

## PERFORMANCE OF A NEWSLETTER

The Online Monthly Newsletter of the East Side Institute

Issue #33, July/August 2007

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Psychology News to Inspire and Use

Edited by Jan Wootten and Melissa Meyer

## SCENE AND HEARD

We're babbling in math!

-- "I Hate Math!" workshop participant.

## CONFERENCES

\*\*\* Cops & Kids in New York \*\*\*

On June 20, Institute director Lois Holzman spoke at "The Police and Our Young People: What is their Relationship?," a conference sponsored by the All Stars Project at its performing arts and education center in Manhattan. The 100+ attendees (educators, young people, civic leaders and law enforcement officers) explored the tense relationship between police and inner-city youth from several critical vantage points.

Joining Holzman were presenters Dr. Kwame Anthony Appiah, professor of philosophy at Princeton University; Assistant Chief Raymond Diaz of the NYPD; and Dr. Lenora Fulani, co-founder of "Operation Conversation: Cops and Kids."

All Stars president Gabrielle L. Kurlander and Dr. Omar Ali, assistant professor at Towson University, moderated the conference.

In her talk entitled [Cops, Kids and Culture](#), Holzman addressed the relationship of cops and kids from a human development perspective - sharing discoveries happening outside of mainstream psychology and youth development theory. She introduced the audience to an activity-theoretic look at how kids and cops create their relationships with one another, and how, through new performances (some as "simple" as a polite greeting), they can create a new culture that is more positive, humane and developmental.

\*\*\* Transformational Social Work, Maine \*\*\*

On August 3-5, more than 50 social workers - many identified as postmodernist in their orientation and practicing with a cultural / performatory approach -- gathered for the "Improvisation for Lasting Change" conference at the University of Maine in Orono. The inaugural event was co-sponsored by a consortium of organizations that included the Departments of Social Work at the University of New England, the University of Maine,

the University of Southern Maine, the University of Alaska and Clark Atlanta University, and the East Side Institute. At the opening plenary, Clay Graybeal, a professor at the University of New England School of Social Work in Portland, Maine, presented on the "Evidence for the Art of Social Work."

Murray Dabby, director of the Atlanta Center for Social Therapy, and Evelyn Dougherty, director of the Boston Center, reported on their work with the All Stars Project - "Building Youth Development Programs from the Bottom Up." Institute and Hunter School of Social Work faculty member Nancy Feldman discussed "Role, Relationship and Responsibility in the Social Work Classroom." Diane Holliman, Associate Professor of Psychology at Valdosta University, and colleague Halim Faisal, presented on "Ethics as Activity."

Institute faculty and youth developmentalist Barbara Silverman discussed the controversy surrounding her in-school practice at Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn: "When The Going Gets Tough the Tough Keep Creating."

### \*\*\* Developmental Learning in South Africa \*\*\*

Institute faculty member, Chris Helm, along with nearly 800 educators from 61 countries, participated in the 14th Annual Learning Conference, in Johannesburg, South Africa, June 26-29. Co-sponsored by the University of Witwatersrand and the University of Illinois, the conference featured a special keynote presentation by Graca Machel (Nelson Mandela's wife and the former Minister of Education in Mozambique), who discussed the importance of education in South Africa's emerging democracy. Chris spoke on the subject of "Improvisational Teaching for Developmental Learning," arguing that learning worthy of the name (echoing Lev Vygotsky) is learning that leads development.

### \*\*\* Youth Development at National School-Based Health Care Conference in D.C. \*\*\*

Institute faculty member Barbara Silverman was a presenter at the National Assembly for School-Based Health Care Conference (NASBHC) in Washington, D.C., June 27-30, attended by 200 practitioners, program administrators, health and mental health professionals in the field of school mental health. Silverman, who founded the "Let's Talk About It" program and directs mental health services at Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn, discussed "Young People as Partners in Creating Their Mental Health Program," and her practice of relating to young people as active choice-makers in their lives.

### \*\*\* Environmental Design in Michigan \*\*\*

Lois Holzman was featured at the "New Directions: Affecting Thought and Changing Minds Symposium" at the Cranbrook Academy of Arts in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, August 9-11. The yearly event, sponsored by the Society of Environmental Graphic Design, brings together architects and designers to share and develop new directions in

exhibit and environment design. As guest presenter, Lois led an experiential workshop on developmental performatory learning for the 40 participants.

## TRAINING

\*\*\* Developing Teachers Class of 2008 Selected \*\*\*

In July and August, Carrie Lobman completed interviews with applicants for the second year of the Developing Teachers Fellowship program. Twelve teachers, from pre-school through high school, have been chosen. They will begin their studies with a half-day orientation on August 28.

## CLASSES / WORKSHOPS / SPECIAL EVENTS

\*\*\* Creating New Physical Performances \*\*\*

Tom Vasiliades, director of the [Alexander Technique Center for Performance and Development](#), and Social Therapy Group staff therapist, Nancy Green, led a workshop with 25 participants on Saturday, June 30, on "Creating New Physical Performances."

