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Spring 2019

Dear PINE Members,

It was wonderful to see some of you at our annual Spring Party on June 8th. For those of you who were not able to attend, we would like to share some of the things that were discussed and celebrated during our latest gathering.

As of June, 2019, PINE consists of 64 full members in all categories (full, reciprocal, clinician associates, adjunct faculty, and senior members). Twenty-one of our members are senior, a number reflected across the country in many of the psychoanalytic organizations. There is one active candidate and five fellows (one is an applicant at this point in time).

Since last June we have continued many of our regular programs and activities including the monthly clinical case discussions held at Donna Mathias' and Cathy Loula's homes, our scientific meetings including Ellen Pinsky's presentation on the risks and vulnerabilities of the analyst's task, and Howard Levine's paper on the connection between words, psyche and soma. We had a second retreat in December. Sixteen members expressed their wish to continue as a psychoanalytic center, to think about new promotional pathways for faculty, to consider forming a new study group, and to experiment with a new way of conducting open meetings. Everyone agreed that we should continue our fellowship programs.

In September a small group gathered to remember Bob Gardner. Colleagues, supervisees, and other PINE members talked about the ways in which he touched their lives. In October, Ana-Maria Rizzuto sent a draft of her most recent paper to a group of PINE members who had come to hear her speak before she left for Argentina about her career as a writer.

Last year we had four fellows who met monthly to listen to and discuss their audio recorded clinical work. This was highly valued and this same group wishes to continue and expand their study of psychoanalytic psychotherapy.

Currently we have two applicants for our first year fellowship. Our first year faculty including Donna, Cathy, Susan, Carol, Mark Steinberg, Elissa, Diane, and Linda are set to teach again. In the meantime three of our advanced fellows expressed a strong desire to learn more about the following: development and its appearance in the course of psychoanalytic psychotherapy, the history of psychoanalytic theories, working with psychosis and severe character pathology, working with psychosomatic patients, and finally they wish to continue to listen to process material with particular attention to working with dreams.

The current task is to match teaching faculty with these topics. The teaching will be done using long distance technology (Zoom) to make it possible for our fellows who have been commuting for the past two to three years from New Hampshire to attend these weekly classes. We are hopeful that some of you will want to be involved. Donna Mathias is working on organizing the developmental workshop; Malcolm Beaudett is working on the character pathology/psychosis class. Bliss is brainstorming with Mark Steinberg about the history of psychoanalytic theory course. We have two pairs of analysts who have volunteered to co-lead the monthly process group over the course of the year. Beth Childs will be sharing her analytic process with the fellows and two of our faculty members, an exciting prospect for all. If you have an interest in or ideas to offer Donna, Malcolm, and Bliss, please let us know.

In January and February, the Board collaborated to complete an extensive APA application that allows us to offer continuing education credits to psychologists who come to our open presentations.

Starting this July, we will be instituting a new organizational structure in which tasks will be distributed among Board members mostly on a rotating basis. We will continue to invite members to attend Board meetings. By dividing responsibilities, we may be able to meet less frequently, diminishing the time commitment (we have been meeting monthly) for members who come regularly to Board meetings. Our goal is to build a sense of ownership and leadership among PINE members who have taken on responsibility for any new or old initiatives. In support of this goal we recently distributed a survey to all of you inquiring about your willingness to participate in this new structure in order to identify your interests and availability. We will be planning activities based on your responses. Please remember that we can't possibly continue to develop without your active participation.

During the Spring party, we thanked our Board members and celebrated their contributions to PINE. We acknowledged each member separately and wanted to share this with you.

We expressed our gratitude to

Michael Good for initiating and organizing a very successful scientific and risk management meeting this past fall and keeping us focused on ethical standards when necessary in his position as the Ethics Committee chair. We appreciated his quiet wisdom and his and Bambi's gracious hospitality in offering their home for our monthly meetings.

Donna Mathias for her many contributions to PINE including her active participation in recruiting and teaching fellows and her hard work in representing PINE as part of the Psychoanalytic Educational Forum of Boston.

Diane Perlman for her commitment to the Fellowship program, her astute ability to interview and assess our talented fellows and to teach an essential skill of every dynamic therapist, the art of analytic listening.

Laurie Raymond for her vision and wisdom in our discussions, her work on behalf of our candidate, and her thorough work and enormous effort in helping to write and edit the APA application.

Susan Workum for being our financial and technical assistant as the Treasurer and clerk of PINE and volunteer web editor along with her clear way of thinking and a sharp sense of humor.

Malcolm Beaudett for his creative ideas and ever-practical way of thinking about complex organizational matters.

Alice Rapkin for being our institutional memory, our scribe, and her unwavering dedication to PINE.

Regina and Bliss were very amply appreciated for their leadership in 2018-2019.