



BOARD NEWS

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Scottie Urmey, LCSW, TEP



drama community. The board directors' and officers' hard work and commitment continue unwavering. And my heart continues to be warmed by the ongoing volunteerism and the support of our community.

This year, our winter meeting was held in Black Mountain, NC, February 3rd-5th. Our new Executive Director, Jasmin Jimenez, had joined the organization in mid-December, but the winter meeting was the first time we all met in person. Jasmin and the board directors jumped into the busy agenda without missing a beat. Our most important task of the winter meeting was to confirm the evaluations of the October written exams. I am happy to report that all 6 of the TEP exams and 20 of the 21 CP exams were passed. The Board also addressed additional issues of importance, including how to build the Board's capacity to use technology for streamlining our processes and creating better pathways of communication

(cont. on pg. 6)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION and PSYCHODRAMA

Lynne Jaben Bratcher, JD, CP

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion or, as it's commonly known, DEI, is quite the rage now. Businesses, schools, and organizations are busy attempting to make all their employees, students, or members reflect the race, ethnicity, religion, gender that exists in the public as a whole. At times this task seems impossible due to the United States' long history of racial and sexual discrimination, whether it be explicit or because of implicit bias.

I became a civil rights lawyer long before I became a psychodramatist and my views may be colored by the history and evolution of laws in this nation. After the American Civil War, Congress passed several Constitutional amendments reflecting the abolition of slavery. The Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution officially abolished slavery, while the Fourteenth Amendment made due process and equal protection requirements mandatory for the states. The Fifteenth Amendment finally gave African-Americans the right to vote. Statutes followed the passage of these constitutional amendments in the 1800's, such as making it unlawful for governmental entities and employees to deprive Americans of their constitutional rights, 42 USC Section 1983; and making it unlawful to discriminate in contracts because of race, 42 USC Section 1981. The United States has had a checkered past in implementing these civil rights amendments and statutes. It was not until 1964 that Congress passed Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 making it unlawful to discriminate in employment because of race, sex, national origin, religion or creed. Interestingly, some southern Senators, in an effort to defeat the bill, penciled in "sex" among the prohibited grounds for discrimination thinking that by the addition of sex, the bill would be defeated. Instead, the bill passed and afforded protection against sex discrimination.

(cont. on pg. 2)

Dear Certified Psychodramatists:

Happy Spring! It's hard to believe that last Spring's newsletter included my article "Reflections of a New Board Member" and here I am now, writing my second article as Board President. Since last Spring, the Board has had a lot of changes: saying goodbye to two Executive Directors, welcoming our current ED, and administering our first January written exam. However, many things remain steadfast. I remain honored, enthusiastic, and as dedicated to serving the psycho-

OTHER NEWS INSIDE:

Our New Executive Director 2
ABE Rate Changes 3
Reflections of Directors 4-5
News from China 6
Update on On-Site Evaluations 7
ASGPP Awards Highlight 8
News from ROC (Taiwan) 9

Trainer's Corner 10
On-Site Resources 11
Publications 12
Written Exams 13
Appreciations & Thanks 16
COVID Accommodations 17
ED Updates 18



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, and INCLUSION and PSYCHODRAMA, cont.

(cont. from pg. 1)

Even though Title VII was passed in 1964, the law was generally ignored until 1991 when Congress amended the statute to include the potential for punitive damages, damages for pain and suffering, and afforded to claimants the right to a jury trial. Those additions were the teeth that claimants needed to bite offending employers. It is against this backdrop that Diversity, Equity and Inclusion was born. Many large corporations, law firms, and governmental entities employ directors of DEI policies in an effort to create a more diverse work environment. Finally, organizations examined their memberships and decided to address their lack of diversity. People recognized that an organization was enhanced when exposed to diverse experiences, perspectives, and priorities.

It is with this background that we can explore how using psychodrama enhances efforts to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion. It's obvious that organizations, left to their own devices since the end of the Civil War, have had a difficult time incorporating diverse viewpoints. J.L. Moreno, at the outset of the twentieth century, recognized human diversity and developed psychodrama to bridge the gap of human experience and perspective.

At its essence, DEI is an effort to empathize with others with different lifestyles, backgrounds, and experiences. What better way to understand different perspectives than engaging in role reversal. Through reversing roles, protagonists, auxiliaries, and the director vicariously experience another's perspectives. While psychodramatic techniques are not generally used by large organizations, it would behoove organizations to explore role reversal in managing complex organizations.

In 1994, I was a member of the inaugural class of the Trial Lawyers College. The Trial Lawyers College was a "college" comprised of criminal defense lawyers and plaintiffs' civil lawyers seeking to enhance their trial skills. No promotional material mentioned psychodrama at all, nor did it indicate that psychodrama would form the basis of our education. Psychodrama became central to our odyssey during the thirty days of the school. On the first night at the college in Wyoming, I met John Nolte, a seasoned psychodramatist, psychologist, and a former student of J.L. Moreno himself.

This group of fifty lawyers, from differing parts of the United States, with differing backgrounds, races, religions, marital and parental statuses, and sexual orientations were quickly integrated into a cohesive group. Empathy was the key, just as empathy is a key element of psychodrama. Psychodrama can be a solution to the dilemma of racial and sexual discrimination. Psychodrama has already been adopted internationally in Taiwan, China, and other countries. With the spread of psychodrama in many cultures, people naturally adopt principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion. If psychodrama can bridge the gaps between trial lawyers, not known to be the most empathetic group, it can certainly help to bring harmony and understanding. We have a long way to go to stamp out disruptive discrimination based in non-diverse environments. Surely, psychodrama can be a tool to create more understanding of others.

Meet Our New
Executive Director,
JASMIN JIMENEZ, MA, MBA
by Letitia Coburn



At the February 2023 Board Meeting, we welcomed Jasmin Jimenez, M.B.A., M.A. as our new Executive Director to the ABE. She joined the ABE in December 2022, after a robust career as a Product Designer in multiple settings. Jasmine brings experience and strengths from multiple arenas beyond Psychodrama. She is eager to meld her unique perspectives in service of the ABE. Her viewpoint has been culled from her career in creative, corporate, and technology sectors. And, she brings her experience within the venue of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) as an asset to help our Board continue to orient towards our broadening audience worldwide.

When asked for her thoughts about the Board's new initiatives, Jasmin reminds us that "it takes a village" to support creation of an inclusive space and to make it easier for members and applicants "to connect by improving our processes and technology." Her ideas cascade into the space between us. Among her goals are:

- Create a Linked-In page to grow the ABE's followers and visibility
- Prepare proactively for the ABE Conversation Hour
- Improve Website hosting to facilitate the user's experience.
- Research a new hosting provider
- Make improvement in site speed.
- Survey the membership to assess members' experiences of the website's useability.
- Collect information on competitors' sites' user experiences and overall interface, and finally,
- Build a task force to continue to grow a community that upholds inclusion and belonging. She presents to this writer as both a breath of fresh air and a wise woman.

It's clear that Jasmin Jimenez blends her enthusiasm for the ABE's mission with a drive towards inclusion and accessibility. Let's support her and her alliance with the Board's purpose and mission. Dr. Moreno would be pleased.

