

# WMIP e-bulletin

## January 2018

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**Dear Colleague,**

Welcome to the first e-bulletin of 2018. Happy New Year!

Sincere apologies for the delay in sending the bulletin. Unfortunately, this was due to the limited content I had available at the start of the year. As a result I would like to take this opportunity to encourage people to submit articles for the bulletin. I request a copy of your proposed article for the bulletin approximately 2 weeks ahead of publication. If you have any comments, suggestions or contributions please do send them to me at [shanesneyd@gmail.com](mailto:shanesneyd@gmail.com) The bulletin needs you!

In this edition we have a review on Myra Connell's talk and a short course provided by Marilyn Miller. Also please do take the time to look at the Members, News and Views section as we have some information concerning the death of one of the founding members of the WMIP.

Best Regards,

Shane Sneyd (Editor)

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## Events Committee (EC)

### MONDAY EVENING EVENTS

The last of the Monday evening events programme was Myra Connell's reading of her final qualifying paper: *The Grand Old Duke of York: Beyond Up and Down*. Please read the review below.

to add potential events into our events 'pipeline'. If you have an idea please contact Myra Connell.

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### **REVIEW: Myra Connell: "The Grand Old Duke of York: Beyond Up and Down"**

Chaired by Alison Rolfe on Monday 27 November 2017

On the last Monday in November, myself and 14 other WMIP members had the pleasure of sitting together to hear Myra read her qualifying paper. She spoke with steady strength and calm about her 18-month journey of extremes with her 40-year-old patient. Psychiatrically he had come to her with diagnoses of depression and possibly bipolar disorder, emotionally he brought his seductive and charming transference that thinly disguised a boyish need and despair. She described a patient who presented immaculately with peeks of tattoos beneath his couture. Together they realised that behind his ability to excite his mother, and she him, was a difficulty feeling alive in his own right and achieving separation from his maternal object. Myra described how her patient drew her into becoming over involved with him, and how they grew to understand this between them.

The patient had been taken with his daughter's singing of the 'Grand Old Duke of York' and realised that he was always up or down and couldn't inhabit the middle ground. Myra linked this with her patient's difficulty in finding a 3rd position: coping with exclusion from the oedipal couple when he had been so drawn into an exciting coupling with his maternal object and so disappointed in his father's absence from a young age. After excitement and grandiosity the patient would come crashing down, and had several times been rehabilitated mainly by his mother. Could he learn from the reliving of his inner life in the transference?

an inter-subjective one. At times she chose to speak to the patient about what was happening between them, with the aim of helping him to develop a third position where he could come to know himself from. As the end of their time together drew closer her patient both tried to evade despair and began to bear some loss, he showed some capacity to see himself in a couple.

In the discussion that followed ideas about a sense of bodily transgression, seen in the patient's use of tattoos, his oedipal tryst with his mother, and the absence of a paternal presence were discussed. Myra reflected on a 'down' effect as she emerged from training to establish herself independently. The oedipal challenge of both of completing training or finishing a piece of therapeutic work resonated.

Rachel Hirschfeld

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## SHORT COURSES

### **EXPLORING MALE SEXUAL IDENTITY IN TODAY'S WORLD**

**Short Course- 4 Saturdays:**

**February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19**

**10:30am – 3:45pm**

**Course Leader: Marilyn Miller\***

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**AIM:** To explore the complex nature of male sexual identity in today's 'gender fluid' world.

**CONTENT:** The focus will be on making links between classic psychoanalytic papers drawn from the object relations perspective and more contemporary sources, such as Grayson Perry, Vernon Rosario and Andrew Samuels. Some general background reading will also be required. Detailed case discussions will form a major part of the programme alongside the specific reading.

**PARTICIPATION:** The course will be participative. Members are expected to present to a reading seminar and a case discussion seminar. The course leader will also present a case study each time from her own experience.

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**Learning Together. The Saturday timetable**

**10.30 – 12.00** A clinical presentation with discussion by Marilyn Miller, drawing on intensive long term work over three decades with unhappy male clients who brought problems associated with sexual identity and a restricted sense of self.

