

CURRENTS

OF THE NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER

National Association of Social Workers



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Addressing Social Work and the Black Community

Strengths, Barriers to Professional Development and Wellness are Focus of Conference



Terri Williams, LCSW, presented highlights of her book "Black Pain: It Just Looks Like We're Not Hurting"

NASW-NYC's Social Workers of African Descent Task Force, which was created approximately one year ago, held its first conference on Saturday, June 21 at City College. The conference, titled, "Strengthening Black Social Workers Strengthens our Community: Balancing Across the Professional/Life Cycle" was attended by 150 participants. The conference planning committee (see photo on page 7), was hard at work developing the program over the year.

Dr. Darrell Wheeler, the task force chair, opened the conference by saying the title of the event was intentionally designed to convey the power, success and beauty of the African descent experience and those

who work with the community, namely social workers in New York City. He said that the conference provided an opportunity for colleagues to come together as well as to recognize pioneers who are still blazing trails today.

According to Dr. Wheeler, the conference's objectives were to help advance NASW-NYC's efforts to tackle issues relevant to social work communities of African descent; expand the Chapter's capacity to be responsive to social work policy and practice issues, including increasing leadership skills and addressing institutional barriers and racism; and to provide a space for advocacy and coalition building.

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Reflections: What Does Continuing Education Have to Offer Me?

Lynne Spevack, LCSW, is a practice building consultant and clinical social worker in private practice in lower Manhattan and mid-Brooklyn and chair of NASW-NYC's Private Practice Committee

Editor's Note: In this article, Lynne Spevack LCSW, Continuing Education Planning Committee member, shares her reflections on some of this fall's Continuing Education workshops.

As a 20-something year old aspiring clinician attending Hunter College School of Social Work during the Reagan years, I resented being compelled to enroll in the required course in social policy which, I grumbled, detracted from my ability to take more clinically focused courses. However, just a couple of years later,



Lynne Spevack

while working in my first job in preventive services, I began to understand the significance that policy initiatives – or the lack thereof – have on my clients' lives. Now in private practice, I continue to

clinicians like myself to help them to cope with problems that would be better addressed on a broad community level: structural racism and homophobia, child welfare and domestic violence, access to health care, addictions, and poverty, to name a few. So, like many of my colleagues, I've come to understand the importance of policy and politics to my profession. Noelle Tutunjian's workshop "Finding Your Voice: Political Advocacy in Social Work" promises to instruct those of us from all sectors of the social work profession who would like to make a

see how many clients seek the services of

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Message From The Executive Director

I Don't Mean to be an Alarmist, but the Alarm is Sounding

Where We Are Today with the Licensing Law

At a meeting of 300 social workers last March, Nancy Miller, executive director of Visions/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, asked everyone present to raise their hands if they had read the social work licensing statute. Very few people in the audience raised their hands. This was a chilling realization.

Since 2004, social work is a licensed profession in New York State, and with that comes legal recognition of social work practice. It also means significant legal responsibilities for all of us. Nevertheless, too few within the profession may have taken the time to directly study the law and all that follows from this.

Ironically, studying the law may not be sufficiently helpful. There is no escaping the need to be very familiar with the licensing law, but knowing the law as well as possible still leaves wide gray areas. (To access the social work licensing statute, regulations and material on the SED website, go to: www.op.nysed.gov.)

Consider these recent experiences that have affected hundreds of social workers who have been seeking the LCSW. The first set of experiences relates to LMSWs who went into private practice before obtaining the LCSW. The second set relates to what is presumably an even larger group, who have been trying to obtain the LCSW in what the law refers to as "facility settings."

Whether Private Practice is Permissible

Over the past few months word started to spread that LMSWs would not qualify for the clinical license because they went into private practice to obtain the three

years of supervised experience. The State Education Department's Office of the Professions pointed out that LMSWs are not permitted by law to engage in clinical work while in private practice and that they cannot employ their own supervisors.

Yet, material from the State Education Department prior to June, 2008 indicated that LMSWs could be in private practice and hire their own supervisor, leading them to qualify for the LCSW. SED changed its material in June.

NASW has maintained the position that only LCSWs should engage in clinical work in private practice, reflecting nationally recognized standards. Nevertheless, after careful review of the licensing statute, the regulations and the information provided by SED until June, NASW concluded that LMSWs have had good reason to believe that they were legally permitted to entering into private practice as a path to obtain the LCSW. While we did not change our original position, the principle of fairness and being able to trust the information provided was considered to be a matter of concern, regardless of the particular stance of the organization.

NASW has taken the position that if the State Education Department is going to rule out being in private practice as an avenue to obtaining the LCSW, it should develop new rules that are published in draft form, that public comment be sought prior to being finalized, and be applicable only at the date that the rules take effect.

Obtaining the LCSW in Facility Based Settings

There are also serious issues regarding



Robert Schachter



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National NASW Endorses Barack Obama for President

The National Association of Social Workers enthusiastically endorses Barack Obama for President in 2008. Mr. Obama holds the ideals of the profession in high regard as evidenced by his support of important legislation such as the Mental Health Parity Act, End Racial Profiling Act, and Healthy Families Act.

