



SCPA

Suffolk County Psychological Association

Promoting the profession of psychology in Suffolk
County through fellowship, education, and advocacy
for Seventy Years

1955-2025

70th Anniversary

June 6th, 2025

Smithtown Landing

Smithtown, NY



Suffolk County Psychological Association

70th Anniversary Journal

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- A few words from Dr. Donna Thiele, President-Elect
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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.
 scpa.inquiry@gmail.com • (631) 623-0293

June 6, 2025

Dear colleagues,

I am honored to share some brief thoughts with you as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Suffolk County Psychological Association.

I have been a member of SCPA for 11 years. I joined originally for networking and educational purposes. Within a few years, that networking led to encouragement from Deena Abbe to join the Board, and I am now beginning my 7th year as a Board member, my Presidency having just started a few days ago. SCPA has truly become my professional home.

Recently, in an email thread welcoming a new member, the new member said that she was happy to be joining what seemed to be a “very welcoming group.” In response was the comment, “We really are this warm and welcoming!” This isn’t just lip service; this kindness is what makes SCPA the organization that it is. People join for the networking and the education, but they stay for the camaraderie.

SCPA isn’t thriving because of its active listserv with referral requests and supportive posts from colleagues and friends (which it assuredly has). It isn’t flourishing because of its wealth of quality programming (which it most definitely has). It isn’t going strong because of community outreach (which it absolutely does). It is the connections that have allowed SCPA to endure for 70 years. It is the connections that will allow it to continue for another 70 years.

This is why I’d like to return as many of our events and as much of our programming to in-person as I can, moving forward. The last five years have been difficult - keeping ourselves and our loved ones safe was a top priority. We are fortunate to live in a time when virtual opportunities are an option, which allowed us to keep SCPA strong and vibrant, even in the face of fear and uncertainty in the world. Now that, in large part, the major threat of COVID has subsided, the members of SCPA deserve to see each other again and rebuild those personal connections that have been the backbone of our organization.

I hope that you will continue to be part of New York’s finest regional psychological association for many years to come, bolstered by the connections that you make in the years to come.

With gratitude,
 Beth Hollander
 President, Suffolk County Psychological Association

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2025-2026

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School Psychology

Technology
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 THOMAS DIBLASI, Ph.D.

PAST PRESIDENTS

2023-25 THOMAS DIBLASI, Ph.D.; 2021-23 DANIELLE ZITO, Ph.D.; 2019-21 ANN C. ECKARDT, Psy.D., ABPP; 2017-19 SHANE OWENS, Ph.D., ABPP; 2015-17 DEENA ABBE, Ph.D.; 2013-15 KEITH MOSS, Ph.D.; 2011-13 DIANE SHERLIP, Ph.D.; 2009-11 HELEN G. MEYERS, Ph.D.; 2007-09 STEVEN HARTMAN, Psy.D.; 2005-07 BARBARA FONTANA, Ph.D.; 2003-05 WENDI FISCHER, Ph.D.; 2001-03 WENDY B. DORET, Ph.D.; 1999-01 DARRYL B. FELDMAN, Ph.D.; 1997-99 ALAN J. KLEIN, Ph.D.; 1995-97 MARLENE N. KASMAN, Ph.D.; 1993-95 JOSEPH E. CZEKALA, Ph.D.; 1991-93 ELIZABETH K. CARLL, Ph.D.; 1989-91 JOHN J. SIEFRING, Ph.D.; 1987-89 ROBERT NACHTMAN, Ph.D.; 1985-87 DAVID R. HESCHELES, Psy.D.; 1983-85 KATHLEEN DOYLE, Ph.D.; 1981-83 MARTIN BREGMAN, Ph.D.; 1979-81 HENRY TANNERS, Ph.D.; 1977-79 STANLEY R. BRETT, Ph.D.; 1975-77 PETER SEPEZ, Ed.D.; 1973-75 JOAN KAVENAGH, Ph.D.; 1971-73 JACK WANGER, Ph.D.; 1969-71 GEORGE REIS, M.A.; 1967-69 MONROE LEVIN, Ph.D.; 1966-67 MEL MART, Ph.D.; 1965-66 LESTER DUBNICK, Ed.D.; 1964-6 IRVING SHELSKY, Ph.D.; 1963-64 SEYMOUR SCHPOONT, Ph.D.; 1962-63 DANIEL LUCAS, Ph.D.

A few words from Donna Thiele, PsyD, BCBA-D, LBA, President-Elect

A brief conversation between my daughter and I:

Daughter: You do a lot for SCPA, Mom. How much do they pay you?

Me: They don't pay me. I volunteer.

Daughter: You do all those things, and they DON'T PAY YOU?!

Me: That's right.

Daughter: Why do you do it then?

Me: Because I like to do it. I really enjoy all the people I meet and everything we get to do together. It reminds me how great it is to be a psychologist. I think they're some of the smartest and kindest people around. I choose to do it.

This conversation made me reflect on the meaning of service—something that's at the heart of our profession. Being a psychologist is, at its core, a profession of service: to our clients, to our communities, and to one another. Service doesn't always come with a paycheck, but it brings something equally valuable: a sense of purpose, fulfillment, and connection.

Volunteering with SCPA has been a meaningful way for me to give back to the professional community that has shaped and supported me throughout my career. It has given me the opportunity to build relationships, grow alongside colleagues, and stay connected to the mission that first inspired me to become a psychologist.

It is my sincere hope that, as you read this, you'll consider how you might contribute your time and talents to SCPA. Whether it's joining a committee, mentoring a newer professional, or running for a position on the board, your involvement matters. Our strength as an organization—and as a profession—comes from the commitment and generosity of our members.

Let's keep serving together.

**Suffolk County Psychological Association
Executive Board, 2025-2026**

President: Beth Hollander, PhD
 President-Elect: Donna Thiele, PsyD
 Past President: Thomas DiBlasi, PhD
 Treasurer: Allison Lebowitz Elkoubi, PhD
 Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Raffanello, PhD

Members-at-Large:
 Ryan Clements, PsyD
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 Melissa Schroeder, PsyD
 Daniel Volk, PhD
 Madalina Yellico, PhD



Beth Hollander, PhD



Donna Thiele, PsyD



Thomas DiBlasi, PhD



Allison Lebowitz Elkoubi, PhD



Elizabeth (Liz) Raffanello, PhD



Ryan Clements, PsyD



Mary DiBenedetto, PhD



Melissa Rosenblatt, PhD



Gina Sita-Molz, PsyD



Melissa Schroeder, PsyD



Daniel T. Volk, PhD



Madalina Yellico, PhD

Plaques for Outgoing Board Members and Chairs

1. Nominations and Elections Committee - Danielle Zito, PsyD
2. School Psychology Committee - Germaine Allison, PhD
3. Legislative and Insurance Committee - Deena Abbe, PhD
4. Legislative and Insurance Committee - Jennifer Fay, PsyD
5. Psychology Student Committee - Jessica Cannone, PsyD
6. Member of the Board - Germaine Allison, PhD
7. Member of the Board - Laura Colantuono, PsyD
8. Member of the Board - Anthony Anzalone, PsyD
9. Member of the Board - Sebastien Saylor, PsyD
10. Treasurer - Jessica Cannone, PsyD
11. President - Thomas DiBlasi, PhD

Psychologist of the Year Award

1997 Karen Shore, PhD
1998 Alida M. Schubert, PhD
1999 Barbara Fontana, PhD
2000 William M. Bennison, PhD
2001 David L. Marascuillo, PhD
2002 Peter S. Kanaris, PhD and John P. Kelly, PhD
2003 No award given
2004 No award given
2005 No award given
2006 David Byrom, PhD
2007 Wendy Doret, PhD
2008 Anthony Pantaleno, PhD
2009 Diane Sherlip, PhD
2010 No award given
2011 Daniel O'Leary, PhD
2012 Suzanne Phillips, PsyD
2013 Roy Aranda, PhD
2014 Shane Owens, PhD
2015 Deborah Serani, PhD
2016 Anthony Pantaleno, PhD
2017 Peter Kanaris, PhD
2018 Paul Ginnetty, PhD
2019 Deena Abbe, PhD
2020 ALL the members of SCPA
2021 Ann C. Eckardt-Erlanger, PsyD, ABPP

2022 Beth Hollander, PhD

2023 Donna Thiele, PsyD, LBA, BCBA-D

2024 Melissa Schroeder, PsyD, BCBA

2025 Valentina Stoycheva, PhD

Charter Members of Suffolk County Psychological Association

Charter Members of Suffolk County Psychological Association.			
Name	Date	Name	Date
Gans, Felice A	5/14/55	Dworkin, Jack A	2/4/56
Pisternick, Ruth A	"	Katz, Melvin A	"
Koussanjian, Thomas A	"	Rath, Sonja A	10/22/55
Schm, Leon A	"	Pinto, Virginia A	10/22/55
Beck, Norman A	"	Schwartz, Leonard A	5/14/55
Leese, Grace A	"	Koenig, Maxine	2/28/56
Oakes, Frederick, Jr. A	"		
Dean, Elliot A	"		
Leese, Louis A	6/12/55		
Cooper, Max A	"		
Schuster, Stanley A	5/14/55		
Pivnick, Harold A	10/22/55		
Allinger, Dorothy A	"		
Obstfeld, Edith A	"		
Ziegler, Pauline A	"		
^{W.S.} Reese , George A	"		
Fisher, Kenneth A	"		
Friedman, Estelle A	"		
Becker, Paul A	2/4/56		
Winston, Shirley A	"		
Steteh, Grace A	"		
Bass, Marc B. A	"		
Karp, Mitchell A	"		
Fabian, Fred A	"		
Turbine, Milton A	"		
Cohen, Leon A	"		
Levine, Harold A	"		

