

Monthly Newsletter

SAN FRANCISCO
CENTER FOR
PSYCHOANALYSIS



October 2025 Issue



A letter from our Newsletter Editor Mary McMillan

This month's newsletter features two psychoanalytic stories in the CONVERSATION ROOM. Gilbert Kliman, who invented an award-winning method for working with very young traumatized or autistic children, joins me to describe the method, and how it originated. And Richard Almond begins the fascinating and entertaining story about how psychoanalysis seemed to become an inevitable journey for him. This story will be continued in future newsletters!

In the ADMINISTRATION ROOM, read the reports from our Board president, and from our SFCP president. In the BYLAWS CORNER, Brett Penfil gives us some provocative ideas to help us make decisions about how long our SFCP president should be allowed to serve. Find photos of SFCP members who attended the Annual Meeting, and then read about the recipients of the Distinguished Service Award. The VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH, Ryan Pate, tells about his inspiring involvement with the Palo Alto Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Program. And we get some detailed information about the committees that support members who find themselves in an ethical or other kind of dilemma.

In the OPPORTUNITIES ROOM—lots of opportunities for education and connection.

Enjoy!
Mary





CONVERSATION ROOM

The CONVERSATION ROOM is the beginning of what we hope will become a room of lively conversation among members. As you can see in the invitation from Nicole, we are hoping that you will use this room to share who you are. We also want responses to what you have read, as well as letters, stories, editorials, reviews of movies, books, etc., poems, articles—or photographs!.

To submit your own work, send it in an email to Mary McMillan, editor at mtmcmillan@me.com



ADMINISTRATION ROOM

In the ADMINISTRATION ROOM, we hear from the volunteers who turn the wheels and shift the gears as this organization moves through time. In this room also, we will hear from the **Volunteer of the Month**—one of the volunteers who provide the fuel that makes SFCP a living vehicle: who teach and push paper and make phone calls and write letters and do the work to help the wheel-turners get things done. And we also keep track of how close we are to raising the funds we need to keep SFCP alive and functioning.



OPPORTUNITIES ROOM

And in the OPPORTUNITIES ROOM, we learn about ways members can participate in programs and events.

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

Click the links below to get to the desired room.

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Conversation Room



Letters, stories,
editorials,
reviews of
movies, books,
etc., poems,
and articles—
anything
written by
members



AN INVITATION TO MEMBERS FROM THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Do you have a passion or hobby you love? A story or life experience that shaped who you are? We want to hear from you!

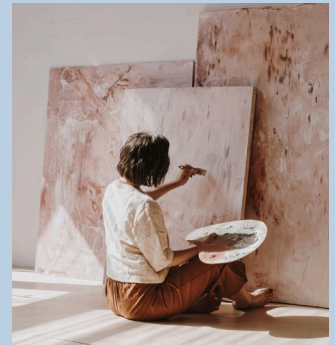


The newsletter committee wants to promote the idea that we are each a whole person, with a history, a family, and relationships—with people, animals, plants, and with institutions, cultures, societies, etc. Both inside and outside the Center, we are involved in projects, occupations, interests, passions, and concerns .

To this end, we are inviting members to participate in the newsletter by giving our readers an opportunity to experience the variety, complexity and diversity in the current lives and histories of our members.

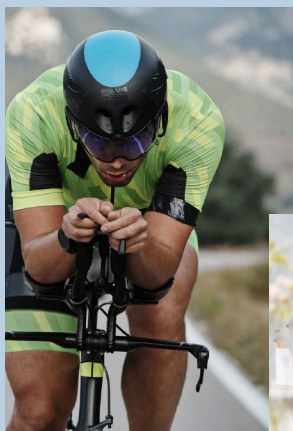
We want to know who you are, how you have come to where you are, what occupies and compels you—within and without the field of psychoanalysis.

Are you producing, creating or building something? Are you generating or participating in an interesting project? Maybe you are passionate about a concern, and want to express it. Or you would like to express something simple, short, or lighthearted.



We welcome each and every one of you to take this opportunity to share a piece of your life with other members.

When you are ready , please reply to this email with an indication of what you might be interested in sharing, and how you would like to share it-- whether you would like someone to interview you, or you would like to write something yourself—maybe a short story or essay.Or maybe you would like to show the result of something you have produced or created.



To stimulate your imagination, here are some possible topics to explore:

A person, incident or idea that influenced me

A problem I am solving or have solved

Something I love doing

What drew me to psychoanalysis

Something I have achieved

Been there, Done that

Something I think about a lot

Something I would like to do

Something I wish I had done.

A Plea and Opportunity for Play Therapists

Mary McMillan and Gilbert Kliman

On September 2, I was surprised to receive an email from a member I didn't know, stating,

"I am pleased to report that the IPA has awarded me its 2025 most prestigious award. It is for outstanding research in psychoanalysis affecting knowledge in other fields".

This person turned out to be Gilbert Kliman, ninety-five years old, a member of Association for Play Therapy, for decades a certified child psychiatrist and child analyst. He reports he has tried to be active on the faculty here but since he lives in Arizona, he found the obstacles daunting. Gilbert reached out to me because he wants more special needs children to be served by the newly honored method he created. Many play therapists could readily be trained to do the therapy work in classrooms. Nationwide budget cuts to special education make his cost-effective and drug-free method even more timely.

The 2025 award he received from the International Psychoanalytical Association (IPA), is the Outstanding Scientific Achievement Award, described on the IPA website as "The most prestigious IPA award, given to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the relationship between psychoanalysis and other fields." It follows awards from the Am. Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Psychoanalytic Association, and the Dean Brockman Award.

The method:

What did Gilbert do to earn these awards? Those of you who remember him will know that he is passionately involved in providing treatment for very

young autistic children or those who have experienced traumas. In White Plains, Seattle, San Francisco, Detroit and Buenos Aires he founded Cornerstone Therapeutic Preschools, where he began using and developing the method now called the Reflective Network Therapy. His work creating this method, using it, video-documenting, writing about it and its astonishing WPPSI results--and training others to use it, earned him this award. The results show that almost all the very disturbed and many autistic preschool children involved in this method increase their IQs by two standard deviations within the first year. Then, as they continue through life, some further increase their IQs and their capacity for learning and loving for decades of follow up testing. No such rises occur among controls.

What is Reflective Network Therapy? As described in his book, *Reflective Network Therapy*, the method is a "deliberately synergistic combination of in-classroom psychological treatment for traumatized and/or developmentally disordered young children. Its techniques include individualized in-classroom psychodynamic psychotherapy for each child, debriefings, and parent guidance—all of which take place entirely within the



A Plea and Opportunity for Play Therapists, cont.

Mary McMillan and Gilbert Kliman

context of an early childhood classroom process.” The “network” is made up of the child, therapist, teachers, parents, and other children in the classroom. All are involved in providing a reflective, loving, affectionate, accepting environment where the child becomes able “to love and to learn,” as Gilbert describes his goal.

Here is an example I saw of videotaped treatment. In the classroom, Kevin, a homeless boy whose father had been shot dead, at first hid under a sink while Kliman was briefed by a teacher. Within minutes, Kevin was playing at a doll house with Gilbert. A man doll was shouting, “Let me in. I’m back. Let me in the door.” This drama persisted in different formats, but within minutes, Kevin’s agitation and distraction turned into a calm, thoughtful presence. His sentences grew longer, his vocabulary more advanced. After this short therapy session, Kevin and Gilbert debriefed the session, together with the surrounding children and teachers, describing Kevin’s wish for them to know about this man’s trouble, and Kevin’s new abilities, and the fact that Kevin has ideas about why the man can’t get back to his family.

The inventor:

When I met with this 95-year-old man on Zoom, he surprisingly told me he has lately also been studying Quantum physics. He has been increasingly interested in the concept of Quantum Entanglement. He states that one month ago, scientists discovered (iScience. 2025 Feb 12;28(3):112019. doi: [10.1016/j.isci.2025.112019](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.isci.2025.112019)) that humans emit low powered photons through their skulls. These photons are above the visible infra-red spectrum, carry information—and are susceptible to quantum entanglement which may be immensely

important socially. He believes behavioral therapies need to begin including these concepts in theories and practice, because they illuminate how much we are connected—and how much they are a part of potentially powerful group processes.

When I asked how he came up with the idea for the Reflective Network Therapy method, he told me that he had a son born as a primordial dwarf, whose larynx was impaired, so he couldn’t speak; and was not as bright as Gilbert’s other children. Gilbert, his wife and their other children formed a network that also included members of the community—the network that provided the reflective, loving, affectionate, accepting environment that later became the foundation of the method Gilbert invented. And the son thrived.

The family lived in a philanthropic community of caring people. The community had lost two children who had been killed in the civil rights movement, so were touched by grief and trauma. Members of this community became involved with Gilbert’s family. Some later became teachers in the school where Gilbert first developed the method, which has now had 30 practicing teams and treated thousands of disturbed preschoolers. To Kliman’s frustration, no play therapists have been trained.

Gilbert would like therapists who want to learn about and begin applying this method to contact him at gilbertkliman2008@gmail.com. He can answer questions, tell them about online trainings available, and send confidential videos.

