

PERFORMANCE OF A NEWSLETTER
The Online Monthly Newsletter of the East Side Institute

Issue #30, April, 2007

Psychology News to Inspire and Use

Editors: Janet Wootten / Christine Helm

SCENE AND HEARD

Student #1: Intellectually I love the idea of postmodernism, but it seems that there is some modernist gene in my blood.

Student #2: So? Can't postmodernists be radically accepting of our modernist genes?

-- Participants in online dialogue: "Philosophy for Activists" led by Chris Helm

The activity of building a story creates intimacy. How? Maybe the intimacy comes from the quality of listening.

-- Participant in an online dialogue, "Social Work (Social Therapy Style)" led by Barbara Silverman.

Finally! Creativity, innovation, improvisation and performance were part of the mix at AERA.

-- Institute director Lois Holzman, upon her return from the American Educational Research Association's Annual Convention in Chicago.

CONFERENCES

American Educational Research Association Annual Convention

Lois Holzman and Institute faculty member Carrie Lobman attended the 80th Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association in Chicago April 9-13. Carrie presented as part of a symposium entitled "The Role of Pretend Play and Improvisation in the Development of Children and Adults," chaired by Artin Goncu, professor at the University of Illinois, Chicago. Also on the panel were Anthony Perone, a graduate student in educational psychology at the University of Illinois, Chicago (and a Performing the World 3 participant) and R. Keith Sawyer, an associate professor of education at Washington University in St. Louis and widely known expert on improvisation and creativity.

In her presentation -- entitled, "The Developing Teachers Fellowship Program: Exploring the Use of Improv Theatre for the Professional Development of Inner-City Teachers" -- Carrie shared the Vygotskian/performatory methodology of the fellowship

program and offered examples of how the Institute fellows have been making use of performance in their classrooms.

Lois took part (for the third year in a row) in a mini- course sponsored by the Cultural Historical Research Special Interest Group entitled, "Cultural-Historical Activity Theory in the World of Educational Quality." There, she was part of a teaching faculty along with Artin Goncu and Ana Shane (a Vygotskian colleague, who recently received a Psych Out Award). Lois also made a roundtable presentation entitled: "Postmodern Activity (Theory): A View from a Developmental Therapeutic and Learning Community."

Performing the World 4

With the deadline for submissions now passed, we received about 80 proposals for PTW4. They come from innovative practitioners living in countries across the globe, from Argentina to Nepal. Conveners Dan Friedman, Lois Holzman, Sheila McNamee and Fred Newman will be reviewing proposals in the next few weeks.

PRESENTATIONS

On Thursday, March 22, Lois was one of three panelists at a NYC-based forum on "How to have an Extraordinary Career by Doing Good in the World" sponsored by the consulting firm, SharingXcellence. She shared the stage with Frank Ingrassiotta, playwright, actor/director and Mark Riesenber, author and coach. Lois explained to participants that how she does good in the world is to help people perform in everyday life, and in so doing, to continuously create new options for how to live.

RESEARCH

Lois has been working with Valerie Lowe, an educator in British Columbia, to include the Institute's practice in a film documentary she is producing entitled, "Lev Vygotsky: Life, Theory and Practice." The film is being created to provide educators around the world with a visual product that helps explain Vygotsky's theory, and show how his concepts can be practically used in the area of human development. Filming has included an interview with Lois, a fourth-grade class of Developing Teachers Fellow Rachel Farmer, and workshops of the All Stars Development School for Youth.

VISITORS

Diane Geng and J. Chen visited NYC from Boston (where they were attending an NGO conference) to meet with Lois and Powpee Lee, our colleague from Taiwan and a current member of The International Class who is studying at the Institute through June. They discussed culture and community-building.

A Chinese American, Diane is an anthropology student at Harvard and the Vice President of the Rural China Education Forum. Chen is a graduate of Beijing's Normal University and now lives in the rural Shandong province, where he is a community organizer.

F.L. Gonzalez, a Guatemalan poet and author visited the Institute to inquire about PTW4. A self-proclaimed fan of Newman and Holzman's work, Gonzalez's upcoming book, *A Place with Mountains, Guatemala Rising*, addresses issues of community-building and therapeutics.