MAILING LIST OF

SUFFOLK COUNTY PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION - MAY 15, 1955

Dr. Kenneth Fisher 24 Whitney Drive Amityville, N.Y.	Mrs. Sonia Rath Pilgrim State Hospital Brentwood, N.Y.	Dr. Stanley Schwartz 19 Merrill Place Huntington, N.Y.
Miss Felice Gams 1472 Watson Ave. Bronx, N.Y.	Miss Virginia Pinto 87-41 26th Ave. Brooklyn 14, N.Y.	Miss Edith Ostfeld c/o Supt's. Office Lindenhurst Public Schools Lindenhurst, N.Y.
Mrs. Shirley Winston Psychology Dept. Pilgrim State Hospital Brentwood, N.Y.	Mr. Chester Fuererstein Psychology Dept. Central Islip State Hospital Central Islip, N.Y.	Mr. Harold Pionick Kennedy Lane Cold Springs Harbor, N.Y.
Psychology Dept. Kings Parks Hospital Kings Park, N.Y.	Psychology Dept. South Oaks Home Amityville, N.Y.	Mr. Charles Stillings 159 E. Pulaski Road Huntington Station, N.Y.
Mrs. Thelma Horlacher c/o B.C.E.S. 108 East Main St. Riverhead, N.Y.	Dr. Thomas Kavazanjian Child Guidance Clinic 577 Main Street Islip, N.Y.	Dr. Leonard Schwartz 581 Alwick Ave. West Islip (Babylon), N.Y.
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Lauro 12 Hempstead Ave. Rockville Centre, N.Y.	Mr. John McGuinness 31 Ross Lane East Norwich, N.Y.	Miss Pauline Zeigler c/o B.C.E.S. 375 New York Ave. Huntington, N.Y.
Mr. Fred Oakes 60 Dollard Drive North Babylon, N.Y.	Dr. Ruth Pasternack 8 Namkee Road Blue Point, N.Y.	Mrs. Grace L. Stretch 25 Ridgcrest Road Huntington, N.Y.
Mr. Jack Dvorin 38 Georgia Drive Syosset, N.Y.	Mr. Gene Denton 25 Oregon Drive Huntington Station, N.Y.	Mr. Elliott Doan 15 Browns River Road Sayville, N.Y.
Mr. Loren Simon 3 Cherokee Court Huntington Station, N.Y.	Dr. John J. Sullivan 51 W. 22nd Street Huntington Station, N.Y.	Dr. Norman Berk 14 St. Andrews Drive Huntington, N.Y.
Mrs. Marilyn Goldsmith 252 Lilac Lane Smithtown, N.Y.	Mrs. Estelle Friedman 345 Lombardy Blvd. Bay Shore, N.Y.	Dr. W.B. Coville 229 Wilets Lane West Islip (Babylon), N.Y.
Mr. Paul Becker c/o B.C.E.S. 292 Medford Ave. Patchogue, N.Y.	Dr. Mrs. W ^m Haas B.C.E.S. 375 N.Y. Ave. HUNT.	
Dr. Leon Cohen } Dr. Milton Turbaker } Dr. Frederick Fabian }	Dr. May Cooper } Dr. Melvyn Katz } Dr. Harold Levine }	Psychology Dept. V.A. Hospital Northport.

This list does not include the names of all those working in the V.A. Hospital at Northport nor is it complete for the other hospital staffs.

Treasurer's Report - Suffolk County Psychological Association, 1955

Treasury Report - Suffolk County
Psychological Assn.

Name	Date	Am't
Felice Baker	5/14/55	2.00
Ruth Podewack	"	"
Thomas Karaganjian	"	"
Leon Simon	"	"
Norm Berk	"	"
Grace Lamo	"	"
Frederick Oakes, Jr.	"	"
Elliott Sloan	"	"
Leonard Schwartz	"	"
Lon Lamo	6/12/55	2.00
Max Cooper	6/12/55	2.00
Stanley Schwartz	5/14/55	2.00

\$5.00 to Grace Lamo for stationery on
6/12/55

Balance (as of 6/12/55) = \$19.00

Name	Date	Am't
Harold Pinick	10/22/55	45.00
Dorothy Allinger	"	as of 10/24/55
Edith Obstfeld	"	to Secretary - Gross
Pauline Ziegler	"	on 10/24/55
George Reese	"	1.00.00
Ken Fisher	"	Bal. 35.00
Estelle Friedman	"	

Suffolk County Psychological Association**Past Presidents (*deceased)**

1955-56	*Norman Berk, PhD
1956-57	*Stanley Schwartz, PhD
1957-58	*Louis Lauro, PhD
1958-59	*Ruth Pasternak, EdD
1959-60	Loron Simon, PhD
1960-61	*Mitch Karro, PhD
1961-62	Frederick Oakes, PhD
1962-63	*Daniel Lucas, PhD
1963-64	Seymour Schpoont, PhD
1964-65	*Irving Shelsky, PhD
1965-66	Lester Dubnick, PhD
1966-67	*Mel Mart, PhD
1967-69	*Monroe Levin, PhD
1969-71	*George Reiss, MA
1971-73	Jack Wanger, PhD
1973-75	*Joan Kavenagh, PhD
1975-77	*Peter Sepez, EdD
1977-79	Stanley Brett, PhD
1979-81	*Henry Tanners, PhD
1981-83	*Martin Bregman, PhD
1983-85	*Kathleen Doyle, PhD
1985-87	David Hescheles, PsyD
1987-89	Robert Nachtman, PhD

1989-91	John Sieftring, PhD
1991-93	Elizabeth Carll, PhD
1993-95	Joseph Czekala, PhD
1995-97	Marlene Kasman, PhD
1997-99	Alan Klein, PhD
1999-01	*Darryl Feldman, PhD
2001-03	Wendy Doret, PhD
2003-05	Wendi Fischer, PhD
2005-07	Barbara Fontana, PhD
2007-09	Steven Hartman, PsyD
2009-11	Helen Meyers, PhD
2011-13	Diane Sherlip, PhD
2013-15	Keith Moss, PhD
2015-17	Deena Abbe, PhD
2017-19	Shane Owens, PhD, ABPP
2019-19	Samantha Dreyer, PsyD
2019-21	Ann C. Eckardt, PsyD, ABPP
2021-23	Danielle Zito, PsyD
2023-25	Thomas DiBlasi, PhD

Memories from Past Presidents (*deceased)

***Norman Berk, PhD** **1955-56** (Dr. Berk wrote this for the 25th Anniversary)

Early Years of SCPA

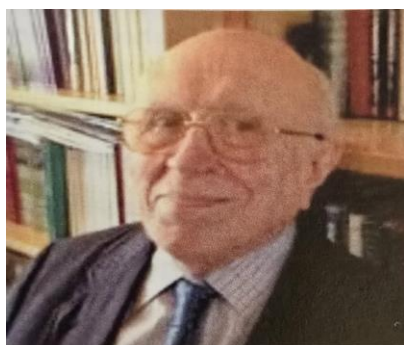
The first meeting was held in my basement with RUTH PASTERNAK, STAN SCHWARTZ, LEN SCHWARTZ and LORON SIMON in attendance. When I see my name at the very bottom of past presidents and realize that all this happened 25 years ago, I do indeed feel (justifiably) very old.

In the early days we grew very close to one another and developed lasting friendships with social visiting supplementing the professional relationships. We were all relatively new to the field and it was very comforting to have each other's backing and counsel.

By the year 1960 we had grown so that the association was no longer a "basement" operation and we also began to have some influence on shaping community thought and action. I remember there was one incident around 1960 involving a school psychologist where we were able to help. It was also around this time (early 60's) that the psychiatrists recognized us as a local force. There were several attempts to reconcile our differences but unfortunately these were abortive. I do believe however that our organization did lend status to psychology and paved the way for recognition of psychologists as competent professionals.

***Louis Lauro, PhD** **1957-58** (Dr. Lauro wrote this for the 50th Anniversary)

Dear colleagues,
I wish that I could be with you this evening as you celebrate this wonderful anniversary.



Dr. Louis Lauro

Fifty years ago when we organized the Association, our professional presence in the area comprised

- the 6-member psychology department at Northport Veterans Hospital including Norm Berk and Stan Schwartz.
- one psychologist at the 15,000 bed Pilgrim State Hospital
- a growing cadre of school psychologists who followed Ruth Pasternack's pioneering work as the first school psychologist in the Islip and Brookhaven towns.

