

# aapcsw

## American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work

2026, issue 1

# newsletter

## From the President

Louis Straker, MSW, LCSW-C

Dear colleagues,

It is an honor to write to you as the new President of AAPCSW, having begun my term at the start of 2026. As I step into this role, I have been thinking a great deal about what it means to belong to a professional community at this moment.

We are living and practicing in complex times. Our clients arrive carrying the psychic weight of social fragmentation and collective trauma, while our profession is increasingly asked to articulate its value, both within the broader mental health landscape and in the public sphere. These pressures can pull us toward isolation, yet they also invite us into deeper connection, shared responsibility, and purposeful action.

This reflection was crystallized for me in an ordinary moment at home. This past February, following the snowstorm on the East Coast, my spouse and I spent hours trying to break up an icy snowpack to free a car. A neighbor passed us twice while running errands. Seeing us out there for so long, she returned home, put on winter gear, came back with a heavy pickaxe, and spent the next two hours helping us clear the ice until the car was fully dug out. Nothing required her to do this. She simply saw others struggling and chose to join them.

My neighbor's small act of solidarity has stayed with me. It reminds me that in difficult conditions, what sustains us is not retreat but presence, not silence but shared effort. As psychoanalytically minded professionals, our work is rooted in careful listening, depth, and relationship. These same capacities ask something of us collectively: to remain intellectually creative and clinically bold, grounded in tradition while open to innovation.

As my term begins, I want to pause and thank our outgoing President, Janice Berry Edwards, for her dedication and leadership. I am deeply

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Northern California • Southern California, Los Angeles •  
Southern California, Orange County • Colorado • District of Columbia •  
Florida • Illinois • Indiana • Maryland • Michigan & Ohio • Minnesota •  
Nebraska • New Jersey • New York • North Carolina • Pennsylvania • Texas

See Area Representatives on page 14

# editor'sword

Christie Hunnicutt, PhD, LCSW



I am hoping that this issue of the *Newsletter* finds you all healthy and well!

I would like to introduce this issue with a heartfelt and sincere sentiment, as this will be my last issue as the Editor of the *Newsletter*. I have supported this role for many years, and I feel it is time to shift my contributions to this organization in other ways. It has been a pleasure being a part of this work, and I have been so thankful for this opportunity and for the many contributors who have shared important news and information throughout my tenure. Most importantly, I would like to share a very special thank you to Barbara Matos and Kelly Martin, who both have been such key figures in helping to streamline and support every issue.

I wish all members a wonderful year ahead, and thank you for supporting me as your Editor.

Be well!

## aapcsw

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## represent protect provide promote disseminate affect advocate bridge

# aapcsw aims & purposes

- To represent and protect the standing and advancement of psychoanalytic social work practitioners and educators.
- To provide an organizational identity for social work professionals engaged in psychoanalytically informed practice.
- To promote and disseminate the understanding of psychoanalytic theory and knowledge within the social work profession and the public.
- To affect liaisons with other organizations and professions who share common objectives for social work and the advancement of psychoanalytic theory and practice.
- To advocate for the highest standards of practice and for quality mental health care for the public.
- To bridge social work and psychoanalytic discourses by integrating concerns for social justice with clinical practice, and to conceptualize psychoanalytic theory and practice within its broader social-political context.

# aapcswbiennialconference

## 2025 National Conference Report

Penny Rosen, MSW, LCSW, BCD-P

Planning a conference is like putting the pieces of a puzzle together, from start to finish. The planning process is as important as the final product. The 2025 program for “Dreaming the Future” (November 6–9, Austin, TX) covered many contemporary engrossing topics.

The plenary presentations are examples of prominent speakers addressing clinical and theoretical material. They were:

- “Performing Empathy: How AI May Be Transforming Us and What It Means for Therapeutic Practice,” by Ricardo Ainslie, PhD.
- “Never Look Away: Uvalde, American Patriarchy, and the Slaughter of Innocents,” by Carolyn M. Bates, PhD.
- “Systemic Re-Transmission of Trauma: Defending Against the Lost and Found,” by Felecia Powell-Williams, EdD, LPC-S, RPT-S, FABP.
- *Penguin Lessons* (directed by Peter Cattaneo)—William Meyer Film Series: Karen Redding, PhD, LCSW, *Moderator/Discussant/Chair*

In Austin, after the walking tour got us oriented into the city, the ambiance at the hotel was warm and welcoming with a buzz of discussions around the educational sessions.

