



The Bulletin

Toronto Society for Contemporary Psychoanalysis

20th Anniversary Issue

Welcome to our 20th Anniversary Issue

This Summer 2011 Bulletin is devoted to celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Toronto Institute for Contemporary Psychoanalysis. This issue contains personal reflections by five members of the Institute who were here at the beginning when the society and institute were founded.

We hope that this issue will start getting the anniversary BUZZ in motion and get everyone geared up for the celebrations coming this November. In the meantime, we wish everyone a wonderful summer and keep your eyes open for upcoming announcements about the upcoming celebrations!

Keith Haartman and Kate Harper

The Amazing First Twenty

by Brent Willock PhD



When asked to provide some reminiscences of the history of the TICP, my thoughts instantly went to a time before the Institute existed, to the evening when we first brought Dr. Stephen Mitchell to Toronto to conduct a full-day presentation. Before going out to dinner, Steve inquired about the Toronto psychoanalytic scene. Upon hearing a few details, he immediately suggested it might be time for us to create our own institute. His idea was received with instant enthusiasm. Days later we began regular Sunday meetings at Dr. Hazel Ipp's home to plan the Institute. Within two years, the first class of candidates began their training.

At the Board level, some new members have joined over the years, including graduates, while some of the original members have moved on to other activities. What has stayed constant is everyone's tremendous commitment to making the Institute/Society the best it can be.

One of the most exciting developments from my point of view occurred when the Psychoanalytic Society of New York University's Postdoctoral Program in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy approached us to hold a joint conference in the Toronto region. We were also joined at Niagara-on-the-Lake by the psychoanalytic societies of the renowned William Alanson White Institute and Adelphi University's Postdoctoral Program in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy. This was such an enjoyable symposium that we decided to hold future ones every two years. Since then, we have met with psychoanalytic groups in Dublin, Cape Town, Vancouver, and Edinburgh. Plans are underway for our next assembly in New Zealand. These symposia have resulted in a series of award-winning books for which I have had the honour of being lead editor.

Last year, fifteen of us presented papers in Edinburgh. For me, it was very gratifying to have so many of our group stimulated by this conference to the extent of writing superb papers. Many of these will be part of a new book that, like the others, will be a significant contribution to the psychoanalytic field. If you have not attended one of these symposia yet, you must treat yourself to such an experience in the near future.

One of the reasons we initially met at Hazel Ipp's home was that she needed to be with her wonderful preschooler, Jacqui. Over the years, we have had the pleasure of seeing this preschooler go through school, then McGill, then moving into her own apartment. As Jacqui has matured, I think we may have, too.

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The Amazing First Twenty

by Brent Willock PhD



In any life, including that of an institute, there are many challenging moments, some of which, in retrospect, can seem enjoyable. One winter, Yale University Professor Sydney Blatt was scheduled to present for a full Saturday at what was then called the Harbor Castle Hilton. A huge audience signed up for the event. The night before, Prof. Blatt called to say snow was preventing any planes from flying to Toronto. Hazel and other members of the Organizing Committee worked through the night to find a circuitous route for Dr. Blatt to get to Toronto. The audience patiently waited from 9 a.m. until noon, whereupon Dr. Blatt rushed in, brimming with his usual energy. He proceeded to talk for five straight hours, covering all the material he would usually have gone through in a full-day. For me, that nearly miraculous event epitomized the dedication of people like Sid Blatt to our Institute, not to mention the devotion of Hazel and other members of the Organizing Committee.

One could, of course, go on endlessly about all that has been achieved in our first twenty years. Some highlights have been: the Bulletin started by Dr. Scott Bishop, and taken to new heights by Dr. Keith Hartmann and Kate Harper; Kate Harper's webpage that constantly brings exciting information about *Historical and Contemporary Perspectives in Psychoanalysis*; and the two *Cooperative Conferences* we have held in Siracusa, Sicily with kindred institutes. Above all, I am deeply moved by all the efforts of faculty, committee members, candidates, graduates, Advisory Board members, administrative coordinators, and others who have contributed so much to make the TICP blossom. It is the everyday, dedicated, hard work that so many put into the Institute that enables us to do the both the regular and special things that have characterized our first two decades. In November, we will have a special opportunity to come together to celebrate all that we have done, each in our own way, to collectively accomplish something truly amazing.