- One psychologist – Fred Oakes, Jr. at South Oaks Hospital in Amityville.

Including the above plus school psychologists from the East End and Babylon and Huntington townships plus a few private practitioners, we were 22 members of the fledgling Association by the end of 1955.

In the mid-fifties I had the privilege of working with Ruth Pasternack, Mitch Karro, Len Schwartz and others in the Student Adjustment Services within what was then called the B-C-E-S. The B-C-E-S was first conceived as an agency for providing specialized services to smaller school districts that could not afford to hire full-time educational specialists. That agency we now of course call “BOCES” and that acronym has become part of the language. In 1958, in pursuing my own further training in adult clinical psychology I came to Northport VA as an intern and worked with Norm Berk. Stan Schwartz and Al Talkoff who were very kind, patient, and devoted teachers. Subsequently I relocated in New York City always retaining the fondest memories of my Suffolk county colleagues.

In the late 50’s we psychologists were struggling to establish full legitimacy as a licensed profession and did indeed reach that goal in New York State.

But I would like to share with you some reflections about our impact as psychologists on the community at large.

Some of us were fully imbued with the conviction that our specialized psychological knowledge would be best utilized through consultation that would quickly identify the problems of troubled children would quickly be converted into changes in curriculum and class organization that would benefit our presumed clients – school children. We were very much like the novice clinician who believes that he or she can quickly grasp the patient’s of the nature of their pathology and thereby enable the insight which will result in “cure”. However, just as with the patient in psychotherapy we must form an alliance with the healthier side of the individual, so in school practice we discovered that we had to forge some kind of alliance with the administrative powers-that-be if we were to be allowed to begin to establish rapport with the children we wanted to serve. This was and remains a complex and challenging social psychological task for those of us working in organizational settings.

Anthropologists tell us that ours is the oldest profession since its historical roots are in the shamans and witch-doctors; their profession is typically the first one to become differentiated as a society evolves.

Do not think that I am being facetious here – Those Shamans and witch-doctors were regarded with a mixture of awe, fascination, fear and suspicion because they are presumed to have certain knowledge and powers not available to the ordinary person.

How many times, in social gatherings have you been asked “Are you going to psychoanalyze me?” after your profession has been identified as a psychologist?

Like it or not those “special powers” are ascribed to us. The other side of the coin is that in those years when the Suffolk County Psychological Association was founded, there were two large – 15,000 bed – state hospitals right here in Suffolk. Brentwood and Central Islip were out in the “country” – psychologically distant as well as geographically not very accessible to the city folk whose relatives were among the 30,000 inmates in those two state hospitals.

There is no doubt that the development of effective anti-psychotic medications has gone a long way toward heading off the decompensation that led to hospitalization of those patients.

However, I would suggest to you that those two institutions were most certainly a monument to the then prevailing attitude toward mental illness, namely that “crazy people” are – “other” – and that one is best off distancing oneself from them. People who sought therapy for their problems in living were suspect – “Anybody who goes to see a psychologist ought to have his head examined” was a joke from that era.

Times have changed somewhat – mental illness is not so much a shameful something to be hidden in the closet. The terms mental health, psychotherapy, psychological services have found their way into everyday parlance. I believe that that change is no small measure an outcome of our work as psychologists.

And I believe that our work lies in the continuing demystification of the workings of the human psyche and of human behavior within the context of a humanist philosophy.

I believe that our work whether as clinicians as academicians or as consultants and of whatever theoretical base – is a scientific enterprise. Science is not only laboratory experiment but includes the natural science models of exploration and ordering of observation. That said, the maintenance of that enterprise depends upon:

- the effective communication of our knowledge and discoveries to the broader community outside of our immediate profession
- each of us continuing our professional training and growth
- providing the institutional and collegial frameworks of support
- and in the spirit of generativity, establishing the support guidance and resources for the next generations of our profession.

Barbara Fontana was kind enough to share with me a copy of the Fall 1980 Newsletter which marked the 25th anniversary of the Association. Memoirs by Norm Berk and Ruth Pasternack were particularly touching, but also contained important lessons about intellectual community. Marty Bregman, then editor of the newsletter, decried the absence of academicians as members of the Association. I hope that that has changed because as practitioners and academicians we need one another – our differences in perspective, should be a source of healthy debate not of alienation from one another. That kind of debate keeps us from stagnation and from a false sense of self-satisfaction and encourages vitality and the capacity to deal with the emerging issues of our time.

The days of student ADJUSTMENT are long gone. The serious challenge that we now face as psychologists is to examine the premises of our work – to evaluate those premises against a standard that is scientific in spirit and truly consistent with the humanist principles for which we stand.

I look forward to being with you in 2015 to celebrate the 60th anniversary but to renew friendships before then. (*Sadly, Lou died on April 27, 2016, 3 weeks before the 60th Anniversary party.*)

***Ruth S. Pasternack, EdD 1958-59** (Dr. Pasternack wrote this for the 25th Anniversary)

My memory of the beginning of the SCPA goes back prior to 1955. In either 1953 or 1954, we called a meeting of all the psychologists in Suffolk County. All of us (or most of us?) attended – Leron Simon, Stan Schwartz, Lenny Schwartz, and me. Actually, I was the first school psychologist in Suffolk County. I joined BOCES II staff in October, 1948. As my first assignment, I had to give the keynote address to all of the teachers in the 31 districts of mid-Suffolk (BOCES II). A good technique to frighten young psychologists!

In the early days of the SCPA we met on Friday evenings (usually at the home of the president) and brought spouse or date. The president's spouse became chairperson of the Spice Committee that planned social events. The year I was president, Simon (my husband) became chairman of the committee. That year the women did the work and Simon glowed as he received the credit.

The group was very closely knit and the reason for developing the organization was to provide a support system for ourselves. We were very few and the intellectual comradeship was very important to us. The friendships we formed exist among us today, although we may not see each other as often.

Loron Simon, PhD 1959-60 (Dr. Simon wrote this for the 60th Anniversary)

The history of professional psychology in Suffolk County, Long Island, began really at the end of World War II when the men got out of service and went back to school.

I enrolled at Long Island University, which was in downtown Brooklyn at that time, and I took a course in industrial psychology. The first day I walked into the classroom, and there was a man sitting there at the end of the row. I sat down next to him, and he said his name was Fred Oakes. A few minutes later, another man came in and sat down next to me, and he said his name was Sy Schpoont.

Two years later we graduated from LIU. Fred entered a doctoral program at NYU, Sy entered the doctorate program at the University of Illinois, and I was admitted to Columbia. The second semester, we had to take a course in individual testing. A man named Dr. Gordon

Derner taught the course. He had six assistants for the lab session, three the first year and three the second year. He taught the lecture session. We learned how to use the Stanford-Binet and the Wechsler-Bellevue tests. Dr. Derner was rigid in his demands that you taught the tests as per the manuals. His approach was quite simple: "if you didn't follow the rules specifically, you violated the tests and you didn't know what you had."

At the end of the semester, as I was leaving the lab, Dr. Derner was standing in the doorway, and he asked me if I would be his assistant the next year. He told me what my salary would be. My response was that I would have to discuss it with my wife. My wife and I decided the assistantship was an investment in the future, and we would get by without my job.

In the fall, at the start of the new semester, we met in Gordon's office to discuss what he wanted to see in the lab assignments. During the semester, we met in Gordon's office weekly. He was my professor, mentor and friend for over two years.

Near the end of the second year, at a staff meeting, Gordon told us he was leaving Columbia and going to Adelphi University to start a new program. He showed us his plans for the new program and asked our opinions. At the end of the semester, Gordon went to Adelphi; I went to King's County Hospital for my internship. Cy Schpont went to Chicago State Hospital for his internship, and Fred Oakes went to a hospital in Wichita, Kansas.

At the end of my internship, I heard that a superintendent of schools in the Third Supervisory District of Suffolk County was looking for a part-time school psychologist. I applied for the job and got it. There were two other school psychologists full time on staff. One of them was a woman who had been a school psychologist in New York City. When we met, the first thing she said was, "Remember, you do only five Binets a day." I said to her, what about projective tests, and she said they don't accept that out here and you won't last a year if you do.

I spent one day a week in the Smithtown schools and one day a week in the Babylon schools, and the other day whatever turned up. About a month into the school year, I was in Babylon talking to the elementary school principal and filling him in on what was with the children I had seen that day. I said to him, "I could learn a lot more about the kids if I could use projective tests." He reached down and opened the bottom drawer of his desk, pulled out a form and asked me what test I wanted. I said thank you and that I would talk to my boss.

I went back to the office where the superintendent was, and I asked him about projective testing and could I get the tests I wanted. He asked, "What are you looking for?" Two weeks later I had the tests.

The following year I worked full time.

One evening, when I was reading the newspaper, the phone rang, and it was Gordon Derner. He said, "Loron, we're forming a Nassau County psychological association, and I think you should be in it."