ABE Posts 2022-2023 Budget and Annual Certification Rates

INCOME

CP DUES	\$ 20,500.00
TEP DUES	\$ 37,000.00
PAT FEES	\$ 7,000.00
CP FEES	\$ 8,000.00
TEP FEES	\$ 3,000.00
INTEREST	\$ 100.00
ON-SITE INCOME	\$ 1,000.00

TOTAL INCOME \$ 76,600.00

EXPENSES

ACCOUNTANT	\$ (1,000.00)
BANK FEES	\$ (300.00)
DIRECTORY	\$ (1,000.00)
EQUIPMENT	\$ (100.00)
GRAPHIC DESIGNER	\$ -
INTERNET SERVICE	\$ (1,000.00)
LEGAL & PROFESSIONAL	\$ (900.00)
MAILING SERVICE	\$ (1,500.00)
MEETINGS	\$ (6,000.00)
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ (100.00)
NEWSLETTER	\$ (1,000.00)
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ (500.00)
ON-SITE EXPENSE	\$ (2,000.00)
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	\$ (2,500.00)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	\$ (38,500.00)
PAYROLL PROCESSING (ADP)	\$ (2,600.00)
POSTAGE	\$ (700.00)
PRINTING	\$ (400.00)
QUICKEN	\$ (650.00)
SOFTWARE	\$ (2,500.00)
TAXES & LICENSES	\$ (250.00)
TELEPHONE	\$ (800.00)
TRAVEL	\$ (1,000.00)
WEBMASTER	\$ (2,000.00)

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ (73,300.00)
FY23 SURPLUS **\$ 3,350.00**
FY22 SURPLUS **\$ 29,171.60**

Due to rising costs and expenses, ABE will be raising annual certification fees effective January 1, 2024.

Rates will be increased by 10% and rounded to the nearest \$5 (US).

Fees Dues as of January 1, 2024

CP Annual Certification Fee
 \$ 100 will be \$ 110 Due March 15, 2024

TEP Annual Certification Fee
 \$170 will be \$ 190 Due March 15, 2024

PAT Annual Certification Fee
 \$ 100 will be \$ 110 Due July 15, 2024

Gratitude from Newsletter Editor:

Numerous Individuals have volunteered long hours and detailed attention to this Board News. I am grateful to the authors from around the world and the Board members for their many contributions. Julie Wells has mentored me with a sensitive blend of patience, expertise, firmness and humor. Jasmin Jimenez has managed my learning curve in technology with grace, effort and finally taking on extra tasks to assure the best outcomes.

Many thanks! Letitia Coburn.

Reflections of a Departing Board Member

Catherine D. (Cathy) Nugent

***"Goodbyes are only for those who love with their eyes.
For those who love with heart and soul, there is no such thing
as separation."*** - Jalāl al-Dīn Muḥammad Rūmī

It seems almost impossible that nearly 10 years have passed since I joined the American Board of Examiners. Serving on the Board has been a great honor that has enabled me to give back to the community that bestowed so many gifts upon me. I am grateful to the past and current Board Officers and Directors with whom I have had the privilege of serving. Each of these dedicated and talented psychodramatists has inspired and uplifted me in more ways than I could recount. I owe a special debt of gratitude to former Executive Director, Dale Richard Buchanan, who supported, guided, mentored, and, ultimately, befriended me. I am confident in the new and emerging ABE leaders, who are guiding the Board into its next chapters.

Back in 2013, I decided to run for election to the Board because I thought my experience as a policy-maker, program administrator, and adult educator (in addition to my experience as a psychodramatist and psychodrama trainer) would enable me to make a positive contribution. I hoped to bring a skill set that could be turned to good advantage in a setting outside of my then-employment with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Yes, folks, I spent 20 years as a mid-level bureaucrat with the federal government while simultaneously conducting my psychotherapy practice and psychodrama training programs. I have been blessed with great stores of energy for things I love!

During my tenure, the Board has initiated several major changes and innovations. All of these were intended to increase efficiency and convenience in ABE functions and processes. Some of the Board's initiatives and innovations over the past 9+ years included:

- Developing a new, modernized website. We realize the website still has many glitches and needs updating. However, do you remember the previous one? It wasn't even from the current century!
- Implementing online payment systems to help us pay our yearly recertification charge and avoid late payment fees;
- Updating procedures for electronic distribution and submission of written certification examinations, and electronic distribution of exams for review and scoring by the evaluators;
- Updating protocols for submission of certification applications and supporting documents via electronic mail, thereby avoiding the challenges of obtaining actual signatures on the forms;
- Implementing changes to the certification standards, by vote of the membership:
- allowing up to 120 distance (online) learning hours for CP candidates;
- downgrading the requirement for CP candidates not holding a mental health-related graduate degree, so they can now take the five required courses at any two-year or four-year institution of higher learning or graduate program;



- Here is a BIG one: Developing and implementing emergency pandemic accommodations to help ensure trainees in the certification track would not be stalled in their progress;
- Managing the transition from an Executive Director who served in that role for 30+ years to new management;
- Mourning the passing of the Board's long-time graphic designer, Patty Phelps, who died in 2022, as well as the deaths of other psychodramatists who were lost to our community over the past year, while celebrating their many accomplishments and service;
- Using sociometry, psychodrama, and group processes to support accomplishment of tasks, while also attending to individual and collective needs and preferences.

Looking back, I can see the Board has been productive and responsive! With minimal organizational bureaucracy and support, the all-volunteer Board has continually risen to changing needs with spontaneity and creativity. Looking forward, I am excited by the possibilities to create new cultural conserves and operational systems that better serve the Board's varied stakeholders.

I leave with both grief and gratitude in my heart. My affiliation with the Board has been a significant part of my professional and personal life. The following quote, which arrived in my inbox this week, seems relevant to my present moment: "We can open up to greater love in moments of sorrow because our vulnerability and our compassion are intertwined." This and the Rumi quote above are a balm to my heart and soul as I relinquish a significant role.

I close with an exhortation--to play, create, work, shine your light, love each other, embrace your vulnerability, and beam your lovingkindness into the world. I send blessings of deep peace to each of you.

Reflections of a New Board Member

Amy Clarkson, MT-BC, LCAT, TEP

I am grateful to have been elected to the American Board of Examiners last spring, with my term beginning in July of 2022. Entering this new role, I was both excited and a little nervous. How wonderful it was at my first board meeting in September to start off by participating in a training offered by Uneeda Brewer. The training was designed to support healthy and effective communication and problem-solving as a team. I immediately felt welcomed and impressed that the board uses action methods for its own self-reflection and process. The positive, practical, and compassionate tone of that initial meeting has been consistently present throughout the year as the board has been faced with challenges, both foreseen and unexpected. This is a group of dedicated people, characterized by a high level of spontaneity and creativity, with resources, energy, and passion to serve currently certified psychodramatists and to support those who are interested in and moving toward psychodrama certification.

While the role of board member has come with a number of new tasks and responsibilities, it has also brought a sense of connection, support and yes, even fun! It is a space where each person is valued, where individual abilities and skills are welcomed and where collaboration is the way things get done. How refreshing!

At our January meeting, I was delighted to get to meet and spend time with our new executive director, Jasmin Jimenez. While she had only been on the job a few weeks at that point, it was clear that Jasmin had hit the ground running and was diving into the role with fresh perspective and skills, ready to lead, to listen, and to work effectively with the board.