How did the pieces of the puzzle come together? It takes a village. Here are the contributors:

- **Committee:** Penny Rosen (*Chair*), Josh Abrahams (*Co-Chair*) Kevin Barrett (*Co-Chair*), Barbara Berger, Janice Berry Edwards (*President*), Golnar Simpson (*Diversity & Social Action Committee Chair*), Louis Straker (*President-Elect*), Karen Baker (*Child and Adolescent Subcommittee Co-Chair*), Michael De Simone, Sue Fairbanks, Judy Kaplan, Cynthia Mulder, JoAnn Ponder, Karen Redding, Judith Rosenberger, Lynn Rosenfield (*Call for Papers Co-Chair*), Susan Sherman (*Candidate/Student Call for Papers Chair*), Cathy Siebold, Mario Starc, Lance Stern, Christy Tronnier (*Call for Papers Co-Chair*), Wendy

Winograd (*Child and Adolescent Subcommittee Co-Chair*).

- **Call for Papers Readers:** Lynn Rosenfield and Christy Tronnier (*Co-Chairs*), Terrie Baker, Joan Berzoff, Margaret Blum, Daniel Buccino, Fanny Chalfin, Michael De Simone, Ada Frummerman, Sharon Harp, Christie Hunnicutt, Molly Kiefer, Debra Koppersmith, Barry Ostrow, Lois Ostrow, Anne Segall, Norman Sohn, Lance Stern.
- **Candidate Call for Papers Readers:** Susan Sherman (*Chair*), Jane Abrams, Valerie Frankfeldt, Ruth Oscharoff, Claire Rosenberg, Cathy Siebold.
- **Administrative support staff:** Lawrence Schwartz, Tamar Schwartz, AAPCSW Administrator Barbara Matos, Olivier Massot (webmaster), Kelly Martin (graphic designer).

It’s important to acknowledge the winners of **The Diana Siskind Award for Excellence in Writing:**

- Robert D. Campbell, LCSW
- S. Christina Chang, LP, MBA
- Elizabeth Haberer, LCSW-S, DSW, CGP
- Molly Lang, LCSW
- Melanie Marin, LCSW

Also acknowledging the recipients of AAPCSW awards presented at the conference:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award:**  
Jerrold R. Brandell, PhD, LCSW
- **Professional Writing Award:**  
Janice Berry Edwards, MSW, PhD, LICSW
- **The AAPCSW Selma Fraiberg Award:**  
Huey Hawkins Jr., PhD, LCSW

We each walked away from the conference with much to reflect on after participating in the many poignant and moving presentations.

# membershipcommittee

## Member Highlight

The Membership Committee wants to highlight another AAPCSW member who is doing interesting work in the field. For this issue, previous Membership Committee Co-Chair Kevin Barrett interviewed member Austin McCann about finding his way to psychoanalysis from the arts and his interest in community psychoanalysis.

### **How did you find your way into social work and psychoanalysis?**

Getting here was a process of condensation and clarification in some sense, even though it often felt like a series of detours and delays. I fantasized about becoming a therapist from the first moment I walked into a therapist's office as a teenager, but it took me a couple decades to take the leap. In 2019, I was in a graduate art program here in Chicago, and my work started pulling me toward psychoanalysis, with its beautiful insight into the human situation, on contradiction and desire. At first, it offered me a brilliantly counterintuitive framework to answer certain aesthetic and social questions, but then I started thinking more about the clinical foundation of it. This wasn't just exquisite theory, it reflected and informed a practice of helping people who are suffering. This coincided with the start of the pandemic, and I went through a lot of hard and scary stuff around that time, like a lot of people did. All this together mobilized something inside me, and I decided to pursue clinical training.

After completing my MFA, I entered the social work program at the University of Chicago, since they still offer a minimum of psychodynamic coursework. During my second year, things really started to come together: I joined the Chicago Center for Psychoanalysis and found a home there. I was able to attend the 2023 AAPCSW conference and was inspired by the wisdom and humility in our network. Most importantly, I began interning at the Kedzie Center, a unique psychodynamic community mental health clinic, where I now work as a therapist. These three organizations inhabit the dynamic space

between psychoanalysis and social work, which I feel lucky to have discovered.

### **How has your understanding of what it means to “help people who are suffering” evolved since beginning this work?**

One thing that comes to mind is how singular each situation of helping someone is, how different it feels to work with each individual person, or case. I understand this to be an attribute of this style of practice, in which we treat people rather than symptoms. As I reflect on your question, I think one obvious point is that knowing something intellectually as an abstraction can only take you so far; in the clinical space, one's entire being is on the line (on both sides). This can be at times overwhelming, but it's also a source of joy and meaning.

