



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gonzalo Bacigalupe

Priorities, Collaboration, and Being Out There

Dear AFTA Colleagues,

AFTA is full of activity and not on shutdown. We are in the middle of planning our next Annual Meeting in Athens, Georgia, June 4-7, 2014, as I announced in my fall letter to the membership. We are also already brainstorming for our 2015 Portland Annual Meeting. Besides the Annual Meetings, there has been plenty of activity among committees and the Board as we prepare for our retreat and also adjust to our recent Central Office move from Washington, DC to Haverhill, MA. In this brief column, I will share with you my priorities as AFTA President, some I described in larger detail earlier, but they may be worth expanding as we move forward.

We need to make AFTA a more open organization. We are a powerful bunch of systems-oriented researchers, clinicians, and educators, with a rich tradition in the family therapy field and also leaders at making our organization an example of inclusive and social justice practices. We often strive to be an elite institution, while also attempting to

be inclusive and transparent. I don't think the tension that is at the core of our organization will change soon; it has been present and evolving since I joined almost two decades ago. We need to share more widely with others what we have here. We are to be known as the lead progressive family academic and professional association. We cannot just keep it for ourselves and just for our June meetings. The world is much more interconnected; we can reach a larger audience and involve more individuals and institutions in our conversations and projects. Experimenting with new venues, including social media, and collaborating more flexibly with other groups should be part of this equation.

At the last meeting in Chicago, for example, and in collaboration with Hinda Winawer, our past president, we convened a large and diverse group of leaders from family therapy and related organizations as a way of inviting these connections. As a direct result of this meeting, I will visit Portland in October to attend the Annual AAMFT Conference after a kind invitation by their President and Executive Director. (It will also be an opportunity to scout the city with our 2015 Portland Annual Meeting co-chairs.) I have also been in conversations with leaders in the field in Latin America and Europe to expand our ability to collaborate. At IFTA in Panama City next year, I will also have the opportunity to share AFTA at a keynote speech opening the World Family Therapy Congress. These are small gestures that hopefully will make AFTA better known and

part of the conversations about working with families, shaping just policies, strengthening good educational practices, and conducting sound relevant family research. At our Athens Annual Meeting, we also hope to see a strengthening of our collaboration with the Family Process Institute—Marianne Wamboldt, Family Process President, will sponsor and lead a plenary on relational diagnosis research.

We are to expand our strategic vision and continuity to make AFTA financially and organizationally viable. We cannot depend alone on membership dues to have a voice in the world and space for us to develop the innumerable ideas and projects that our Board, committees, and members are developing, have planned, or are defining as their priorities. Many of our present efforts, including the Futures Committee, Marketing, Social Media, the Endowment funds, and the continued strategic planning of the Board, not only have our financial stability as a priority, but also strengthen our mission. In the same vein, we will continue developing our "digital footprint" communications internally as well as with the world. Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn are just some of the tools we can use. What matters is the ability to connect among us and engage with the world out there. Knowledge circulates much more rapidly and in many more venues than in the past, and we have a lot to contribute.

Please join committees, invite new members, and help us continue the work of AFTA. Thanks!

AFTA Update



FROM THE EDITOR

Karni Kissil

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I am excited to present the Fall issue of the *AFTA Update*. It is packed with good stuff and has so much to offer!

In addition to a message from Gonzalo Bacigalupe, AFTA President, Jerry Gale and Roxana Llerena-Quinn,

the Co-Chairs of the 2014 Annual Meeting give a sneak peek of the upcoming conference. The theme of the conference is timely and relevant in the current socio-political context in the U.S. Check out the details of the program and don't forget to submit an abstract!

"In the spotlight" features an article by Melissa MacNish describing Camp Aranú'tiq, a unique camp for transgender kids taking place in Massachusetts and California. If you are involved in an interesting project that you would like to share with all of us, and think that we can learn and benefit from it, please email me. Your work can be featured in the next *Update*!

AFTA is growing! We accepted 20

new members in the last 6 months! A little bit of information about each of them is included in this issue. I also added pictures so you can recognize the new members in Athens, and make them feel at home.

We have a lot of personal updates. I was excited to see the creativity and productivity of our members reflected in these updates and was inspired by the enormous contribution AFTA makes to the field of family therapy and beyond. Please continue to send these updates from your lives. It helps keep us connected and engaged with each other.

Warm Regards,

Karni

FROM THE 2014 PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

Jerry Gale and Roxana Llerena-Quinn



FAMILY HEALTH AND WELLBEING: EMBRACING WHOLENESS AND COMPLEXITY

Join us in Athens, Georgia, June 4-7, 2014!



We are very excited to provide an update on the 2014 AFTA Annual Meeting and Open Conference. This year's event will take place at the UGA Hotel & Conference Center, in Athens, Georgia, marking the first time AFTA holds its meeting in a college campus community. The UGA Hotel & Conference Center regularly hosts national and international conferences (<http://www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/uga-hotel>). The conference this year will be an Open Event and we hope this will encourage local attendees to join AFTA.

Continuing AFTA's tradition of generating and nurturing new ideas to advance our understanding of relational wellbeing, the theme of the 2014 AFTA Annual Meeting is entitled *Family Health and Wellbeing: Embracing Wholeness and Complexity*. The program aims to answer: 1. How are health and wellbeing defined? 2. What factors contribute and threaten the state of wellbeing? 3. What are the social determinants of health? 4. How is our understanding of health and wellbeing integrated into our clinical practice, research, and teaching?

We ask these questions at one of the most polarized political moments in the nation. Issues of health are in the forefront of today's political discourses. When our political leaders are unable to dialogue with each other, and are seemingly unable to embrace a relational perspective that effectively responds to the voices of the people, we see the struggles over restrictions of all kinds of freedoms and a growing economic inequality. This is a difficult time for all of us. As members of AFTA, we cannot afford to stand still in the face of differences or divi-

FROM PROGRAM CO-CHAIR

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sions perpetuated by ideological rigidity. This program will require that we travel outside the familiar comfort zones, to reach out beyond our borders, and to expand our (personal, social, cultural, geographic, political) discourses in the construction of a shared narrative.