"My Alexander students often have emotional experiences," Tom related to Nancy in an opening conversation about his history as a body therapist. "I wanted to be able to do more with them therapeutically in those moments. So I trained as a social therapist." In the course of the workshop, Vasiliades worked hands-on making postural adjustments on a few of the attendees to demonstrate the approach.

\*\*\* "I Hate Math!" \*\*\*

On Wednesday, August 15, Manhattan Social Therapy Group director Matt Lundquist, visiting math educator and author of Teaching Primary Mathematics, Mike Askew, and Lois Holzman led an interactive workshop, entitled (aptly), "I Hate Math!" And while all 22 math educators, teacher educators and others in attendance did not personally hate it, those who didn't all had students who were stymied by their fear and hatred of the subject.

"We created an environment where we can babble math," said Lundquist, "and colleagues are appreciating how important that can be in the classroom." Matt is co-author with Carrie Lobman of [Unscripted Learning: Using Improv Activities in the K-8 Classroom](#).

## FUNDRAISING

Let's Develop (One Party at a Time)!

### \*\*\* Boston Brunch \*\*\*

Raquell Holmes, a co-founder of the Boston All Stars Project, and assistant professor in the Center for Computational Science at Boston University, and Evelyn Dougherty, director of the Boston Center for Social Therapy, hosted an Institute fundraiser at Raquell's home, which was attended by 10 people. Guests (including a number of non-profit professionals and health care providers) were introduced to the Institute and the upcoming Performing the World 4 Conference. The event raised \$300.00.

### \*\*\* Atlanta Mixer \*\*\*

A second fundraising party in Atlanta, hosted by Murray Dabby and Rachelle Moore, director and assistant director of the Atlanta Center for Social Therapy, raised \$800 for the Institute and the Performing the World 4 scholarship program. Institute staff member and internist Susan Massad, visiting in Atlanta, introduced the Institute to guests, who included several corporate executives and a software developer. Laurent Dittman, one of the leaders of The International Community School in Decatur, Georgia (who will be presenting the school's work at PTW4) discussed the school's performatory programs for refugee children.

### \*\*\* Save the Date, Psych Out 2008 \*\*\*

The seventh annual Psych Out Awards will be held Sunday, February 10, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Battery Gardens Restaurant in Battery Park City, Manhattan. Nominations are now being accepted. The Institute established these awards in 2002 to recognize colleagues throughout the US and internationally who are working to support people to learn, develop and create change in their lives and their communities. The event is also a benefit to support the Institute's cutting edge training and development programs.

## PUBLICATIONS

Educational consultants and Institute staff members Gwen Lowenheim and Joan Mahon-Powell, have introduced [Unscripted Learning: Using Improv Activities in the K-8 Classroom](#), (Carrie Lobman and Matt Lundquist's new book), to elementary and middle school teachers at PS/IS 327 and PS/IS 323 in Brooklyn. Twenty teachers purchased copies of the book, which will serve as a resource handbook for their improvised classroom activities. Unscripted Learning can now be purchased in bulk by NYC school administrators from the NYC Department of Education "Famis" website <https://dfiforms.nycenet.edu/ecatalog/>.

## ONLINE

"How Much of a Loss Is the Loss of Self?"

If you haven't read it, Holzman's talk [How Much of a Loss Is the Loss of Self? Understanding Vygotsky from a Social Therapeutic Perspective and Vice Versa](#) is a must read. She presented a version of this presentation at the "Language Dynamics and the Phenomenology of Individual Experience," Symposium of the Distributed Language Group, Agder University College in Grimstad Norway in May.

West Coast Center for Life Performance Coaching director, Joyce Dattner, wrote in to say: "This paper is a terrific, accessible history of the development, practice and conceptual breakthroughs of social therapy."

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### AUGUST

Monday, August 20, 6:30-8:00pm  
Learning Group with Lois Holzman  
East Side Institute, NYC

Tuesday, August 28, 10:00am-2:00pm  
Orientation: Developing Teachers Fellowship Program  
Carrie Lobman and Lois Holzman  
East Side Institute, NYC

### SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 10, 6:30-8:00pm  
Learning Group with Lois Holzman  
East Side Institute, NYC

Saturday, September 15, 10:00am-2:00pm  
Introduction to Social Therapy  
Christine La Cerva and Lois Holzman  
East Side Institute, NYC

### OCTOBER

Friday-Sunday, October 12-14  
Performing the World 4: The Performance of Community and the Community of Performance  
Conveners: Dan Friedman, Lois Holzman, Sheila McNamee, Fred Newman  
Tarrytown House, Tarrytown, NY

Tuesday-Saturday, October 16-20  
The International Class  
Residency 1  
East Side Institute, NYC

## FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 10  
Seventh Annual Psych Out Awards  
Battery Park Restaurant, Manhattan, NY

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please notify Melissa Meyer,  
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