The close of the January meeting was bittersweet as we thanked Cathy Nugent for her service as board president, knowing that her term is coming to an end this June. As Cathy marked her timeline of service on the board, I was given an important sense of history and legacy and was filled with respect and gratitude for her years of dedicated service. I have tremendous respect for each of the board members who have welcomed and trained me throughout this first year. Thank you, Letitia, Barbara, Lynne, Scottie, Julie, Siyat, Fredi, Cathy and Jasmin! You have each helped me to grow both personally and professionally this year. I am looking forward to our continued work together.



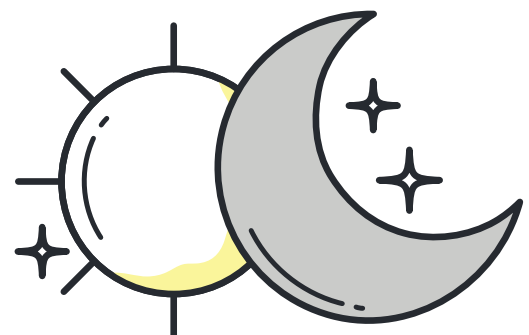
Reflections of a Returning Board Member

Siyat, Ulon, MD, TEP



I feel grateful to be re-elected as a Board member again and send thanks for the support from our global community. It was challenging for psychodrama development under the influence of COVID-19 in the past few years. I was first elected as a Board member in 2020, the very beginning of COVID-19, and had worked with our excellent colleagues to overcome what the pandemic brought to our global psychodrama community. Many prohibitions of interpersonal interaction stimulated the Board to provide creative accommodations for processing the trainings and examinations smoothly. I appreciate the Board's generous support and love for our trainers in such difficult situations. The experience of cooperation with other Board members encouraged me to run in the second election to continue the good contributions.

The main task I am working with now is to schedule the on-site exams in Asia. Approximately 80 candidates' on-site examinations have been postponed due to previous restricted quarantine policies. It takes several weeks for examiners to review and process the long waiting list. Fortunately, we have three thoughtful hosts, Erdong Wang (for China), and Chenglan Wang and Ren-Fu Guo (for Taiwan), who help the Board to arrange the schedule. We also have our altruistic examiners who will travel abroad and spend 2-3 weeks here to help complete the on-site exams in Asia. The on-sites in Asia will start after this July. We wish that every candidate will pass and become a psychodramatist/trainer successfully.



Milestones in Psychodrama News From China

Er-Dong Wang, MA, PhD Candidate, TEP



On December 5, 2022, China issued an opening-up policy after the COVID-19 pandemic had climbed to a peak. After the peak, we quickly overshot the peak as the number of cases declined rapidly. Now the feeling is as if COVID-19 has suddenly disappeared and people's lives have returned to normal. During the COVID-19 pandemic period, psychodrama in China developed its online working mode. In the past three years, we have gradually gotten used to developing online psychological drama groups. Now, in 2023, people are hoping to participate in offline (in-person) Psychodrama groups.

On November 14, 2022, a new election was held in the Chinese Psychodrama Group. The Leader is Junfeng Fei: he is from Nanjing University. The Deputy Leader is Hua Hu: she is from Chongqing Medical University. The Secretary-General is Jing Wang, and she is from Soochow University. In April 2023, the Chinese Psychodrama Group is organizing a month-long series of public welfare activities to mark the 102nd anniversary of Psychodrama!

On November 18, 2022, the first Chinese Board of Examiners in Psychodrama was elected. The board has nine members, seven of whom were TEP's and two of whom were CP's. The chairman is Zhiqin Sang: she is from Nanjing University, and the vice chairman is Erdong Wang: he is from Soochow University. Thank you very much to the American Board of Examiners for your help and support. The Chinese Board of Examiners in Psychodrama will draw on the examination standards of the ABE to formulate China's examination standards. We will also organize the Chinese exams. At the same time, we will also support Chinese students to participate in the examination organized by ABE.

Due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, many Chinese students have not yet completed their on-site exams. Thanks to the trust of the ABE and the candidates, I will continue to serve as the Chinese coordinator of the Chinese on-site exams. Welcome to the beautiful Suzhou, Jiangsu province!

Introduction to the Post-Pandemic Development of Psychodrama in Mainland China

Er-Dong Wang, MA, PhD Candidate, TEP

It has been my great honor to be invited to introduce the development of Psychodrama in China in the past year. I include the following four aspects, and events to update the international Psychodrama community:

Academic activities

1. The fifth China Psychodrama Conference was held in July 2021. The conference hosted 40 workshops, 8 thesis presentations, and 3 case studies. The sixth China Psychodrama Conference is under organization.
2. During the fifth China Group Counseling and Group Therapy Conference in October 2021, 6 members led 5 workshops and presented 4 reports of psychodrama. One noteworthy presentation was "Exploration and Research on Professional Identity of 4+2 Students in Nursing Vocational Colleges" by Yi Shu Psychodrama single Group Counselling.'
3. In October 2021, the International Zerka Moreno Institute was founded in the School of Art, Soochow University. Dr Gong Shu had completed study under Zerka Moreno. The International Zerka Moreno Institute, which was set up in Taiwan in 1996, will be set up in Mainland China as well. Its mission is to promote psychological drama rooted in Chinese culture, to further research and development, and to serve the Chinese people well.
4. In November 2021, 'Yi Shu Psychodrama and Social Psychological Service Summit Forum' was held in the first National Social Psychological Service Week and Application Exchange Meeting. During this time, 22 lectures were given covering five categories. These categories included the judicial system, education system, therapeutic intervention, and corrections work, family education and community.

Talent training

In the past year in China, more than 3,000 hours of growth and training/supervision were organized, and more than 3,000 people were served. These events facilitated the growth of psychodrama professionals and the promotion of psychodrama. As of now, 34 professionals have obtained the CP certifications and 9 professionals have obtained the TEP certifications.

Social and psychological services

A total of 540 workshops have been held, serving more than 7,000 people (offline) and 30,000 people (online). In addition to contributing to the construction of the national social psychological service system, we have also followed and fulfilled the original aspiration of Moreno, the founder of psychodrama.

He hoped that psychodrama could get out of the treatment room and serve the public. He also gave the public an opportunity to experience psychodrama.

(cont. on pg. 7)

UPDATES on ON-SITE EVALUATIONS

The three-year hold on on-site evaluations due to COVID-19 restrictions has been lifted. Provisional practitioners, who have been waiting since 2019 for the opportunity to complete their on-site evaluations can again meet in-person. Out of the 37 people awaiting in-person on-site evaluations, 27 have passed, 5 are matched and 5 are still warming up to the process. They have until 2028 to complete the on-site process but must notify the board of their plan. We also have 6 regular 2022 candidates completing their on-site evaluations, and more on the way.

We are extremely grateful to the generous and skillful volunteers for all their service in support of our on-site evaluators. These volunteers are central to ensuring the quality and competence of our field.

In Asia, COVID restrictions are being lifted. In response, we have started the process of coordinating and scheduling on-site evaluations beginning this summer. We report 60 Asia on-sites needed in Asia at this time and we hope to complete them all.

