

Of Special Interest

CALL FOR PAPERS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CEU LECTURES

COMMUNITY SERVICE

AWARDS

Is this the last of LAGPA? YOU ALL DESERVE AN EXPLANATION!

We know that this edition of the "Progress Notes" is the first you have heard from LAGPA since the membership renewal letters many months ago. And, it may be one of the last things you hear from LAGPA.

It has been a series of unfortunate events and internal conflicts that has delayed board elections, the Fall Social, and the Fall Educational Forums, not to mention any editions of the "Progress Notes."

We want you to know fully what has happened and where LAGPA stands as an organization right now:

1. Financially, LAGPA is in good shape with money in the bank to cover the expenses for the rest of the year's events, including the June Conference, if any of it takes place.
2. Speaking of the June conference, the theme this year was to be "Sexuality, Spirituality and Community." You will see in this PN a call for presenters and sponsors and that LA Councilman Bill Rosendahl has agreed to be our keynote speaker.
3. You will see in this edition, a schedule for CEU Educational Forums. We wanted to have a few extra ones this Spring to make up for the lack of them last Fall. If you have something you would like to present, let us know, in case we still present the Forums.
4. The board elections will take place only if there are any response or reaction to the closing

down of LAGPA. There have been only 3 members identified to be on the board; Jim Michael continuing as President, Stuart Altschuler has agreed to return to the board, and Jeff Brosnan. But now that is two board members since Jeff Brosnan has resigned due to commitment conflicts. The by-laws do allow for the board to function as long as there are at least 3 members, although this is not optimal for the effective functioning of the board.

5. Now as to why some of the delays have occurred: First, there was difficulty getting last year's executive committee to make the transition and turn over the materials and documents to the new president. There was also a delay getting the financial accounts turned over to the new Administrator. Second, as to the new Administrator, last year's board had voted to hire a new administrator to replace our long-time and knowledgeable one, Chuck Stewart. Since Chuck knew all the policies and procedures and could have streamlined the transition for the new board, members of the past Executive Committee of the Board refused to make the transition unless Chuck was fired and Blake Bunting was hired, as was previously voted by the board. Despite the fact that we were already behind in the year's usual timeline, the

standoff made it necessary to do this. This was against the wishes of the remaining board and even against the advice of Stuart Altschuler who has more experience with the board and LAGPA's functioning than any of us. His points were simple, Chuck offered continuity to help the new board, he had the knowledge and capability (often previously proven) to handle the financial accounts, scheduling of activities and the steps needed to achieve each one of them and the motivation to stay on the job and help LAGPA in this transition.

We hired Blake Bunting, who had been interviewed by the previous Executive Committee and approved. He was faced with dealing with a near impossible learning curve to handle all of our needs and no one with the knowledge or time to train him. He did not have all of the necessary software and had a lot to learn in understanding the Quickbooks accounts and our procedures in handling our finances. Then he was totally overwhelmed when his computer crashed and he and LAGPA were without his ability to get the work done despite over a month of promises that he would be up and running soon.

Needless to say, this was an avoidable fiasco that set us back months. This is a large part of why we are finally

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The Last of LAGPA (con't)

moving forward again with our services and purpose. Oh, and did I tell you that we hired back Chuck Stewart, who immediately started getting the Progress Notes together, and organizing time lines for the other events that are coming up.

6. It has been said before, but this may really be LAGPA's last year in existence. Without board members in greater numbers, we cannot function. This is a reality, not a guilt trip. You all need to decide if this is an organization that means something to you or if you feel that it is not necessary for the community to have a visible group advocating

for the mental health and well-being of GLBT's in Southern California. If you would not miss the forums for networking and support, then maybe it is time to let LAGPA fold. If you do not believe that we serve an important and necessary purpose in Southern California then maybe LAGPA is no longer a necessary entity and it is time to let it fold. The current board is willing work to move forward through the June Conference (assuming we get some volunteers from the ranks of our membership).