Brent Willock



Founding Fathers and Mothers and a Tale of Two Aunts

by Nira Kolers PhD



In the 1980's clinical psychoanalysis was on the wane in Toronto. York University and OISE still had some courses that taught or reflected a psychodynamic approach, but those were being gradually phased out, and the only institute in the city still promoting psychoanalysis and training new analysts, was the Toronto Institute of Psychoanalysis (TIP). A small group of psychologists: Brent Willock, John Munn and Art Caspary from the Hincks; Hazel Ipp and myself, working at Thistletown Regional Centre and pursuing Ph.D. studies; and a number of others, including Judi Kobrick, felt we wanted to do something about this state of affairs, and so started the Psychoanalytic Section at the Ontario Psychological Association (OPA). We would meet

once a month for a presentation by one of our members, or by like-minded guests, amongst whom we counted Otto Weininger, Morris Eagle, Paul Roazen and others.

In addition, we also organized full-day workshops, with invited speakers from farther a field, to coincide with the OPA yearly convention in Toronto. These workshops were very well received and attended. Two of them are particularly memorable, and not just for their content. The first was our workshop with Professor Sid Blatt, a psychologist–psychoanalyst from Yale, who was (and is) very involved in conducting sophisticated research and studies in a field that has been traditionally reluctant to engage in them. We were all looking forward to his presentation, and had many registrants for it. Unfortunately, the day before that February workshop a heavy snowstorm paralyzed the Northeast and shut down the New York airports. Moreover, the roads from Connecticut (New Haven) to La Guardia were mainly impassable, and Dr. Blatt advised us that he could not possibly make it to Toronto. Hazel Ipp, Judi Kobrick and I panicked at first, but then decided that a bit of weather is not going to defeat us. We spent the rest of the night on the phones, frantically looking for transportation and flights for Dr. Blatt. By the wee hours of the morning Dr. Blatt was finally on his way to the airport, and although the workshop had to start a few hours later than advertised, and Dr. Blatt was a bit bleary eyed, it all went off without a hitch and was a great success. Dr. Blatt felt that if we could pull this off, we could do anything.

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Founding Fathers and Mothers and a Tale of Two Aunts

by Nira Kolers PhD



This experience was not only memorable, but perhaps also helped us believe that indeed, we could do anything that we put our minds to; and that our hunger for psychoanalytic study and pursuit may materialize into a new analytic institute. Of course, a psychoanalytic institute, the TIP, already existed in Toronto, but as far as we were concerned, the TIP was not the answer. The TIP, as it was then, reminded me of my aunt Suzanne. When I was a child, my aunt Suzanne was one of the most famous hostesses in Jerusalem: She was a wonderful cook, and was in possession of many traditional recipes that were passed from mother to daughter in her family, and that were the envy of many hostesses. However, my aunt treated her gastronomical treasure as her intellectual property, and no one, but her own offspring, would inherit it. If you asked her for a recipe, which many did, she wouldn't say no, but would divulge it with a mistake or omission which rendered it non-replicable. Like the said aunt, the TIP considered itself in the possession of classical psychoanalytic secrets, and only the initiates would be allowed in. Those, but for very few exceptions, were MD's and...primarily males. Acceptance to the TIP required a set of interviews, which, all too often, resembled hazing rituals. Even once in, the candidates encountered an organization where training analysts held the power, thereby creating a hierarchical structure inimical to experimentation, to innovation and to thinking for one's self, all documented scourges of many a traditional psychoanalytic institute.