ABE On-Site Committee

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Introduction to the Post-Pandemic Development of Psychodrama in Mainland China (cont. from pg. 6)

Research

In the past year, a total of two master's theses were published, as well as 12 other professional papers including as "Easy Operation Psychodrama Application in Case and Family Therapy," "Easy Operation Psychodrama Group Therapy, The (consulting) Process and Play Effect Evaluation Method to Explore," and "Yi Art Psychodrama Application in Grief Counseling." We have also conducted a psychological drama, and the combination of Artificial intelligence research work with two invention patents, entered the substantive examination stage.

Finally, I would like to thank the ABE for its continuous support and help in the development of Psychodrama in China.



President's Message, cont. from pg. 1

pathways of communication between the Board and membership (both current and prospective).

With Jasmin's know-how, the Board is already making headway on many of these fronts. The ABE now has a presence on LinkedIn, which we believe will expand the reach of our communications. Jasmin has established "office hours," making herself available by appointment to discuss concerns or respond to questions that are not easily clarified by email. And we now have easy methods for paying certification renewal fees electronically.

As I write this, myself, our ED, and many of our Board directors are preparing for the first in person ASGPP conference since 2019. I am filled with excitement to return to cherished conserves (i.e., meeting face-to-face) while embracing new ones (i.e., meeting on a college campus). By the time you read this, my heart will have undoubtedly been touched by the gift of making new connections, and reconnections, at the ASGPP conference.

One different conserve will be that the ABE Conversation Session, usually held during the ASGPP conference, will instead be hosted independently via Zoom on April 21st, 2023 from 7:30-9:00 pm EST. We hope this new format will make the ABE Conversation Session more accessible and create an additional avenue for communication. I hope to see many of you at the conversation session. If you can't attend, please know that I welcome hearing ideas, questions, or comments from certified members, candidates in the certification process, or those contemplating certification anytime.

Warmly,

Scottie Urmey, LCSW, TEP

President, American Board of Examiners in Psychodrama, Sociometry, & Group Psychotherapy

**Barbara Guest-Hargin, B Ed, MSW, TEP
Recipient of the 2023 J. L. Moreno Award
by Cathy Nugent, LCPC, TEP**

Barbara Guest-Hargin, TEP, has been awarded the 2023 J. L. Moreno Award at the ASGPP 2023 Conference. Below is Cathy Nugent's nominating speech, citing Barbara's many gifts and accomplishments.

Barbara Guest-Hargin, is an exemplar of Moreno's philosophy of inclusion and the application of the triad method for over 30 years. Of special note is Barbara's long-standing work in the field of HIV/AIDS, her work in addictions treatment and recovery, and her dedication to providing psychodrama services and training to the First Nations population in Canada.

More specifically, Barbara offered psychodrama groups to people diagnosed with AIDS for over 15 years. Individuals entered her psychodrama group with full-blown AIDS and left the group only when they died. Barbara graciously and skillfully held space for the profound experience of being with death and dying, including attending the funeral of the deceased members and mourning their death as part of the psychodrama group experience. In addition, Barbara provided ongoing support to members of a Loss, Bereavement, and Resilience team who supported people with AIDS. For this outstanding work, Barbara was honored with the Neil Passeriello Award in 2020.

Barbara worked in addiction treatment and recovery for over 15 years at Bellmont Center. There, Barbara ran a psychodrama group and trained the staff to use limited psychodramatic methods with their clients. Barbara's work with the indigenous people of Canada is also most worthy of recognition: For over 15 years, Barbara has provided psychodrama and group psychotherapy to the people of the First Nations, and she trains First Nations people to use psychodrama and sociometry in their work with clients. She has been instrumental in developing culturally relevant approaches and modifying psychodrama techniques to meet the specific needs of the indigenous Canadian peoples.

In addition, Barbara has shown an excellent example of the application of sociodrama and sociometry in the classroom. She taught adults—mostly new Canadians—in secondary school for many years. In this capacity, Barbara used Moreno's philosophy and methods to bring the classroom alive with excitement and learning. Barbara served on the training team with the Toronto Centre for Psychodrama and Sociometry until that Centre recently changed to the Center for Psychodrama and Sociometry of Ontario.



**Barbara Guest-Hargin after receiving the J. L. Moreno
Award at the ASGPP Conference on Saturday, April 1,
2023**

Barbara has been an outstanding trainer in sociometry. She goes beyond the limited sociometric training some contemporary trainers offer, helping to ensure that the new generations of psychodramatists learn the philosophy underlying sociometry, in addition to the techniques. Moreover, the training Barbara offers goes well beyond spectrograms, locograms and step-in sociometry to include fuller, more in-depth sociometric methods, such as the Sociometric Cycle, the Diamond of Opposites, the Healing Cycle, and The Classical Encounter. In so doing, Barbara helps to ensure that sociometry as a philosophy and a complex method is sustained.

She has maintained a private psychotherapy practice, Spirit Alive, for many years. In her practice, Barbara offers individual, couples, family, and group psychotherapy, integrating Morenoan philosophy and methods into her work. Barbara has been an ambassador for psychodrama for over 30 years, helping to promote and sustain

Moreno's vision—especially for marginalized and underserved populations. In addition to her work as a therapist and trainer, Barbara has devoted herself to her work with the American Board of Examiners in Psychodrama, Sociometry, and Group Psychotherapy (ABE) as Admissions Chair and Vice-President. The Admissions Chair role, in particular, requires countless hours, which Barbara volunteers selflessly and generously, giving her personal time and bearing financial loss in the process. In summary, it would be difficult to find someone more worthy of this award. Barbara brings wisdom and integrity to her role as a psychodrama trainer. I highly recommend her for the J.L. Moreno Award for Lifetime Achievement!

Adaptability and Growth in the Post Pandemic Era: Psychodrama in Taiwan

Kuo-Hsiang Huang, M.A., CP

Credentialed School Counselor and Educator, Vice President of Taiwan Association of Psychodrama



The Taiwan Association Of Psychodrama (TAP) has been established for 13 years since March 27, 2010. Following in the spirit of J. L. Moreno, psychodramatists in Taiwan exit the counseling room and go into society to provide social healing for many people. Psychodrama is widely used in diverse settings now in Taiwan and has soothing effects for countless people. Despite the COVID-19 epidemic restrictions, psychodrama still flourishes in Taiwan. TAP organizes many activities to promote psychodrama, attracting more and more people who are willing to enter the world of psychodrama. The brief introduction of TAP's efforts follows:

Popularizing Psychodrama among Taiwan Populations

TAP arranged outreach programs into six regional subdivisions. These subdivisions are operated by TAP members and provide experiential psychodrama workshops to increase accessibility to the public, especially among college and graduate students in counseling and clinical psychology. Psychodramatists held a total of 50 online and in-person events in community settings. These diverse settings included universities, high schools, elementary schools, hospitals, prisons, district prosecutor offices, community colleges, public health centers, churches, and community centers! These psychodrama programs served 1075 people. TAP's website and social media (such as FB clubs and Line groups) posted TAP events and news and disseminated articles about psychodrama and promotional activities. TAP's outreach ensures that many people can access psychodrama. TAP cooperated with Teacher Chang's monthly magazine in 2022 to provide three articles about "Acting Psychodrama with Love" to the general public. The academic periodical "Taiwan Journal of Psychodrama" is a peer reviewed journal that showcases recent research and findings on psychodrama. TAP also publishes newsletters every six months to report on TAP's activities and its newest information for members.