If by March 30, 2006, it is clear that there is not enough interest from you,

the members, then there are procedures in the by-laws to shut down operations, what to do with assets, and the legal steps we would need to take concerning our status with state and federal agencies.

I believe a vote of the membership would be necessary for this to take place so you will be a part of that decision.

Again, apologies from the Board of Directors for the lack of services and visibility of LAGPA for many months.

Written by:
Jim Michael, MFT Intern
Stuart Altschuler, MFT
•

Betty Berzon, writer and therapist, dies



By Jen Christensen
PlanetOut Network

published Tuesday, January 24, 2006

Pioneering psychotherapist and writer Betty Berzon died Tuesday at her home in Los Angeles. She was 78 years old.

Berzon had been sick with cancer, but still continued to see patients and write while undergoing chemotherapy.

Her desire to continue work while sick seemed like classic Berzon persistence. She was known for turning one of the lowest points of her life into her life's direction. During her early adult years, she had been hospitalized after trying to kill herself, in part because she struggled with her sexual orientation. During her recovery, doctors encouraged her to become a psychotherapist. She went on to become one of our community's best-known, with

a gift for helping gay people come to terms with their true selves and with each other.

In her autobiography, "Surviving Madness: a Therapist's Own Story," she wrote that at the time she tried to kill herself she felt like a true outsider in life. "I punished myself in the mirror of society's image of me," she wrote. "They were, in fact, right, I thought. I was all wrong for this world." Later in her book, she said she realized that being different actually gave her life potency

and meaning.

That realization led her to help countless other people in the gay community. She was one of the founding board members for the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center in 1971. Berzon also founded a group called Southern California Women for Understanding, and she was a co-founder of the National Gay Academic Union. She was a regular PlanetOut advice columnist and authored five books. She is survived by her life partner, Terry DeCrescenzo. •

*"I punished myself in
the mirror of society's
image of me*

Cindie Henrie, LMFT (323) 829-3548
Psychotherapist *Lic. #41617*

**Play, Art & Sandtray Therapies
for Kids, Teens & Adults**

Website: Therapist4me.com
E-Mail: CHenrie@Therapist4me.com

Community Service Awards 2005

**This will be canceled in 2006
if no one joins the board!**

LAGPA celebrated its Sixth Annual Community Service Awards on Sunday, September 25, 2005. It was a fun-filled and touching evening.

This year's Community Service Awards were given to Stuart Altschuler, MFT and Bethany Marshall, Psy.D. Stuart is a past president of LAGPA besides hosting a groundbreaking AM Radio Talk Show, Pioneering AIDS

Activist, Founder of International AIDS Project, and Founding Executive Director of the L Center for Living. Bethany is a very visible and effective media figure on issues relevant to the LGBT community. She is a relationship columnist for IN LOS ANGELES Magazine, psychology commentator for CNN's "The Nancy Grace Show," and other national TV shows.

This year we also gave awards to individuals who are not mental health professionals but have shown their support for improving the mental, emotional and psychological well being of LGBT community. Margaret Cho, Internationally acclaimed lesbian comedian and Dr. Ronni Sanlo, director of the UCLA Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Campus Resource Center, were given the LGBT Community Advocate Award.



Margaret Cho

WE HONOR YOUR

SUPPORT FOR OUR

COMMUNITY

We want to thank all these people for their continued support of the LGBT community. •



Stuart Altschuler, MFT and Jonie Lavick



Ronnie Sanlo, Ph.D.



Bethany Marshall, Psy.D.

Educational Forums for Spring 2006

April 28

The Sheep in Wolf's Clothing

Lecture will define sexual anorexia, describe various forms of Sexual Anorexia, conduct an overview of etiologies, and discuss treatment objectives and types.

