

## NEWS AROUND REFLECTIONS

A generous benefactor gave us a marvelous financial contribution aimed at helping to increase our reader base so as to expand the universal conversation about *Reflections*. Complimentary subscriptions were sent out to a variety of persons in universities and colleges and in the helping professions.

A portion of this issue is given over to a special series: "Teaching and Learning" (Janet Black). *Reflections* invites editors, narrators and readers to organize a special series to be considered for publication, and/or to propose a special issue on a particular topic. It appears, from our experience, that the subjects/topics proposed are current and unusual, such as the two most recent specials: "Loss of Home-land: Insights from Strangers" (Golie Jansen and Marion Aguilar), and "Transformative Learning and Teaching" (Susan G. Nummedal and Diane Gillespie). Our forthcoming special is "Forgiveness" (Charles Garvin).

Our subscribers do blow *Reflections'* horn. Gisela Knopka said it is a wonderful journal, and Stuart Kirk said there is nothing quite like it. Of course we like getting affirmation—we also like feedback that suggests improvement. Surely you have noticed the improvement in our copy editing. The two staff members, Russell Rossetto and

Vilma Chemers, and board member copy editor Marilyn Potts, are to be credited.

We initiate our first retrospective with Ruth Middleman's narrative, published in *Children* (1969), with current commentary. We plan to publish a second retrospective (Summer 98), to honor Howard Goldstein, (a member of our editorial board) recently appointed as Interim Editor, "Family and Society." Stanley Witkin, who was a member of our editorial board, has been appointed the editor of *Social Work*. Witkin's discussion about scholarly writing in his initial editorial in *Social Work* (March 1998) confirms *Reflections* purpose. **(Look where you can go from *Reflections*!)**

John A Kayser, the editor of "Writing Narratives," and I have been having an ongoing conversation about whether narratives should make a point. His view differs from mine in that he argues that "narrators of stories about professional helping need to make an explicit point in their narratives." In this issue, he uses his essay "New Narratives for a New Century: Comedy, Romance, Mystery, and Tragedy in the Helping Professions" to test out whether a story can stand on its own. My perspective is stated in the following quote— it's always good to draw on the literati when you're engaged in a debate.

"Life and love are life and love, a bunch of violets is a bunch of violets, and to drag in the idea of a point is to ruin everything..." D. H. Lawrence. Many of the authors that write for *Reflections* agree with John's perspective. Both of us want to enlarge this conversation, so please join us. By the way, his plume de nome for me (my conceit) is—his "treasured senior colleague." I'm pleased he put treasured before "senior."

In our next issue (Summer 1998) we shall publish commentary on some of the practice narratives in the issue; along with Joshua Miller's interview with Ann Hartman, Professor Emeritus and the former Dean of Smith College School for Social Work. She is a prolific writer about family practice, practice theory, and current theoretical developments in social work. Josh's narrative "Violets Seed," and "An Interview With Mitch Ginsberg" were published previously in *Reflections*. He is a faculty member at Smith.

Certainly there are many stories about practice that have yet to be told. Consider submitting your practice/teaching narrative. □

Sonia Leib Abels, Editor



**Correction:** Regarding the contradictory volume numbers provided on the cover and table contents of the last issue Winter 1998; as you may have guessed by now, the cover is correct in stating volume four.

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