We hope you will join us next year in this journey of new openings and learning. While the call for proposals just went out, we can tell you of many highlights of the 2014 conference.

- With the priority of including community voices, we will start on Wednesday evening with an Open Community Event, airing the film, “Neshoba: The Price of Freedom,” which will be introduced by the film director Micki Dickoff, followed by a panel and community discussion on issues of race, safety, justice and healing. Evan Imber-Black will introduce the filmmaker and AFTA members (hopefully including Elaine Pinderhughes) will be in the panel along with community leaders in Georgia. This event is being supported by many, including programs at the University of Georgia as well as the Southern Poverty Law Center (<http://www.splcenter.org>).
- The Presidential Plenary will be delivered by Camara Jones, MD, PhD, MPH; Research Director, Division of Adult and Community Health, at the CDC. She will provide a framework for understanding the social determinants of health. Marlene Watson and Kyle Killian will comment on this framework from the standpoint of

their work. Ramón Rojano will moderate the discussion.

- The Clinical and Teaching Plenary features Faculty-Supervisors of the Center for Family, Community and Social Justice (Deidre Ashton, Gloria Lopez-Henriquez, Glenda Mendelsohn, CharlesEtta Sutton, Norbert Wetzel, and Hinda Winawer). Operating from the basic premise that incarceration is a family event affecting the emotional and physical health and wellbeing of children and families, a review of the results of the Center’s work will show how enhancing students’ potential for high school graduation can interrupt the “school to prison pipeline,” in its health-promoting and preventive programs.
- As we expand our understanding of what contributes to health and wellbeing, and what impedes it, ample evidence points to the power of relationships as a protective factor. AFTA, as a key organization and resource for generating new ideas about systemic and relational processes, has much to offer other disciplines in this area. The Research Plenary: *Measuring Relational Processes: Bringing Research into Practice*, features Marianne Wamboldt and Jay Lebow from *Family Process* with Tom Strong, from the University of Calgary, who will define for us possible paths of action.
- America Bracho, MD, MPH, and Executive Director of Latino Health Access, a center for health promotion and disease prevention located in Santa Ana, California, will describe the achievement of health and healing through community participation. Her work (based in

part on Paulo Freire’s pedagogy of the oppressed) is known nationally and internationally and has been featured on PBS, HBO, and as a TED talk. She is a current member of the Board of Trustees for Casey Family Programs. Eliana Korin and Bill Madsen will discuss her work and Melissa Elliot will moderate and facilitate the discussion.

While these speakers will inspire and motivate us, your voices will continue to be what sustains and re-energizes AFTA year after year. One of the strengths of AFTA Annual Meetings has been the participation and rich conversation both within and between planned events. We will celebrate the contributions of AFTA members in the old and new formats while providing time for dialogue and fun with friends.

- Athens, Georgia being a musical capital, the **Special Event** will take place at the historical Georgia Theatre with the band Abbey Road Live. Also, the **Awards Dinner** will feature local musicians from Nuçi’s Space (a non-profit health and music resource in Athens providing free mental and physical health treatment for the wellbeing of musicians).
- On Friday evening at the **Poster Festival**, in addition to the Poster and Book Signing Events, there will be a Fair of NE Georgia Community Programs with vendors presenting their community work. This will be an opportunity to meet people and learn about many programs addressing social justice and human rights. Food and beverage will be served at this reception.

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FROM PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

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- We are bringing back the **Forums** and **Dialogues** in 2014. We are also working on having a dialogue in Athens with local LGBTQI groups in Athens and at UGA. We are hoping these rich conversations will be part of one of the dialogues featured in the program.
- The **Feedback Session** has returned and will be at the end of the conference. At the Town Hall,

the recommendations of the AFTA Futures Committee will be presented and discussed.

- In this complex tapestry of events, we also wish to emphasize our own wellbeing: how each participant at the conference can find value and personal benefits. In this regard, we are planning to offer more centering practices and other opportunities for self and group expression throughout the conference. Amy Tuttle has taken the lead in coordinating activities for partners and family members attending the conference.

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our Program Committee and Committee Chairs who have put in many hours, working behind the scenes to make this program possible. Please join us in thanking them.

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you in Athens!

Respectfully submitted with gratitude to the people of AFTA for their good work in making a difference,

Roxana and Jerry

AFTA CHICAGO 2013: EXPERIENCES OF A FIRST TIME ATTENDEE

Bob Gillespie

The Cult of AFTA? My First AFTA Conference



As a new Early Career Member, I attended my first AFTA conference in Chicago this past June. In response to my growing disillusionment with the AAMFT as a state board member, several mentors and colleagues persistently stated things like: “You should join AFTA!”; “AFTA is amazing!”; and “You would love AFTA!” (Note exclamation points.) I admit to being more than skeptical because of their unbridled enthusiasm and did wonder if AFTA may actually be some kind of family therapy cult. But our conversations about AFTA did spark my curiosity, and I hadn’t joined a cult in a while. So I walked into the

opening reception of the Chicago conference with both a sense of hope and trepidation.

Within moments, I saw my former narrative therapy mentor Bill Madsen for the first time in many years since I had moved away from Massachusetts. I was so excited to catch up with him and congratulate him on his well-deserved AFTA award. He promptly and unexpectedly introduced me to Jill Freedman and Gene Combs, who wrote one of my favorite narrative therapy books. I tried very hard to stay cool and not sputter out dreadful clichés like, “I’m a really big fan of your work.” A couple minutes later, Bill then introduced me to one of my heroes, Karl Tomm, and I believe I did commence babbling incoherent

statements at that point. These first few minutes of the reception encapsulated my first AFTA conference. Throughout the weekend, I found myself sharing space with many luminaries whom I tremendously respected and practicing deep breathing exercises to avoid hyperventilating.

