



AGLP
Opening Minds

VOLUME XXXI(2) · APRIL 2005

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Courtesy of the New York City Visitor's and Convention Bureau

Martin Luther King Memorial, Atlanta, Georgia

Welcome to Atlanta Ed Nix, M.D. Local Chair's Column

Welcome, AGLP, to your 27th anniversary meeting, May 20-25, 2005. You were born as the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Caucus of the APA in 1978 here in Atlanta, nurturer of the Civil Rights Movement and the city "too busy to hate."

Our host hotel is the Sheraton Colony Square Hotel, 188 14th Street, N.E. at Peachtree, 404-892-6000. It is ideally located on the fringe of the historic Ansley Park neighborhood in the heart of Midtown, with pedestrian-friendly access to the performing and creative arts and a plethora of gay and lesbian establishments anchored by the Outwrite Bookstore on Tenth and Piedmont. You can walk to them all: the High Museum of Art, Symphony Hall, the Jewish Heritage, Monetary and Patriotism Museums, the Center for Puppetry Arts (not listed in the Guide, their website shows it to be a unique venue: www.puppet.org), the Margaret Mitchell house, and so many other establishments noted in the AGLP Atlanta Guide Booklet. If you are staying the weekend before or the weekend after the Convention, you must take in Peachtree Battle or Sunday Afternoon at Loehmann's or whatever Atlanta society satire is being presented at the Peachtree Playhouse or the Ansley Park Playhouse by producer-playwrights and partners-in-life, Anthony Morris and John Gibson. Ask a member of the Local Planning Committee or concierge desk for details.

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The Newsletter of the
Association of Gay and Lesbian
Psychiatrists

Editor, George Harrison, M.D.

Published quarterly from 4514 Chester Avenue,
Philadelphia, PA 19143-3707.

The views expressed in the *Newsletter* are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists. The sexual orientation of any writer or any person mentioned in the *Newsletter* should not be inferred unless specifically stated. Mailing lists for the *Newsletter* are confidential, to be used only by the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists, and do not imply sexual orientation.

INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

Persons wishing to submit articles for publication should send them to: George Harrison, M.D., Editor, *Newsletter* of AGLP; UCSF AIDS Health Project, 1930 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. (Phone: 415-502-4818, FAX 415-502-7240, E-mail: gharrison@aglp.org). Submissions should be clearly readable. Submissions on electronic media (5.25 or 3.5 inch floppy disks) in IBM compatible formats are appreciated. A hard copy should be included along with a notation indicating which word processing program was used. Submissions become the property of AGLP and will not be returned unless requested and accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope. The *Newsletter* reserves the right to make editorial changes and to shorten articles to fit space limitations. Name, address, daytime telephone number, and a short biographical statement about the author should accompany the submission even if the author requests anonymity in publication (which is discouraged). The deadline for inclusion in the next issue is July 15, 2005.

ADVERTISING RATES

The Newsletter of the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists accepts limited advertising depending upon space and applicability to issues affecting psychiatrists who either are gay or lesbian or treat gay and lesbian patients. The mailing lists for AGLP are confidential and never sold or provided to any vendor.

Full Page Ad	\$250
Half-Page Ad	\$175
Business Card	\$75

Community service announcements are printed without charge, but are accepted only on a limited basis depending upon space limitations and applicability.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF GAY AND LESBIAN PSYCHIATRISTS

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Vice President	Kenn Ashley, M.D.
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Bisexual Psychiatrists

Margery Sved, M.D. and Mark Townsend, M.D.

AGLP National Office

Executive Director, Roy Harker
rharker@aglp.org

4514 Chester Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143-3707

Voice: (215)222-2800

Fax: (215)222-3881

e-mail: aglp@aglp.org

Internet: www.aglp.org

Editor's Column

George Harrison (World's Worst Patient?)

I'm not a complainer, usually. Quite the opposite, being of good Midwestern stock. Have a triply diagnosed patient demanding Klonopin and Ritalin? I'll be glad to see him. Need a call switch for a holiday weekend? Be glad to do it. Have a rare "opportunity" to head a departmental committee which only meets twice a month in another part of town? I'm there.

But give me a cold and let the complaining begin. I came down with a cold 4 weeks ago. It started out of the blue as I got out of a movie and was walking to my car. I noticed an insistent muscular ache. By the time I got home I was shivering. Sure that I had the beginning of the flu, I took my temperature. 102? 103? All I knew was I felt worse. I looked at the thermometer. 99.9. I took it again. 99.8. Impossible!

The next week was a symphony of symptoms: a dry hacking cough, a running nose, sneezing fits which set off my back pain. And always the fatigue that made me addle-brained. With every insult to my health I responded heartily with a string of four letter epithets, cursing my luck and circumstance. How was it possible to be so miserable?

Adding insult to injury my long awaited vacation started a few days after the symptoms. I was scheduled to see friends in Boston and travel with them to New York City to see *The Gates* in Central Park. How could my timing have been any worse? I spent my first day in Boston in bed and only gingerly ventured out after this. Damn the snow and the cold! To make matters worse, my friends, who were as generous as anyone could be (also good Midwestern stock) didn't seem to understand that I was on death's doorstep. I might need to be taken away at any moment. I couldn't possibly get up! Oh, you made a chocolate cake? Well. Maybe.

On to a whirlwind tour of NYC (is there any other kind), *The Gates* and a night on the town. Hacking all the way. *The Gates* were grand and couldn't possibly have been staged in any other season but late winter. The snow was mounded artfully under the bare trees. The orange gates illuminated by the February light wove their way through the park and stitched the whole scene together. It was so impressive I almost forgot that

I'M SICK! Damn it.

Back to San Francisco. With the encouragement of friends and coworkers I was pushed to the limit and went to see my doctor. I don't know why it's so hard to just go but it seems like, well, going to doctors is for other people. People called patients. And at this point I wasn't a patient person.

My doctor put me on a 5-day course of azithromycin. "Sounds like something's brewing in your chest." Just a word about my primary. I saw him a year ago for a minor problem. Afterwards I thought he was so thoughtful, so attentive, and considerate. I thought disheartened that I would never be as good a doctor as him. But then, given my gifts of psychiatric training, I found the perfect reframe. Would I really want to see a doctor that wasn't better than me? Not a million years. I'd always opt for excellent care at the price of humility.

I ran through my course of meds and yes, I did get significantly better. I have only had a residual cough and some fatigue for the past two weeks. Has that stopped the complaining?

President's Column

Mary Barber, MD



Mary Barber, M.D.

Early in my experience as a junior psychiatry resident on the inpatient service, my chief resident gave me a pearl of wisdom. "We don't really take care of the patients," Wayne said. "Our job is to take care of the nurses, so that *they* can take care of the patients." He meant this partly as hyperbole, but it did make me consider my role in the whole treatment system.

Learning to attend to relationships with other professional staff as a core

part of my job, rather than just a nice thing to do if I found the time, gave me new enthusiasm for my work with patients as well. Later, when I had to supervise other psychiatrists, I kept in mind my former chief's axiom and felt better about the sometimes tedious aspects of "personnel issues" by framing them as caring for the psychiatrists so that they could care for their patients.

screening a short preview of the film at our Annual Meeting. Our John Fryer award has been approved by APA pending funds to endow it. With the \$15,000 Gill grant, plus \$5,000 generously donated by AGLP Development Officer Rick Hire, M.D., and his partner, L.B. Williams, we are well on our way to our \$50,000 goal. With continued efforts on all our parts, by this time next year we could be distributing free copies of the reparative therapy film to P-Flag and other groups. We could be seeing the film aired on HBO. We could be planning for the first Fryer Award recipient to give a lecture to be attended by hundreds of psychiatrists at the next APA Annual Meeting. In other words, we could be educating and helping others to care for ever wider circles of "our" patients, but we all need to pitch in to make this come to pass.

What do you want your life and career to be? Certainly you want to be able to help the patients you directly treat. If you supervise other clinicians, you know that by doing so you are able to affect the care of more people than those you could treat on your own. You can have an even wider influence by involving yourself with AGLP. You can get involved in bringing the film project and the Fryer award to completion and advocating with APA on position statements concerning LGBT mental health. You can take ownership in your organization and bring new members in to AGLP, giving us a greater voice and strength, and giving your friends a new community in which to grow and find support. That support and

We as physicians and psychiatrists need to educate and attend to our community leaders, so that they can care for their constituents. This could mean becoming politically aware and active, participating in mental health advocacy, or doing education and advocacy work within our own psychiatric community. This kind of work has been central to AGLP's mission.

