

The Post Patriarchal TC
in America -- Women as Culture
Carriers
for
Teaching Community

European Federation
Therapeutic Communities
Dublin, 2017

Naya Arbiter/Amity Foundation U.S.A.

TC as a Revolution of Inclusion

- U.S. SOCIAL CONTEXT: 1958
- Civil Rights, Montgomery bus boycott 1956
- Inter-racial marriage illegal
- Homosexuality illegal
- Abortion illegal – limited birth control
- Black jazz musicians fleeing to Paris
- Women's movement ten years away
- Blacklist, (HUAC) cold war, out law gang formation (golden guineas, hells angels etc.)
- Quotas for Jews- "W.O.P.S/ N.I.N.A/gentiles only

The invisible: voiceless populations

- Women forced to leave workforce post WWII
- Military personnel who lied and entered WWII as children 15 or 16
- Addicts, juvenile delinquents, inmates
- Holocaust survivors
- AA relatively new
- Gay Community
- Mentally ill
- Anti-nuclear activists
- Women of color, particularly black women
- *IF YOU CAN'T SEE A GROUP YOU DON'T HEAR THEM*

SYNANON:NATURE OF ACTIVITIES

- Formed for the express purpose of research and investigation into the causes of personal alienation, including but not limited to criminality, racism, addiction, juvenile delinquency and more...
- **RESULT:** Synanon Clubs became an arena for those without a sanctuary in which to speak: blacklisted in McCarthy era, activist clergy, civil rights and war activists, environmentalists, jazz musicians, criminals, gamblers, actors, artists i.e. DeLeon's senior professors... Hosted by...



etty D.: "She is the women of Synanon and the women of Synanon are her."



Bette Maher: Assistant to a Director.



Miriam Crawford: Leads a women's game.



Talents are put to work: Norma Knoy, actress; Ann Lombardo, singer; Dian Gewant, artist.



Margo Peterson: A Synanon Executive.



SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

TIME	PLACE	SPEAKERS
7:30 AM	Santa Monica Ministers Asso	Chuck + Beld
7:00 P.M.	Manhattan Br Church	Dave + Jerry
10:00 A.M.	Public Health	Lena + Anita
7:45 P.M.	Woodland Hill Staff Meeting	Phil Hunt
8:00 P.M.	Mrs. Freeman Member of Comm	Jack Hurst
8:30 P.M.	Alpha Omega Dental Aux.	Frank + Bill H.
9:45 P.M.	B'nai Brit no 308	Herman + Rita
12:00 noon	Kiwiwi Ann men	deanne + Carol
12:00 noon	Oxnard Exchange Club	John B. Bill H.
12:15 P.M.	Sertoma Club Santa Monica	Phil Hunt
	Greater Los Angeles Club	A. Ross Arline Jake
8:30 AM - 1:30 PM	El Camino	deanne Arline Bob Dave
10:00 A.M.	National Women	A. Ross Arline
1:00 P.M.	Lomita	Dave Jerry
11:45 A.M.	Westdale	
12:00 - noon	West Hollywood	
7:00 P.M.	Senior Home	







The invisible are not heard

- Black female voice not heard—by the professionals who visited, who wrote, who published
- Not recognized outside the organization by anyone but Abraham Maslow
- Feminine contribution faded as Synanon became more corporate and misogynistic

EMERSON

No person can learn what they
have no preparation for
learning—

No matter how near their eyes
are to the object

The Feminine Contribution

Early Therapeutic Community

- We have a great vocabulary for hostility but need more ways to say “I love you” receiving affection throws people into more of a crisis...
- Extended group circles of affirmations
- Environment: use what you have- make it beautiful — public rooms to heater closets
- Multi-purpose rooms — casters, everything rolled
- Community supported by structure but is NOT structure.

Feminine Contribution cont'd

- **Banking Character:** relationship vs position- The the construction worker as important as the Harvard attorney
- **Insistence** on Community Membership
- **Bottoms Up** perspective
- **Grace:** How do you host a Judge?
- **Enrollment as Ceremony**
- **Ceremony and acknowledgment**
- Responsibility of elders (senior professors)
- Exchange and celebration of culture
- Story Story Story

Zora Neale Hurston:

IF you are silent
About your pain—
They'll kill you and say
you enjoyed it...