Online Academic Events and Annual TAP Conference

The Academic Development Division of TAP is responsible for managing the Taiwan Journal of Psychodrama and holding academic seminars and conferences, thus ensuring that psychodramatists can publish and share their research and practical findings. During the pandemic, the online academic conference, entitled Action and Take Root, was held in the middle of 2022. TAP also organized two online forums: "How do they do Psychodrama Research?" and "How to Find Psychodrama Research Topics?"

The Education and Training Program Division of TAP plans various courses to meet the different needs of TAP members and people interested in psychodrama. TAP invited former president, Dr. Nien-Hwa Lai, TEP to offer two online training workshops called "Case Conceptualization of Psychodrama" and "How to Lead an Online Psychodrama Workshop" for TAP members and non-members. A total of 132 people enrolled in these events. The Annual Conference by TAP, "The Social Upheaval and Peace: Social Relationship and Healing with Psychodrama" was held in the beginning of 2023. This online conference was honored with the presence of Katrena Hart, as keynote speaker and online workshop leader. Three face-to-face workshops were held in Taipei, Taichung, and Kaohsiung by local TEPs. There were a total of 22 online workshops held by TEPs, PATs, CPs, and trainees. This big event served 167 people. Participants came from Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, and Malaysia.

Participating in the Local and International Psychodrama Communities

Taiwan Association of Psychodrama and other professional associations, such as Taiwan Art Therapy Association, Music Therapy Association of Taiwan, Taiwan Dance Therapy Association, and Drama Therapy Association of Taiwan, jointly promote Taiwan's Creative Arts Therapy (CAT) professional training and certification system. These collaborative organizations hope to make psychodrama and other CAT's serve more and more people. TAP made a video for "Happy 101st Birthday Psychodrama Celebration" organized by Action Explorations Education. I, as the vice president of TAP, participated in the British Psychodrama Association's annual conference in 2022 and presented an online training: "Concretizing is my Superpower: Experience of Psychodrama with Children in Taiwan Primary Schools."

Rooted in the solid foundation of psychodrama's predecessors, TAP has opened some new chapters of psychodrama. With creativity, spontaneity and co-creation, TAP has demonstrated much adaptability and growth in the post pandemic era. As J. L. Moreno said: "Yes, keep doing what you're doing, you are spreading the method, you are spreading the healing." TAP keeps going on and on, bringing psychodrama everywhere in Taiwan.

<https://reurl.cc/qkIZDO>

TRAINER'S CORNER

SPREADING THE SOCIOMETRIC WEALTH by Jean Campbell, LCSW, SEP, CET3, TEP

The sign of a healthy group is that the sociometry is always shifting. As Directors, we know that if we don't facilitate sociometric change in our groups on a regular basis, it can result in the sociodynamic effect occurring - - that is, the same people getting chosen for roles over and over again, while others rarely get chosen, which can breed resentment, transferences, and conflict. While Directors (hopefully!) typically track sociometric patterns like isolates, cliques, subgroups, aristo-tele, etc., one of the sociometric considerations that is often overlooked is the importance of varying the choice of the action criterion question. This facilitates a protagonist selection, allowing different people to get chosen - - and in turn, different people potentially being chosen as auxiliaries - - thus "spreading the sociometric wealth." The choice in action (as opposed to a Director's Choice, Self-Selection or Institutional Choice) is most likely to reflect the theme that emerges during the warm-up, and in the psychodrama that is chosen. Moreover, the group is more likely to support the chosen piece because they - not the director, not the protagonist, and not the institution - actually chose the psychodrama, thus inviting far less transference. In addition, the chosen psychodrama will more likely represent the stage of group they are in, and the protagonist is more likely to trust that the group is supporting them, thus more likely to "drop in" to the work more deeply.

CHOICE IN ACTION CRITERION QUESTIONS

While we don't "manipulate" the sociometry, criterion questions for a choice in action are critical in helping the sociometry continue to shift, which will further promote balance and health in a group.

Some of the more common criterion questions asked in protagonist selection are:

- Put your hand on the shoulder of the person...
...whose drama you would like to support today
...whose drama will most help you today

But if there is a potential protagonist who has continued to put themselves forward to work, and has not gotten chosen, or someone who rarely puts themselves forward does so, it can be helpful to tailor the criterion question to assist them in getting chosen for the betterment of sociometric health in the group. For example, you might consider one of the following:

- Put your hand on the shoulder of the person...
...whose drama you haven't seen in a while
...whose drama you're most curious about

Or if you're working with a theme of role expansion:

- Put your hand on the shoulder of the person...
....whose drama would most help you step into a new role
... whose drama would most help you experience role relief

Or if you're exploring parts work in a group:

- Put your hand on the shoulder of the person
...whose drama would most help you access one of your vulnerable parts
...whose drama would most help you soften one of your defended parts



Or if you work in the field of addiction and recovery:

- Put your hand on the shoulder of the person...
...whose drama would most help you step more fully into recovery
...whose drama would best help you tap into hope

Or if you work somatically:

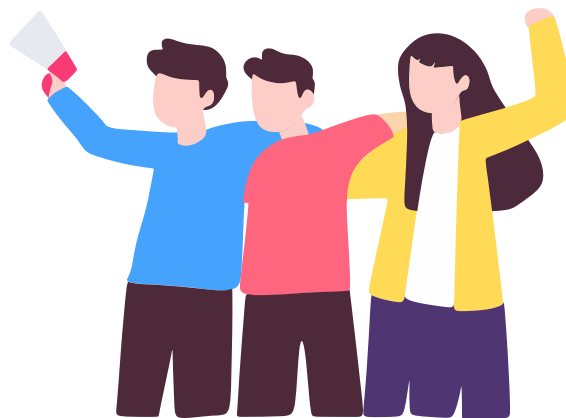
Put your hand on the shoulder of the person...

- ...whose drama would most allow your body to feel settled today
...whose drama would allow your heart to open

In my training groups, I teach students about the sociometric implications of all four ways to choose a protagonist, and then invite them to break into small groups to identify situations when they might use a choice in action, director's choice, self-selection or institutional choice, and why. They can then brainstorm different criteria to use for a choice in action in their own groups. This allows them to increase their sociometric awareness and be more conscious when facilitating a protagonist selection, as they continue to work towards greater sociometric health in their groups.

You can read the unabridged version of this article at <https://braveheartretreats.com/spreading-the-sociometric-wealth/>

Jean Campbell, LCSW, SEP, CET3, TEP offers ongoing psychodrama training groups in California, Utah and virtually. She can be reached at jean@braveheartretreats.com or you can visit her website at braveheartretreats.com



On-site Examiner Resource List

Amy Clarkson, MMT, LCAT, MT-BC, TEP

On-site examiners are a valuable and integral part of the ABE certification process. The on-site examiner is a volunteer and non-paid role. The Board covers expense reimbursement up to \$100. Any additional expense reimbursement is the responsibility of the candidate.