Mary McMillan

Gilbert Kliman MD

A Psychoanalytic Memoir: Part I

“The Spider Bite!” the Sterbas, and Sugarbush, or ‘Early Days of Ego Psychology’

Richard Almond

The Spider Bite

One of my earliest memories features an emotionally powerful encounter with a psychoanalyst when I was three years old. 1941 – my family was vacationing in Manchester, Vermont, at a hotel frequented by European refugees from Naziism. My mother grew up in Germany, in an upper-middle class assimilated Jewish family. She had emigrated to the United States in 1934 to pursue the university education forbidden to her by the Nazi regime that had just taken power. By the summer of 1941, my parents had met, married, and had a child (me). Playing in the Vermont meadows I was blissfully unaware that German and Soviet soldiers were killing each other in immense numbers on the Russian steppes, a prelude to the mass murders of the Holocaust that would include family members who had not escaped Europe.



At some point that summer I had an insect bite behind my left knee which became infected – in family lore it was ominously referred to as “The Spider Bite!” A local doctor was consulted. He recommended that the infection be lanced, a proposal that sent me into panic, for reasons that Freud elucidated in his writing about the Oedipus Complex and fear of castration for desiring to possess one’s mother.

My father was absent, teaching political science at Brooklyn College most of the summer (which, no doubt, played into my oedipal fantasies), and my mother was uncertain what to do. She consulted with one of the other guests, Richard Sterba, a doctor and a psychoanalyst. It was his wife, Editha Sterba, who interceded. She was also analytically trained and had a special interest in treating children. “Dita,” as I came to know her later, was no shrinking violet; she stepped in firmly. Despite, or maybe because of, her lack of medical training, she insisted that I be given a chance to try an alternative to surgery. She applied warm compresses to my infection several times a day, and it drained. I remember this all as mainly scary, but I’m sure that I also stored in my young psyche some sort of primal memory of “psychoanalysis” merged with Editha Sterba’s gentle ministrations and protection from castration. Plus, there was this very self-confident woman who made things right. Was my career direction set by this fateful encounter?



The Sterbas

Editha von Radanovicz-Hartmann was a Viennese musicologist who trained in psychoanalysis and developed an

A Psychoanalytic Memoir: Part I cont.

interest in treating children in collaboration with Anna Freud. She married Richard Sterba, one of the first two formal analytic candidates.[1] Prior to that, becoming an analyst involved a few months of personal analysis, and then presenting a paper to the small psychoanalytic community at one of the “Wednesday evening meetings” at Freud’s home. The early analytic movement was not well off; Sterba describes seeing his initial patients in a medical clinic where the patient reclined on a raised exam table.[2] Though raised Catholic, the Sterba’s left Vienna immediately after the Anschluss (union of Austria with Germany) in 1938 that brought Naziism to power there. They immigrated to America, settling in Detroit, where their presence enabled the development of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute.



In 1934, seven years before my experience with Dita, Richard Sterba published what was to be his best-known paper, “The Fate of the Ego in Analytic Therapy”. He argued that in treatment a split occurs in the ego, a “therapeutic dissociation,” between the part of the ego that serves the id, (that is, the expression of the drives), and the part that deals with external reality—the part that is reinforced by the analyst. This idea has been embellished and restated many times since, in such terms as “therapeutic

alliance,” “alpha function,” “relationship,” and so on.

At the time, this sort of idea was relatively new. Psychoanalytic clinical thinking tended to be dominated by Freud’s earlier models: topographical and libido theories. Analysts were interested in interpreting unconscious motives through dreams and transferences. Freud’s *structural theory*, involving *functions* of the mind – *ego, id, super ego* – was just coming into application in treatment. Sterba’s paper explores the ego’s different tasks of mediating among reality, drive, and super-ego. He shows how all these internal forces come into play in the treatment, allowing the patient to be both actor and observer, and as he says,

In the therapeutic dissociation which is the fate of the ego in analysis, the analysand is called on 'to answer for himself,' and the unconscious, ceasing to be expressed in behavior, becomes articulate in words. We may say, then, that in this ego-dissociation we have an extension of reflection beyond what has hitherto been accessible. Thus, from the standpoint also of the human faculty of speech, we may justly claim that analytic therapy makes its contribution to the humanizing of man.

Sterba’s point about humanizing also speaks to the way psychoanalysis is now perceived, compared to Freud’s early technique, which was drawn from hypnotherapy. The latter had an objectifying quality – the patient’s psychology was inferred in a somewhat magical, mind-reading way, and then played back. And with the emphasis on libido as a motivator, it was easy for

[1] For detail about the Sterba’s see an excellent interview: <https://www.mpi-mps.org/about/archive-interviews/#Sterba>

[2] Sterba, R. (1980) *Reminiscences of a Viennese Psychoanalyst*.

A Psychoanalytic Memoir: Part I cont.

interpretations to feel like a punitive super ego saying, "Here's how you are misbehaving."

Back to the personal: my father was a social scientist; his PhD supervisor and mentor, Harold Lasswell, had gone to Vienna to study with Freud and had been analyzed by Theodore Reik.[1] Lasswell used Freud's ideas extensively in his political science research and writing. He conveyed this interest to my dad, whose first book was based on interviews with psychoanalysts who had treated former communists.[2] During the late 1930s and 1940s he also met many analysts in New York intellectual circles. For example, when my father met Karen Horney, the pioneer feminist challenger of Freud's ideas about women, at a social occasion, she offered to analyze him. (Apparently, he declined.) As a result of these contacts, psychoanalytic ideas were all around during my early years. As a child I had little sense of what this was all about, but the atmosphere was something like growing up in the shadow of Mount Sinai in the early days of

Sugarbush

My next contact with analysts again involved the Sterbas when I was a teenager. During their summer in Manchester, they had come to love Vermont and so they purchased a second home, Sugarbush, in the hills north of Bennington, along with four hundred acres of property. It so happened that my aunt and my cousin John, who was my age, spent summers with the Sterba's. Because the Sterba's had two daughters who were several years older than John, leaving him largely on his own, I was invited up for a month each summer to provide companionship.

Amidst the small farms and Green Mountain villages, Sugar Bush was an

island of culture and psychoanalysis, patterned on Freud's vacations in Gmunden, a village in the countryside near Salzburg, Austria. Freud urged his patients to vacation locally in order to continue analytic work, and this is what the Sterba's recreated in Vermont. When they went to Sugar Bush for the summer, some of their Detroit patients went there for as much vacation as they could, staying at an inn nearby, and driving up the ten miles of dirt road to Sugar Bush for their daily analytic hour. John and I were cautioned to make ourselves scarce and silent during office hours.

However, the room I shared with John was adjacent to Dita Sterba's office. Sound conduction through a stone wall was not good, but we could hear patient and analyst indistinctly. I remember hearing a woman patient's tones, often full of emotion, with occasional quiet comments from Dita. This dream-like psychoanalytic eavesdropping made analysis something special, secret, and enticing – all mixed up with my adolescent development, and my secret crushes on the Sterba daughters in their revealing bathing suits. Added to this intensity were some of the discussions of analytic ideas and politics at meals, among the Sterba's, my aunt and uncle, and other guests. Sugarbush recreated the high culture they had grown up with in Vienna. Richard, a small, attractive, intense man, played violin sonatas in the evenings with some of the pianists from the nearby Marlboro Chamber Music Festival. Well-known émigré figures from psychoanalysis, philosophy, musicology, and publishing came for visits. Dita remained the strong figure I remembered from childhood, but she could also be funny, as she called her two dachshunds for a "Walkie-walkie."

One summer Heinz Hartmann, then

[3] Reik, T. (1948). *Listening with the third ear; the inner experience of a psychoanalyst*. Farrar, Straus & Co

[4] Almond, Gabriel. (1954) *The Appeals of Communism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

A Psychoanalytic Memoir: Part I cont.

President of the IPA, came to visit. This event was treated like a visit from royalty. [1] I recall Hartmann as another of the dignified, German-speaking luminaries at Sugarbush. John and I, boisterous fifteen-year-olds, were introduced and then banished to eat in the kitchen. At the time, Hartmann was not only a political figure in analysis, but also one of its most important theorists. Like Sterba, Hartmann elaborated on Freud's 1926 structural theory, extending it in new directions. Hartmann was interested in development and adaptation, a shift from the emphasis on drives. This followed from Freud's depiction of ego as the psychic agency mediating among 1) the innate drives, 2) the punitive force of the super ego, and 3) the opportunities and pressures of external reality. Successful developmental progress requires a strong, effective ego, and a major job of analytic treatment is to strengthen ego function. This emphasis on ego capacities moved psychoanalytic attention from drives and drive derivatives toward the world, opening the possibility of collaboration with anthropology, sociology, and developmental and cognitive psychology.



Freud's early work had provided a view inward, to the mysteries of the unconscious; his later tri-partite model was a shift in emphasis, connecting the

mind to the environment, in which it would develop and function in childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. Hartmann's concept of growth and adaptation also reflected a shift in emphasis. Analytic thinking about development had assumed that a person's development is driven by innate impulses and then imprinted by early experience. Hartmann's idea that the ego has an adaptive capacity opened the way for a more malleable view of the psyche, and for ideas about a person's development in the later phases of life.