Mr. Obama attended Columbia University and moved to Chicago after graduation to become a community organizer in the tradition of Saul Alinsky and in the hometown of legendary social worker Jane Addams. He spent several years working to transform the South Side of Chicago and once noted, "It's as a consequence of working with this

organization and this community that I found my calling. There was something more than making money and getting a fancy degree. The measure of my life would be public service." He pursued his law degree from Harvard Law School and was elected the first African American President of the Harvard Law Review. He served in the Illinois Senate for seven years before becoming a U.S. Senator.

Barack Obama is an ally to social workers and the clients we serve including women, children, and people of color. He has vowed to promote equal opportunity and end discrimination, empowering people to make positive changes in their communities and in their lives. He is a



Photo credit: www.barackobama.com

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NASW-NYC PACE Endorsed Elected Officials

PACE, NASW's political arm, endorses candidates for political office who can best represent the interests of our clients and our profession. PACE then supports those endorsed candidates through financial contributions (on a selective basis) and by informing NASW members in those districts of our endorsements. The following is a list of PACE endorsed candidates.

New York State Senate					
Hiram Monserrate	District 13	Queens	Catherine Nolan	District 37	Queens
Malcolm A. Smith	District 14	Queens	Jose Peralta	District 39	Queens
Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.	District 15	Queens	Rhoda Jacobs	District 42	Brklyn
Toby Ann Stavisky	District 16	Queens	James F. Brennan	District 44	Brklyn
Martin Malave Dilan	District 17	Brklyn	Felix Ortiz	District 51	Brklyn
Velmanette Montgomery	District 18	Brklyn	Joan Millman	District 52	Brklyn
John L. Sampson	District 19	Brklyn	Vito Lopez	District 53	Brklyn
Eric Adams	District 20	Brklyn	William Boyland, Jr.	District 55	Brklyn
Diane J. Savino	District 23	Brklyn/St. Is	Annette Robinson	District 56	Brklyn
Liz Krueger	District 26	Man.	Hakeem Jeffries	District 57	Brklyn
Jose M. Serrano	District 28	Man.	N. Nick Perry	District 58	Brklyn
Thomas K. Duane	District 29	Man.	Matthew J. Titone	District 61	St. Is
Bill Perkins	District 30	Man.	Sheldon Silver	District 64	Man.
Eric T. Schneiderman	District 31	Man.	Micah Kellner	District 65	Man.
Jeffrey D. Klein	District 34	Bronx	Deborah Glick	District 66	Man.
Ruth Hassell-Thompson	District 36	Bx/Westch.	Linda Rosenthal	District 67	Man.
			Daniel O'Donnell	District 69	Man.
			Keith L.T. Wright	District 70	Man.
			Herman D. Farrell	District 71	Man.
			Adriano Espaillat	District 72	Man.
			Jonathan Bing	District 73	Man.
			Richard Gottfried	District 75	Man.
			Peter Rivera	District 76	Bronx
			Jose Rivera	District 78	Bronx
			Jeffrey Dinowitz	District 81	Bronx
			Carmen Arroyo	District 84	Bronx
New York State Assembly					
Ann-Margaret Carrozza	District 26	Queens			
Michele Titus	District 31	Queens			
Barbara Clark	District 33	Queens			
Jeffrion Aubry	District 35	Queens			
Michael N. Gianaris	District 36	Queens			

The NASW-NYC Nominations Committee Seeks Recommendations for Chapter Elections – Spring 2009

The Chapter's Committee on Nominations and Leadership Identification has requested that members begin to make nominations now. The basic requirement for being nominated is current membership in NASW. NASW-NYC policy for President-Elect is that a member has served on the Chapter Board of Directors.

membership. NASW recognizes the importance of: American Indian/Native Americans; Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders; Blacks and Latinos in the Chapters' leadership. The Chapter will also consider sexual orientation as part of its affirmative action goals.

In keeping with NASW's Affirmative Action policy, Chapter leadership must proportionally reflect the number of women (79%) and people of color (19%) in the organization's overall

The Committee will accept recommendations until December 1st. Please use this form to make your recommendations. If you would like details regarding the duties and responsibilities of the respective positions, please call (212) 668-0050.

POSITIONS OPEN FOR ELECTION

President Elect: (one year as President-Elect; then two years as President)

Student Members: (2) one-year term
MSW Student Member; BSW Student Member

Members at Large: (6) three-year terms

Delegate Assembly Representatives: (11) three-year terms

Nominations Committee: (6) two-year terms

Recommendations for 2009 Chapter Elections

Nominee: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone (home): _____ (work): _____

E-Mail: _____

Gender: _____ Sexual orientation (optional): _____

Ethnicity:

American Indian/Native American

Asian American/Pacific Islander

Black

White

Latino

Other

Elected position for which person is most interested in running: _____

Areas of expertise of the proposed nominee (use additional sheet if necessary) : _____

Specific qualifications that reflect the person's readiness for the position recommended : _____

If this is not a self-referral, please fill out the following;

Your Name: _____

Telephone (home): _____ (work): _____

E-Mail: _____

Return to: - Peter Martin, Chair, Nominations Committee, NASW-NYC, 50 Broadway, Suite 1001, New York, NY 10004, or send via fax at (212) 668-0305.



