Seck, sekman2@hotmail.com

Northeast Pennsylvania - Hope Horowitz, horowitz@kutztown.edu

North Texas – Mora Diaconu, srfk@comcast.net

Toronto – Barbara Muskat, barbara.

If you visit the site you will learn there is a paucity of information about social group work and its contribution to social welfare. Yes, the site includes some information about Hull House and Henry Street Settlements, and Christodora Settlement and Community Service Society. But there is nothing about the other great settlements or their leaders and the contributions they made.

There are no entries about Jewish Welfare Organizations, Catholic Charities, Lutheran Social Services, the various YMs and YWs, camping, the War on Poverty, and a myriad of other subjects on which group workers and CO workers made a contribution.

Entries for the Social Welfare History Web site do not require footnotes and lots of citations; however, if there are links to other related Web sites, include them. I will be pleased to work with you if you have questions....

John E. Hansan, Fairfax, Virginia

More recently Hansan has written us that the web site no longer requires a user name and password.

We recently decided there was sufficient content on the Social Welfare History Project Web site to make it available without a password. The URL for accessing the site is <http://www.socialwelfarehistory.org>. I sincerely hope you will take a few minutes and visit the site.

The group work portion of the site remains undeveloped, except for some entries I have been able to produce. I keep hoping some group work and community organization professionals will step up to the plate and make some contributions, but so far it has been sparse....

If you have any ideas or suggestions for (any) organizations that might be a sponsor (for the web site), please share them with me. Thank you, Jack, jackh@capwiz.com.

Many thanks to Hansan for pursuing this valuable new resource which will give some life and background to our ongoing interest in and development of group work.



IN MEMORIAM MARJORIE WITT JOHNSON 1910 - 2007

Marjorie Witt Johnson, 97, died Thursday, July 19, in Cleveland, Ohio. She was a member of the Northeast Ohio Chapter. She had served on the Executive Committee.

Johnson was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming, the daughter of a "Buffalo Soldier". Her father had fought in the Spanish-American War. She graduated from Oberlin College in 1935 with a degree in sociology, where she also was introduced to modern dance. After college she directed a dance camp for inner-city girls at the Playhouse Settlement. This group later became the Karamu Dancers at the Karamu House. In 1940 she took the Karamu Dancers to the World's Fair in New York City where they performed "Sermon". The piece was choreographed by Johnson and drew on spirituals and black poetry to highlight African-American culture. The performance was praised highly, and Karamu gained a reputation as a training ground for talented dancers. Dianne McIntyre, a nationally known choreographer who lives in Cleveland, described Johnson as a dance leader. "For her, it was the importance of how the dance was elevating the consciousness, the spirit, and motivating the youth to know that they could excel in whatever they wanted in life," McIntyre said. "She inspired the youth to open up to their own beauty."

In addition to teaching modern dance, Johnson was a social worker, educator, arts-education advocate, and oral historian.

While working with the Karamu Dancers through 1945, Johnson earned a Master of Social Science Administration at Western Reserve University. She left Cleveland to work at Hull House in Chicago, the public schools in Charlotte, North Carolina, and the Atlanta University School of Social Work. We first met her when she was supervising field placements for group work students in Chicago and other cities. None of the AU group work field placement could be in Atlanta because at the time there were no racially integrated ser-

vices.

Her love of teaching dance eventually brought her back to Cleveland. She worked with middle and elementary schools in the Cleveland School District, developing dance and creative-arts programs. She also was a consultant.

In 2005, the Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre presented "Daughter of a Buffalo Soldier", a dance drama celebrating the life and legacy of Johnson. It played at the Jelliffe Theatre of Karamu House. This was reported in an earlier issue of *SWwGN*.

Johnson was the International Honoree at the first San Diego Symposium on Social Work with Groups. Several of her family accompanied her when she received the award.

As Johnson was also well known as a local leader in modern dance, she was recognized in 1999 with the Governor's Award for Arts in Ohio and the Cleveland Arts Prize for distinguished service to the arts. In 1997 she received the Sankofa Award from the National Black Storytellers and the Oberlin Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award.

Toward the end of her life she told us that the Northeast Ohio Chapter was "her group" and, when she could no longer read, she had her caregivers read her each issue of *SWwG Newsletter* and make certain that her dues were paid. We enjoyed her occasional telephone calls. Molly Brudnick and others in the Chapter visited her regularly in her retirement and assisted in the celebration of her life at the production of "Daughter of a Buffalo Soldier" at Karamu House two years ago.

