WASHINGTON CENTER FOR PSYCHOANALYSIS
NEW DIRECTIONS PROGRAM

Isms, Phobias and Invisibilities: Bigotry on the Couch
April 21 - 23, 2017

Please Read This First!

We look forward to seeing you at the winter 2017 weekend of New Directions. The topic for the weekend is *Isms, Phobias and Invisibilities: Bigotry on the Couch* coordinated by Marc Nemiroff, Ph.D. Below are general guidelines in preparation for the weekend.

This electronic packet includes the following documents:

1. Welcome Letter from the weekend Coordinator (page 2-3 below)
2. “A Participant’s Guide to the Assigned Readings” (page 4 below)
3. Writing Assignment due by 5PM, Wednesday, March 29, 2017 (pages 5-6 below)
4. Hotel and Reservations Information (page 7 below)
   Make reservations by Wednesday, March 29, 2017
5. The 6 documents for the weekend in PDF (separate documents)
6. Preliminary Weekend Program & Schedule (separate PDF document)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

Please note that these documents provided electronically are intended for the exclusive use of participants in the New Directions program and *may not be reproduced, duplicated or otherwise distributed in any format* outside the educational environment of New Directions.
Dear New Directions Participant,

Discrimination and Bigotry, action and affect, how they work and what they do to people, have always been with us. The subject is relentlessly relevant. Has there ever been an era in human history that has been free of hatred and the mistreatment of “the Other?”

_There are so many ways of being despicable it quite makes one’s head spin. But the way to be truly despicable is to be contemptuous of other people’s pain._

James Baldwin

Planning for this weekend began in April 2014. It is three years later. On January 20th at noon, we moved from an enlightened, elegant former president to a new and different one. Acts of cruelty based on religion, nationality, and political beliefs are increasing in America, and across the world. The understanding of bigotry and its workings is now more than relevant. It is urgent. It is incumbent upon us, we healers who live compassionately with our patients in worlds of sorrow, to dig deeper.

This April’s New Directions weekend conference has been designed, by braiding the speakers and the writing prompts, to approach Isms, Phobias and Invisibilities through a dual lens. We will learn from our speakers about bigotry and its effects by focusing on American racism (our country’s original sin), homophobia, the legacy of institutionalized anti-Semitism, and the struggles of immigration.

Our writing will turn us inward, to learn about our relationships to our own bigotry. There is a tilt in the writing prompts toward exploring the unwanted bigotry we internally harbor. Who among us is immune?

My hope is that we will emerge from this weekend with an expanded appreciation of the external and our personal internal worlds of Othering and discrimination.

Our plenary speakers will be speaking from clinical, theoretical and cultural perspectives. Three of them are from within the psychoanalytic world; one is an anthropologist with a specialty in immigration, as well as a teacher of writing. All are speaking on issues that are dear to them.

**Maurice Apprey, Ph.D.** is Dean of African-American Affairs and Full Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences at the University of Virginia. He trained with Anna Freud as a child analyst at the Anna Freud Centre, London, and as an adult analyst at Psychoanalytic Institute of the Contemporary Freudian Society. He has been training and supervising analyst at the Psychoanalytic Institute of the Contemporary Freudian Society and with the International Psychoanalytic Association, Istanbul, Turkey. Dr. Apprey will speak on *The Perpetrator-Victim*
**Dance of Transgenerational Racism.** His talk will include a focus on his process of writing the assigned paper, *Representing, Theorizing and Reconfiguring the Concept of Transgenerational Haunting in Order to Facilitate Healing.*

**Richard Ruth, Ph.D.** is a practicing psychoanalyst and psychotherapist in the Washington area. He is currently chair of the LGBT Program associated with George Washington University’s clinical psychology doctoral program, and Faculty in the Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy Training Program at the Washington School of Psychiatry. He is former Director of Psychology at the late, lamented Chestnut Lodge Hospital, Rockville, MD. In 2015, Dr. Ruth received the Leadership Award from the Division of Psychoanalysis of the American Psychological Association. Dr. Ruth is well-known for his workshops and presentations, and for his fierce devotion to social justice. He will be speaking on *Inner Representations and Transformations of Oppression in the Life of a Gay Man: How Analytic Therapy Helped.*