For us, mainly psychologists (in all its years to that point, the TIP admitted only about 3 psychologists to its ranks), the TIP presented a club which did not want us, and to which we did not want to belong. So we began to contemplate a new institute. The greatest initial encouragement, and then ongoing support for this project, came from another of our OPA convention workshop invitees, namely, Stephen Mitchell. Steve's approach reminded me of another aunt: My aunt Aliza. My aunt Aliza was also a wonderful cook (in addition to her many other talents), but unlike my aunt Suzanne, she was not in the possession of a treasure of one set of traditional recipes. Rather, she knew all the basic techniques of cooking and food preparation but her recipes were never static, never the same. She improvised and changed, constantly adding to her repertoire and developing new ones to fit the situation, the guests, and the occasion. Moreover, her prodigious creativity was partnered with a generosity of spirit and was wedded to her profession: She was a teacher.

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Founding Fathers and Mothers and a Tale of Two Aunts

by **Nira Kolers PhD**



Enthusiastic and creative, she was eager to impart her knowledge, and was delighted when her students did well. Stephen was that kind of a teacher too. He was inspiring, encouraging and willing to help in tangible ways; and his enthusiasm and support gave us the crucial push towards declaring ourselves a psychoanalytic institute. Stephen was our inspiration and our friend until his untimely death, a loss to us and to all of contemporary psychoanalysis. It is only fair to add here that although the TIP was not very happy with the new brash and unorthodox “start up”, a number of analysts from that institute proved to be more like my aunt Aliza, and did support and help us in many ways in our early days. We are grateful to them, as we are to all of those who wished us well and lent a hand throughout the years.

Nira Kolers

A Personal Account of the History of TICP

by Hazel Ipp PhD



As we look back over the 20 years since TICP was launched, it is both gratifying and humbling to see how we have evolved and held firm. Of course our history pre-dates these 20 years.

Back in the early 80s, a group of psychologists hungry for a greater sense of psychoanalytic community in an environment where psychoanalysis was dominated by psychiatry and psychology by manual-based approaches, forged a group that went on to become the psychoanalytic section of the Ontario Psychological Association. For several years we hosted very successful monthly scientific meetings where numerous people offered up thoughtful and innovative papers and

discussions. In addition, as part of the OPA we had an annual day where we invited a speaker of note to nourish our hungry minds.

Early in 1989 our Invited speaker was Stephen Mitchell whose work, after his groundbreaking book with Jay Greenberg, “Object Relations in Psychoanalytic Theory” was taking the United States by storm. This was an extraordinary day where Stephen offered new ways of thinking and working psychoanalytically. Richly textured, nuanced and incredibly smart, Mitchell’s talks that day, delivered with out a note, felt unprecedented. He had us all riveted and hungering for so much more. At dinner that night, Stephen proposed we start our own Institute – an Institute that would be independent, savvy, contemporary and diverse.

We took the bait and shortly afterwards began meeting every Sunday morning at my home where we brainstormed and planned for the next two years. Brent Willock, John Munn, Nira Kolers, Art Caspary, Judi Kobrick and myself formed this Organizing committee and launched the Institute in 1991. We were proceeding with an innovative curriculum that focused on Comparative thinking across schools that required critical perspectives to be cultivated and held in mind along with intense clinical training and exposure. As part of this vision, we wanted to offer our candidates and community exposure to multiple voices of import outside of Toronto. Building our weekend workshops into the curriculum turned out to be exciting and deeply enriching for all.

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A Personal Account of the History of TICP

by Hazel Ipp PhD



We have been treated to so many wonderful International thinkers and clinicians who too have been excited by what was evolving in our midst. Some of these speakers joined our Advisory Board and many maintain an ongoing interest and engagement with us.

Nervous at first, we were given incredible support by Mitchell who helped us set up an Advisory Board made up of his friends and colleagues each of whom were instrumental in the Contemporary Psychoanalytic scene

evolving in the U.S. In addition, Otto Weininger was an amazing supporter and threw his weight and expertise behind us. Howard Bacal, Josh Levy, and Morris Eagle also played significant parts.

Our first class comprised a group of seasoned psychologists who were ready to put their faith in our vision and what we were offering. At this time we were unsure whether we would only attract psychologists. Our second class quickly shifted this perspective and we proceeded from then on with many psychiatrists, social workers and academics. What excited us enormously was that many people were selecting this training program specifically because of its critical and comparative orientation and in so doing ensured us classes that were smart, savvy and seasoned.

