

CURRENTS

OF THE NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER

National Association of Social Workers



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Message From the New NASW-NYC Executive Director Juli Kempner, Esq., LMSW

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SPECIAL ISSUE ON SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK

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Executive Director,
Office of Counseling Support Programs

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Adjunct Associate Professor of
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 **NASW** • NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER
National Association of Social Workers



**FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE ACROSS
RACE, DIVERSITY AND ALL
INTERSECTIONS™**

NASW-NYC Attends Women's March In Washington D.C.



National Association of Social Workers

Dear Members:

It is with great pleasure that I introduce our new Executive Director, Juli Kempner, Esq., LMSW. Juli comes to us with a wealth of knowledge across practice areas and systems.

Juli is a social worker, attorney, and nonprofit administrator. Her work is motivated by a deep commitment to social justice and the inclusion of communities which have previously been underrepresented in leadership. She has served as a public interest lawyer in housing and disability rights, a social worker in behavioral health with justice-involved individuals, and over ten years in nonprofit management.

Juli has worked in both Georgia and Florida, but the bulk of her career has been in New York. She holds a BA in Psychology from Cornell University, a JD from Benjamin Cardozo School of Law, and a MSW from Hunter College School of Social Work.

Some specific highlights of her career include serving as the Director of Social Work for the Legal Aid Society (Criminal and Civil Practices), the Director of East Village Access (Personalized Recovery Oriented Services, or PROS), the Director of Legal and Advocacy Services for Disability Rights Florida, Inc., and as a Health Services Manager for Pinellas County (FL).

Juli returned from Florida to New York this past spring. Since then, she served on the first Participatory Review Committee for the NYC Fund for Girls and Young Women of Color, a large fund managed by the New York Women's Foundation. In addition, she works with the JustLeadershipUSA Close Rikers Campaign, and the Alliance of Families for Justice, an organization committed to working with the families of incarcerated individuals. She is passionate about criminal justice and the effect of mass incarceration on impacted communities and our society. Juli also has a keen interest in art as a vehicle for social change in all areas of systemic oppression.

We hope that as you participate in our many Chapter activities that you will get to know Juli and join us in welcoming her!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candida Brooks-Harrison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Candida Brooks-Harrison
Chapter President



Message from the New Executive Director Juli Kempner, Esq., LMSW

I am honored and excited to serve as the new Executive Director for the NASW-NYC Chapter. In this first article for our newsletter I would like to say that “Now is the Time.” While traveling home from the Women’s March on Washington, 2017, after my first week of work, I had several hours to think about how to introduce myself to you, the membership of the NASW-NYC, one of the nation’s biggest chapters. This is a powerful chapter. We are engaged. We were well represented at the march in

DC, and the march in NYC. Since returning, I have had members and non-members alike reach out to me and say “What is the NASW-NYC doing?” And, suggesting that we should be at the forefront of all progressive actions and mobilizations in regard to the challenges posed by the new administration, not just to our clients, but to ourselves, our families, our local communities, and the larger global community. I have been told that the NASW should be the “go-to” organization in the city for all things related to not only social work practice, but our larger commitment to social justice. I agree with all of that.

I am eager to get to know as many of you as I can in the coming weeks and months, through our committee meetings, events, continuing education, workshops, conferences, in your workplaces, on the phone, through social media, and in as many ways as I can. My goal is to be as accessible as I can, not just to meet you, but to engage you in articulating a strategy that goes beyond our professional needs as social workers to answering the question of “What is the NASW-NYC doing?” If the events of these past week-ends surrounding the executive order on immigration and refugees are an indication of what is to come, and I think it is, none of us can afford to be uninformed, and we must take action quickly.

Some of you may have already noticed more posts on both of our facebook pages, the NASW-NYC chapter page and the NASW-NYC CRDI page – with up-to-date information on upcoming events and actions that everyone can take to oppose measures that impact on our values as social workers, whether related to cabinet post confirmation hearings, threatened deportations, repealing the Affordable Care Act, attacks on the rights of people with disabilities, and so many other areas. We will be working on a more coordinated action strategy. But we need your help. In the short term, to write letters to the editor, and to push out press releases on executive orders that threaten us in an immediate way. And in the long term, as these measures impact on voting rights, criminal justice reform, immigration, and racial and economic justice and equity. We apply the lens of race, diversity and intersectionality not only in our daily work, but in affirmative actions that we take to resist.

These struggles did not begin after this most recent election, but attacks on communities of color, immigrants, muslims, the LGBTQ community, justice involved people, and those with disabilities have and will continue to intensify. We support the efforts of community groups in all areas, led by those most directly impacted and acknowledge that even within the discrimination of the refugee and immigrant ban, that those most marginalized will be people of color.

