

Conversations & Craft



Greenwater Lakes Trail, near Enumclaw, WA

2012 WPCA Continuing Education

We'd love your input on the continuing education opportunities we seek out.

Join the conversation at wpcawa.com

WPCA is pleased to sponsor the following upcoming continuing education events by distinguished local professionals.

Sustaining a Professional Calling Over Time & Through Changing Times

Date: Sept. 22, 2012
Location: TBD

Doug Anderson and Terry Gibson will lead a moderated dialogue on pastoral counseling and the ethics of the confessional, in our present therapy environment. Attendees will earn 6 ethics CEU credits.

Contact Jerry Smith via email: smithjf@comcast.net or at 253-627-1691 for more information about this upcoming event!

School for Mystics

Fall quarter start: 10/7/12
Location: Seattle (Lake Union area)

The fourth year of the three-quarter **School for Mystics** is comprised of 15 classes between Oct. 7/2012-May 6th/2013. School for Mystics explores mystical experience from multicultural and inter-religious perspectives—East, West, indigenous people and contemporary neurobiology. Attendees of this 9-month

program receive **45 CEU credits**. Contact Barbara Fischer, Director, for more information: 206-715-1870 or bjfisch@mindspring.com. Cost is \$375.00 per quarter.

Ethics & Technology: The Clinical Use of Social Media

Date: Nov. 10, 2012
Location: Tacoma

This workshop, led attorney Eric Strom, JD, will instruct attendees on the possible ethical and legal impacts, and risks, of new/emerging forms of electronic media on counseling practices. Participants will learn documentation requirements of new media, and discuss real-life scenarios and applications.

For more info, contact Jerry Smith at 253-627-1691 or smithjf@comcast.net.

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Following are brief synopses of two CEU events WPCA helped present in fall 2011/spring 2012.

Wayne McClesky, M.Th., facilitated a two-part workshop on "**Energy Psychology**," a synthesis of various methodologies, known as Thought Field Therapy. Six participants

Upcoming WPCA 2012 Workshops/Events

Saturday, Sept. 22
Sustaining a Professional Calling Over Time & Through Changing Times

Sunday, Oct. 7
School for Mystics kick off

Saturday, Nov. 10
Ethics & Technology: The Clinical Use of Social Media

learned the history of these modalities, techniques of energy testing, and practiced a number of interventions for specific psychological blocks and barriers to healing. Participants who attended both workshop dates earned 12 CEU credits.

Amanda Franklin and Julie Wood facilitated "**It all Depends...Supervision in Context**," a WAMFT sponsored supervision refresher course on 5/12/12. Approximately 40 approved supervisors attended the day-long event, an interactive examination of the latest issues around content, process, and the ethics of overseeing and mentoring marriage and family therapists.

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MFT Staff, clockwise from top left: David Gerardot, Shannon Ring, Carol Greeley, Scott Coleman, Molly Staley, Julia Bagley, & Brian Kennedy.

WPCA Welcomes MFT Associates!

We are pleased to announce WPCA has joined forces with Marriage & Family Therapy Associates, LLC, a community of therapists and educators in Olympia. MFT Associates provides healing to individuals, couples, families and groups seeking peace and spiritual connection in their relationships and within themselves.

This partnership is part of

WPCA's larger efforts to network with high quality groups of therapists throughout the Puget Sound area, and will help us to provide CEUs for larger constituencies. As part of this collaboration, Brian C. Kennedy, LMFT, is now serving as a WPCA board member.

Please join us in welcoming Brian and his associates (see staff photo at left) to the WPCA family!

Get to Know Your WPCA Board: Barbara J. Fischer

WPCA encourages members to actively participate in our board. For the next several issues, we'll be featuring profiles of current board members to let you know who they are, and why they serve.

Hello colleagues. Some of you know me as a family therapist and co-founder and first director of the Marriage and Family Therapy Program at Presbyterian Counseling Service (now Samaritan Center) and Seattle Pacific University.

I closed my therapy practice in 2002 because of a life threatening illness but thanks to a remarkable cardiologist, a miraculous device, and enormous support, I'm back with a new sense of purpose and a steadier heart. Serving on the board of WPCA is one of the ways I feel called to serve this community with my "new life." I'm focused on big questions like "what is the role of the human in the evolutionary journey of this planet?" and "how do we transform our consciousness

"Serving on the board of WPCA is one of the ways I feel called to serve this community with my "new life." "

to meet the challenges we face?"

To that end, in 2009 I founded a "School for Mystics" which just completed its third year. I'm also privileged to be a Spiritual Development Mentor to individuals and small groups. Besides my own frequent "close encounters" with death, Ken Wilber, Integral Theory, and Evolutionary Spirituality have contributed the most to my understanding of expanded states of awareness and the evolution of consciousness.