Hartmann's work is given little attention these days, but as I will review in later parts of this series, ego psychological theory was a rich source of theoretic and clinical ideas. Defenses, ego skills, developmental stages and lines, the role of conflict, anxiety and guilt – all have become part of the psychoanalytic psychic make-up. San Francisco analysts of the last generation contributed widely to this exploration of ego psychological ideas.

Psychoanalytic awareness has returned, after decades away, to one aspect of Hartmann's proposals – the social context of mental life. Recognition of racism has been a stimulus for examining how unconscious biases are situated in both social practice and unconscious mental life. I believe that the lapse in the earlier interdisciplinary direction has several corollaries – a shift to focus on the clinical, away from the research/scholarly; decreased popularity of psychoanalytic ideas; a need to assert our ownership of the intrapsychic; and a need for theory to apprehend early, dyadic, traumatic elements.

My Hartmann experience came full circle

[5] Heinz Hartmann, *Ego Psychology and the Problem of Adaptation* (1939), *Essays on Ego Psychology* (1964)

[6] Weiss, Joseph; Sampson, Harold; and The Mount Zion Psychotherapy Research Group. (1986). *The psychoanalytic process: Theory, clinical observation, and empirical research*. New York: Guilford.

A Psychoanalytic Memoir: Part I cont.

when my first wife, Barbara Almond, and I were hiking in the Swiss Alps. There, in the dining room of the Hotel Margna in Sils Maria, we unexpectedly met Alan Wheelis, the San Francisco analyst and novelist, and his analyst wife, Ilse Jawetz (with whom I was in therapy at the time!). He directed us to a little village nearby, Fex-Crasta, where Hartmann and his wife were buried. We made a pilgrimage to the simple stone gravesites the next day.

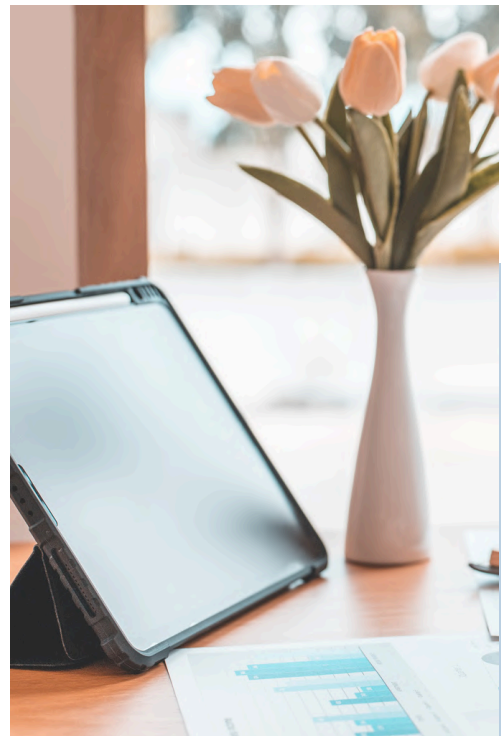


Pictured: Author, Richard Almond

Administration Room



Hear from the
volunteers who
turn the wheels
and shift the
gears as this
organization
moves through
time



Board Chair Report

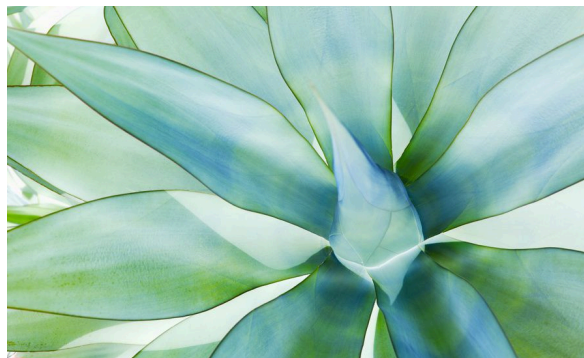
Brett Penfil, MFT, MPH

SFCP Board of Trustees Chair

Dear SFCP Members,

I am thrilled to share that the voting membership approved the Nominating and Governance Committee's recommendation for Dorian Newton to join the Board as an Analyst Trustee. Dorian joined the Board starting at the September meeting. The Board voted to approve Joanna Wise Bradman as a Community Trustee at the September meeting and began her term at that meeting. Both will sit on the Nominating and Governance Committee, with Dorian as the Chair.

The Nominating and Governance Committee also continues its efforts to recruit the next SFCP President. Maria Longuemare's term ends at the end of October. As has happened in the past, the Management Team (MT) will step into a few of the President's roles during the absence of a President. Sydney Tan will be the liaison from the MT to the Board and will meet with Marcia Hodges and me bi-monthly to ensure communication between the MT and the Leadership Team. Members of the MT will rotate leadership of their monthly meetings.



I look forward to honoring Maria as President in next month's newsletter, and her formal celebration will occur at next year's Annual Meeting as is our custom.

If you want to know more about the role of President, please reach out to anyone on the Nominating and Governance Committee: Robin Deutch, Joanna Wise Bradman, Dorian Newton, Marcia Hodges, Cindy May, Phoi Trinh, or me.

I hope your academic year is off to a fulfilling start.

Warmly,
Brett

Brett Penfil



Thank you for
attending!



SAN FRANCISCO
CENTER FOR PSYCHOANALYSIS

ANNUAL MEETING



September
20, 2025



President's Message

Maria Longuemare, MD, PhD
SFCP President

As most of you know, my term as SFCP President is ending next month, and so I have quite a mix of feelings as I deliver this final report of my 3-year term. By far the strongest of these feelings is gratitude to all who have been involved in SFCP prior to and during this period – both for your creative energy, and for the blood, sweat, and tears that have gone into the many steps we have taken toward the recovery, sustainability and growth of our Center. I will try to describe some of the highlights here today...



Tending to our SFCP Community: *(Recovery), Sustainability & Growth!*

SFCP Annual Meeting

September 20, 2025

President's Report: Maria Longuemare



Click here to [read the whole report](#) that was presented at the Annual Meeting on September 20th.

Maria Longuemare

DSA Awards 2024-2025

Maria Longuemare, MD, PhD
SFCP President

Dear SFCP colleagues,

Thank you to all of you who submitted nominations for the 2025 SFCP Distinguished Service Awards. The SFCP Management Team is delighted to announce that the following individuals have been honored this year:

Walt Beckman, PhD
Meryl Botkin, PhD
Megan Goodwin, PsyD
Holly Gordon, DMH
Mary Margaret McClure, DMH
Mary McMillan, LMFT
Cindy May, PsyD
Jennie Merovick, LCSW
Dara Sheik, LCSW
Harriet Wolfe, MD

We are very grateful for their dedicated work on behalf of SFCP. Please join us in appreciating all of the recipients.

Sincerely,
The SFCP Management Team

A graphic with the words "THANK you" in a playful, rounded font. "THANK" is in all caps and "you" is in lowercase. The letters are colored in a mix of teal, yellow, and pink. The "y" in "you" is particularly large and stylized, with a long tail that loops around.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

WALT BECKMAN

PRESENTED BY:

MARIA LONGUEMARE

I am delighted that Walt Beckman is being honored with a Distinguished Service Award this year for his many contributions to SFCP over the past decade. Walt stepped in to serve as Co-President of SFCP along with Mike Smith in 2017, which was an extremely challenging period in which SFCP finances and systems were in disarray. They made the wonderful decision to hire Marcia Hodges, and they worked together to establish best practices to support our organization with integrity and transparency. The Center was relatively new in its formation at the time of Walt's co-presidency, and the changes he and the leadership team made have helped

to set in motion the strong financial and organizational foundation that we heard reported at today's Annual Meeting. Walt's careful attention to the financial health of SFCP, and willingness to volunteer during that particularly challenging period represent a small part of many unsung and uncelebrated acts of service on his part. Even after his term as President ended, Walt agreed to stay on the Board for 5 more years. In addition to his work at the organizational level, Walt has also volunteered in the PED and PPED, serving as a Training Analyst/Consulting Analyst, a Progressions Advisor, and teaching in both the PED and SF-PPTP programs. At a personal level, I am particularly grateful to Walt and other past-presidents of SFCP for the support he has offered to me in my role.

THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

MERYL BOTKIN

PRESENTED BY:

MARIA LONGUEMARE

This award is long-overdue as Meryl Botkin has been involved in so many activities at SFCP for so many years – always in some way tending to our community, long before the rest of the organization caught up to exactly how important that is. Most recently, Meryl is winding down a decade+ term as Membership Division Chair. She has been active on the Invigorating the Membership Strategic Directions Team, and was actually involved in the Strategic Planning Process from the beginning - overseeing its planning and its implementation. In a previous era, in one of the first attempts to bring different groups in the Center together, Meryl chaired the Membership Integration Committee which brought together analysts, psychoanalytic psychotherapists, and community members to present their work, whether a work-in- progress or completed. Meryl collaborated with the Board to create

the Associate Member category with voting rights. She also organized the Gala to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Center. This was a monumental amount of work, and included a video production and memorial photobook. In addition to all of her work with membership, Meryl taught a course on Character in the PED, and also taught for many years in the Extension Division. She served on the Curriculum Committee for the Analytic Training program, the Graduate Committee, the Library Committee, the CE/CME Committee, the Progressions & Graduation Committee and many other subcommittees and Task Forces too numerous to count! As I hope is becoming clear from this description, Meryl's capacity to give of herself and her time is truly extraordinary. We are so grateful for her generosity of spirit, her caring and kindness, her willingness to pitch in – always with a smile(!), and her exceptional commitment to building community within the Center.

THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

MEGAN GOODWIN

PRESENTED BY:

BETH STEINBERG

Since entering psychoanalytic training in 1993, Megan Goodwin has already made enormous, invaluable contributions to the life of SFCP. Soon after beginning training, Megan took on the role of Continuing Education Committee chair, assisting all SFCP programs and faculty in preparing their applications for CE credit. This is an enormous job, requiring detailed knowledge of the CE credit application process as well as the ability to work with the many SFCP faculty and program leads, and Megan handles this with patience, poise and grace.

Megan also served as the Candidate Association (CA) Co-Chair for two years, and in this role, she revamped and breathed new life into the candidate association. As part of this work, she initiated the candidate buddy program which pairs a more advanced candidate with each first year candidate as someone to learn from and be a resource to, and this program has been extremely valuable for incoming candidates. In addition, as the CA co-chair Megan also sat on the PED committee for the last two years, and she was a member of the committee that engaged in the extensive process of surveying the community about and designing a new process for candidate progressions. In both of these capacities, her thoughtful, creative and incisive voice was invaluable. We will miss her now that her term has ended! Megan has truly gone above and beyond!!

THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

HOLLY GORDON

PRESENTED BY:

BETH STEINBERG

Holly has contributed to SFCP in numerous important ways over the last decade and is known throughout our community as (as one person noted) “a remarkable role model and leader, and, perhaps most importantly, enthusiastically volunteering to help communities under duress.”

Holly has run the Community Member Mentor Program, which makes mentorship available and accessible to SFCP community members at all levels of training and experience, since 2017. Holly has also been a mentor in this program as well as in multiple other programs throughout the Center. Holly is known to go “above and beyond” in helping her mentees with their clinical work, career mentorship but also helping to connect them with important resources. Holly has also been involved in directly bringing psychoanalysis into the community in her work with Friends of the Children and most recently Glide Family Youth and Childcare Center in the Tenderloin, in both programs teaching

containment and attunement to people working with at risk children, and presenting on this work here at SFCP through the Child Colloquium Series. Holly also wrote and received grant funding for the last 7 years from the Mirviss Foundation, which funds psychoanalytically oriented therapists to work with or consult about children in underserved communities, which she donated to these programs. In addition to all of this, Holly has been an invaluable member of the Psychoanalytic Training Program Committee and Chair of the Training and the Consulting Analyst Committee for the past three years. In these roles, she has participated in transforming the TA/CA application process to make it much more accessible, and as a result, we have been welcoming many new TAs and CAs these past few years which is extremely important in keeping SFCP vital and relevant. Holly was also an invaluable member of the committee that engaged in the extensive process of surveying the community about and designing a new process for candidate progressions. Holly also brings her love of teaching to the PED by always being up for teaching as well as being a consulting analyst in the psychoanalytic training program. Thank you so much for your service, Holly!!

THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

MARY MARGARET MCCLURE

WRITTEN BY:

STEPHEN SELIGMAN

PRESENTED BY:

DEBORAH WEISINGER

Mary Margaret is a great friend to SFCP and to so many of us, including me—for which I am grateful. She is one of those people who just shows up. I wish I could be there in person; I have a long-standing teaching commitment today. This award is long overdue. I can't enumerate all of what she'd done: I'm not sure if anyone here can. I recall her work on the first curriculum revision during our time here. It was a struggle to persuade everyone to move to a comparative, multi-theoretical program. Mary Margaret was clear, creative, thoughtfully about relationships, finding a path about which everyone felt OK. Many of us were a little burned

out after this, but Mary Margaret took on the real work, first as chair of the Curriculum Committee, and then of the PED. That's the way she is. As you well know, these positions demand so much time and emotional energy, but Mary Margaret stuck around long enough to play a key role in another curriculum revision. Meanwhile, she played important roles in APsaA, on the Program Committee and elsewhere, including bringing social issues forward—as she has here at SFCP. I'm sure I've only scratched the surface. She didn't have to do any of this—she is one of our most respected clinicians and consultants and she has more than enough to do. But her love for analysis has led to an exemplary concern for our institution, and the people that it supports. Mary Margaret's conscientious kindness has been a gift to us. Congratulations to her, and to all of us for what she has done.

THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

HARRIET WOLFE

PRESENTED BY:

ROBIN DEUTCH

To be brief – and that's a challenge.

As IPA President, APSA President, SFPI&S President and SFCP Board Chair, Harriet has walked bravely into all manner of conflict, with patience, organizational savvy, and a love of our profession. To include a few examples of her work 2021-2025 as IPA President, she oversaw the revision of IPA training standards and the further development of the Asia Pacific region. She promoted IPA in the Community and the World which includes now 11 different committees deeply engaged in psychoanalytic social interventions. As SFPI&S President she worked to advance the very controversial idea of giving up our asbestos riddled building on Sutter Street. The vision of an assisted living facility on our property with a modern building within the building for us lost funding in the 2008 financia

l crisis. With no building standing and nowhere to go, Harriet and David Glotzer accomplished the sale of our land to UCSF and oversaw the gradual discovery of a new property. Then with Sandee Blechman, Harriet co-chaired the capital campaign which financed the renovation of our current home. Zooming to a theme throughout: she has loved her work as a Training and Supervising Analyst and as a supervisor for psychiatry residents who attend both UCSF and PPTP. She is looking forward to more time for teaching, supervising, and being present again at SFCP. I want to thank Harriet for her service to us and to psychoanalysis.



THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS



**CINDY MAY & JENNIE MERROVICK
ON BEHALF OF THE LEARNING &
RECONCILIATION TASK FORCE
PRESENTED BY:
MARIA LONGUEMARE**

While both Cindy May and Jennie Merrovick have done many things during their brief tenure at SFCP, this particular award is intended honor the work they did on the Learning & Reconciliation (L&R) Task Force along with 2 other members of their team – Ari Bacharach, and Clara Kwun – who were ineligible for a DSAs this year because they had already received awards within the past 3 years! The L&R Task Force formed out of the Strategic Directions Team on Promoting an Inclusive & Reflective Organization, and they have been working for several years to develop the vision for the L&R Committee that Cindy presented today. Working to shift our culture in this way – in their own words “to emphasize mutual understanding, insight, relational repair, and community and organizational change” around incidents of racial injury – is truly transformative, if we can do it. And we are so grateful to the two of you and the L&R Task Force for the challenging work involved in developing and implementing this process, and in particular for doing this while also doing analytic training!

It gives me hope for the future of SFCP. Thank you.

In addition to her work on the L&R, Cindy May (who is beginning her third-year as a candidate) has volunteered a great deal of service in other capacities, including serving on the Board prior to starting candidacy, the Nominating and Governance Committee, and working on the DEI Task Force to interview applicants and hire a DEI organizational consultant. After working on the L&R Task Force she has agreed to stay on to co-chair the L&R Committee.

Jennie Merovick, who recently finished classes and became a post-seminar candidate, has done a phenomenal amount of work during training. She served for 3 years as the Candidate Rep on the PED Curriculum Committee and she teaches in the SF-PPTP program. Jen has truly dedicated herself to the DEI work here at the Center. Within the Candidates Association, she and fellow candidates started a study group on the Holmes Commission report, she serves on the DEI Steering Committee and two of its subcommittees (Curriculum, and the Anti-semitism & Islamophobia Workshop Planning Group). She has also agreed to serve as the first DEI-SC rep on the Management Team as well as remain on the L&R Committee as that group begins its work.

THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

**MARY MCMILLAN & DARA SHEIK
ON BEHALF OF THE SFCP VISION &
MISSION WRITING TEAM
PRESENTED BY:**

MARIA LONGUEMARE

Mary McMillan and Dara Sheik are being honored in particular for their work on the SFCP Vision & Mission Writing Team (alongside other team members Ari Bachrach and Debora Fletcher who were ineligible for awards this year, as I mentioned). This group devoted an enormous amount of time and effort – meeting every other Saturday at 8:00AM to sift through all of the input and feedback from members, programs, and the Strategic Planning work, generating drafts and getting more feedback, in order to represent the diverse array of voices and opinions regarding our goals as an organization. Getting clear on our priorities has been essential to the work of the Board, the Management Team, and all of the programs who are tasked with implementing the SFCP Mission. And I have seen in action how having an articulated set of goals has helped streamline our decision-making process. On a personal note, I also participated on this Writing Team, and I have to say it was one of the most inspiring and fulfilling group experiences I have had here at SFCP. A group that

took the time to really listen to one another, engaged differences with curiosity, and worked to find a way through that recognized all voices. It felt like a model for where we want to go as an organization.

In addition to all of this work developing the Vision/Mission, Mary McMillan has dedicated herself to many other causes at SFCP, including serving on the Board, the Annual Giving Campaign, the By-Laws Committee, and the Invigorating the Membership Strategic Directions Team. This past year, she has also volunteered to take over the SFCP Newsletter, and is in the process of revamping it to make it more accessible and representational of the creative work of our members.