Kirsten I. J. Rogoff is affiliated with the CA Assoc of Marriage and Family Therapists, the Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health, The Los Angeles County Bar Association, and the Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society Institute. Her focus is

on sexual addiction and sexual anorexia, as well as personality disorders, mediation, and the creative process in therapy.

May 26

The Effective Use of Ritual to Create Change in the Therapy Room

The class will be devoted to understanding the universal components of ritual and their importance to supporting a healthy sense of self and connection to community. The archetypal stages of a rite of passage will be explored along with the personal and

societal costs when rituals and ritual leaders are not present for society. Dr. Walton will discuss the importance for the presence of ritual leadership for adolescents in their development and will discuss the role of therapist as ritual leader and how to use that role effectively in affecting change in patients.

James E. Walton, Ph.D. holds a doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute and a M.S. in Family Therapy from Phillips Graduate Institute. He's a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in private practice in Sherman Oaks.

Dr. Walton hosts LA's popular weekly psychology radio talk show, "Shrink Rap" on KCSN 88.5 FM and contributes a monthly self-help column in "Thatz Entertainment."

See **Calendar of Events** for times and locations of these lectures. Come early. Get Continuing Education Units.

**These will be canceled
if no one joins the board.
Don't let that happen!**

See what you will be missing if LAGPA folds. Don't let that happen!

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2006

* * Call for Papers * *

Twelfth Annual Convention
Lesbian and Gay Psychotherapy Association of Southern California
Saturday, June 24, 2006
The Wyndham Bel Age Hotel – West Hollywood
Convention Theme: "Sexuality, Spirituality and Community"
Keynote Speaker: Bill Rosendahl, Los Angeles City Councilman

Submission Requirements:

1. Proposals must be submitted using the application on the reverse side (or second page of email), must provide all requested information and original signatures. **Morning programs are two hours long and afternoon programs are one half hours long. Please include four complete unstapled copies.** Proposals that do not follow the application format will be rejected without consideration. No proposals or other materials will be returned. You will be notified of acceptance or rejection via email or letter. No honorarium is provided for convention presenters. Reasonable equipment will be provided if requested in advance.

2. The LAGPA Convention Committee is accepting proposals on Health, Legal and Life Style issues directly related and pertaining to the LGBT Community. This year we are especially looking for programs on HIV among women and minorities, domestic violence prevention, eating disorders, body dysmorphia, relationships, sexual expression, substance compulsions, same sex marriage and depression, to name a few. Proposals will be reviewed by the LAGPA Convention Committee. The committee makes its decision based on the following regulations/guidelines:

- Proposals should reflect intermediate to advanced level of learning;
- Proposal topics should be based upon clearly stated educational goals and objectives;
- Proposals should reflect applicability and relevance to licensed masters or doctoral level psychotherapists in the areas clinical practice, theory, research and methodology;
- Proposals should demonstrate how the presentation will be organized in order to best facilitate the learning process for attendees;
- Proposals should be objective (i.e., not reflecting any commercial views of the provider or presenter or anyone giving financial assistance to the provider or presenter);
- Proposals should be accompanied by a syllabus that contains instructional objectives (5), learning methods (i.e., lecture, slideshow, video, case material, etc.), and summaries of the main points for each topic;
- Proposals should be complete, accurate and timely.
- Proposals should specify if they are for 1-or 2-hour time slots (only 3 two-hour time slots are available and will be assigned at the discretion of the conference committee).

3. Should you require assistance or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact.

4. All proposals must be postmarked no later than **Friday April 14, 2005.**

Please Do Not FAX

For consideration, convention proposals must include:

- Application completed in full
- Maximum of 50 word abstract
- Syllabus
- Vitae of all presenters
- Short 1-2 line bios for all presenters and chairs/moderators
- Signed authorization by all presenters, chairs, and moderators

Mail to:

LAGPA Convention Committee
PO Box 461780
West Hollywood, CA 90046

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY

JUNE 24

**ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

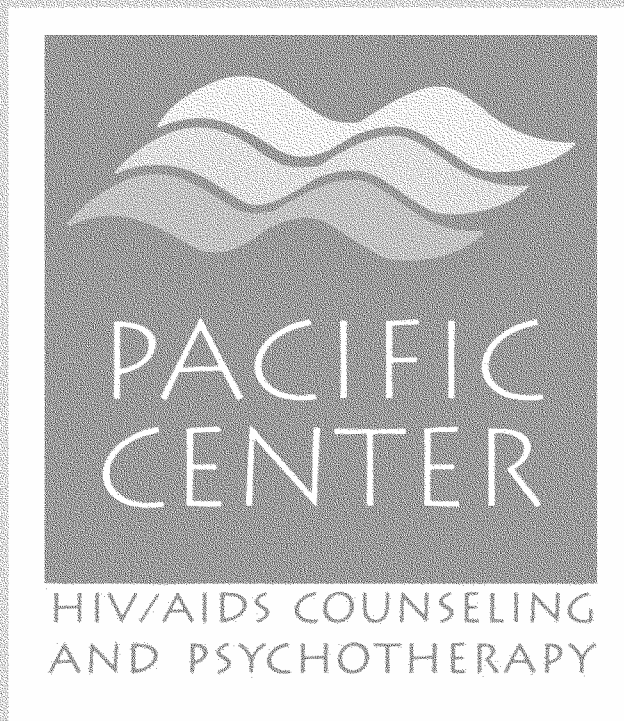
***Sexuality,
Spirituality and
Community***

**Keynote Speaker:
Bill Rosendahl
City Councilman**

**The Wyndham
Bel Age Hotel
West Hollywood**

AIDS Project Los Angeles Pacific Center Program

Volunteer Opportunity



- A chance to be of service and give back
- **You Provide:** pro-bono psychotherapy, to one client, in your private practice office
- **Pacific Center Provides:** Consultation with APLA mental health providers and training on HIV & mental health issues

—free CEUs education

**For information call: 213-201-1621
or visit our website at: www.apla.org**



This advertisement is made possible by a grant of Ryan White Title I Funds from the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS Programs and Policy.

Progress Notes

A quarterly publication of the Lesbian and Gay Psychotherapy Association of Southern California, Inc. a organization dedicated to the promotion of gay, lesbian, and bisexual psychology, by supporting and serving the mental health professionals who work within the gay, lesbian, and bisexual and transgendered community.

Spring 2006

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Chuck Stewart, Ph.D.

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Jim Michael, MA, MFT

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Stuart Altschuler, MFT

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Conference Committee:**Administrative Assistant**

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Box 461780

West Hollywood, CA 90046

www.LAGPA.org

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

THERAPY

Gay Men's Growth Group

This is an ongoing men's group, which focuses on personal issues that lead toward better relationships with oneself and others. This is a group for serious minded men regardless of age, HIV or relationship status. Tuesday/Wednesday night in Studio City. \$35per session. Contact Sandy Kaufman, MFT at 818-761-4200

Mixed Groups

Mixed psychotherapy groups for well functioning men and women with a focus on relationship, intimacy, sexual, family, and career issues. Yalom model. Monday and Wednesday evenings led by Raymond Bakaitis, PhD. For more information, please call 310-841-6870.

Gay Men's Psychotherapy Group

Gay-centered depth-oriented approach. Focus on Gay empowerment, childhood issues, HIV/AIDS/health, addiction recovery, relationship/intimacy, dream work. West Hollywood area. Sliding fee scale available. Please call: Matt Silverstein, MFT, 310-842-6124 (License #MFC38474).

Social Anxiety Group

This group will be making use of the latest empirically validated treatment for social anxiety. The group will be mixed (both gay, lesbian and straight clients) and time limited to 10-12 sessions. Contact Joel Becker 310-858-3831.