**Mimi Blasiak, LCSW** is a child and adult psychotherapist in Chevy Chase, MD. She formerly was Dean of Academic Affairs, Director of the Adele Lebowitz Center for Youth and Families, and Faculty in the Child and Adolescent Training Program at The Washington School of Psychiatry. She has been an Instructor of Modern American Relational Theory at the Washington Center for Psychoanalysis and is currently a Training Candidate in Psychoanalysis. Drawn by her experiences as a child of a survivor, Ms. Blasiak studied Jewish philosophy and the history of the Holocaust at Baltimore Hebrew University, Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, and at the University of Pittsburgh. She has interviewed Holocaust survivors and created community programming for Holocaust remembrances. Ms. Blasiak’s talk is entitled *Lost and Found: Carrying the Unspoken Burdens of the Past.*

**Amy Carattini, Ph.D.** holds an MA in English literature and PhD in socio-cultural anthropology. She is affiliated with the Anthropology of the Immigrant Life Course Program at the University of Maryland and is a co-editor for the journal *Practicing Anthropology.* In the process of investigating social practices involving immigrant integration, she has completed research projects involving immigrants in Prince George’s County, MD, and Ethiopian Orthodox Churches and the African Immigrant and Refugee Foundation in the Greater Metropolitan DC Area. Her most recent research includes life history interviews with foreign-born professors to understand what composes their social, cultural and professional dimensions. She is interested in comparing immigrant experiences from both professional and working class sectors. Currently, she holds a faculty position in English and Humanities at Stratford University, Falls Church, VA. In a previous life, she taught English literature and composition at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport, Connecticut, creative writing through Penn State’s Adult Continuing Education Center in Chambersburg, PA, and has been a professional editor, most recently with the Organization of American States. Dr. Carattini’s talk will be *Stories from the Inside: Immigrant Reactions to Bigotry and Intolerance.*

I hope you will be a part of our New Directions community for this important weekend. We have all the ingredients for a stimulating and challenging conference. Between speakers of this caliber, the readings, the self-examination of the writing prompts, and our ability to create a magical Winnicottian “space between” involving participants and speakers, we should be in for a treat, albeit quite a serious one. But then, the times, they have changed.

With all my warm devotion to the New Directions community,

Marc Nemiroff
A PARTICIPANT’S GUIDE TO THE ASSIGNED READINGS:

Everything you always wanted to know about what you’ve been asked to read

There are six assigned readings for this weekend. (Please don’t panic. The number of pages is within our usual limits.)

Each of our plenary speakers has provided a paper—or two short papers— and I’ve added one additional paper that I think will be helpful.

I’d suggest beginning with the one from me. It is James Baldwin’s moving letter to his nephew, that comprises the very brief opening chapter of *The Fire Next Time*.

I had hoped to have samples of hate mail to share with you as a reading. Unfortunately, I couldn’t get that file to attach. I’ll do my best to work some of them into my opening remarks.

In order of presentation, here is a list of the articles provided by our speakers:

**Maurice Apprey:** His own paper, *Representing, Theorizing and Reconfiguring the Concept of Transgenerational Haunting in Order to Facilitate Healing*. Dr. Apprey tells me he plans to incorporate discussion of the writing of this paper in his talk.

**Richard Ruth:** A classic paper, *Inner World, Outer World: Exploring the tension of race, sexual orientation and class and the internal world*, by Bernard Ratigan.

**Mimi Blasiak:** *The Empty Circle: Children of survivors and the limits of reconstruction*, by Dori Laub.

**Amy Carattini:** the sly and brief *Body Ritual Among the Nacirema*, by Horace Miner, and *Discourses of Othering*, by Fred Dervin. I’d suggest reading these two in this order.

I hope this overview is helpful.

Enjoy!

Marc
Our plenary speakers this weekend will tend to focus on the effects of bigotry in various guises and with multiple targets. The writing prompts have been designed to create the necessary symmetry of the topic: to help us explore our own bigotry, both known and quite surprising to us. No one is free of bias. These prompts are to help us write about the unpleasant or unwanted.

The New York Times, Letters to the Editor, January 13, 2017:

TO THE EDITOR:
Too many of us who are white and consider ourselves progressive are silent about racism. We say we’re against racism, yet we do nothing about it. When challenged, we become confused, defensive, hurt, even angry. We react, but we rarely explore our history, our opinions, our biases.

I am a 76-year-old white woman from Mississippi. I am taking the bus to the Women’s March on Washington because I am convinced such public actions are essential to a healthy democracy. I invite other women to march with me in Washington, and urge us to break our silence about racism.

MARGERY FREEMAN
McComb, Miss.