Wayne's philosophy can extend to the wider community as well. We as physicians and psychiatrists need to educate and attend to our community leaders, so that they can care for their constituents. This could mean becoming politically aware and active, participating in mental health advocacy, or doing education and advocacy work within our own psychiatric community. This kind of work has been central to AGLP's mission. We as LGBT psychiatrists support each other, so we can better help our patients. We also educate our psychiatric leadership, so that they can help insure that LGBT people everywhere will get sensitive, well-informed mental health treatment when they need it. Because they are all our patients.

We are at an exciting time with AGLP. Our documentary on reparative therapy is more than half completed, and we'll be

sense of purpose helps us come back from our Annual Meeting every year recharged and reinvigorated, better able to help our own patients as a result.

I'm inviting you—yes, you reading this article right now—to AGLP's Annual Meeting. The meeting will feature an educational program in the hospitality suite, membership meetings, opportunities for networking, a screening of the AGLP reparative therapy film, a closing dinner in which we will honor our own Roy Harker and author E Lynn Harris, and more (see the schedule for all the details). Most importantly, being present at the Annual Meeting means showing our numbers to the wider psychiatric community and to the city of Atlanta. Come help us show our strength, even after the tough year we've had as a community. Many of you may feel, with lower reimbursements, greater time pressures, and higher office expenses,

President's Column

Continued from page 3

that you can't afford the money or time to go to meetings any more. I would urge you to think about the big picture, about all "our" patients, and consider whether you can afford not to come.

Come and be with us. Bring a friend. It may change your life. It may change our whole community. I'll see you there.

Mary

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Editor's Column

Continued from page 2

Well, not exactly. I do give a daily update of my symptoms to my fellow workers (who are quite used to it.) They lavish me with sympathy and encouragement.

I expect that in a week or two my chest will be clear. I'll be back on my bike training for the AIDS ride to LA and my symptoms will be forgotten. I hope that I can remember what it's like being the patient when my patients come in with complaints, almost all of which are more serious than anything I have faced. So many people I see have no clear idea that their problems are time limited and no energy to meet the struggle. If I can just remember to channel my friends, provider, and coworkers, I can hold these things for my patients and be a better doctor in the process.

But then that's always the challenge isn't it?

Looking forward to seeing you all in Atlanta. And healthy, to boot!

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Dr. Richard Hire

Rick Hire, M.D., died April 6 of lung cancer. Beloved life partner of L.B. Williams. Brother of Jim & David Hire and of Sue Varallo. A dear friend, respected colleague and devoted psychiatrist, he will be deeply missed by the many people who loved him.

A Memorial Service will be held on April 30, 10AM at the Friends Meeting House, 15 Rutherford Place, Manhattan, between 2nd & 3rd Aves and 15 & 16 Sts.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Association of Gay & Lesbian Psychiatrists (AGLP), The John Fryer Award, 4514 Chester Avenue, Philadelphia, PA. 19143. Rick was active for many years in Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists of New York (GLPNY). He served as secretary of AGLP and then became the first person to take on the position of Development Officer for AGLP.

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Vice-President's Column

GEORGIA ON MY MIND

Kenn Ashley, M.D.

The plans for AGLP events during the APA Annual Meeting this May are in their final stages. Being involved in the process, I have had to be aware of the programs for both AGLP and the APA and they are exciting and interesting. Check out details of the APA program at www.psych.org/edu/ann_mtgs/am/05/index.cfm. Our own AGLP's events will be mailed to members. It is exciting to see so many of our AGLP members presenting at the Annual Meeting and to see the number of topics on LGBT issues being presented. Just a few random thoughts:

1. The AIDS epidemic is NOT over. Rates of new infections have been rising among gay youth for the past several years, while the rates among African-American women are staggering.
2. The issue of gay marriage/civil unions is not a dead one, nor was it the sole reason for the Kerry/Edwards loss. The topic is under discussion in the APA at both the national and the local level and it is important that our members are aware of what is happening and are in contact. At the Annual Meeting there should be a discussion of how to keep our members better informed of such things.
3. New York Medical College not allowing the LGBT student group to meet is a problem, as is the inadequate response by the President of the AMA to the issue.
4. Cultural competence is being implemented in hospitals and residencies and it is important that we ensure the inclusion of LGBT issues.
5. To improve and expand AGLP's role in addressing LGBT issues and support of our members we need to increase membership and participation in the organization. Those who attend the Atlanta meeting should attend the Business meetings (tentatively renamed Town Hall Meetings) which are open to all members of the organization and everyone should encourage colleagues to join the organization. Please contact officers with recommendations or questions--we can all be contacted through the website (www.aglp.org/pages/contact.html). Check out the website from time to time to see what is happening in the organization.

See you in Atlanta.

Welcome to Atlanta

Continued from page 1

For Early Arrivers, AGLP events begin Friday night, May 20, 7:30 - 9:30 pm at the home of your local arrangement committee chair, Edward Nix and partner Peter Bryg, with traditional Southern Dinner, featuring healthy options. Ed and Peter's home is about 15 blocks from our host hotel at 811 Virginia Circle, which is one block to the south of Virginia Avenue and just behind the John Howell AIDS Memorial Park. Your taxi driver may be sufficiently knowledgeable, but make sure he knows this is in the Virginia-Highlands neighborhood.

Saturday's Symposium, "Gender Identity and the Clinician," 8:30am-4:45pm with a 90-minute break for lunch, will provide approximately six hours of CME. We also assume we will offer CME credits for RNs, LCSWs, Ph.D.s, and other mental health professionals as has been our practice over the last 3 years. Our material is mostly different from that presented in San Francisco. Registration & Continental Breakfast are 8:30am outside the Atlanta Room of the Sheraton Colony Square

Hotel, while a video will be running in the Atlanta Room. James Powell, Ph.D. will present two segments, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Dr. Powell has facilitated a Transgender support group for years. He will cover the psychiatric/psychological assessments required before reassignment can be considered and much more. After the break, two plastic surgeons, Dr. Silver and Dr. Tolsen, will discuss and illustrate aspects of the surgical process and related client matters, including the prejudice encountered in physicians, surgeons, and other offices. All three are enthusiastic about presenting these important issues to us. Our own Sally Herbert, M.D. will start off the afternoon discussing issues in teens, with some amazing perspectives. After Dr. Powell's second segment, a panel of family members will recount what the experience was like for them. One discussant will be an adult daughter. We expect other discussants will be parents, and, hopefully, a teen struggling with these issues.

AGLP's 27th Anniversary will be celebrated by a continuous Power Point Presentation at intervals during the Pre-Convention Symposium on Saturday, 5/21, and when no formal presentations are occurring in the Hospitality Suite. We are collecting and will

project as many photos as possible of members as they appeared in 1978, along with early newsletters, and other archival material. Other memorabilia will be available in a manner that does not take away from the CME hours of our program. I will attempt to locate all the founding members to request period photos and other memorabilia. A scrap book will also contain some of the earlier newsletters.

Saturday night is the Annual Women's Dinner. Meet in the lobby of the Sheraton Hotel at 8:00 PM.

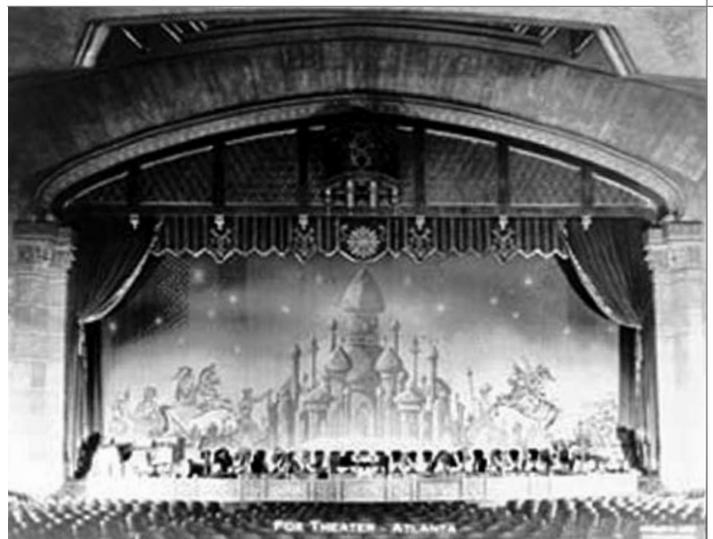
Sunday night's Opening Reception will be held at the home of Frank Buda, M.D., pediatric neurologist and sleep specialist. From the host hotel, the home is diagonally across 15th Street, on 29 Peachtree Circle in Ansley Park. The Women's Pre-Reception will be on Dr. Buda's veranda 6:00-7:00pm. They will join the rest of us inside the home 7:00-10:00 PM for more hors d'oeuvres, waters, soft drinks, champagne and wine, plus heavier fare (11 different choices including vegetarian), salads, and desserts sufficient for a meal. A harpist will provide music. Add glorious flowers and gracious hospitality Dr. Buda will maintain the legend of not-to-be-forgotten parties.