NASW-NYC honored Social Work leaders of African descent for more than 30 years of outstanding social work service. Joining Athena Moore, Associate Executive Director, NASW-NYC, Dr. Darrell Wheeler, Chair, African Descent Task Force, and Dr. Robert Schachter, Executive Director, NASW-NYC are honorees holding their framed certificates and African kente cloth stoles which were presented. Top Row (L-R): Velma Banks, Dr. Megan McLaughlin, Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Bottom Row (L-R): Dr. Alma Carten, Dr. Patricia Morisey.

Social Workers of African Descent

Continued From Cover

Terri Williams, LCSW, gave the keynote address. Ms. Williams is the founder of the Stay Strong Foundation and author of a recent book, *Black Pain: It Just Looks Like We are Not Hurting*.

Health and Wellness in the Black Community

Darwin Davis, President of the New York Urban League, was the first speaker, addressing the most pressing health care issues in the Black community: asthma, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer and HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Davis, citing the recent publication of the “State of Black New York” (NY Urban League and Black Equity Alliance), discussed essential interventions that

are needed yet are not expensive and can be implemented by members of the community. For example, he discussed the need for people to control the food they eat, such as substituting grilled vegetables for meat. He said that the Harlem Chamber of Commerce is focused on this, while Pfizer, the pharmaceutical company, has been involved with the Urban League in screening for diabetes. He also highlighted the need for annual check-ups to screen for prostate, colon and breast cancer, as well as being willing to engage in honest conversations to prevent sexually transmitted diseases.

Overcoming Barriers to Addressing Race and Racism

Mary Pender Greene, Assistant Executive Director of the Jewish Board for Family and Children’s Services and former

President of NASW-NYC, discussed how difficult it has been within social work to talk about racism as a professional of African descent. She referred to the Open Letter to the Social Work Community which was published in the Dec/Jan 2006-2007 issue of the Chapter newsletter, *Currents* in which the experience of Black social workers was addressed and signed by 231 social workers.

Ms. Pender Greene said that the Open Letter basically said to Black social workers that “I am not alone in the struggle”. She said that those who had collaborated on writing the letter knew that many social workers who are not of color in the field would not accept what was being discussed as reality, believing that racism does not happen anymore

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and that it refers to behavior of the KKK or skinheads. She said that more subtle forms of racism in the workplace prevent people of color from bringing their true selves to work, that they are rendered voiceless when others do not recognize what is being said. She pointed out that a significant challenge is getting others you are trying to communicate with to pay attention despite feelings of frustration.

Ms. Pender Greene underscored the reality that clients are affected by structural racism as well as direct racism, but the profession does not address this in case conferences, supervision, nor do the leaders of agencies ever mention it. She said that it is essential to the profession to discuss these issues authentically and that our voices are needed. She said that NASW-NYC has been helping to put racism and race on the table and that white people need to become engaged in a dialogue about this, that social workers need to be educated about race and racism.

Behind the Masks We Wear

Terri Williams, in giving the keynote address, shared with the audience her personal bout with depression in the midst

of developing a very successful career and the lessons for all of us that have emerged from that experience.

In discussing the publication of *Black Pain: It Just Looks Like We're Not Hurting*, which talks about her own experience with depression and that of many high profile people, she said that her book started out as an article in *Essence*. She said that it clearly touched something in its readership; the magazine received 10,000 letters in response to its

appearance. One of the major points was the tendency within herself and others to hide the interior emotional pain, both from oneself and from others, including those who are close. She said that she only told members of her family about her depression a month before the *Essence* article came out.

As a result of her years of running from her pain, she ended up having a breakdown, paralyzed, staying in bed for hours during the day, and eating excessively late into the night. She said that despite her success, there was no joy in her life.

She shared that when she was told that she was clinically depressed, she felt a sense of relief. For the first time she was able to see that she could begin to understand what was going on and begin to take the necessary steps to deal with it.

Ms. Williams talked about the masks we all wear in our social and professional lives. She said, "I want to know who you are behind the mask you put on every day". She said that revealing some part of yourself can profoundly change someone's life. On the flip side, she said that being the "strong one" gets very tiring over the long run. She said that unless there is time for experiencing one's emotions, the mask will eventually crack.

Ms. Williams shared that it is her sense that White folks who she has known appear to be more comfortable with

Clockwise top: Mary Pender Greene, LCSW, Assistant Executive Director, Jewish Board of Family and Children Services, addresses audience on strategies for overcoming barriers of racism in Social Work. Darwin Davis, Executive Director/CEO, New York Urban League, presents findings on the "State of Black New York" report which documents disparities, and recommendations. Conference participants gather at special reception following the day's activities honoring pioneering Social Work leaders of African descent. Bottom: Joan Ashley of Alakande! Spread Joy, presented a special ancestral libation and drumming tribute honoring the historical legacy of Africans in the diaspora.



revealing their personal issues. She said that they will say that they are going to see their therapists and even say what anti-depressants they are on. In contrast, she said, many people will lie when asked the question, "how are you?" She said that she finds this to be one of the hardest questions to answer.

One of the outcomes of the book's publication was that people who she does not know will talk to her about their own pain. She said that one of the patterns that has emerged is that a great deal of emotional pain has been inherited from parents. She said parents pass on their talents, their gifts, and their pain, as well.

