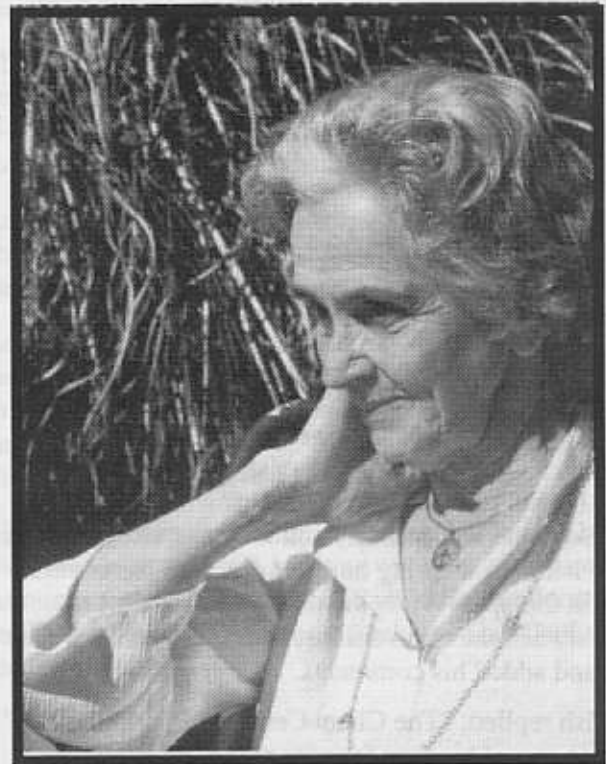
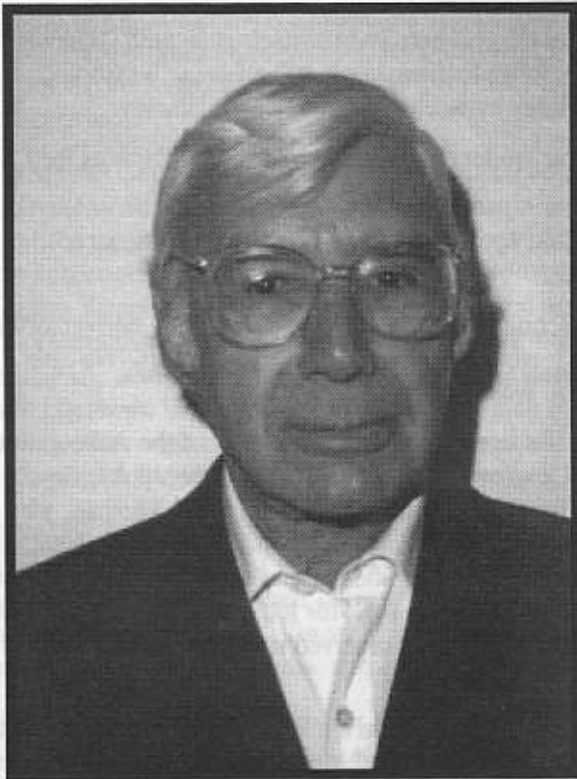


RENAISSANCE

Newsletter of the Association for the Development of the Person-Centered Approach Volume 19, Number 1, Winter, 2002



When John Shlien died, I lost a loyal and honest friend, as did many others. He was constant in his caring, even when he disagreed or disapproved in his own inexorably congruent way. John had a superior intellect that was matched by his empathic perceptiveness in his relationships. With these qualities, he advanced the theory, research, and practice of client-centered therapy.

As a philosopher-theorist, he articulated the phenomenological basis of client-centered theory, critiqued the psychoanalytic concept of transference, developed a theory of empathy, and formulated a psychology of secrecy. As a researcher, he showed the effect of time limits in accelerating the therapeutic process. He was a master therapist who taught and supervised many students of counseling and psychotherapy. John was committed to social justice. He founded a doctoral program in the public practice of clinical psychology that was dedicated to this purpose. John loved children. He founded a therapeutic school for disturbed and delinquent adolescents, forming nurturant, enduring relationships with many of them.

