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Dear All,

Here we are in 2018, a good time to send an update to PINE members. It has been a busy fall and early winter leading up to an open Board meeting on December 9th which was our first "retreat" in four years. Many small steps towards finding and consolidating PINE have taken place. I will retrace a few of these progressive developments and then tell you what took place on December 9th.

From the beginning we have held monthly meetings in which we listen to someone present their clinical work and the listening group attempts to respond to the case and to each others' ideas about psychoanalytic process. We continue to favor the case discussion and to search for the way in which to approach the second task. Differences in point of view, in personal analytic style, disagreements about technique and "uncomfortableness" (Neal Kass' term) sometimes surface in a way that is difficult to achieve and maintain. This second goal continues to be a work in progress. We shall see what emerges from this process. This part of PINE's activities originates, I believe, in Bob Gardner's ideas about self inquiry.

The scientific meetings continued this fall with a presentation organized by Ayelet Barkai focused on clinical work with children, adults, and families in the foster care system. Ann Epstein presented theoretical and technical factors relevant to working as a psychotherapist with these young people. Clinical cases were described by Katie Naftzger and Natasha Lifton both of whom volunteer as therapists within the non-profit organization, A Home Within, which is led by Ayelet and Ruth Drasin. Carol Rubin integrated the clinical and theoretical material in a clear and compelling way. The audience that attended was composed of members of the community who had personal or professional interests related to this patient population. This kind of topic draws on parts of the community that have no regular contact with psychoanalytic organizations in Boston. We will continue to sponsor scientific meetings that interest individuals within the community who are new to, and can make good use of, psychodynamic thinking.

This spring on Saturday, May 5th, we will be sponsoring another kind of program bringing psychoanalysis and art together. Larry Brown will be speaking about J. M.W. Turner's work and Bion, Sally Ackerman will be connecting *Moby Dick* and the "oceanic feeling," and Peter Haines will speak about his work as a sculptor and painter. Finally Britt-Marie Schiller will integrate these three presentations. Dr. Schiller has written about Louise Bourgeois, a sculptor of the intrapsychic. It should be a fascinating multi-disciplinary conference. We hope you can be there to add your impressions to the discussion.

Finally our two first year fellows and our four second year fellows have immersed themselves in small seminar/workshops that resemble the description of PINE's educational programs when they first began. The fellows, teachers, supervisors, and mentors are engaged and enjoying the process of teaching and learning in this new version of PINE's fellowship programs. In addition Susan Rosbrow-Reich and Ira Lable offered a reading group on Philip Roth that was thoroughly enjoyed by several of us. Finally, the neuropsychoanalytic workshop continues under PINE's auspices and Paula Wolk's leadership as an ongoing activity.

On December 9th, 14 PINE members, including faculty, reciprocal members and one candidate, Beth Childs, who was also our hostess, gathered together to consider options for PINE's future. The options discussed included changing our status to that of a society (with the fellowship and scientific meetings but without an institute), becoming a study group (small group activities to be determined by those

involved without scientific meetings or fellowship programs), or maintaining ourselves as a full psychoanalytic center (comprised of the society and an institute with or without fellowship programs).

Each option was considered in separate groups and then in the larger group. As the benefits and challenges of each were discussed, new ideas about what PINE might develop were proposed. It became clear that the consensus of the group was to pursue the option of reinvigorating PINE as a psychoanalytic center. The group recognized that this would be a gradual undertaking with further brainstorming needed to conceptualize what might be possible. Participants agreed on the value of small classes that facilitate individual development and the wish to maintain a family-like administrative structure with shared responsibilities and minimal hierarchy. The wish to make psychoanalytic training affordable and to diversify theoretical training by including current perspectives prevalent abroad and the possibility of expanding training to include child/family work were a few of the ideas that were discussed. The overall challenge is how to design a small intellectually rigorous and distinctive program in the Boston area combined with an efficient, non-hierarchical administration. The group was excited about the possibility of taking up that challenge.

In the next few months the Board will be working on organizing next steps in pursuing this possibility. We hope that this new set of activities which may include those of you who have not yet been active in the fellowship programs will be of interest to you. There is lots of room for creativity in this new era of flexibility and local autonomy within the American Psychoanalytic Association. We would love to hear your ideas.

In the meantime, warm wishes to each of you, in this sparkling new year.

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