



SUCCESS OF THE 2011 ICAPP CONFERENCE

The July 2011 50th Anniversary conference, **“Freedom: What Does Psychotherapy Have to Say?”** held in Colonial Williamsburg at the historic Williamsburg Lodge was an unqualified success. We continue to receive the highest ratings for our clinical conferences.

Some of the comments:

- “Excellent discussion!” “Excellent format!”
- “Very worthwhile papers that were well-written and relevant to my practice.”
- “As usual, emphasis on bonding and shared group activities was highly effective.”
- “Wonderful! Supportive environment!”



We were on the grounds of the colonial restoration and enjoyed visiting the historic buildings and sites of colonial history. We listened to interesting talks, saw costumed presentations and heard dramatic renderings of our nation’s colonial history. At the time Williamsburg was the center of 18th century education and culture. In addition, an optional tour was organized to Jamestown to learn about the challenges and terrible hardships faced by the early settlers in 1607 as they sought to establish the first permanent English settlement in America. We also got a taste of colonial fare at the optional dinner we arranged at the King’s Arms Tavern, complete with servers in colonial garb, strumming while singing 18th century ballads, and recounting how it was like to live in those early times.

The conference itself produced thoughtful ideas and provoked animated and gratifying discussions. Jim Donnelly led off with his ideas of the therapist as the facilitator of discovery within the uncertainty of the therapeutic encounter. Carlton Munson highlighted the pervasive limits on the clinician’s freedom to exercise his powers due to impingements of insurance, licensing boards, court cases and practice regulations. Harriet Meek spoke on freeing those tied in knots because of internal conflict and helping others to achieve freedom from disorganization and dysregulated affect, while Judith Rosenberger spoke in a similar vein but expanding it to functional skills needed in the sociopolitical environment. Alan Levy discussed the mutual enactments of psychic conflicts and their constraint of freedom in the therapeutic dyad.

A number of our presenters offered thoughts on practice in specific contexts: Patricia Seese on the ill effects of unemployment on mental health and freedom; Tom Kenemore on the unique needs of inmates released from incarceration in an unwelcoming; Neil Cervera on how substance abuse limits the abuser and those around him and the treatment challenges; and Eugenia Weiss and Jose Coll on fostering resilience in military families of combat PTSD veterans. Nancy Turret offered a well-received presentation of a short-term structured 16 week program of complicated grief.

All our papers and discussions keep the clinical practitioners’ needs and concerns at the forefront as ICAPP hopes to support and uphold the practice of clinical social work.

**Please Join Us at the Historic Inns of Annapolis
in Annapolis, Maryland
June 13-16, 2012
for our 51st Annual Clinical Conference entitled:
“Media Influences on Clinical Practice: Help or Hindrance?”**