During her long lifetime Marjorie Johnson made a tremendous contribution to the lives of many children and adults, to group work, to dance, and to our society. We thank her and will sorely miss her.

John H. Ramey

Some information obtained from article written by Wally Guenther for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

SIXTY-FOUR YEARS A GROUP WORKER

As I close out editing *SWwGN* I would like to share with readers a bit of the story and a few comments about how I became a group worker and have been at it all these years.

I remember it well, exactly where I was sitting when the telephone call came to our home sixty-four years ago this past August on a Sunday evening. C. H. "Casey" Klippel offered me a position as a counselor at Camp Willson. (I still have the now-antique telephone!) He needed someone for the following morning to replace a counselor who was leaving. I had eight years' experience as a camper. I had to arrange for my other jobs to be covered, so I accepted a position for the following Thursday to replace another staff member who was leaving then. Pay was one dollar per day. It would be better than my mixture of lawn moving, gardening, door-to-door magazine sales, and stock boy at the local A & P, although I had just had a raise to fifteen cents per hour for my three days per week there.

Thus began my career as a group worker. The camp had students, counselors, supervisors, etc., who were on field placement from local schools of social work, mainly Ohio State University. And Casey was Editor for the *Boys' Work Journal* for the YMCA. The Columbus, Ohio, YMCA operated Camp Willson.

The cabin group to which I was assigned included fifteen boys of ages fifteen through seventeen. Boys went to camp as campers at much later ages than at present. Ten percent of the campers were referred by the juvenile court. The camp had been funded by the same person who funded the court's psychological counseling services. He had linked the two grants. Other boys were parked there for various periods of the summer while their parents went on extended vacations. Others, like myself in previous years, just camped there for one or two two-week periods. Three boys in my cabin were bed wetters, two were from the court. I learned a lot and only got stabbed slightly once in those three weeks. That winter I spent a lot of time trying to learn what I didn't know about being a counselor.

Over a decade earlier I remember
Continued on page 22, 64 Years



64 Years, continued from page 21

walking around the block (instead of going through the alley as we boys usually did) one morning at the beginning of the summer school vacation with my mother to cross the corner to the elementary school playgroup to attend the first day of a day camp on the school playground. The Director of that camp was Bob VerBeck. A decade before that he had been a child actor in the "Our Gang" movie series. I don't remember what character part or what time era. In any case most readers probably will have seen the Our Gang comedies as reruns on late night television or for children's programs. They were translated into many languages for world wide showing, too. I got to know VerBeck as part of the Columbus group work scene later before I moved to Chicago. In retirement he presented slide and film clip lectures about his "Our Gang" experience. To me it's really ironic that one early group worker had been part of the "Our Gang" comedy movies!

After four summers at the YMCA camp I moved to the Big Brother Camp in southeastern Ohio as Senior Unit Director with another group worker as Director. I was Assistant Director the following two years. None of the boys had fathers at home. I could identify with that!

I worked part-time during the quarter at Central Community House at the time of transition from segregated to integrated program scheduling and groups. Another group worker was the Director. I learned a lot about developing and working with integrated groups and communities. It was then that I decided to go to graduate school and get a masters degree in social work with a group work major. From there I was assigned to field placement at Chicago Commons, a well known settlement house which was dealing with the challenges of racial integration in the central city. We were just off the north-west corner of the Loop, close enough to walk downtown in good weather. It was the neighborhood in which Nelson Algren did his research when writing *Man with the Golden Arm* and *Chicago Poems*. Readers will remember (Or maybe not. It was not the greatest movie!) that Frank Sinatra starred as Frankie Machine in the film version of "Man with the

KATY PAPELL WRITES

Dear Nancy and AASWG Board:

As the days grow closer to the Symposium, I become more and more certain that I cannot come. I keep debating with myself and wondering if I might be able to make it to the Board Meeting. It is difficult to get across two rivers with my frail bones!! I will see if I can work out a way to get there but I am not sure.

If I do not make it please tell everyone that my heart is with you and your gallant efforts to carry on and forward our remarkable production of professional social work skill with human groups. For me the human grouping process when successfully achieved is the essence of humanity. We humans need each other; we can not live alone, and yet we humans mess it up so often!! The skills of our sector of our social work profession are so necessary to humankind and I do not want to withdraw from the struggle with AASWG. And yet I suppose I must at this point in my life recognize that you are the ones who must carry on and I must step aside.

