

sepi

Society for the Exploration of Psychotherapy Integration

Newsletter – March 1991

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SEPI NEWSLETTER IN NEW FORMAT

This is the first issue of the SEPI Newsletter to appear in this new format, as part of the *Journal of Psychotherapy Integration*. It represents a new milestone in the rather remarkable growth of SEPI since its founding in 1983.

When SEPI began, the movement toward psychotherapy integration had already become a significant underground force in our field, but those who were part of that underground still largely felt isolated and apart from the mainstream. That has changed greatly. Through SEPI, many of us have gotten to know others who, in their own fashion, have been plowing the same fields. We have benefitted from the unique composition of SEPI's membership, in which shared commitments to broad goals such as transcending parochialism is combined with an unusual diversity of particular views. In a short time we have forged a genuine community. We have gotten to know, both personally and through their work, an expanding network of interesting and forward-looking fellow professionals. We have enjoyed the surprising absence at SEPI meetings of ego trips, preening, and pretentiousness, and have been stimulated by the lively conversations in the hallways and by the continuing contacts these meetings have fostered. We have seen as well the growth of local SEPI networks that have begun meeting regularly in various cities in North America and abroad. And now we look forward to another big step in SEPI's growth, the 1991 meeting in London, which will greatly enhance contacts between colleagues in dif-

ferent countries, and should spark exciting and creative new syntheses and new debates.

Every advance, of course, also has its dangers. One of SEPI's great strengths has been its informality, its lack of hierarchy, and its efforts to remove barriers to free and open communication. Now that the newsletter is to appear on slick pages in the context of a publication that will be archived in libraries, we must all work even harder to preserve that informality and to assure that SEPI does not succumb to the bureaucratic imperative that seems to engulf so many professional associations. We will try to do our part to keep the newsletter as folksy and unpretentious as we can (as we will continue to work to keep SEPI itself that way). But, as befits an organization whose goal is to promote true two-way communication, and whose greatest strength lies in the diversity, quality, and active participation of its membership, the success of these efforts will depend primarily upon you, the members of SEPI and readers of this journal and newsletter.

More than ever before, we would like to receive information and announcements about your activities, abstracts of recent articles, and comments related to the general topic of psychotherapy integration. Although we hope to be able to publish the Newsletter quarterly, much depends on having material to include, so please do not be shy!

One constraint that will confront us with this new format for the Newsletter is that copy of each issue will have to be in the hands of the publisher *six months in advance*. So please bear this in mind in order to avoid disappointment. In particular, we would like to be able to publicize any conferences, lectures, etc., that members are engaged in, and to let others know about your interest in research collaboration, organizing study and peer supervision groups, gathering relevant references, or getting help in recruiting subjects for research. To make all of this of greatest value to you the members and readers, please try to get relevant material to either of us as much in advance as possible.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

We would like to encourage your contributions to a new "Letters and Comments" section that will be a regular part of the newsletter. This will be an opportunity for readers to react to anything that appears in the journal or the newsletter, and to share your thoughts about articles, books, the most recent SEPI conference, the state of psychotherapy integration, or any other relevant topic. Over time, you will also be able to respond to letters that have appeared in previous issues and thus to contribute to an

ongoing dialogue and/or debate about the key issues in our field. We are willing to continue publishing “back and forths” about controversial topics so long as the dialogue continues to be fruitful, and would hope that if a “hot” topic gets raised in one letter, responses it initiates will spark further responses from members who have not yet contributed to this section. Pithiness, brevity, wit, clarity, insightfulness, and a sincere desire to advance the field without scoring points against someone else all will be gracefully accepted by us!

JULY 1991 CONFERENCE IN LONDON

The program for this year’s SEPI conference, representing our first real international gathering, promises to be an exciting one, with many new faces and ideas. The meeting will be July 12–14, and will be held at Regent’s College in London, England. Petruska Clarkson and Ann David have been busily at work with the local arrangements, and Jeremy Safran and Winfred Huber have put together a program that promises to be clinically and intellectually stimulating. We have also been extremely fortunate to have Robert Rosenbaum serving as Conference Coordinator, providing his consultation and guidance to make this conference as memorable as past meetings. SEPI members should be receiving registration and program information sometime in April.

Any inquiries regarding the London conference can be directed to our American organizer (Jeremy Safran, The Derner Institute, Adelphi University, Garden City, NY 11530, USA) or our European chairperson (Winfred Huber, Department de Psychologie, Clinique UCL, Voie de Romans Pays 30, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium).