Significant Others' Events are hosted by Peter Joseph Bryg, of Edward Nix, and Richard Kempf, of Maurice Sprenger.

Monday, May 23, 2005: Fox Theatre Walking Tour

9:00 AM: Gather at AGLP Hospitality Suite in the Colony Square Hotel. Tour of the Fabulous Fox Theatre, 660 Peachtree St. will begin promptly at 10:00 AM with departure from the AGLP

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The Historic Fox Theater

Register for this symposium using the form on page 13 or online at www.aglp.org

Welcome to Atlanta

Continued from page 5

Hospitality Suite no later than 9:15 AM. Wear cool clothing as we may elect to walk the 12 blocks; and bring an umbrella, just in case. We might elect to walk to the Arts Center Station and take MARTA [\$1.75 one way] two stops down to the North Avenue Station. The first ten who gather at the Fox will get free passes; otherwise the tour cost is \$10 adults, \$5 seniors and students. After the tour, lunch in the area.

Wednesday, May 25, 2005: Atlanta Botanical Gardens

10:00 AM: Gather at AGLP Hospitality Suite in the Colony Square Hotel. We will walk from the hotel through the historic Ansley Park neighborhood to the Gardens. Wear cool clothing and bring an umbrella, just in case. The first nine who gather will get free passes. Otherwise the cost is \$12 adults, \$9 seniors and \$7 students. If the day is rainy we can focus indoors on the Orchid House [the main attraction, anyway] and the Conservatory. If sunny, the creative Children's Gardens will bring out the kid in us and has adult interest, if not the Woodland Gardens claim to be 10 degrees cooler than the many other outdoor garden options. Luncheon options include the Garden Café or a hike south to 10th Street and the Outwrite Bookstore Area.

Wednesday evening the 19th Awards Banquet will be in the Crown Room atop of our host Sheraton Hotel, with a spectacular view south to the Atlanta downtown sky line and north to Buckhead, and the suburbs beyond. Open bar 7:00-8:00pm is followed 8:00-10:00pm by Dinner and the Awards Ceremony, with dancing afterwards.

When we go our separate ways, the Local Arrangement Committee hopes that Atlanta hospitality will have made this 27th birthweek a happy memory for every AGLP member and guest.

If you Go:

Hotel accommodations are available through the APA this year – please do not call the host hotel. Making your reservation is simple on the web. Just navigate from the “Make your Hotel Reservations” link on the AGLP homepage, www.aglp.org. Or you can make your arrangements through the APA website at www.psych.org. You may also call the APA at 703-907-7376 and ask for Joan Hoy. The Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel at Colony Square is the AGLP hotel this year. The hotel is located at 188 14th Street NE at Peachtree in Atlanta. The AGLP Hospitality Suite, Business Meetings, Saturday Symposium, and Closing Banquet will all be there. The room rate for AGLP/APA Members is \$183.00 per night for a limited time. Space is extremely limited this year, so make your plans soon.

Up to date schedule information is always available at www.aglp.org. You can also make your RSVP for the closing banquet and register for the Saturday Symposium through the website.

And while you are at the Georgia World Congress Center, plan to visit the AGLP Booth, Number 405 (first Booth in Aisle 400). Please consider volunteering to staff the booth for an hour-long session. Sign-up sheets will be available at the booth and at the Hospitality Suite.

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NOMINATION SLATE 2005

As president-elect, Dan Karasic will automatically assume the office of AGLP's president at the end of this year's annual meeting. Following is the slate of the nominees for the other offices up for election.

Vice-president:	Kenn Ashley
Secretary:	Bob Mitchell
Treasurer:	Mason Turner-Tree
Newsletter Editor:	George Harrison

Nominations will remain open through the first business meeting and elections will take place at the second business meeting.

Submitted by Phil Bialer, M.D.

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Margaret Mitchell House

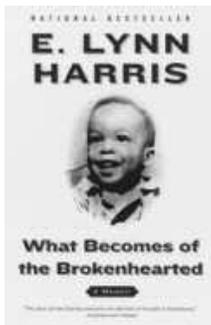
BOOK REVIEW

WHAT BECOMES OF THE
BROKENHEARTED: A MEMOIR.

Harris E Lynn. NY, NY: Doubleday, 2003. 266 pages, ISBN 0-385-50264-8.

Reviewed by Mary Barber, MD

E Lynn Harris is the bestselling author of novels about black gay and bisexual men and the men and women who love them. Through books such as *Invisible Life, Just as I Am*, and others, Mr. Harris has burst open the closet doors in an engaging, humorous way that has drawn a devoted straight as well as gay audience.



What Becomes Of the Brokenhearted: A Memoir is no less courageous than his fiction and is no less of a page-turner. The reader feels drawn into Mr. Harris's world of his family and friends much the same as when reading about Raymond, the recurring hero of his fiction. Starting his tale of growing up in Little Rock, Arkansas, he details being a poor child with an abusive stepfather and then later his life

with his single mother. Mr. Harris recounts his challenges in college at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, his rise as a computer sales executive at IBM and other companies, his battles with depression and drinking, and ultimately, his emergence as a

reminded of why his writing has such broad appeal.

Mr. Harris doesn't gloss over painful aspects of his life, from beatings by his stepfather to a violent encounter with a sexual liaison to his black boss at IBM telling him to cut off his Jheri curls. The descriptions of his depressions, his slide into alcohol abuse, and a brush with suicide are particularly poignant. There is no wallowing in self-pity in this account, nor is there a tone of heroism at what has been overcome. Mr. Harris's life story could easily have been written as a larger-than-life drama. The account of a highly successful person overcoming tremendous pain and strife, growing up during the height of school busing and the initial promise of affirmative action, and then coming of age during the early years of the AIDS epidemic. It emerges instead as a more intimate account, as if we are reading the story of a regular guy, not a bestselling author. Throughout the memoir, the reader gets the sense of being able to peer into the author's diary, written more to sort out events and their meaning for him rather than to cast them in some grand context.

Those of us in the mental health professions will applaud Mr. Harris's no-nonsense account of his encounters with therapy and medication and their help in his recovery from depression. Just as he exposed the hidden life of black gay and bi men and shattered the myths about their world, Mr. Harris writes in a direct way about mental illness. He dispels any notion that depression is only a "white" illness that can be overcome by sheer willpower or material success. In learning how to accept help and to treat his depressions as one would any serious medical illness, Mr. Harris provides a role model for the many who will read this book.

Foremost, this memoir stands, like all of E Lynn Harris' novels, as a damn good read. In a typically self-effacing tone, Mr. Harris writes in the memoir's epilogue that while completing the memoir, "Late at

Those of us in the mental health professions will applaud Mr. Harris's no-nonsense account of his encounters with therapy and medication and their help in his recovery from depression. Just as he exposed the hidden life of black gay and bi men and shattered the myths about their world, Mr. Harris writes in a direct way about mental illness. He dispels any notion that depression is only a "white" illness that can be overcome by sheer willpower or material success.

successful author. It is a classic American story of rags to riches to rags and back to riches. Through it all, the author recounts his struggle to be honest with himself and to learn to love himself as a black gay man. These are themes we can all relate to whether black or white, gay or straight, and in reading Mr. Harris's memoir one is

night I would worry that my fans, who always seem to be waiting for my next novel, would be disappointed to read about my life instead of the lives of Raymond Tyler and Basil Henderson."

Not to worry, Lynn, we're right there with you.