John's spirit lives on in me, as I believe it does in many others.

Neill Watson

(See more about John Shlien on page 19)

Ruth Sanford, Educator, Counselor, Therapist, Carl Rogers' colleague, and Extraordinary Practitioner of the Person-Centered Approach

Ed Bodfish and Nat Raskin

The Mother of the Person-Centered Approach practiced the Person-Centered Approach all her life from her first job as an English teacher, as a counselor, as a wife and mother, as an administrator, in her Experimental Program in education, in her community work and writing, as a therapist and in the last 29 years within the Person-Centered movement.

Ruth passed away suddenly of heart failure about 11:10 PM Wednesday, November 28. She was 29 days short of her 95th birthday. She was born in Warren, PA, December 26, 1906. She wished to live only so long as she was fully alive. She spent some of her childhood years on a farm in Jamestown, NY and others in the town. Her father, Eldon, gave her the unconditional love that allowed her to develop in many directions. Her

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I thought I should post this account of the memorial for Ruth held at her home at her traditional Christmas Party during the week between her birthday and New Year's.

Ed Bodfish

Ruth Sanford Memorial

Sharon Beers began by remembering Ruth's mother chasing Susie, their dog, who was always looking for her first masters.

Mei Mei Sanford went on to describe her grandmother who went back to school to get her license to teach. She was able to say, "With one exception there was not a child I could not only teach to read, but to love to read".

Jan Harman spoke of the article she wrote with Carl Rogers on "Client-Centered Psychotherapy" in the standard "Textbook of Psychiatry", edited by B. Kaplan and M. Saddock. Carl asked her to revise the text of his article, but she did not have good relations with the original article. So while she dutifully edited it, she also wrote an article of her own drawing on her work with her clients/partners in therapy. When the time came for Carl to choose between the two versions, he chose Ruth's as the fresher, and added his comments.

Ed Bodfish replied, "The Client-Centered Psychotherapy" article was one of his four favorite pieces by Ruth. He said it was a dialogue, one of their best. They had many good dialogues, some of which were taped, as in South Africa and the Soviet Union.

Ede Rothaus spoke about how good it felt to have Ruth call her, and for her to call Ruth, just as a friend.

Arden Benvenuto spoke about how Ruth interviewed her for Ruth's newspaper column, about her and her husband's experiences in Iran in 1978 during the student demonstrations against the Shah and the rise of the Ayatollah Khomeini. She said she did a good job of writing it up.

Ruth Klein spoke about being with Ruth the night before she died when Ruth said to Mei Mei, "I didn't know you loved me so much!".

Then Mei Mei was asked about the PhD award that had been framed for Christmas. She told about the tradition of the Beit Din that allows three rabbis/judges to create a fourth. She then explained how three women PhDs got together to make the presentation along with a fourth as Marshall and that it was not an honorary PhD but a real PhD.

Mei Mei said Ruth had a choice of going back to school and getting her PhD or doing research. She chose the latter doing research on a project which became the thorough paper including statistics, "Creativity and Intell-

gence", which studied IQ, [grades], and creativity, using the creativity studies of the 50's and 60's. She found different kinds of intelligence not equally well served. How could creativity be encouraged? She put together the Experimental Program to realize creativity for all the students and the teachers and counselors as well. They had an open, loose leaf textbook, "The Living Textbook", with articles by Rachel Carson, Loren Eiseley, ...

It was the student's, to add to or subtract from as they wished.

Ruth Klein spoke about how Ruth helped one to take care of oneself.

Penny Schneier affirmed this of their many conversations and her husband, Ephraim, expanded on this. He also said there was a time for letting go.