Psychiatrists joined our Board – Clarissa Barton, Gary Rodin, Sam Izenberg, Gary Taerk became integral to our organization and planning. Roy Muir served on the Board too. Karl Lozak joined us recently.

Monthly meetings (again at my home) served as lively venues for further honing of our vision and planning. *Learning while doing.* Never before had these words felt so true. But we were up to the task, ever open to thinking further, learning more, revising where it made sense.

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A Personal Account of the History of TICP by Hazel Ipp PhD



Many of us have grown older together and together we have watched our dreams flourish. What began as a glint in Mitchell's eye has evolved into a robust Psychoanalytic Training Institute. In addition we have launched two other certificate programs – the Relational Fellowship program and the about- to- begin Essentials in Psychotherapy program.

Candidates have evolved into faculty and several are now Board members too – we are glad to have Sarah Turnbull, Scott Bishop and Ann Baranowski swelling our ranks and helping take us forward. Many others have availed themselves in important ways. Keith Haartman and Kate Harper shine amongst these. And as the TICP community grows and readies for more innovative developments, we look forward to many others joining our working groups.

Looking backwards as we look forwards. Holding “then” and “now” in dialectical tension. Holding the powerful vision that ignited our journey while remaining open to new dimensions that complement and augment. This is where we are now. And here's to so much more!

Hazel Ipp

Reflections on the 20th anniversary of the Toronto Institute for Contemporary Psychoanalysis

by Art Caspary PhD



As they say, you blink and it's a whole new world. As I'm sure all of us who are responding to this request for comments will say, it hardly seems possible that we're 20 years old. If memory serves (and that's less and less the case these days), I recall a bunch of us grouching and complaining about the fact that psychoanalytic training was underrepresented in Toronto, and especially difficult to get if one were not medical. A group composed of Brent Willock, John Munn, Hazel Ipp, Molly Weaver, Nira Kolers, Judi Kobrick, myself and probably others that I can't recall right now had formed a psychoanalytic section of the

Ontario Psychological Association that had a respectable membership and well attended monthly scientific meetings. While we were pleased with this, we wanted more. For some time there had been talk about starting a new psychoanalytic Institute but for the most part it seemed like it was just talk. Nonetheless, out of these discussions ideas about what we thought training should look like were beginning to coalesce. At the time we were all struck by the fact that psychoanalytic theory was undergoing changes that we believed were creative and constructive (as well as de-constructive). For myself, the advent of self psychology in North America and a growing awareness of the British middle school both opened up an unsettling abyss of theoretical uncertainty and offered the exciting prospect of the freedom of postmodernist thought with its inherent potential for intellectual creativity. Suddenly I realized that there were lots of voices in the conversation and it was as if my Texas fundamentalist roots were loosening their grip and I was feeling the fresh air of the prospect of not being bound by historical preconceptions and traditions.

Rightly or wrongly, we thought that the old Toronto Institute embodied a rigid adherence to a theory and practice mired in Cartesian certainties (although we didn't put it in such fancy language). We also thought that their governance structure there had been captured by ideologues who prevented an influx of new ideas. Naturally, innocents that we were, we thought we could do better. In retrospect, our optimism was something like the way one feels at the prospect of a new lover: hopes and possibilities are unalloyed and the dream is not sullied by the limitations of reality. Speaking only for myself, I think that I might have been seduced by the purity of the dream of bettering the old Institute and never got around to taking action. Oedipal victories are always better in prospect than in actuality.

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Reflections on the 20th anniversary of the Toronto Institute for Contemporary Psychoanalysis

by Art Caspary PhD

As it happened, we were lucky to have had access to someone who actually puts his money where his mouth is and gets things moving. One night a group of us were having dinner with Stephen Mitchell and, as usual, complaining about the psychoanalytic state of affairs in Toronto, lamenting that it would be so nice if we had our own Institute that reflected our own values. Mitchell simply said something to the effect that we could do it and that we should do it. Perhaps it was the charisma of the great man, but perhaps we were simply ready and only needed an encouraging voice. Any event it set us in motion. We begin to meet in earnest and soon developed a consensus that an approach which most reflected the plurality of contemporary psychoanalytic thought was both comparative and integrative.



