

MARIN COUNTY PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

A chapter of the
California Psychological Association

On-line Newsletter, April, 2006
Volume III, Number 2

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380-9985

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662-2388

EDITOR'S COLUMN

John Weir, Ph.D.

Something this month (maybe it is reading my tax return) leads me to fantasize about some topsy-turvy parallel world where the inside is the outside, the left is the right, the back is the front, the old is the new, and the furniture of the universe is rearranged, totally. Without the imagination or talent of a Jack Finney, a Robert Heinlein, an Isaac Asimov--nor the freedom of a fiction format--to tweak your curiosity, I give you here a pale gesture only-- -- a reversal of the usual order of the Table of Contents!

Announcements, Articles and Advertisements lead this issue, followed by the always exciting Committee Reports. Sheva Feld offers (p. 2) info on our **2 CEU June Dinner Speaker meeting, featuring Lonnie Barbach**, and Beth Tabakin describes (p. 3) our **6 CEU October presentation by Fred Luskin**. Sue Hulley gives us (p. 5) another entertaining **Shrink-Rap on Film**. Mark Kamena lists (p.15) **the reasons we belong to CPA**. And, if you are looking for a real job, do not miss the **Positions Available** ad (p. 9). Joanie Gillispie informs us (p. 10) that it is **National Poetry Month**. Write a poem today...the meter might twist your mind, even if you fail to rhyme.

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Mission Statement

The purpose of the Marin County Psychological Association is to promote human welfare through diffusion and utilization of psychological knowledge, to increase public understanding of psychology as a science and as a profession, to promote and maintain high standards of professional ethics, conduct, education and training of psychologists, to promote fellowship among psychologists in Marin County, and to cooperate with other professionals and lay organizations in achieving mutual objectives.

ARTICLES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Look at Language and Couple's Therapy:

How attending to the details of language, the words couples use when talking to each other, can dramatically alter their relationship.

Presented by Lonnie Barbach, Ph.D.

Dr. Barbach is a prominent sex and relationship therapist. She has made appearances on Oprah and the Today Show. Her books include "Pleasures", "The Pause", and "Erotic Interludes".

Friday, June 2, 2006, at the West End Cafe, 1131 4th Street, San Rafael, CA
Social gathering 6:30 p.m. (open wine and beer bar). Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Costs: \$35.00 for MCPA members, \$20.00 for student members, \$25 for student non-members, and \$40.00 for guests. 2 CEU's are available for psychologists, MFTs, LCSWs, and RNs through the co-sponsorship of the Spiritual Competency Resource Center., www.spiritualcompetency.com

Mail your check, payable to "MCPA", to Sheva Feld, Ph.D.

240 Tamal Vista Drive, #290, Corte Madera, CA 94925

Your check and reservation must be received by May 17

If you wish to register for 2 CEUs, enclose a separate check for \$15 payable to "SCRC" (The Spiritual Competency Resource Center).

.....*cut here*.....

I enclose a check for \$ _____ for

____ Members ____ Guests ____ Student Members ____ Student nonmembers

Please state meal preference(s): includes soup, salad, dessert and beverage

____ Salmon ____ Chicken Cordon Bleu ____ Vegetarian (pasta)

Best Selling Author & World Expert on Forgiveness Teaches in Marin

The MARIN COUNTY PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION will present a full-day, 6 CEU workshop featuring FRED LUSKIN, Ph.D. author of "Forgive For Good" and co-author of "Stress Free For Good". It will be held at the Corte Madera Best Western in Corte Madera on Saturday October 14, 2006 from 9 to 4.

Learn about: The Nature of Forgiveness; The Nine Steps For Learning to Forgive; The H.E.A.L. Method and 10 Scientifically Proven Life Skills for Health and Happiness.

Dr. Luskin has a Ph.D. in Counseling and Health Psychology from Stanford University and is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology. He is a co-founder of the Stanford Forgiveness Project and is a lecturer in high demand. For more information, see: www.learningtoforgive.com.

Dr. Luskin was well received as a featured master lecturer at this year's CPA convention. His lecture was entitled "Cultivating the Positive; A Wellness Model". He presented questions to consider such as: What creates happy people? Why do people suffer? Does life have a purpose? What is the relationship between psychotherapy and spiritual practice? He proved to be an engaging, experienced speaker who walks his talk and successfully combines didactic, story-telling and experiential techniques. October 14, 2006 is an opportunity to hear and experience Dr. Luskin in Marin. Space is limited.