Feminine Contribution continued

- Inclusion of children (*book: “This school was made for you and me” Dr. Newmark—went on to write “How to Raise Emotionally Healthy Children”*)
- Reprimands ‘Haircuts’ always included affirmation
- Play AND liberation into competence
- Performance, music, dance, art, reading

1005 B.C. —*Makeda Queen of Sheba*
to her people:

I will follow the footprints of wisdom and she shall protect me forever. I will seek asylum with her, and she shall be unto me power and strength, Let us seek her and we shall find her, let us love her, and she will not withdraw herself from us, let us pursue her, and we shall overtake her; let us ask, and we shall receive... let us turn our hearts to Wisdom so that we may never forget her...

WHAT HAPPENED

- Replication Daytop — Dan Casriel and Synanon
- Listening to the white male voice, hearing the white male voice, interpreting the white male voice — habit of the times
- People replicate what they are most comfortable with: Sanctions, Structure, learning experiences were exalted— ceremony, acknowledgement, discernment, community became demeaned

Jim Collins

We must reject the idea—well intentioned but dead wrong that the primary path to greatness in the social sector is to become “more like a business” ... Many widely practiced business norms correlate with mediocrity, not greatness... Why import mediocrity into the social sectors?

IT WORKED!!!! Was it sustainable?

- By 1972 Ford Foundation reported 2,200 Synanon-like organizations in the United States
- Most were run by one person, usually a man, usually white
- Most had boards of directors with primarily white men, representing the corporate world –not of communities of color, and few women

What happened?

- TC Increasingly known for addiction
- Social Justice advocacy eroded replaced by advocacy for funding
- Discourse regarding services and best practices eroded — replaced by advocacy for funding
- Research eroded
- Funding became government focused
- Parity between masculine and feminine values faded

TC Management and community degradation

- Management stopped being community members, promoted “we-they”
- Vested authority and titles became more important than personal authority/demonstration
- Role development diminished
- Management stopped attending community events, teaching, circles, ceremony
- Inappropriate transferences fostered rather than discouraged

What Happened?

- The corporation overtook community, and became self-serving unto itself
- Community used as fodder for corporate interests rather than the corporation supporting community/humanitarian needs
- Bottoms up view completely disappeared from executive management
- Language changed to reflect “treatment” rather than community

What Else?

- Long time community members whether those in recovery, researchers, or management that were witness and supporters of community were let go
- Corporate organizational men were hired (i.e. executives of perfume companies, head hunters, merger specialists and more)
- Model co-opted by for profit prison industry

WOMEN'S WORK

- Women's responsibility to establish gender accountability in advocacy, management , services
- Responsibility to insure community membership
- Responsibility to speak up and out – name claim and utilize feminine experience
- Be brave — if we can't what happens to the Rohingya, the women immigrants, women sold in the sex trade....

We Know

- When women are honest about their stories it is safer to men to disclose, men's disclosure regarding violence, rape, abuse, improves public safety
- When women work in prison projects – with parity with male faculty self reports indicate incarcerated men want to improve parenting skills

We Know

- Social scientists report women view empowerment as connection, community, as opposed to power and control
- Women grow up with multiple roles
- Moral development is tied to connection
- Carry culture in family and community

The Words of Women

- Culture Carriers for the TC
- Culture carriers for women
- Words of men: Shelley to Thoreau to Ghandi to Dr. King...
- Women's History—Women's words
- Honoring our ancestors

Malvina Reynolds

God bless the grass that grows thru the crack
They roll the concrete over it to try to keep it back
The concrete gets tired of what it has to do
It breaks and it buckles and the grass grows through
God bless the truth that fights towards the sun
They roll the lies over it and think that it is done
God bless that grass that is gentle and low
Its roots they are deep and so is its will to grow
God bless the truth the friend of the poor
And the wild grass is growing at the poor people's door
And God bless the grass