Ms. Williams concluded her remarks by turning to healing. She emphasized that while pain is everywhere, everyone has a story. We need to be clear that no one is simply bad, or mad. There is a reason for how people are feeling and for their behavior, and we need to know their story. She recommended, "tell your story to someone else... take your mask off and share it."

She also said that we can stop the intergenerational cycle of passing on emotional pain.

2008 Honorees – Salute to Pioneers of African Descent

Eight social work leaders of African descent were nominated to receive special awards acknowledging their contributions to social work through the years.



The honorees were recognized for more than 30 years of outstanding social work service to Black communities throughout New York City. They were celebrated for their commitment to the professional growth and development of all social workers, and especially their role as a pioneer and beacon for Social Workers of African descent. The honorees will be nominated for future induction as an

NASW Pioneer. This year's honorees included:

Velma Banks

Velma Banks serves as the President of the World Community of Social Workers, working to continue the legacy of Whitney M. Young Jr., an advocate for human and social equality.

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Clockwise top: Over 150 attend "Strengthening Black Social Workers Strengthens Our Community" conference at City College in Harlem. Dr. Darrell Wheeler, Chair, Social Workers of African Descent Task Force, offers opening remarks to participants. Members of the Social Workers of African Descent Task Force gather with honorees: (top back) Athena Moore, Ella Harris, Lionel Thompson, Velma Banks, Dr. Martha Sullivan, Melba Butler, Dr. Robert Schachter, Emmanuel Register, (center) Jennifer Crumpley, Dr. Megan McLaughlin, Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Mary Pender Greene, Ishmay Reid, (bottom) Dr. Alma Carten, Dr. Patricia Morisey, Dr. Darrell Wheeler. Bottom left: Jagadisa-devasri Dacus, LMSW, offers Reiki wellness services and Nafisa Sharriff offers meditation for relaxation and stress management to social workers in attendance.

Continuing Education

Continued From Cover

Finding Your Voice: Political Advocacy

in Social Work
Noelle Tutunjian
10/14/08 6pm – 9pm

Working with Adult Survivors

of Childhood Sexual Abuse:
A Collaborative and Trauma-Focused
Approach
Ruth Forero
10/16/08 6pm – 9pm

Intergenerational Family Practice

Renee Solomon
10/23/08 6pm – 9pm

Show Me the Money

Claiming Financial Freedom for Our
Clients and Ourselves
Kachina Myers
10/25/08 10am – 5pm

Pleasures and Pitfalls of Social Work

Practice with Groups
Judith C. White
10/30/08 6pm – 9pm

Leadership Development for Agency and Program Management

Sola Winley
10/28/08 6pm – 9pm

Integrating Healing Principles and Methods into Social Work Practice

Anthony Sainz
11/1/08 10am – 5pm

Psychopharmacology for Social Workers

Anxiety and Mood Disorder Treatments
John Keoni Udarbe
11/5/08 6pm – 9pm

Incorporating Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment into Clinical Social Work Practice

Marcos Quinones
11/6/08 6pm – 9pm

Neuroscience for Social Work Practice:

Why Does the Brain Prefer Cocaine to
Broccoli, And Why Should I Care?
Harriette C. Johnson
11/8/08 Part I: 10am – 1pm
Part II 2pm – 5pm

difference in the broader systems that so affect our lives and the lives of our clients. An adjunct professor at Hunter College School of Social Work, Dr. Tutunjian's classes on Electoral Activism and Political Advocacy "are enthusiastically received by the students." Dr. Tutunjian's teaching is informed by her experience working for prominent state legislators and the instrumental role she has played in implementing significant changes.

Dr. Anthony Sainz's courses on spirituality have also been lauded by the master's degree students at Hunter College School of Social Work. Knowing that this topic would be of interest to many of our members, the Continuing Education Planning Committee is pleased that Dr. Sainz accepted our invitation to conduct the workshop "Integrating Healing Principles and Methods Into Social Work Practice."

The Continuing Education Planning Committee has attempted to include some workshops which we believe will have broad appeal, as well as others that will be of great interest to a more select group of social workers whose needs and interests often go unmet. In an effort to address the needs of this latter group, we're offering workshops for social work administrators ("No One Told Me This Would Be So Difficult: Human Resource Management and Development" and "Leadership Development for Agency and Program Management"), and a workshop for social workers who aspire to see their writing in print ("Publish and Enjoy: Everything You Wanted to Know About Journal and Book Publishing but Were Afraid to Ask"). "Publish and Enjoy" is being taught by Dr. Lala Ashenberg Straussner, herself a prolific writer and editor of books and journals, and a professor at NYU School of Social Work.