Though he lives in San Luis Obispo, Dara Sheik manages to devote a great deal of time to SFCP as well, through his service on the Board and the Annual Giving Campaign. Dara also teaches at Cal Poly, introducing a psychoanalytic perspective to his undergrad students there.



THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!



Volunteer of the Month - Ryan Pate

Mary McMillan

SFCP Newsletter Editor

Ryan Pate is the kind of man who knows what he wants, and works to get it. He has finished his 2-year fellowship in the Palo Alto Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Program (PAPPTP) where, he says, he developed skills for practicing his passion for psychotherapy. He values being helpful and says PAPPTP was fostering his values in a warm community. He was inspired to give back, to keep the program going and to help others.

He joined the Guidance Committee where he can support the program by meeting the needs of the students and create an information and infrastructure team. He also joined the Curriculum Committee where he can bring psychoanalysis closer to being in the world. In this program, students pick the topics they want to study, bringing a contemporary learning style and culturally diverse topics into the curriculum. In his class, the students picked the topics of aging (Ryan's pick—he has studied geriatric psychiatry, and he's particularly interested in ageism, and denial of ageing, both from the external world and internally), the Internet and Artificial Intelligence, queer trends, and caste/color/BIPOC issues.

Ryan grew up in a small town in rural Louisiana —He left Louisiana to study in New Hampshire, and then studied medicine and psychiatry at Dartmouth, where he was exposed to psychoanalysis. There he decided to look at things as not good or bad, but rather as pleasant or unpleasant. During a yearlong class he studied Freud, Klein and other foundational

psychoanalysts, and became aware of the way psychoanalysis touches deep inside a person, and fosters growth and deepens understanding.

He developed an attitude toward medication as a way to help relieve symptoms, but values the way psychoanalysis can get at the root of a patient's suffering. At SFCP, he hopes to become a candidate in two or three years. Meanwhile, he has started his own private practice, where he wants to work with some complex cases and develop his confidence by using the tools he has learned. To mitigate the isolation and loneliness of a private practice, he belongs to a journal club and a consultation group—and of course, he's involved in PAPPTP.



BYLAWS CORNER

President's Term

by Brett Penfil

Last month the Bylaws Task Force – a Task Force of the Board – introduced the Bylaws Corner to the newsletter. If you missed that article, you can read it here:

https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/newsletter_2025-09.pdf. Each month from October through January, the Task Force will be providing information about each of the substantive changes to the Bylaws that are being considered. On February 8th, 2026, the Task Force will hold an online Town Hall, and will send a survey to all members afterwards, to obtain their input on the issues to be revised. After the Task Force integrates all member feedback, the voting membership will be asked to vote on revisions to the Bylaws.



Our hope is that providing information monthly will prepare members for the Town Hall conversation and survey. Prior to issues being presented in the Bylaws Corner, they have been discussed by both the full Board and by the Task Force. This month the Task Force presents the pros and cons of one of the substantive issues that is being considered for revision: the issue is the President's term.

As the Bylaws are now, the President (or Co-Presidents) serves a one-year term as President-elect and then a three-year term as President. (Note that in recent years we have not had a President-elect so Presidents have served three-year terms.)

Question: Should the President's term remain the same or be changed?

Two-Year Term (with option to renew for one or two years)	Three-Year Term (with option to renew for one or two years)	Three-Year Term (with option to renew for another three-year term)
A shorter term might be less daunting and more appealing to potential volunteers.	A three-year term allows enough time for the President to understand role, work on projects, and wrap up projects. Offers an option for the President to stay for a long enough time to complete projects or onboard a new President.	Same as Pros for a three-year term, but with an option to renew for three years, instead of one or two years. If this option is chosen, less frequent need to recruit and onboard a new President.
		Option allows for fewer transitions in leadership.
It generally takes a year for the president to understand the role fully. Two years would limit the amount of time a President could meet the needs of the organization and attend to goals they have for the role.	The president might feel pressured to stay longer than desired. A three-year term may seem daunting to potential volunteers.	Three years may feel daunting to some potential volunteers.

BYLAWS CORNER cont.

President's Term

by Brett Penfil

This list of pros and cons may not be exhaustive. We look forward to hearing more of your thoughts and questions at the February Town Hall. We will share pros and cons of another potential bylaws revision next month.



Thank you for your engagement with these important considerations.

Bylaws Task Force

Cheryl Goodrich

Marcia Hodges

Mary McMillan

Brett Penfil

Kira Steifman

Brett Penfil

SFCP Support Committees

Questions/Concerns regarding Ethics, Impairment, Racial Enactments

As an outcome of the Strategic Planning Process, SFCP has been working hard over the past several years to develop improved pathways for SFCP members and program participants to seek help and support with questions involving ethics, impairment, troubling conduct, conflicts, and racial enactments that arise in the course of SFCP programs and activities. Changes include the following:

- The Ethics & Impairment Committee (EIC) has transitioned from an adjudicative model to a consultative model whose function is to offer consultation, support and facilitation (rather than investigation/adjudication of complaints)
- The Learning & Reconciliation (L&R) Committee has been created to support individuals who have experienced or witnessed an interaction that may have involved a racial enactment (i.e. something said or done that reflected or reproduced racial dynamics in a problematic or painful way).
- The Ombuds role has been revamped and updated
- A new process has been developed to evaluate potential Suspension/Disqualification from SFCP membership and/or program participation for conduct that violates the SFCP Code of Ethics and/or our organizational values.

Please review the following description of these new processes below, and please reach out to any members of the committees and/or the SFCP leadership with any questions.

FAQ:

How can I get help with a question/concern involving ethics, impairment, troubling conduct, conflicts, or racial enactments that occurred in an SFCP program, with an SFCP member, or with other individuals acting as representatives of SFCP? How do I know which committee to contact for consultation?

SFCP offers several different pathways of support, including:

The [Ethics & Impairment Committee \(EIC\)](#) is available to assist SFCP members, staff, instructors, program participants, patients of SFCP members, and other members of the public who are seeking consultation to clarify ethical concerns or dilemmas arising in the context of SFCP members, instructors, or clinical consultants acting in their professional capacity or in their role as a representative of SFCP.

SFCP Support Committees

Questions/Concerns regarding Ethics, Impairment,
Racial Enactments

The [Learning & Reconciliation \(L&R\) Committee](#) is available to support anyone who may have been affected by, contributed to, or is unsure about their role in a racial enactment – i.e. something said or done that reflected or reproduced racial dynamics in a problematic or painful way. The L&R Process aims to attend to the relational impacts of racial enactments by fostering mutual understanding, accountability, and healing within our community.

The [Ombudsperson](#) works with individuals and groups within SFCP to provide a safe space to talk about an issue or concern; explore options to help resolve conflicts, and bring systemic concerns to the attention of the organization for resolution as needed.

We encourage you to have an exploratory phone call with any and all of these committees to learn more about what each committee can offer and to maximize the support you receive. Representatives from each committee can also help guide you in deciding where to take your question/concern.

What happens when I contact the EIC, L&R, or Ombudsperson for consultation?

The first step of a consultation with the EIC, the L&R, or the Ombudsperson involves a phone call with a committee representative to understand a little more about your question/concern, to explain what resources and support that specific committee can offer, and to discuss what that process might look like within that particular committee (each committee process is different). In some cases you may feel that this call addressed your question/concern or, alternatively, you may wish to develop a plan with the committee representative for further consultation and facilitated support. This initial phone call is an opportunity for you to ask questions to determine whether this committee's services are a good fit, and whether you wish to proceed further with more in-depth consultation.

Is my consultation with EIC, L&R, or Ombudsperson confidential?

The initial conversation with EIC, L&R, or Ombudsperson is confidential within that committee, with the exception of situations in which individuals are potentially at risk of acute harm and/or other mandated reporting requirements. As the consultation proceeds, you may choose to discuss your concern with others within SFCP who are in a position to offer help. In some cases, existing policies, structures, and practices within Center programs may be contributing to the problem you are experiencing. In these instances, it may be useful for members of the SFCP leadership to be made aware of the issue in a high-level way (i.e. not involving names and details) for the purpose of reviewing and potentially revising procedures to minimize the likelihood of this problem recurring. All of these possibilities and potential decisions will be considered on a case by case basis. Click on each committee's link above to see the specific guidelines regarding the limits of confidentiality.

SFCP Support Committees

Questions/Concerns regarding Ethics, Impairment,
Racial Enactments

Will the EIC, L&R, or Ombudsperson investigate and adjudicate complaints, and/or recommend disciplinary action?

No. The EIC, the L&R, and the Ombudsperson offer consultation, support, and facilitation ONLY. None of these committees are authorized to investigate or adjudicate concerns/complaints or recommend any disciplinary action. Their primary role is to offer resources, consultation, and support regarding potential steps you can take within SFCP (and with outside agencies/licensing boards where relevant) in order to address your concern. If you wish, you can request that committee representatives facilitate conversations between you and other individuals within and outside SFCP.

Does SFCP ever suspend/disqualify individuals from membership or participation in SFCP programs?

