

## AIP Posting Number Nine

Saturday, November 7, 2015

Dear Wonderful AIP Members,

I write with the sad news that I will be closing up AIP in the next few weeks.

As you know, I launched the Alliance for International Psychoanalysis (AIP), assisted by six colleagues, Apurva Sheh, David Orbison, Diana Medina, Eileen Beirch, Donna Cline, and Gabrielle Taylor, on August 22, 2014. They served as fellow Board members. We were all concerned with the unfortunate "cultism" of professional psychoanalytic organizations. We knew of no psychoanalytic organization with an "all-inclusive" ethic like AIP. We invited all persons interested in psychoanalysis to join the organization. We grew up to 40 members or so in the past year and a half.

On a positive note, professional psychoanalytic membership organizations appear to have evolved in a positive fashion in the past year or so. The American Psychoanalytic Association (APsaA) just recently voted to externalize its Certification process, a development indicating a much-needed liberalism and growth. That has prompted me to rejoin APsaA as of January 1, 2016.

Diana has also informed me that the International Psychoanalytic Association (IPA) has recently voted to establish individual membership status. I have not confirmed this yet, but I certainly hope it is true. I was personally the victim of the IPA which, when I resigned from the APsaA due to its Certification processes in late 2013, advised me that I could *not* remain an IPA member unless I remained a member of APsaA. That situation relates to a "deal" made during the 1930s between APsaA and the IPA regarding the then-medicalization of American psychoanalysis. If this change in the IPA is not true, I will begin steadfastly lobbying for such a change starting next year.

On a less positive note, I have become too immersed in scholarship, my own practice, and my family/friends/personal life to have the time and energy needed to build up AIP. It has been rather humbling to learn that running a professional membership organization takes a great deal of time (and that I have limits)! None of the current Board members had an interest in taking the helm. I reached out to several other psychoanalysts I thought might be interested but they also lacked the

motivation at this time. I am therefore left with no other option but to formally close AIP.

I immensely appreciate all of your support for AIP. Please note that AIP could be revived in the future. My daughter, Natalie, who has served as the administrator since AIP's inception, has advised me that the website (a rather wonderful one, by the way) will be stored somewhere in cyberspace. Should any of you members be interested in reviving AIP, please contact me directly and I will advise you how to keep the organization going.

In the meantime, and in the likely event that we are all too busy to maintain our fledgling professional organization, I will close the bank account, close down the website, and formally dissolve the corporation before the end of this year. I have advised AIP's attorney, Tony Dimonte, of this process. I will of course also be working with Natalie, our accountant Keith Ip, and our bookkeeper Mindy Cross, so that the closure will be legal and complete.

Please know that, by simply joining AIP, you demonstrated an interest in promoting an alternative professional psychoanalytic membership organization -- a need that may still exist in the aftermath of AIP. In that way, you showed your deep interest in psychoanalysis as a profession.

I encourage all of you to keep in touch with me at my private email address, [amkarbelnig@gmail.com](mailto:amkarbelnig@gmail.com). I will check the AIP email a few more times before the end of the year, just to see if anyone reaches out that way. But I would also be happy to remain in touch now that we have developed a relationship.

I offer my great appreciation to you Board members, Apurva, David, Diana, Eileen, Donna, and Gabrielle, for your interest and involvement. Thanks so much also Tony, Natalie, and Mindy and also thanks to anyone I am forgetting to mention!

I look forward to our continuing to maintain our community however informal it may now become.

With affection, sadness, and more, I sign out now as AIP President with wishes of health and freedom to all of you,

Alan Karbelnig, President  
AIP  
117 E. Colorado Boulevard, Suite 425

Pasadena, CA 91105

Phone: [626-441-7778](tel:626-441-7778)

Email: [amkarbelnig@gmail.com](mailto:amkarbelnig@gmail.com)