"Where and when?"

I attended the meetings that year, and when the elections were held for offices for the coming year, they elected me as treasurer. Sometime during the second year, one of the men on the board said we needed to have a newsletter, and when somebody said why, he said the school superintendents are looking for school psychologists and can't find any. We know where they are, they took internships where they could get them, and they were scattered all over the country. If the schools financed the newsletter, we would run ads for them and send them to the psychologists we knew and where they were located. The schools ran ads in the newsletter, and I sent one to Fred Oakes because I knew where he was at that time (in Wichita, Kansas). Needless to say, the psychologists applied for the jobs in the newsletter, and school psychology on Long Island began to grow.

That same year, I was at a board meeting, and Gordon got up from his chair, walked across the room with a piece of paper in his hand, and said, "Loron, this is the form that has to be filled out for us to be incorporated in New York State. The psychology association in New York City wants to be the first one to be incorporated. I think we can beat them. 'You'll have to write the check, so you might as well fill out the form.'" I took the form home, and in due time I filled it out, wrote the check, and sent it to Albany. Roughly a year and a half later, I received the incorporation papers for Nassau County Psychological Association, and we were the first ones to be incorporated.

Someplace along the way, my phone rang, and when I answered it, a man's voice said, "I am Norm Berk. I'm a psychologist with the Veterans Hospital in Northport, and we are forming a Suffolk County psychological association."

I asked, "Where and when?"

We met in Norm's house for the first meeting, which was in the Hillbrae section of Huntington. We started the association in his living room, and as we grew, we moved down into his finished basement. We met monthly — and I really don't remember much of what went on in the meeting other than efforts to contact psychologists and bring them into the association, and how would we deal with psychiatrists and attorneys. One of the members had a close relation with a member of the law association, and we got along with the association quite well.

At one meeting, one psychologist appeared with two couples. When business was over, they were introduced and asked for a few minutes to talk. They were the parents of what we called in those days "retarded" children, and they were forming an association of parents of handicapped children. What they said was, "You psychologists are the ones who do the diagnostic work and know more about the problems than anybody else. Would you please help us to found an association so we can work out ways of helping our children?" Needless to say, several of our members went out with them and worked with them.

At one of the meetings of the board of the Nassau County Association, I told them I would have to resign from the board as I was now involved with the Suffolk County Association.

Time went by, and unfortunately I don't remember many of the things that happened. One evening at a meeting, Dr. Ruth Pasternak got up and said, I spoke to a friend of mine who is an attorney, and he is willing to get us incorporated, and I think we should do it. Needless to say, the motion was passed, and Ruth's friend got us incorporated.

I had developed a part-time private practice while I was still with BOCES. I had built an office in my home, and one evening, at ten minutes to ten, I was telling a couple about my diagnostic work with their son. As we got up to leave, I said to the father, "Your son is a good kid. He just wants a father to be with and learn how to be a man." I ushered him out the door, locked up, and went up to bed at ten o'clock. As I walked into the bedroom, my wife was in bed and said, "Who are you?" And that hit me between the eyes. I had just finished telling a father what to do, and I needed the same advice.

The next morning at breakfast, I told my wife I was resigning from my job with BOCES and going into full-time practice. I was the first psychologist in Suffolk County to do that. A couple of years later, the Syosset schools advertised all summer and early fall for a part-time school psychologist. Jerry Palter, the high school psychologist, had received a research grant to work with the extremely bright children in the school three days a week. The district had advertised looking for a psychologist to cover the time when he was working with these bright children, and there was no psychologist in the high school. Nobody applied. I wasn't going to let them think they didn't need a full-time psychologist in high school, so I applied for the job and got it. It lasted two years, and during that time my practice was quite good and things were working well.

Frederick Oakes, PhD 1961-62 (Dr. Oakes wrote this for the 60th Anniversary)

It is challenging to create another tenth anniversary blurb for our Association. Repetition must be avoided, synapses falter and memories fade. Because of licensing struggles and professional infighting, I recall my 1960-61 tenure as president as an exciting but not particularly happy time in my professional career.

At age 93, I am nostalgic about having made a contribution to my developing profession, reaped my emotional and monetary rewards and now glide quietly into the sunset. Among my gratifying legacies is a pretty and brilliant granddaughter who recently received her Masters Degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology and has an impressive job in industry.

I have been living independently in my own comfortable lakeside house in Florida, in touch with local family and friends who contribute socially and gastronomically to my day-to-day life. Missing from this idyllic scene is my late pretty, talented and vivacious wife of 61 years who succumbed to cancer five years ago leaving an un-fillable abyss in my world.

All things considered, it's been good to be a psychologist, husband, father, grandfather, uncle, Long Islander and now Floridian. Do I rate patriarch status in this outfit yet?

***Daniel Lucas, PhD 1962-63 (Dr. Lucas wrote this for the 50th Anniversary)**

In the latter part of my Presidency, a group of school psychologists felt very strongly that the SCPA was not paying attention to their need for better rights and privileges but focusing on other psychologists' needs, especially those in private practice. They came to meetings and talked most forcefully of a separate Association or sub-committees. Some meetings were quite acrimonious, with motions that were contested difficulties and tempers. The SCPA felt that to separate psychologists would diminish the power of SCPA in the County and in Albany. The matter was ultimately resolved and SCPA remained a strong, united force for all psychologists!



Drs. Sy Schpoont, Fred Oakes, Dan Lucas, Peter Sepez, and Loron Simon at 50th Anniversary Party, June 2005

Seymour Schpoont, PhD 1963-64 (Dr. Schpoont wrote this for the 60th Anniversary)

I joined the Suffolk County Psych Association one year after it began, as I moved to Huntington to become its first school psychologist. Happily, I knew two colleagues from my undergraduate days at Long Island University, Loron Simon, and Fred Oaks. Incidentally, both preceded me as presidents of our new association.

A famous psychologist, Ernest Schactel, once described remembering your childhood as seeing things through a silken curtain, and in looking back so many years ago, I must admit to a certain haziness. I do remember that our Association was very much a men's club, there were so few women in the field at the time, times certainly have changed. I do wish to point out that we did have an outstanding woman, who was also a president, Ruth Pasternak, one of the organizers of our Association.

We had just come through the successful battle with getting a licensure for psychologist for private practice, and we now had a conflict within the Suffolk County Association as to whether

non-doctoral psychologists should get full status in our organization. I believe it was resolved through a two-tier system, and that the presidency had to be at the doctoral level. Soon after my term expired I went on to be president of the NY State Psychological Association School Division, where the same conflict continued as to the status of non-doctoral psychologist.

My work in our organization also prepared me to be president of the NY State Pupil Personnel Administrators organization where I had the opportunity to exert some influence to insure that all Committees For The Handicapped had to have a school psychologist.

Finally, I should mention two colleagues with whom I worked with on a daily basis for several decades and who followed me as presidents of the Association, Lester Dubnick and Peter Sepez. Both had an enormous influence on how I view the profession, and hopefully I contributed something to their perceptions of our profession.

Lester Dubnick, PhD 1955-66 (Dr. Dubnick wrote this for the 60th Anniversary)

I am the eleventh SCPA President elected in 1965. We were a vibrant young group. The early leaders like Norm Berg, Ruth Pasternack, Loren Simon, Irving Shelsky and especially important for me, advice from Sy Schpoont, was available to me. We competed with the Nassau County psych association, a longer established group, for attention in NYSPA and for membership. Our voice was heard and we prospered getting new members. Being elected as president of SCPA was a professional high point for me. I was honored to be able to serve.

Many of the events in the country in 1965 following the 1963 assassination of JFK resulted in general anxiety and fear of the public (like today?). It was a tumultuous time. The public's attention focused on campus riots and Viet Nam conscription; some good things happened. Medicare became a law which would later dramatically affect our practice. Another unintended consequence of the vast 'North East power blackout', the biggest power failure in US history resulted in many births.

My presidency was marked by legal issues about defining what we could do in private practice. Article 153, passed in 1956, was a certification law that protected the use of the term Psychologist. It protected just the title. It was not a practice act. SCPA and NYSPA had the support for a practice act called the Biondo Bill that year. We had the support of Assemblyman Peter R. Biondo, the then republican ATTORNEY GENERAL, the medical society, and the social workers association and APA. WE LOST. Money from our opponents, a semi-mail order program, made the difference. It wasn't until 2002 that a practices bill passed.

I am 86, live and work in Williamsburg, VA and maintain a part time clinical psychology practice with medical staff privileges at the local hospital. I would love to have a visit from a SCPA member when you happen to be in the area

Jack Wanger, PhD**1971-73**(Dr. Wanger wrote this for the 60th Anniversary)

I remember 2 “hot button” problems when I was president:

1. The clinical psychologists were fighting to get the privilege of writing prescriptions. Of course the Psychiatric Association was strongly opposing this movement. Guess who won. (I think we were better off losing.)
2. The school psychologists who had a Master's degree were upset with SCPA because they were treated like second class citizens - they did not have the right to vote in our elections. A group of them actually started a separate School Psychologist's Organization.