Where do we go from here? We build bridges, which requires transparency and accountability. We use deep listening skills, and we are courageous. My reflections on #WhyIMarch: I believe that we are in a unique moment in time, and, in fact, there is no better time to organize, and be a force for social justice. I urge you to be bold, as bold as you can be. Now is not the time for silence or complacency. There has been a lack of strong resistance from our Congress not just in condemning illegal and unethical actions, but taking action against them. It is up to us to hold all of our legislators and representatives accountable on the issues we hold most dear. People at the “margins” are rightfully in fear for their lives. We are all

under attack by threats of loss of health care, the building of a “wall,” a proposed Muslim registry, and the promised crackdown on Sanctuary cities. While Mayor de Blasio has promised us that we will hold firm to our convictions as a Sanctuary city, there are no guarantees without a concerted effort by us all. This is not a problem that will be resolved at the next election. This requires our attention in this moment and every moment going forward.

Let me know your thoughts on what we should do now, both for our profession, and for our community. You are on the front lines, and I know how hard your work is. Let us seize this moment of opportunity together. Watching hatred spread robs us all of quality of life. We are in schools, hospitals, behavioral health centers, public defender offices, on the front lines. Inclusive and intersectional work calls upon all of us to resist bigotry of any kind. Join me.

NASW-NYC Attends Women's March In Washington D.C.

NASW- NYC chartered two buses to go to DC. We joined other social workers across the country, the day after Trump's inauguration to send a bold message to the new Administration.

For more pictures, please [click here](#)





NYC Social Workers Stand Against Hate

Reflections on the 2017 NYC Women's March

Carolyn J. Catania, LMSW

"Miss Carolyn- what are we gonna do? What are the adults gonna do about that Trump? It's no good, Miss Carolyn." – Seven-year-old boy.

As a social worker, I'm lucky to spend my days working to help my kids — children in New York City's foster care system — have better tomorrows. While my job description consists of varying responsibilities, the most important is that I get to dedicate my time to helping kids heal from their pasts, learn to have hope and feel safe.

But following the election, I found it all the more difficult to do so. I watched the results of each state get called and felt, among many other things, that the social service system I work within — and that my kids live within — was about to be jeopardized, if not collapse entirely.

I went from being shocked, to upset, to angry, pretty quickly. And, that anger and confusion is what drove me down to the protest in Union Square the night after the election. The crowds there were made up of loud, aggressive New Yorkers who couldn't quite understand how what just happened, happened, so I fit right in.

The theme of the Women's March in NYC, though, was different. I spent days after the election trying to figure out how I was going to help my kids, most who are in elementary school, understand and process how a hateful, cruel, under-qualified racist was rewarded by winning the highest office in our country. This stood in strong contrast to what I continuously tell them: that it is most important to be kind, that it is okay to be exactly who you are, to respect others' feelings, and that each of them is important and valued.

My coworkers faced similar struggles, as we were presented with questions that had no clear answers, and a future that remains uncertain. For us — social workers, whose job is to protect others — it was indescribably frustrating to feel so helpless.

But it is imperative that we do not let ourselves get paralyzed by feelings of helplessness, anger, or disappointment. And that is why my coworkers, my friends, and thousands of other New Yorkers took to the streets in DC, NYC, and all over the world. It wasn't just a Women's March, though it felt more like the city coming together for something much bigger than any one particular event or person. It took on a life of its own.

To say Midtown was packed would be a gross understatement. The roads were filled with individuals who showed up because they stood for something, because they wanted to be heard and seen, and because they believe in their rights, and the rights of others, and wanted to make that known.



Some of the signs around me read: "Liberty & Justice for All," "You Can't Be Neutral On a Runaway Train," "Women's Rights Are Human Rights," "Love Trumps Hate," "Love is Love is Love," "NOPE," and "Wake Me Up When it's 2020."

New Yorkers chanted everything from "Mike Pence sucks too," to "My Body, My Rights, Her Body, Her Rights," and "He has little hands and little feet, all he does is tweet, tweet, tweet."

While the crowds and protests, immediately following Election Day seemed to be driven by outrage and disbelief, the NYC Women's March felt peacefully cathartic, and hopefully anticipatory of a new political force. It was an event that offered inspiration, humor, and proof that New York will never go down quietly. It gave everyone who wanted an outlet one, to express how they were feeling about the new President and the state of our society.

The Women's March in New York City was just one example of people, particularly millennials, becoming less apathetic than perhaps they were before, and more ready to commit to ensuring that whatever cause they believe in remains safeguarded in the coming years. I went to the March for a lot of reasons, one of which is because when my kids ask me, "Miss Carolyn, what're the adults gonna do about it?" I want to be able to tell them, that we will not stand idly by while the most vulnerable among us are being threatened. I want to tell them, that when it comes to what you believe in, doing something is better than doing nothing. That you need to stay informed and active in the fight for what is right. And, I want to tell them, that we will continue to work to help them feel safe, to heal, and to never give up. Seeing the turnout at the March confirmed that many share these same sentiments.