Professional social group work knowledge, values and skill represents a century of tremendous creative, intellectual, and deeply caring effort and experience. We started with values for working

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE
FOR GROUP WORK AND AASWG TODAY?

Golden Arm" and that it was filmed on location with local residents as the supporting cast.

Carol and I were married the first summer we were in Chicago and we moved directly into the Commons on return from our honeymoon.

From there it was on to settlements in Hartford, Chicago (again), and Cincinnati, and to teaching in Akron. There's much more to the stories of those assignments and to our later involvement with AASWG. But those are other stories. And I am certain that there are others who have been group workers at least as long.

But this is a short version about the somewhat circuitous lifetime route of becoming a group worker. It's been a good run. Thanks to everyone.

Akron, Ohio

with people in groups, and we found knowledge in the intellectual world as it became available and we created new knowledge from our growing experience. Then we identified and organized and coded the skills to help our clients achieve successful grouping in order to realize their goals, desires, and reasons for being together. And we and our groups found that always something new and unexpected and very human happened. The most recent stage of our growth is attempting to prove that what we know is precious can be validated in the scientific world. It has been a tremendous hundred years.

We group workers have always tried to be useful in what the world needed from us at every period in history - depression, war, community growth, youthful upheaval, disease, mental distress, aging and on and on. In today's world our democratic ideology (not Bush's) is more relevant than ever. We have a new role to play in social work's inherent effort to affect policy issues and issues of diversity and intolerance and hate. Never has it been more important to act groupwise in relation to injustice, including economic injustice and poverty. Never has it been more important to be aware of problem-solving, decision-making, and Peaceful protest. We social group workers have important understanding, values and skill.

I send good wishes to this remarkable organization as it continues its humane purposes. I pledge to do as much as I can, little as it may be, as a retired social group worker to serve the contemporary needs of our client groups, and our profession and our embattled world.

I write with deep affection for each of you and all of you together in AASWG. Katy Papell, Flushing, New York, June 20, 2007

(Ed. note: Katy was able to attend the Board meeting. It was suggested that you would be interested in this statement from one of our founding members. Readers will find her comments elsewhere in this issue, and those privileged to be on her e-mail list will appreciate her ongoing efforts to support Afghan women's groups in the United States and Afghanistan in their search for freedom, equality, and democracy. She is a founding Co-editor of *Social Work with Groups Journal*.)



TAYLOR & FRANCIS ACQUIRES HAWORTH PRESS

In late September we learned that The Haworth Press had been purchased by Taylor & Francis. During the lifetime of AASWG Haworth has been the Publisher of *Social Work with Groups Journal*, our Symposia Proceedings, and many other group work books. The Editors of the *Journal* have been ex officio members of the Board of AASWG. Andrew Malekoff currently holds this position. Bill Cohen, Haworth Publisher and Editor-in-Chief, has been a substantial and loyal member and contributor to the life of AASWG. Haworth has given members substantial discounts on purchase of group work books and subscriptions.

This is a long and important working relationship. As soon as he heard of this purchase Malekoff prepared the following letter which first appeared on the AASWG listserv to explain and reassure members and colleagues about this change.

October 6, 2007

Dear Colleagues,

Many of you may have already heard that Haworth Press, the original and long time publisher of *Social Work with Groups*, has been acquired by Taylor & Francis Publishers. I expect the *Journal* to move forward without interruption. Below are some details that I picked up here, on the internet, in personal conversations and news reports, and through direct contact from the publisher, that I thought might be of some interest you.

All Haworth journals and books have been purchased by Taylor & Francis Publishers. T&F publishes roughly 1800 new books annually with a backlog in excess of 20,000 specialist titles, as well as over 1200 scholarly and academic journal titles to which 194 Haworth journals will be added. All Haworth's employees have been transferred over as Taylor & Francis employees (although ultimately, many will be offered what I have been advised are severance packages as the operation in Binghamton, NY, will close down in a matter of months. T&F is centered in Philadelphia, PA.) Bill Cohen, Haworth's publisher and editor-in-chief, who has been named a specialist editor/publisher for T&F, said on the Haworth website that "in order to grow, Haworth needed a