Emotional Regulation Skills Group

This group that is based on the work of Marsha Linehan, Ph.D. with patients who have the diagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder. It is appropriate for all clients who have problems in this area, which may include patients in a wide range of disorders including substance abuse, etc. This group is adjunctive and the client must have a primary therapist who will remain in the picture as "therapist of record." Contact Joel Becker 310-858-3831.

EMPLOYMENT

Psychotherapy Bookkeeper Position

Must be able to add existing client files to software program called "Therapist Helper." Call Mike Fatula MFT at 323-876-8861 OR 323-422-9433 business cell phone. (I am live on business cell phone at 5 minutes before any hour 10AM-10PM Mon-Fri).

OFFICE SPACE

Beverly Hills

Large corner office on Beverly Drive, private waiting room. Available Friday, Saturday, or Sunday (\$200 per day/month) and some evenings. Parking included. Rob Kelly, Ph.D. at 310-277-1944.

West Hollywood/San Fernando Valley--

Quiet Garden Courtyard of therapists, designers, and writers near Cedars-Sinai and Thalias. Also office space on Ventura Blvd. near Laurel Canyon (Studio City).

- quiet, garden courtyard; one story building; 24/7 access & AIR
- windowed, private waiting room; sound-proofing & call-light systems
- windowed & skylighted private therapy office
- separate entrance-exit; separate restrooms for clients & therapists
- high vaulted wooden ceiling/new wood window blinds
- utilities included with reasonable rent; private, covered, well-lit parking
- easy canyon access to San Fernando Valley
- recently remodeled to psychotherapy specifications Reasonable rates (utilities included). Call Mike Fatula at 323-876-8861.

Beverly Center

Part-time mornings and Friday-Sunday. Quiet small secured building near Beverly Center, 24/7 access, private climate control, windowed charming comfortable large furnished office, good size for groups, shared waiting room with call light, sound proofed, plenty of parking (free or metered), utility room with fridge, micro, copier, printer, file drawers. Call Steve Kadel 310-228-3676.

West L.A.

Beautifully decorate, windowed, freeway close, handicap access, call lights, separate entrance/exit, security building. Available Thursday and Saturday, all day and evening or for blocks of hours. Contact Renee R. Sperling, LCSW at 310-470-3450.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All Educational Forums are held at:

The Village at Ed Gould Plaza, 1125 N. McCadden Place, Los Angeles, CA 90038

APRIL

• April 28, Friday
7:30 PM – 9:30 PM
Educational Forums: *The Sheep in Wolf's Clothing: Sexual Anorexia* presented by Kirsten Rogoff.

MAY

• May 26, Friday
7:30 PM – 9:30 PM
Educational Forums: *The Effective Use of Ritual to Create Change in the Therapy Room* presented by Dr. James E. Walton.

JUNE

• June 24, 2006
Annual Conference:
"Sexuality, Spirituality and Community," keynote speaker by City Councilman Bill Rosendahl. 6 CEU credits for all licenses.

**See what you will be missing
if no one joins the board?
Don't let that happen!**

NEWSLETTER POLICY

Article Submission

Your articles are welcomed and solicited, and will be published on a space available basis. Please send a copy of your articles which must be typed and double-spaced, to

**LAGPA
Progress Notes
Box 461780
West Hollywood, CA 90046**

You may also email your articles to ckstewar@sbcglobal.net. This newsletter is mailed to each member, and may be made available to non-members by requesting copies either through mail (to the address above), or by calling 310-838-6247.

Publishing Schedule

Advertising and articles are due no later than the following dates:

	Due Date	Pub. Date
Summer	5/15	6/1
Fall	8/15	9/1

Classified Advertisement Rates

Members	FREE
Non-member	\$15.00

Display Advertisement Rates

Size	Member	Non-mem.
1/8 page or business card	\$20.00	\$30.00
1/4 page	\$35.00	\$50.00
1/2 page	\$50.00	\$70.00
Full page	\$75.00	\$100.00

This includes business cards, advertisement for upcoming events you are producing, personal promotion, or anything that you may want members to be aware of.