Many of us have done some, if not much of our work with groups. As those of us trained in group work know, groups often provide clients with a healing and

transformative experience they often cannot obtain from individual or family work. Additionally, group work has become increasingly important in a wide variety of social work settings. As many agencies struggle to do more with less and to adapt to the demands of managed care, the group modality has become an even more important component of practice. As the chairperson of the NASW-NYC Private Practitioners committee and a practice building consultant, I often encourage private practitioners to develop groups in their private practices. Groups can be a good value to financially strapped clients who appreciate the more moderate group fees, and savvy clinicians find that even a small group with a moderate fee can earn the private practice clinician a higher hourly rate than individual sessions can, while continuing to provide valuable clinical services. The Continuing Education Planning Committee's commitment to encouraging group work has led us to offer workshops on group work as a part of almost every series we've held. Judith White's workshop "The Pleasures and Pitfalls of Social Work Practice with Groups" addresses the needs of the experienced group leader to develop greater skill and comfort with managing the conflicts that inevitably arise in groups and addressing the challenging and fascinating issue of the group therapist's use of self.

Several of this fall's continuing education offerings provide instruction on topics that conscientious clinicians are eager to learn more about. "Neuroscience for Social Work Practice: Why Does the Brain Prefer Cocaine to Broccoli, And Why Should I Care?" taught by social worker Dr. Harriette C. Johnson, promises to add to our understanding of normal and pathological behavior by shedding light on the underlying biological processes in a way that is accessible and pertinent to clinical practice.

Many depressed and anxious clients come to counseling already taking

psychotropic medications; others who may benefit from medication are reluctant or uninformed, and need information and informed encouragement to help them to take that step. "Psychopharmacology for Social Workers: Anxiety and Mood Disorder Treatments" will provide a primer for some and an updated refresher for others seeking to learn more about the medications currently used to treat anxiety and depression and about working collaboratively with psychiatrists in treating shared clients.

Regardless of one's theoretical orientation and treatment modality, cognitive-behavioral treatment (CBT) methods can be incorporated into virtually any type of treatment to enhance treatment outcomes. In cognitive therapy, clients are taught to identify and change inaccurate and maladaptive thoughts and underlying assumptions and beliefs that are contributing to feeling upset and engaging in counterproductive behaviors. Behavioral therapy focuses on instructing clients in specific types of behavioral changes that can help them to achieve their goals. The workshop "Incorporating Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment into Clinical Social Work Practice" will provide an overview of the CBT philosophy and common CBT treatment practices.

While issues of race and racism inevitably arise in the treatment process, many of us feel at a loss about how to constructively and comfortably address these issues with our clients. In "The Elephant in the Room: Addressing Racism as a Part of the Treatment Process," Rene T. Chapman will use case examples to illustrate how internalized racial oppression and racial superiority are expressed in conscious and unconscious material that arises in treatment.

All of our clients have a sex life – a fact that, in our work with them, we often overlook! In "Sexual Healing: Helping Individuals and Couples with Sexual Concerns," Dr. Helen Crohn will help clinicians develop greater skill and comfort with assessing and treating our clients' sexual concerns. Dr. Crohn, an

assistant clinical professor at Fordham Graduate School of Social Service, has taught the course "Social Work and Human Sexuality" at Fordham, and for many years she taught "Helping Adults and Couples with Sexual Concerns" at the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services' post-masters degree training program.

We are very fortunate to have two widely acclaimed presenters who have generously agreed to again conduct workshops for this fall's Continuing Education program. Dr. Jeffrey Seinfeld, professor at NYU Silver School of Social Work and author of several definitive texts, is again offering the perennially popular workshop "Object Relations: Theory and Clinical Applications." Dr. Seinfeld has been an engaging speaker who skillfully provides a broad and deep overview of the complex, important and far-reaching topic of object relations theory and its clinical applications.

Dr. Kenneth Hardy is an internationally renowned speaker, formerly the director of the Center for Children, Families and Trauma at the Ackerman Institute. Dr. Hardy is a regular contributor to the Psychotherapy Networker journal and a frequent presenter at their conferences. Dr. Hardy's talks are always stimulating, compelling and enlightening. This year, Dr. Hardy will be teaching the workshop "Children and Families: Socio-Cultural Issues in Treating Trauma."

At the completion of every Continuing Education workshop, evaluation forms are distributed. We ask that you take the time to complete these evaluation forms and to honestly share your feedback with us. The Continuing Education Planning Committee carefully reviews the results of these evaluation forms; your feedback is the most important factor we consider in planning for future workshops and speakers.

I myself plan to attend many of this fall's continuing education workshops – perhaps I'll see you there! On behalf of my colleagues on the Continuing Education Planning Committee, we wish you a fruitful fall.

Professional Recordkeeping and Charting: How to Document the Good Work We Do
Gail Winter
11/10/08 6pm – 9pm

The Elephant in the Room
Addressing Racism as a Part of the Treatment Process
Rene T. Chapman
11/13/08 6pm – 9pm

Publish and Enjoy
Everything You Wanted to Know About Journal and Book Publishing but Were Afraid to Ask
Dr. Lala Ashenberg Strausser
11/15/08 & 11/22/08 2pm – 5pm

Creating a Prosperous Private Practice
What to Do & How to Do It
Lynne Spevack
11/15/08 & 11/22/08 10am – 2pm

LCSW Test Preparation
Dawn Hall Apgar
11/15/08 10am – 5pm

Children and Families
Socio-Cultural Issues in Treating Trauma
Kenneth V. Hardy
11/17/08 & 11/24/08 6pm – 9pm

Object Relations
Theory and Clinical Applications
Jeffrey Seinfeld
11/19/08 6pm – 9pm