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AGLP 2005 Awards

Distinguished Service Award



E. Lynn Harris

AGLP's annual Distinguished Service Award is presented to an individual whose body of work or activities has promoted the mental health of the GLBT community in an extraordinary way. We are honored to announce that the recipient of this year's Distinguished Service Award is the noted author, E. Lynn Harris.

Originally from Flint, Michigan, Mr. Harris attended the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville where he was the school's first African-American yearbook editor, as well as the first black male Razorbacks cheerleader. He graduated with a degree in journalism. E. Lynn then spent the next ten years selling computers for IBM, Hewlett-Packard, and AT&T before writing his first novel, *Invisible Life*. This book was a coming of age story of an African-American man with conflicted feelings about his sexuality and the difficulty he had addressing this within himself and with others in the African-American community.

Unable to find a publisher, Mr. Harris published the book himself and sold it mostly at black-owned bookstores, beauty salons, and book clubs for three years before Anchor Books finally picked up the book. It went on to be a best seller, as have the next eight novels he has written since.

Much of Mr. Harris's writing addresses the issues of sexuality, AIDS, and racism among African-American men, topics that are rarely discussed openly. One of his novels, *If This World Were Mine*, actually features a gay psychiatrist, although I'm sure he will deny that the character is based on anyone we know. His memoir, *What Becomes of the Brokenhearted*, recounts Mr. Harris's own struggles as a closeted gay boy growing up in the south.

Mr. Harris has won the Blackboard Novel of the year three times, the James Baldwin Award for Literary Excellence, and has been twice nominated for the NAACP Image Award. In addition, E. Lynn has been named to Ebony's "Most Intriguing Black's" list, Out Magazine's "Out 100" list, and New York Magazine's "Gay Power 101" list. This fall, Mr. Harris was a visiting professor at his alma mater, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

James Paulsen Award



Roy Harker

The Paulsen Award is given annually to "one of our own" to honor an individual for their outstanding contributions to AGLP. This year's most deserving recipient is our very own Executive Director, Roy Harker.

In 1997, Roy was already running his own successful graphics design business, Engraphics, when David Scasta tapped him as the national office director, becoming AGLP's first paid employee. Over these past 8 years, Roy's accomplishments have been numerous. He designed the AGLP booth that shows us off so proudly in the exhibit hall at the annual APA meeting and works closely with each local arrangements committee and AGLP's board of directors to coordinate all the events and business meetings that take place at that event. This is a monumental task that simply would not happen without Roy's hard work. He also works closely with the newsletter editors to publish and distribute the quarterly newsletter. Roy was instrumental in coordinating several board retreats during which long-range planning, our mission statement, goals, and new logo were developed. Roy also produced a fund-raising CD-ROM to be used to apply for grants for the organization and has recently been successful in helping attain foundation funding for AGLP projects. Most importantly, Roy has done all this and more with enthusiasm, energy, and a most appreciated good-natured attitude. He was officially promoted to Executive Director of AGLP in recognition of a job well done.

AGLP Schedule of Events

20 – 25 May 2005

Atlanta, GA

Shaded events require RSVP or tickets

Hospitality Suite: Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square
26th Floor
188 14th Street NE at Peachtree
Atlanta, GA 30361
404-892-6000
Open 21 – 25 May, 7:00am – 9:00pm

Friday 20 May

7:30 – 9:30pm Welcoming Party
Home of Peter Bryg and Ed Nix
811 Virginia Circle, Atlanta 30306

Saturday 21 May

AGLP Annual Symposium: **Gender Identity and the Clinician**
8:30am – 4:45pm

Location: Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square,
Atlanta Room
188 14th Street NE at Peachtree
Atlanta, GA 30361

Program Schedule

8:30am Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:45 – 9:00am Welcome and Introductions
Kenn Ashley, M.D.

9:00 – 9:45am Overview of Transgender Care
Dan Karasic, M.D.

9:45 – 10:30am Stages of Transition for the Gender Dysphoric Patient
James L. Powell, Ph.D.

10:30 – 11:00am BREAK

11:00am – 12:30pm How to Evaluate and Assist Patients with the Process of Transition
William E. Silver, M.D., FACS
Michael Tolsen, M.D.

12:30 – 2:00pm LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

2:00 – 2:45pm Transgender Teens: Issues for the Clinician
Sally Herbert, M.D.

2:45 – 3:30pm Family Issues for the Gender Dysphoric Patient
James L. Powell, Ph.D.

3:30 – 4:15pm The Family Perspective in Transgender Cases
FAMILY MEMBER PANEL DISCUSSION
Dan Karasic, M.D.
James L. Powell, Ph.D.
Sally Herbert, M.D.
William E. Silver, M.D.
Michael Tolsen, M.D.

4:15 – 4:45pm Wrap up
Dan Karasic, M.D.

4:45 pm Adjourn

12:30pm – 2:00pm Executive Board Meeting
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square
Hotel Restaurant TBA

8:00pm Women's Dinner
Pleasant Peasant Restaurant
555 Peachtree Street
404-874-3223

Meet in the lobby of the Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square at 7:30 PM. We will go by cab or in the cars of local women psychiatrists.

Sunday 22 May

7:00am – 9:00pm AGLP Hospitality Suite Open
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square
26th Floor

8:00 – 11:00am AGLP Board and Council Meeting
Breakfast Served
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square
Room Assignment TBA

10:00am – 4:30pm AGLP Booth Open
Georgia World Congress Center
Andrew Young International Boulevard, Building A
Booth Number 405 (first Booth in Aisle 400)

2:00 – 4:00pm Film Screening: *Tying the Knot*
AGLP Hospitality Suite, 26th Floor
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square

Documentary, 1 hr. 25 min. This timely documentary film uses archival footage, news clips, and heartfelt interviews to make a compelling case for gay marriage. *Tying the Knot* challenges the notion of "traditional marriage" and argues for lesbian and gay inclusion in this basic civil right. The film examines the institution of marriage today and how it has changed through history.

10:00am – 12:30pm Medical student, resident, and early career psychiatrist brunch
Home of Peter Bryg and Ed Nix
811 Virginia Circle, Atlanta 30306
Meet in AGLP Hospitality Suite, 26th Floor
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square

11:00am – 12:30pm HIV-affected psychiatrists meeting
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square
President's Suite

6:00 – 7:00pm Women's Pre-Reception
Home of Frank Buda, M.D.

7:00 – 10:00pm Opening Reception
Home of Frank Buda, M.D.

29 Peachtree Circle (located diagonally across 15 Street behind the Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square, the house is to the left of the Pink (more rose) Mansion, 1 Peachtree Circle

Monday 23 May

7:00am – 9:00pm AGLP Hospitality Suite Open
AGLP Hospitality Suite, 26th Floor
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square

AGLP Annual Meeting Schedule

Continued from page 10

9:00am S/O Outing: Fox Theatre Walking Tour
Partners of AGLP members meet in the hospitality suite

The first ten who gather will get free passes. Otherwise the tour cost is \$10 adults, \$5 seniors and students. After the tour, lunch in the area.

10:00am – 5:00pm AGLP Booth Open
Georgia World Congress Center
Booth Number 405 (first Booth in Aisle 400)

10:30am – 12:00pm Parenting Issues
Ellen Haller, M.D.
AGLP Hospitality Suite, 26th Floor
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square

12:30 – 1:30pm AGLP Membership Committee Meeting
Mary Barber, M.D.
AGLP Hospitality Suite, 26th Floor
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square

1:30 – 3:00pm Women's Issues
AGLP Hospitality Suite, 26th Floor
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square

Screening: *My Sister My Bride*. When, in October 2002, J. Farrell Cafferata and Caren Jenkins celebrated their B'rit Ahuvah, a Jewish commitment ceremony, in Nevada, director and friend Bonnie Burt (*The Jewish Chicken Ranchers of Petaluma, BJFF2002*) was there to film it. Two years later, when San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom ordered the county clerk to begin issuing same-sex marriage licenses, Bonnie was also there to record Farrell and Caren's marriage at San Francisco City Hall. Together with thousands of other hopeful couples, the two women participated in what has become a defining moment in the ongoing struggle for equality.

3:00 – 4:30pm Psychiatric Residency and Training Issues
AGLP Hospitality Suite, 26th Floor
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square
Marshall Forstein, M.D.