Besides covertly stalking Karl Tomm around the conference, I experienced many highlights: meditating with another one of my heroes, Jerry Gale; having meals and laughing with many dear Drexel classmates and colleagues whom I rarely see; reflecting on power dynamics in heterosexual couples with Victoria Dickerson;

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FIRST TIME ATTENDEE

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and demystifying the publication process with Evan Imber-Black. All of the plenaries were incredibly rich, including the phenomenal dialogue about infidelity between Janis Spring, Esther Perel, and Michael LaSala, and my main man Ken Hardy's sincere and powerful remarks following Linda Burton's fascinating presentation on her research with low income families. But my absolute favorite part of the conference was the Pearls of Wisdom panel discussion with Pauline Boss and Karl Tomm (surprised?). From their generous offering of personal stories, I felt both inspired as well as a sense of self-acceptance—that it was okay if I often experienced self-doubt and didn't have my entire professional trajectory mapped out.

I forgot to mention the sense of dread that I carried around the entire conference, because my own brief presentation on my dissertation research was the last scheduled event on the last day of the conference. Nobody was injured during my brief presentation, and the experience did force me to face my dissertation again for the first time in many months.

After much reflection, I decided not to formally join the AFTA cult because of its questionable initiation practices cleverly disguised as “volunteering for a committee.” I will, however, enthusiastically return to another AFTA conference as an Early Career Member and look forward to meeting and collaborating with many more AFTA members.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: MELISSA MACNISH ON CAMP ARANU'TIQ

Back in 2009 when I was asked by my colleague, Nick Teich, to serve on the Board of Directors for a camp for transgender and gender variant youth ages 8-15 that he hoped to start, I had no idea what I was getting into. At the time over half of my caseload at the clinic where I was working was comprised of transgender youth, young adults and their families, a population that is marginalized with few resources available to them. In collaboration with Greater Boston PFLAG, I had started a support group for parents of transgender kids. I was really beginning to see the healing power of a supportive home environment, so the idea of creating other safe spaces for youth was very intriguing.

Nick pulled together an administrative team (of which I am also a member), applied for non-profit status, began interviewing volunteers, started fundraising and planned a weeklong summer camp. The mission statement of Camp Aranu'tiq¹ is to “provide transgender and gender-variant youth with a safe, fun, and unique outdoor camp experience and to foster leadership skills in a place where campers are able to express gender however they are comfortable and connect with others in similar situations.”

¹ Aranu'tiq is the Chugach tribe's word for a revered person who was thought to embody both the male and female spirit.

Our inaugural summer was in 2010. As a clinician who had been working with this population, it was no surprise to me when we started receiving multiple health forms that listed a history of self-harm, major behavioral problems, suicide attempts, anxiety and depression. At camp we had to start a second medicine cabinet because so many of them were on medications for depression and/or anxiety. Let me be clear. This was to be a “regular” summer camp, not a therapy camp. As one of two mental health professionals on the A-team, I was starting to worry that we were in way over our heads. I could not have been more wrong; the week was magic! It turns out, when you give these kids a safe space to be themselves, they thrive.

On opening day, when the parents drop off their kids, we invite them to stay for a parent support group. Campers come from many different parts of the country, and for many families this is the first time they have met others with transgender children. The group offers an opportunity to discuss topics related to their child and be met with mutual understanding, and instantly relationships are formed based on their shared experience.

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CAMP ARANU'TIQ

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Programming at camp is filled with typical summer camp activities (canoeing, arts and crafts, swimming, sports, and evening programs). While the innate nature of this camp has so many benefits, we continue to try and expand the potential for more structured ways to increase campers' self-esteem and encourage leadership. We give a leadership award at the end of every week. In 2012 we began the Big Sibling/Little Sibling program, pairing the youngest campers with the oldest campers. During the week the big sibling looks out for their little sibling and does cute little things to make them feel good about themselves. This has the reciprocal effect of the older siblings having someone who looks up to them. At

the final campfire, the Administrative team praises each graduating senior who then comes to the fire and says one thing they are taking with them and one thing they are leaving behind and then throws their sheet of paper in the fire. At the end all the seniors line up and Nick presents them with a compass with the Aranu'tiq logo on it, impressing on them how even though they won't be coming back to camp, what they gained here will guide them wherever they go.

My favorite part of the week is seeing the looks on the parents' faces at pick-up. When they hear that their child learned how to swim, made friends, or performed in the talent show, it is incredibly moving. It's amazing that a child can change so much in one week. And that shift becomes ingrained. In a post-camp survey campers report feeling less alone and more confident in themselves.

Camp Aranu'tiq continues to grow every year, now serving approximately 125 campers on two coasts. In 2012 we received an award for program excellence from the American Camp Association. This fall we are launching our first Family Camp, and next summer we are starting our first Leadership camp for youth ages 16-18.

Like any summer camp there is a lot of impromptu singing. One really special thing about the first summer is that the kids made up the Aranu'tiq song:

Aranu'tiq... a great place to be. I love this camp, I love this camp 'cause I can be me!

For more information about camp Aranu'tiq go to www.camparanutiq.org

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Membership Committee

Last June at the 2013 Annual Meeting awards banquet, three of our colleagues were recognized for their contributions to growing our ranks. Carmen Knudson-Martin, Evan Imber-Black and Sandi Stith have led the way in nominating potential members and shepherding them into the organization. We rely on our current members to identify leaders and up and coming leaders in the field, and are appreciative to all who make this important contribution to AFTA.

The Membership Committee has absorbed the work of the Membership Task Force, which was active for the last two years, clarifying the process of

moving from Student, to Early Career, to Regular member, streamlining the membership process, and beginning to think about membership benefits. The current Membership Committee consists of the following members: Robert Allan, Jane Arlel, Gwyn Cattell, Martha Edwards (Chair), Laura Forman, Chris Hoff, Karni Kissil, Carmen Knudson-Martin, Roger Lake, Glenda Mendelsohn, Sarah Stearns, Volker Thomas, and Justine White.

