



Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry

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CIRCULAR LETTER #607
PRE-MEETING FALL
OCTOBER 2008

There's Always Something

By the time we meet in November, the election will be over, the economy will either have improved or deteriorated further, the outcome of the World Series will have been decided, and Frances will either be rejoicing at the Cowboys continued success compared to the Eagles, or mourning their losses. The Finance Committee will know how our investments have fared. We will say good-bye to our current group of fellows and prepare to welcome in a new batch. Maybe things will be calmer by then, maybe not. As Gilda Radnor's character Roseanne Roseannadonna used to say on Saturday Night Live, "There's always something."



I've been reading "Tidewater Tales," a novel by John Barth, a Baltimore writer and sailor. It was published in 1987, and takes place in the 1970s and 80s. I'd forgotten how stressful that period was. Interspersed with anecdotes about sailing on a wooden sailboat without a motor are stories about the CIA, the cold war, the destruction of the Chesapeake Bay by toxic waste, and something he calls the Doomsday Factor, which is a uniquely destructive force embodied in certain individuals who are bent achieving their aims, even if it means bringing about the end of the world. And this was written well before the age of global terrorism. It reminded me that there always has been something.

Despite their concerns about bringing children into a world whose end seems near, the protagonist and his wife go to great lengths to conceive a child (twins as it turns out), and sail around the Chesapeake Bay waiting for her seemingly interminable pregnancy to come to fruition and for his equally long-lasting writer's block to end. I haven't finished the 655 page book, so I can't tell you how it ends. But it does bring to mind and analogy with GAP, which seems to be sailing along, apparently unaffected by the Doomsday Factor (at least as of the time of this writing). Our publications are clearly not in sync with the economy. They have been forthcoming at what is for us a rapid pace.

The Publications Board was inundated with manuscripts to review over the summer (OK, this is a bit of hyperbole, but relative to the usual seasonal doldrums, true). The kick-off was "Hidden Impact: What You Need to Know for the Next Disaster: A Practical Guide for Clinicians," a 30 chapter book produced by the Committee on Disasters, designed as a concise guide for physicians who volunteer to help in the aftermath of disasters. The Gender Issues Committee's article on the myth of the abortion syndrome, which we approved some time ago, has finally found a home and will be published in the Harvard Review. A companion editorial on the misuse of research for political purposes has been approved for publication. Also approved is "The Challenge of Mental Health Crises in College Settings," a paper on college student mental health services that deals with the dilemmas faced by administrators and health care professionals in following mandates to respect students' privacy and also safeguard the students and their campuses. "Rational Protection of Subjects in Research and Quality Improvement Activities" by the Committee on Psychopathology is on the way to approval. The Psychopathology Committee manuscript, "Implementing Standardized Assessments in Clinical Care" was submitted to Psychiatric Services and has been asked for revisions. The Cultural Committee editorial, "Issues for DSM-V: Role and Relevance of Culture in Psychiatric Diagnosis" was approved and submitted for publication. The book "Sexual Orientation and Psychodynamic Psychiatry by the Human Sexuality Committee" has been reprinted in paperback and copies are being made available to all committee chairs.

In addition to the above, manuscripts from the Research, Psychotherapy, Adolescence, and Disasters and Terrorism committees were reviewed and their authors given feedback by the hardworking Publications Board. Kudos to all of these committees and the members of the Board.

Clearly we seem to have evolved toward expressing considered and evidence-based opinions on difficult and sometimes politically loaded topics. This is certainly appropriate.

On the financial plane, our decision to make sure that we were taking in sufficient funds to cover our operating expenses means that we don't have to worry about taking money out of our reserves which would be highly undesirable during a period of such turmoil in the financial markets.

To return to the topic of elections, one of our members, Bob Larsen, is challenging the incumbent running for City Council in Orinda, California (a suburb of San Francisco), "Dr. Bob—the Alternative." You can read more about his candidacy at http://www.smartvoter.org/2008/11/04/ca/cc/vote/larsen_r/index.html. Surely another sign that we GAPers believe in what we do. And, our boat has an engine.



Announcements:

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Article V

Administrative Committees

Section 4. The Fellowship Committee

- (a) This Fellowship Committee shall have as its duties the selection of Fellows from a list of candidates submitted by residency training facilities and, in addition, the appropriate guidance of said Fellows through their attendance at four (4) consecutive meetings.
- (b) The number of Fellows chosen in a given year shall depend upon funds available to subsidize the program, as well as Operating Committee needs.
- (c) The Fellowship Committee shall consist of a Chairperson selected by the President and five (5) members to be selected by the Chairperson. Each member of the committee will be appointed for a four year term renewable one time.