For medical students thinking about residencies and the special issues in psychiatric training for GLBT trainees

4:30 – 6:00pm Resident and Medical Student Networking and Discussion
Andy Tompkins, M.D., Adam Prueett
AGLP Hospitality Suite, 26th Floor
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square

6:30 – 8:00pm AGLP Membership Meeting
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square
Atlanta Room

- Executive Committee Nominations
- AGLP Film Project Screening
- Committee Reports
- Town Hall Meeting

7:30 – 10:00pm Psychiatrists of Color and International Psychiatrist meeting
Meet in hospitality suite, then go for dinner at Einstein's, 1077 Juniper St, 404-876-7925/www.einsteinsatlanta.com

Tuesday 24 May

7:00am – 9:00pm AGLP Hospitality Suite Open
AGLP Hospitality Suite, 26th Floor
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square

10:00am – 6:00pm AGLP Booth Open
Georgia World Congress Center
Booth Number 405 (first Booth in Aisle 400)

2:00 – 3:30pm Psychoanalytic Committee Meeting
Ubaldo Leli, M.D.
AGLP Hospitality Suite, 26th Floor
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square

3:30 – 5:00pm Psychoanalytic Committee
Workshop on Shame in the Therapeutic Relationship
Ubaldo Leli, M.D.
AGLP Hospitality Suite, 26th Floor
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square

5:30 – 7:00pm AGLP Membership Meeting
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square
Atlanta Room

- Officer Election
- Committee Reports
- Bylaws Changes
- New Business

7:30 – 9:30pm LAGCAPA (Lesbian and Gay Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Association) Party
Farrington Design Group (FDG)
230 Peachtree St, NW, Suite 2000 (20th Floor)
(across from the Regency Hyatt House)

Wednesday 25 May

7:00am – 9:00pm AGLP Hospitality Suite Open
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square
26th Floor

10:00am – 3:00pm AGLP Booth Open
Georgia World Congress Center, Booth Number 405

10:30am S/O Outing: Atlanta Botanical Gardens

Partners of AGLP members meet in the hospitality suite. The first nine who gather will get free passes. Otherwise the cost is \$12 adults, \$9 seniors, and \$7 students.

AGLP 19th Annual Awards Banquet
RSVP Required: Visit www.aglp.org or call 215-222-2800

Ticket Prices: \$100 – Full Member/SO of Full Member
\$50 – Resident/Medical Student
\$125 – Non-member

Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square
188 14 Street NE (@ Peachtree)
Atlanta, GA 30361
404-892-6000
Crown Room (atop the Hotel)

6:00 – 7:00pm VIP Reception (Invitation only)

7:00 – 8:00pm Open Bar /Cocktail Hour

8:00 – 11:00pm Dinner and Award Ceremony, dancing afterward

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APA Events of Interest to LGBT Psychiatrists

CW=Component Workshop

IW=Issue Workshop

MW=Media Workshop

S=Symposium

Note: Poster/New Research Session are not listed and locations should be confirmed at the Annual Meeting

Monday 23 May

- 9.00-10.30am** **CW7. Serodiscordant Couples: Issues and Psychodynamics in the Third Decade of AIDS**
 APA New York County District Branch's AIDS Committee
 Georgia World Congress Center, Level 3, Room B
 Chairperson: Elizabeth V. Getter, M.D.
- 9.00am-Noon** **MW1. "Fixing Frank": The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Psychotherapy with Gay Men**
 Georgia World Congress Center, Level 4, Room A406
 Chairperson: Petros Levounis, M.D.
- 9.00pm-4.00pm** **Course 91: Men Sexually Abused As Boys: Meanings, Consequences, and Treatments.**
 Course Director: Murray D Schane, MD
 Faculty: Howard Fradkin, PhD, Richard Gartner, PhD,
 William Holmes, MD, Kenneth Singer, MSW,
 Bill Burmester, MA.
 Hilton Atlanta; Fee: Adv \$160/On-Site \$185
 (Course registration required)
- 11.00am-12.30pm** **CW17. Gender Benders: Psychiatric Aspects of Transgender Care**
 APA New York County District Branch's Committee of Gay,
 Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues
 Omni Hotel, Ballroom Level, Juniper Room, North Tower
 Chairperson: Serena Y. Volpp, M.D.
- 2.00-5.00pm** **S3. Queer Think for the Straight Shrink: Expert Tips**
 American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
 Georgia World Congress Center, Level 4, Room A403
 Chairperson: Richard R. Pleak, M.D.
 A. Discussant-William M. Womack, M.D.
 B. Queer as Kids: Attitude Enhancement—Richard R. Pleak, M.D.
 C. High Heels and Show Tunes: Boys Under the Spell—
 Edgardo J. Menvielle, M.D.
 D. The L Teen and Lesbian Chic—
 Sarah E. Herbert, M.D.
 E. Studs, Stems, and Jotas: Queer Latino Youth—
 Vernon A. Rosario, M.D.

Tuesday 24 May

- 9.00-10.30am** **CW26. Using the HIV Dementia Scale in the Clinical Setting**
 APA Committee on AIDS
 Omni Hotel, Street Level, Dogwood B, North Tower
 Chairperson: Karl Goodkin, M.D.

- 9.00am-Noon** **MW4. "Jim in Bold": Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Teens on Film**

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry's
 Sexual Orientation Committee
 Georgia World Congress Center, Level 4, Room A406
 Co-Chairpersons: Richard R. Pleak, M.D., Sarah E. Herbert, M.D.

- 11.00am-12.30pm** **CW29. I Do, But I Can't: Mental Health Issues Around Gay Marriage**

APA Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues
 Georgia World Congress Center, Level 3, Room B309
 Chairperson: Serena Y. Volpp, M.D.

- IW44. Topics in Psychosomatic Medicine: Fatigue in Cancer and AIDS**

Collaborative Session with the National Institute of Mental Health
 Georgia World Congress Center, Level 3, Room B307
 Co-Chairpersons: William Breitbart, M.D., Andrew J. Roth, M.D.

- 11.00am-12.30pm** **IW50. Psychiatric Comorbidities in HIV Infection**

Collaborative Session with the National Institute of Mental Health
 Georgia World Congress Center, Level 4, Room B401
 Chairperson: David Stroff, Ph.D.

- 2.00-5.00pm** **S28. Real Life Medical Management of HIV**

Georgia World Congress Center, Level 4, Room A402
 Chairperson: Francine Cournos, M.D.
 A. HIV Treatment Update-Khakasa H. Wapenyi, M.D.
 B. Managing Mood Disorders-Milton L. Wainberg, M.D.
 C. Managing Hepatitis C, Syphilis, and HIV Infection—
 Annette M. Matthews, M.D.
 D. Managing Psychosis-Shahrad R. Amiri, M.D.
 E. Managing Metabolic Syndromes-Marshall Forstein, M.D.

Wednesday 25 May

- 9.00-10.30am** **CW43. Same Sex Marriages: Mental Health and Personal Perspectives**

APA Northern California Psychiatric Society's Committee on
 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues
 Georgia World Congress Center, Level 3, Room B310
 Co-Chairpersons: Gene A. Nakajima, M.D., Ellen Haller, M.D.

Thursday 26 May

- 9.00-10.30am** **IW109. The Double-Edged Sword: Mental Health Challenges in HIV and Hepatitis C**

Society for Liaison Psychiatry
 Georgia World Congress Center, Level 4, Room B405
 Chairperson: Maria L.A. Tiamson, M.D.

- 11.00am-12.30pm** **IW120. Homelessness, Addiction, and Severe Mental Illness in Persons with HIV/AIDS**

Georgia World Congress Center, Level 3, Room B310
 Co-Chairpersons: Mary Ann Cohen, M.D., Jack M. Gorman, M.D.