consistently creative Internet platform that could compete successfully with other platforms of major houses. Informaworld at T&F was most attractive in this sense." Cohen added that the move also was motivated by the need for "digital permanency," and believes the purchase is an opportunity "for increased access to libraries through consortia deals and stronger journal packages...and both subscription and intellectual growth." I contacted Bill Cohen directly and he advised me that Haworth Press did not have a sales staff to handle the library consortia deals and other "journal bundling" that are necessary to make our library market grow. Taylor & Francis has 16 international sales reps with decades of experience, plus numerous overseas offices. When I questioned him about the acquisition he advised me that "The future of *Social Work with Groups* is not only assured, but in my view will blossom. We will reach new markets in the UK, Europe, Australia, East Europe, China, and other parts of the world."

Unfortunately, many Haworth employees will lose their jobs. These include typesetters and printing personnel. I have learned that T&F outsources much of this work. I hope that the severance packages will provide some solace and security, although from my experience many that I have worked with have great longevity with Haworth and will, no doubt, suffer a great personal loss. I will miss many of the fine people that I have with worked closely since my tenure as editor began in 1990.

I am cautiously optimistic about the future of the *Journal*. That is, I expect everything to move ahead full steam and unimpeded. If events to the contrary should occur, I will be sure to inform the membership of AASWG.

Sincerely,

Andrew Malekoff, Editor
Social Work with Groups
anjru@aol.com

Nancy Sullivan has communicated with Bill Cohen about current publications in process. AASWG will keep members informed about future developments. In the meantime, assume that everything proceeds as in the past until you

hear differently.

The following news release from Haworth gives some additional information which we think will be interesting to AASWG members.

September 25, 2007

Haworth Press, Inc.

to be acquired by Taylor & Francis.

The Haworth Press, Inc., publisher of 194 scholarly/academic journals and approximately 150 books/monographs yearly, announced today that it would be acquired by Taylor & Francis.

The publishing house (Haworth Press) began in a "bedroom office" in 1979, and grew steadily in the areas of social work, librarianship, mental health, social work, gender studies, and then additional fields of pharmaceutical science, business, and agriculture/food science.

According to Haworth's Publisher & Editor-in-Chief, Bill Cohen, "Discussions with Taylor & Francis began modestly with Christoph Cheshier in relation to possible book distribution in the UK and Europe.

Before long we were talking about "Why not include the journals?" and then the synergies became apparent. Exciting and productive meetings with Roger Horton, Chief Executive, and Kevin Bradley, President, of Taylor & Francis, ensued.

One factor, in our view, that was in order to grow, Haworth needed a consistently creative internet platform that could compete successfully with other platforms of major houses. "Informaworld" at Taylor & Francis was most attractive in this sense. It is a resplendent hosting service, interweaving core journals along with eBooks, abstract databases, and reference works of historic importance. The stability of a prodigious international publishing house also adds an important dimension in regard to digital permanency.

For Haworth Press authors and journal editors, the opportunities for increased access to libraries through consortia deals and stronger journal packages foreshadow increased impact, usage, and both subscription and intellectual growth. This is a magnificent development for
Continued on page 24, Haworth



gather round the campfire

the jersey city
flash group

splashed on
some cologne

at the
town hall meeting;

as a gaggle
of group workers

sang hallelujah
with the acs choir;

and they all
gathered round

the river's edge

creating a
campfire

in the
shadow of

darkness.

Andy Malekoff (c)

Dedicated to the 2007 aaswg symposium

Check out Andrew Cicchetti's Mutual Aid Based Group Work blog. <http://mutualaidbasedgroupwork.blogspot.com>

Haworth, continued from page 23
them. I will also be joining Taylor & Francis as a specialist editor/publisher."

Additional Background

Haworth Press was named after the township of Haworth, England, home of the literary Bronte sisters. It was one of the first publishers to utilize in-house print-on-demand technology for books and journals. While Haworth works primarily with academic/professional membership associations and institutions, only one of its 194 journals is society owned. Haworth's trade fiction imprint, Harrington Park Press, is not included in the deal. It will be divested separately.

REFLECTIONS ON WRITING USING GROUPWORK

As anyone who has written a book will tell you, it's not something to undertake lightly. I'm fortunate that I enjoy writing and the words come fairly readily, but the research behind a book is always a time-consuming and, at times, frustrating activity. One thing that keeps me going is passion. I haven't yet written a book that I have not felt passionate about - it's probably a disadvantage as well as an advantage! *Using Groupwork* was no exception.

