



SUFFOLK COUNTY PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, Inc.
promoting the profession of psychology in Suffolk County through fellowship, education and advocacy
Affiliated with New York State Psychological Association, Inc.
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Happy summer, SCPA! What a busy past few months we have had.

Drs. Madalina Yellico, Donna Thiele, and Mary DiBenedetto went to Albany for Lobby Day in May. They spoke to legislators about issues of great importance to us as psychologists, including continuity of care across state lines and concern about the use of AI. Thanks to their attendance and lobbying, PsyPact was finally approved by New York State's legislature and currently awaits Governor Hochul's signature; a bill providing the strongest protections in the country for kids against unsafe features in AI chatbots is also sitting on the governor's desk. We are profoundly grateful to Drs. Yellico, Thiele, and DiBenedetto for taking the time to go to Albany on behalf of all of us.

Closer to home, SCPA had its annual election and re-elected 4 Board members - Drs. Zach Rose, Gina Sita-Molz, Dan Volk, and Madalina Yellico. We said farewell to a few Committee Chairs who have stepped down from their positions - Dr. Hilary Gomes from her role as CE Chair (which she served in since 2019), and Dr. Sebastien Saylor from his role as Membership Co-Chair (which he served in since 2024). Our Psychologist of the Year was named - Dr. Madalina Yellico - a truly deserving recipient! We completed our renewal cycle successfully and hope that you continue to find our website easy to navigate.

Our End of the Year Party went off without a hitch at beautiful Elwood Park. The little ones were able to enjoy the spray park while the adults mingled in the shade of the pavilion. Thanks to our grill master, Tom Thiele, for cooking up some delicious food.

As we look ahead, Donna Thiele has a terrific slate of programming laid out for the 2026-2027 year, so keep an eye out for emails about our upcoming workshops.

SCPA will be participating in the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Out of the Darkness walk yet again this September 20. SCPA was the top fundraising team for the 2025 walk, raising a total of \$10,863 for AFSP, and it would be fantastic to exceed that amount this year. Please join our team by clicking [here](#) or support our team by donating [here](#).

If you have any concerns about SCPA, please feel free to reach out! Have a wonderful remainder of your summer - stay cool and hydrated. ☀️

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