### **Are you still engaged in the arts? If so, how does this influence your work as a therapist?**

Art plays a smaller role in my life at the moment, but it's there. I had a solo exhibition last fall in Chicago, called Turn Over. As part of the show, I directed a group of non-professional actors in scenes from two plays: one based on a series of analytic sessions with Lacan, the other in a small village going through revolution. This brought together two distinct discourses of radical change—psychoanalysis and revolution—and used the space of the theatrical rehearsal to allow them to echo and challenge one another, giving actors a chance to play with, or inhabit, these discursive structures. I did a public conversation about the show with Zak Mucha, President of the Chicago Center for Psychoanalysis, who is also a poet and writer, which was great. Of course, the ethics of my art are totally different from that of my clinical work. I don't make art to be therapeutic, but I do think art has the power to open people up to dimensions of themselves they hadn't previously encountered. There's a reason so many artists become therapists, and vice versa.

### **What aspects of psychoanalytic thinking are resonating most with you right now?**

I'm excited about the growing movement in community psychoanalysis, especially since I work in a community setting with a population whose experiences are not very well-represented in the literature. I think this represents an opportunity not to "fill in the blanks," but to rework our practice in order to meet a world in crisis. On that front, I'm very interested in the work of GIFRIC [an interdisciplinary psychoanalytic organization] in Quebec. Theorist Willy Apollon talks about the "loss of the believable" in our global situation, which I understand to mean a kind of widespread symbolic collapse, and for which they are developing a new metapsychology out of their clinical practice treating psychosis. In general, it seems like a lot of exciting stuff is happening. New psychoanalytic spaces are being created, which not only resist but are working to replace harmful old structures and concepts. I know there is still censorship, abuse, and power-hoarding in our psychoanalytic institutions, and I don't want to downplay that, but I firmly believe that psychoanalysis has an important part to play in our struggle for a just world.

AAPCSW Membership Committee  
Natalie Peacock-Corral, LCSW, CGP, *Co-Chair*  
Stacey Nakell, LCSW, *Co-Chair*

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*From the President, continued from page 1*

grateful for the foundation she has laid. As our founders established years ago, Janice will remain on the Board for the next two years as Past President while I serve as President, an overlap of leadership for which I am very grateful.

I also offer heartfelt thanks to our outgoing Board members who served from 2023 to 2025:

- Brian Ngo-Smith (*Past President*)
- Rebecca Mahayag (*Secretary*)
- Dan2 Buccino (*Treasurer*)
- Kevin Barrett (*Member-at-Large, Membership Committee*)
- Christie Hunnicutt (*Member-at-Large, Communications Committee*)
- Golnar Simpson (*Member-at-Large, Diversity and Social Action Committee*)
- Karen Baker (*Member-at-Large, Education Committee*)

Each of these colleagues has given generously of their time, energy, and wisdom, often behind the scenes and always in service of the organization's mission. I am deeply appreciative of their dedication and the legacy they leave for those who follow.

Those remaining on the Board for this term are

- Wendy Winograd (*Member-at-Large, Education Committee*)
- Josh Abrahams (*Treasurer*)

And please join me in welcoming our new Board members:

- Kate Leslie (*President-Elect*)
- Susan Nadas (*Secretary*)
- Shreyas Sundar (*Member-at-Large, Communications Committee*)
- Robert Van Meir (*Member-at-Large, Education Committee*)
- Stacy Nakell (*Member-at-Large, Membership Committee*)
- Sarah Abel (*Member-at-Large, Education Committee*)
- Natalie Peacock-Corral (*Member-at-Large, Membership Committee*)
- Avah Toomer (*Member-at-Large, Diversity and Social Action Committee*)

You can visit "Meet the AAPCSW Board of Directors" on pages 6–10 to learn more about each of the new leaders serving on our Board.

With new leaders in place, and with the wisdom of all who have served before us, this is the future I hope we will continue to shape together. It is not a future that can be built by leadership alone. It requires the engagement, imagination, and participation of our full membership. Each of you contributes, often quietly, to the vitality and relevance of our field and to the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for the work you do every day, often unseen and with profound impact. I look forward to imagining, and making real, the future of our organization together.

Please feel free to contact me with any ideas you believe can help grow and advance the mission of AAPCSW.

Warm regards,  
Louis Straker

# Meet the AAPCSW Board of Directors . . .



Sarah K. Abel



Josh Abrahams



Janice Berry Edwards

## **Sarah K. Abel, LICSW**

*Member-at-Large, Education Committee Co-Chair*

Sarah K. Abel is an analytically-oriented psychotherapist with a private practice in Northampton, MA. She treats young children, adolescents and adults, provides clinical supervision and is a group consultant for A Home Within. She is a former adjunct professor at Smith College School of Social Work. Sarah has presented at the local and state meetings of the National Association of Social Workers, Smith College, and locally. She was a guest on *The Art of Listening* podcast: “The Magic of Play in the Therapeutic Setting.” She completed both an analytically oriented training at the Institute for Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies in New York and a postgraduate fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis. She was a Teaching Fellow at the Psychoanalytic and Psychodynamic Teachers’ Academy with the American Psychoanalytic Association, 2022–23. She is currently in her third year of study with the New Directions in Writing at the Washington Baltimore Center for Psychoanalysis. Sarah’s writing includes an essay in the American Psychoanalytic Association’s *Psychotherapist Newsletter*, November 2024; an essay in the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies’ *Trama Blog*, September 2023; a co-authored article in the *Journal of Infant, Child, and Adolescent Psychotherapy*, 2012; and a children’s book she co-authored: *Calming Stormy Feelings: A Child’s Introduction to Psychotherapy*, 2014.