And, after feeling the positive, encouraging atmosphere, and getting to be a part of a demonstration that stood for social justice and standing together, I can say I will tell them all of the above with the same amount of conviction I had before the election, if not more.

New York City's social workers will continue to stand firmly with those who feel scared, worried, and confused. We are committed to ensuring there continues to be better tomorrows. And, I'll also tell them what they already know — that there really is no city greater than New York.

**This article was first posted on <https://notanothermillennial.com/2017/01/27/social-workers-place-resistance/>*

NASW- NYC Celebrates Black History Month

Olanike Oyeyemi, LMSW
NASW-NYC Associate Director

Addressing the realities and intersection of poverty, diversity, multiculturalism, and oppression in New York City is a critical aspect of our work as social workers. As the organization that represents over 7,000 social workers in New York City, NASW-NYC remains committed to these goals. NASW-NYC will continue to confront institutional racism in every aspect of our work, host workshops such as “Undoing Racism”, and continue to fight for the rights of oppressed and marginalized people in the City and across the world.

This month, as we celebrate Black History, NASW-NYC would like to pay special tribute to two Chapter committees: The Coalition on Race Diversity and Intersectionality (CRDI), and The Task Force of Social Workers of African Descent (TFSWAD); they have been active in creating change with a racial equity lens.

The Coalition on Race Diversity and Intersectionality continues to place a focused lens on race and racism as a social construct with power and far-reaching impact. Some of the group’s objectives include:

- Supporting collective reflection and discussion of race, diversity and intersectionality and the impact on individuals, communities, and social work practice and policies.
- Identifying areas of focus and relevance to the membership of NASW-NYC for promoting professional skills and competencies to better serve diverse clients and enhancement of the systems in which we practice.
- Developing and supporting opportunities for continuing education and professional growth, particularly for communities previously underrepresented in leadership.
- Establishing opportunities for collaboration and collective efforts within NASW-NYC and throughout the city with community partners.
- Advocating for issues of equity locally and nationally.

The CRDI group meets every first Tuesdays of the month from 6PM-8PM. [Click Here for more information.](#) You can also get more information by joining the [NASW-NYC CRDI facebook page](#).

The Task Force of Social Workers of African Descent is another Chapter committee. Their focus is on how to diversify the social work workforce. Their objectives include:

- Acknowledging and rectifying the present and future workforce shortage of social workers of African descent on the front-line and in leadership.
- Addressing the specific professional development needs of social workers of African descent.
- Addressing the needs of communities of African descent.
- Building and expanding the base of social workers of African descent for engagement in future activities of the task force.

On February 23rd, 2017, the task force will be hosting a conference titled: “Actualizing the United Nations’ Decade for People of African Decent: The Human Services Profession Organizing Challenge for Health Equity in Social work, Psychology, and Addictions Fields at the New School.” [Click here to Register.](#)

If interested in joining this committee the group meets every first Thursday of the month. [Click Here for more information.](#)

NASW-NYC Celebrates the 10th Annual Leadership Awards Dinner

Joe Barker, MSW

NASW-NYC Program Manager for Membership & Fund Development

On December 1st, 2016, NASW-NYC held our 10th Annual Leadership Awards Dinner, where social workers came together to celebrate Top, Mid-Career, and Emerging Leaders from across systems and various areas of practice in the Social Work field. These leaders are examples of Social Work values.



From the Left: Chapter President Candida Brooks-Harrison, Top Leader Awardee Mary Pender Greene, Former Chapter President Sandy Bernabei and Former Executive Director Dr. Bob Schachter



Top Leader Awardee Jacqueline O. McKnight



Top Leader Awardee Debra McPhee and Elaine Congress



Top Leader Awardee Anderson Torres



Honoring Mid-Career Leaders for their outstanding leadership in this most distinguished field.



NASW-NYC celebrates the emergence of a new generation, the Emerging Leaders, that will lead the profession into the future.

We were honored to have Ruth Messinger as the guest speaker for the evening. Ms. Messinger is currently the Inaugural Global Ambassador for the American Jewish World Service. She served as the President of AJWS for eighteen years and spent twenty years in public service as the New York City Council as well as Manhattan Borough President.



Keynote Speaker, Ruth Messinger, addressing over 400 social workers

Ms. Messinger began her statement by saying, "I salute you as social workers working in a variety of New York City settings, trying to improve life for individuals and communities, trying to change policies and budgets, trying in many ways to be people who make a difference." Her remarks continued to embolden and unify the social workers in the room for the coming political climate.

Ms. Messinger spoke clearly about the reality that we were all going to face in the new administration. She commented ".... I know you know this, but the work we are doing is not going to get easier. Programs are going to be cut, services will be terminated, and agencies will find themselves short of funds." However, she did not leave it on a grim note, rather, a note of hope and inspiration. Her message was not about a particular candidate, though important, she acknowledged the much broader issues at play- the divide in the country that has led to the circumstances we now find ourselves in.