While ABE does not recommend evaluators to candidates for the on-site portion of the CP and TEP certification exams, we are planning to compile a list of experienced psychodramatists who are available to travel and to fulfill the role of on-site examiner. This list can be provided to candidates if needed, since finding an on-site examiner has become extra challenging as we move out of the pandemic. With their primary trainer's guidance, candidates will still propose their 3 possible on-site examiners to the Board. The list we are creating is intended to be a resource for those who may need it. If you meet the criteria below and are interested in being included on a list of available on-site examiners, [please click this link](#) and provide the requested information or contact jasmin@abepsychodrama.org.

Qualifications for On-site Examiners

On-site examiners are volunteers who generously give their time, talent and expertise without expectation of financial gain from either the Board or the candidate. On-site examiners must be certified psychodramatists with current experience in psychodrama, sociometry and group psychotherapy.

Current experience is demonstrated when the potential onsite examiner has met any of the following criteria:

- Has participated in at least one local, regional, national or international psychodrama conference (e.g., ASGPP, IAGP) within the previous five years.
- Has served on either the ABE or the ASGPP Executive Council within the previous five years.
- Has been a Primary or Secondary Trainer within the previous five years.
- Has authored a book, chapter or article or edited a journal article or book about psychodrama, sociometry, and/or group psychotherapy published within the previous five years.
- Participated in supervision (peer or paid) with other psychodramatists at least four times in the previous five years.

Any ABE-certified TEP with current experience is eligible to conduct a CP on-site examination.

Any ABE-certified CP who has been certified a minimum of five years and has current experience is eligible to conduct a CP on-site examination.

On-site examiners must not have a past or current relationship, or plan to have a future relationship, with the candidate. (Examiners do not have to be unknown to the candidate, but examiners must not have shared significant time or roles with the candidate.)

On-site examiners must be willing to pass the candidate if adequate in performance or fail the candidate if inadequate in performance.



Interested in reading
our archived
newsletters?
Check out our Google
Library here.

[click on the image](#)



PUBLICATIONS

Karen Carnabucci, MSS, LCSW, TEP

Karen's article, "[Reflections: LGBTQIA](#)" was published in the June 2022 issue of *The Knowing Field*, the English-language journal for Family and Systemic Constellations. The article focused on her recent presentation on psychodrama and Family and Systemic Constellations where issues of heteronormative discussion arose as part of the presentation. Karen also presented [Writing about Trauma](#) in August 2022 at the HippoCamp 22, the annual national conference for creative non-fiction and memoir writers in Lancaster, PA.

Linda Condon, LMHC, TEP published "The Warm-up Ring 2: More Keys to Energize Your Groups." It includes a variety of creative ideas for enlivening and deepening connection in groups, as well as suggestions for moving participants into action. It is divided into the following sections: name games, group sorts, introductory warm-ups, prop warm-ups, working together warm-ups, warmer warm-ups, and topical warm-ups. The cost is \$35 and to order contact Lincondon@yahoo.com.

Karen Carnabucci and Linda Ciotola contributed to the November 2022 issue of *The Healing Magazine*. Their articles, "[Finding the Right Self Care Approach](#)" and a sidebar, "[Six Categories of Self-Care Habits](#)," focused on the importance of self-compassion and activities to promote emotional regulation and reduce clinical burnout.

Tian Dayton, TEP, PhD, published "Sociometrics Embodied, Experiential Processes for Relational Trauma Repair" in 2023. Sociometrics are embodied, research-based processes that educate clients about trauma, grief, and resilience as they offer in-the-moment, experiential relational trauma repair. Created by Dr. Tian Dayton to fit easily into outpatient programs, clinics, and one-to-one settings, sociometrics help to take the guesswork out of incorporating experiential therapy into treatment. They give therapists a clear process that builds momentum for deep change and personal growth. Harnessing the therapeutic power of the group, they teach skills of emotional literacy and self- and co-regulation.

The combination of sociometrics and simple role plays allow the body, as well as the mind, to find a voice. They draw on the theory base of psychodrama and sociometry, the first forms of mind/body, experiential therapy created by the father of group therapy, Jacob Levy Moreno. [Click here](#)

Scott Giacomucci, DSW, LCSW, BCD, CGP, FAAETS, TEP, published a new book in April 2023, *Trauma-Informed Principles in Group Therapy, Psychodrama, and Organizations: Action Methods for Leadership* (Routledge) which proposes trauma-informed care concepts for safe and ethical leadership in groups, psychodrama, and organizations. [Click here](#)

He also led two research teams, which resulted in two new psychodrama research publications in the past year – "[A Mixed-Methods Study on Psychodrama Treatment for PTSD and Depression in Inpatient Substance Use Treatment: A Comparison of Outcomes Pre-Pandemic and During Covid-19](#)" in the *Arts in Psychotherapy Journal* and "A Controlled Pilot Study on the Effects of a Therapeutic Spiral Model Trauma-Focused Psychodrama Workshop on Post-Traumatic Stress, Spontaneity, and Post-Traumatic Growth" in *Zeitschrift für Psychodrama und Soziometrie* (German Journal for Psychodrama and Sociometry).

Kate Hudgins, PhD, TEP and **Steven Durost**, PhD, LCMHC, REAT published "Experiential Therapy from Trauma to Post-traumatic Growth-Therapeutic Spiral Model Psychodrama" in 2022. Its unique contributions include a theoretical integration of experiential psychotherapy and demonstrations of accessible and learnable experiential trauma-informed care. Notably, the authors also include real life experiences from their work in over 50 countries. [Click here](#)

Daniel Tomasulo has published two books:

"Learned Hopefulness" offers powerful exercises grounded in evidence-based positive psychology to help clients identify strengths; let go of self-limiting beliefs that diminish their capacity for positivity; and increase feelings of motivation, resiliency, and wellness. Readers will also learn to untangle themselves from rumination over past negative events, while shifting their perspectives to the present moment and anticipating their future through a more positive lens.

"Positivity Effect" is based in proven-effective cognitive behavior therapy (CBT) and positive psychology. Psychologist Dan Tomasulo offers powerful skills to help clients overcome negative thinking and harness the power of positivity to reduce stress, boost confidence, and find instant calm and sustainable happiness. With this uplifting guide, clients learn how to:

- Replace anxiety and stress with learned hopefulness.
- Boost positivity, amplify joy, and awaken inspiration
- Increase motivation and perseverance.
- Overcome self-limiting thoughts and beliefs.
- Build a solid support system and connect with your community.

[Click here](#)

WHO DO I CONTACT?

For General Questions and Concerns:

202-483-0514*

Mailing Address:

1629 K Street NW

Suite 300

Washington, DC 20006

*During our transition please allow 72 hours for response



2022-23 Written Examination

Fredilyn Sison, JD, CP

This article is divided into two parts: the first discusses the written exam itself and then we'll offer tips for examinees and their trainers.

Examination Period

The examination period for this cycle was different from previous years, as COVID-19 presented new challenges to applicants, particularly with arranging on-sites. In response, ABE announced a program allowing early written examinations for those who have met criteria set by the board. In addition to the regular exam takers who have fulfilled all their application requirements for the written exams, others wishing to take the written exam early were provided with three dates in this cycle: October 2022, January 2023 and May 2023. This new pilot program attracted a large number of people, which led to a challenge.

For October 2022, there were 21 CP written examinees and 6 TEP written examinees. For May 2023, there are 21 CP written examinees and no TEP written examinees. Each of the seven topics requires for the CP exam, requires three readers (evaluators). TEP exams, also require three readers to evaluate the entire exam. Many ABE members answered the call to volunteer to read the examination answers.