My life is full of family and friends. I have a beloved husband of 43 years, a son, daughter, daughter-in-law, 5 grandchildren who are my heart's delight, plus two "grand-dogs" who are Zen masters. We all live next door to each other, which is turning out to be a remarkably successful experiment. I'm fascinated with soil science, and what makes things "alive" and am happiest when gardening with my grandchildren.

WPCA 2012

Board Members:

Jerry Smith, *President*

Jesalyn Kimura, *VP*

Doug McLemore, *Treasurer*

Barbara Bauml, *Secretary*

Barbara J. Fischer, *Board Member*

Terie Clement, *Newsletter & Website*

Brian Kennedy, *Board Member*



WPCA advocates for persons who practice pastoral counseling or who support and affirm this ministry. We promote the common good of pastoral counselors and their practices in Washington State. We promote the spiritual, psychological, social, and relational health and well being of persons. We promote professional standards in the practice of pastoral counseling. We advocate for keeping maximum responsibility with pastoral counselors and their religious bodies.

VIEW POINTS

Toward an Integrated Psycho-Spiritual Psychotherapy: A Bridge Between Chalkboard Science and the Metaphysical Soul

by The Rev. Dr. Jerry F. Smith, S.T.D., WPCA President

The field of Pastoral Psychotherapy is charged with the daunting task of creating a bridge between the “hard” neurosciences and the experience of the metaphysical soul. It seeks to maintain the integrity of each, while heightening the dialogue between them.

“Hard” neurosciences ultimately contend that human experience consists of neurochemical processes, rationally expressible as a series of mathematical equations and chemical formulae. What is real, from this perspective, must explicitly yield scientific evidence, as governed by scientific method, and agreed upon by a certain assigned body of peer professionals. This is no recent idea. Manuscripts from Neolithic times cite that ancient Egyptians and contemporary cultures sought the locus of many human problems in the brain, and Sigmund Freud, the founder of modern day psychotherapy, spent his early career as a brain pathologist seeking the origins of human mental disorders in brain tissue.

However vast literature — which includes, but is not limited to, religious traditions of Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, and Hinduism — also supports the human experience as metaphysical, wherein reality can transcend that which is perceptible to human senses, and to our intellect.

Metaphysical is defined as the study of what is fundamental to nature and being, and it grapples with two questions: “What is real?” and “What are the properties of that reality?” When amplified these questions evolve into concerns over existence, objects and



their properties, space and time, cause and effect, and possibility.

Expanding the field to include transpersonal psychology provides an even richer picture. This approach to psychology grew out of other schools including psychoanalysis, behaviorism, and humanistic psychology; it studies the transpersonal and self-transcendent, or spiritual aspects, of the human experience, and attempts to describe and integrate spiritual experience within modern psychological theory. The concerns of transpersonal psychology include the recognition, understanding, and realization of unitive, spiritual, and transcendent states of consciousness, and it considers issues including spiritual self-development, self beyond the ego, peak experiences, mystical experiences, systemic trance and other sublime and/or unusually expanded experiences of living.

Stark separation between “hard” neurosciences and metaphysics is relatively recent. Until the late eighteenth century, before the advent of the scientific method, the physical and metaphysical had a very congenial interchange around the material and non-material nature of existence. Aristotle,

one of the originators of Western science and philosophy, posited an integrated interchange between these two aspects of human experience. And, allowed to converse freely, these two realms birthed astonishing results, like the theory of Relativity. Sadly, however, while Carl Jung and others laid the legitimate cornerstones of the spiritual and transpersonal in their work, current Western psychology tends to ignore, or disengage from, the spiritual dimension of the human psyche.

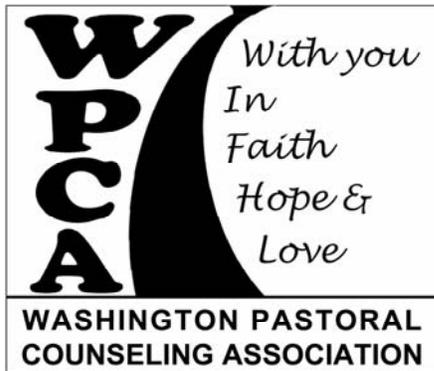
Nevertheless, pastoral counselors embrace the inclusive dialogical process, and continue to advocate for free, respectful, and non-judgmental discussion between these two parts of our human inquiry. Pastoral counseling establishes a series of contexts that allow for the study, and treatment of the whole human condition.

So, my final questions are: “How do you maintain that free, respectful, and non-judgmental discussion within yourself?” and “How do you enter into it with the broadest spectrum of your professional colleagues?” Please write and tell us your experiences.

With warmest blessings, Jerry

See Jerry's full article,
including sources, and
join our conversation
at wpcawa.com

We're on the web: wpcawa.com



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Tacoma , WA 98406

Washington Pastoral Counseling Association

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Tacoma, WA 98406