

**PERFORMANCE OF A NEWSLETTER**

**The Online Monthly Newsletter of the East Side  
Institute**

**Issue #34 December 2007**

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**Psychology News to Inspire and Use**

Edited by Jan Wootten and Melissa Meyer

**CONFERENCES**

\*\*\* PTW4 Draws Key Players in International  
Performance Movement \*\*\*

292 people from 23 countries in Africa, Australia, Eastern & Western Europe, the Indian Subcontinent, the Middle East, and North and South America convened at [Performing the World 4](#), October 12-14 in Tarrytown, NY for a weekend of collaboratory, exploratory, developmental performance and community building. The formal conference program included 63 concurrent sessions and seven plenaries utilizing diverse genres and performance orientations - applied improv, theater for education, social therapeutic performance methodology, forum theatre, and others. The conference brought together visionaries and community activists representing what is clearly a fast-growing international performance movement. Presentations showcased innovative work in the areas of theatre, youth development, community development, the arts, education, mental health, health care, and organizational development. Participants were invited to join the organizing committee for Performing the World '08, an expanded, NYC-based event just 10 months from now.

\*\*\* Organizing Underway for PTW '08 \*\*\*

Performing the World '08 takes the performance community to the streets of New York City -- and onto the world stage. The official headquarters will be on 42 Street at the education and performing arts center

of the All Stars Project, an organization recognized for its performatory, developmental, outside-of-school youth programs - and a star performer in past PTWs.

PTW '08 will fan out across a city with dozens of performance opportunities. It will also involve New Yorkers in opening up their homes to out-of-towners, to incorporate the cultural diversity of family and neighborhood. Institute director and PTW co-convenor Lois Holzman met with director of Youth Programs of the All Stars Project, Pam Lewis, and 20 young people from the All Stars youth programs to organize and envision the role they will play in PTW '08. Lois discussed the history of the event, including her work to organize the international performance movement. The discussion was lively - with young people grappling with methodological and philosophical questions about the Institute's performance-based approach to human development. Many young people expressed interest in being part of a Host Committee.

\*\*\*Silverman Speaks at School Mental Health Conference in Florida\*\*\*

Faculty member Barbara Silverman was a featured presenter at the [12th Annual Conference on Advancing School Mental Health](#), in Orlando, Florida, October 25-27. Billed as "the nation's premier school mental health conference," the event attracted 900 participants - therapists, social workers, educators, administrators and academics -- to address the theme of "What Works in Schools: Sustaining a National Community of Practice on Collaborative School Behavioral Health."

Barbara led a discussion session sponsored by the Youth Involvement and Leadership (YIL) practice group and a workshop entitled, "When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough Keep Creating: Working with Inner City Youth." She addressed challenges of practicing a positive, group-based, youth development approach within the constraints of the public school system. Barbara shared her educational/mental health

philosophy - namely, that what helps young people grow is their commitment to growing the group. "Young people grow by co-creating the learning environment they are in -- with me, one-on-one, or with a larger group or class."

\*\*\*Campaign to Create New APA Division of Qualitative Inquiry Reaches Goal \*\*\*

Spearheaded by Kenneth Gergen, hundreds of members of the American Psychological Association are giving voice to their desire for a new division of qualitative inquiry. Such a division would be a "home" for psychologists who put the "whole person" at the center of inquiry, who approach research from a critical, interpretative and historical perspective, and who are contributing to the development of auto-ethnography, performance, and participatory action research. The first step in gaining division status is the collection of over 800 signatures of APA members in support of the new division. To increase this possibility, Institute director Lois Holzman (a member of the steering committee organized by Gergen to lead the campaign) enlisted Joyce Dattner and her colleagues at the San Francisco-based West Coast Center for Life Performance Coaching to join forces with Gergen and others to collect signatures at the APA convention held this past August in San Francisco.

During the month of November, steering committee members reached out to their networks in a successful month-long campaign to complete the signature gathering. At the end of the month, the formal petition was filed with APA. Thanks to everyone who joined in the networking campaign and/or signed the petition!

## **TRAINING**

\*\*\*Developing Teachers Fellowship Program Begins Second Year\*\*\*

A dozen teaching fellows - from public schools in Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx and New Jersey, in classrooms ranging from pre-school to high school - began their 10-month postgraduate training as part of the [Developing Teachers Fellowship Program](#). Teaching fellows meet every-other Saturday with program director Carrie Lobman (an assistant professor of education at Rutgers University) and learn to incorporate theatrical improvisation in the service of building dynamic and productive learning environments. Their course work includes reading and discussing Holzman's [Schools for Growth](#) and Lobman and Lundquist's [Unscripted Learning](#) and advancing how they have adapted the texts for use in their classrooms.