Please feel free to write in any form you wish: creative non-fiction, memoir, short fiction, poetry, a clinically-based piece, a dramatic form, etc.

These WRITING PROMPTS are intended to facilitate our ability to explore ourselves, while enhancing our openness to write about what we may neither like nor approve of.

1. Describe (or create) an experience when your response was laden with a bigotry you weren’t aware of and how you worked this through.

2. Write about (or create) treating a highly prejudiced person, whose prejudice was ego-syntonic, and how it affected you.

3. Have you ever (or, if not, imagine that you) terminated treatment because you found the bigotry of your patient unbearable? What was this like?
4. Create a bigot. Can be first person, third person, fiction, poetry, etc.

5. Write about what it is like to be with a bigoted person of whom you are rather fond.

6. Write a news story describing in purely objective terms a truly offensive act of bigotry. The reader should not be able to tell how you feel.

7. Write about a well-known literary bigot or a famously bigoted author whom you nevertheless rather like.

8. Write about something of particular interest to you about this weekend’s topic.

**Your papers must be limited to 750 words.** Please include your name and word count at the top of your paper. Papers with more than 750 words will not be accepted or read.

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ASSIGNMENT** by 5:00 PM, **Wednesday, March 29, 2017** to Paco Martinez-Alvarez at ConfManagement@aol.com. Paco will acknowledge receipt. Please email the assignment as an attachment in a Word document or PDF file with your LAST NAME as the name of THE FILE.

**Please bring 12 copies** of your paper to distribute in your small group. There are limited copying facilities at the hotel.
CONFERENCE LOCATION
The New Directions Program will meet at the Residence Inn by Marriott Pentagon City located at 550 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA 22202. The hotel is situated within walking distance of the Fashion Center, a large enclosed shopping mall with Macy's and Nordstrom as anchor stores. The hotel is three blocks from the Pentagon City metro station which is only two stops away from the metro station at Washington's National Airport.

ACCOMMODATIONS
If you are planning to stay at the hotel, a limited block of rooms has been set aside at a special group rate of $145 (plus tax) per night for a studio suite single, including breakfast. We also have a few two-bedroom suites (2 separate rooms with bathrooms and a common living area), at a rate of $245 (plus tax) per night. These 2-bedroom suites provide privacy for both guests and are good to share with a colleague or friend attending the weekend.

To make reservations, please call the hotel directly at 703-413-6630 and request the group rate for “Washington Center for Psychoanalysis.” Please call as soon as possible as these rates are available on a first-come, first-served basis until Wednesday, March 29, 2017. April is VERY POPULAR with tourists and once the block of rooms is booked, the hotel may not be able to provide us with additional rooms at the discounted rate.

SHARE-A-SUITE PROGRAM
Once again, we will be using studio suites for our small discussion groups. The studio suites have a living room and bedroom in a “studio” or “efficiency” style. There’s no separation between the living and sleeping areas. Interested students stay in the suites but allow the use of the living area for the small discussion and writing groups throughout the weekend. If you sign up for the share-a-suite program, your portion of the cost of the suite will be $73 plus tax per night. Please note that the 2-bedroom suites cannot be used in the share-a-suite program!

As in previous weekends, these shared suites will be paid by the Washington Center for Psychoanalysis and you will reimburse the Center for your share upon invoice. If you are interested in participating, please email Paco Martinez-Alvarez at ConfManagement@aol.com to reserve a suite. He will keep a list and reserve the rooms directly with the hotel. You will not need to make reservations on your own for this arrangement. Non-recent participants in the share-a-suite program will have priority.

METRO - AIRPORT SHUTTLE
The Pentagon City metro station is only a 4-block walk to the hotel. Once at the station, take the Hayes Street exit, walk to Army Navy Drive and make a right. The hotel is on the corner of Army Navy Drive and South Fern Street. If you are flying into Washington Reagan National Airport, a free shuttle runs to-from the hotel and the airport’s baggage claim area. After picking up your luggage, call the hotel at 703-413-6630 to alert the Operator of your need for the shuttle pickup.

PARKING AT THE HOTEL
Underground parking at the hotel is available on a first-come first-served basis for a daily fee of $9 per day. This special fee is available to daily participants not staying at the hotel (i.e., not parking overnight) and to hotel guests booking under the group rate above. Otherwise the rate is $26 for a 24-hour period. Collect the parking ticket at the garage’s entrance and pay at the front desk. The paid ticket will serve to exit the garage at the end of the day.