The written exams are reviewed blindly: the identity of the examinees is unknown to the readers. Specific details about the scoring process can be found on the ABE website in the [CP Study Guide](#) and the [TEP Study Guide](#). The readers review for competency and the depth and breadth of knowledge. Do the examinees understand the concepts? Can they apply them to real life situations? Have they used the proper terminology?

Exam takers will need to:

- Define terms.
- Think about a real-life application.
- Start writing.
 - For CP's, write from the director's role: what is the process/method/technique/concept/tenet being discussed?
 - Use the proper terms. Provide definitions of the terms. What are the director's choices and why did the director make the choice she/he/they did?
 - Provide detailed examples. Are there alternatives? If yes, state what they are and why they were not chosen.
 - For PAT's, write from the trainer's role, not the director's role. The TEP exams typically ask for a lesson plan to train the group. Why is this plan better than an alternative?
 - Proofread the answers and revise the answers as necessary. The following are tips for Trainers preparing CP and PAT trainees for the written exam:
- TEP exam: Review your trainee's answers to ensure she/he/they know how to respond as a psychodrama trainer, rather than a director.
- TEP exam: Be sure trainees provide goals and step-by-step structure as to how they would teach their students.
- CP and TEP exam: Review the importance of reading each question carefully. Be aware of the section of the exam being answered.



- CP and TEP exam: Emphasize the importance of sociometry and methodology in their studies and practice test-taking. The October 2022 CP and TEP written examinees all passed with one exception of a CP examinee. The passing rate reflects the work of the examinees and the emphasis trainers place on preparation. The main issue with some of the exam answers was the use of correct terminology. For example, some test takers have called a loco gram a "local gram." This is an issue that comes up for every exam. More care must be made to ensure the terms are correct. The website glossary may help.

With COVID-19 protocols ending for many countries, the early exam period will be terminated after May 2023 written examination, and the regular application process will commence in October 2023.

Tips for Taking the Written Exam

Examinees should write their answers as if the reader knows little or nothing about psychodrama. Therefore, applicants should define ideas and concepts, even if they seem evident. For example, the empty chair. What is an empty chair? How and why is it used? When asked to give an example of a real-life situation, if the examinees gives a full description, it enables the evaluators to determine if the examinee understands how to apply these concepts. The examinee should be descriptive and give specifics, not vague references.

Taking the written exam is stressful, and one way to become more comfortable with the exam is to take practice exams using past ABE exams, which are provided on the website. Most importantly, after completing the exam, the examinee should review the answer pages to make sure all the questions have been answered. There have been instances where the exam answer has been left out of the materials forwarded to the ABE. When this happens, the missing essay is graded as an automatic failure.

Last year's column on the exam provided test taking tips. We repeat and augment them this year because they appear to have resulted in improved exam answers:

(cont. on pg. 13)

Test Taking Tips:

- Review past exams (and take them as practice).
- Create model answers to past exams
- Establish a reading and/or study group.
- Speak to your Trainers about the specific topics/principles to gain greater familiarity and understanding.
- Practice writing exams
- Focus on Sociometry and Methodology, as these two topics have more than one essay question.
- In answering a question:
 - Read the question in its entirety. Read it more than once.
 - Break the question into different parts.
 - Ask yourself, what is a competent answer to this question?
 - Outline your answer.
 - Define terms.
 - Think about a real-life application.
 - For CP's, write from the director's role: what is the process/method/technique/concept/tenet being discussed?
 - Use the proper terms. Provide definitions of the terms. What are the director's choices and why did the director make the choice she/he/they did?
 - Provide detailed examples. Are there alternatives? If yes, state what they are and why they were not chosen.
 - For PAT's, write from the trainer's role, not the director's role. The TEP exams typically ask for a lesson plan to train the group. Why is this plan better than an alternative?
 - Proofread the answers and revise the answers as necessary.

Tips for Trainers preparing CP and PAT trainees for the written exam:

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- TEP exam: Be sure trainees provide goals and step-by-step structure as to how they would teach their students.
- CP and TEP exam: Review the importance of reading each question carefully. Be aware of the section of the exam being answered.
- CP and TEP exam: Emphasize the importance of sociometry and methodology in their studies and practice test-taking.

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- CP and TEP exam: Review the importance of reading each question carefully. Be aware of the section of the exam being answered.
- CP and TEP exam: Emphasize the importance of sociometry and methodology in their studies and practice test-taking.

SUMMARY OF THE ABE ANNUAL CONVERSATION SESSION

Catherine D. Nugent, LCPC, TEP

The American Board of Examiners in Psychodrama, Sociometry and Group Psychotherapy (ABE/The Board) hosted the annual Conversation Session on Friday, April 21. Approximately 24 TEPs, PATs and CP trainees participated in the live Zoom session, including international participants from Venezuela, Malaysia, The Philippines, Taiwan, and China. (Please note: The session was recorded and is available here for all certified psychodramatists.

Thematically, the session centered on the reasons and rewards of becoming certified as a psychodramatist. Board Officers, Directors, and the Executive Director gave presentations and updates on the CP and TEP certification standards, the pandemic accommodations, and the status of on-site examinations for those provisionally certified. ABE representatives also invited participants' questions, comments, and recommendations.

Current ABE President, Scottie Urme, opened the meeting by welcoming participants and introducing the Board members and staff, as follows:

Julie Wells, Vice-President
Fredilyn Sison, Secretary
Lynne Bratcher, Treasurer
Cathy Nugent, Director
Jasmin Jimenez, Executive Director

Other Board Directors not present were:

Amy Clarkson
Letitia Coburn
Barbara Guest Hargin
Siyat Ulon

Scottie thanked the Officers and Directors for their continued service and commitment.

ABE Mission: ABE Executive Director, Jasmin Jimenez, presented the Board's two-pronged mission:

- To establish, for the United States of America, professional standards in the fields of psychodrama, sociometry and group psychotherapy.
- To certify qualified professionals on the basis of these standards.

Throughout the presentation, Board Officers highlighted the importance of remaining within the parameters of the mission statement. The Board occasionally receives requests to pursue initiatives beyond the scope of the mission. Even though these may be worthwhile pursuits, the all-volunteer Board strives to avoid "mission creep" for the organization and role fatigue for its Officers and Directors.

(cont. on pg. 14)



((cont. from pg. 13))

Cathy's Aside: Here is a reminder of the limits of the Board's authority. The Board can develop policies and procedures to implement its mission, but it cannot change the certification standards or create new ones on its own authority. Changes to the standards require a majority vote of the membership (all certified psychodramatists). The Board is authorized to develop emergency policies and procedures to implement the standards. A recent example includes the Pandemic Accommodations instituted in response to the unprecedented and urgent public health crisis posed by COVID-19.).

Reasons to Become Certified: Vice-President, Julie Wells, led a brief discussion on the reasons and reward of becoming a certified psychodramatist. Some of the reasons discussed were:

- To enhance your knowledge and skills. Not only does psychodrama training provide a distinct and special body of knowledge and set of skills that enhance one's practice, but the personal growth component of psychodrama training is a significant benefit.
- To signal your training and expertise. Certified psychodramatists are recognized nationally and internationally as having completed a rigorous course of training and practice in psychodrama, sociometry and group psychotherapy.
- To become part of a larger community of talented and committed professionals. When certified, you become part of a community of practitioners of a shared art of healing. You also gain access to a network of colleagues, many of whom will become your friends too. As evidenced by the participation at this meeting, this community includes psychodramatists not only for the U.S., but from around the world.
- For the next generation. Those of us who do this work share a belief in the power and significance of Moreno's triadic method. By becoming certified you help to promote psychodrama and train and educate the up-and-coming generations.