On rare occasions, the SFCP Board of Trustees may suspend or disqualify an individual from membership or participation in SFCP programs due to conduct that violates the [SFCP Code of Ethics](#) and/or is inconsistent with our organizational values. An individual may also be required to withdraw from certain SFCP responsibilities due to issues of impairment. The Board will automatically review cases in certain situations as outlined in the [Suspension/Disqualification](#) section, and the Board will also consider formal written complaints submitted by impacted individuals.

Note: If you wish to submit a formal written complaint, please review the section on [Suspension/Disqualification](#) in detail. It is also a requirement that you consult with the [Ethics & Impairment Committee \(EIC\)](#) to gain an understanding of the ethical standards that may be relevant to your concern. For SFCP program-related matters, we also strongly encourage you to contact people in a leadership role in the relevant program to discuss the issue. The program leaders are often in the best position to take more direct and immediate action than is possible via the written complaint pathway. Representatives from the EIC, L&R, and Ombuds Committees are available to offer consultation and support regarding reaching out to the program leadership.

SFCP Opportunities Database (reprint from September newsletter)

Neil Brast

Dear Colleagues,

SFCP has well over two hundred non-teaching volunteer roles, which are essential to the functioning of the Center. We are persistently challenged to keep track of these roles, to ensure that they are filled when they become vacant, and to inform our community which roles cry out for your participation.

To meet this challenge, Neil Brast, Aaron Chow, and the Invigorating the Membership team, have created the SFCP Opportunities database, which is now up and running. If you are currently a volunteer, we invite you to add your role to the database. And if you would like to participate more in the organization, please use it to find available roles that you might want to fill.

Implementation:

1. Available opportunities will now be published in the SFCP Newsletter under "HELP WANTED" and on the SFCP Website in the Membership area as "Help Wanted - Opportunities to Participate" ([Help Wanted – San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis](#)).
2. For current volunteers, we are inviting you to add your roles to the SFCP Opportunities Database, especially if you expect to be leaving a role in the foreseeable future and are looking for successors. ([SFCP Roles Questionnaire](#))
3. We are also inviting you to add to the database any new role for which you want to recruit participants.

The roles questionnaire is accessible at [SFCP Roles Questionnaire](#). It usually takes 10 – 20 minutes to fill out. Your responses will flow directly into the SFCP Roles Database.

We really appreciate your contributions to the Center's culture of volunteer participation.

/signed/ The Strategic Initiatives Team I (Invigorating the Membership):
Meryl Botkin, Neil Brast, Susan Hamlin, Marcia Hodges, and Mary McMillan.



SFCP Community Members – Mentoring Program!

Holly Gordon, DMH

Would you like to meet with an analyst to discuss your questions about psychoanalytic thinking and clinical work? We'd love to meet with you! The Mentoring Program at SFCP matches participants with analyst mentors to discuss the mentee's interest in psychoanalytic work.

The Mentoring Program is open to mental health clinicians at all levels of training and experience, who are SFCP Community Members, an easy and fun community to join! Mentors meet once a month with mentees for the academic year.

Examples of Topics to Discuss:

- Information, resources and literature to help a mentee explore particular areas of interest. For example: work with particular populations such as trauma survivors; current thinking about LGBTQ issues; the impact of race, class and culture on psychological life; child work; mindfulness; research about psychoanalytic process; and psychoanalytic interfaces with other fields such as poetry, literature, neurosciences
- How to choose among current activities, programs, courses, and services offered by SFCP that are relevant to the mentee's interests and stage of training
- Questions about developing as a psychoanalytic psychotherapist and about psychoanalytic training
- Connecting the mentee with colleagues who the mentor thinks might be a valuable resource based on the mentee's interest in a particular subject

You must be an SFCP Community Member to apply for this program, here is [the link to become a Community Member](#).

And here is [the link to the Mentoring Program](#).

"I'm new to private practice and was looking to get mentoring and support from someone with a deep knowledge of psychotherapy. During our initial meetings I was able to get several very practical and pressing questions answered and feel more confident about seeing clients in my new private practice setting. We discussed psychoanalytic approaches to working with parents and children, which helped me to move forward with my cases and also to consider aspects that I had not previously considered. I have a particular interest in mindfulness and my mentor put me in touch with a therapist who incorporates mindfulness into a psychodynamic therapy practice. In addition, I work with children and my mentor referred me to the Child Colloquium, where I met other clinicians and heard a very helpful presentation. I feel very fortunate to meet with my mentor as needs arise."

Matt Higgins LCSW, Community Members Mentoring Program


Contact: Holly Gordon
hollygordon4@gmail.com

COST: FREE to SFCP Community Members.



[LINK TO APPLICATION](#)

QUESTIONS: If you have questions about the program, please contact:

Holly Gordon hollygordon4@gmail.com



*Whether you ARE looking
for a quiet corner to read, or
publications to explore, we
invite you to stay connected
with us throughout the
SFCP library.*



**FOR ANY INQUIRIES, YOU CAN
CONTACT THE LIBRARIAN,
RASHMITA SRIRAM.
RASHMITA.SRIRAM@SFCP.ORG**

**We look forward to another
enriching year with you !**





This fund was established in memory of Enrico E. Jones, PhD, an African American Psychologist and Professor of Psychology at UC Berkeley. Enrico (Rico) completed his analytic training at San Francisco Psychoanalytic Institute in 1992 and served on the faculty until 2000. Rico died in 2003, after a 3-year battle with multiple myeloma.

WAYS TO DONATE

ONLINE:

sfcp.my.site.com/s/donation?campaign=EnricoJonesFund

BY MAIL:

Payee: SFCP

ATTN: Enrico Jones Fund
444 Natoma Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

BY PHONE:

(415) 563-5815

THE ENRICO JONES FUND FOR EQUITY AND EQUALITY

94 people of color have received
tuition credits since 2021!

- 15 students received tuition credits in 2021
- 25 students received tuition credits in 2022
- 27 students received tuition credits in 2023
- 27 students received tuition credits in 2024

A recipient told us:

"I strongly believe that as a psychoanalytic community, we all benefit from the Enrico Jones Fund's implicit and explicit recognition of the painful racism in our community in need of acknowledgement and repair. And for that I am the most grateful."

Join Us!

The EJ Fund has received significant support from the SFCP community, with 119+ members contributing since inception. As the number of recipients has increased each year since the Fund's inception, the diversity of SFCP's students has grown and we anticipate an increase of applicants going forward. To continue providing meaningful tuition support to persons of color, it is essential that contributions continue yearly. Please consider making the EJ Fund an annual recipient of your charitable giving.

Opportunities Room



Ways members
can participate
in programs
and events





SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS 2025-2026

Mark your calendars for this wide
range of programs in '25-'26!

	<p>Sat October 4 10:30am - 12pm</p> <p>THE RADICAL OTHERNESS OF MASUD KHAN <i>Presenter: Ilene Philipson, PhD, PhD; San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis (SFCP)</i> <i>Moderator: Chuck Fisher, MD; SFCP</i></p>
	<p>Sat November 1 10:30am - 12pm</p> <p>LEADERSHIP IN THE PSYCHOANALYTIC MOVEMENT <i>Presenter: Harriet Wolfe, MD; SFCP; President, International Psychoanalytic Association</i> <i>In conversation with Brett Penfil, LMFT, MPH; Chair, SFCP Board of Trustees</i></p>
	<p>Sat January 10 10:30am - 12:30pm</p> <p>PSYCHEDELIC PSYCHOANALYSIS: TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE SELF <i>Presenter: Megan Rundel, PhD; Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California</i> <i>Moderator: Ilene Philipson, PhD, PhD</i></p>
	<p>Sat March 7 10:30am - 12pm</p> <p>ENDINGS IN ANALYSIS <i>Presenter: Stephen Purcell, MD; SFCP and Alice Jones, MD; SFCP</i> <i>Interviewer: Steven Goldberg, MD; SFCP</i></p>
	<p>Sat April 4 10:30am - 12pm</p> <p>OUTCOME STUDY OF PSYCHOANALYSES OF CHRONICALLY DEPRESSED PATIENTS WITH EARLY TRAUMA, AN UPDATE OF MODE <i>Presenter: Marianne Leuzinger-Bohleber, PhD; Senior Scientist of the University Medicine Mainz, Department of Psychosomatics and Psychiatry</i> <i>Interviewer: Cheryl Goodrich, PhD; SFCP</i></p>
	<p>For more details and updates about these events, please visit our website www.sfcps.org/scientific-meetings/</p> <p><i>*CME/CE credits pending*</i></p>

SCIENTIFIC MEETING

SAN FRANCISCO
CENTER FOR
PSYCHOANALYSIS



THE RADICAL OTHERNESS OF MASUD KHAN

Masud Khan was one of the most brilliant psychoanalysts of the Twentieth Century. He was Winnicott's "principal disciple," and analysand. He was also one of the most troubled, dying in madness, despair, and alone. How could such a talented and celebrated psychoanalyst fall so dramatically and publicly? In response to this question, his analysis with Donald Winnicott remains a focus of theorizing and controversy. This paper argues that it was Khan's radical otherness, his identification as a "feudalist," standing outside of a Western, democratic worldview, that served as a significant reason for the failure of his analysis. In defying the confines of his analytic community's social unconscious, Khan's descent allows us to question the ways in which we think about difference and otherness today.