**12.00 – 1.15** A simple vegetarian soup lunch will be provided

**1.15 – 2.15** A reading seminar with discussion (texts to be read from a course reading list by all but introduced by a member)

**2.30 – 3.45** A case presentation by a course member for discussion

**APPROACH:** The venue, Luck's Weight, Buildwas Lane, Little Wenlock, TF6 5AZ, is near The Wrekin and set in beautiful countryside overlooking the Ironbridge Gorge. It is 10 minutes from Telford Central station or by road via the M54/A5.

A whole person approach will be taken, exploiting the beauty of this setting, with an opportunity to arrive at 9.30 am and walk first before the course begins each time, or over the lunch period. Wholesome vegetarian soups and a light snack lunch will be included at no extra cost. Body, mind and spirit will thus hopefully all be engaged in the learning process, with the experience of group membership and sharing food together an important feature.

(This course will build on two previous series on this general subject area that were offered in 2017, but it is designed to be freestanding so newcomers. The reading list of Parts One and Two will be made available to newcomers if they wish.)

**FEE: Total of £240 for all four sessions.**

*\*Marilyn Miller (formerly Miller-Pietroni) is a psychoanalytical psychotherapist who trained and then taught at the Tavistock Clinic for many years and is now in private practice in Shropshire. She went on to lead mental health, family and children's services in the City of London and St. Bartholomew's Hospital, taught in the USA and France and worked for twelve years in general practice alongside teaching at the University of Westminster. Her book: Understanding Counselling in Primary Care: Voices from the Inner City (2000/with Alison Vaspe) records her work at Marylebone Health Centre.*

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**Jungian Training Committee**

**Saturday 3rd March 2018**

## MEMORY AND THE TRAUMA IN SOCIETY

Jonathan Sklar

**How does an individual human being return from the far reaches of certain terrible experiences?**

From being in the trenches of the Somme?

From crawling through the sewers of the Warsaw Ghetto?

From Atomic destruction?

From today's random bombings to the fragile meaning of life as a mass movement of people flees to Europe. And these modern matters are contributing to a severe rise in anti-immigrant rhetoric and prejudice towards other human beings.

Walter Benjamin described how, prior to the First World War, experience was passed down through the generations in the form of folklore and fairy tales (Xi The Storyteller). Have such descriptive threads become broken in our modern times?

Jonathan Sklar FRCPsych, is a training and supervising psychoanalyst of the British Psychoanalytic Society, an Hon Member of the Psychoanalytic Society of Serbia and the South African Psychoanalytic Association. He was Vice President of the European Psychoanalytic Federation from 2007 until 2011, a PIEEE Teacher at the Summer School 2010-14 and a European IPA Board member from 2015 to 2017. Jonathan lectures and supervises widely - in Chicago, East Europe and South Africa.

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### **Special Interest Groups**

The WMIP has a number of specialist interest groups. Pauline Mitchell has kindly gathered the information together including the contact person for each group. If you are interested in joining a group please contact the relevant person.

The Neuroscience group contact is Tom Camps

The Balint group is Peter Chadwick

The Race and Culture group is Hellen-Fair Mabikhwa



## *Obituary Notice*

### **Dr. Sidney Carlish**

Sidney Carlish, psychoanalyst and founding member of WMIP and the CFITC (the training course which was predecessor of the TCPP) died in early December 2017.

It is hoped to have a memorial meeting early in 2018 to pay tribute to him. An obituary will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

Elaine Wake



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### **THE FORUM**

The Forum is accessible at [www.wmip.org/wmipforum](http://www.wmip.org/wmipforum)

You will be asked to log in to the forum page (username: wmicmember, password: psychotherapy)

Once on the forum page you will need to register to use the forum. Please use your own name as a username (not a nickname) and select your own personal password known only to you.

You can contribute to a discussion strand on the forum or initiate one of your own. Share with your colleagues: What you want from WMIP; how we can make psychoanalytic ideas more current in the Midlands; what issues are current for you etc.

**We look forward to hearing from you**

Our mailing address is:

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