Register early and save! Make your checks payable to "MCPA".

By 8/15/06: \$125.00, By 10/01/06: \$145.00, By 10/13/06: \$165.00, On-site: \$185.00
\$10.00 discount for MCPA members

Price includes CEU processing fee, continental breakfast, beverages, and snacks.

This event is co-sponsored by the Spiritual Competency Center which is approved by the American Psychological Association to offer continuing education for psychologists. Spiritual Competency Resource Center maintains responsibility for the programs.

For additional information on this upcoming event, call or e-mail:

Beth Tabakin, PhD

(415) 459-7707 drbetht@earthlink.net

Remembering and Forgetting: How Trauma Impacts Memory in Children and Adults

The Forensic Division of the Sacramento Valley Psychological Association invites you to attend our workshop to be held on Friday, April 28, 2006, 11:40 – 4:30 p.m. at the William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse (First Floor Staff Lounge) 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento CA 95826. 4 hours of continuing education credits are pending for psychologists, MFTs and LCSWs. Lunch will be provided to all attendees who register by April 20.

Presenting this informative workshop will be Gail Goodman, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at UC Davis. Dr. Goodman is the 2005 recipient of two Distinguished Contributions Awards from the American Psychological Association. Dr. Goodman will present on how children remember (and forget) traumatic events, how adults remember traumatic childhood events, forensic interviewing, suggestibility in children and how parents influence children's statements in custody cases, individual differences in children's true and false memories, and how abuse is disclosed and the effects of stress on memory.

Please contact Dr. Kathryn Jaeger (530) 758-7469 or Dr. Lisa Perrine (916) 929-5455 for registration information.

Space is limited. Please register early.

Collaborative Divorce: The Revolutionary New Way to Restructure Your Family, Resolve Legal Issues, and Move On With Your Life

The Collaborative Family Law Professionals of Marin informs us of an authors' signing and talk at Book Passage for this important new book, by Pauline Tesler, M.A., J.D., and Peggy Thompson, Ph.D.

7:00 pm
TALK & SIGNING

Book Passage
51 Tamal Vista
Corte Madera, CA 94925
Contact: Karen West
Direct line: 415-927-0973
Store: 415-927-0960
E-Mail: kwest@bookpassage.com

**SHRINK-RAP ON FILM:
CAPOTE – Hollow Man in the Heartland
By Sue Hulley, Ph.D.**

This time, I'm spending the whole column on one movie.

Capote is based on Gerald Clarke's 1988 biography of Truman Capote. Its focus is on the period from 1959-1965 during which he wrote In Cold Blood.

Having made a name for himself as a rather precious writer whose greatest prior success had been with Breakfast at Tiffanys, Capote longed to be taken more seriously, to be considered as a great writer. He felt he had found the suitably large theme for his book in late 1959, when he came upon a short New York Times article about the murder of four people in a wealthy Kansas farm family.

With William Shawn's approval, Capote began a piece for the New Yorker on the town of Holcomb's reactions to the murders. With Harper Lee, a childhood friend, he took the train to Kansas, and with her help, ingratiated himself to the locals, and began to gather material. Once the killers were found and he discovered an affinity to Perry Smith, Capote became increasingly involved in the case, coming to believe that he could write a great American "nonfiction novel", a term he invented. As he said at one point, "Sometimes when I can feel how good my book can be, I can hardly breathe!"

The resulting book is astonishing. In terse, telling sentences, Capote captures the essence of the events and their context. The book reads like fiction but is almost always meticulously based on fact. Although not strictly the first to do this, Capote did start a new genre.

However, what it took to complete the book was ultimately too much for him. Capote's basic problem was that his childhood rejection by a teen-aged alcoholic mother and lightweight father had left him with an unfillable internal void. Although not quite aware of what he was missing, he was plagued by a lifelong sense of loss. Thus, while he was always trying for more, nothing would ever be enough. He was so desperately self-absorbed and needy that he couldn't find the satisfaction he craved.