Presenter:

Ilene Philipson, PhD, PhD
San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis (SFCP)

Ilene Philipson holds doctorates in sociology, clinical psychology, and psychoanalysis. She is a Training and Supervising Analyst at the Institute of Contemporary Psychoanalysis in Los Angeles, a Supervising Analyst at the San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis, and is in the private practice of psychotherapy and psychoanalysis in the San Francisco Bay Area, California. Her books include *On the Shoulders of Women: The Feminization of Psychotherapy*; *Married to the Job: Why We Live to Work and What We Can Do About It*, and *Ethel Rosenberg: Beyond the Myths*.

**Saturday,
October 4, 2025**

10:30am - 12:00pm



In Person at
**San Francisco Center for
Psychoanalysis**
444 Natoma Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Remote option available

1.5 CME/CE Credits Available

*This program is free
of charge!*

FOR CME AND PROGRAM INFO:
WWW.SFCP.ORG/2025-10-04-SCIENTIFIC-MEETING/





Please join us for

VISITING PROFESSOR REVISITED

On Arrogance



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025

10:00AM - 12:00PM

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Presenter: Peter Goldberg, PhD

Moderator: Renu Maria Cappelli, PhD, MFT

Nicola Abel-Hirsch, our Visiting Professor last May, engaged us in discussion about the work of W.R. Bion. We would like to continue that discussion with a focus on Bion's 1958 paper "On Arrogance". Peter Goldberg has written "On Bion's 'On Arrogance'". We will discuss the strikingly original ideas introduced by Bion in his very brief but highly consequential paper, ideas that remain challenging and relevant to our current practice. In identifying a post-catastrophic type of psychotic structure underlying otherwise well-adapted personalities, Bion suggests the clinical importance of repositioning ourselves to receive the patient's "primitive" modes of communication, and warns that in our unchecked curiosity and insistence on finding meaning we risk becoming the very incarnation of an "obstructive object", recapitulating the patient's experience of being disastrously imposed-upon and misunderstood. Along the way, Bion suggests that Oedipus' downfall stems not from breaking the incest taboo but from the arrogance and hubris of having to know at any cost.

SFCP Candidate Renu Cappelli will interview Peter Goldberg, followed by audience participation.

We hope you will join us.

\$ 50 — General Admission

\$ 25 — SFCP Members

Free — SFCP and non-SFCP

Candidates, SFCP PPTP Trainees,
and University Level Students

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

WWW.SFCP.ORG/2025-10-05-VISITING-PROFESSOR-REVISITED





SFCP in conjunction with the C.G. Jung Institute of San Francisco and RBS present:

Transformation, Creativity, and the Aesthetic Experience:

Jungian and Contemporary Object Relations Comparative Perspectives

Saturday, September 27, 2025 | October 18, 2025 | November 15, 2025

9:30AM - 12:30PM Pacific Time

In-Person at SFCP (444 Natoma Street, San Francisco) and via Zoom

The historic divide between Freud and Jung has often limited cross-disciplinary learning between the Freudian/Object Relations psychoanalytic tradition and Jungian clinical approaches. This collaboration between SFCP, the C.G. Jung Institute of San Francisco, and The Regional Bion Symposium aims to bridge that gap, fostering dialogue and deeper understanding between these schools of thought.

This series offers a unique opportunity to explore the intersection of Jungian and Contemporary Object Relationalist notions of psychoanalytic therapeutic action, with specific attention to the role of transformation, creativity, and aesthetic experience in the clinical setting and beyond.

Part 1: September 27, 2025

9:30AM - 12:30PM Pacific Time

3 CE/CME Credits

Notions of Psychoanalytic Transformation in the Clinical Setting:

Case Presentations from a Jungian and British Object Relations Perspective

Presenters/Discussants: Henry Markman, MD & Sandy Pepper, MD

Part 2: October 18, 2025

9:30AM - 12:30PM Pacific Time

3 CE/CME Credits

Notions of Creativity in the Clinical Setting: Case Discussions from Jungian and Contemporary Object Relations Perspectives

Presenter: Jan Ole Luuk, LLM

Discussants: Robert Grossmark, PhD, ABPP and Paul Watsky, PhD, ABPP

Part 3: November 15, 2025

9:30AM - 12:30PM Pacific Time

3 CE/CME Credits

Transformation, Creativity, and the Aesthetic Experience:

Comparative Psychoanalytic Perspectives within the Jungian and Contemporary Object Relations Traditions

Presenters and Panel Discussion: John Beebe, MD; Dianne Elise, PhD;

Henry Markman, MD; and Paul Watsky, PhD, ABPP

Participants are encouraged to register for the full 3-part series for maximum immersion; however single lecture tickets are also available.

Pre-registration is required.

	Full Series	Single Ticket
General Admission	\$270	\$105
Members of SFCP or CG Jung SF	\$215	\$85
Candidates, Students, and SFCP PPTP Trainees	Free	Free

Optional CME/CE Credits available for \$15 per credit. (Free for SFCP Members)

TO REGISTER AND LEARN MORE, VISIT:



www.sfcp.org/tca-experience/





2025-2026

Child Colloquia Series

The Child Colloquium Series are offered free of charge through a generous support of the **SFCP** and the **Sophia Mirviss Fund**.

Sat, Oct 25

10:00AM – 12:00PM

LEARNING TO SURF: ANALYZING ADOLESCENTS

PRESENTER: MARY BRADY, PHD

DISCUSSANT: JILL SALLBERG, PHD, ABPP

MODERATOR: DAVID FRANKEL, PHD

Sat, Nov 8

10:00AM – 12:00PM

THE PLAY OF EROS: THE STORY OF AN ADOLESCENT BOY, HIS BODY AND HIS ANALYST'S BODY

PRESENTER: BRUCE REIS, PHD, FIPA, BCPSA

DISCUSSANT: TERRENCE OWENS, PHD

MODERATOR: DAVID FRANKEL, PHD

Sat, Jan 31

10:00AM – 12:00PM

SUPPORTING THE HEALTH OF TRANS, NONBINARY, AND GENDER-EXPLORING YOUTH BY SUPPORTING THEIR PARENTS

PRESENTER: MELISSA HOLUB, PHD

Sat, Feb 21

5:00PM - 9:00PM

FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

DISCUSSANT: REYNA COWAN, PSYD, LCSW

Sat, Mar 21

10:00AM – 12:00PM

MOURNING THE BODY AS BEDROCK: DEVELOPMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS IN TREATING TRANSEXUAL PATIENTS ANALYTICALLY

PRESENTER: AVGI SAKETOPOULOU, PSYD

Sat, Apr 18

10:00AM – 12:00PM

TREATING ADOLESCENT EATING DISORDERS THROUGH FAMILY THERAPY

PRESENTERS: JENNIFER VERA, MFT AND LYNN TRACY, PHD

FOR MORE INFO VISIT:

www.sfcpsf.org/child-colloquium-series/



ALL EVENTS ARE IN PERSON AT SFCP
444 NATOMA STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103





CHILD COLLOQUIA SERIES

SEASON OPENING EVENT

Learning to Surf: Analyzing Adolescents

Mary Brady describes her career-long proclivity for the treatment of adolescents and reflects on the elements that attract her toward work with adolescents. Over time the author came to understand her protectiveness of the adolescent process emanated from having been in some danger of missing the adolescent process herself. Adolescents act in and act out in order to get to know themselves. The author uses the metaphor of surfing to describe the adolescent (or herself in their wake) potentially upended, injured or even killed by waves too tumultuous to manage. Yet, surfing also captures the sensual beauty of finding a balance, of the thrill of the ride, of a moment of being fully, sparkingly alive.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025
10AM – 12PM**

IN PERSON EVENT at
SFCP
444 Natoma Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

PRESENTER: MARY BRADY, PHD

DISCUSSANT: JILL SALLBERG, PHD,
ABPP

MODERATOR: DAVID FRANKEL, PHD

FREE EVENT!

**Lunch, Drinks and Social Hour
to follow the presentation**

For more information and to register, visit:
www.sfcpsf.org/2025-10-25-child-colloquia/



SCIENTIFIC MEETING

SAN FRANCISCO
CENTER FOR
PSYCHOANALYSIS



LEADERSHIP IN THE PSYCHOANALYTIC MOVEMENT

Psychoanalytic institutes and centers are in need of leadership to carry on the history and education of psychoanalysis while also addressing changes in the internal and external culture. Leadership is its own area of study and practice that most psychoanalysts and psychoanalytic psychotherapists have little to no experience with. This program is aimed at introducing participants to the fundamental need for developing leaders in our organizations and addressing some of the fundamentals of being a leader.

Presenter:

Harriet Wolfe, MD

San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis (SFCP)
President, International Psychoanalytic
Association (IPA) 2021-2025

Harriet Wolfe has led a wide range of organizations including SFCP, The American Psychoanalytic Association, and the International Psychoanalytic Association. She writes and speaks on the subject of leadership.