## **Josh Abrahams, LCSW, MS**

*Treasurer*

Josh Abrahams is in private practice in Chicago, IL. He works as a psychotherapist with individuals of all ages, families, and couples. And he supervises early career clinical social workers, offers clinical consultation for psychotherapists, and facilitates a case consultation group. He has served on the AAPCSW Board of Directors as the Co-Chair of the Membership Committee, and serves as the AAPCSW Illinois Area Chair. Josh presented with two panels at the 2023 AAPCSW national conference in Chicago: first, on the subject of maintaining alliances with parents of child patients; second, on the significant achievement of empathy and reciprocity in relationships given conflicting self-interest and existential pressures inherent in the human condition.

## **Janice Berry Edwards, MSW, PhD, ACSW, LICSW, LCSW-C, BCD**

*Past President*

Janice Berry Edwards is a clinical social worker. She received her MSW degree from Howard University School of Social Work and her PhD from the National Catholic School of Social Work, Catholic University. She has served as a professor in the School of Social Work at Howard University since academic years 2011–12 to the present. She is the principal investigator of a Health Resources Services Administration million-dollar-plus grant training social work

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students in behavioral health and OUD/SUD disorders in medically underserved communities. Dr. Edwards maintains a private practice. “The Art and Science of Healing in Connection.”

**Kate Leslie, LCSW**

*President-Elect*

Kate Leslie is a licensed clinical social worker, originally from Atlanta, GA. She received her honors graduate BA in modern culture and media (semiotics) from Brown University in Providence, RI, in 2001, where she focused on postcolonial literature and politics. After working in social services agencies for LGBTQ youth in Portland, OR, Kate received her MSW from Smith College School for Social Work in Northampton, MA. Her training placements at Smith were both in San Francisco, providing psychotherapy to HIV-positive clients and transgender youth. After graduation, she received a postmaster’s training fellowship at the McAuley Institute at St. Mary’s Hospital in San Francisco, a psychiatric inpatient unit for adolescents, staffed with training analysts from the San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis. Following her work at McAuley, Kate was instrumental in helping to start the Masonic Center for Youth and Families out-patient clinic, alongside Dr. Terrence Owens, PhD, and Dr. Paul Williams, PhD, and with training from Dr. Mary Target, PhD. Her exposure to psychoanalysis in San Francisco sparked her interest in neo-Kleinian theory and has led her to focus on how fractured mind-states interact with race and racism, homo- and trans-

phobia. After moving to North Carolina with her family, she became affiliated with the Psychoanalytic Center of the Carolinas through Smith Alumni while working at the Veritas Collaborative in Durham, NC. She is a member of the AAPCSW and is the Smith School for Social Work regional alumni rep for Colorado. She currently is in private practice in Boulder, Colorado.

**Susan Nadas, LICSW**

*Secretary*

Susan Nadas is a long-time AAPCSW member and was a Massachusetts Area Chair on the AAPCSW Board’s Executive Committee from 2009 to 2019. Susan was on the National Conference Committee in 2013, 2015, and 2017, and served as faculty liaison in 2013 and 2015. As a member of and later Co-Chair of the Curriculum Committee for the Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis (MIP), she contributed her energies to the institute where she trained as a psychoanalyst. In addition, she has been a faculty member at MIP and a dean for a cohort of psychoanalytic candidates. She was on the Professional Ethics and Inquiry Committee of the North Carolina Society of Clinical Social Work as well as a member of the board of directors from 1995 to 2002. Susan’s current professional activities include supervising fellows as a teaching associate in the Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, beginning in 2019. She is in private practice in Cambridge, MA, following years of practice in North Carolina and New York.



Kate Leslie



Susan Nadas



Stacy Nakell

**Stacy Nakell, LCSW, CGP, AGPA-Fis**

*Member-at Large, Membership Committee Co-Chair*

Stacy Nakell is a licensed clinical social worker, certified group psychotherapist, certified clinical trauma professional, author, and fellow of the American Group Psychotherapy Society. She has spent the past fifteen years in private practice in Austin, TX, providing individual and group psychotherapy to clients struggling with skin-focused repetitive behaviors (SFRBs). She works with pre-teens, teens, and adults from an integrative psychodynamic approach and offers training and consultation for mental health professionals. She is the author of three peer-reviewed articles about her approach, and her book, *Treatment for Body-Focused Repetitive Behaviors: An Integrative Psychodynamic Approach* (2023), is part of the Routledge Focus on Mental Health series. She has been a member of AAPCSW for two years, and she presented on the psychology of the skin for the NC Area Chapter in January 2024 and at the AAPCSW national conference in 2025.