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R E G I S T R A T I O N

**AGLP Symposium:
GENDER IDENTITY AND THE
CLINICIAN**

Colony Square Hotel, Atlanta Room
188 14th Street NE at Peachtree
Atlanta, GA 30361
Atlanta Room

Saturday, May 21, 2005

- 8:30am Registration & Continental Breakfast**
- 8:45 – 9:00am Welcome and Introductions**
Kenn Ashley, M.D.
- 9:00 – 9:45am Overview of Transgender Care**
Dan Karasic, M.D.
- 9:45 – 10:30am Stages of Transition for the Gender
Dysphoric Patient**
James L. Powell, Ph.D.
- 10:30 – 11:00am BREAK**
- 11:00am – 12:30pm How to Evaluate and Assist Patients
with the Process of Transition**
William E. Silver, M.D., FACS
Michael Tolsen, M.D.
- 12:30 – 2:00pm LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**
- 2:00 – 2:45pm Transgender Teens: Issues for the
Clinician**
Sally Herbert, M.D.
- 2:45 – 3:30pm Family Issues for the Gender Dysphoric
Patient**
James L. Powell, Ph.D.
- 3:30 – 4:15pm The Family Perspective in Transgender
Cases**

FAMILY MEMBER PANEL DISCUSSION
Dan Karasic, M.D.
James L. Powell, Ph.D.
Sally Herbert, M.D.
William E. Silver, M.D.
Michael Tolsen, M.D.
- 4:15 – 4:45pm Wrap up**
Dan Karasic, M.D.
- 4:45 pm Adjourn**

Continental breakfast provided with no additional charge

Name Degree

Address

City

State Zip -

Country

Email

Phone

FEES

- \$15 AGLP Full/Associate members
(includes CME Credits)
- \$FREE AGLP member medical students or residents
- \$30 Non-member Residents and Students
- \$120 Non-AGLP member
(includes CME/CEU Credits)
- \$200 Combined AGLP Membership and Registration
(includes CME/CEU Credits)

CME/CEU CREDITS

- 6 CME Credits (Physicians and Psychologists)
- 6 CEU/CE Credits (LCSW/ MFTs/RNs)

I wish to pay by Check VISA MasterCard AMEX

CARD NO.

EXP. DATE: (Required)

SIGNATURE: _____ (Required for Credit Card)

To assure admittance please respond by May 18, 2005. Seating is limited to 100.

MAIL OR FAX THIS FORM TO: **AGLP National Office**
4514 Chester Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143-3707
(215)222-3881 - fax

OR REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.AGLP.ORG

ASSOCIATION OF GAY AND LESBIAN PSYCHIATRISTS

cordially invites you to join us in honoring
noted author, E. Lynn Harris;
AGLP's Executive Director, Roy Harker;
and YouthPride, serving metro Atlanta's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth
at our

19TH ANNUAL AGLP AWARDS DINNER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2005

Crown Room
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel Colony Square
188 14 Street NE (@Peachtree), Atlanta, GA 30361

AGLP Sponsor's reception · 6:00 - 7:00pm *(Invitation Only)*

Closing Banquet Reception · 7:00 - 8:00pm

Dinner and Awards · 8:00 - 11:00pm

\$100 - Full Member/S.O. of Full Member · (U.S. Dollars)

\$50 - Resident/Medical Student · \$125 - Non-Member

Please respond before May 18, 2005 Reservations are limited to 100

Name(s):

If paying by check:

Make your check payable to AGLP, and mail,
along with this response card, to the National Office.
Credit card payments may be either faxed or mailed

Please reserve:

__ Ticket(s) at \$100 \$50 \$125 each

__ Ticket(s) at \$100 \$50 \$125 each

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4514 Chester Avenue
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(215)222-3881 - fax

Total Number of Tickets _____

Register Online at www.AGLP.org

I would like to Reserve my place for the following other
events:

Friday Night Welcome Reception (No Fee)

I wish to pay by Check VISA MasterCard AMEX

CARD NO.

EXP. DATE: (Required)

Total Due \$ _____

SIGNATURE: _____ (Required)



Why Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA) Makes Sense

Jose P. Vito, M.D.

Dr. Vito is a PGY-4 at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and is the recipient of the Jeanne Spurlock, M.D. Congressional Fellowship for Spring 2005. The six month Fellowship provides general psychiatric residents with an opportunity to work in a U.S. Senate congressional office or committee on federal health care policy. Dr. Vito plans to return back to New York to pursue Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship.

As a Jeanne Spurlock, M.D. Congressional Fellow, I am very fortunate to be working with Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR) and at the Special Committee of Aging on mental health care issues. Since my fellowship began, I spearheaded to generate Senator Smith's introduction of the Early Treatment for HIV Act of 2005 (ETHA), S. 311. Modeled after the successful Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act of 2000, ETHA would give states the opportunity to offer Medicaid to low-income HIV-positive individuals. Under current law, only low-income individuals with full-blown AIDS are eligible for Medicaid coverage. Adults living with HIV generally only qualify for Medicaid coverage once they become eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Because an individual is not eligible for SSI until they become disabled, a person with asymptomatic HIV infection is not eligible for Medicaid until he or she has progressed to full-blown AIDS. Since HIV positive individuals do not qualify for Medicaid, many lack the ability to receive medical care and medicine to help slow the progression of the HIV and to prevent the onset of opportunistic infections

I had hosted a roundtable discussion about the bill to garner support and input. Groups supportive of the bill include Treatment Access Expansion Projects, the American Academy of HIV Medicine, Housing Works, Project Inform, AIDS Actions, and the Gay Men's Health Crisis. I made sure that all their voices were heard, especially the concern of pregnant women and their kids infected with HIV.

Being a psychiatrist and treating HIV/AIDS patients, this bill is very important with respect to preventing the onset of AIDS. ETHA would play a critical role in providing access to anti-HIV drugs that forestall illness and disability, and it would allow people to live longer and more productive lives. Treating those who are HIV positive early in the progression of the disease provides numerous benefits. According to a cost study by PriceWaterhouseCoopers, over ten years ETHA would reduce by 50 percent the death rate of Medicaid patients with HIV. Over these years HIV progression is significantly slowed and health outcomes are improved. Specifically, over five years the legislation is expected to cost \$55.2 million, yet over ten years, with dynamic scoring, ETHA actually produces savings of \$31.7 million, achieved from treatment and improved health outcomes.

Modeled after the successful Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act of 2000, ETHA would give states the opportunity to offer Medicaid to low-income HIV-positive individuals.

ETHA addresses a cruel irony in the current Medicaid system—that under current Medicaid rules people must become disabled by AIDS before they can receive access to Medicaid provided care that could have prevented them from becoming so ill in the first place. ETHA brings Medicaid eligibility rules in line with federal government guidelines on the standard of care for treating HIV. ETHA helps address the fact that increasingly, in many parts of the country, there are growing waiting lists for access to life-saving medications and limited access to comprehensive health care. Access to HIV therapies reduces the amount of HIV virus present in a person's bloodstream (viral load), a key factor in curbing infectiousness and reducing the ability to transmit HIV. Therefore, ETHA makes sense because early access to HIV therapies, as provided under ETHA, becomes an important HIV

Marriage Update

George Harrison, M.D.

There has been continued movement in the discussion of an APA statement supporting civil marriage for homosexuals. Last year the APA was asked to sign on the amicus briefs (supportive documents from "friends of the court") in states considering legislation on this issue. The Board of Trustees (BOT), however, deferred joining the briefs in the fall of 2004 since APA didn't have a policy on same-sex civil marriage.

The Board of Trustees asked at its October 2004 meeting for the Joint Reference Committee (JRC) to work with a variety of components of the APA to draft a Position Statement in Support of Same-Sex Marriage. In December 2004, the Committee on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues (CGLBI) drafted the Position Statement, and it was supported by the Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities (CMMHHD). The Council on Psychiatry and Law circulated the draft and had six responses. Four members advocated continued support for a statement endorsing civil unions and two supported endorsing civil marriages with the caveat that the document needed a more cogent statement about the effects on health and mental health. The Council on Children, Adolescents and Their Families was evenly divided on the Position Statement. Two members were in favor of same-sex marriage. Two others felt this was not a topic the Council should take a position on since it was not a children's issue.

In February 2005, at the request of the JRC, the Position Statement was further revised by the CGLBI. It advanced to the CMMHHD where it was revised, endorsed, and forwarded to the JRC. On April 4, the statement was reviewed and approved by the JRC and forwarded for consideration by the Assembly. If endorsed by the Assembly it will return to the BOT for a final vote prior to being enacted as a policy of the APA. At that time the APA will be able to sign on to the amicus briefs.

Passage by the Assembly is not assured. It will require that the issue be brought forward with a maximum of organized support. Leadership on this issue is currently working on plans to bring the document forward in a manner that will optimize the chances for success.

The following is the document minus the supporting documents and appendix that has been forwarded to the Assembly. This draft is an internal document of the APA and as it is still in draft form, is not the policy of the APA.