Coming into AFTA can be a lonely experience. The Membership Committee and the Annual Meeting Program Committee are working together to make the experience less daunting and more fun. We are plan-

ning events at the Annual Meeting for new members and members who want to get more connected as well as thinking about year-round events and activities (virtual and otherwise) that will lead to more connectivity. We'd love to hear your ideas.

- If you have colleagues you would like to introduce into AFTA, send their name and e-mail to Kim Cox, AFTA Director, at afta@afta.org.
- If you have ideas for new member benefits or questions about membership, let me know.

Martha Edwards, Membership Committee Chair,
medwards@ackerman.org

COMMITTEE UPDATES

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Cultural and Economic Diversity Committee

The Cultural and Economic Diversity Committee (CEDC) is in the process of strengthening its agenda, energizing its membership and developing the plan for the next year.

The CEDC's mission is centered among the following three points:

1. Promote a national mental health agenda in favor of socioeconomically challenged families, and families of diverse backgrounds.
2. Increase AFTA's members' interests and skills to work with this population.
3. Honor, respect, support and enhance the work of AFTA members that work with these populations.

Activities related to this mission include: Forums, research, presentations at the conference, sharing relevant scientific information, scholarships and guest programs, discussions and activities to maintain AFTA's accountability and respect for all members. Many conversations are taking place. Several existing members have already reaffirmed their commitment to continue to contribute to the committee's vitality.

Conversations are also taking place with the Family Policy and Human Rights Committee, exploring the possibility of doing a combined and extended forum. As the Family Policy and Human Rights committee is interested in discussing policies related

to the impact of racial segregation in 2014, their agenda has some affinities with the overall work of CEDC. A final decision will be made at the AFTA Board retreat.

For the CEDC forum, the Committee Chair is preliminarily proposing the following options for CEDC's consideration:

1. A discussion about the clinical practice correlates of the last 50 years of social changes after the Civil Rights Movement. The conversation could be led by some of the AFTA members that were active in the civil rights struggles in the past, discussing "50 years: how far we got and where do we go from here?" This conversation could inspire the development of better clinical practices to better help the diverse populations we work with.
2. A discussion of the potential systemic and family therapy application of the new concept of "social determinants of health," which is now very popular in the public health field. As this concept relates to health disparities, we need to examine the mental health and family systems implications. The work of the CEDC seems to clearly align with this public health concept. The potential value of partnering with the public health field also needs to be explored.
3. A discussion about how to strengthen the data collection documentation of the impact of systemic and family therapy interventions, seen from the lens of outcome-based interventions.

Our practices that address issues of culture and socioeconomic conditions need to be recognized as very important and valuable practices by the powers that be. As the DSM-V clearly shows the movement towards the "medicalization" of mental health, we are in dire need to further develop our methods to be able to increase the importance and increase the capacity to get funding for our work.

This agenda represents a preliminary development and will be further discussed by the committee before a final proposal is developed for the Board's consideration.

Additionally, soon we will provide information about the Diversity Guest program for the 2014 Annual Meeting.

In summary, after many years of existence, the committee continues to do extraordinary work, more recently under the leadership of past chair Pilar Hernandez-Wolfe. It's great to see that AFTA has not stopped working on these issues. A review of all the last years' notes shows that they have done great work. The plan is to continue to build upon this good work.

More fun is coming your way. We also are looking to attract new members that wish to have fun with us. Anyone interested, please contact Ramón Rojano, Committee Chair, at ramon-rojano@aol.com

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COMMITTEE UPDATES

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Electronic Information Committee

The EIC is thrilled to announce the launch of trainings for expanding our digital interactivity. We will start with social media training at the Board meeting. On November 14, we will host a webinar on “How to use Skype for online meetings.” Registration coming soon! SMILE is a social media mentorship program where we are looking for social media mentors!! If you are interested in being a social media mentor or in receiving mentorship in social media, please complete the form: goo.gl/JDX5P. It is an excellent opportunity to interact with new and experienced members! The EIC is proposing an AFTA blog to share and connect readers to progressive ideas on family centered and family therapy practices. Lastly, we are excited to announce that AFTA has partnered with [Regroup Therapy](http://regroup-therapy.com) to provide its members with safe, simple and secure online video tools to offer therapy over distance. Learn more at: <http://afta.org/regroup-therapy>. Join EIC to help AFTA grow digitally! Contact: Saliha Bava, EIC Chair, at drbava@gmail.com.

Family Policy-Human Rights Joint Committee

The Family Policy and Human Rights Committees, previously separate, have merged and we are hoping to increase participation. Please get in touch with any of our members to join us: Jodie Kliman, Patricia Dowds, Deidre Ashton, Martha Sullivan, Charlotte Spiegelman, Mary Kelleher, Jane Bar-

david, Annie Bao, Michael Melendez, Larry Levner, Rachel Dash.

Our committee has been discussing a number of issues including whether social justice concerns should influence where AFTA chooses to hold the Annual Meeting, evaluating AFTA's investments in terms of social responsibility, recent attacks on voting rights and the racism that has again revealed itself around the killing of Trayvon Martin and the ensuing verdict.

Current activities

Committee members Deidre Ashton, Amy Tuttle, Laura Forman, Jane Bardavid and Charlotte Spiegelman, have been crafting a position paper concerning the Trayvon Martin Case.

The Forum for the Annual Meeting will consist of a panel focusing on the social policy/social justice issues that are arising in this 50th anniversary year of the March on Washington. We are seeking panelists to address the denial of voting rights, institutionalized racism that targets people of color, and the plight of the underemployed and working poor most of whom live in families with children.

Early Career Membership Committee

Currently the ECM Committee is in a rebuilding phase as many members transitioned to full membership. The ECM committee would like the AFTA community's help in identifying potential new ECM members. If you know someone who would make a great AFTA ECM member please contact ECM committee chair Chris Hoff. Thanks!

