

Conference 2023 in Chicago

Panel

**In Conversation with Joyce Edward: A Life Well-Lived**

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This presentation is based on a conversation on June 12, 2023, between the presenters and Joyce Edward, who is 99 years old at the time. The conversation covers her professional life as a social worker, early determinates that influenced her to become a psychoanalyst, and personal reflections on the meaning that psychoanalysis has had in shaping her life.

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Introduction by Sheila Felberbaum, MSW, LCSW

Joyce and I began our relationship when I was in my forties. I changed careers from a registered nurse to a social worker and went on for psychoanalytic training at NYSPP. I chose Joyce to be my first analytic supervisor, she was recommended by a colleague. I was in awe of her. I was frustrated that at middle age I was a novice again, entering into an inner world I had yet to understand.

I could not imagine, that 35 years later, I would be honoring her at 99 years of age and that we would be such dear friends.

Joyce mentioned in our conversation with her that she wrote one paper about friendship and would explore this topic if she had the luxury of time.

I've begun to do just that, with this abbreviated quote taken from Steven Dietz in the author's note: "Leaving Some Traces", from his play "Lonely Planet":

So, what do we affect during our lifetime? What ultimately is our legacy? I believe, in most cases, our legacy is our friends.

"We write our history onto them, and they walk with us through our days like time capsules filled with our mutual past, the fragments of our hearts and minds.

Our friends grant us the chance to make our grand, embarrassing, contradictory pronouncements about the world. They get the very best and are struck with the absolute worst we have to offer. Our friends get our rough drafts. Over time, they both open our eyes and break our hearts."

If we are very lucky, and I count myself, we also have our family as legacy.

I thank Joyce, Karen, Golnar, and many of the AAPCSW community for the long and satisfying friendships we have had for so many years. This workshop has been a true labor of love.