There are seven mentors this year (four of whom are new to the program and being trained in the Institute's developmental learning approach by mentors who participated in year one of the program.) Mentors visit teaching fellows monthly in their classroom and help them make meaning and use of what they're learning in the workshops.

\*\*\*Social Therapy Advanced Training\*\*\*

On October 15, nine social therapists practicing in the New York region and nationally attended an Advanced Intensive Training seminar led by [Therapist Training Program](#) director Christine LaCerva, Lois Holzman, and faculty, Lenora Fulani. The theme of the workshop was, "Therapist as Revolutionary."

\*\*\*GroupWorks Program to Launch in February\*\*\*

The Institute has developed a new training program for anyone who wants to get better at building and growing groups (i.e., therapy groups, work teams, classroom and seminar groups, performance ensembles, etc.) A four-month program, [GroupWorks](#) will launch in February; the first semester runs February through May. [GroupWorks](#) will be led by veteran social therapist Barbara Silverman, LCSW, a skilled group builder and founder of the "Let's Talk About It,"

group- based, in-school mental health program for adolescents. The faculty will be drawn from the Institute, the Social Therapy Group in Manhattan and Brooklyn, and Performance of a Lifetime.

\*\*\*International Class Students Gather for First Residency in NYC\*\*\*

The fourth [International Class](#) gathered in NYC October 15-21 for the first of three residencies. The diverse class of 13 includes participants from Argentina, the Balkans, El Salvador, India, Pakistan, Mexico and New York. Under the direction of Lois Holzman, the week-long curriculum included seminars, workshops and conversations on philosophy and politics, social therapeutic methodology, education, community development, youth development and improvisation. Faculty included developmental psychologist Lenora Fulani, along with Christine Helm, Christine LaCerva, Carrie Lobman, Fred Newman and Michael Rock, an improv trainer from [Performance of a Lifetime](#).

## **KUDOS**

\*\*\* Joyce Dattner Receives Anti-Poverty Award along with Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter \*\*\*

Faculty member and Director of the West Coast Center for Life Performance Coaching, Joyce Dattner, was a recipient of the first annual "In Harmony with Hope Award" from the [Elfenworks Foundation](#) to "honor those working to shine light on domestic poverty." The foundation underwrites Stanford University's Center for the Study of Poverty and Inequality.

Joyce was recognized for her work with the [Bay Area All Stars Project](#) and its exemplary supplemental education programs for inner-city young people. Other recipients include Paul Minorini of Boys Hope Girls Hope, Dr. Paul Farmer of [Partners in Health Care](#) and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter of the [Carter Center](#).

## **CLASSES / WORKSHOPS**

**\*\*\*Introduction to Social Therapy Attracts 15  
Participants\*\*\***

Fifteen school guidance counselors, dance therapists, social workers, nurses, psychologists, and educators attended a half-day workshop on September 15 to learn more about social therapy from Therapist Training Program director Christine LaCerva and Lois Holzman. They discussed the uniqueness of the social therapeutic approach and its applicability in a wide variety of institutional settings.

**\*\*\* Third "I Hate Math" Workshop Attracts Math Phobic  
and Lovers of Math \*\*\***

On October 17, an impassioned grouping of math teachers, teacher educators and math students attended the third in a series of popular "I Hate Math!" workshops. Led by Manhattan Social Therapy Group director Matt Lundquist, Lois Holzman and visiting UK math educator Mike Askew, the group created a playful environment in which people with very different relationships to math could impact and learn from one another.

**\*\*\* Social Therapeutics as Method \*\*\***

Conversing across six time zones, 26 students -- including 13 members of The International Class - recently completed a four-week online seminar led by Lois Holzman. Students grappled with the methodological underpinnings of the social therapeutic approach, its challenges to the foundations of contemporary psychology, psychotherapy and education, and its relevance to their work as practitioners and researchers.

**\*\*\* Play, Performance, and Improvisation Throughout  
the Lifespan \*\*\***

On November 30, Carrie Lobman, co-author of [Unscripted Learning](#), kicked off a four-week online seminar with a diverse grouping of 21 students - united by their interest in the interrelationship of play, performance and development. Students include members of the [Interplay](#) community in Nashville, TN, a member of the Azerbaijan Psychological Association, a youth coordinator from NYC's Middle Collegiate Church, a design director at an executive leadership firm, and a TESOL teacher from Michigan's Wright State University.