What I think is radical about the book is the fact that it uses practitioners' accounts of their groupwork as its main reference point. This goes far beyond the use of vignettes, which we'd probably expect in any book written primarily for practitioners. I feel very strongly that we must find ways of gathering practitioners' experiences of groups and groupwork in a systematic way and broadcasting them to a wide audience. It's theory-building from the base. Of course, there must be proper permissions and privacies in place before we can go public with this knowledge. And the accounts need to move beyond the anecdotal; from description through analysis to reflection. They must be systematic.

A nine-year action research project with a state social work agency in England was the site for the development of groupwork "portfolios" for continuing professional development. In these portfolios, practitioners used a common framework to collect their experiences of groupwork, to describe them in a systematic fashion, to relate them to their reading, to analyse them in relation to their understanding of theory, to evaluate using participative evaluative methods with group members, and, finally, to reflect on all of this process. I learned enormously from my part in this project, not just from the portfolios, but from the workshops and consultations which were part of the project. *The Essential Groupworker*, which I wrote with my co-facilitator, Catherine Sawdon, was the first expression of this project.

In *Using Groupwork* I went on to choose nine groups from the project. These groups were chosen to include the widest range of groupwork approaches and group memberships. I used the groupworkers' portfolios of these nine groups as reference points for the content of the

book, so most of the quotes are taken directly from the portfolios rather than quoting from academic sources. Of course, there are methodological limitations to this approach - mainly the reliability of self-report, especially when it is gathered for purposes of professional assessment (as these portfolios were). However, the knowledge I gained of the groups and groupworkers through the workshops and consultations went further than most researchers might expect to achieve, and I feel confident that the accounts of groupwork in these portfolios are accurate. They provide a vivid account of the group from the practitioners' perspective (and they included group members' perspectives, too). If anything, I think that the groupworkers were more inclined to underestimate than overestimate their part in the frequently dramatic changes experienced by group members.

I really hope that the systematic gathering of practitioners' work can become routine and that this book will encourage other similar attempts. Portfolios of practice, systematically written and incorporating descriptive, analytical, and reflective elements, can provide a powerful archive for group experience and groupwork practice. From this we can develop theory on the back of practice. Also, it seems reasonable to suppose that practitioners relate more readily to the recorded experiences of other practitioners; certainly, and this has been confirmed by feedback I have received. Whilst this approach "batters no parsnips" with the wider academic community, nor with those who determine how research funding is distributed (here in the UK, in any case), we groupworkers are no strangers to the left field, and building theory from the bottom up rather than top down, comes naturally to us.

Mark Doel

Doel, M. (2006), *Using Groupwork*, London: Routledge, paperback: £19.99 (UK), US\$35.95, hardback: £70.00 (UK), US\$135.

Doel, M. and Sawdon, C. (1999), *The Essential Groupworker: Teaching and Learning Creative Groupwork*, London: Jessica Kingsley. paperback: £16.95.

The articles haven't been published - they are on the AASWG blog that Andrew Cicchetti is piloting.



Continued on page 14, Jersey City
Jersey City, continued from page 1

and storms around the US stranded a few, slowed some down, and challenged others to be creative and determined. Jennifer Longo, a student at Loyola, Chicago, boarded her plane "twice" only to be told that they had to de-plane yet again. She hopped in her car, drove all night and arrived in Jersey City with two hours to spare before her presentation. What a dedicated group worker!

Comments on the Symposium both verbal and by e-mail have been overwhelmingly positive. The setting for the Symposium delighted most attendees. Even the New Yorkers were enchanted by the view of their city from across the river. The Manhattan skyline offered a changing vista as the sun rose and set and the city lights turned the dark buildings into a sparkling string of diamonds and pearls that bounced off the waters of the Hudson River.

The opening banquet set a spirited tone for the gathering as Dominique Moyses Steinberg and Bob Salmon urged us to continue the joyful noise of group workers around the world. All this as we dined and honored Larry Shulman, Len Brown, and Mike Phillips for their many contributions with the panoramic view of the mighty Hudson River as the backdrop. Around the hotel was a walkway that called to many participants who sat, walked, jogged and relaxed by the water and enjoyed the activities that went on day and night. Sailboats, barges, cruise ships, and ferries of all sizes and shapes buzzed up and down, back and forth offering a never ending entertainment and fascination.