Our hope was that graduates would be able to view clinical material from multiple perspectives which reflected the complexity of the ongoing process. We strongly believed that theory should be taken lightly and the patient should not be put in the procrustean bed of theoretical preconceptions.

Needless to say, over the ensuing months we developed policies, admission criteria, and most importantly a curriculum. It would be hard to convey the excitement and optimism that we felt as it seemed that our dream would leave pretend mode and enter the rough-and-tumble of real-life. I also remember the arguments, uncertainty and just plain tedium as this bunch of really stubborn people attempted to hammer out our differences and reach consensus.

On reflection, I think we have been more successful than not. Our candidates seem to me to have a wholesome degree of skepticism about theory and a commitment to listening to their patients with minimal preconceptions. In general, I think we have been fortunate in attracting superior candidates who are open to the music of psychoanalysis and not just the words. In my view, our faculty is second to none.

So I'd like to take advantage of this public forum to thank all of you, the bunch who sweated it out to get this thing going, the people who came on board and contributed as we went along, the candidates, who are really the only reason for our existence. And especially Steve Mitchell for helping us to put our money where our mouth was.

Art Caspary

Looking Back and Looking Forward

by Judi Kobrick PhD

The year of 1990 marked the culmination of many years of dedicated initiatives with the launching of the TICP. In the preceding decade, a group of energized and enthusiastic psychologists founded the Section on Psychoanalytic Psychology of the Ontario Psychological Association that planted the seeds for future endeavors. The inspiration of Stephen Mitchell and the dedication of a group of wonderful colleagues that included Hazel Ipp, Brent Willock, Nira Kolers, John Munn and Art Caspary and myself contributed to the TICP training program becoming a reality. Mitchell was a visionary for ongoing psychoanalytic dialogue and challenges between varying points of view. His warmth, generosity, vitality, wonderful sense of humour and creativity held us captivated as he initially proposed and inspired us to create an innovative training program. We have been privileged to have encountered many eloquent and provocative psychoanalytic thinkers on our journey that continues seeking new destinations. Along the way, others have contributed significantly to the fruits of our initial labour and presented challenges to be met and new directions to be explored.



As we look back and look forward we hope to engage and involve others in the pursuit of reflecting, inquiring and constantly learning to be with others and ourselves in a complex and changing psychoanalytic landscape.

Judi Kobrick

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Anniversary Celebration Notices

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NEXT TICP WORKSHOP:

Sat. September 24, 2011

Dr. Lew Aron

More information will be sent via the Email List-serve, posted on the TICP [Website](#), and posted on the TICP [Blog](#)



SEPTEMBER 2011						
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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
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Want to see what's new in Psychoanalysis?

Want to know what the popular press is saying about the discipline? Want to keep pace with new research in the area? Want to see classic film clips of Jung, Ainsworth, or Freud? OR Do you just want to see a classic video of Woody Allen talking to Dick Cavett about his personal experiences in Psychoanalysis and LOL? Whatever you are in the mood for - our new blog probably has it - scholarship, serious issues, research, and some fun. TSCP, has created a blog called Historical and Contemporary Explorations in Psychoanalysis (HCEP). HCEP is a work in progress. Its intent is to aggregate news and notes pertaining to the past, present, and future of the discipline. The primary mission of HCEP will be to notify readers of publications, conferences, and other events or issues of interest to clinicians, researchers and students of psychoanalysis. This blog is also our Psychoanalytic Resource Centre - where you can find links to journals, associations, and teaching resources. We will make an effort to draw attention to articles and meetings that are "off the beaten track"- i.e., that are in journals or sponsored by scholarly societies beyond those with which most members of the discipline are already familiar. In addition, there will be the occasional commentary and review of issues that seems pertinent to our community. Readers are encouraged to submit their own comments as well, as is the custom with many blogs.

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