For Capote, Perry Smith as a subject proved irresistible. Almost dwarfed by a childhood accident which prevented further growth in his legs, he was nearly as short as Capote, and had a similar history of childhood abuse and abandonment by an alcoholic mother. Additionally, he had been ridiculed as a child because of his bedwetting, experiencing similar shaming to that which Capote endured because of his homosexuality. Further, he believed himself to be a potential artist. To Capote, he was the shadow self. As he remarked to Nelle (Harper Lee) in the movie, "It's as if we grew up in the same house, and then one day he went out the back door."

On the one hand, this view gave Capote a more empathic attitude toward the killers, but he wasn't able to move beyond this into some sort of integration of his own dark side. Instead, he used his entree to enter into a relationship with them which was by turns helpful and exploitive. He asked for their friendship and trust, visiting them, discussing their lives and the crime. However, Capote portrayed the killings in his book as done in cold blood, and lied to them about its title, refusing them access to what he had written. As Gerald Clarke points out, Capote placed himself in a morally untenable position with regard to the killers, especially given that they were basing their appeals on their claim that the murders were unpremeditated. Their interests were ultimately on a collision course. To publish, Capote needed them to be executed; they believed that he wanted them to win their appeals and stay alive.

Through his visits, Capote was able within a few months to obtain enough material for the book; he then retired for the next several years to various American and European locales to write. As the case dragged on, he began to lament, with increasing desperation, that he couldn't "really finish the book until the case has reached its legal termination" (1962). By March of 1965, he had finished all but a "few vital paragraphs," and was furious that he could not yet publish.

Capote's attitude toward whether or not he would be present for the actual execution typified his dilemma. He at first wrote a friend that he would be there even if he had to bribe someone, but by early 1965, he made sure he was out of the country when it was scheduled to take place. Requested by both killers to be present, he traveled to Kansas, but tried once more on the day of the hangings to avoid attending. Ultimately, Capote did witness their deaths. He claimed to several friends that he would never recover from it.

Even allowing for Capote's usual self-dramatizing, this may have been close to the truth. Gerald Clarke, who had become a friend as well as his biographer, and Phyllis Cerf, a longtime intimate of Capote's, believed this to be the case. Both state that the hour of triumph following publication was simultaneously the high point of Capote's life and the beginning of his decline and death.

Part of the let-down after the book was that the recognition Capote sought eluded him. Although he became rich on the proceeds of the book and film, he didn't win either the National Book Award or the Pulitzer he felt he deserved, and that Harper Lee had won in 1961 for To Kill a Mockingbird. His feeling of being cheated, even conspired against, was intensified when, two years later, Norman Mailer, who had derided Capote's factual "nonfiction novel" approach, used it himself and won a Pulitzer for Armies of the Night.

On a deeper level as well, the years of involvement with this book and subject, with all of the inner turmoil and anxiety they evoked, seriously depleted Capote. He had expressed the fear during writing it that he would be middle-aged by the time it was over. He was, and he was unable to recapture the magical quality he had exuded as a young man. Gerald Clarke points out that lacking the childhood love on which to build a stable

personality, Capote had been manufacturing it. With this project, he became unable to continue to do so. He had met his shadow side and been unable to come to terms with it. He could write about Perry's childhood, but he could not work through his own difficulties by doing so. Especially after witnessing the executions, he was left with a feeling of meaninglessness, as well as, the movie suggests, one of guilt.

The movie does a brilliant job of capturing all of the little moments which, added together, show Capote's triumph, its morally compromised nature, and its ultimate toll. The movie itself is not objective with regard to Capote. Rather, its creators share Clarke's view that writing In Cold Blood was Capote's ultimate pyrrhic victory. Catherine Keener provides the film's moral center as Harper Lee. Her comments throughout, capped by her (and the movie's) final statement, make the point.

However, the movie also did an excellent job in its perhaps most daunting task, that of conveying Capote's appeal despite his many flaws. Harper's love for Truman comes through in her characterization, and Hoffman's acting itself convinces. Much has been made of how he captures Capote's movements and gestures. With the help of a great script, he goes beyond this to convey the mercurial mixture of eccentric genius, narcissist, and lost child.

As to the movie's ending statement that Capote was unable to finish another book, while not strictly true--in 1980, he published Music for Chameleons, which quickly climbed the bestseller list--it was essentially the case. This work was made up of previously published smaller pieces, all pale reflections of the work in In Cold Blood. And according to Gerald Clarke, Music was the result of a gigantic final effort of concentration by Capote, an attempt to show that he could produce one last work before giving himself over to what he called "my demons"--alcohol, drugs, and self-destructive relationships.