Ed told the story of how, at a meeting of the Association for the Development of the Person-Centered Approach, one of the elders of the community, Jules Seeman, who was about to present, dropped a sheet of paper. Ruth, with help, happened to be the one to pick it up and return it, saying, "There is a time for letting go". To which Jules instantly replied as he received it, "And a time for taking hold".

Ruth Klein, looking at an empty dress of Ruth's, said, "I don't see her body but I think of Ruth as a person primarily of spirit. And her spirit is still with us.

Jan spoke of her self-composed epitaph, "She laughed, she loved, she listened, and she did what she could".

Jan said he thought of her as a Bodhisattva, someone who has done so much good that they have earned the right to nirvana, to escape the wheel of rebirths, but remain in the world until everyone can achieve nirvana. He and Ruth Klein discussed Buddhist lore such as how long a soul would remain on earth (as long as 49 days).

Jan spoke of the work in South Africa and its importance.

Ed said he'd been reading Ruth's columns, the ones he had not read before. He said they helped him a lot, including to understand the work she did in the 70's. He thought the columns written from 1977-81 and the work on the Merrick Road Project went together, that her committee's ability to convince county engineers that they cared, that they really cared enough, was what led the engineers to arrange with the electrical and phone companies to place their wires in back of the commercial buildings along the main street, giving room to plant Calgary pear trees that were especially beautiful in spring and fall. The practice of planting pear trees was taken up in many neighboring towns in Long Island. The ability to show

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people she cared, she really cared, was very important in her work with Carl.

Carl said in the South African journals that people valued him for the workshops and the later write-ups but that they loved Ruth. She was the one they felt they could approach.

Jin Wu, who came from Chicago with her sister Mei Wu, spoke of first seeing Ruth at the Evanston Association for the Development of the Person-Centered Approach conference. She first actually talked with her at the Tampa ADPCA conference during and after Jin's presentation on China and the treatment of the mentally ill. She had so much material that we needed to talk afterward to assimilate the parts for which there hadn't been enough time. Afterwards they had a long and deep correspondence which they both enjoyed.

Ed recalled Jin's Tampa talk and spoke of how Jin helped to tape Ruth's first Forum where Ruth invited everyone to speak about their current work or whatever they wished to share. Jin went on to help Ruth in many ways with tapes, videos, and photos

Mei Wu spoke of meeting Ruth at the 1999 Experiencing Diversity. She realized how much Ruth understood and contributed, but what most impressed her was when Ruth cried, saying, "I can't see you, and I want to see you!", and she realized how strong her drive was to know more, with all she knew, about the persons there.

Ed read a poem of Ruth's written after Carl's death, "A Letter Written Too Late". He said he couldn't help changing the snowdrops and daffodils to the asters that bloomed after Ruth's death.

Yvette LeBow read the poem, "Ruth, by Armin Klein that was a reply to "A Letter Written Too Late".

Joe Hochberg spoke about how a Cross-Cultural conference in Szeged, Hungary with Carl and Ruth changed his life. A translator had been criticized for taking part in the meeting rather than just translating. Joe sympathized with the translator but felt it to be a lost cause. On a later day Carl and Ruth returned to the translator and helped him to feel like a member of the group.

Ed told of a similar experience with Irina, a female translator and very capable person, who, invited to participate in Tbilisi, Georgia after taking care of many things in Moscow, lifted her arms at the end of

the workshop and said, "Hello, Irina!" She later said that had been a very significant workshop for her.

Walter Beers spoke of the strong support Ruth gave her trees and the other trees in the community.

Max Klein, Ruth's sister, spoke of how she had an experience of Ruth at last year's Christmas party as being Light, all Light. She saw an aura around Ruth and the figure of a pregnant person.

Lewis Gover read an email from Martine Leonard, Ruth's dear French friend that said, "Such a beauty passes from this world!"

Lewis spoke of sitting by Ruth's bedside on one of the last nights. He was holding Ruth's hand. She seemed to be sleeping. Then she raised his hands to her lips and kissed them. He said, "That will stay with me for the rest of my life!"