Chris Hoff, Committee Chair,
chrishoffmft@gmail.com

Research Committee

The Research Committee is currently in the process of re-thinking its mission and is considering various ways to enhance research in the AFTA community. We want to begin this process by updating the list of books published by AFTA members. You can access the current list by going to: <http://afta.org/bookstore/member-publications>. Please review the list and send me a list of the books you have edited or written that aren't on the list, and I will submit the list to AFTA. You can send the list to [sstith@ksu.edu](mailto:ssstith@ksu.edu). We are setting a deadline of December 15th for the initial update, but you can send a list of books in the future if you don't make the deadline.

We are also seeking new members for the Research Committee. If you are passionate about research and want to play a role in bridging the gap between clinician and researcher, or help us infuse research into AFTA, please contact me.

At our next Research Interest Group meeting in Athens this June, Michal Shamai will present her action-research on poverty as individual and collective trauma, “The Voice of People Living in Poverty.” She will focus on both the initiation for the study, methodology of action-research, doing research with people living in poverty and outcomes. We hope the discussion that follows expands methodological issues. Hope to see you there!

The Committee: Susan McDaniel, Robert Allan, Michael Ungar, Michal Shamai, Jay Lebow, Andrae Brown, Carmen Knudsen-Martin, Marcie Lechtenberg, and Sandra Stith.

Sandra Stith, Committee Chair,
[sstith@ksu.edu](mailto:ssstith@ksu.edu)

Student Committee

This year the Student Committee is in a year of transition, focusing effort on integrating new student members and bringing in new leadership. Our most recent AFTA meeting in Chicago was bustling with new student members, along with a variety of students from across the country that we hope will become members in the future. The Pearls of Wisdom event, which hosted Karl Tomm and Pauline Boss and is specifically geared towards early career and student members, was an amazing success with incredible attendance! We are looking forward to Pearls of Wisdom in Athens, GA and will be announcing the presenters as soon as they are confirmed, so stay tuned! Other events that will be taking place in Athens include a Student/ECM Luncheon, which offers students and ECM members a chance to connect in a more intimate setting, along with student conversations, a time where student members gather together to build community and to share their experiences with one another. We look forward to seeing you in Athens and encourage you to contact the Student Committee if you are interested in finding out more about how to be involved in Annual Meetings or in AFTA's various committees. If you would like to join the Student Committee or are interested in leadership opportunities, please contact Justine White for more information.

Justine White, AFTA Student Committee Chair, jwhite@afta.org

Futures Committee

Ivan Inger, and then President Hinda Winawer, who later became Co-Chair, established the Futures Committee in early 2012. The purpose of the Committee was to implement strategic

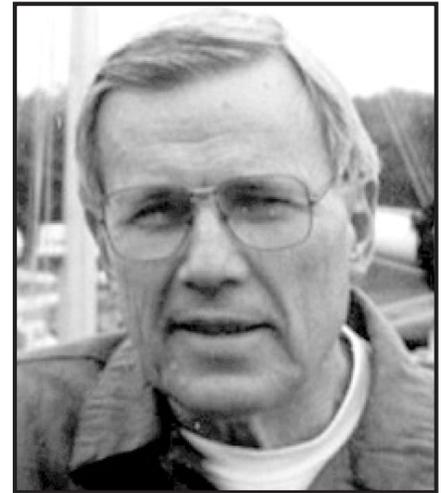
planning and fundraising that had been developed at the Board Retreat in Fall 2011. Delayed because of Hurricane Sandy, the Committee met for a two-day retreat in New York City in February 2013. The goal of the Committee retreat was to develop short-term plans to address immediate financial concerns and to conceptualize long-term recommendations to address sustainability and the future organizational development of AFTA. The Futures Committee report was presented to the Board at the March 2013 Board meeting. Short-term recommendations were approved.

Many of the Short-term goals have been reached. These include: (1) eliminating the Office Manager position; (2) moving the Central Office from Washington, DC to Haverhill, MA; (3) outsourcing journal to Springer Briefs; and (4) upgrading Kim's job status as Managing Director to full-time.

The Board recommended the Committee delve further into the recommendations and look at past strategic plans and report back with specific proposals for long-range changes. Since that time, the Committee decided to form a small working group, headed by AFTA Vice President Amy Tuttle and Managing Director Kim Cox. Ivan Inger and Hinda Winawer remain on the working group as consultants.

Using data that came out of the Futures Committee Retreat, the working group created an online survey to continue to engage Board Members and Committee Chairs in the strategic planning process. The Working Group will make specific recommendations to the Board at the November Board Retreat to determine the future of the Futures Committee and to clarify the further direction of strategic planning, implementation and fundraising.

REMEMBERING OUR MEMBERS



Jack Bradt

On March 30, 2013, AFTA lost one of its founding members, Jack Bradt. In his memory we are posting here his obituary as it was published in the Madison, WI newspaper.

Dr. Jack Oldham Bradt, born June 8, 1927, died on Saturday, March 30, 2013. In the final days of his life, he was surrounded by an attentive and loving circle of family and friends; a garden of people he spent his lifetime tending to in love and kindness.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Moynihan Bradt; children, Katherine McVey (Wally), Elizabeth Hickman (Stan), Mitchell Bradt (Micki), Ruby Ann Bradt Vanderzee, and Marca Hughes (Erich); grandchildren, Stan Hickman, Tracy Hickman, Patrick Hickman, Casey Bradt, Timothy Bradt, Minnesota VI Bradt, Daphne Hughes, Marlo Hughes, Aidan Hickman, Emily Hickman, Gregory Sunga, and Katie Sunga; his sister-in-law, Virginia Bradt; his father-in-law,

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REMEMBERING OUR MEMBERS continued from page 9

Donald Johnson as well as many beloved nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his father, Gurdon LeRoy Bradt; mother, Nelle M. Bradt; brother, Dr. Gurdon "Don" Bradt; granddaughter, Victoria Timberlake Hickman; and dear friend, Marian Kelley.