**Natalie Peacock-Corral, MSW, LCSW, CGP**

*Member-at Large, Membership Committee Co-Chair*

Natalie is a psychiatric social worker, psychotherapist, teacher, clinical supervisor, published writer, and national presenter. She is on the faculty of the Psychoanalytic Center of the Carolinas (PCC). Natalie was given a fellowship through the American Psychoanalytic Teachers Academy for 2018–19. She is the recipient of the 2019 North Carolina Clinical Social Worker of the Year award from the North Carolina Council on the Status of Women.

After completing her MSW at UNC–Chapel Hill, she completed a year-long fellowship in dual disorders (addiction and psychiatric disorders) at Yale Psychiatric Institute in New Haven, Conn. Following this fellowship, she became a clinical instructor and counselor at Duke Addictions Program in the Department of Psychiatry at Duke Medical Center in Durham, NC. She then provided psychotherapy and clinical supervision at Family Counseling Service in Durham for many years. Since 1999 she has had a private psychotherapy practice in Raleigh, NC, focusing on relational psychoanalytic treatment, where she conducts individual, couples, family, and group therapy, as well as in-depth consultations, and clinical supervision. She is a graduate of the advanced psychotherapy course at PCC. She is the former director of the Mindplay Program, through PCC and Playmakers Theatre. Natalie currently chairs the Judy Byck Scholarship Committee. She has presented on addiction and developmental trauma for the AAPCSW NC Area Chapter, of which she is Chair. She has also presented at the AAPCSW national conference. Her book chapter for Routledge Press, titled, “You Are Never Too Old to Grow Young: Treating Developmental Trauma Relationally,” was published in April 2019.

**Louis Straker, MSW, LCSW-C**

*President*

Louis Straker is a psychotherapist in private practice in Columbia, MD, where he sees adults and adolescents. He received his MSW from the University of Pennsylvania and completed a two-year postgrad



Natalie Peacock-Corral



Louis Straker



Shreyas Sundar



Avah Toomer



Robert Van Meir



Wendy Winograd

program, the Psychoanalytic Studies Program, at the Washington Baltimore Center for Psychoanalysis. Prior to working in private practice, Louis worked in community mental health centers, schools, and outpatient mental health clinics. He has been a member of AAPCSW since 2013.

**Shreyas Sundar, LSW**

*Member-at-Large, Communications Committee*

Shreyas Sundar is a licensed social worker at a community mental health practice in Chicago, IL. He provides individual therapy for clients on Medicaid across the lifespan, as well as couples therapy and community support process groups. His work is primarily psychodynamic, with a strong emphasis on relational approaches. Shreyas is particularly interested in integrating psychoanalytically informed therapy into work with higher-need populations. He works with a range of clinical presentations, with a significant interest in relational issues and experiences of persistent alienation. He has been a member of AAPCSW for two years and attended the AAPCSW national conference in 2023.

**Avah Toomer, MSW**

*Member-at-Large; Diversity and Social Action Committee Chair*

Avah Toomer is a macro social worker committed to advancing community-led policy practice and design while exploring how systems shape individual and collective agency. Based in Washington, DC, she works in policy advocacy, partnering with caregivers and community members to drive systems change

that eliminates poverty and promotes economic justice for families. Avah holds an MSW in community, administration, and policy practice from Howard University, where she specialized in mental health, and a BA in medicine, literature, and society from Columbia University, with specializations in postcolonial francophone studies and psychoanalytic theory. She has served on AAPCSW’s Diversity and Social Action Committee since April 2023 and represented the committee at the 2023 and 2025 national conferences as a panelist and moderator, respectively. Her recent appointment to the National Association of Social Workers’ Social and Economic Justice and Peace Specialty Practice Section Committee reflects her commitment to advancing justice, structural analysis, and equity in the field of social work, an orientation that she brings to her role as an AAPCSW board member.

**Robert Van Meir, MSW, LCSW, BCD**

*Member-at-Large; Education Committee Co-Chair*

CDR Robert Van Meir is a board-certified diplomat in clinical social work and has completed postgraduate training in psychoanalytic psychotherapy. He has thirty-two years of experience as a clinical social worker, supervisor, and educator. Robert assisted in the development of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW)–NC Supervision Certificate Training. A member of the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corp, Robert was commissioned in 2013 as a Lieutenant. He is currently stationed at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, NC, where he serves as the department head of the Substance Abuse Pro-

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## Diversity and Social Action Committee Study Group Project Update

Golnar Simpson, PhD, LCSW; Stacy Nakell, LCSW; and Phuongloan Vo, PhD, LISW-S

AAPCSW's core mission is focused on promotion of excellence in psychoanalytic social work knowledge and skills. Accordingly, to enhance the integration of matters of diversity into clinical theory and practice, the Diversity and Social Action Committee (DSAC) embarked on a membership-wide Study Group initiative that was described in an AAPCSW *Newsletter* article titled "Let's Read, Play, and Learn Together: Diversity Study Group Project" (2024, issue 2; see [www.aapcsw.org/news/newsletters.html](http://www.aapcsw.org/news/newsletters.html)).