ADVERTISEMENT

Therapy Groups for Therapists

On-going since 1984. Long-term psychodynamic orientation. Open to mental health professionals and trainees. Current openings, Mornings, San Francisco and San Rafael, Led by Art Raisman, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist (PSY7795); Assistant Clinical Professor, UCSF Dept. of Psychiatry; Past President, Northern California Group Psychotherapy Society, 415-453-4271

Adult Psychotherapy Groups

On-going since 1990. Long-term, Psychodynamic, for men and women. Current openings, Evenings, San Francisco. Led by **Art Raisman, Ph.D.**, Licensed Psychologist (PSY7795); Assistant Clinical Professor, UCSF Dept. of Psychiatry; Past President, Northern California Group Psychotherapy Society, **415-453-4271**

Announcements from Community Institute for Psychotherapy
For more information call (415) 459-5999 ext. 101.

REFERRALS WELCOME: CIP has openings for new clients seeking a) Couples Therapy, 2) Eating Disorders/Body Image Therapy, and 3) Psychological testing.

ONGOING THERAPY GROUPS FOR ADULTS: *"Life Transitions"* A stimulating, supportive and interactive space to discuss changes in your life, develop greater capacity and additional strategies for managing the challenges of transition, and explore the opportunities for personal growth and renewal. *"Deepening Relationships"* Learn about the patterns in your relationships, strengthen your ability to communicate, and explore how you can experience deeper, more satisfying relationships.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW for our Twelfth Annual Extraordinary Evening with the Arts benefit on Saturday, May 6, 2006, 6:00 to 10:30 p.m. at Mill Valley Community Center. Philip Claypool and the Perfect Alibis, *Way of the Peaceful Warrior* author Dan Millman, art exhibit by painter Helen Stanley, wine tasting featuring six exceptional wineries, fabulous buffet and wine, live and silent auctions. \$60 per person (wine tasting +\$20).

FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY OF MARIN

Psychotherapy Groups

PACE - Harm reduction group for dually diagnosed adults.

RELAPSE PREVENTION - On going and drop in groups at homeless shelters for adults and parents in recovery.

LATINO MEN IN RECOVERY - Spanish language support group for Latino men in recovery.

RECOVERING TOGETHER - Group for adults in early recovery to develop inner resources to remain clean/sober and increase connection to self.

WOMEN'S RECOVERY - Support group for women in recovery.

Teen Girls Group - SOCIAL SKILLS FOR GIRLS AGES 13-16 COPING WITH TRAUMA.

BOYS GROUP - Social skills for boys ages 6-7 coping with trauma.

WOMEN SEXUALLY ABUSED AS CHILDREN - Support group for adult women coping with childhood sexual abuse.

COMING HOME TO YOUR BODY - 8-week psycho-educational group for individuals dealing with food and body image struggles.

For more information contact Diane Suffridge, Ph.D., 415-491-5700

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The Institute on Aging is seeking a Director for its Department of Psychology and a Neuropsychologist for its comprehensive Assessment Center. We are also recruiting for Postdoctoral Fellowships with Neuropsychological and General Clinical focuses. To learn more about these positions and for application procedures, visit www.ioaging.org or write to Human Resources, 3330 Geary Blvd., 2W, San Francisco, CA 94118.

Office Space

Free advertisements are available to MCPA members in the sections "Office Space Wanted" and "Office Space Available". Each free advertisement must include your name, be no more than four lines of text in 12pt, Times New Roman font, and sent as an email MSWord (.doc) attachment to DrJohnWeirEmail@aol.com. Larger office space ads and all other ads continue to require payment according to the existing schedule described at the end of each newsletter.

Space Available

Central San Rafael: Part-time in large, light, furnished psychotherapy suite. Huge playroom with water, 4 sand trays, hundreds of figures, 2 doll houses, many toys and games. Copy machine, bathroom, coffee, refrigerator and microwave in suite, private waiting room with signal lights. Wheelchair accessible. Nancy Olesen 415-457-1236.

San Rafael: Recently remodeled. Nicely furnished. Available Fri, Sat. Reasonable rent. Windows face tree-lined residential side street. Private waiting room, on-site parking, wheel chair access, elevator, additional amenities. Call Suzanne, LCSW, 415-789-9113.