(Draft) Position Statement in Support of Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Civil Marriage

Prepared by the Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues (12/3/04)

Revised by the Committee on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues (3/20/05)

Revised and endorsed by the Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities (3/30/05)

Reviewed and approved by the Joint Reference Committee 4-4-2005 and forwarded by the JRC for consideration to the Assembly

Intent: The American Psychiatric Association (APA) should expand its current Position Statement on Same Sex Civil Unions and support legal recognition of same-sex civil marriage.

Problem: In 2000 following the creation of Vermont's same-sex "civil unions" law, the APA passed a Position Statement in support of Same Sex Unions. In subsequent years, the issue of legal recognition of same-sex relationships has become an increasingly debated social issue. On the one hand, Canada has already legalized same-sex civil marriage in seven of ten provinces, as has Massachusetts, and two European countries. Several other countries in Europe and around the world give legal recognition to same sex unions or offer same-sex partner benefits. Legal actions challenging restrictions on same-sex marriage are occurring throughout the United States: courts in New York, California, and Washington State have ruled that heterosexual-only marriage is unconstitutional.

The American Psychiatric Association has historically supported equity, parity, and non-discrimination in matters that have an impact on mental health. APA has also supported same-sex civil unions and the right of same-sex couples to adopt and co-parent children.

On the other hand, seventeen US states now have state constitutional amendments banning same sex marriage. Other legislatures are also wrestling with this issue, and some of the legislation actually prohibits any recognition of same-sex relationships or domestic partner benefits. Some court cases support this restrictive legislation and non-recognition of gay and lesbian couples and their families.

The APA has recognized the importance of stable, same-sex relationships for the mental health of gay and lesbian people,

● **Leonard Handelsman, M.D.**

An Observance of Dr. Leonard Handelsman's Life was held on Sunday, March 6, 2005, 1:00pm at the Carolina Club, George Watts Hill Alumni Center Stadium Drive at Ridge Road in Chapel Hill North Carolina. The family has asked that contributions in Dr. Handelsman's name be sent to:

TROSA (Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers)

Attn: Keith Arden
1820 James St.
Durham, NC 27707
919-419-1059

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World Report

The Newsletter has received a request from Maura Reap, Peace Corp Volunteer, Romania, for the consideration of our readers. Currently, treatment interventions for those with LGBT issues in Romania consist of conversion therapy, referrals to spiritual counseling, or exorcisms. She is proposing a 2-day LGBT sensitivity training and is trying to raise funds for this endeavor. She writes on the proposal website:

"Social workers and psychologists working in Romanian social service agencies typically are significantly under informed on issues pertaining to gender. Moreover, they often lack the training necessary to effectively incorporate gender sensitivity into the services that they provide. This deficiency in knowledge and skill has a serious negative impact on the quality of care that these professionals are able to provide to their clients. Individuals identifying as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered (GLBT) are particularly impacted by this. Most social work training programs fail to provide any training whatsoever on GLBT issues. As a result, social workers and psychologists do not know how to effectively work with these clients. The consequences for GLBT individuals that are experiencing a crisis can be tragic. The Gender and Development (GAD) Committee of Peace Corps Romania recognizes the pressing need to provide specialized training on gender and sexual orientation / identification. Consequently, they have partnered with other gender-focused organizations from Romania to provide a two-day gender sensitivity training seminar. The seminar will be specifically designed for social service professionals working with marginalized populations, with an emphasis placed on GLBT issues. Partnership funds will be used to pay for accommodations, training materials, and travel expenses for 24 workshop participants, 5 organizers/ facilitators, and 5 guest speakers."

Program information and links to make donations maybe accessed at www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=resources.donors.projdetail&projdesc=403-097.

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PAWS/LA and PAWS Collaborate On First Annual Companion and Service Animal Conference

Pets Are Wonderful Support Los Angeles (PAWS/LA) and Pets Are Wonderful Support, based in San Francisco, announce their 2005 Summit "The Healing Power of the Human-Animal Bond: Companion Animals & Society" taking place June 2 - 4, 2005 at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel in Hollywood, California.

This first of its kind conference will cover new research and development on the connections between companion animals and humans. More than 20 experts in legal practice, veterinary medicine, social services and animal welfare will speak on a wide range of topics related to animal companionship. The conference is highly recommended for those who provide services to disabled animal guardians, and those in animal service organizations, public/private housing, humane societies, legal services and government agencies.

Featured speakers confirmed to date are: Lynette Hart, Ph.D., University of California at Davis; Larry Norvell, President, Delta Society; Elizabeth Pierson, CEO/President and General Counsel of the Fair Housing Council of Orange County; Rebecca Johnson, RN, Ph.D., University of Missouri, Columbia; Judith Siegel, Ph.D., University of California at Los Angeles; Gretchen Wyler, Humane Society of the United States; Pamela Frank, Ph.D., FIREPAW; Joan Esnayra, Ph.D., Founder, Psychiatric Service Dog Society; Aubrey Fine, Ph.D., author, Handbook on Animal-Assisted Therapy: Theoretical Foundations and Guidelines for Practice; Ilana Strubel, DVM, Founder, Vet SOS; Gary Rhodes, Esq., Private Litigator; and Beth Rosen-Prinz, Esq., California Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

Well known for her support of animal causes, actress Betty White is the Honorary Chairperson for the summit. In addition to creating and hosting the TV series "The Pet Set" and a daily radio show, "Betty White On Animals," White is the author of "Pet Love: How Pets Take Care of Us." Best known for her Emmy winning roles in "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and "The Golden Girls," White is a long time supporter of PAWS/LA.

Registration cost is \$175 until May 15, 2005 and \$200 thereafter. The conference kicks off with a reception sponsored by PacificCare (www.pacificare.com) on Thursday evening. Friday's lunch and keynote address by Wyler is sponsored by PetCo.

To register or for more information, contact Pets are Wonderful Support/Los Angeles (www.pawsla.org) 323/876-PAWS or Pets are Wonderful Support (www.pawssf.org/conference/2005) 415/241-1465.

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Internship Opportunities – Spring 2005

The National Mental Health Association, a nonprofit organization addressing all aspects of mental health and mental illness, is seeking undergraduate and graduate students for its internship program. The program is designed to provide a unique opportunity for students to gain real-world work experience relevant to their academic and career goals.

Small Business Insurance Parity Bill signed into law

AGLP expresses its sincere gratitude to **Dr. James Scully, Jr., Medical Director for the American Psychiatric Association**, for his leadership and support in the successful passage of the Small Business Insurance Parity Bill. The bill, sponsored by Senator Janet Howell, will allow companies in the Commonwealth to design and implement the health insurance benefits they see fit for their employees.

Two years ago, the APA relocated from Washington, D.C., to Arlington, Virginia, but discovered after the fact that Commonwealth of Virginia law did not allow for extending health insurance benefits to their employees' partners. Virginia is the only state in the nation that legislates the extent of health insurance benefits a business may offer. Scully argued that, in addition to the blatant discrimination made apparent in this law, these restrictions put the APA at a "competitive disadvantage to professional associations in Maryland and DC, which are able to offer such benefits."

AGLP joins Equality Virginia, the state's leading gay and lesbian advocacy organization, in voicing their sincere thanks for Dr. Scully's role in this bill's passage. A letter announcing the success of this effort is included below:

March 28, 2005

Mary Barber, MD, President
Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists

Dear Dr. Barber:

Let me join AGLP in celebration of the recent passage of the Small Business Insurance Parity bill, SB 1338, in the Virginia legislature which Governor Warner signed into law on March 25. I am proud that APA, with fervent backing from AGLP, was one of the many organizations and businesses that championed this measure. Not only is this a victory for our GLBT constituents but for the APA staff as well. As you know this benefit will permit APA to offer health insurance coverage to domestic partners of our employees, a benefit regrettably lost when we relocated to Arlington, VA, from Washington, DC.

As always, I want to extend my appreciation to the AGLP for its ongoing collaboration with APA on policy issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely,



James H. Scully, Jr., M.D., Sc.D.
Medical Director

ETHA Makes Sense

Continued from page 14

prevention tool. In other words, ETHA is cost-effective, improves health, reduces HIV related deaths, and helps prevent the spread of HIV.