I remember the Chief Psychologist in New York State was named Doctor - so he was Doctor Doctor. (Oh the things we remember)

I remember attending a board meeting at someone's house and thinking how daring he was because he had placed “Please do not smoke” signs on the table.

I remember the great times we had as a group attending the NYSPA conventions - especially in the Catskills. What a great bonding experience! Not to mention the psychologist who attended with his girlfriend - and not his wife.

Most of all I remember the camaraderie even when we had contentious issues.

Peter Sepez, EdD*1975-77**(Dr. Sepez wrote this for the 60th Anniversary)

I guess the most memorable part of my presidency was the kerfuffle over licensing of non-doctoral members. Our Suffolk County Association, as well as the New York State Psychological Association and the American Psychological Association had all established the doctoral degree as the minimum to be known, and to practice, as a psychologist in New York State.

In the Newsletter for Division 16 of the American Psychological Association of February 1980 a member ranted against State Psychological Associations' stand for the doctoral level for psychologists. The person was particularly against setting the doctoral degree as a minimum to practice as a psychologist. At that time, I wrote an extensive retort and supported the APA, to NYSPA and the SCPA Stance of retaining the doctoral level as minimum to practice psychology in NY State.

Fortunately, from my perspective, we have retained the doctoral level for private practice in New York State.



Congressman Otis Pike with Drs. Joan Kavenagh (President 1973-75) and Peter Sepez.

Stanley Brett, PhD

1977-79

As a past president of the Suffolk County Psychological Association from 1977-1979, I look back on my time in leadership with immense pride and gratitude. Serving our dedicated community of professionals was both a privilege and a profound learning experience. I am inspired by how SCPA has continued to grow, adapt, and lead the way in promoting mental health awareness, education, and advocacy.

Congratulations to SCPA on 70 years of excellence, service, and resilience! I wish the organization continued success and impact for many decades to come.

Warm regards,

Dr Stanley R. Brett

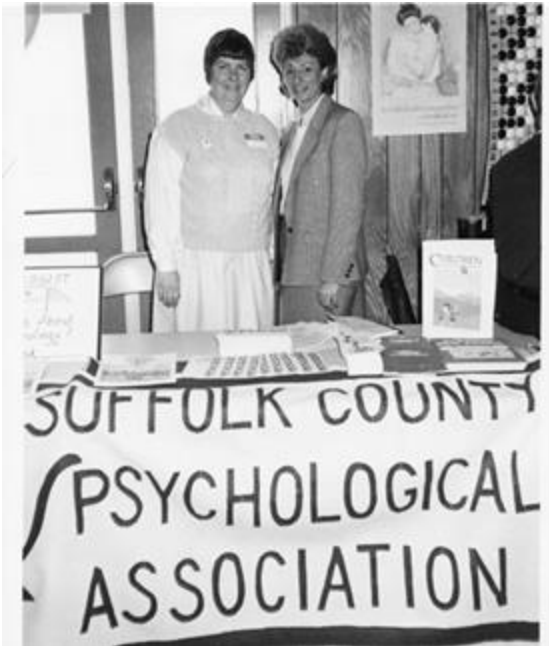
***Kathleen Doyle, PhD**

1983-85

(Dr. Doyle wrote this for the 60th Anniversary)

My memories of the time when I was president of the Suffolk County Psychological Association are crowded with an abundance of enthusiasm and dedication from the many psychologists who were part of the leadership and membership who spent countless hours working for the good of the profession and of those we served.

As I thought of all the actions and goals we had, I also remembered those who first brought me into SCPA and their belief in the importance of seeing psychology as a singular profession with many parts, all of which had to work together equally and as one. This vision is what has brought psychology into the prominence and recognition it has today.



Dr. Kathy Doyle on left with Assemblywoman Toni Rettaliata at a health fair.

As one memory arose, it led to one after another, and there were so many that I decided to make a list, rather than a description, to jog other's recollections to share in the celebration. So, here goes:

1. Meet Your Legislator meetings when SCPA hosted all the county state legislators for wine and cheese and talk about psychology;
2. Meetings with speakers from many perspectives who challenged and taught;
3. Working with the nursing and social work associations to develop and have published a newspaper ad to advise everyone to "Look for the License" when seeking professional services;
4. Engaging in the fight to ensure that school districts did not "contract" for psychology services and ensure that school psychologists would serve children in schools
5. Going to Washington to the APA with Toni Rettaliata, County Legislator, to speak on how psychologists could effectively lobby their legislators;
6. Speaking on invitation by the Regents to support school psychologists as part of an elementary school guidance plan
7. Working with Suffolk legislators to have the legislature pass a "memorializing resolution" to send to Congress to maintain psychology in some insurance plans
8. Joining in several health fairs in the county with other health professions;
9. Having great boat rides and dinner on Fire Island with the SCPA gang, and
10. Engaging in monthly vigorous, stimulating, and enjoyable meetings in the offices, dens, living rooms, and barn (on one occasion) of the officers and committee leaders to make straight the path and achieve the SCPA goals.

David Hescheles, PhD

1985-87

This will be more from a personal perspective.

Being Suffolk County Psychological Association President has been profoundly important to my professional identity.

As I look back, it's hard to believe how much personal time and effort it took to become President of SCPA, 6 years as Member at large, 2 years as Treasurer, 2 years as President elect, 2 years as President, 2 years as Past President and then another 4 years as Member at Large. Yes I had trouble letting go and yes most President's and Past Presidents commit the same amount of their personal time.

There were many Psychologists and SCPA members who had a strong impact and influence on me. The one who probably taught me the most about voluntary leadership in Collegial Associations was SCPA past president and NYS Office of the Professions Executive Director Cathy Doyle, Ph.D. We remained colleagues and friends until her passing. Honestly, I loved being involved in SCPA Executive meetings at any level. It was just a very emotionally satisfying and professionally validating experience. It gave me a solid foundation for future leadership positions in Adelphi University Post Doctoral programs and in various APA Divisions.

When I was mourning the death of my close friend and Past President of SCPA Darryl Feldman Ph.D., Barbara Fontana Ph.D. said to me "Dave keep in mind, most here do not remember him." I looked at Barbara and said, "Honestly, most do not remember me." I was unprepared for the huge amount of regret I would feel after thinking about that realization. I would highly recommend that Past Presidents utilize the Barbara Fontna model (stay involved and return the wisdom you have learned from SCPA) than the Dave Hescheles model. I think for me being involved and the Psychologists I interacted with in SCPA was incredibly fulfilling, satisfying, professionally maturing and in some way addictive. It was either all in or all out and by the way I was much younger in 1985 Hah!



Drs. Dave Hescheles and Kathy Doyle on a party boat in the mid-1980's.

Robert Nachtman, PhD

1987-89

Thank you so much for the invitation to participate in the celebration of the 70th Anniversary Party for The Suffolk County Psychological Association. Beyond my just experienced realization that I was a very awkward pre-pubescent 12 year old when SCPA was "born", I do indeed have many wonderful memories connected to the people who have been active with the Association and the various events and programs which were conducted by members of the Association.

The fellow-psychologists who I was privileged to know, many of whom became dear friends, and who not only contributed to the care of and growth of SCPA, but helped me become a better psychologist, and person, included (in no particular order): Drs. Kathy Doyle, Henry Tanners, Joe Perino, Saul Rothzeit, Barbara Fontana, Darryl Feldman, Carroll Congo, Jack Wanger, Dave Marasciullo, Mitch Karo, Dan Lucas, Lisa Cane, Dave Hescheles, Sheldon SchmidtHelen Meyers, Pete Sepez, Sy Schpoont, Joe Czekala, Fred Oaks, John Nolan, Marlene Kasman, Helen Baietto, John Sieftring, Betsy Carl, Alan Kaplan, Norman Kanter, Keith Moss, Steve Honor, Neil Grossman, David Belser, Mike Beck, Linda Bergman, Susan Lobacz, Mary Anne Geskie, Jenny and Gary Cox-Steiner, Mark Sandberg, Michael Zentman, Owen Youngquist, Jonatha Schaul, Ron Smith, Matt Campbell, Stan Brett, Bill Bennison, and other fine people to whom my memory is temporarily (I hope), blocking full access..

My working memory does recall a number of special moments Including: an End of Year Party on a boat ride out of Bay Shore sitting with my dear late wife, Joan along with Joe Czekala and his dear wife, Barbara: another Party at a very nice restaurant close to Northport harbor spending time with Alan and Ellie Kaplan: a very elegant Party organized by John and Beth Sieftring: meetings of the Executive Board in the Teachers Room of Northport H.S. organized by Mitch Karo that included the self-identified "Alta cockers" (several of whom were mentioned previously): Executive Board meetings at Dave Hescheles and his dear wife's home: the Executive Board meeting co-hosted and organized with my late wife Joan's home in Hauppauge: the planning and presentation of the Conference on Family Therapy featuring James Framo: the development of a system to easily facilitate pre-planned communication between SCPA Members and state Senators and Representatives concerning matters of importance/relevance to Psychologists, Schools, Hospitals, Health, etc.: Professional Educational Dinner Meeting presented through the generous administration of South Oaks Hospital facilitated by their Chief Psychologist, Fred Oaks: multiple discussions at Executive Board Meetings about the Charter for The Suffolk County Academy of Psychology, Legal-Legislative activities, Expanding awareness of ways Psychologists can benefit both individuals and our community, representing SCPA at NY state and regional and national professional organizations.

