

A Brief History of WNEPS, Adapted from WESTERN NEW ENGLAND: THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS by David A. Carlson, MD, Paper delivered in 2003 at the WNEPS, Psychoanalysis Hits the Streets (On Applied Psychoanalysis in a Youth Service Program) by Jerome H. Meyer, M.D, and The Child Analysis Program at Western New England Institute for Psychoanalysis summary by Kirsten Dahl, Edited by Wayne Downey, Jerome Meyer

The Western New England Psychoanalytic Society (WNEPS) and Western New England Institute for Psychoanalysis (WNEIPS) were founded in the early 1950s when the Cold War, the Korean War and McCarthyism were national preoccupations. Despite common opinion, most psychiatry, then as now, was neither psychoanalytic nor psychotherapeutic but focused instead on the use of medication, shock treatment and other somatic modalities. Rapid growth of clinical psychology sprang from a very small base, fueled in part through the support of the Veterans Administration and the United States Public Health Service. Of those who made psychoanalysis American, no one outdid the Menningers who recruited an astonishing wealth of talent to Kansas. Many of our founding fathers came to New Haven by way of Topeka.

Robert Knight, an early analyst at Menningers, brought Roy Schafer, David Rapaport, Margaret Brenman, and Merton Gill from Topeka to the Austen Riggs Center in Stockbridge, Massachusetts in the 1940s. Around the same time, Milton J.E. Senn, a psychoanalytically informed pediatrician, was recruited from New York to reorganize the Yale Child Study Center (CSC) and Fritz Redlich replaced Eugen Kahn, the German advocate of "organic drivenness," as Chair of Yale's Department of Psychiatry. Redlich transformed the department from one uninterested in psychoanalysis to one including some remarkable psychoanalyst professors. Three highly regarded analysts from Topeka: Alfred Gross, Henry Wexler and William Pious moved to New Haven, and together, New Haven and Riggs formed one psychoanalytic community that remained intact until the 1960s.

Officially founded in 1951, our Society was originally referred to as the "New Haven-Stockbridge Group." It was established as an entity separate from Yale in order to ensure that the analytic process would not be coopted by the University's greater resources for psychotherapy and modified forms of analysis.

Before the New Haven-Stockbridge Group's first Society meeting in January 1952, the Society's Education Committee (EC), consisting of Knight, Gross, Pious and Erikson, all previously training and supervising analysts elsewhere, met and drafted a request to AapsA for recognition of a new Institute without Society input. Their aim was to establish a training facility while minimizing the academic constraints they believed likely to result from reporting to the Society membership. In December 1952, WNEIPS was accepted as a new Institute. The first class matriculated in 1954 and in December 1956, AapsA extended the Institute full accreditation.

Our Institute's bylaws, incorporated in 1953, were structured to shield educational matters from political pressures, a relevant concern at the time they were authored when prominent universities were choosing not to renew appointments of faculty members with alleged left-wing affiliations. The WNEIPS bylaws stipulate that the President of the Society may not at the same time be

President of the Institute. They grant Trustees full responsibility for most of our financial affairs and our property, and granted the EC sole authority over all Institute educational matters.

The Child Analysis Training Program of WNEIPS was founded in the early 1950s too, the program developed by Ernst and Marianne Kris, Erik Erikson, and Samuel Ritvo. Upon finishing their analytic training, Drs. Sally Provence and Albert Solnit joined the faculty at the same time that Seymour Lustman, a child analytic researcher, was brought on board. These psychoanalytic parents created a stimulating, nurturing environment in which clinical psychoanalysis, applied psychoanalysis and scholarly writing blossomed. The program was home to the Kris' longitudinal study as well as The Psychoanalytic Study of the Child, still the premier journal of the field. Housed at the CSC, where all of the child analysts had faculty appointments, child psychoanalytic candidates often started their analytic training at the completion of their child psychiatric residencies. Through the Kris' relationship with Anna Freud, the Center and its embedded child analytic program had an intellectual partnership with what we now know as The Anna Freud Centre. This relationship continues through the person of Linda Mayes who is now full Director of the CSC and a past co-director of the Anna Freud Centre.

In the early 1960s, the Society and Institute considered merging. The idea appealed to Society members interested in participating in faculty appointments and Institute members seeking financial backing from the broader membership for the Institute's treatment center, library, classroom and secretarial space. Opposition came from those who had no wish to support the Institute and others who feared an erosion of academic standards. Eventually, the proposal to merge was dropped.

Austen Riggs went through changes of it's own in the 1960's. Rapaport and Knight died and Erikson left. The psychoanalytic powerhouse that had been a vital center of many Society members' intellectual and educational lives, wound down, and what had been one psychoanalytic community became two independent groups. New Haven's WNEPS and WNEIPS continued on while Stockbridge eventually established its own training center and society.

Beginning in the 1960s, WNEIPS leased attic rooms at 340 Whitney Avenue for classrooms and a library. In 1978, the Institute moved into its first administrative space, renting Henry Wexler's former office on Whitney Avenue. Eight years later, in 1986, WNEIPS bought the Sargent Building on 255 Bradley Street built in 1911. With Wayne Downey serving as Chair for Fund Raising and Braxton McKee in charge of purchasing, an \$100,000 grant from Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation was obtained and another \$550,000 was raised with over 95% participation of our Institute and Society members. 255 Bradley formally opened in 1988 after renovations were complete.

Along with the Institute, the building became home to the Society's administrative functions and activities. It houses our library, psychoanalytic offices and meeting rooms. Alongside the Institute's general psychoanalytic training program is a monthly child seminar open to all candidates, a Psychoanalysis for Scholars Program, study groups and elective classes as well as a Psychoanalytic Clinic through which candidates conduct reduced fee analyses. The Society offers a formal two year Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy program, holds continuing education

classes for the public covering a range of psychoanalytic topics, hosts a regular monthly series of Scientific Meetings, and oversees two annual seminars held off-site; the Spring Symposium and a Joint WNEPS/Connecticut Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology venture.

WNEPS members are kept abreast of Society and individual's activities through "Associations," a newsletter published six times/year on our website. In addition, there are a number of active Society committees that go beyond administrative functions and educational oversight, including ones on ethics, psychoanalytic practice, and social issues.

WNEPS has a history of involvement with social issues. Some examples of projects lead by Society members include Solnit's first symposium that brought much of the Connecticut judiciary to New Haven to discuss family law and psychoanalysis, the late Kitty Lustman's outreach to nursery school teachers, Steve Marans's work with police, and Jerome Meyer's Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership Program, a 26 year old mentoring, tutoring organization that started in 1991 as a local summer program for inner-city children and quickly grew into a year-round curriculum that approximately one year later served over 700 children in three cities.

We honor the work of all our members. The major distinction between the Society and Institute is purely organizational; the impact of these two psychoanalytic organizations on our community is intertwined. The Institute was created as a program for training and credentialing psychoanalysts while the Society was formed to explore and promote psychoanalytic understanding of the human condition. Together they create a unified center for analytic thought and action.

Since its inception, the source of Western New England's vitality has been its membership. We welcome you to the Society and the community, and we look forward to working together.