

April 2006

SBWnotes

from the field of gerontological social work practice

We are pleased to send you our first monthly bulletin - **SBWnotes** - sharing with you items of interest from the field of gerontological social work practice. With a growing aging population that is more culturally and ethnically diverse than ever before, this effort is certainly relevant. We hope you find this interesting & helpful! And if you come across an article or event to share, please email it to us for inclusion in our next bulletin.

Our Partner's New Book!

We are proud to announce the publication of *The Caregiver's Tale: Loss and Renewal in Memoirs of Family Life* by Dr. Ann Burack-Weiss. This book is a discussion and analysis of published memoirs by authors who cared for ill or disabled family members.



Carroll Kowal Journalism Award

Every year the Fund for the Advancement of Social Services (FASS) presents this award to a journalist for enhancing the public's awareness of social conditions in NYC. This year's recipient is **N.R. "Sonny" Kleinfeld** of *The New York Times*. His article, "Bowed by Age and Battered by an Addicted Nephew," compellingly places the terror and tragedy of elder abuse in NYC on the public agenda.

Life and Work After "Retirement"

For those of us who work with older adults facing serious problems, it is helpful to keep track of those who are aging well and breaking precedent. *The New York Times* (3/19/06) reported on a job training program sponsored by the NYC Department for the Aging since 1991. 1,000 people a year have taken courses at the center and most have completed their training and have been placed in part-time and full-time jobs. To read more, please visit this website: <http://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F2061FFF34550C7A8DDDA0894DE404482>

Late Life Depression & Talk Therapy

An article in the March 21, 2006 issue of the *New York Times* headlined, "Talk Therapists Cite Major Strides in Fending Off Depression Among the Elderly," reports on a recent study at the University of Pittsburgh suggesting that antidepressants are more effective in warding off a recurrence of late-life depression than interpersonal therapy. The article notes, however, that the results are far from conclusive, and geriatric psychiatrists Dr. Gary Kennedy and Dr. Aaron Beck comment on the progress being made in developing effective talk therapy techniques for older adults and the importance of relying on the older person's lifetime of experience in problem solving. To read more, please visit:

http://query.nytimes.com/search/query?query=talk+therapists&date_select=full&srchst=nyt

Practice Thoughts

When a client confronts you in anger, respond don't react.

Kudos to NASW!

Attracting social workers to the field of aging has always been difficult, so we are pleased with the aggressive steps being taken by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) to address this challenge. Several years ago the Association established a Specialty Section on Aging and now is offering online courses in gerontology. In an editorial in the March 2006 issue of *NASW News*, Executive Director Elizabeth Clark wrote eloquently of the needs for social workers to be involved in aging. Learn more at: <http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/news/2006/03/clark.asp>

Don't Miss Our Spring Courses!

SBW Partners is responding to the growing demand for continuing education programs in social work practice with older adults and their families. There is still time to sign up for 3 of our Spring courses.

SBW Partners is a fee-for-service firm devoted to advancing social work practice in aging. Services are provided by the firm's founding partners, Dr. Barbara Silverstone and Dr. Ann Burack-Weiss and a group of associates. We provide services to agencies and practitioners, corporate training programs and a variety of accredited courses.