She ended with the following, a true tenet of social work: "Take some time first. Reach out to others, calm your soul. And, then, let us affirm our commitment to stand together with those who feel vulnerable and frightened, ignored and oppressed, powerless and speechless."

Congratulations to all the honorees. To view the full list of honorees, visit our [website](#).

To view more pictures of the dinner please [click here](#)



What Are You Going To Do About It?

"One Cause a Day."

Jaye Murray, LCSW

Executive Director, Office of Counseling Support Programs

As Executive Director of the Office of Counseling Support Programs, I am often told by colleagues, "You only get one cause a day," No matter what our actual title, as social workers, the spirit of advocacy and a focus on social justice is built into every aspect of our work. Beyond that, at least for me, it is ingrained in my thinking, a key aspect of my planning, and is supported by my own emotions.

It is that "supported by my own emotions" aspect that makes those who work with me feel obliged to inform me that I am only allowed one cause a day. This minimizes workload, pressure, conflict and fosters good work relations. Why is that? I think it is because the passion that drives the work of social workers is unique. Advocacy should be embedded in everything that we do. Sometimes, we, as social workers, speak the unspeakable, go against the grain of the popular decision. The popular decision is sometimes the easier one, the one that will get it off the to-do list and is sometimes the one with the least resistance attached to it.

That should not stop a social worker, and because we press sometimes, we are not liked, we are shied away from, and we are the last to be invited for coffee. I have a bumper sticker on my desk that says "You have enemies? Good. That means you have stood up for something in your life."

The trick is not to make racking up enemies as a goal of productivity or advocacy. But it is more a metaphor for not choosing the easier way for ourselves, but the most beneficial way for those we serve. Social workers are not afraid to get their hands dirty, we are willing to risk a lack of popularity, massive eye rolls and extra work, in order to speak up for those most often not spoken up for.

How does this relate to school social work? In one phrase, which I use at all of my professional development workshops with social workers, is "what are you going to do about it?"

If there is a lack of equity that you see in regard to disciplinary responses, educational support, or access to services for any one student and/or their family, what action do you take? Are you willing to speak up in a way that supports the mission and vision of the school and speaks to creating a positive and productive school climate so that aligning those points to your advocacy supports the desired outcome?

What are you going to do about it when you hear someone in a staff lounge say something negative about transgender students? Or if you notice that there are students sitting alone in the cafeteria and all of them happen to be special education students? What services will you create to support those in need? Advocacy is not just about speaking out but about taking action on behalf of. Putting up a policy change, creating a group, a club, a program that will foster the change on behalf of others for whom those changes may not otherwise be a priority.

It is not as my bumper sticker states about making enemies but about making decisions. The NYC Department of Education has taken steps that reflect a recognition of the value and importance of social

workers. Often, that is not merely a recognition of skills, training, and expertise but about knowing that social workers are not afraid to get their hands dirty, and that they are willing to go the extra step for their student clients and families and the organizations they serve.

This past year, we hired approximately 70 new social workers for our Single Shepherd initiative with the anticipation of hiring more next year, 30 for our Bridging the Gap program, and we have hired social workers for our SSOPE initiative, chronic absenteeism initiative, and the universal Pre-K.

I may only be allowed “one cause a day” but that’s only to speak of. That does not stop me from thinking, planning, researching and getting ready for tomorrow.

Join me in school social work advocacy, and feel free to contact me at JMurray7@schools.nyc.gov, to discuss your ideas and successes.



NYC School Social Workers Pay it Forward

Cindy M. Bautista-Thomas, LCSW
Associate Director of Field Education
Columbia School of Social Work

For over 100 years, school social workers have been a critical link between school, home and the community, facilitating and promoting growth in academic achievement and overall well-being. School social workers' function in schools is multifaceted and complex, especially in New York City where the student body population is a cultural mosaic growing exponentially. This article will highlight the evolvement of the school social work profession and discuss Columbia School of Social Work's (CSSW) response to some of the challenges school social workers face in New York City.

School social work in New York City

While there are tens of thousands of school social workers in public schools across the United States, research is still very limited when it comes to school social work in urban areas like New York City. The dearth in the research is alarming, especially, since the New York City Department of Education is the largest public school system that they serve. Currently, there is no mandate for school administrators to hire social workers to provide services, yet so many needs are unmet daily.

In communities like New York City there are challenges in the classroom that go beyond the social-emotional or mental health issues that children may present. Sometimes issues of racism, power, privilege and oppression significantly impact children's ability to succeed academically. Poverty and inequities also affect the children and adults alike in moving towards successful progress in all areas of their lives. School social workers take on leadership roles in schools providing information and strategies to enhance the school community, using a systems approach. Moreover, the impact of outside systems, like public assistance, criminal justice and health care, influence children in schools significantly. Some children feel a disconnect. When children are unable to relate to classroom content, it becomes difficult for children who may already be struggling to find a place to connect. Many children and adolescents' resilience override their circumstances and they persevere. However, there are others that need therapeutic interventions to overcome obstacles that are provided by school social workers. By providing awareness and advocacy strategies to children, their families, and the school staff, school social workers can strengthen the link and help create more access to much needed services. Social workers in schools have evolved from their original role of helping to acculturate immigrants to the American way of life to providing leadership, therapeutic interventions, as well as advocacy to work towards equity in education and beyond.