Please extend my Congratulations!!! and Thank You So Much!! to all the current and recent members of the SCPA Executive Board who have given, and continue to give, many hours of time and energy to facilitate continuing nurturance of the Association in fulfilling its professional and community missions. Well Done!!



Drs. Carroll Congo, Dave Hescheles, Bob Nachtman & Henry Tanners (President 1979-1981).

John Sieftring, PhD

1989-91

Half a lifetime ago, at age 36, I was elected President of SCPA, serving from 1989 through 1991. It was a time of camaraderie, professional growth, and collegial support. During those years we focused upon providing a more comprehensive continuing education program, and in that regard worked closely with the APA. It was also a goal to enhance the working relationship with NYSPA, culminating in the first NYSPA Annual Convention held on Long Island! It took place at Gurney's Resort in Montauk, May, 1991, co-sponsored by SCPA. It provided a most interesting program, was well attended ... and we had FUN!!

I thank the current Board of SCPA for reaching out to Past Presidents ... encouraging us to submit written commentary apropos our individual time in office, as well as inviting us to attend the 70th birthday party of SCPA.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SUFFOLK COUNTY PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION!!! I cannot even imagine what the next seven years will bring, let alone another 70. I wish only continued success, growth, and development.



Drs. Joe Czekala, John Siefing and Marlene Kasman, 1995.

Elizabeth Carll, PhD

1991-93

I would like to congratulate SCPA on its 70th Anniversary. One of the many memorable experiences that stands out was the willingness of the SCPA board and members to expand the horizons of psychology. There are several examples, but due to space constraints, I will describe one example which related to interprofessional collaboration and connection with key county actors. When I served as president-elect, I was contacted by a member of Suffolk County if I would be interested in being a trainer for the 2 hour child abuse course that was newly required for all health and related professionals who may be in contact with children and families. The person who contacted me was aware of my volunteer participation in various initiatives and events in the county. I mentioned we have other SCPA members who may be qualified to be trainers and I asked more information about the agencies that would be providing the training to not only mental health professionals, but dentists, physicians, clergy and others. I asked if SCPA would qualify as a training organization. That seemed to be an option, as long as we had a minimum of 5 trainers and SCPA would forward their CVs for review. Each attendee for the course would be paying about \$30 for this course, which was intended as compensation for the trainers. I asked if it would be acceptable for the funds to go to the organization if the trainers were donating their time and that was acceptable. The SCPA board was in favor and supportive of my completing the necessary paperwork to be approved. As a result, SCPA was the first psychological association in NY to offer the child abuse course and received several thousand dollars income for multiple course trainings. I later learned that NYSPA was also subsequently approved, but do not recall any trainings they may have offered. The willingness of SCPA to extend activities into the community as well as collaborate with other professionals and county representatives was a refreshing characteristic, not always apparent in other organizations.

Best regards for a successful event,
Elizabeth Carll, PhD
SCPA President, 1991-1993

Joseph Czekala, PhD **1993-95** (Dr. Czekala wrote this for the 60th Anniversary)

My Presidency was a time of great professional upheaval and unprecedented change in the delivery of mental health services – our professional autonomy was being assaulted and our financial lives threatened as never before. An APA focus group portrayed the mood of the profession as one of eroding self-confidence, a feeling of loss of control, vulnerability, and disturbance at recent trends. Coping ranged from random efforts to adapt to the new marketplace to complete denial. There was despair at not having the time, inclination, or training to cope with the complex demands of the rapidly changing economic climate.

President Clinton's ambitious plan for health care reform proved too complex and overreaching. By attempting to change not only the economics of healthcare, but also its very fabric, sociology and culture, his proposal ultimately succumbed to legislative gridlock. Ironically, the national debate over health care only accelerated changes in the marketplace as corporate entities perceived a window of opportunity and seized it. While the national debate on health care began to look more like a political fiasco, managed care entities were judiciously working to corporatize the healthcare industry. So began a big push to form market-driven alliances and service networks which brashly put profit ahead of care.

During this period, SCPA not only served as a support system and clearinghouse for new ideas, but also as a proactive professional and political instrument for change. Among our many active committees, SCPA's Managed Care Task Force spearheaded a number of strategic initiatives. These included a multidisciplinary conference entitled "Healthcare in the 90's: Unexpected Solutions," which targeted managed care administrators in selected Long Island businesses. This Task Force also provided testimony to the Attorney General's office regarding the misuse of managed care, and also sought to network with other mental health disciplines and the Long Island business community. Our Legal and Legislative Committee was involved in a grassroots campaign to inform, educate, and persuade our local, state, and federal legislatures about the need and cost effectiveness of mental health as well as the liabilities of managed care. Our Independent Practice Committee actively explored the feasibility of forming a network of providers who could provide a range of specialties so that these networks could be more effectively positioned in the marketplace.

In many ways, it was the worst of times and the best of times. On the one hand, our profession was being severely threatened by the specter of health care reform and incipient market forces, while on the other hand, the perception of a common threat created a desire for mutual cooperation and urgency which brought out the best in all of us. As President during this period

I felt especially privileged to work with such a talented and dedicated board that diligently worked to come to grips with the many challenges we faced. All my board members will always have my deepest respect and gratitude for a job well done.

Marlene Kasman, PhD **1995-97** (Dr. Kasman wrote this for the 60th Anniversary)

I was elected President of SCPA in 1995. At that time there was grave concern about the future profession of psychology. Governor Pataki proposed a budget which included massive cuts in funding for human service programs. We felt anxiety about contamination of treatment by the profit driven motives of some insurance companies. Psychologists were apprehensive about the impact of managed care. School psychologists were uneasy as legislators defined and limited their functioning.

At that time SCPA had about 400 members. One of my goals as President was to foster a warm, collegial, atmosphere where all members would feel welcomed and important. I was fortunate to have a versatile and committed executive Board. Their perseverance and innovative approach encouraged and utilized the many talents of our members. We reached out to new and old members through various get-togethers and meetings. Together we were able to create a feeling of cohesiveness and earned SCPA a fine image in the Long Island professional community.

We coped with the impact of cost containment measures in various ways. Some formed committees which organized members' efforts to combat budget cuts and to hold managed care companies accountable for their actions. Others focused on educating our legislators and the public on and advocating for change. Some psychologists scrambled to be accepted on insurance company panels, often wondered whether they could survive if they refused all contact with managed care companies.

SCPA accomplished a great deal in the nineties. We rewrote the bylaws and had them approved by the general membership. This was a monumental task. Some of our members developed a course on child abuse which was offered to all mental health professionals. We learned about computerizing our practices and began the development of a SCPA website. Programs educated us about various niche markets. We strengthened our relationships with psychiatric hospitals, obtained admitting privileges, and were treated as professionals if we visited hospitalized patients. The Medical Director of the Empire Plan came to speak to our members regarding our concerns about utilization reviews, and forced termination of our patients. SCPA joined with other Psychological Associations in a class action anti-trust lawsuit against nine major managed care companies. We supported the formation of the National Coalition of Mental Health Professionals and Consumers which addressed issues of confidentiality and loss of autonomy in the treatment room. Since we were financially sound, we were able to donate some of our assets to causes that promoted the professional growth of psychologists.

Psychologists faced our concerns together. We organized and worked to combat injustices to psychology and mental health programs. In the past 21 years we have won a number of battles.

We continue efforts to defend our principals as we strive to preserve our personal and professional dignity.



SCPA Party June 1995: President, Dr. Marlene Kasman and Past Presidents: Drs. Sy Schpoon, Fred Oakes, Mitch Karro, Bob Nachtman, Dan Lucas, John Siefiring, Peter Sepez, Loron Simon, Dave Hescheles, & Joe Czekala.

Alan Klein, PhD **1997–99** (Dr. Klein wrote this for the 60th Anniversary)

As I write this paragraph, I am looking at a lovely plaque that says I was the last SCPA president of the 20th century (1997–1999). I suppose that, in and of itself, is a mark of distinction. It was my interest in using computers that got me involved in this organization. I made a passing comment to board member Bob Nachman. He invited me to a board meeting, and at the end of the day, I was the sole member and chair of the computer committee. I served on the board in a variety of roles for the next 15 years.

