

**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY  
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**Newsletter**  
**December 2011**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**President's Closing Remarks**

Dear Members and Community of Professional Psychologists:

We have concluded the year under my presidency with a marvelous and well attended annual Banquet, thanks to the energy and foresight of incoming President Linda Hewett and previous President Amanda Mortimer.

It has been an active and energetic year with many significant contributions by the Board and Chair Membership.

Speakers are already aligned for our general meetings for next year. We will also be conducting daylong trainings, following on the very successful year we have just had, in providing our membership with stimulating and sophisticated continuing education opportunities within the San Joaquin Valley.

Dr. Kathy Sullivan and her cadre of students continue to provide many accommodations and services to and on behalf of the San Joaquin Valley Psychological Association, for which we all benefit.

The website under Amanda Mortimer will continue to evolve into a sophisticated and user-friendly vehicle for communication and opportunities among professionals in the community.

It has been an energizing and renewing experience for me to again have the privilege of being the president of our local psychological association. To be part of a renewed spirit among colleagues on behalf of organized psychology has been wonderful to experience. To see many fresh faces of new and emerging psychologists has been a delight and a reminder that time continues to unfold bringing with it renewed energies, perspectives and relationships.

I look forward to providing President Hewett support in her conducting the business of the organization and have no doubt that she will continue and expand the renewed spirit at San Joaquin Valley Psychological Association in being of practical and professional relevance to our community of psychologists.

I hope to continue my efforts during the next year as Past President encouraging and eliciting an expanded membership.

I want to thank all for their efforts and contributions this past year and look forward to another year during which the association develops and expands for the benefit of our local professional community.

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## AWARDS DINNER

On the evening of November 15, 2011, the San Joaquin Valley Psychological Association met to celebrate the past year's events, honor inspiring community activists, and discuss plans for our organization in 2012 and beyond. Dr. Leifer, SJVPA President, provided the opening remarks for the evening. He reported that much progress had been made in expanding the membership of SJVPA and urged those in attendance to provide feedback to members of the board in order to help SJVPA be more relevant to psychologists in the community. The newly elected board members were presented:

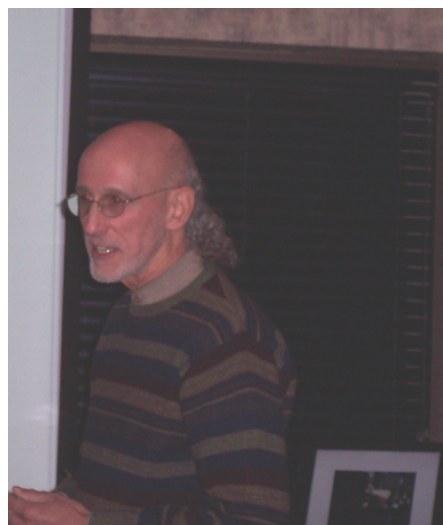
President—Linda J. Hewett, Psy.D.  
President Elect—Lisa Ganiron, Psy.D.  
Past President—Errol Leifer, Ph.D.  
CPA Representative—Gaines Thomas, Ph.D.

The Outstanding Professional Award was presented to Dr. Kris Clarke and Dr. Marc



Lasher, DO for their work with the Fresno needle user community through the Needle Exchange program. Dr. Clarke is an associate professor at CSU, Fresno. She discussed results from her ongoing research project focused on the health and social care needs of marginal communities. Notable statistics presented by Dr. Clarke were that Fresno has one of the highest rate of per capita injection drug users in the country; most clients she interviewed had been using for 25 or more years; and most clients have a history of abuse with physical and mental health problems. The Needle Exchange program offers a non-judgmental, trustworthy, and informational resource for needle users.

Dr. Lasher discussed his involvement with the Needle Exchange program. For the last 15 years, Dr. Lasher has provided a free medical care clinic (Fresno Free Health Clinic) on Saturdays to addicts who visit his school bus-based medical clinic. Dr. Lasher presented slides at the awards dinner that provided an overview of the medical care he provides for needle drug users who frequently have abscesses which can be life threatening if not cared for properly. He stated that methamphetamine use is very high in Fresno with the average addict injecting 5 to 10 times per day. This is in contrast to heroin users who inject 3 to 5 times per day. His work to provide care for needle users, including providing clean needles, has been controversial with Fresno refusing to support his work in recent months. Fortunately, a bill was passed at the state level which will allow a limited amount of syringes to be handed out without a prescription. Dr. Lasher indicated that donations to the Fresno Free Health Clinic are always welcome.



## AWARDS DINNER

Dr. Leifer's dedication to strengthening SJVPA was recognized and he was presented with a plaque that commemorated his efforts made during his presidency.