The Institutes presented by Alex Gitterman, Dominique Moyses Steinberg, Carol Cohen, Mark Smith, and Mark Macgowan were big hits. Positive feedback is still coming in on them.

The plenary breakfasts were also extremely well received as Andy Malekoff inspired us with his information, poems, and humor. Mark Doel engagingly posed us the challenge of acknowledging that groups come in all sorts, sizes, and shapes. And Ingrun Masanek challenged us to rethink how we gather for our annual Symposia and invited us to Germany to experience a Symposium German style.

The hallways of the Hyatt on the Hudson where the Symposium presentations were held were cozy and buzzing between sessions. Food carts with snacks and coffee were welcomed by everyone attending. Even Sunday morning presentations had hot apple turnovers and coffee during the break. We promote Sunday presentations! And this Symposium was good to the last drop.

The Administration for Children Services of New York City brought thirty plus participants who were enthusiastic from the start to the finish of their stay. And when the raffle for two Broadway tickets went off, it was an ACS employee who won and had a chance to go to see "The Color Purple" on Saturday night. Thanks to Greg Tully, Mike Phillips, and the ACS committee for coordinating this effort.

Student volunteers were organized, dedicated, and enthused about their work and their sessions. They were gracious enough to wear yellow tee shirts so that attendees could find them and get help whenever needed. They came from Chicago, Michigan, North Dakota, New Jersey, and New York.

Kean University donated large nylon bags that gave everyone in attendance a reason to shop and buy some of the books being sold by the authors who are members of AASWG and attended and presented.

All in all the Symposium came upon us, blossomed like a flower in the sunlight, and is now already on its way to Germany for its 30th annual incarnation.

Thank you to everyone who came, helped, and enjoyed. We are especially thankful for all those who supported the New Jersey Symposium from near and

GROAN UP, A NEW BOOK OF POETRY BY ANDREW MALEKOFF

Andrew Malekoff, longtime AASWG member and board member, and Editor of *Social Work with Groups Journal*, has written his second book of poetry: *Groan Up: From Newark to Nebraska*. According to Malekoff, "The 170 page volume of poetry is divided into four parts: the city (Newark, NJ), the suburbs (Maplewood, NJ), the campus (Rutgers: New Brunswick, NJ) and the country (Grand Island, Nebraska). "These represent places that I grew up and lived in until my early twenties. *Groan Up* is a free-associative memoir that is strong on themes of family, neighborhood, lost childhood innocence, teenage angst, and the search for identity. *Groan Up* is not for everybody, but it is for anybody who wishes to take an odd journey filled with interesting people, strange detours and black humor."

Pulitzer Prize winning reporter and author David Marcus (*What It Takes to Pull Me Through: Why Teenagers Get in Trouble and How Four of Them Got Out* - Houghton Mifflin) says of *Groan Up*: "Andrew Malekoff has a way of taking us on a long, memorable Journey with just a few words. The sparse writing in '*Groan Up*' is remarkable because the carefully-chosen details ring true - a reader often gets a tingle, an 'I've-been-there' sense. What a pleasure to read an anti-memoir memoir - a series of telling moments and scenes that allow us the luxury of making conclusions."

Groan Up is available in soft cover from Xlibris for \$19.95 and can be ordered at 1-888-795-4274 or at www.xlibris.com. *Groan Up* is only available through the publisher at present, but it will be available through Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble and other book sellers in the near future.

Malekoff will contribute \$5.00 to AASWG for every book that is ordered through www.xlibris.com from now until December 31, 2007, by any AASWG member. All you will need to do is mail a copy of the receipt to him at 9 Kirkwood Street, Long Beach, New York 11561.

THINGS TO DO TODAY TO HELP BUILD AASWG AND GROUP WORK

- One. Recruit a new member.
- Two. Renew your membership if you have not done so yet.
- Three. Get involved in your chapter or help start a new one.
- Four. Write up what you are doing and share it with your colleagues and the general community.
- Five. Act to secure support for group work services in your community.

Life is made up of many small groups.



