



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter
August 2014

President's Message

Greetings Colleagues,

It has been a great year for SJVPA in many ways. Due to the hard work of our board and committee members we have been able to provide our membership with much of great value. We are pleased that many of our members have attended our Continuing Education opportunities and excellent workshops offered by our local community psychologists and professors. We are also pleased that our membership has increased significantly which will enable us to continue to be an active and valuable resource for our community. But the year is not over yet. Check out the Continuing Education section of this newsletter for information about another great workshop scheduled for September and we are also hoping to schedule a "Meet and Greet" with local legislative representatives for later this fall.

SJVPA would like to take this opportunity to invite you to what promises to be a very entertaining and memorable Awards Dinner. Mark your calendars for November 10th at 6pm when SJVPA will be honoring the Founding Presidents of this chapter as well as all of the Past Presidents. It was due to the hard work and vision of the four Founding Presidents, Dr. Errol Leifer, Dr. Allan Hedberg, Dr. Doug Waugh, and Dr. Ron Gandolfo, as well as the continued efforts of psychologists in the community that SJVPA has been alive since 1977. Dr. Ron Teague will introduce, with his usual wit, the four Founding Presidents and we will be able to learn a bit about the history of our association. It will be a chance to socialize with other psychologists in the community as well as take a moment to appreciate the hard work of our colleagues. We also hope to have a representative (or two) from our parent organization, CPA, talk with us about some of the current legislative issues of importance in Sacramento as well as issues that will affect CPA members in the future. The dinner will take place at Wedgewood Wedding and Banquet Center. Look for more details on the invitation coming out to members in the mail. We hope to see everyone there.

On the topic of volunteering and the rewards that can be gained from your efforts, please consider adding yourself to the ever growing list of psychologists that have been SJVPA board and committee members. We continue to welcome your participation in whatever way you would like. The best way to get involved is to contact me at marcellepratt@gmail.com or any of the other board or committee members listed on the last page of this newsletter. There are some committee member positions that are not filled so come on board!

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Continuing Education

Whew!! Your continuing education team has been extremely busy! We sponsored two, two day seminars presented by Dr. Ronald Teague which were well attended. His classes on Basic introduction to Psycho dynamic Interventions and Mythic Mind in Clinical Practice were amazing as always and full of mind blowing information! In addition, for a Monday night presentation, Dr. Constance Jones discussed her research on continuing early longitudinal studies. How they initially thought of these studies and the politics as well as the outcomes were fascinating, enlightening and reminded me again of the science behind the art of psychotherapy.

On Monday, September 8th, Dr. Leifer presented on the research into the biochemical and neurostructural alterations that occur in the brain when we prepare to become parents. This presentation was very informational and had over twenty of our colleagues in attendance.

On September 20th, we will have Dr. Hickey return to present for SJVPA on his research and the current findings regarding psychopaths and their role in various criminal activities. I am also talking him into presenting on early identification and treatment as well. Please register for this class as he is a gifted and interesting speaker!

So Please! Join us and remember, this information and more is posted upon the SJVPA website which includes easy access to enrollment for these classes. The Monday night classes are free, but usually available for Continuing Education credits for a nominal fee.

I cannot thank the committee enough for all of their support and help throughout each and every process that occurs to make one of these classes possible. Miriam Fishman, my co-chair, Elisabeth Ganiron and Jennifer Fanzo, my editors and advertisement checks and balances, Jason Christopherson for his part on posting information to the website, and the unfortunate interns at Sullivan Center for their long hours spent writing out all of the certificates and providing back up support. Finally, my deepest gratitude to Dr. Kathy Sullivan for sorting through the financial information to make these classes worth while and contributing back to SJVPA in order to make this organization viable. Thank you so much!

Corner of Interpersonal & Neurobiology

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The unfolding of research and exploration of the functional characteristics of the human brain continues to yield insights into the complex relationship of the interplay of structure, function and experiential/interpersonal phenomena in a dance of mutually interacting influences and alterations.