Dr. Bradt was born in Ventura, Calif., He grew up in Phoenix, Ariz., and San Francisco before attending and graduating from Stanford University. While attending Stanford, he served in World War II in the U.S. Navy. He completed additional pre-medical coursework at University of California, Berkeley. He graduated from Hahnemann Medical School (Drexel) in 1955 and spent the first eight years in practice as a General Practitioner in Hollister, Calif. until he became interested in Psychiatry after a profound experience of being listened to and a desire to provide that type of listening to others. He began a residency in general psychiatry as well as a fellowship in child psychiatry and continued practicing and teaching in Washington D.C. at Georgetown University Medical Center Department of Child Psychiatry where he met his wife-to-be, Carolyn Moynihan and together they were mentored by Dr. Murray Bowen in a program that became the Georgetown University Family Center and eventually the Bowen Center. Both Jack and Carolyn helped to establish the programs that developed at Georgetown from a new model of psychiatry, Bowen's Family Systems Theory. After working together for eight years, Carolyn and Jack married Aug. 17, 1974, at Stanford University Chapel. They were members of Holy Trinity Church in Georgetown, where

their three youngest children went to school. They lived in Friendship Heights in Washington, D.C. until moving to a beautiful hilltop West of Madison, Wis. in 1987.

Jack loved working in the earth, landscaping, designing, drafting and executing building plans and all forms of the fine arts, especially dance and music. He was known to play boogie-bowgie on the piano and when he did, he played with such passion that all the pictures fell off the piano and onto the floor. He spent the last five years writing a 600-page novel with his daughters about his ancestors as well as publishing a children's book.

In addition to his legacy of the special relationships he forged and maintained, Jack's personal and professional lifetime achievements include piloting; soaring and gliding, co-founding and directing The Groome Center in NW Washington, D.C., described in the Washington Post as "a little jewel of a clinic." He was a GAP Fellow in Psychiatry. He was renowned for his speaking, writing, and clinical research. He had a certification from the Washington School of Psychiatry program in Community Psychiatry. He was a founding member of American Family Therapy Academy and on the board as treasurer. He was the psychiatrist for the Overbrook Children's Center for seriously disturbed children and families. He also maintained an active private practice. Once in Wisconsin he consulted to (Sunburst) Orion Family Services, worked in the Monroe Clinic, Boscobel Hospital, Family Services, Sauk County Human Services, and St. Colletta's. He also co-founded The Family Place at the Mount Horeb and Verona locations with his wife, Carolyn. Jack was honored by Drexel University after 50 years of practicing medicine.

He is remembered for his wonderful presence, sense of humor and most gentle love. Although he was always a responsible man about things like time and money, for him, people were always more important than things and achievements. He had a dignity that was earned out of his own humility and respect for others. He was known to greet you by inquiring, "How is your heart?" To know him was truly to love him. After nearly forty years of marriage, Carolyn would often tell him that loving him was the easiest thing she had ever done. His children often commented on his hands and their love of holding them.

It is with deepest gratitude that we thank his loving caretakers; Griselda Ortiz, Rich Gilfillan, Alex Shelbolin, Irina Sokolova, Mayte Garcia, and David Shetler in addition to the exceptional care teams at Meriter Hospital and Agrace Hospice Care.

A visitation with family and friends was held on Sunday, April 7, 2013, at HOLY WISDOM MONASTERY, in Middleton, with a memorial service and reception. Donations in his memory can be made to The Holy Wisdom Monastery, Arbor Day Foundation, The Murray Bowen Archives Project, or The AFTA Next Initiative Fund. A second remembrance ceremony took place on June 9th at The Farley Center "Natural Path Sanctuary" where he was buried. A tree was planted at that time in his honor.

REMEMBERING OUR MEMBERS



Al Gurman

In September, the Family Therapy field was shocked by the untimely death of Al Gurman. Al Gurman was the consummate scholar-researcher-clinician. He cared deeply about the well-being of our field. He shared with many of us a profound commitment to the next generation in Family Therapy. He was a sentry for excellent research capable of truly informing clinicians, and outstanding clinical ideas capable of inspiring meaningful research. To honor Al Gurman's lasting contributions to us all, a committee has been formed to develop an annual memorial scholarship. Detailed information regarding this effort and what members can do to support it will be sent to AFTA members shortly on the listserv.

Committee Members: Evan Imber-Black - Chair; Peter Fraenkel; Jay Lebow; Laurel Salmon; Froma Walsh, Gonzalo Bacigalupe (ex officio).

AFTA LAUNCHES SPRINGER BRIEFS IN FAMILY THERAPY

Everything you wanted to know about the Springer Briefs

By Carmen Knudson-Martin – Series Editor

The new *AFTA Springer Briefs in Family Therapy Series* is the next generation of the *Monograph*. Like the *Monograph*, the *Springer Series* will address timely issues in family therapy and systemic practices. Each volume will focus on a particular topic or theme. In contrast to the *Monograph*, which was self-published and accessible mostly to AFTA members, the new series will be published by Springer Science. Each chapter in the edited volume will also be a peer-reviewed article that is searchable and available on databases. Each volume will also be a book marketed to the public. AFTA members will receive free online access and a discounted hard copy.

What is a Springer Brief?

Springer Briefs are concise summaries of cutting-edge research and practical applications published by Springer Science across a variety of fields. AFTA will supervise the editorial development of a series on family therapy in line with AFTA's mission and values. *Briefs* are compact softcover volumes of 50 to 125 pages. The publishing turnaround time is designed to reach the market quickly, with fast global electronic dissemination and standard publishing contracts.

How will the AFTA Family Therapy Series be unique?

The family therapy series will focus on the practice and policy implications of

innovative systemic research and theory. The writing style will be reader friendly, highly accessible, conversational, and practical. The person and context of the authors will be visible in their writing. AFTA's core commitment to equality, social responsibility and justice will be represented.

How is an AFTA Springer Brief Developed?

Carmen Knudson-Martin is serving as Series Editor. It is her role to identify a topic and guest editor for each volume, oversee the review and revision process, and coordinate publication with Springer. If you have an idea for a topic, contact Carmen at cknudsonmartin@llu.edu.

