Good Afternoon and welcome to the annual meeting of the Society of Modern Psychoanalysts. I am glad to be back here in New York among my colleagues and friends and the membership of SMP. Events of this past year have incredibly underscored the importance of our work and the delivery of mental health services that this country so importantly needs. The tragedy that occurred just two weeks ago in Boston forced the cancellation of the 40th anniversary celebration of a founding institute member of SMP, the Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis. This act brings into sharp focus how close we all are to the possibility for such destruction. Constructive plans are in the works to bring us to Boston soon for the postponed celebration and the planned graduation of students of its programs.

 There are other events and conditions that have brought tragic consequences to our citizens; mass violence, a continued war with injuries that will negatively affect the lives and families of our returning military. The never ever ending debate in our media and in our government brings us to more and more awareness that answers lie in the work that we do when we attend to the psychological disturbances of those we see.

 We cannot legislate correction of the impulse to do harm and create mayhem and war. But we can work with people who have the potential to do so.

Although we are but a small segment of the psychoanalytic profession our particular theoretical viewpoint on the continuum of destructive and constructive forces make us responsible to do whatever extent we can to make a difference.

 We have an obligation to keep expanding and offering what we do in our training and by extension the treatment of more and more people.

As I have said times before, echoing those before me, that the principle of accepting all individuals into our therapeutic process is a fundamental belief. The widening population of those we train who come from our nation and from foreign countries will eventually have a greater and greater impact on the dynamics that lead disturbed individuals to express killing rage to others. We know that the human condition has forever struggled with the polarities of constructive and destructive impulses and conditions that disturb relationships, communities, governments and countries. We know also that the process of psychoanalysis brings those who examine themselves promotes an awareness of self and others that mitigate against actions that tear asunder lives, marriages, relationships and more serious enactments.

SMP has supported its institutes in their evolving growth and accomplishments. Founded in 1989, SMP has seen the growth of the institute programs in breadth and recognition. While training individuals clinically the schools have advanced to a place where academic recognition was accomplished. BGSP has led this effort and accredited degrees began there, followed by New York at CMPS and currently expanding to New Jersey at ACAP. Academic accreditation within the field of clinical training is a unique accomplishment and although it creates challenges to the singular mission of preparing adept clinicians in ways that our institutes were originally founded, it has resulted in an expansion of programs that will bring more and more individuals into the pool of mental health work that our society and world so badly needs.

A benefit to accreditation has been an influx of foreign students from all over the world. In BGSP alone countries from almost all the countries from almost every continent are or have been in attendance, learning, training, graduating with accredited degrees and capable of bringing Modern Psychoanalysis to their homelands.

Finished with their training they continue to remain in analysis and/or supervision via SKYPE and are beginning to incorporate Modern Psychoanalysis into existing programs or founding new ones. At this time we are in communication with one such institute in South Korea, and Japan and will likely begin talks with people in Russia.

SMP has begun to plan its next Spring trip to St. Petersburg, Russia for 2014 and discussing plans with Harold Stern and Evelyn Liegner who will be honored in St. Petersburg for the translation of her book into Russian. If any of you are interested in this trip please let me know during our luncheon.

As the president of SMP I want to report on the work of society since our last annual meeting and highlight some of what we are doing to exand our membership,

Before I do I would like to introduce the Executive Committee of the board who have responsibility for different functions. Please be free to discuss any of the reports with them during the luncheon.

Our Secretary is Ms. Charlotte Meknik

Our Treasurer is Mr Ronald Lieber

Our Legislative VP is Mary Shepherd

Our VP for institute and organization Membership is Vicki Semel assisted by Christopher Russell our student member of the board.

Our VP for Conferences and Scientific Meetings is Raul Plasencia

Our VP for Degree Development is Mimi Crowell

VP’s Editors of the Analyst, our newletter are Charlotte Melnik and Angela Musolino

Our VP for Membership is Angela Musolino

These are the individuals who meet regularly between annual meetings doing the work of the SMP.

Members at large here should stand to be recognized also.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Before I turn the meeting over to Raul Plasencia our Conference Coordinator who has planned and put together the meeting today I want to add that we have opportunity for members to have Official Certificates for our graduate members. An order form is available and see the person at the desk outside. When framed it makes a wonderful addition to your office walls.

During my report I didn’t’ mention an absence on the executive board of the Public Relations VP. If any member has a particular interest in this area please speak to me during the luncheon I can consider an interim appointment to the board.