Field education in school social work: paying it forward

At CSSW, we partner with over 100 private, public, and charter schools to provide field education to students. The school social workers serve as field instructors, providing supervision to our social work students, while our students serve individuals, families and communities. Social workers take a

Seminar in Field Instruction (SIFI) to learn skills, strategies, and techniques to provide the best supervision. Unfortunately, school social workers, who grapple with high caseloads, and complicated scenarios, have limited opportunities for supervision by a clinician.

Another way school social workers find a way to extend their reach in their school community is by taking on social work interns. By providing social work education opportunities to social work students, school social workers also pay it forward. Students gain a very rich and rewarding field placement experience in schools, providing a diversity of interventions, including, but not limited to, individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, collaborative work with teachers and school staff and work with families and linkages to community supports. Our field instructors are passionate about the work they are doing and are committed to teaching our students culturally relevant ways of providing support to students, their families, and school staff. The challenge, at times, is that school staff have minimal understanding of the purpose of social work in schools and its benefits in promoting well-being and increased academic outcomes. I understand the challenges school social workers face as I too was a school social worker in New York City.

Prior to CSSW, I was a New York City Department of Education school social worker for eight years in the Bronx. While there, I experienced the challenges on the front lines: the misunderstanding of the function of a school social worker, the lack of resources and support, the overwhelming caseloads, and the lack of supervision. I provided supervision to social work students in an effort to pay it forward in the profession, but, also because I saw interns as a way to extend my reach within the school. It was that work that inspired my interest to apply for the Associate Director role that I currently hold at CSSW. Creating rewarding field placement experiences for students, while helping school social workers rekindle their love for social work, has been extremely rewarding. Many of the school social workers find themselves as cultural brokers within the educational system, using their social justice lens to promote racial equity and overall success.

In an effort to increase awareness of the importance of school social work and to provide quality school social work specific professional development, I partnered with the New York State School Social Workers Association (NYSSA) and began our Annual School Social Work Conference in 2015. On June 8th, 2017, we look forward to our 3rd Annual School Social Work Conference titled, "Trauma, Terror, and Healing: Turning Empathy into Action" at Columbia University. The purpose of our conference is to bring together school social workers, social workers in educational settings, social work students, and other mental health professionals to participate, discuss, and learn about the issues of trauma, terror, and healing. Workshops will cover a range of areas specific to trauma and skill building to provide supports in those areas.

Currently, as a PhD candidate at the CUNY Graduate Center, I am exploring the professional experiences of Latino and Latina school social workers, in New York Department of Education elementary schools, specifically examining how language, race and ethnicity impact their work. In the course of my studies, I have discovered that there is significant dearth in the research when it comes to school social work in New York City, and when it comes to bilingualism in social work practice in general. I look forward to contributing to the literature and continuing the work in providing professional development and leadership skill building to school social workers in New York City and beyond.



Mentoring: A Reward of Teaching

Dr. Rosalie (Rose) Gleicher, DSW, LMSW
Adjunct Associate Professor of Human Services
The Borough of Manhattan Community College

Prof. Elsbeth Couch became a mentor to me during my MSW program, influencing my career in the direction of college teaching and, we are still in touch today, more than twenty years later. This essay will discuss what a mentor is in social work, how I met my mentor, the benefits of receiving mentoring, the benefits of being a mentor, and why it is important for all social workers to have a mentor.

What is a mentor?

A mentor is "a trusted counselor or guide"(Merriam-Webster, undated). The National Association of Social Workers (undated) describes the role of a mentor as someone, to help early career social workers and social workers returning to the field after taking time off to "...identify with the profession and provide opportunities to discuss job-related issues, resumes and career concerns, licensure and testing, as well as dealing with the challenges and demands of the social work profession. Mentorship is a purposeful, conscious, and voluntary relationship...."

How I met my mentor

Prof. Elsbeth Couch was my teacher for a first year social casework course in my MSW program, and for the first-year fieldwork experience. At that time, I was shy, quiet, young and had less work experience than my MSW classmates. In contrast, my classmates were very talkative, older and had lots of work experience. At the start of my MSW program, I didn't contribute much to class discussions, which had not been a problem in large college classrooms at my undergraduate college.

However, Prof. Couch noticed, in the first few weeks of the course, that I was quiet in class and wanted me to play a more active role in my professional growth as a future social worker. She displayed extraordinary caring, support, outreach, and concern. This was the 1990's, before email and cellphones, so she made phone calls to my home in the evening, sent letters home, and held weekly meetings with me in her office.