How often will a Brief be published?

The goal is to publish at least one a year. More are possible if there are many good ideas and willing and able editors.

When will the first Brief be published?

Thorana Nelson and Hinda Winawer are editing a collection of articles from the earlier *Monographs*. It will be out any day. Look for it. Carmen will also edit the first volume of new articles, *Socio-Emotional Relationship Therapy: Bridging Emotion, Societal Context, and Couple Interaction*. It will be out in Fall 2014.

AFTA IS GROWING!

Let's Welcome Our Newest Members

Randi Borow-Berdon, LCSW, is completing her clinical externship in families and couples at the Ackerman Institute for the Family in New York City. She sees families, couples, and individuals in her private practice in Hartsdale, NY. Randi also sees families at Family Services of Westchester in White Plains, NY.

Susan Conlin, LICSW, supports members of the LGBT community to develop positive identities, relationships, and communities. She frequently works with individuals who have experienced trauma, and support them to work through these difficult experiences in order to have fulfilling and lasting relationships. Susan teaches at a local college and supervises budding professionals.



Salvatore D'Amore, Ph.D., is dynamic, motivated and passionate for research and therapy with couples and families, including LGBT people. He would like to continue working in this direction within AFTA. Salvatore would like to create connections and exchanges between American and European research, therapy and experiences.



Janessa Dominguez, MS, is passionate about systems thinking and applying it to areas not necessarily related to family therapy, such as autism and behavior analysis. She is interested in merging family therapy and behavior analysis together to provide a more systemic service to the individuals and families she works with.

Silvia Espinal, LMSW, has a cultural and ethnic background that forms how she sees the world and her clinical work. As a first generation immigrant, Silvia feels a unique interest and a commitment in working with families of minority groups. Joining AFTA gives her the opportunity to feel supported and enhance ideas and techniques.



Jayashree George, DA, ATR-BC, is a family therapist with a rich background in art and art therapy. She places emphasis on families' capacities to be creative in the face of adversity. Jayashree is guided by a feminist consciousness that is intersectional and curious about families' multi-layered experiences and multiple cultural contexts.



Erika Klein, LMSW, is a bilingual, bicultural NYC school social worker and family and couples therapist in training at The Ackerman Institute.

She sees many underprivileged and underserved Latino and black youth and families. A graduate from the Ackerman Diversity program for therapists of color, she hopes to continue enhancing her clinical skills to better work with minority groups in need.



Toula Kourgiantakis, Ph.D., has been working with couples and families for almost 20 years. Toula's doctoral research is examining family involvement in problem gambling treatment. She also teaches graduate and undergraduate classes in social work at Ryerson and Wilfred Laurier University. Toula is a clinical fellow of the AAMFT and a member of the International Family Therapy Association.



Veronica Kuhn, MA, while pursuing her master's, worked in community mental health and then chose to return to academia to pursue a deeper understanding of integrative care and systemic framework. Her areas of interest are health disparities, perinatal health, and couple's therapy. Veronica is passionate about research and education.

AFTA IS GROWING!

Let's Welcome Our Newest Members



Judith Kuskin, LCSW, JD, enters the field of family therapy following careers as attorney and family/divorce mediator. She completed her externship in family therapy at Ackerman Institute in July 2013. Judith's special interests include EFT, non-traditional families and relational trauma in families.

Marcie Lechtenberg, Ph.D., is a Ph.D. student in marriage and family therapy. Her research interests include intimate partner violence and domestic violence, mother/daughter relations, and mindfulness as a therapeutic intervention. In therapy, Marcie specializes in working with couples who have experienced situational violence and individuals with anxiety.

Keren Ludwig, LCSW, is a teaching faculty member at the Ackerman Institute and a member of the Institute's Children and Relational Trauma Project. A graduate of Hunter College School of Social Work's group work program, she has worked in child welfare settings and maintains a private practice where she sees families, couples and individuals.



Constance Morrill, LMSW, comes to family therapy from international human rights research, having conducted a series of interviews with imprisoned Rwandan youth accused of genocide, and as an interpreter for Francophone African asylum-seekers. She is an extern at

the Ackerman Institute, and a psychotherapist at the Bleuler Psychotherapy Center (Queens, NY).



Darla Salmon, is graduating in August of 2013 and looks forward to working with children and families.



Laurel Salmon, BS, has a strong social justice background and is passionate about working with families coping with trauma and those impacted by domestic violence. She cares deeply about LGBT issues as well as other issues related to oppression.



John Stillman, LICSW, is a co-founder and clinical social worker at the Caspersen Therapy Center in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, where he uses narrative therapy when working with children, adolescents, and adults who face a wide range of problems. As director of the Center, he also provides narrative therapy training.

Christina Marie Tobey, LCSW, primarily works with couples and families. She is an extern at the Ackerman Institute for the Family and is training in EFT. Particular areas of interest include grief and trauma. Christina particularly enjoys working with couples, parents and their adult children, and siblings.



Damir Utrzan, MS, is a graduate of the Family Institute at Northwestern University. He is pursuing his doctoral studies in family social science with a specialization in couples and family therapy at the University of Minnesota, investigating the effects of psychological trauma immediately following manmade and natural disasters nationally and internationally.



Monique Walker, MS, MFT, is a doctoral candidate at Drexel University and will graduate by the end of this year. She also provides services to LGBTQ and women's communities in Philadelphia. Monique is excited to become a part of the AFTA community and looks forward to being involved in an organization that feels more like a professional home.

Courtney Zazzali, LCSW, is the intake coordinator of the Ackerman Institute for the Family (AIF), as well as an AIF assistant teacher and adolescent project team member. She graduated from Georgetown University with a BA in English/Writing and from New York University with a MSW. A recent graduate of AIF, Courtney began her part-time private practice.