Human Resource Management and Development: No One Told Me This Would Be So Difficult:
Jules Feiman
11/20/08 6pm – 9pm

LMSW Test Preparation
Dawn Hall Apgar
12/6/08 10am – 5pm

Sexual Healing
Helping Individuals and Couples with Sexual Concerns
Helen Crohn
12/8/08 6pm – 9pm

REGISTER AT WWW.NASWNYC.ORG

Social Workers of African Descent

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She is the recipient of the first Whitney M. Young, Jr. Leadership Award from Clark Atlanta University School of Social Work. She is a founding member of the Association of Black Social Workers and Black Solidarity Day. She was an administrator and educator in various social work agencies, including Edwin Gould Services for Children and Harlem Dowling Children Services, among others. She served on the faculty of Columbia University School of Social Work and John Jay College of Criminal Justice and as President of Banks Enterprise. Velma directed the International Center for Social Work Education and Training, founded Children of the Light afterschool program, and is the published author of a social work guide entitled, "Are You Ready?"

Dr. Alma Carten

Dr. Carten is the Chair of the social welfare programs and policies area at New York University Silver School of Social Work, and teaches the social welfare policies and human behavior curricula sequences. Dr. Carten is also a Consultant Reviewer for the Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families. She has held a number of faculty appointments, including Director and Chair of the Westchester Social Work Education Consortium, and has taught at Hunter College School of Social Work. Additionally, she was a member of the Administration for Children's Services Commissioner's Task Force on Minority Agencies. She served as President of the New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers from 2000-2002. Among her publications is a book co-edited with Dr. James R. Dumpson, entitled: *Removing Risk from Children: Shifting the Paradigm*.

Hon. C. Virginia Fields

Hon. C. Virginia Fields is the President/CEO of the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS (NBLCA) and currently serves as an adjunct lecturer at

New York University's Silver School of Social Work and Columbia University's School of Social Work. Ms. Fields is the former Manhattan Borough President. She was elected in 1997 and reelected in 2001. In 2005, she was democratic candidate for Mayor of New York City, becoming the first African-American woman to seek that office. She served as a member of the New York City Council from 1989 until her election as Manhattan Borough President.

Dr. Megan McLaughlin

Dr. Megan E. McLaughlin served as the Executive Director and CEO of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, Inc. for 17 years until her retirement in 2003. FPWA is the umbrella organization to more than 240 human service agencies. Dr. McLaughlin broadened FPWA's influence in public policy development and expanded its role as a leading intermediary organization, growing the budget from \$2.6 million to \$8 million. She has served as the Chair of former Mayor David N. Dinkins' Commission for the Foster Care of Children and member of the NYC Administration for Children's Services Advisory Board. She is also a nationally recognized child welfare, welfare reform and poverty advocate. She is the First Vice President of NASW-NYC's Board of Directors. Dr. McLaughlin served as Senior Program Officer for The New York Community Trust and as a social planner in the Office of the Prime Minister in Jamaica. Dr. McLaughlin received her doctorate in Social Work from the Columbia University School of Social Work.

Dr. Patricia Morisey

Dr. Patricia Morisey is a recognized social worker and child activist with an impressive record of advocacy on behalf of children in our society. She graduated from Hunter College where she received her B.A. and Columbia University where she earned her MSW and DSW. Dr. Morisey was professor and lecturer at a number of prestigious colleges and universities in NYC including Fordham University, where she retired as Professor Emeritus in 1991. She has numerous

publications and has been instrumental in funding projects to improve the delivery of services to children and families by increasing the number of professional social workers with a commitment to supportive and preventive services. Dr. Morisey is on the Board of Directors at Leake and Watts. Dr. Morisey has a long history with many human service organizations and non-profits throughout New York City.

Dr. Peter Vaughan, Dean of Fordham Graduate School of Social Service, **Mary Redd**, Executive Director of Steinway Child and Family Services and **Dr. James Dumpson**, Retired, Former Commissioner of Welfare/NYC Human Resources Administration, were unable to attend the event, but were also among those acknowledged and celebrated.

A special wellness room was set up, offering meditation for stress management and Reiki, led by Nafisa Sharriff, Founder & CEO of Entering the Holy of Holies, An Institute of Learning and Healing, Inc. and Jagadisa-devasri Dacus, LMSW, Reiki Master and Senior Director of Training, Harm Reduction Coalition.

Rev. Emma Jordan Simpson, CEO of Children's Defense Fund-NY greeted guests with inspirational remarks during the invocation. Hafeezah Basir, Chief Connecting Officer, A Circle of Sisters helped to facilitate the day as Mistress of Ceremonies. A special ancestral libation and drumming tribute was presented by Joan Ashley of Alakande! Spread Joy.

Following the keynote and plenary sessions, the conference featured six concurrent workshops covering topics from leadership, career planning, self-care, resiliency and healing to community organizing, advocacy and social justice, and financial management.

Among the presenters were: Megan McLaughlin, DSW, Former CEO, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies; Martha Adams-Sullivan, DSW, Executive Director, Fordham Tremont Community Mental Health Center; Melba Butler, LCSW, Butler Consulting;

Continued on Page 12

Executive Director's Report

Continued From Page 2

where an LMSW can obtain experience for the LCSW in what is referred to in the social work law as "facility" settings. Facility settings basically means agencies and institutions where most social workers are employed.