Weekly meetings in her office, over a course of two semesters consisted, of talking about what had happened in class, and the reasons why I did or did not participate in that class. Very quickly, we reached a goal that I had to make one contribution to each class, and that she would try her best to call on me whenever my hand was up. In these meetings and in the classroom, Prof. Couch became a role model to me of a caring professor. She didn't get into my personal business but focused on what professional skills I needed to achieve to be successful. Therefore, she taught me the difference between being a caring teacher and being a therapist. She also modeled for me how to be a group leader and to protect group members. She taught the strengths approach in social work class and modeled it in our meetings. I learned that being an active learner is important in social work. Learning to speak up for your own educational needs in class, helps you speak up for the needs of others in the real world. In observing her behavior and actions, I realized that I, too, could make a big difference in students' lives as a social work professor.

Benefits of having a mentor

After graduation, I kept in touch with Prof. Couch by phone and letters. Even when e-mail became popular, Prof. Couch still preferred to talk on the phone. We still talk on the phone, a few times a year. Whenever I encounter difficult students or challenges in my practice or teaching, I think of how Prof. Couch would handle the situation. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think of her teachings and lessons learned.

In my career, I've worked at a variety of social services organizations in a wide variety of clinical and administrative roles, including individual, family, group counseling, as well as leading workshops, and making conference presentations. Throughout the years, Prof. Couch gave me confidence to try out every possible professional opportunity. I did a post master's program in administration. When I had enough post-MSW experience, I applied for a DSW program. I ultimately obtained a DSW, so I could impact the lives of college students in same way that Prof. Couch helped me.

Mentoring: A reward of teaching

Twenty years after I experienced mentoring by Prof. Couch, I am now on the other side of the desk. I am currently, an adjunct, teaching for eight years in a pre-social work program at a large, urban community college with a student population similar to the target populations of social workers, the disadvantaged and vulnerable. My students are often considered an "at risk" population due to having a history of educational challenges, which include, disabilities, being new to the country, homelessness, being first in their family to attend college, needing remediation in reading and/or math, and/or English not being their first language. Many of my students work full-time, have families, and live far away from campus. I chose to work with this type of student population, because they are particularly in need of caring professors and mentors, who will help identify their strengths and develop them.

Mentoring students is one of the best parts of teaching. I provide students with empathy, hope, advocacy, support, and outreach to pursue their educational and career goals in the same way Prof. Couch helped me, and encourage students to keep in touch. I maintain close contact with current students during the semester by sending frequent emails about the week's agenda and college's student support services. I call students and/or send letters home for bounced emails or disconnected phone numbers. I also arrange peer mentoring for students who are repeating the course. I enjoy helping students with career/education options, resumes, cover letters, college application essays, job leads, interview questions, and in obtaining their first professional jobs. I am grateful to Prof. Couch for her mentorship. Dr. Gleicher can be reached by email at rgleicher@bmcc.cuny.edu or rosedsw@aol.com

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Committee Updates and Events

The Coalition on Race, Diversity and Intersectionality (CRDI):

Since the last edition of Currents and the presidential election, the Coalition on Race, Diversity and Intersectionality (CRDI) has been full steam ahead. President and Co-Chair, Candida Brooks-Harrison, Co-Chair Brian Romero, Executive Director Juli Kempner, and Board Member and CRDI member Marcie Gitlin attended the Women and Allies March in Washington DC, taking part in a national movement and moment that saw people of all races and diversities act in an intersectional manner to Resist, Resist, Resist. On January 29th, CRDI members also attended Teen Lives Matter 2, an event co-organized with Jack and Jill of America, during which time we led breakout groups and helped teens process the results of the election and determine how they would act and contribute to a more just society.

CRDI is strategically outlining how to support and organize with stakeholders and partners in the various campaigns the chapter has signed onto including the Raise the Age campaign, the #CloseRikers campaign and our work on having conversion therapy banned in New York State. How can you get involved? CRDI is organizing a contingent to attend the next #CloseRikers campaign action during the State of the City Address on Monday, February 13th at 6:00 pm during which time we will urge Mayor de Blasio to SHUT IT DOWN! Email naswnyc.crdi@gmail.com to join us!

In addition, Tuesday, March 7th will be the Lobby Day at Albany calling for the New York State legislature to Raise the Age of criminal responsibility in New York. If you would like to represent the NYC Chapter please email us as well. CRDI is also co-sponsoring an event at the end of February regarding the issue of conversion therapy with the SOGIE Collective (see more below).

Last, but not least, CRDI will begin to discuss how we can use the Indivisible Guide, a guide created by former congressional staffers who saw the rise of the Tea Party movement during President Obama's term and wanted to provide practical ways in which citizens can resist the Trump agenda. We will begin to use this guide to assist NASW-NYC members and social workers in New York City to resist, resist, resist. As the central group on issues of racial equity, and equity across diversities at the chapter, CRDI is energized, mobilized and we invite you to join us. Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the Chapter. You can also find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/naswnycrdi. Stay woke social workers!

The Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) Collective

The Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) Collective has been leading the committee effort on the Chapter's focus on banning conversion therapy in New York State. While our lobbyist continues to work with legislators in Albany to make banning conversion therapy a reality in New York State, we at SOGIE Collective are supplementing the work by organizing an event to bring awareness to this issue. On Tuesday, February 28th from 5:30 to 8:30 pm, we are partnering with Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service to host "Conversion Therapy: The Implications of Sexual Orientation Change Efforts Across Race, Diversity and Intersectionality." This event will not only bring awareness to the issue of conversion therapy, a draconian, oppressive and ineffective form of therapy meant to convert LGBTQ people but will do so using the Chapter's Race Diversity and Intersection (RDI) lens.

This event, which has been co-organized with the Coalition on Race, Diversity and Intersectionality (CRDI)

and Political Action Candidate Endorsement (PACE) Committee, will consist of a keynote address as well as a panel discussion with an opportunity for Q&A. The panel will be compiled of a scholar, policy counsel, practitioner, and survivor who will dissect the nuances of sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts but more specifically discuss conversion therapy and its implications for social workers in New York City.

To learn more about conversion therapy please read our article on it on our previous Currents edition and at <http://www.nclrights.org/bornperfect-the-facts-about-conversion-therapy/>. To join us on February 28th register at <http://www.naswnyc.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=924886&group=> as seats are limited and filling fast. The event is free for all.

In addition, the SOGIE Collective is proud to announce that in conjunction with PACE, we have included screening questions related to LGBTQ issues in the PACE Candidate Endorsement Screening Questionnaire. All candidates for public office looking for endorsement will now be asked if they would support a ban on conversion therapy and the passage of the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) when it is brought for a vote in the New York State legislature. The SOGIE Collective is composed of social workers across the spectrums of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. Join us at our monthly meetings the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the chapter offices.

NASW-NYC Political Action Candidate Endorsement (PACE) Committee

NASW-NYC PACE is the political arm of the Chapter, tasked primarily with endorsing and forming mutually productive relationships with our elected public officials.

PACE endorses Senator Bill Perkins in the special election to replace Inez Dickens in Harlem's City Council District 9. Senator Perkins, who currently represents the 30th District in the NYS Senate, comprising Harlem and surrounding areas of upper Manhattan, is known as an outstanding progressive who fights hard for what he believes in. Senator Perkins was the first NY elected official to endorse Barack Obama in the Democratic primary and one of the very few to support the Harlem five young men accused of rape in the Central Park Jogger case of the late 1980s.

PACE urges NASW members who live in the 9th City Council district to vote for Bill Perkins in the special election on Tuesday, Feb. 14th. Those wishing to assist in getting out the vote, calling voters, or helping in other ways should contact the Bill Perkins campaign: <http://www.billperkins.org>.

Please join us at NASW-NYC PACE meetings, typically held on the second Wednesday of each month, with the next scheduled meeting on March 8th from 6:15-8:15pm at the Chapter office. Like us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NASW.NYC.PACE/?hc_ref=SEARCH

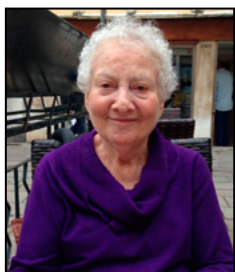
In Memoriam



Susan Bendor

Susan Bendor, long time faculty member and colleague at Wurzweiler School of Social Work of Yeshiva University, died on December 15, 2016, after a short illness.

Ms. Bendor served in numerous professional capacities in her career: a foster care worker at the Jewish Child Care Association, a consultant to the Federal Office of Economic Opportunity, a Head Start Consultant, a psychiatric social worker in various hospitals and health settings, Director of Social Work at Molloy College, and Associate Director of the Department of Social Services at Montefiore Medical Center where she held a wide range of responsibilities in multiple facets of the social work field before she joined YU in the 1980s. Bendor received the Nassau Division Social Worker of the Year Award from NASW in 1975.



Eleanore Z. Korman, Former NASW- NYC President

Eleanore Z. Korman died in her sleep on September 2, 2016 at the age of 89. She was married to Marvin S. Korman for more than 60 years. A born and bred New Yorker, Eleanore was a longtime resident of Greenwich Village where she was active in The Caring Community and other charities.

After graduating from NYU in 1948, she received a MSW from the University of Pittsburgh and began a long career in social work and education. Her 35 years at the NYU School of Social Work included her tenure as Acting Dean. Eleanore served as President of NASW- NYC from 1985-1986.