The final presentation was given by Doreen Samelson, PhD from CPA's Political Action Committee (PAC). The PAC is a mechanism to collect and distribute donations made to CPA. It is run by a board of trustees from CPA and CPA\_PAC members. Professional lobbyists provide advice to the board regarding how to best represent the interests of CPA members to the State of California. Dr. Samelson presented disturbing statistics that we Psychologists donate less than MDs, Psychiatrists, and MFTs to our PAC. Current issues that are being addressed by the CPA PAC include scope of practice legislation and the helmet law making it mandatory that minors wear helmets when skiing or snowboarding.



Dr. Hewitt, incoming SJVPA President, made the closing remarks for the awards dinner. She discussed how she became involved in SJVPA and her views on the need for increased involvement in the psychology community to advocate for the profession. Dr. Hewitt also described her training in the Red Cross disaster response training. The upcoming 2012 CPA conference was highlighted and she encouraged those interested in attending to gather more information from CPA's website. Finally, she presented a challenge to those in attendance—bring one new member to SJVPA in the coming year!



## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### Continuing Education Report

It has been a busy and exciting year. Many thanks to Dr. Ronald Teague...again for a most informative and interesting and class on Treating Difficult Patients Part 2. Loved the movie format and I believe people even had fun while learning much about their most difficult patients.

Keep in touch as we prepare for another educational and interesting year. Speakers include:

- January 9th — Patricia Santy, M.D. presenting on the Essentials of Dialectical Behavioral Therapy. Dr. Santy's presentation in January will focus upon a popular treatment approach, especially helpful with Borderline Personality Disorder, called Dialectical Behavioral Therapy popularized by Marsha Linehan. Please join us for what promises to be an enlightening and helpful presentation. Please log onto our website to sign up...or just show up. The more the merrier!
- March 12th— Susan Neece, M.A. presenting on "Art Talks: We just need to listen". Ms. Neece will introduce and explore the concept of expressive therapy, especially as exemplified by art therapy. She will encourage the use of art therapy as an effective treatment modality, and demonstrate the efficacy of art therapy by presenting a case study.

1 hour CE for \$10 are pending with both presentations taking place at 6:30pm at the Daily Grill at Palm and Nees.

Information gained through continuing education and connecting with other psychologists helps decrease stress, and prevents a psychologist from becoming an "outlier", someone who does not participate in a professional association activity or isolates themselves. The frequency of discipline by licensing boards increases significantly for those who do not participate! (Knapp 2005) Yipes!

Should you be interested in honing your professional skills through presentation, please contact Linda J. Hewett or myself as we always welcome knowledgeable speakers to improve the performance in the field.

Happy Holidays to all,  
Nancy N. Doi, Psy.D.  
Continuing Education Chair

Knapp (2005,May) Renewal fees for psychologists increase: Board cites rising costs of disciplinary actions. The Pennsylvania Psychologist, 65, 9-10.

## CPA Notes

**Excerpt from the California Psychological Associations's December 2011 MemberLink as sent by Jo Linder-Crow, PhD Executive Director.**

Dear CPA Member,

- We are ending a successful year under the leadership of our **2011 President, Dr. Sallie Hildebrandt**. Our thanks for her steady leadership this year. In January we will welcome our **2012 President, Dr. Craig Lareau** as he begins his Presidential year. Dr. Lareau, who is both a psychologist and an attorney, has served twice as Chair of our Division of Clinical and Professional Practice (Division I) and is the Chair of the Div. I Forensics Committee and the Div I Section for Forensic Psychology. **Congratulations to our newly elected CPA Officers! Mark Kamena, PhD, ABPP** will serve as President-Elect in 2012, then President and Past President in 2013-2014. **Betsy Levine-Proctor, PhD** was elected to the position of Treasurer-Elect, but has stepped into the position as Treasurer following the resignation of Dr. Bill Wallace. She will complete the last year of his term and then serve her two-year term as Treasurer.
- **It's time to renew your CPA membership!** Want the quickest way? [Do it right now online!](#) Just click "renew" in the Welcome area or in your "MyCPA" portal.
- CPA members are entitled to enroll in **guarantee issue (no health questions asked) Health Insurance**. The next effective enrollment date is December 15th, and enrollment is open now. If you are interested please call Rick Wells and his team to find out your options. [Check out the information here.](#)
- A reminder that **CPA and CSPP Alliant** have formed a [partnership for online learning!](#) CPA members receive a **10% discount** on all online (and in person) CE courses. Check out the courses offered, including pre-licensure courses!
- Registration for the CPA convention on April 19-22, 2012 will be open soon on our website. [Check out the 2012 convention website](#) now, and then in a couple of weeks to see the full program and to register.

Stay connected--your way! **Find us on Facebook** at [www.facebook.com/cpapsych](http://www.facebook.com/cpapsych) and [Join our CPA Group on LinkedIn](#), with 900 members that include psychologists from around the world! This group is open to all psychologists and psychology students, so spread the word.

## MEMBERSHIP PAGE

### 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

### Board and Committee Members

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**CPA Representative**

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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.