The goal of the Study Group Project has been to provide further opportunities for self-initiated small-group explorations of selected diversity topics from a psychoanalytically informed clinical perspective along with other colleagues, learn from one another and enjoy being part of the community. As such, the group members choose the study material, the time and frequency of the meetings and other

structural aspects of their group. DSAC's role in this process is assistance in bringing the interested members together and availability for consultation.

The Study Group currently has four members and has been meeting monthly since September 2025. The first book chosen was *The Implicated Subject: Beyond Victims and Perpetrators* (Stanford University Press, 2019), by Michael Rothberg. This book offered an opportunity for members to explore the complexities of their identities, positionalities, and the implications of their actions and inactions. We plan to continue to read, learn and play together to enhance our ability as therapists and social workers to engage in conversations and meaningful actions around issues related to diversity and social action. The Study Group is open to new members. Please contact Stacy Nakell at [stacy.nakell@gmail.com](mailto:stacy.nakell@gmail.com) for information on how to join.

For more on the **AAPCSW Diversity & Social Action Committee**, see [www.aapcsw.org/about\\_us/committees.html#diversity](http://www.aapcsw.org/about_us/committees.html#diversity)

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*Meet the AAPCSW Board, continued from page 9*

gram and is the deputy director of the Naval Clinical Social Work Fellowship Program. He provides didactic training, supervision, and group supervision as well as being on the psychiatric faculty at the Naval Hospital. He provides psychodynamic supervision to the third-year psychiatric residents. He has served on three different state NASW boards.

### **Wendy Winograd, DSW, LCSW, BCD-P**

*Member-at-Large, Education Committee Co-Chair*

Wendy Winograd is a psychoanalyst and clinical

social worker in New Jersey. She provides psychotherapy to adults, couples, and children in private practice and in a school. She completed her psychoanalytic training at the New Jersey Institute for Training in Psychoanalysis, where she serves on the faculty. She is on the faculty at and serves as director of the Writing Program at the Center for Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis of New Jersey. She has previously served on the Board as Member-at-Large, Education Committee, and is a Co-Chair of both the Education Committee and the Child and Adolescent Committee.

# inmemoriam

## Frances Levine, LCSW, BCD-P . . . . .

Frances (Fran) Levine, LCSW, BCD-P, passed away on January 12, 2026. She was a longtime member of AAPCSW and was on the faculty of the New York Institute for Psychoanalytic Self Psychology and the New Jersey Institute for Training in Psychoanalysis. She specialized in working with young children and was an ardent follower of Heinz Kohut’s work. Her private practice was in Teaneck, N.J.



## Joan Berzoff, LCSW, BCD-P . . . . .

Dr. Joan Berzoff died on April 8 after a long illness. Her joyful spirit was irrepressible. She was a wife, mother, aunt, grandmother, teacher, scholar, mentor, and inveterate walker. Just before she died, she finished a memoir about having had a completed life. She wrote about being a bad-ass

child, her twisted camp experiences, left-wing political development, wonderful marriage to Lew Cohen—who was her spouse, collaborator, and co-parent—having a complicated mother, two remarkable sons and daughters-in-law—all of whom are social justice leaders—a dazzling academic career, and numerous, long-



standing friendships. In addition to the memoir, she composed six picture books for her grandchildren.

Joan was born in NYC and grew up on Long Island. She was politically involved in left-wing causes, including a trip to the Mississippi Delta for voter registration. She graduated from Washington University as an undergraduate, Smith College School for Social Work for her master’s, and Boston University for her doctorate.

Joan’s professional career began in community mental health at Tufts New England Medical Center. There she practiced with diverse populations during very turbulent times of school busing while also teaching in the medical school. She joined the faculty of the Smith College School for Social Work

in 1980, where she cultivated her passion for mentoring students, writing, and finding creative teaching methods to apply psychodynamic theories to vulnerable and at-risk populations. She wrote four textbooks. One, co-edited, was *Inside Out and Outside In: Psychodynamic Theories with Vulnerable and At-Risk Clients*. Five editions followed over two decades, and students still consider the book their “bible.” She likewise edited or co-edited *Falling Through the Cracks: Psychodynamic Practice with Vulnerable Populations*; *Living with Dying*; and *Controversies in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Dissociative Identity Disorders*.