Kentfield, part-time in large furnished psychotherapy office ideal for play and talk therapy. Sand tray, toys, games, and doll house are easily accessible yet out of sight. Shared waiting room with pt arrival indicator lights. Pvt bathroom, kitchen area and secondary exit. Plentiful parking. Please call Corey or Brenda Bercun (415) 927-4839.

Mill Valley at 650 E. Blithedale Ave. A suite: 3 offices and waiting room. Available Monday through Friday. Beautiful location, easy freeway access and parking. Randy Rand, Ed.D. (415) 383-9586

Mill Valley office available Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays. Large, light, quiet, attractive, Mt. Tam view, parking. Alan Ruskin, Ph.D., (415) 388-5526

North San Rafael: Two attractive psychotherapy offices--one fulltime (share lease at \$576), the other part-time (at \$150 per day). Phone room, waiting room, utilities included. Easy access to 101, transportation. Congenial colleagues. Call Sue Hulley, Ph.D. at 331-9543.

Space Wanted

Novato: Part-time office sublet wanted in Novato. Corey Bercun, Ph.D. (415) 346-8640
CoreyBercun@Doctor.com

President's Message **Joanie Gillispie, Ph.D.**

A wet spring brings us lots of green. That's good because we can always look outside and remind our patients (and ourselves) that appreciating nature is good therapy. Your organization has been working so hard with lots of commitment from Board members and people in the community ready to support making psychology more visible and providing more opportunities to get together.

Our dinner speaker event with John Deri was very well attended, with new members and many grad students engaged in good conversation and a little enlightenment with dinner. Our next dinner speaker will be June 2 with Lonnie Barbach giving us tips with humor and style about enhancing our relationships. MCPA, under the energy of Keith Sutton student representative, is beginning a mentor program. All grad students who live or work in Marin are encouraged to contact Keith and be paired with an MCPA psychologist.

Check out the committee members' reports in this newsletter and feel free to email or call any of us with suggestions or feedback. We listen and want to represent you effectively. Mark Kamena, Beth Tabakin, and I will be attending Leadership Day in Sacramento on April 18. We'll give you an update of what psychologists in California are doing on Capitol Hill. In the meantime, if you need something from MCPA, ask; if you have something to say, speak up; if you are not on the path you want to be on, change it. That, more than anything else, is psychology in action. April is National Poetry Month. Try one of your own; it's another way of learning. Here's what I'm learning:

Patience*

My patients sink the pillows,
Waiting,
For their parts inside to out.

Not knowing what it takes from me to sit,
Listening,
They assume I can.

Often not good enough for this or that,
Worrying,
Imperfection and shoulds.

I tell them feel it,
Hearing,
They trust me more than the doctor.

But we are just human,
They like that part.
Anyway, I learn patience.

* Part of a collection of poems entitled: Love at 60.

**Past President
Grace Rogers, Ph.D.**

It is quite breath-taking how much enthusiasm and fresh ideas abound with Marin Psychological Association, and it is reflected in our increased membership. I encourage everyone to check out the information on our newsletter, website, and periodic mailings of events. Part of our problem is we have far more ideas about how we could serve both the professional and the general public of the Marin community than we can possibly implement.

Also very exciting, is the energy of our student members. It is an honor and a privilege to have served this very caring group. And.....they also enjoy having fun. Hope to see you at our upcoming events.

If you have information that needs to be put on our website, please let me know, as my job this year is to keep the website updated. Our webpage can be accessed through www.marin.calpsy.net/psy.htm

Minutes of the MCPA Board Meeting, 3/29/2006
Ann Buscho, Ph.D.