The end of an era was also the beginning of an era. We had been fighting long and hard for a scope of practice bill in New York State, and we had just started seeing some light at the end of the tunnel. We began to modernize SCPA and began our first forays into establishing a web site. We brought some student members into the organization as part of an outreach program. Looking back at those years, what I treasure most is not the changes that were made but the opportunity to be a part of an organization who believed in giving back to a profession that we all loved

Darryl Feldman, PhD **1999-01** (Dr. Feldman wrote this for the 60th Anniversary)

When asked to reminisce about my years as president of SCPA, of course the first thing that pops into my mind are the images surrounding 9-11. That morning, I was contacted by the NYPD asking me to gather as many colleagues I could and come to the scene and help. I

remember making numerous calls to SCPA psychologists, as well as physicians, nurses and anyone else I could think of who could quickly be picked up by the NYPD and brought in to assist in any way possible. We were transported in by a police van and the days, weeks, months, and years following working with 9-11 victims transformed my thinking about the impact of trauma on human lives.

In general, looking back at all the years spent in SCPA, I can say that both the professional as well as personal relationships that I have been lucky enough to develop account for some of the fondest memories of my career. Congratulations to all of those people who have donated their time and energy to help SCPA to evolve and grow over the past 60 years.

Wendy Doret, PhD **2001-03** (Dr. Doret wrote this for the 60th Anniversary)

The New Millennium Presidential Years: 2001-2003 September 11, 2001, two months into the start of my presidency, our nation experienced one of the worst tragedies of the new century. Over 2900 people perished that day and all America found itself in a state of high alert. Within a matter of hours, without the use of cell phones, text messaging, email, or social networking, the members of the Suffolk County Psychological Association were mobilized, and opened their offices to all individuals seeking grief counseling. Without exception, every member pledged immediate appointments. In the face this horrendous situation, the members of SPCA demonstrated compassion and professionalism beyond all expectations. Executive Board members telephoned all members of SCPA and we developed a list of available individuals who were willing to accept emergency triage appointments. The result of the marathon calls was that almost all members agreed to do so. Never have I been more proud of our members of SCPA. 9/11 set the tone of my presidency, communication between the members became a theme of my tenure. During the next two years we planted the seeds to launch SCPA into the information revolution. During the years 2001-2003, we moved from pen and paper communication into the world of the World Wide Web. The creation of our website, relational data base for Find a Psychologist, SCPA Listserve, and a new improved newsletter which was done with desktop publishing. I have proudly watched how these seeds have grown and flowered under the careful and responsible work of many of the new and younger members.

As I approach retirement age, I often reflect back to the “good old days” while observing the evolution of our organization and profession. I am happy to say that the current generation of board members and of all the members of SCPA are doing outstanding work in many different venues. The world has changed since my presidency and so has SCPA. Thank you.



Drs. John Kelly, Peter Kanaris, Helen Meyers, Pat Dowds, Wendy Doret (Pres) Faye Lennon, Barbara Fontana, David Byrom, & Wendi Fischer Executive Board, Spring 2003.

Wendi Fischer, PhD 2003-05

Happy 70th Birthday, Suffolk County Psychological Association! What a milestone for an organization to have not only remained in existence for so long but one that has thrived and grown into what you are today. Thank you to everyone who has had a part in keeping us going. The highlight of my tenure as President was when I attended the Presidents' meetings at the APA annual convention in the summer of 2004, which, luckily for me was in Honolulu, Hawaii. Imagine my pride when I was constantly told that SCPA had the reputation of being one of the most active and successful local Psychological associations in the country!

SCPA has always been, and continues to be, a place where its members can grow professionally and personally, a place of support, the exchanging of knowledge and ideas, and, most importantly, fun, with meetings, communication, workshops, parties, and activities, and it is so wonderful to see that this has continued for the many years since I had the honor of being its president. No president can lead this organization without the help and support of its Board members and Committee Chairs. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Board members and Committee chairs who did this for me: Barbara Fontana, Wendy Doret, Steven Hartman, Patricia Dowds, Stephen Honor, Peter Kanaris, John Kelly, David Byrom, Faye Lennon, Helen Meyers, Mark Sandberg, Linda Bucaria, Diane Sherlip, Edward Schechtman, David Belser, Darryl Feldman, David Marasciullo; and the members of the Ethics Committee, Marlen Kasman, Therese Lack, and John Siefiring. I also want to especially thank Bill Bennison, who was always

a help to everyone and to Wendy Doret and all of the past presidents of SCPA who gave me so much, help, guidance and support.

Wendi Fischer, Ph.D.

Barbara Fontana, PhD 2005-07

I have been a member of SCPA since about 1975 and have served in many ways over the years. When I look back on my years as President, there are a two things I am most proud of: SCPA's vision statement: At the first Board meeting of my term, sitting around my dining room table, the Board co-created SCPA's vision statement: *Promoting the profession of psychology in Suffolk County through fellowship, education, and advocacy.*" I can still remember the excitement of that moment when we were all pleased with the message!

FIND A PSYCHOLOGIST: This is the searchable database on the SCPA website that allows the public to find SCPA members in private practice that meet whatever criteria they search for. It was one of my goals as President to make this a reality. I happened to meet Howard Zelizer, a computer programmer, at a Wading River Civic Assn meeting. Howard designed the *FIND A PSYCHOLOGIST* database for the SCPA website. It is a wonderful member benefit and it consistently gets many "hits" a month.

During my term, we also:

- printed the first Private Practice Directory;
- formed an Early Career Psychologists Group;
- started a Student Committee;
- supported the licensing of school psychologists;
- opposed the use of non-psychologists doing neuropsychological testing;
- I sent "The SCPA News" – an email to members after each Board meeting to keep them informed about what the Board was doing;
- the "Psyched Up" podcast series was started and available on our website;
- we had members who were liaisons with the Mental Health Association, the Suffolk County Bar Assn, the Suffolk County Clinical Social Workers Assn, various colleges and universities and the American Red Cross;
- lastly, the Spring 2007 Newsletter published the results of a survey I conducted about the future of private practice in Suffolk County; sixty-two members participated in the survey which had questions about their practice, income, etc.

When I think of SCPA I think of the warm, supportive, collegial organization it is. SCPA has been my "psychology family" for about fifty years. I've worked with many wonderful people, I've made many good friends; I joined a peer supervision group through SCPA which met monthly for 20+ years and was an invaluable support system for me; I had the privilege of helping members of FDNY after September 11th because of SCPA; I've mentored fabulous early career psychologists through SCPA's mentoring program. This is an outstanding regional association and I am so proud to be both a member and a past president.



2005 SCPA Board at the 50th Anniversary Party: Drs. Faye Lennon, Ed Schechtman, Barbara Fontana (Pres.) Helen Meyers, Peter Kanaris, Steven Hartman, Wendi Fischer, Patricia Dowds, David Byrom, Wendy Doret and John Kelly.

Steven Hartman, PsyD 2007–09 (Dr. Hartman wrote this for the 60th Anniversary)

Prior to my Presidency, I served in nearly every position on the Executive Board. I am thankful that I was goaded into running for president, because it highlighted for me the dedication and altruism that our association provides to our community. I was fortunate to have bright and intuitive mentors who taught me not only how to hone my personal therapeutic skills, but also the methods to gather ideas from an eclectic group and formulate a collective plan into action. I am very proud of the work that was accomplished, whether it was advocating for scope of practice, contributing to noteworthy causes, or reaching out to our colleagues across Suffolk County to join in the fight to protect our professional and advance the services we provide for our community. I am so honored to be a part of SCPA and encourage all of you to pursue a position on the executive board. All of the time and effort expended cannot match the enormity of the guidance, support, and camaraderie that has been extolled upon me over the years. Long Live SCPA!!

Helen Meyers, PhD 2009–11 (Dr. Meyers wrote this for the 60th Anniversary)

In the midst of the recession and housing crisis, there was much uncertainty and anxiety about the country's financial future at the time of my presidency. Just as many people in the country were concerned about "getting their lives in order", SCPA needed an administrative overhaul. A review of the organizational structure, policies and procedures resulted in hiring a new administrator to help streamline our operations. In an effort to make meetings more efficient and productive, we began using technology more; revamping our website and online directory, and transitioning to online voting. This allowed us to focus on increasing our outreach to other psychologists and the larger community.

My biggest initiative was a marketing campaign which included the development of a brochure that effectively defined the breadth and multitude of services that psychologists provide to the community. We ultimately created two variations: one focused on recruiting new members and another geared towards informing the public about the unique and varied roles of psychologists, enhancing our visibility as a profession to the larger community. In addition to mass mailings of these brochures to non-member colleagues and community agencies, respectively, our marketing included the creation of an SCPA banner to utilize at professional and public gatherings. An increased emphasis on advocacy and the promotion of both mental health issues and psychology in particular ensued.

SCPA has increasingly become known as a cohesive, warm and welcoming professional "home" to so many of our members. Our open communication, professional online presence, growth as an influential organization, expanded involvement in NYSPA leadership, awesome monthly workshops, and increased involvement of younger psychologists were frequently acknowledged by other regional associations. I am very proud of my role in enhancing the reputation of SCPA and psychology during my tenure as President.

Diane Sherlip, PhD 2011-13

Happy 70th Birthday, SCPA! For much of my career, SCPA felt like home, and it was an honor to serve as President from 2011–2013. A decade ago, I reflected on three values that still resonate deeply with me today: Gratitude, Generosity, and Structure.