By making therapeutics available earlier, treatment costs will diminish, new HIV infections will decrease because of the lower viral loads. ETHA will be able to provide care to more individuals with HIV because of savings, and most importantly, the quality of life for countless HIV-positive individuals will be improved. Simply put, providing coverage earlier rather than later is the right thing to do.

Currently the Senate Finance Committee is considering the Early Treatment for HIV Act, which has bipartisan representation from 31 Senators.

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Announcements

Continued from page 16

Internships are available in certain departments, such as: Administration, Affiliates, Communications/Media, Executive Office, Healthcare Reform, Marketing/Publications, and World Federation. See <http://www.nmha.org/intern/internhome.cfm> for more details or to apply online. Other application options include sending a resume to NMHA/JDL, 2001 N. Beauregard Street, Alexandria, VA 22311, a fax to (703) 684-5968, or an e-mail interns@nmha.org. No phone calls please.

International News

The next foreign meetings include 1) Cairo Sept 10-15, 2005 WPA congress www.wpa-cairo2005.com (One gay symposium accepted) 2) Istanbul July 12-16, 2006 WPA regional conference www.wpa2006istanbul.org (Deadline for submission, November 30, 2005) 3) Prague Sep 19,-25, 2008 WPA congress

Institute of Psychiatric Services San Diego Oct 5-9, 2005

The APA's other major meeting takes place in San Diego, October 5-9, 2005 (Columbus day weekend). One workshop on same sex marriage has been accepted. Bob Cabaj, MD has been asked to do a clinical roundtable. For info see www.psych.org

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AGLP Awards*Continued from page 8*

Roy was born in Riverside, NJ, just outside of Philadelphia. He received an Engineering degree from Drexel University and a degree in Music from Temple University. In addition to his business activities, Roy has been the Director of Music and Fine Arts at St. Asaph's Church, in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, for 20 years. He lives with his partner of 16 years, Bob Ranando, in a lovely Victorian house in Philadelphia where the national office is now located.

Stuart Nichols Award

The Nichols Award was created to honor a program or agency in the city where the annual meeting is being held which provides mental health or related services primarily to the LGBT community. Dr. Nichols was a founder and the second president of AGLP. He was also instrumental in forming Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists of New York. He was the first chairman of the national APA AIDS Commission and along with Bert Schaffner ran a support group for HIV-positive physicians for many years. As Medical Director of Beth Israel's Methadone Maintenance Program (comprised of 24 clinics), Stu was a strong advocate of community mental health.



The Atlanta local arrangements committee has selected YouthPride as this year's recipient of the Nichols Award. YouthPride was founded in 1995 and is the only organization in the metropolitan Atlanta area that serves all lesbian, gay, bisexual,

transgendered, and questioning teenagers and young adults aged 13-24. They provide these services regardless of educational enrollment, parental custody, handicap, race and ethnicity, HIV status, or income. YouthPride serves an average of 100 youths weekly through a variety of social activities, learning and educational activities, facilitated discussion groups, community outreach, and HIV testing. The organization has expanded rapidly and moved into its current space in historic downtown Decatur in 2000 and hopes to move to larger quarters soon. Edward R. Gray, Ph.D., the Executive Director of YouthPride will accept the award.

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Marriage Update*Continued from page 15*

families and the community through its 2000 Position Statement on Same Sex Civil Unions and its 2002 Position Statement on Adoption and Co-Parenting of Children by Same Sex Couples. The BOT approved a stronger APA Position Statement on Same Sex Civil Unions in December 2004. At the same time, an updated APA Resource Document on Same Sex Civil Marriage was accepted by the BOT in December 2004.

In the current debate, those in favor of legal recognition of same-sex civil marriage frame it also as a civil rights issue—the denial of civil marriage to same-sex couples denies them and their families over a thousand legal benefits to which heterosexual couples and their families are currently entitled. This was highlighted in the ruling of the Massachusetts Supreme Court in upholding same-sex civil marriage, pointing out that these legal benefits and protections were not supported by same-sex civil unions, such as in Vermont. Since 1973, APA has issued numerous position statements supporting full civil rights for gay and lesbian individuals based on the values of non-discrimination and equal protection under the law.

A legally recognized marriage offers 1,049 Federal benefits and responsibilities, not including hundreds more offered by every state. Same sex civil unions, regardless of which state offers them, are more limited in the range of benefits they provide couples. Some benefits of the legal recognition of same-sex civil marriage that are denied to same-sex couples in a civil union include: Social Security and Veteran death benefits; the ability to file joint Federal income tax returns; an exemption from inheritance, gift and property transfer taxes; an exemption from taxation of retirement savings in case of spousal death; the ability to sponsor family members for immigration; automatic rights to a spouse's estate, regardless of whether a will exists; employer-sanctioned sick leave, bereavement leave, health insurance, disability benefits and pension; the benefit of spouses being able to give an unlimited amount of gifts to each other without being taxed; being entitled to joint child custody and visitation upon divorce (and bear an obligation to pay child support).

In July 2004, the American Psychological Association adopted a resolution supporting the legalization of same-sex civil marriages stating that denying same-sex couples legal access to civil marriage is unfair and discriminatory and can adversely affect the psychological, physical, social and economic well-being of gay and lesbian individuals based on the research literature.

Finally, APA has also been asked by other professional

Continued on page 20

Marriage Update

Continued from page 19

organizations to take a position in the courts and in other public arenas on same-sex civil marriage. In response, APA's Committee on Judicial Action has recommended to the Board of Trustees that the APA sign on to two *amici curiae* briefs authored by the American Psychological Association in lawsuits challenging existing marriage laws in New Jersey and Oregon. In November 2004, the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society issued a Position Paper in support of same-sex civil marriage.

Because of the above factors, there is a timely need for a statement from APA on this issue. Therefore, it is proposed that APA approve the following Position Statement in Support of Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Civil Marriage:

Position Statement in Support of Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Civil Marriage

As physicians who frequently evaluate the impact of social and family relationships on child development, and the ability of adults and children to cope with stress and mental illness, psychiatrists note the invariably positive influence of a stable, adult partnership on the health of all family members. Sustained and committed marital and family relationships are cornerstones of our social support network as we face life's challenges, including illness and loss. There is ample evidence that long-term spousal and family support enhances physical and mental health at all stages of development.

This position statement is about the legal recognition of same-sex civil marriage, not religious marriage, and it does not pertain to any organized religion's view of same-sex marriage.

Heterosexual relationships have a legal framework for their existence through civil marriage, which undoubtedly provides a stabilizing force. In the United States, with the exception of Massachusetts, same-sex couples are currently denied the important legal benefits, rights and responsibilities of civil marriage. Same-sex couples therefore experience several kinds of state-sanctioned discrimination that can adversely affect the stability of their relationships and their mental health.

The children of unmarried gay and lesbian parents do not have the same protection that civil marriage affords the children of heterosexual couples. Adoptive and divorced lesbian and gay parents face additional obstacles. An adoptive parent who is lesbian or gay is often prejudicially presumed as unfit in many U.S. jurisdictions. Furthermore, when unmarried couples do adopt, usually one parent is

granted legal rights, while the other parent may have no legal standing. These obstacles occur even though research has shown that the children raised by lesbian and gay men are as well adjusted as those reared within heterosexual relationships.

As the population ages, the denial of legal recognition of civil marriage has consequences for increasing numbers of older adults in same-sex relationships who face age-related health and financial concerns. Excluding these adults from civil marriage protections of survivorship and inheritance rights, financial benefits, and legal recognition as a couple in health care settings increases the psychological burden associated with aging.

The American Psychiatric Association has historically supported equity, parity, and non-discrimination in matters that have an impact on mental health. APA has also supported same-sex civil unions and the right of same-sex couples to adopt and co-parent children. This is because APA has a longstanding interest in civil rights and legal issues that affect mental health as well as a code of ethics that supports and respects human dignity. Educating the public about lesbian and gay relationships and supporting efforts to establish legal recognition of same-sex civil marriage is consistent with the Association's advocacy for minority groups.

Civil marriage is associated with a unique set of benefits that provide legal and economic protections to adults in committed relationships and to their children. Equal access to the institution of civil marriage is consistent with the APA's opposition to discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Therefore be it resolved that:

"The American Psychiatric Association supports the legal recognition of same-sex civil marriage with all rights, benefits, and responsibilities conferred by civil marriage, and opposes restrictions to those same rights, benefits, and responsibilities."

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