PRESENT: Mark Kamena, Roberta Seifert, Christine Gazulis, Grace Rogers, Joanie Gillispie, Ann Buscho, Fred Rozendal, John Weir, Keith Sutton, Sylvia Mills, Nancy Haugen, Stacey Rodgers, Sheva Feld

ABSENT: Bethany Miller, Sue Fleckles, Beth Tabakin

1. Call to Order & Review Agenda: Joanie Gillispie opened meeting at 7:15 p.m.
2. Minutes from last meeting approved. Mark Kamena moved, Roberta Seifert seconded, M/S/P

General Agenda Items:

- Review Jan 21 meeting/and Retreat items. Discussion included having balance of team-building or process-oriented agenda, with concrete timelines with specific prioritized issues, more efficiently run, more retreat “feel.” Discussion also of having a new facilitator for next retreat, having Board meeting separate from retreat, as well as planning of calendar for 2007 retreat. Discussion of 2007 retreat will be finalized at the Board Meeting in September 2006.
- Broader Issues of Psychology and CPA and MCPA
Mark reports that CPA has a deficit for its three annual meetings, which cost \$15,000 per meeting (\$250 per Board member per meeting). There are 39 Board members. Financial contribution for sending MCPA rep to CPA Board meeting would help defray of cost about \$750 for our Chapter. There are 3400 CPA members in the State. Discussion concluded that a pro-rata contribution would be acceptable.
- Brainstorm to increase dual CPA/MCPA membership. There are 12,000 active psychologists in the state. If more of them joined CPA, then their budget would not have a deficit. Mark will write about this in the next newsletter.
- Budget and Donation to Psychology Shield, which funds legal support and advocacy for psychologists’ efforts to increase privileges to psychologists in state settings as well as to maintain their privileges at State facilities to be able to admit, treat and discharge patients, which helps those of us in the private sector to maintain our scope of practice (i.e., what we have been trained to do) rather than have it chipped away. MCPA contributed \$100 last year. Roberta Seifert moved to contribute \$150 this year. Seconded by Silvia Mills. M/S/P
- Leadership Day will be on April 18, 2006, in Sacramento. Several Board members will attend.

3. Sheva Feld, President-elect, reported on Dinner/Speaker meeting which was held with John Deri on a Thursday evening, March 10th. MCPA made over \$400. Sheva heard a lot of positive feedback. Nine students came, and over 40 psychologists came. We did not draw attendees from non-MCPA psychologists, despite mailing over 500 flyers to them. The upcoming Barbach Speaker/Dinner meeting will be in the same venue on a Friday night, June 2nd. Feedback from the Board included the possible purchase of a microphone or borrowing one from Dominican. Joanie will take care of getting a mike for the next meeting. Other venues were discussed for future events. Seafood Peddler was discussed for the annual Business Meeting is October 25, and the Holiday Party is December 8th. Ann Buscho will call Seafood Peddler about these two dates.
4. Grace Rogers, Past President: regarding possible non-profit status for MCPA. Grace presented her report on various options, which included faxing and emailing announcements. We operate under CPA's non-profit status as a 501-C6 and do not qualify for reduced postage rates. The cost (mostly insurance costs) to incorporate as a 501-C3 outweighs the benefits of reduced mailing costs.
5. Christine Gazulis: reported on administration of CEU's, as 18 people got CEU's for the John Deri dinner. Christine and Beth need a list in advance for people who have paid for CEU's. Organization is going well for the Fred Luskin workshop, October 14th the Corte Madera Best Western. Will advertise in CAMFT newsletter, on Fred Luskin's website. Discussion deferred to next meeting as to outreach (e.g., radio spots, etc.) The venue can accommodate up to 100 people.
6. Education and Marketing Chair: Ann Buscho moved, Silvia Mills seconded to approve new board member, Sophia Reinders. M/S/P.
7. Disaster Response Committee: Nancy Haugen has spoken with Red Cross regarding disaster response packets for psychologists.
8. Membership: Roberta Seifert reported that we have 121 Members now.
9. Governmental Affairs: Mark Kamena. Offer to talk to political candidates on the topic of "How to deal with difficult constituents" to let them know that MCPA exists.
10. Newsletter: John Weir reported that newsletter articles are due ASAP. Joanie will write something for the newsletter about Lonnie Barbach, our next speaker.
11. Directory and Website Committee: Joanie Gillispie states Sue will report at next meeting.

12. Student Member: Keith Sutton gave an update on student/mentor program. He reports 15-20 responses from MCPA members who are offering to mentor students. Student event is April 22nd where students may meet their mentors. Psychologists' panel will discuss making a career in psychology.

13. Netiquette Issues: Board Discussion. Subject header should reflect the topic and the person intended to receive it. Avoid sending on the "stringers" or the "thread" of previous emails. Avoid emails to folks who don't "need to know." Reply to sender only, only hit "reply all" if you really need to. Content of emails is only for MCPA-related business. It was also requested to be careful of "tone", and to avoid using all capitals to make a point. Website may have a discussion board embedded in it in the future.