Gratitude: We launched the "Mentor of the Year Award" and introduced the Mentoring Moments column to recognize the invaluable guidance so many members have offered—especially to those just beginning their careers. These efforts helped us attract new, engaged members who continue to energize our community.

Generosity: In the face of tragedies like Hurricane Sandy and Sandy Hook, SCPA members stepped up—offering support groups, trainings, and resources to one another and the broader community. That spirit of service is one of SCPA's greatest strengths.

Structure: Behind the scenes, we worked hard to modernize and grow—updating our website, transitioning to online payments, expanding outreach, and co-hosting events like the Kings Park screenings. We also built new policies and strengthened old ones to sustain our momentum.

One of my proudest moments was helping create a permanent home for our history. For decades, SCPA's documents lived in boxes, moving from place to place. A dedicated group of board members came together at my home to organize over 55 years of records, finally giving our story a proper archive. It felt like a fitting tribute to the role SCPA has played in offering all of us a lasting, stable home.

Keith Moss, PhD **2013-15** (Dr. Moss wrote this for the 60th Anniversary)

I was asked to write recollections about my experience as a former president of SCPA. Specifically, what stood out..., what SCPA was like then, what I would like to be remembered for during my service. My outstanding memories has always been about the group of dedicated psychologists who volunteer their personal time for the betterment of our profession. Early in my professional ties to SCPA I recall our efforts to address managed care issues, the advancement of school psychological services, educational opportunities provided by both the Friday Night Workshops and the Independent Practice Committee lunches. Collegial relationships were developed and our community grew stronger with these bonds.

I have always felt welcomed and worked tirelessly to offer my support to our community. As a Member-at-Large, I worked side by side with more experienced board members and admired how they made important leadership decisions. As President-elect, I especially enjoyed arranging for interesting and educational Friday Night workshops. My presidency concluded one year ago and to answer the question of "what I would like to be remembered for" is a challenge. However, the answer to this question is simple: we did our very best in "Promoting the profession of psychology in Suffolk County through fellowship, education and advocacy". Happy 60th Anniversary SCPA!

Deena Abbe, PhD **2015-17**

I joined SCPA when I gave a presentation about the then current state of Women within Psychology. I was married, pregnant, with young children at home. SCPA welcomed me with open arms and gave me a space that was mine, that couldn't be invaded by my husband, children, or family. A community of like minded individuals who nurtured and mentored me, gave me guidance and support, and who taught me how to be proud of my professional self at a time of change and self doubt.

From Drs Wendy Doret, who encouraged me to join, Wendi Fischer my first SCPA mentor within the field, to Keith Moss, Michael Nissenberg, Howard Gurr, Helen Meyers, John Kelly, Roy Aranda, Daryl Feldman, and Peter (and Lois) Kanaris, who gave me an office space, encouraged me to continue presenting, fostered my curiosity and learning within the field. And a special thank you to Dr Barbara Fontana, who promised me that being president of SCPA

wasn't that hard, promised to mentor me throughout my leadership journey, and hasn't left my side since.

I hope that I have made my mentors proud, as I know I am of all the up and coming professionals within SCPA. It's because of all of these individuals that we are the premiere regional psychological association in the state, if not the nation. Here's to another worthy, warm, and welcoming 70 years.

Ann C. Eckardt, PsyD 2019-21

Congratulations to SCPA – past, present, and future – on this achievement!

My presidential term overlapped with the pandemic. Yet, SCPA continued to be itself – strong, nimble, and resilient.

Infrastructure – We moved to cost-effective and reliable Google platforms. Dr. Deena Abbe embodied the SCPA work ethic by typing email addresses for our listserv. Our Directory was improved thanks to the efforts of Drs. Lisa Shapir and Barbara Fontana. All of this was supported by President-Elect, Dr. Danielle Zito.

NYS CE regulations – Our CE Chair, Dr. Hilary Gomes, completed the herculean tasks of keeping current CE statuses and adding the NYS Education Department's State Board for Psychology approval to her efforts. Dr. Beth Hollander maintained our robust workshop offerings and made sure we met all of CE requirements.

Flexible service and engagement – Remote options for Board Meetings and events were added, allowing members to engage with and serve SCPA while balancing professional, personal, family, or faith commitments. Drs. Shane Owens and Laura Van Schaick-Harman assisted in piloting these platforms.

Committee support – We streamlined our committee structure while revitalizing and maintaining committee support for school psychologists, independent practitioners, and psychologists navigating trauma and legal issues in practice. This was done through meet-ups and sharing of resources spearheaded by Drs. Maria Lombardo, Donna Thiele, Thomas DiBlasi, and Neil Grossman.

Supporting students and new graduates – We provided opportunities for students and recent graduates. Our Board approved free undergraduate student workshop attendance, and the membership voted on the creation of a new level of membership for recent graduates. We also had our first cohort of undergraduate interns. Drs. Dina Vivian and Jessica Cannone continued outreach to psychology students.

Service to SCPA has been part of my professional life since I joined as a student member almost 20 years ago. It was an honor to give back in this leadership role, and to work with such dedicated colleagues.

To My SCPA – Sláinte! Another 70 Years, and Beyond!

Annie

Danielle Zito, PsyD 2021-23

Happy 70th Anniversary, SCPA!

It has been my absolute pleasure to be on the party planning committee and in reaching out to all of our past presidents I have been touched to hear everyone's perspective on what has made this organization so special for so many years; to have been a part of this legacy has been the ultimate honor and I am excited to be ending my term as Immediate Past President by celebrating with you all.

I was fortunate enough to begin my Board tenure as NYSPA Rep and Treasurer before becoming President, and had the unique perspective of being part of leadership through the Covid-19 pandemic before transforming the organization's activities and database to an entirely digital platform as the world began to readjust. I originally joined as a student in 2015 and over the years cannot have imagined growing my professional network without my SCPA family and all of the fantastic support I've received along the way. It is my hope (and prediction without any doubt) that we will continue to thrive in the very capable hands of our new leadership team, and continue to be a model for the rest of the state and country!

All my best,
Danielle Zito, PsyD

Thomas DiBlasi, PhD 2023-25

As the most recent past president, I just want to thank everyone for a wonderful two years. I really have the board and the membership to thank for all of the wonderful initiatives. Melissa Schroeder started the Newsletter again. She and Val Stoycheva have been heading the DEI committee and have been resilient, even in the current times. Donna Thiele has continued to be an amazing representative of SCPA to the community, and members have continued to connect with one another. When I think about SCPA, I think about that connection. That connection is what is missing in the world today and what makes SCPA so great. I am confident that SCPA can continue its rich history in connecting psychologists to one another and to the community.

Thank you everyone,
Tom

Many thanks to all the Past Presidents who contributed their memories!



Joan Nachtman, Drs. Richard and Marlene Kasman, Dr. Joe Perino and Joan Yelland, Barbara Czekala and Dr. Joe Czeka



Drs. Steve Hartman, Helen Meyers, Wendy Doret, and Keith Moss



Drs. Barbara Fontana and Tony Pantaleno



Dr. Barbara Fontana, Dr. John Siefiring and Beth Siefiring, Dr. Loron Simon and Elaine Stein Simon, Dr. Sy Schpoont, and Dr. Kathy Doyle



Drs. Kathy Doyle, Sy Schpoont, Bob Nachtman, Loron Simon, and Barbara Fontana



Drs. Barbara Fontana and Darryl Feldman



Executive Board, April 2016: standing: Drs. Roy Aranda, Samantha Dreyer, Mark Sisti, Sagit Vishnia, Laura Van Schaick-Harman, Steve Honor, Brianna Fava, & Meagan Muller; seated: Drs. Helen Meyers, Dina Vivian, Deena Abbe, & Shane Ownes; absent: Dr. Keith Moss



Summer 2024 BBQ

*Happy 70th Anniversary
SCPA*

*Congratulations to the
current
and past SCPA Boards and
members.*

*Best wishes for another 70
years!*

*Barbara Fontana, PhD
President 2005 - 2007*

Congratulations SCPA on your 70th
Anniversary!

I am thank you for all the supportive
people in SCPA that I have been blessed
to know for over 20 years!

So grateful for my SCPA family! Carla

Dr. Carla Natalucci - Self-Care Specialist
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adult towards a more functional
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Session Notes

Client: Suffolk County Psychological Association (SCPA)

Date: 70th Anniversary

Diagnosis: Thriving, Resilient, and Making an Impact

Key Observations & Strengths

- ✓ 70 years of advancing mental health in Suffolk County
- ✓ A dedicated network of psychologists improving lives
- ✓ Strong advocacy for the profession and community
- ✓ Commitment to education, growth, and support

Progress Notes

- ✓ Built a legacy of professional excellence
- ✓ Strengthened the psychology community in New York
- ✓ Fostered innovation in psychological practice

Treatment Plan

- ✓ Continue making a difference for decades to come
- ✓ Celebrate this milestone with pride
- ✓ Keep collaborating with NYSPA for an even brighter future

Congratulations on 70 years of impact and excellence!

— New York State Psychological Association



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