While at Smith, Joan started the first national palliative care program for social workers, which she led for fifteen years. She chaired the theory sequence in the master’s program and co-directed the doctoral program, nurturing generations of future practitioner scholars while collaborating closely: presenting, writing, and teaching together. She was an inspiring and beloved teacher who also loved her work with adjunct faculty.

Smith provided many opportunities for her to teach: in Bulgaria, Hong Kong, Sweden, and Israel; and to present and teach as a visiting professor at University of Pennsylvania, among other schools. Smith also freed Joan to attend four one-month fellowships in Italy, where she completed several books and some of the forty-eight articles she published. In those fellowships she made lifelong friends with activists, poets, novelists, composers, translators, and performing artists.

Joan always maintained a clinical private

practice, passionately loving the work of two people making sense of that which had been incomprehensible to either of them previously. She cared deeply for her clients.

After leaving Smith, Joan joined the faculty of the Institute for Clinical Social Work in Chicago where she taught, wrote, and mentored doctoral students. Upon her retirement, she was appointed Professor Emerita. She was lauded for her compassion, commitment to vulnerable populations, generosity, and passion for teaching and learning. The following announcement was released this month:

*The Institute for Clinical Social Work proudly celebrates the extraordinary contributions of Dr. Joan Berzoff—a pioneering scholar, educator, and leader whose work has profoundly shaped clinical social work education and practice. For decades, Dr. Berzoff has championed the integration of psychodynamic theory, social justice, and trauma-informed practice, mentoring generations of students and practitioners, and inspiring deeper understanding of the human experience. Her scholarship and leadership have strengthened the field and elevated the role of clinicians in addressing complex mental health challenges.*

*In recognition of her enduring impact, the Institute for Clinical Social Work is honored to announce the Dr. Joan Berzoff Social Service Scholarship. This scholarship will support students who demonstrate a strong commitment to clinical practice and to serving vulnerable and underserved populations. The scholarship is intended to assist students whose work focuses on advancing mental health care, trauma-informed services, and community-based support for individuals, families, and communities facing systemic barriers. Through this scholarship, Dr. Berzoff's legacy will continue to empower future*

*clinicians dedicated to healing, advocacy, and compassionate care.*

Joan was proudest of her family. She was married to Lew Cohen for forty-seven years. They traveled the world together and were a force of nature in securing grants, finding writing fellowships, developing research projects, and in simply being together: walking, swimming, talking, and laughing. Their sons, Zeke and Jake Cohen, grew into two principled, kind, smart, and funny men, both of whom, along with their wives, are deeply committed to social justice. Jake became the executive director of the most progressive synagogue in Austin, Texas, while Zeke was elected the president of the City Council of Baltimore. Each married spirited, funny, smart, and accomplished woman, Reena Adeshina a psychiatrist in Baltimore, and Libby Cohen, an educational advocate in Austin Texas. Joan adored both women. She and Lew often wondered, given who their sons became, what they had done right!

Joan leaves behind six beloved grandchildren: Micah and Claire Cohen, Maya and Eli Cohen, Hanna B and Jonah Bussler. The family also includes ten nieces and nephews, and their delightful spouses.

Joan approached her death fully convinced that she was fortunate in having lived life to the fullest.

To honor Joan's legacy, please consider contributing to the Dr. Joan Berzoff Social Service Scholarship and helping support the next generation of practitioners at [www.icsw.edu/online-giving-resource](http://www.icsw.edu/online-giving-resource).

A memorial service will take place in September. Tributes collected in honor of Joan are on our website at [aapcsw.org/news/2026/joan\\_berzoff\\_04-08-2026.html](http://aapcsw.org/news/2026/joan_berzoff_04-08-2026.html).

## aapcsw corevalues

- Recognize the dignity and worth of each human being.
- Acknowledge the intersection of each individual's inner and outer worlds.
- Convey a psychoanalytic sensibility in our work with all populations and in all settings.
- Integrate concerns for social justice with clinical practice.
- Promote inclusivity and affirm the diverse identities of our colleagues and of those with whom we work.
- Cultivate a community of professionals that advocates for open inquiry and respect for difference.

# membernews

**Sarah K. Abel**, LICSW, is an analytically oriented psychotherapist with a private practice in Northampton, MA. She treats young children, adolescents, and adults; provides clinical supervision; and is a group consultant for A Home Within. She is a former adjunct professor at Smith College School of Social Work. Sarah has presented at the local and state meetings of NASW, Smith College, and locally. She was a guest on *The Art of Listening* podcast: “The Magic of Play in the Therapeutic Setting.” She completed both an analytically oriented training at the Institute for Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies in New York and a postgraduate fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis. She was a Teaching Fellow at the Psychoanalytic and Psychodynamic Teachers’ Academy with the American Psychoanalytic Association 2022–23.