MARK DOEL REFLECTS ON THE 13TH EUROPEAN GROUPWORK SYMPOSIUM

This two-day Groupwork Symposium gathered at St John's College in York in northern England. The college sits by the ancient city walls of York so it is just a short walk into the city and the famous Minster, and just a handy fifteen minute walk from the railway station. The college itself is very pleasant, with a central grassed quadrangle into which people can stroll between sessions. This is the venue for what has become something of a tradition over the five years we have met there: "a glass on the grass" which is a glass or two of wine taken together in the late afternoon of the first day. We have always been very fortunate with the weather.

The accommodation is basic (shared bathroom facilities, for example) but low-rise, convenient and not expensive. The surroundings encourage a sense of intimacy, which is also a factor of the relatively small numbers attending. This year, for example, we had no parallel sessions, so that the whole symposium attended each and every session. This could have been claustrophobic, yet somehow it wasn't. It means that the group develops a sense of responsibility for itself and attendance at every session is conscientious. There is a sense of the group developing from one session to the next. It also means that people go to sessions they would not necessarily have chosen to attend, had there been other workshops and papers in a parallel session. However, people seemed pleased that they went to these "different" sessions - it stretched their understanding and interest by being exposed to groupwork approaches outside their usual experience. These apparent differences in fact seemed to make people more aware of the similarities across groups and groupwork.

In some ways the pace is relaxed (we do not, for example, have speakers at meal times), yet it is interesting to reflect that, in other ways, it is quite exhausting. The intimacy of the two days and the fact that you cannot escape the symposium gaze ("hang on, don't start yet, Carol's not arrived!") is demanding and it is more difficult to take time out. The days are not long (the plenary started at 10:00 on day one and the "glass on the grass" which

marked the end of the first day was about 6:00 pm), but the Symposium makes demands of us all. The demands are consonant with what it is to be part of a group.

We had many new members at this year's symposium, including a strong group of practitioners from one of the English social work agencies. It was interesting to hear them say how nervous they had felt before they arrived - "European Groupwork Symposium" sounds a bit grand and they thought it would be very "academic". They gently reminded us from time to time that, although it is good for an organisation to have a history, the weight of history can sometimes feel oppressive. The metaphor of a blanket came to my mind; a blanket can comfort and protect, and it can also suffocate and weigh you down, so we need to try to achieve the right balance, and new members are essential to help us with this perspective. The parallel with groups is, of course, very strong - new members joining an established group, old members making reference back to past sessions of the group, status arising from longevity of membership, all of that!

So, I came away exhausted and with groupwork batteries recharged, both at the same time. There was much positive anticipation of the next symposium in Cologne. What a wonderful convergence of energies that will be - the German, North American and European Symposia all joining together. I imagine it will be challenging, in an exhilarating and exciting way. I don't expect "blanket" will be the metaphor that comes to mind!

Mark Doel

Co-chair of European Symposium

Co-editor, *Groupwork*

SWwGN seeks brief practice vignettes for each issue. In 1200 words or fewer please send your favorite group work practice narrative today.

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Social Work with Groups: Journal of Community and Clinical Practice. Available at fifty percent discount to members with new or renewal memberships or by contacting the Membership Service. Individual subscriptions \$37.50 per year in USA, US\$50.63 (plus GST) in Canada, US\$54.38 elsewhere. (Regularly \$75 in USA.) Institutional subscriptions also at AASWG member discount rates of \$87.50 USA, US\$118.13 (plus GST) Canada, US\$126.88 elsewhere. Haworth should be contacted directly for changes of address and for purchase of group work books at the AASWG 50% discount rate.

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Many thanks to readers who have provided us the information used in this issue.



REPORT FROM SIMONS BOAMAH FROM CAPE TOWN

November 7, 2007

THE 38TH Union World Conference on TB and Lung Health in Africa is under way, November 8-12, in Cape Town, South Africa. It is the first time the conference is held in the soil of Africa. It was preceded by the 16th Union Africa Conference, where countries presented their reports. It was realised that many African countries experience constraints in rapidly expanding DOTS in their countries to attain their targets. Another setback which the African countries need to address include How to effectively exploit the involvement of communities and the private sector in scaling up DOTS services and how to effectively harness local human resources capacity to deliver DOTS services by forming partnerships with the academic and research institutions, private health providers and finally, decentralisation of programme planning to districts so that TB control activities are adequately incorporated into district level operational plans.