BULLETIN BOARD

In honor of Jack Rhoads’ retirement, the Duke Department of Psychiatry has established the John M. Rhoads Psychotherapy Endowment Fund. Jack, who is a valued member of SEPI’s Advisory Board and one of the early proponents of psychotherapy integration, has been at Duke for 33 years, during most of which he served as Director of Residency Education in Psychiatry. The initial goal for the fund is \$250,000, with the ultimate goal being to secure an endowed professorship in Jack’s name. Those interested in obtaining further information or in donating their contributions can contact The John M. Rhoads Psychotherapy Endowment

Fund, Department of Psychiatry, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC 27710, USA.

Hector Fernandez-Alvarez, who participated in the Philadelphia conference together with his colleague Eduardo Niceboin, has recently sent us a description of their institution, AIGLE, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Aigle Center, which has a staff of 50 mental health professionals representing different therapeutic modalities (e.g., individual, family, group), is also integrative theoretically. Therapists who work at the center, and those who receive their training there, begin with a cognitive-constructive approach, which additionally integrates both dynamic and behavioral elements. In this very exciting and forward-looking center, a wide variety of clinical problems are dealt with in a totally integrative fashion. Those interested in learning more about AIGLE can write Dr. Hector Fernandez-Alvarez, Aigle Centro de Estudios Humanos, C.C. 135 Sucursal 26, (1426) Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The Society for Studying Unity Issues in Psychology (SUNI), founded in 1986, is an organization for psychologists interested in discussing whether the science of psychology in general is at a state of development that is conducive to the exploration of a unifying paradigm. SUNI has elected officers, an annual business meeting, and publishes a newsletter entitled *International Newsletter of Uninomic Psychology*. The annual membership fee is \$5.00 (U.S. currency). In the past, SUNI members have presented symposia and invited addresses at American Psychological Association conventions under the support of Divisions 1 and 24. SUNI is interested in expanding its affiliation to other units of organized psychology, and especially welcomes members of SEPI to join. For more information, please write to Elaine Heiby, SUNI, Department of Psychology, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI 96822, USA. To join SUNI, include a check for \$5.00 made payable to University of Hawaii Department of Psychology Foundation.

THE PERIPATETIC SEPI-ITE

As we become aware of SEPI-ites who have moved since the last directory was published, we will make their new locations known in this newsletter. If you would like to apprise SEPI members of your own move, please write to either of us and let us know.

Larry Beutler has moved from the University of Arizona to Graduate School of Education, University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106, USA.

Irene Elkin has moved from NIMH to the School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 60637, USA.

Mike Mahoney has moved from the University of California at Santa Barbara to Department of Psychology, University of North Texas, Denton, TX 76203-3587, USA.

Jeremy Safran has moved from the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry in Toronto to the Derner Institute, Adelphi University, Garden City, NY 11530, USA.

SEPI MEMBERSHIP

The Society for the Exploration of Psychotherapy Integration (SEPI) is an interdisciplinary organization of professionals interested in integrative and eclectic approaches to psychotherapy. The primary objectives of SEPI are to encourage communication and to serve as a reference group for individuals interested in approaches to psychotherapy that are not necessarily associated with a single theoretical orientation. SEPI also serves an educational function by publishing a journal, by encouraging ongoing collaborative research on the process of psychotherapy, by keeping members up-to-date concerning books and articles relevant to rapprochement, and by sharing clinical approaches and guidelines that reflect themes of convergence and complementarity.

SEPI holds an annual national conference at which many of the most active clinicians and researchers present their current work, and it also provides an opportunity for attendees to discuss and exchange ideas. In addition, SEPI publishes the *Journal of Psychotherapy Integration*, a quarterly journal that includes the SEPI Newsletter, which serves as a source of information for members. Finally, an annual directory is published listing members, their addresses and phone numbers, and a separate geographical listing for ease of reference.

If you are interested in becoming a member of SEPI, write to Dr. George Stricker, The Derner Institute, Adelphi University, Garden City, NY 11530, USA (see the application form below).

SEPI Application

The Society for the Exploration of Psychotherapy Integration has a fiscal year that is parallel to the academic year. Dues for this year have been set at \$35.00 per year, and now include a subscription to SEPI's journal, the *Journal of Psychotherapy Integration*. International members may

pay \$25.00 if the payment is in a form that can be drawn directly upon a United States bank. Dues for full-time students are \$20.00.

Please fill in your name, address, and phone number(s) as you wish them to appear in the next directory.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone _____
(area code) (number)

Membership dues: \$35.00

Make checks payable to SEPI and mail application and check to

Dr. George Stricker
The Derner Institute
Adelphi University
Garden City, New York 11530

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