Interviewer:

Brett Penfil, LMFT, MPH

Board of Trustees Chair, San Francisco Center
for Psychoanalysis (SFCP)

**Saturday,
November 1, 2025**

10:30am - 12:00pm



In Person at

**San Francisco Center for
Psychoanalysis
444 Natoma Street
San Francisco, CA 94103**

Remote option available

1.5 CME/CE Credits Available

*This program is free
of charge!*

**FOR CME AND PROGRAM INFO:
[HTTPS://WWW.SFCF.ORG/2025-11-01-
SCIENTIFIC-MEETING/](https://www.sfcf.org/2025-11-01-scientific-meeting/)**





COMMITTEE ON GROUPS PRESENTS

DEEPEN THE DIALOGUE: CONVERSATIONS ACROSS DIFFERENCE

In a time increasingly marked by polarization, we invite members of the SFCP community to come together in dialogue that fosters reflection, engagement, and connection, moving beyond the familiar and comfortable. We aim to create conditions where participants can bring the fullness of their experience, including what may be difficult to put into words, and offer it to others in the spirit of genuine exchange. Our hope is to create a setting where each person can speak from the richness of their lived experience, and where differences in background, perspective, or ways of thinking are not barriers but invitations to explore new understandings.

We seek to cultivate an atmosphere where openness can replace certainty, and where each person can be surprised by their own speech as well as by what they hear from others. These conversations are intended to nourish a deeper sense of relatedness in our community — one that honors nuance, welcomes tension, and allows for the creative possibilities that arise when we meet across what separates us.

The gathering will also serve as a starting point for smaller groups, which we envision meeting on an ongoing basis — perhaps monthly — to continue these conversations in a more sustained and focused way. Participants in the larger gathering are expected to engage fully in the formation and ongoing work of these groups, which will provide a setting to build on the conversations initiated at the larger gathering and reflect collectively on all that has emerged.

*We will reconvene the original large group in a follow-up event a year from now, offering participants the opportunity to share what has developed in their groups, reflect on what has been learned, and consider next steps for the future.

We hope you will join us in this effort.

For more information and to register, visit:
sfcp.org/2025-11-02-committee-on-groups/



November 2, 2025

10am -1pm

San Francisco Center for
Psychoanalysis
444 Natoma Street, CA 94103



CHILD COLLOQUIA SERIES

THE PLAY OF EROS: THE STORY OF AN ADOLESCENT BOY, HIS BODY AND HIS ANALYST'S BODY

Bruce Reis presents his treatment with an adolescent boy, "Manny", in which he explores a broader meaning of Eros. What he finds is the pleasure in ideas, the pleasure in relationships, and the pleasure of play. This is Eros that is fueled by the life instinct, that seeks growth and seeks development; and a play between analyst and patient that is led not by theory, goal direction or understanding, but by an affection for the development of the individual. Drawing on his own experience of adolescence, Reis keeps the analytic space of adolescence open without a super egoic demand for maturation.

PRESENTER

BRUCE REIS, PHD, FIPA, BCPSA

DISCUSSANT

TERRENCE OWENS, PHD

MODERATOR

DAVID FRANKEL, PHD

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 8, 2025**

10 AM - 12 PM

**IN-PERSON at
SFCP
444 Natoma Street
San Francisco, CA 94103**

FREE EVENT!

**TO REGISTER AND FOR MORE INFO, VISIT:
www.sfcps.org/2025-11-08-child-colloquia/**



Psychoanalytic Training Informational Evening

*PLEASE JOIN FACULTY AND CANDIDATES TO EAT,
DRINK, AND LEARN ABOUT PSYCHOANALYTIC
TRAINING AT SFCP.*

Thursday, November 13, 2025

7:30pm - 9:30pm

Where?

444 Natoma Street

San Francisco, CA 94103

Anyone interested is invited for dinner, drinks and a discussion of training to become a psychoanalyst at the San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis.

SFCP faculty and current psychoanalytic training candidates will be there to answer the most common questions people have about psychoanalytic training:

- whether and when to apply
- the application process
- course work
- clinical consultation
- personal analysis
- financial costs and advantages
- making your schedule work

Please RSVP at
[this link.](#)

Questions? Please contact Adam Goldyne, MD at adamgoldynemd@gmail.com or (415) 826-9639 for a personal conversation.

Or RSVP using this
QR code:



DIALOGUES IN CONTEMPORARY PSYCHOANALYSIS

2025-26

**MOTHER MEDIA: SEEING MOMS *and* BEING MOMS
in the AGES of TECHNOLOGY**

Saturday, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

**HANNAH
ZEAVIN,
PHD**
*in conversation
with*
**ELIZABETH
BRADSHAW,
PSYD**

**A PASSION for
EVER MORE**

Saturday, FEBRUARY 7, 2026

Presenter: DOMINIQUE SCARFONE, MD
Discussant: ADAM BLUM, PSYD
Moderator: JULIE RUSKIN, PHD

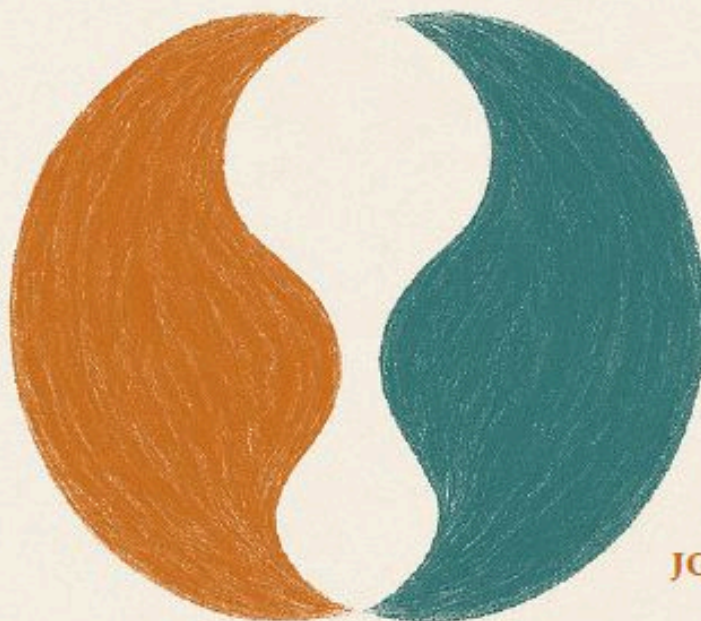
**MALIGNANT
NOSTALGIA :
FANTASIES of WHOLENESS
and the VIOLENCE
of EXCLUSION**

Saturday,
DECEMBER 6,
2025

**Presenter:
DONALD
MOSS,
MD**

**Discussant:
MITCHELL
WILSON,
MD**

**Moderator:
JOHN DiMARTINI,
PHD**



**SPRING PROGRAM
*to be announced***

**All programs
9:30am-12:30pm
AT SFCP and ON ZOOM**

**JOIN THE DIALOGUES AT
SFCP.ORG**



SAN FRANCISCO
CENTER FOR
PSYCHOANALYSIS





Wine, Cheese, & Community Building

2025-2026 Event Schedule

*Join us for one of our upcoming open houses
for Community Building,
in support of The Annual Giving Campaign!*

07
DECEMBER

**PAUL AND DENA
SORBO'S HOME**
PALO ALTO, CA (South Bay)



17
MAY

**AMY WALLERSTEIN
FRIEDMAN'S HOME**
PIEDMONT, CA (East Bay)



Want to contribute? Visit sfcp.my.site.com/s/donation

YOU'RE INVITED TO SFCP'S

WINE & CHEESE

party

AN OPEN HOUSE FOR COMMUNITY BUILDING,
SPONSORED BY THE ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025
2PM - 5PM

BID ON
VINTAGE
WINES AT THE
SILENT
AUCTION!

HOSTED BY
PAUL AND DENA SORBO
AT THEIR HOME IN MOUNTAIN VIEW
(ADDRESS PROVIDED UPON RSVP)

PLEASE RSVP HERE!





PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDENT SEMINARS

2025-2026

Wednesdays, 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Online via Zoom



These seminars are offered as a community service intended to supplement local training with psychoanalytic clinical instruction. The courses are offered free of charge to pre-and post-doctoral psychology interns, psychiatry residents, and pre-licensed MFT and social work interns currently in clinical placements.

**JANUARY
7-28**

**Becoming a Couple: An Introduction to
Psychoanalytic Couple Psychotherapy**

Dana Iscoff, MFT

**FEBRUARY
4-25**

**Exploring the Unconscious – An
Introduction to Jungian Dreamwork**

Betty Tharpe, MFT

**MARCH
4-25**

**Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, Psychoanalytic
Theory, and Trans Experience(s)**

Loic Pritchard, MFT

FOR MORE INFO VISIT:
WWW.SFCP.ORG/PSYCHOANALYTIC-STUDENT-SEMINARS/



CRITICA

Critica is an inclusive and transdisciplinary publishing platform that focuses on offering a reflective and aesthetic space to consider complex social and cultural issues through psychoanalytic and creative lens. We invite dialogue while offering the possibility of expression and creative expansion of our understanding of contemporary cultural and collective issues in the hopes of promoting social change.

Learn more:
www.critica.press

Critica is published online twice a year, in the Fall and Spring. Previous issues can be found in our archives, and printed on demand. The publication receives submission of essays, literary and artistic pieces, and book/film reviews in response or in conversation with contemporary collective/social experiences.