CP Certification Standards and Process: ABE Secretary, Fredi Sison, reviewed the certification standards for the Certified Practitioner (CP) designation. She referenced the CP Roadmap that appears on the [ABE website](#) and linked here [CP Roadmap](#). Fredi noted the importance of reviewing past examination questions and preparing written responses as part of warming up and role-training to take the written exam. (Past exam questions are on the website in the section, [Becoming a Certified Practitioner](#). Additionally, each year the exam questions and the review by the Quality Assurance Team are presented in the May/June edition of ABE News.

TEP Certification Standards and Process: Board Director, Cathy Nugent, reviewed the requirements for Trainer, Educator and Practitioner (TEP) certification. Cathy mentioned the helpful [TEP Roadmap](#) on the ABE website, and noted the website section entitled, [Due Dates & Fees](#), where one can quickly and easily identify the due dates and fees for ABE-related activities. Cathy emphasized that the written examinations for both CP and TEP are intended to enable candidates to demonstrate adequacy, not perfection! She also clarified that the ABE does not assign examiners for the on-site examinations.

Instead, candidates select examiners themselves. (On-site examiners must be a qualified individual with whom the candidate has no dual relationship.)

Training Hours & Pandemic Accommodations: President, Scottie Urmev reviewed the current Pandemic Accommodations, presenting a table that has been published in Board News and sent in an email blast to certified psychodramatists. Scottie noted that the accommodations remain in place for applicants to the 2023 Written and Onsite Examinations. ([See table on page 17](#)), which shows the number of online training and practicum hours allowed for 2023 applicants.) Because the public health crisis presented by COVID-19 is largely behind us and most locales have lifted restrictions on gatherings, the Board does not plan to continue the accommodations beyond the current year.

TEP Survey—Online Training and Practicum Hours: Related to the pandemic accommodations and associated increase in allowable online training and practicum hours, Vice-President, Julie Wells, note that plans are underway to distribute a survey to all TEPs, asking for recommendations on the number of online hours allowed going forward. Once the survey results have been gathered and analyzed, if appropriate, the Board will prepare a ballot initiative for voting by the membership.

CP Certification Standards and Process: Board Director, Cathy Nugent, reviewed the requirements for Trainer, Educator and Practitioner (TEP) certification. Cathy mentioned the helpful [Roadmap](#) on the ABE website, and noted the website section entitled, [Due Dates & Fees](#), where one can quickly and easily identify the due dates and fees for ABE-related activities. Cathy emphasized that the written examinations for both CP and TEP are intended to enable candidates to demonstrate adequacy, not perfection! She also clarified that the ABE does not assign examiners for the on-site examinations. Instead, candidates select examiners themselves. (An on-site examiner must be a qualified individual with whom the candidate has no dual relationship.)

The Conversation Session finished with a question, answer and discussion period. To view the session, [click here](#).



~ APPRECIATIONS ~

**Kim Irvine Albano
Marlo Archer
Phoebe Atkinson
Martica Bacalo
Sari Bartilo
Dena Baumgartner
Lynne Bratcher
Lori Budman
Kim Burden
Sara Butler
Jean Campbell
Roberto Cancel
Amy Clarkson
Letitia Coburn
Ron Collier
Linda Condon**

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Ed Schreiber
Regina Sewell
Deb Shady
Marianne Shapiro
Fred Sison
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Michael Traynor
Siyat Ulon
Scottie Urmey
Julie Wells
Rosana Zapata**

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

BOARD NEWS

Board News is published twice annually by the American Board of Examiners in Psychodrama, Sociometry and Group Psychotherapy.

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Members are encouraged to submit newsletter materials. The Board News does not accept stories or features that promote specific trainings or workshops. "In Memoriams" are printed in our spring/summer newsletter.

ABE Announces Election Results and Training Hours + Pandemic Accommodations for 2024

Election Results

<u>Name and Credentials</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Term</u>
Siyat Ulon, MD, TEP;	TEP Board Director	3 years (2nd term)
Fredilyn Silon, JD, CP;	CP Board Director	3 years (2nd term)
Lori Budman, MS, LSCW, CP, PAT	CP Board Director	3 years

NOTE: While ABE normally fills two TEP positions and one CP position each year, an insufficient number of candidates led the Board to exercise its authority to fill positions to ensure a nine-member board for the year.

**2023 ABE Election received our highest voter response to date!
130 votes electronically; 0 via mail**

Training Hours & Pandemic Accommodations

		ABE Certification Standards	COVID Accommodations (May 2020)	For October 2023 Exam Applicants: additional special accommodations
		Certified Practitioner		
Distance Learning (maximum)		120	150	170
Minimum face-to-face in-person real time training with TEP or PAT		460	460	440
Maximum number of online practicum sessions			20	45
Minimum number of in-person, face-to face in-person real time groups				20 (out of 41 minimum group practicum sessions)
		Trainer, Educator & Practitioner		
Maximum number of online practicum training sessions			48	68

Training hours are subject to change based on Board discretion in keeping with current trends.

ABE's Status and Plans for the ABE's Upcoming Growth

Executive Director

Jasmin Jimenez, MA, MBA



When thinking about what initiatives are underway and what do I envision to help support the expansion of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging among certified psychodramatists, psychodrama trainers, candidates, and potential future psychodramatists, I think it takes a village. I want to get the entire board to understand the importance of creating an inclusive space to support initiatives.

This will help with new initiatives and with creating spaces that make it easier for members, candidates, and potential members to connect. Since starting in December, I have been wrapping up the initiatives and projects of 2022 while also focusing on improving our processes and technology.

- Consolidate and update website information
- Create a LinkedIn Page
- Update branding
- Create updated information decks
- Record Convo Session presentation for future distribution
- Create a archived newsletter library
- Select a new website server to improve site speed
- Research new member management system

1. **Source experts within** – building a taskforce to focus on how we can continue to build a community that upholds diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

2. **Website Updates**

◦ Phase 1

- Understand current state & contract
- Research new hosting provider
- Select InMotion Hosting
- Build Improvement in site speed
- Review coding/plugin for member directory

◦ Phase 2

- Research the current website and secondary market
- Create survey to understand website usability and
- Create card sorting activity to reconsider website information architecture and organization
- Conduct secondary market research of on-sites' user experience, navigation, and overall interface

In July, I plan on sharing a more comprehensive plan for how I hope to approach these updates and what it will entail.

I will be using a lot of my experience with product design to understand how to better improve the overall user experience of the website. This includes volunteer insights collected from the card sorting activity and usability tests from the membership management platform, creating task forces to identify content needing updates, improve writing/jargon, and overall brand.

Be on the lookout for more information that will include a Project Brief, Research Plan, Card Sorting survey, etc.

Calling all TEPs

We will be sharing a survey that needs your input. Make sure to review the information and provide your thoughts.

