

SPECIAL SECTION

This section has been added to encourage publications by individuals who are just beginning to write for journals. We hope that this will encourage some who are more hesitant to submit for publication to send materials. The section is primarily intended to encourage students and practitioners to submit their works.

Additionally, this section has been added with the intention of encouraging responses to articles and transcripts published in previous editions. It has also been added to encourage individuals to submit scholarly reflections of their experiences at person-centered and client-centered workshops and training programs. It is the Association's intention to create an interactive journal promoting further development and growth in client-centered therapy and the person-centered approach.

ONE PERSON'S RESPONSE TO THE SURVEY REPORT FROM THE 1996 PERSON-CENTERED CONFERENCE AT WARM SPRINGS, GEORGIA

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In response to an essay about the Person-Centered Conference in Warm Springs, Georgia (Altschul & Steadman, 1996), I accept the invitation to construct my perception of one of the community meetings. The journal's inclusion of poetry in psychotherapy (Klein, 1996) demonstrated usefulness of poems for communicating experience in a variety of settings. Thus, inspired by Klein's article, I, too, select poetic form for creative expression to discuss the Warm Springs Conference. I look forward to additional qualitative responses from others whose views will enlarge our collective narrative and perhaps contribute another dimension to the reported conference survey (Holloman & Morrison, 1996).

REFLECTIONS ON A COMMUNITY MEETING

Vulnerable, that's how I felt,
 Reluctant to join this "inner circle" of Rogerians.
How my spirit quaked with the uncertainty of newness.
 Could this experience indeed be "good" for me?

The conference had begun, and I, in my need for
 Separateness or attention, chose to arrive after others
Who came days before.
 My lateness helped me feel simultaneously "special"
and "different."

 If I didn't understand,
If I couldn't participate,
 Now I had an excuse.
Yet, some inner urging wouldn't let me be silent.
 Some passion demanded a voice.

Before I had time to reconsider,
Words tumbled out and were met with disbelief by my self.
My frenzied attempts at communication,
Garbled so they seemed to me,
Were met with humor, interest, questions,
As well as tears and thoughtful silence.

The community meeting was a place of growth, excitement, and
Personal freedom. I emerged a more humble, yet self-aware
Individual, aspiring to return a measure of the energy experienced
As compassion so freely given to me.

REFERENCES

- Altschul, D.B. (1997). A person-centered journey to Warm Springs. *The Person-Centered Journal*, 3(1), 70-71.
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- Klein, A. (1996). The use of poems of the psychotherapist in psychotherapy. *The Person-Centered Journal*, 3(1), 4-11.

Policy Statement

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