

Letter from the Executive Editor

We are excited to have you join us in exploring the collaborative efforts of our authors and editors in the second edition of the revised ASGPP Journal. Our continued focus on the theory, research, and practice of this powerful method is intended to be of as much benefit to your personal endeavors as possible, and to stimulate ongoing dialogue about the best way to offer psychodrama, sociometry, and group psychotherapy to the world.

In our first article in Section 1, "Theory and Research," we are fortunate to have John Nolte, one of the original psychodramatists who pioneered the non-clinical use of psychodrama, chronicle the rich history of Gerry Spence's Trial Lawyers College. He describes the use of psychodrama to develop trial skills in an innovative way that fully engages lawyers in a creative, spontaneous process. A core group of dedicated trial lawyers and psychodramatists has introduced psychodrama to over 1500 lawyers since 1994. The TLC approach emphasizes the need to face and know oneself as the first requirement to know and help one's client. This non-clinical application of psychodrama is in service to Moreno's vision of sociatry as a healing method for society.

The second article is "Comparison of Interpersonally Oriented Verbal and Action-Oriented Psychodrama Groups by Graduate Student Participant/Observers." Herbert M. Dandes conducted a research study to measure the overall effectiveness of psychodrama in comparison with a traditional talk therapy, as experienced by graduate student subjects who participated in both modalities. Two separate instruments were used to measure the comparison of effectiveness based upon the data provided by the participating subjects. This research demonstrates both greater positive attitudes and a stronger degree of factors that predict psychological growth in participants in the psychodrama group. Dandes's devoted research efforts provide support for all of us who are increasingly called upon to justify psychodrama as evidence-based practice appropriate for clinical settings.

The last article in Section 1, "The Subjective Genogram: An Action Therapy Tool for Family of Origin Work," Daniel Weiner describes the step-by-step process of using this artistic device to warm up a client quickly and move into an action vignette focused on role expansion. In a clear and concise manner, Weiner gives us a great sense of the possibilities for emotional and mental catharsis in his case study.

The first article in Section 2, "Practitioner's Corner," is "The Denial Buster, A Structured Psychodrama: An Illustrated Description." The benefits of Bill Coleman's accrued clinical wisdom have borne fruit in a structured

psychodramatic exercise that elicits from a protagonist the positive and negative consequences of the choice to face or ignore an addiction. The simple elegance of Coleman's design offers a direct intervention technique and diagnostic tool to deal effectively with a protagonist's narrative that relies upon avoidance and minimization of their circumstances. This exercise, complete with illustrations, has the additional advantage of efficiency in a time-limited group setting.

In the second article in this section, "The Alcoholic Family Sociodrama Explores Social Atom Roles," Karen Carnabucci approaches addiction treatment from the perspective of sociodrama and sociometry. When first seeking professional help, the identified addict and concerned family members are often overwhelmed from being in chronic crisis. Carnabucci recognizes this dilemma and strongly advocates for the use of sociodrama as a means to create more of a sense of safety and emotional distance in a population that often effectively masks their accumulated wounds.

The final article in this section is "Relationship Trauma Repair" by Tian Dayton. Two step-by-step exercises are outlined, with possible variations, to assist clients in revealing their inner emotional state in a healing way. Dayton emphasizes the need for self-regulation, which is an essential component of trauma treatment and relapse prevention. This is a great starting place to assist groups in the development of a constructive sociometry that will focus them for deeper psychodramatic work.

To conclude this edition, John Nolte and Adam Blatner review new editions of the seminal works of J. L. Moreno and Zerka Moreno. Each offers his own unique experience and historical perspective on the continued relevance our founders offer to twenty-first century practitioners of psychodrama, sociometry, and group psychotherapy.

We continue to look for ways to improve our efforts to create a journal that remains meaningful to our readership. Our hope is that this remains a dynamic process of co-creation that includes your feedback and input. We urge everyone to consider how your unique gifts may benefit our whole community by contributing to ASGPP, and we remain eager to assist all who wish to be part of this creative process!

Warm Regards,
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Executive Editor