Over the past year social workers have been learning that even when they have appropriate supervision, meet the requirements for the necessary work experience, and pass the licensing exam for the LCSW, they may still be rejected because their setting is not recognized by the State Education Department as a setting for clinical social work practice.

That SED was looking at whether facility settings are appropriate for clinical practice was a surprise to many, including the leadership of NASW-NYC. Given that the qualifications for the LCSW are very similar to what has been in effect for many years for the "P" and the "R" for insurance reimbursement prior to the licensing law, it was anticipated that a wide range of facility based settings would be likely places to obtain the experience for the LCSW.

At a meeting recently with SED's leadership, it was reported that creating a license required them to change how they looked at settings for LCSW practice. They said that for any licensed profession, practice in a setting must somehow be authorized in law. As a result, they have looked to whether a facility or a program within a facility has a certificate of operation that authorizes clinical practice. Based on information from social workers across a range of settings, it appears that such certificates of operation are found within mental health programs, and there, only certain types of programs, such as clinics.

At the same time, NASW-NYC has learned of social workers being approved for the LCSW in some child welfare settings, in a legal setting, as well as in

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New Staff at NASW-NYC

NASW-NYC is pleased to welcome our new Administrative Assistant, Jessica Adams, to its staff. Jessica will facilitate the continuity of work previously carried out by David LaBlanc.

She will work in collaboration with staff to perform a wide variety of administrative duties including general office support, newsletter and graphics production.

Jessica will also provide assistance with advertising initiatives, committee/member relations and the development of chapter materials/fliers for special events, among other tasks for the chapter office.



Jessica brings with her several years of administrative, office and advertising experience.

She is a graduate of the University of New Mexico, where she earned

her bachelor's degree in Creative Writing, with a minor in Media Arts and worked as part of the editorial staff for Blue Mesa Review literary magazine.

She previously worked as an advertising sales representative and writer for *Local I.Q.* an arts and entertainment magazine in Albuquerque, NM. Jessica

brings with her a special interest in social work and social justice issues.

In Memoriam

Ruth H. Wilson 1915-2008

Human rights activist Ruth H. Wilson, MSW died August 11, 2008 in New York City.

Few months after the military coup in Chile in 1973, Ruth Wilson along with a group of progressive social workers established the Chile Committee for International Human Rights Inquiry to educate the American public about the violation of human rights in Chile and to provide concrete support to social workers who were being persecuted.

Ruth Wilson, along with Sol Gorelick, Phyllis Grunauer, Ted Wilson and other social workers formed the first committee in solidarity with Chile in the USA in early 1974. They worked diligently to support their colleagues in Chile and in the process became the longest standing committee of solidarity with Chile lasting for 16 years.

The committee actively supported human rights in other nations where social workers also suffered persecution and violence.

When democracy was restored in Chile in the late 80s, Ruth Wilson and the other members of the committee created the Committee for International Human Rights Inquiry (CIHRI) to continue the work supporting human rights in the Philippines, South Africa, Guatemala and Palestine.

Ruth has initiated and supported countless of campaigns around peace in the Middle East, the environment, electoral reform and justice for Lynne Stewart, among many others.

Ruth Wilson headed and remained active with CIHRI until a few weeks ago when her health deteriorated.

Executive Director's Report

Continued From Page 11

some health settings, none of which would necessarily be understood to be mental health programs. The inconsistency seems to reflect that the State is willing to look more broadly than at mental health settings alone, but it is not yet clear to us what criteria is being used. We are in the process of trying to obtain this clarification.

NASW-NYC's position is that supervised experience for the LCSW should be obtainable in the broadest array of settings, that the quality of clinical practice and the preparation for independent practice as an LCSW is not necessarily dependent on setting. If the State requires that programs be somehow authorized as appropriate settings, then that needs to be undertaken in a way that reflects NASW's position. It may take agencies and the State government to work together to figure this out. If it doesn't, I believe we will see social workers leaving the field and agencies having a more difficult time than at present recruiting and

retaining qualified staff. This is already a problem, and it will be come worse.

Assuming that there is a fair resolution on how settings are determined, there is still the problem of social workers already having been denied their applications for the LCSW because their settings were deemed unacceptable. If SED does reconsider how settings are considered, then, in fairness, anyone who has been denied their LCSW because of setting will need to be given a new review of their application.

I do not want to be an alarmist, but I believe that the future of the social work workforce is dependent on how these problems get worked out. The solution will require every stake holder playing their part, including the State Education Department working with the State departments that oversee all human services, and all of these departments being clear about what is needed. NASW's role is to work toward this. We are fully engaged in this process.

I don't want to be an alarmist, but this is a most alarming situation.

NASW-NYC has a Licensing Specialist on staff, Louise Lasson, LCSW. For more information on these or related issues, she can be reached at lasson@naswnyc.org or at (212) 668-0050, ext. 221.

Barack Obama Endorsement

Continued From Page 3

supporter of civil rights legislation aimed at closing the pay equity gap, ending racial profiling, and reducing hate crimes. Mr. Obama has promised to make health care affordable and has pledged to protect a woman's right to choose.