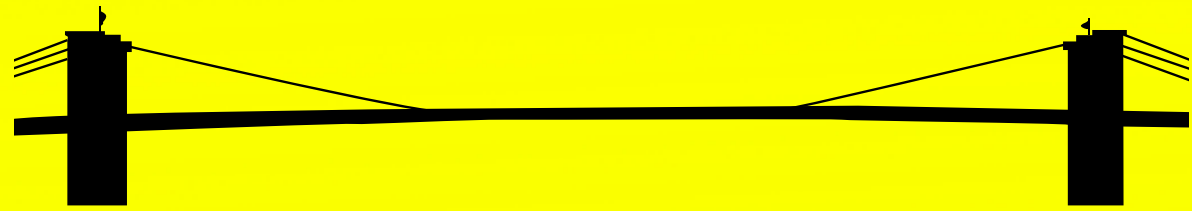
She is survived by her daughters Candida B. Korman and Justine Fontes, her virtual daughter Grace E. Lee, and the many who called her mentor and friend.



Dr. Gerald Landsberg

Professor Gerald Landsberg suddenly passed away on Saturday, December 31, 2016. Dr. Landsberg joined the NYU Silver faculty in 1991. He was a valued colleague and key contributor to the Silver School of Social Work, to NYU, and to the broader New York City community.

Dr. Landsberg received his MSW from the Silver School of Social Work in 1967 and served as the Director of the School's Institute Against Violence from 1996 to 2010. He received funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, New York Community Trust, and the United Jewish Appeal, among others, to pursue his diverse and important work. He was active in the Partners in Healing program, a significant effort intersecting social work, schools, and mental health.



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Featured Presentations



Joy Reid, host of "AM Joy" on MSNBC, is an award winning journalist and a political commentator who will give the keynote address on **the profound and historic impact of the November 8th Presidential Election on the future of American society**. She will discuss the implications of the election for the social work profession and the communities we serve, in regards to: social and racial justice, voting and elections, income inequality, employment, education, drug policy and incarceration, women's health, housing, health, and mental health.



Dr. Harry Aponte, LCSW, LMFT, nationally renowned multicultural family therapist will discuss **how social workers can apply the Person-of-the-Therapist Model**. Dr. Aponte's presentation will expound on how social workers are able to understand and feel with their clients and in their personal struggles, highlighting how we can relate with our clients despite differences in race, diversity and socioeconomic status.

**This Conference is not sponsored by or affiliated with Hunter College or the City University of New York*

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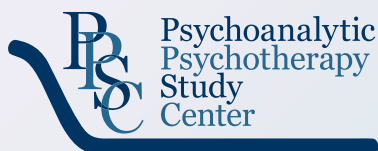
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Rory Rothman will provide an overview of Winnicott’s posthumously published paper “Fear of Breakdown,” which raises thought-provoking questions that go to the heart of our work as analysts, including our use of countertransference and striving to remain fully open to the experience of the patient.



M. Gerard Fromm will examine the fear of breakdown as it relates to the intergenerational transmission of trauma, and the “fear of breakthrough” both parent and child sense as they stumble into the fallout of trauma one has been carrying for the other.



Galit Atlas will discuss how breaks in unity, an inherent part of the process of motherhood, can lead to fragmentation and breakdown as well as provide opportunities for reintegration and breakthrough.



Barbara Steif will present the case of a patient with the fear of breakdown, focusing on the intense feelings experienced in the analyst-patient dyad.

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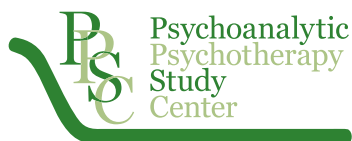
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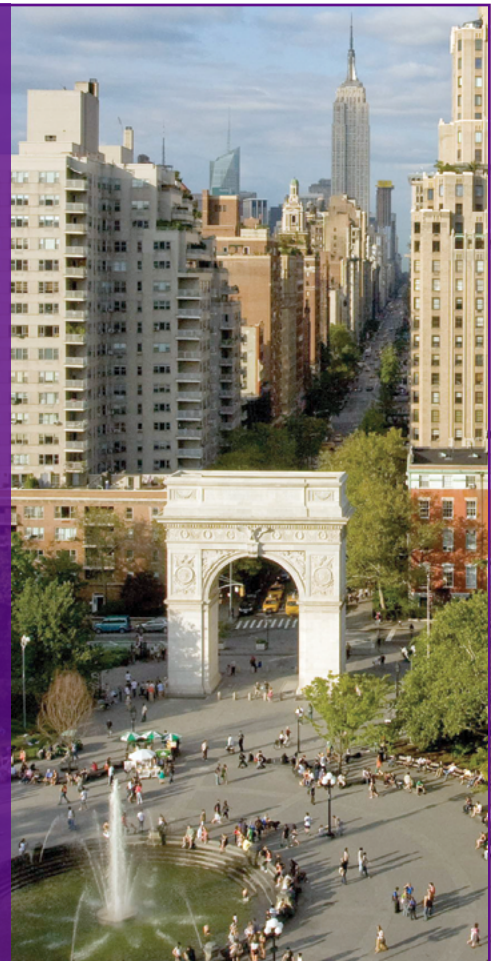
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