### **FUNDRAISING**

\*\*\* Brooklyn Social Therapy Group Hosts Pot-Luck Fundraiser \*\*\*

Led by educator Joan Mahon Powell, the Brooklyn Social Therapy Group in Fort Greene, Brooklyn raised \$2,100 on September 15 at a community pot-luck dinner, billed as a "Taste of Development." Proceeds helped to underwrite scholarships for international participants to Performing the World 4.

\*\*\*Community Meeting and Fundraiser Raises \$27,000\*\*\*

The Institute organized a special fundraising event and community meeting on November 11 at which 70 supporters pledged \$27,000 to help sustain the Institute's international work. Co-founders Fred Newman and Lois Holzman were joined by developmental psychologist Lenora Fulani in discussing the impact of the Institute's paradigm-shifting methodological approach, the development of Fulani's "Cops and Kids" program, and the growth of the performance movement internationally.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

The Institute celebrated the publication of International Class member Kim Sabo Flores's new book, [Youth Participatory Evaluation: Strategies for](#)

[Engaging Young People](#), at a book signing and reception on November 16 attended by 40 friends and colleagues. The book is both a step-by-step guide to engaging youth in program evaluation and a much-needed theoretical framework - play, performance and development - for this growing field.

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## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

### DECEMBER

Friday, November 30 - December 24 (four weeks)

"Play, Performance and Improvisation"

Online seminar with Carrie Lobman

Monday, December 10

Learning Group with Lois Holzman

7:00-8:30 PM

Saturday, December 15

Developing Teachers Fellowship Program

Workshop

## **2008**

### JANUARY

Monday, January 7

Learning Group with Lois Holzman

7:00-8:30 PM

Friday, January 11 - Monday, February 18 (five weeks)

"Dialogues on and for Development"

Online Seminar with Lois Holzman

Saturday, January 12

Developing Teachers Fellowship Program

Workshop

Saturday, January 26

Deadline for GroupWorks applications

Saturday, January 26

Developing Teachers Fellowship Program  
Workshop

FEBRUARY

Monday, February 4  
Learning Group with Lois Holzman  
7:00-8:30 PM

Saturday, February 9  
Developing Teachers Fellowship Program  
Workshop

Saturday, February 23 - Friday, February 29  
International Class Residency #2

MARCH

Saturday, March 1  
Developing Teachers Fellowship Program  
Workshop

Monday, March 3  
Learning Group with Lois Holzman  
7:00-8:30 PM

Friday, March 7 - Monday, March 31  
"Philosophy for Activists"  
Online seminar with Chris Helm

Saturday, March 15  
Developing Teachers Fellowship Program  
Workshop

Sunday, March 16

Fred Newman seminar  
2:30-4:00 PM

Saturday, March 29  
Developing Teachers Fellowship Program  
Workshop

APRIL

Friday, April 4 - Monday, April 28 (4 weeks)

"Creating and Working with Groups"  
Online Seminar with Barbara Silverman

Saturday, April 12  
Introduction to Social Therapy  
Workshop with Christine La Cerva and Lois Holzman

Saturday, April 12  
Developing Teachers Fellowship Program  
Workshop

MAY

Thursday, May 1  
Deadline for Applications  
Developing Teachers Fellowship Program

Friday, May 2 - Monday, May 26 (4 weeks)  
"Developing Communities"  
Online seminar with Esther Farmer

Saturday & Sunday, May 3-4  
Advanced Clinical Intensive Weekend Training for  
practicing social therapists

Saturday, May 3  
Developing Teachers Fellowship Program  
Workshop

Saturday, May 17  
Developing Teachers Fellowship Program  
Workshop

Saturday, May 31  
Developing Teachers Fellowship Program  
Workshop

JUNE

Monday-Saturday, June 2-14  
The International Class Residency #3

Saturday, June 14  
Developing Teachers Fellowship Program Workshop

Saturday, June 14

Graduation

The International Class 2007 / 2008 & Therapist  
Training Program

JULY

Thursday, July 31

Deadline for Applications

The International Class 2008 /2009

OCTOBER

Thursday, October 2 AND Sunday, October 5

Advanced Clinical Intensive Weekend Training for  
practicing social therapists

Thursday - Sunday, October 2-5

Performing the World '08 New York City

Saturday, October 18

"Introduction to Social Therapy"

Workshop with Christine La Cerva & Lois Holzman

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter,  
please notify Melissa Meyer,  
[mmeyer@eastsideinstitute.org](mailto:mmeyer@eastsideinstitute.org).