Mechanicals

Size	
Business Card	3.5" w x 2" h
1/8 page	
Horizontal	3.7" w x 2.37" h
Vertical	1.82" w x 4.8" h
1/4 page	
Horizontal	7.5" w x 2.4" h
Vertical	3.7" w x 4.8" h
1/2 page	
Horizontal	7.5" w x 4.8" h
Vertical	3.7" w x 9.75" h
Full page	7.5" w x 9.75" h

POLICY FOR MAILING LISTS AND FLYERS

LAGPA does not sell or give out its mailing list (in any form) to any person, group or organization. If you would like to send a mailing to the membership you must provide enough copies of the item to be sent folded, stamped and ready to mail. LAGPA will run address labels and place them on the item to be mailed at a board meeting. Therefore, your materials must be received by LAGPA no later than one week prior to the next board meeting as indicated on the web site or in the newsletter, for them to be mailed in a timely fashion. If you want to do a separate mailing you must give us 10 open envelopes with the material you are mailing so we may review it. Rates for this type of service are: members \$125.00 per mailing; non-members \$175.00 per mailing. We strongly suggest you place an ad in the P.N. rather than creating a separate mailing.

As the LAGPA Board is all volunteer, and responsible for creating, collating, folding, labeling, stamping and mailing all newsletters and other correspondence throughout the year, we cannot accommodate the insertion of stand alone flyers into the newsletter or conference materials. Unless, or until, there is a full complement of board members and volunteers to assist on various committees, all flyers must appear as ads in the newsletter and/or conference brochure. Member and non-member rates are listed in the P.N. and on the web site at www.LAGPA.org. Members may bring flyers to LAGPA events and place them on tables where participants can pick them up.

The Board reserves the right to refuse to mail, include in the newsletter or display any material it deems inappropriate or offensive to its membership, or in direct conflict/opposition to the purpose/mission statement of the organization. To engage in any of the above or for more information please contact our administrative assistant, Chuck Stewart. The purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialized information to a targeted audience. Newsletters can be a great way to market your product or service, and also to create credibility and build your organization's identity among peers, members, employees, or vendors.

First, determine the audience of the newsletter. This could be anyone who might benefit from the information it contains, for example, employees or people interested in purchasing a product or requesting your service. You can compile a mailing list from business reply cards, customer information sheets, business cards collected at trade shows, or membership lists. You might consider purchasing a mailing list from a company.

Next, establish how much time and money you can spend on your newsletter. These factors will help determine how frequently you publish your newsletter and its length. You should publish your newsletter at least quarterly so that it's considered a consistent source of information. Your customers or employees will look forward to its arrival.

LAGPA
BOX 461780
W. HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046

Phone
(323) 993-1940
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(310) 838-6769

E-mail
ckstewar@sbcglobal.net.

2006 Annual Conference- Call for Papers

On June 24, 2006, LAGPA will be hosting its Annual Conference. The theme this year is "Sexuality, Spirituality and Community."

Now is your opportunity to share your knowledge and experience with other professionals in the field. See **Page 4 for details on paper submission.** Hope to see you there.

***If no one joins the board
the Annual Conference
will have to be canceled.
Don't let that happen.
Join the board today!!!***

About LAGPA

The Lesbian and Gay Psychotherapy Association of Southern California, Inc. (LAGPA), was established in 1992 as an organization of mental health professionals interested in gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender

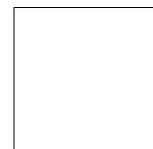
clients. Members of LAGPA are actively involved in expanding the role of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, and marriage and family therapists who serve the greater gay community of Southern

California. While LAGPA is oriented towards mental health professionals, individuals who desire to join LAGPA are not required to be a licensed psychotherapist. •



PO BOX 461780
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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STREET ADDRESS
ADDRESS 2
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See us at:
www.lagpa.com
