

LETTER FROM THE GUEST EDITORS: SOCIAL JUSTICE HONORING JILLIAN JIMENEZ REFLECTIONS EDITOR, 2000-2009

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In the first issue of *Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping*, January (1995), Jillian Jimenez, (then Mary Ann), was the Arts and Media editor. I was the Journal Editor, and Jim Kelly—currently the Provost and Executive Vice President at Menlo College—was the Department Director. The issue was an auspicious beginning with narratives by Richard A. Cloward and Francis Fox Piven, Harry Specht, Suzanne England, Jane Gorman, Carolyn S. Carter, John A. Kayser, and Edward R. Canda, among others.

Social work faculty and practitioners write for publication in various literary styles. In *Reflections*, the narrative form was introduced and has gained acceptance as a significant contribution to communicating social work knowledge.

John Oliver, Director of the School of Social Work, invited us to edit this special issue on Social Justice honoring and memorializing Jillian Jimenez. Thanks are due to him for making this issue of *Reflections* possible. Social Justice is a significant objective facing our society and certainly our profession.

The purpose of *Reflections*, as described in the first edition, "To publish personal accounts (narratives) of professional action designed to aid and support human and social development," underlies this issue on social justice, celebrating Jillian's life.

Her decorum, sensitivity and brilliance provided a model of a great professor. I visited her classroom several times, listening to her lecture and watching the careful attention she gave both to the content and to the students as they reacted attentively to the complex social welfare issues she adroitly explained. She was affirming to students in the

examination of their questions, and involved everyone in exploration of the meaning of the questions and her responses.

In 2000, Jillian took over as the editor of *Reflections*. Her commitment to social justice was reflected in her teaching, the respect for faculty and students, and her editorship of the journal.

Social justice, in all its rich meaning, is the purpose of social work. The response to the call for narratives on social justice has been powerful. Recognizable authors, a NASW administrator, a legislator, retired social workers, educators and practitioners from across universities, colleges, and agencies responded. Commitment to social justice created an excellent opportunity to put forth great stories. While these stories reflect the authors' lives, they also illustrate the range of efforts used to combat injustice. There are thoughtful memories and powerful explorations of different forms of practice, each trying to, and achieving, social justice.

The narratives help in the memorializing. Jillian's life had full meaning for those of us who knew her. We appreciate the effort and thoughts of those who contributed to this issue. We honor the work done to build a more just society.



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