Shaila Serpas spoke of Ruth's helping her when she was a teenager and still working out what she wanted. At one point she felt that even Ruth didn't understand and rushed out. But she came back and Ruth had written a poem that began ...

*I cannot always go
where you would go*

and ended ...

*I can but reach my hand
across the chasm
of our separateness
and share in my own way
The heaviness you bear
The loneliness
and say with all my heart,
I care!*

Their friendship was renewed and has lasted through the decades.

The ninth annual **Experiencing Diversity**
workshop will take place on
Friday through Sunday,
October 11-13, 2002
in Hebron, Connecticut, USA.

Further information may be obtained
from the following:

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<http://home.earthlink.net/~jzok/index.html>.

From: Françoise Ducroux Biass

Subject: ADPCA 2003

To all who may wish to participate in the 2003 ADPCA annual meeting.

Many of you may have been worrying about lack of news regarding this forthcoming event. In Manchester it was decided that the conference would take place in the Toulouse area, and this still holds.

However, you may know, or you don't that **10 days AFTER September 11**, on September 21 to be more precise, Toulouse was shattered by an enormous explosion, being responsible for countless death casualties and roofless not to say jobless people. A whole district of the town has been destroyed and the Toulouse-Le Mirail University was very badly hit. I think that the horror of the situation in New York did not make room for what happened in Toulouse, a town that maybe does not speak to many of you.

Well, it may be speaking to those who were in Manchester and this is why I take the liberty to let you know of the situation. Sebastien and Valérie DAIX and myself have been very active in our search for a place which might be hosting the conference. We were met by innumerable sighs of hopelessness and sometimes of irritation, something which after all and given the circumstances is understandable....

until we were told that the town of **ALBI** - some 45 miles Northeast of Toulouse - would be delighted to welcome our 4 days conference (24-27 July) with a touristic programme to follow for those wishing to take part in it.

Being from the North rather from the South I am not always in love with Southern spots. But I must say that I fell under the charm of this historic city, with an out-of-this-world cathedral and the Toulouse Lautrec painting museum, not to speak of the embankments of the river Tarn which sometimes remind me some of the river Arno in Florence, nor of the beauty of the countryside full of history (did you ever hear of the Albigeois and the Catharres?).

Sébastien and Valérie Daix are intensely working on the project and Sébastien will let you more about it as soon as we have more concrete details.

Françoise

Third World Conference for Psychotherapy July 14-18, 2002 in Vienna.

From: Elisabeth Zinschitz

Subject: 3rd WCP, 100th birthday Carl Rogers

I would like to give you the Internet address of the Third World Conference for Psychotherapy which will take place July 14-18, 2002 in Vienna. This time an important part of the conference will be dedicated to the celebration of Carl Rogers' birthday. There will be seven person-centred keynote speakers

Howard Kirschenbaum,
Maureen O' Hara,
Dave Mearns,
Peter Schmid,
Wolfgang Keil,
Ute Binder,
Germain Lietaer

and a subsymposium with many other speakers. Two colleagues of mine and I are organising the person-centred part of the conference.

The website is updated regularly:
www.worldpsyche.org/english

love,
Elisabeth

On Congruent Communication

To my knowledge, John Shlien was the only person to complain about Renaissance in the three years of my being editor. He said that as an organization we are at the mercy of our volunteers. He didn't like so many pictures. He thought it looked too much like the Police Gazette, he said. And the paper on which it was printed should be white.

Now, I know that a couple of dozen of you readers do like the pictures, because you have told me, and maybe you also like the Gazette look. I can't be too sure, since I don't know what that particular publication looks like.

Most of you have kept your opinions to yourself, and I can't be sure which side you would come down on, so I won't accommodate all of John's suggestions.

But now you know why this particular issue is printed on white paper.

John, tears moisten my eyes as I realize how much I miss you..

Paul B