



## International Conference for the Advanced Professional Practice of Clinical Social Work

### **SUCCESS OF THE 2009 CONFERENCE**

The July 2009 ICAPP Conference, “The Therapeutic Crucible: How Our Clients Help Us Grow,” in San Francisco was a resounding success!

Some of the comments?

- “It was exceptional – from arrangements, trips to presentations.”
- “I loved it!”
- “A great experience – intellectually stimulating and fun!”
- “Wonderful!”

Since ICAPP began in 1961 our intent was to offer conferences that blended a stimulating learning experience with fun and camaraderie. Our 13 presenters followed in this tradition, sharing with us the life changing experiences and struggles that enabled them to help their clients.

Some of the highlights:

Thomas M. Young, PhD set the tone with his opening paper, “Expanding the Therapist’s Consciousness,” which shared how his own emotional growth added his client’s growth in reciprocal interaction. Barry Hall, PhD, RSW, described tough lessons he had to learn, almost having to become part of the culture to earn the trust and successfully deliver “Bereavement Counselling of First Nation Blackfoot People” in Alberta, Canada.

Caroline E. Sakai, MSW, PhD, working with trauma victims in Rwanda, showed how Thought Field Therapy could empower clients to heal themselves. In her workshop, “Pushing Out of the Evidence-Based Box” she showed how this technique could effectively shorten treatment. Margaret Shapiro, LCSW, described her “seat of the pants” outreach to asylum seekers who would not come to an office and risk being “labeled”. Janae Munda, LCSW, in “Growing Pains of the Adolescent Therapist” shared lessons she learned that enabled her to help adolescents and their mothers. Caroline Bersak, LCSW, DSW, challenged conventional thinking in working with couples by showing that continuing working with each member of a pair as each maintained extra-marital relationships could help them work things out.

Workshops focused on discussion of the papers, not a dry reading of them. Participants and presenters came away invigorated. Add to that the fun of “hospitality hours,” group dinners, trips to Alcatraz and Muir Woods and Sausalito and you have the formula for a great experience.

Join us in 2010 in Quebec at the legendary Chateau Frontenac!