One fascinating area is the examination of the different manner each of the hemispheres is inclined to process, interpret and conclude regarding information from within and from without. While there is in most brains an eventual intense process of cross communication, research techniques and lesion studies are pointing to some very distinct characteristics of the two hemispheres. This issue will take a compressed look at the left hemisphere.

The left has been long recognized as dominant in the learning, structuring and processing of language.

The left has less interconnectedness with the limbic system and less interconnectedness with body based information coming up to the brain through the insula than the right.

The left structures perceptions of reality and the expression of language in a notably set structure we typically refer to as “logical” and “empirical” and “objective” and “rational”.

It emphasizes cognitions, thoughts and the use of these in “reasoning” as the basis of its grasp of reality and the actions of others.

It sees causality as a linear process of sequential steps leading to a predictable result or outcome.

It has less receptivity to and “understanding” of emotion, intuition and the multiple interacting perspectives of the gestalt right.

It is markedly less informed about bodily based realities or felt states of subjective sensations.

Reality for the left is made up of parts and segments. No event or object exists in its entirety or Gestalt and is only understood by its subcomponents. There is no “tree” only an amalgam of interacting parts referred to as a tree.

Some have characterized the left as having no “heart”.

Left hemisphere functioning is the cognition of computers and the default processing of Mr. Spock, Vulcan science officer in the Star Trek series set in oppositional contrast to the emotional, intuitive and reactive human Captain Kirk.

Some contrasting implications of these two different processes for assessing and reacting to reality will be pursued in the next issue.

Errol F. Leifer, Ph.D.

PSYCHOLOGISTS NEED TO WAKE UP

By Dr. Allan Hedberg

My Fresno clinical practice commenced in 1974. Only two full-time private practitioners preceded me.

Soon after my arrival, I was faced with a situation in which several of my patients whom I referred to the State Department of Rehabilitation for services were denied because I, as a psychologist, referred them. The policy and practice had been to only accept referrals from physicians. I went to bat and challenged this. Within a year's time, the policy changed and psychologists ever since have been able to refer their patients for such rehabilitation services when a need occurs.

We are now faced with another similar set of circumstances. All of my professional life in Fresno, I have been able to write a letter on behalf of my patients who, for various psychological, social, and medical reasons, were unable to serve on jury duty. There has been no problem accepting my recommendation as a psychologist and a good working relationship with the jury commissioner has prevailed.

However, this has now changed. In recent months, the jury commissioner has changed the policy and procedure, and now requires a patient who cannot serve on jury duty for whatever bona fide reason, must be referred by a physician. Psychologists have now been denied this professional service on behalf of their patients.

It's time to wake up. San Joaquin Valley Psychological Association and the California Psychological Association need to work together and develop a strategy to address this issue and, once again, establish the right of psychologists to speak on behalf of their patients who cannot serve as a juror, temporarily or permanently for whatever reasons that might be.

Question: Has anyone else experienced a denial of their letter to the jury commissioner?

Psychologists are encouraged to bring forward their experiences in this area to the leadership of San Joaquin Valley Psychological Association so that this can be addressed in a systematic, timely and professional manner. What say ye?

David Pingitore, Ph.D., Q.M.E.

Fully Office Available furnished in downtown Modesto professional suite. Windowed office is 15'X15'. Separate waiting room. Parking for tenants. Possible use of secondary office for assessment. Rent is \$150.00/month for one full day. Contact David Pingitore, Ph.D. davdipingitore@comcasst.net or [510-433-7132](tel:510-433-7132).

Advertising Info:

Please send in advertisements, announcements, or articles of interest before the end of the preceding month to be included in the quarterly newsletter. Non-member fee for advertisements is \$25.

Send ad to: marcellepratt@gmail.com

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The San Joaquin Valley Psychological Association (SJVPA) is a professional organization created by local Psychologists. It is a forum in which to discuss and present political, professional, and educational matters. SJVPA also has opportunities for professionals to earn continuing education units, an ethics board, and professional feedback opportunities. A disaster response team comprised of psychologists trained to respond to both natural and man-made disasters offers assistance to the community. SJVPA also recognizes and provides modest funds for worthy community services.