14. Fred Rozendal reported on the budget. The budget is in very good shape at the moment although we have a large website expense in the near future.

15. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Corte Madera.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Buscho

Treasurer's Report **Fred Rozendal, Ph.D.**

As of March 13, 2006, MCPA has \$23,318.19 on hand.

Using the MCPA year (Nov. 1 to Oct. 31), we are currently almost halfway into the MCPA year.

In the current MCPA year, our biggest income as might be expected has come from dues (\$7730). Our largest expenses (as usual) have stemmed from dinner meetings (\$5742, of which about \$200 went to send invitations to all psychologists in the country in an outreach for new members), while income from the dinners has amounted to about \$2000 less (\$3435). We made a profit of about \$400 on our last dinner, so we are closing the deficit in dinner income and expenses due to the efforts of Sheva Feld, Program Chair—a big thank you to her! Other major expenses anticipated during the year will be our Yellow Page ad (estimated at \$3000) and new web site with directory (another estimated cost of \$3000). In recent years, MCPA has also donated money to Psychology Shield, a political advocacy group defending the scope of practice of psychologists; this month the Executive Committee voted to donate \$150.

If you want a more complete copy of the MCPA budget, please contact Fred Rozendal.

Governmental Affairs/CPA Board
Mark Kamena, Ph.D.

Why should you join CPA?

At the recent MCPA executive committee meeting, I was asked to share some of my thoughts on why a member should join the California Psychological Association. I realize that a lot of our MCPA members are already dual members (and often have several memberships in professional organizations). After all, it is a requirement that those of us on the EC or as members of the Information and Referral committee be CPA members. But some of us might have forgotten the benefits, so here is a sample:

1. ANNOUNCING A NEW BENEFIT: Discounted rates offered by Liberty Mutual for CPA members on auto, home, and renters insurance.
2. Advocacy & Legislative Efforts (Chuck Faltz, Amanda Levy, and Kelly Midgley) are focused on promoting, representing and lobbying for the best interests of Psychology. On a daily basis, CPA educates and informs government officials and the public about your profession, and its impact and benefit for the individual, community and society as a whole.
3. Information is POWER - Being informed, staying informed. You receive weekly Progress Notes, briefings on current governmental issues, the California Psychologist - our bi-monthly magazine, and the executive director's weekly wrap-up.
4. Connections & Peer Support generate the close ties that last forever. Networking that helps us keep in touch with colleagues and may lead us to new practice and employment opportunities.
5. Professional Growth - Shape the future of your profession by getting involved! Attendance at leadership and advocacy day is a way to personally meet your legislators in Sacramento and become involved in grassroots efforts.
6. Free consultations with experts on practice and ethical issues
7. Partner with other members that share the same professional focus: join one or all of CPA's Special Interest Divisions
8. Receive discounts on CPA events such as the annual Convention and at CPA sponsored CE presentations
9. Post a job - Search for a job - FREE to members!

We realize that psychologists who practice in California have the largest scope of practice in any state. Some would like to expand that scope to include clinical psychopharmacologists; others, such as psychiatrists and master's level therapists would like to reduce our scope. Believe it or not, turf wars can be seen in Sacramento almost daily (I think that's on Channel 7 up there). The real reason for me is that the more people who join, the more legislators take us seriously. I am told that there are 15,000 licensed psychologists in California, of whom 12,000 are in practice. CPA, the largest agency representing the interests of psychologists in the state, currently has only 28% (3400) of these as members. In that index of potential political influence, we run a poor dead last compared to dentists, optometrists and podiatrists.

So if you are a CPA member and got this far in the article, you not only deserve credit, but also the prize. Let me know why you joined and stay a member.

For those of you who have opted not to join, let me know why, if you wish, so I can pass your concerns to people who are in a position of doing something about it. You never know, it might be your idea that solves our collective apathy. However, I'll still be doing my thing and will be available should anyone have questions about CPA, governmental affairs, the finance committee, the building task force, and the nominations, elections and awards committee. Any other CPA-related questions with which I am not familiar, I'll do the checking and will get right back.

Membership **Roberta Seifert, Ph.D.**

I would like to welcome Several new members to MCPA. They are:

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Deadline for June Submissions: June 1, 2006