PUBLICATIONS

Lois was invited to contribute to the upcoming: "Learning Communities in Practice" by Anastasia Samaras of George Mason University), Clive Beck, Anne Freese and Clare Kosnik. The edited volume, due out in 2008, will address community building in school, university and professional settings, as well as non-traditional learning environments such as the Institute and the broader development community of which it is a part.

"Unscripted Learning: Using Improv Activities Across the K-8 Curriculum" by Carrie Lobman and Matt Lunquist will be published by Teachers College Press in early June. If you have not logged onto the "Unscripted Learning" blog, take a look and post a comment at: www.unscriptedlearning.blogspot.com

ONLINE CLASSES

Barbara Silverman's 4-week online class, "Social Work (Social Therapy Style)" wrapped on April 19. Members of the International Class were joined by ten students from British Columbia, Canada, Liberia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the U.S. (California, New York and Oregon).

Lois Holzman's upcoming online class, "Marx and a New Approach to Human Development and Social Transformation," runs from April 30 through May 28. The class is filling quickly and includes our first students from Japan and Costa Rica. Register now at: <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaaid=131543>.

LEARNING GROUP

"I Hate Math!"

On Monday, May 7, Manhattan Social Therapy Group Director and learning therapist Matt Lundquist, University of London math educator Mike Askew and developmental learning coach Lois Holzman will lead a workshop for anyone who's tried to teach math or to learn math -- with difficulty.

TRAINING

THERAPIST TRAINING WEEKEND

On Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and 6, therapists practicing at the Manhattan and Brooklyn Social Therapy Groups and affiliate centers in San Francisco, Boston, Atlanta,

Saratoga, and Philadelphia will come together for an intensive training weekend to work with Therapist Training Program Director Christine LaCerva, Chris Helm and Lois Holzman.

INTERNATIONAL CLASS 2007-8

We have received over 50 inquiries about joining the 2007-2008 International Class from colleagues in Argentina, Cameroon, Canada, El Salvador, France, Kenya, Liberia, Nepal, Pakistan, Puerto Rico, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, the UK and the US. Applications are being accepted through July.

*** DEADLINE FOR TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS: EXTENDED TO JUNE 1 ***

The Institute is accepting applications through June 1 for the Developing Teachers Fellowship Program. Participants receive a \$2,500 fellowship award upon completion. The program is open to select NYC-area public and charter school teachers who wish to pursue training in the Institute's performance-based approach to teaching and learning. For program details and application form, see: www.eastsideinstitute.org/programs.html

ESI.ORG

See the cover treatment for "Unscripted Learning: Using Improv Activities Across the K-8 Curriculum," and visit Carrie Lobman's and Matt Lundquist's new blog.

Look for the updated biographical statement for Lois.

View the 8-minute Performing the World video montage.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

APRIL

April 30-May 28

Online Seminar: Marx and A New Approach to Human Development and Social Transformation

Lois Holzman

MAY

Saturday-Sunday, May 5 & 6

Intensive Weekend Training

ESI Faculty

Monday, May 7

I Hate Math Workshop

Workshop led by Mike Askew, Matt Lundquist, Lois Holzman

East Side Institute

Monday, May 21
A Learning Group
Lois Holzman
East Side Institute

JUNE

Saturday, June 2
The Importance of Groups for Growing Kids
Workshop led by Christine LaCerva

Tuesday-Sunday, June 5-17
International Class Residency 3
Lois Holzman and ESI Faculty

Saturday, June 9
Performatory Learning: Good News Stories from NYC Schools
Carrie Lobman, Matt Lundquist and a Panel of NYC Teachers
East Side Institute

Saturday, June 9
Book Signing for "Unscripted Learning"
Carrie Lobman and Matt Lundquist
East Side Institute

Monday, June 11
A Learning Group
With Lois Holzman

Sunday, June 17
Graduation
Therapist Training Program & International Class
East Side Institute

Sunday, June 24
Another Look at Attraction
Fred Newman
Location TBD

OCTOBER

Friday-Sunday, October 12-14
Performing the World 4
Tarrytown House
Tarrytown, NY

Monday-Saturday, October 15-20
4th International Class

Residency 1

Feel free to forward this newsletter.

And please let us know if you no longer wish to receive it by contacting
Melissa Meyer at mmeyer@eastsideinstitute.org. Thank you.

East Side Institute