She is currently in her third year of study with the New Directions in Writing at the Washington Baltimore Center for Psychoanalysis. Sarah’s writing includes an essay in the APPSAA *Psychotherapist Newsletter* (November 2024), an essay for the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies *Trauma Blog* (September 2023), a co-authored article in the *Journal of Infant, Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy* (2012), and a co-authored children’s book, *Calming Stormy Feelings: A Child’s Introduction to Psychotherapy* (2014). She presented her paper “Reflections on Friendship in a Polarized World” at the AAPCSW national conference (November 2025), and it was published in the *Journal of Psychoanalysis, Self, and Context* (online, November 2025).

**Mary Anne Cohen**, LCSW, director of the New York Center for Eating Disorders, is pleased to announce her fourth book in her “emotional eating” series: *Ozempic for Smarties: A Psychotherapist Tells the Straight Skinny* (2025). This book takes a deep dive into the controversy surrounding Ozempic and other weight-loss drugs to help clinicians negotiate

this new terrain with their patients. Using case examples from her practice, she explores the pros, the cons, and the key psychological dimensions of these medications. This book is the first to highlight Ozempic through a psychological lens.

**Jonathan Lebolt**, PhD, LCSW, CGP, was elected president of the New Jersey Society for Clinical Social Work.



**Michelle Kwintner’s** article “Reflections on Psychoanalytic Supervision: Learning with Ron Brown” appeared in the Fall 2025 issue (vol. 33) of the *Canadian Journal of Psychoanalysis*. At the 54th International Psychoanalytical Association Precongress in Lisbon (July–August 2025) at the panel “Hybrid Treatment and Training in Times of Disease and War,” she presented a paper titled “Transgenerational Impact of Refugee Experience on Place and Displacement.”

**Wendy Smith**, PhD, LCSW, is a long-time member of AAPCSW and the author of *Before Their Crimes: What We’re Misunderstanding About Childhood Trauma, Youth Crime, and the Path to Healing* (2025), based on interviews with twenty men and women who served long sentences for crimes they committed as juveniles. The publisher is Bloomsbury Publishing. She retired from clinical practice and from work as clinical professor and associate dean of curriculum design and assessment at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work several years ago.

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## What’s your news?

We would like to acknowledge your professional accomplishments; feel free to provide a photo.

## New to AAPCSW?

We invite you to introduce yourself. Contact the *Newsletter* Editor at [AAPCSWNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:AAPCSWNewsletter@gmail.com).

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# American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work

AAPCSW promotes psychoanalytic education, advances clinical social work, facilitates the production and dissemination of knowledge, and advocates for high standards of practice. The AAPCSW website ([www.aapcsw.org](http://www.aapcsw.org)) offers an array of information about AAPCSW. Information on benefits, listservs, programs (both local and national), activities, our history, resources, newsletters, video series, and other items of interest can be found there.

## Want to Join AAPCSW?

*You have two options*

**Online:** At [www.aapcsw.org](http://www.aapcsw.org), go to **Membership / Join**, where you can complete the membership form and pay with a credit card or PayPal; you may also send a check (see address below).

**By Mail:** At [www.aapcsw.org](http://www.aapcsw.org), go to **Membership / Join by Mail** and download and print the membership form. Return the completed form with your payment check payable to AAPCSW or credit card information to AAPCSW; Attn: Barbara Matos, MS, AAPCSW Administrator; PO Box 67; Boonsboro, MD 21713.

## Already a Member?

*Here are some helpful things to know about our current membership system and your AAPCSW membership*

**Username:** Your email address is your username, unless you change it in your **Member Profile**.

**Password:** When you joined, you were assigned a password by our membership system. Please make certain that you save your password where you will be able to locate it. Nobody has access to your password but you!

**Resetting Username/Password:** If you forget either your username or password (or both), go to [www.aapcsw.org](http://www.aapcsw.org) and click on the **Get Help with Username and Password** link. You will receive an email that will allow you to reset one or the other (or both). Again, please make certain that you save this information where you will be able to locate it.

**Membership Renewal Notices:** The current database will send you a reminder regarding renewal 30

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**Email:** AAPCSW is an email-driven membership organization. If your email has changed, please log in and update your **Member Profile**. Otherwise, you will miss important AAPCSW notifications.

## Need to Renew Your Membership?

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**Online:** Log in at [www.aapcsw.org](http://www.aapcsw.org) and go to **Membership / Renew Online**, where you can renew quickly with a credit card or PayPal; you may also send a check (see address below).

**By Mail:** Send a check payable to AAPCSW to AAPCSW; Attn: Barbara Matos, MS, AAPCSW Administrator; PO Box 67; Boonsboro, MD 21713.

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