

Editorial

In this, our last issue to be published in the 20th century. I would like to think that we reflect some of the depth and breadth of inquiry into the nature of energy and consciousness that is one of this century's intellectual hallmarks. This initiative was spearheaded by Sigmund Freud, whose thought has permeated this century's intellectual discourse, often only in its negation. In the second half of the 20th century, Wilhelm Reich's ideas have also gained ascendancy in the discourse surrounding bodymind and energy research and psychotherapy. Depending on one's point of view, Reich can be seen as the carrier of Freud's original flame or as his harshest critic. But, from whatever point of view one looks as the century draws to a close, one can see Reich's heirs at work in research into energy fields, bodymind medicine, and the proliferation of body psychotherapies. Even traditional psychoanalysts are beginning tentatively to explore the possible role of various kinds of touch in psychotherapy. This diversity was evident at the 1998 United States Association of Body Psychotherapy Conference in Boulder, Colorado, at which people were invited to place their schools of body psychotherapy on a "genealogical chart," and at which John Pierrakos' contribution to the field was recognized with the first Lifetime Achievement Award.

Our first article on this issue is an update by Karyne Wilner of a paper that John Pierrakos wrote in 1974 illuminating the energetic basis of heart ailments. Karyne surveys recent research supporting the hypotheses in John's original and pathbreaking research. Twenty-five years ago, when this paper was first written, there was little, if any, research to mention. Karyne's discussion highlights and critically evaluates what has taken place.

In "The Family Energetic Field: A Matrix for Human Evolution," Mary Giuffra outlines a theoretical basis for the nexus of family systems and Core Energetic theory. In this rich and highly condensed introduction to the topic, she proposes an outline of an ongoing exploration of the energetic field of the family as well as for its treatment. Subsequent issues of this journal will carry elaborations and case examples of her propositions.

"In Search of the Lost Core: A Beginner's Guide to the Borderline Character" is Kuno Bachbauer's sharing of an exploration of the diagnosis and treatment of what are labeled "borderline" disorders. He shares his difficulties and confusions in dealing with these often difficult

Energy & Consciousness

clients as well as his insights and inventions.

Barbara Koopman, in her classic organomic case, "Working with Genital Trauma/" outlines her theory and methods of working with an unusually interesting client.

"Epiduaros, A Holy Shrine in Greece," an homage to John's roots by Ralf Homberg, reminds us of the antiquity of our notions of the healing process as well as the space devoted to them in ancient cultures.

Core Energetics is expanding. We need more "case histories," more views of how' we actually do the work. And, we need more elaborations and connections to Core Energetics from other fields, such as Man-Giuffra has illustrated with family therapy. Many of us have ideas and observations, and now is the time for us to commit them to paper and publish them here as our contribution to the increasingly legitimized world of body, energy and spiritual psychotherapies. We need to have the courage exemplified by Kuno Bachbauer exploring work with borderline issues to do just that: explore. Sometimes we must look anew at pathbreaking ideas that need to be elaborated and re-evaluated as Kaiyne and John have done in the current revision of his famous paper. Before we can have answers, we must have the courage to ask questions: of ourselves, of the work before us, and of our experience.

Jacqueline Carleton