Barack Obama is an ally to the profession and it is our responsibility to ensure that social work issues stay a priority in his campaign. As president, Mr. Obama will be making important appointments that affect the social work profession such as Secretary of Health and Human Services and Director of the

National Institutes of Health. These key decisions will have an impact not only on the profession but the entire nation.

There are several ways to ensure that social work plays a prominent role in the next administration. You can volunteer with the Obama campaign, make phone calls, and attend campaign events. For more information contact naswspace@naswdc.org or visit www.barackobama.com.

Social Workers of African Descent

Continued From Page 10

Monica Dennis, Core Trainer, People's Institute for Survival & Beyond; Jennifer Crumpley, LCSW-R, Division Director of Mental Health Services, The Educational Alliance; Patricia White, Senior Program Officer, New York Community Trust; Debra Fraser-Howze, Former CEO, National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, and Ivan Ffriend, CEO, Ffriend Enterprises.

Co-sponsors of the conference included City College, Black Equity Alliance, Black Agency Executives and the Caribbean American Social Work Association.

SAVE THE DATE
Friday, October 24, 2008
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

The Brooklyn Grandparents' Coalition and Long Island University's Social Work Department invite you to meet Andrew Bridge, award-winning author of **Hope's Boy**

He will speak about his experience being raised by his grandmother and in foster care. Informational sessions on mental health, housing and advocacy in schools will follow his talk.

Location: Long Island University, Health Science Building at DeKalb Ave. entrance, half a block from Flatbush Ave.

For registration, please contact Laura Stamm by Oct. 15 at **212-766-4522, x 135** or lstamm@thefamilycenter.org
Free for caregivers, their families, and students, \$25 for professionals.

Undoing Racism Workshops

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Saturday, Nov. 15, 9am - 7pm
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December/January	November 10 th
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April	February 20 th
May	March 20 th
June	April 20 th
July	May 20 th

Ad size	Dimensions	Price
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Advertising Schedule: Any ad that is time sensitive in relation to the date of an event or a deadline should be placed in the newsletter early enough to ensure that NASW members will have time to respond. Consult the above schedule to guide the timing of ad placement.

Currents Accepts Advertising For: Professional development meetings such as workshops, conferences, classes, and courses; employment; publication; office rentals; social work related productions and services; organizational services; referrals to organizations and institutions; and consultation/supervision/study groups (limited to those who hold ACSW or highest certification or license in one's state). Note: there is a \$75 fee on all non-camera ready ads.

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Employment Advertising: Advertising is also available on our website at www.naswnyc.org. Contact Monika Dorsey at webads@naswnyc.org or (212) 668-0050 x223.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS October - November 2008

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

PACE Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 16, 2008

New Professionals Meet Up
Ryan's Daughter
350 E 85th St at 2nd Avenue
New York, NY 10028
Phone: (212) 628-2613
4, 5, 6 to 86th Street
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 22, 2008

Addictions Committee Meeting
Topic: Chronic Pain
9:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

Board of Directors Meeting
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Monday, November 3, 2008

Social Workers Advancing
the Human Animal Bond
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Friday, November 7, 2008

Private Practice Committee Meeting
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov 19, 2008

Gerontological Social Work
Topic: Poverty
8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Visions at Selis Manor
135 W 23rd Street, Manhattan

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Weekend Schedule

October 3rd, 4th, 5th - Introduction to Sociometry, Psychodrama, and Group Psychotherapy
December 5th, 6th, 7th - Enhancing Creativity in Our Work
February 6th, 7th, 8th - Using Psychodrama to deal with Counter-transference
April 3rd, 4th, 5th - Psychodrama and Family Systems
June 5th, 6th, 7th - Developing our Psychodrama Directing Skills

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November 6 When the Professional is Personal:
Shared Trauma and Self-Disclosure in the
Therapeutic Relationship

November 12 Contemporary Child Treatment:
Issues in Theory and Practice

December 3 Pathways to Employment for People
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December 10 Mobilizing the Response: Implications
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- Spacious, sunny psychotherapy office, facing the garden, available in a 3-office suite, with shared waiting room and kitchen. Full or Part-time availability, suitable for Groups, Families and Individuals. Please call (212) 686-1547

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West End Avenue

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Thursday
November 20th, 2008
8:30am-4:30pm
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**The Puerto Rican Family Institute
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Thursday, November 20, 2008
Robert Treat Hotel
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Keynote Speaker: Eric Munoz, MD,
Trauma Surgeon and Professor of Surgery,
University of Medicine and Dentistry,
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For more information, journal ads and program call 212- 229-6922
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Thursday, December 4, 2008

Mistress of Ceremonies Tony Award Winning Actress
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Join us as we kick off our 2nd year honoring the next generation of social work leaders. This dinner is a unique opportunity to have a fun filled time, a wonderful dinner, and to network with NASW leaders and colleagues as we celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of our emerging, young leaders. Last year, this was one of the signature events of NASW-NYC. We hope to see you there.

Program

5:30 - Cocktail Reception

6:30 - Chinese Banquet Dinner, Awards Presentation and Entertainment

Tickets - \$100

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