Simons Boamah
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Groups R Us

SOCIAL GROUP WORK WITH CARDIAC PA- TIENTS

This text is a pragmatic guide to social workers to help them develop and apply cardiac group work in a proactive and directed manner. It explores social group work with patients immediately recovering from a cardiac event – heart attack or failure, transplants, and implantable cardiac devices – as well as the secondary effects of such events.

SGWwCP provides a comprehensive understanding of the psychosocial aspect of cardiac care. In addition to examining the correlation between cardiac disease and depression and anxiety, looking at the emotional aspects of heart disease, and providing an overview of social work group care, this unique text details the four core social groups – cognitive-

INSITUTIONAL MEMBERS GIVE SUPPORT

We are pleased to recognize the twenty-four agencies and schools throughout the USA and Canada who have joined AASWG as Institutional Members. Institutional membership provides direct access to information, materials, and services for the members of the faculties and staff. Member discounts are provided for Symposia, workshops, subscriptions, etc. They will be able to bring many new ideas and energy to our mission.

We note that this is a much expanded list since January. In this issue we are pleased to recognize the professional contact person for each member agency and school.

If you are a part of one of these institutions or have occasion to contact someone from one of them, please mention how important it is to have them as part of AASWG. They provide a very important source of support for AASWG and group work.

Aurora University School of Social Work, Aurora, Illinois, Fred McKenzie
Barry University School of Social Work, Miami Shores, Florida, Debra McPhee
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of New York City, Allan Luks
Boston University School of Social Work, Boston, Massachusetts, Gail Steketee
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behavioral, psychoeducational, skill development, and interpersonal. Both fundamental and state-of-the-art, this comprehensive approach serves to enhance practice skills for immediate and constructive implementation.

Maurice Scott Fisher was the Mental Health Educator and Behavioral Health Coordinator for the Virginia Transplant Center and Cardiac Rehabilitative Services at HCA/Henrico Doctors' Hospital in Richmond for the past ten years.

Published by the Haworth Press, 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, NY 13904-1580, \$59.95 softcover, \$79.95 hardcover, US or Canadian funds using current conversion rate.

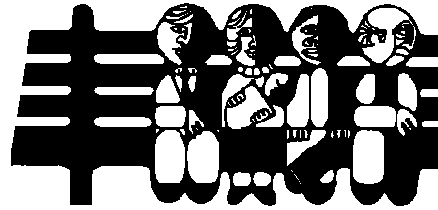
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Social Groupwork

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INTERNATIONAL AASWG SYMPOSIUM 2008 COLOGNE GERMANY

CALL FOR PAPERS

30th International Symposium on Social Work with Groups
in cooperation with the
14th European Group Work Symposium
Cologne, Germany
June 19 – June 22, 2008

MENSCH.

Social Group Work is all about MENSCHEN.
When groups gather, grow and develop, each member changes as a MENSCH. Social Group work is all about focusing on and strengthening human resources.

This symposium is about encounter:
encountering MENSCHEN in their different cultures, relationships and concepts of reality. This symposium invites you to experience our various (group work) cultures, to explore commonalities and differences, to learn and to grow.

Please submit proposals for workshops and paper sessions focusing on MENSCH and social group work, i.e. in the areas

- diversity
- spirituality and religion
- growth, development, biography
- strengthening resources, encouraging people
- creativity, dancing, singing, theater, art
- senses and sensitivity

Types of Presentations

Workshops are experiential and last 90 minutes (in English or German only) or 180 minutes (bilingual including translation).

Papers are didactic presentations at a particular forum. Extended time and space will be given to interactive workshop sessions. We offer a special format where presenters of papers can interact with others in a parallel process. For details please refer to the submission guidelines on the website.

Abstracts

Proposals should be submitted online at www.aaswg.org and should include a 500 word abstract of the proposal presentation. Workshop proposals should describe the objectives, structure, and presentation method.

Deadline for submitting Abstracts:

December 31, 2007,

Notification: January 15, 2008

All Presenters must be Members of AASWG for the Year 2008 by March 30, 2008, and register for the Symposium.

For more Information about Abstracts or the Symposium contact:

Ingrun Masanek at ingrun.masanek@freenet.de phone 01149-4931-992953 or

Sonia Spelters at sonia.spelters@schlafhorst.de

Info also here: www.symposium2008.aaswg.de

The Symposium is being held at the Kolping House International in Cologne, Germany.
www.kolpinghaus-international.de

Sponsored by the Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups, Inc.
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