The Nominating Committee is looking for nominations for Board of Directors and Officer positions on the GAP Board. Please send nominations to: Paul Jay Fink, M.D., Chair of the Nominating Committee: pjayfink@aol.com or Frances Bell, Central Office: frda1@airmail.net

DATES OF FUTURE GAP MEETINGS

2008 November 13-15	2009 April 16-18 November 12-14	2010 April 15-17 November 11-13	2011 April 7-9 November 10-12
2012 March 29-31 November 15-17	2013 April 4-6 November 14-16	2014 April 10-12 November 13-15	2015 April 16-18 November 12-14

NOVEMBER 2008 MEETING
124TH MEETING OF
GROUP FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2008

10:00 a.m.	GAP Office Opens	Masefield A Room
10:00 a.m.	Finance Committee Meeting	Masefield B Room
12:00 noon	Publications Board	Hutchinson A Room
2:00 p.m.	Board of Directors	Cooper B Room
4:00 p.m.	Fellows Meeting	Cooper A Room
4:00 p.m.	Fellows Selection Committee	Masefield B Room
5:30 p.m.	Reception of the Board of Directors	Room 688
6:30 p.m.	Fellows Dinner	Cooper A Room
9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Hosted by: Disasters & Terrorism	Hospitality Room -Irving A & B Rooms

Thursday Committee Meetings

Psychopathology	3:30 p.m.	Gallery Room
Child Committee	8:00 p.m.	Library Room
College Student	7:00 p.m.	80 West Restaurant (8 people)
Disaster & Terrorism	7:00 p.m.	80 West Restaurant (6 people)
Family	7:30 p.m.	80 West Restaurant (8 people)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2008

7:30 a.m.	Breakfast	Cooper-Greeley Rooms
8:30 a.m.	General Membership Meeting	Cooper-Greeley Rooms
9:30 a.m.	Committee Meetings	
10:30 a.m.	Coffee Break	
12:00 noon	Luncheon	Cooper-Greeley Rooms
	Steering Committee Meeting	Irving A Room
1:00 p.m.	Fellows Meeting	Irving B Room
2:00 p.m.	Committee Meetings	
3:00 p.m.	Coffee Break	
5:00 p.m.	Juice Break	Cooper-Greeley Rooms
5:30 p.m.	Plenary Session: GAP Fellows	Cooper-Greeley Rooms
6:30 p.m.	Cocktail Reception	Red Oak Terrace
7:30 p.m.	Dinner	Cooper-Greeley Rooms
9:00 p.m.	Hospitality	Foyer - Cooper-Greeley Rooms
	Hosted by: Committee on the Family	

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2008

8:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Cooper-Greeley Rooms
	Steering Committee Meeting	Irving B Room
	Fellows Breakfast Meeting	Irving A Room
9:00 a.m.	Committee Meetings	
11:30 a.m.	Lunch	Cooper Room

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ADOLESCENCE	ROOM 688
AGING	MASEFIELD B ROOM
ADDICTIONS	VANDERBILT SUITE/ROOM 107
CHILD PSYCHIATRY	LIBRARY ROOM
COLLEGE STUDENT	STUDIO ROOM
CULTURAL PSYCHIATRY	PORTICO ROOM
DISABILITIES	LYNDHURST SUITE/ROOM 104
DISASTERS AND TERRORISM	ROOM 217
FAMILY	HUTCHINSON B ROOM
GENDER ISSUES AND MENTAL HEALTH	HUTCHINSON A ROOM
HUMAN SEXUALITY	ROOM 207
IMG	ROOM 223
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	VERANDA ROOM
LGBT	ROOM 201
MEDICAL EDUCATION	PARLOR ROOM
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	ZENGER ROOM
NEUROSCIENCE	ROOM 219
PLANNING, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS	ROOM 305
PREVENTIVE PSYCHIATRY	ROOM 215
PSYCHIATRY AND THE COMMUNITY	KYKUIT SUITE/ROOM 103
PSYCHIATRY AND THE LAW	SLEEPY HOLLOW/ROOM 105
PSYCHIATRY AND RELIGION	ROOM 209
PSYCHOPATHOLOGY	GALLERY ROOM
PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY	ROOM 634
PSYCHOTHERAPY	JOHN CARRERE/ROOM 101
RESEARCH	ROOM 203
SOCIAL ISSUES	ROOM 211
TERRORISM and POLITICAL VIOLENCE	ROOM 205
THERAPEUTIC CARE	JOHN JAY SUITE/ROOM 102
WORK AND ORGANIZATIONS	VAN CORTLANDT/ROOM 106

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