PERSONAL UPDATES

**Pauline Boss**

This fall I am consulting via SKYPE with Japanese therapists as a follow-up to my previous on-site ambiguous loss training workshops in Fukushima and Sendai. In addition, the Japanese translation of *Loss, Trauma and Resilience: Therapeutic work with Ambiguous Loss* is ready to go to press. Ambiguous losses in the Fukushima area are not just family members missing from Tsunami, but also loss of ancestral homes and farmlands due to radiation poisoning.

**Ken Dolan-Del Vecchio**

My son, Erik, just turned 21. He'll graduate in May with a B.A. in philosophy and a loving, critical, and hopeful outlook that makes me infinitely proud to be his dad. My husband Tim and I bought our later-life dream home last December: a farmhouse on 13 acres in Mass, and I'm now splitting my time between NJ and MA. My new book, *The Pet Loss Companion: Healing Advice from Family Therapists who Lead Pet Loss Groups*, was published in August. My coauthor, Nancy Saxton-Lopez, and I are having fun with the promotional work: book store events, media interviews, and such. Finally, I've been organizing, with a myriad of partners, a series of conferences. The latest, *Domestic Violence: How Workplaces Get Hurt and How They Can Help*, on 10/18/13, will bring together at Rutgers University more than 300 business leaders, human resources, and health and wellness professionals.

**Celia Falicov**

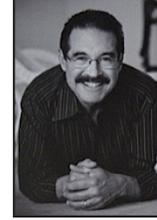
The second edition of my book *Latino Families in Therapy* will be out at the end of November. I am excited because it is thoroughly updated and revised, with new theory, substantial research and many new practice ideas. It is serious and fun because it contains references to novels, movies and TV shows that make the family therapy stories evocative. An APA edited book: *Multiculturalism and Diversity in Clinical Supervision* by Falender, Shafranske and Falicov is coming out shortly thereafter. Last but not least, this year I had my fourth grandchild. She is just pure joy.

**Mona Fishbane**

After 4 years of intensive research and writing, I have finally given birth to my book, *Loving with the Brain in Mind: Neurobiology & Couple Therapy*, part of the Norton Series on Interpersonal Neurobiology. It is has been an intense and exhilarating process, and I wrote it with my AFTA colleagues in mind...I look forward to seeing everyone in Athens!

**Irene Goldberg**

Great to see my new book out in print in its eighth edition. Can't believe I've been at this thirty years! I hope you'll find it comprehensive and clear.

**Robert-Jay Green**

I'm now "Emeritus" faculty in the PhD Program at California School of Professional Psychology, Alliant International University, but I continue directing research projects at the university's Rockway Institute for LGBT Psychology. We're doing longitudinal follow-up of 1,500 California same-sex couples who were in registered domestic partnerships in 2008 (before Prop 8 passed), looking at what impact legal marriage has on relationship longevity, satisfaction, depression, and couple interaction. A new longitudinal study examines family interaction and psychosocial functioning of children ages 3-10 who were conceived via surrogacy and raised by their gay male or heterosexual parents.

Jackie Hudak

Many changes! My daughter Lauren graduated from college; Vincent graduated from high school, and is now off to Bard College. What's a Mom to do but take a BIG job in Philadelphia?! I am thrilled to be working at U Penn with Ellen Berman and the Department of Psychiatry to develop The Center for Couples and Adult Families.

I'm staying in Philly 3 nights/week, and miss being at home, but the sheer excitement makes up for any initial discomfort. The resources are remarkable, and I will engage with all of them to help the couples and families we serve, and inspire residents about family inclusion.





Kyle Killian

I had an exciting, rewarding summer in Cyprus working with internally displaced families dealing with ambiguous loss of a family member. When remains are identified, family members respond to the information quite differently, and the system recalibrates in sometimes surprising ways. In other news, my new book was just released, *Interracial Couples, Intimacy & Therapy: Crossing Racial Borders*, from Columbia University Press. In it, couples share their lived experience in their own words, and I offer suggestions for how to work collaboratively with this growing population.



Karen Gail Lewis

Ten years ago, I moved to Cincinnati and started seeing clients there, while commuting back to DC for my practice here. After a long decade, I am delighted to have moved back to DC and my office here (while doing a reverse commute now). Cincinnati is a lovely place to visit, but I love DC.



Bill Madsen

Big news on my end is I finally finished a book that I worked on for 2 or 3 centuries - *Collaborative Helping: A Strengths Framework for Home-Based Services*. It's due out in the spring and I've been spending time lately wearing a nametag and getting reacquainted with my fam-

ily. On that note, our 24-year-old daughter took a local teaching job and has moved back home after teaching in Chicago for the past two years. It's great to have her back at home, though at times it highlights the patterns we developed as recovering full nesters.



Sally Miller

They made their mother, AFTA Charter member, Sally Eisen Miller, proud! Being the HAMFT entertainment, multi-talented sister and brother, Salisha and Breisen Miller, flew into Houston for 24 hours to present "Therapy Sessions." They produced, directed and acted all the roles in the short, humorous film they made on an iPhone! It chronicled a practicum student's first day doing family and marital therapy. The setting: New York City. Breisen nearly didn't make it as two weeks before he was in Mt Sinai Hospital, donating stem cells. The story made the front page of the September 12, 2013 issue of the *Jewish Herald Voice*.



Pat Romney

Professionally, I'm excited by our success in recruiting faculty of color. In the colleges we worked with last year 50%+ of new hires for tenure track positions were faculty of color. On the home front, I am a first-time grandmother. Eva Alejandrina Rosa, 7 lbs, 9 oz. was born on Sept. 28, 2013.



Joellyn Ross

I sold two paintings at the "Artists Unite: Fishtown" pop-up gallery in early September. Fishtown is the "hipster" area of Philadelphia & the temporary gallery, which featured 20 artists, and was in a renovated 19th century factory building. At the same time, I had two other paintings in an exhibit at the Highwire Gallery, also in Fishtown, and two other paintings were shown at the Plastic Club, in downtown Philadelphia.

CHICAGO 2013

