

March/April 2013

Edited by Joan Harwood



HAMFT Members Turn Out for "Day at the Dome" in Austin

AUSTIN, TX - The members of HAMFT that attended our Texas Association's "Legislative Day" got a taste of what it was like to be part of the political process in Texas.

"We received consistent feedback that this was the best conference in more than a decade," said Brandon Wheeler, TAMFT's executive director and past president of HAMFT. "TAMFT's new leadership is determined to improve every facet of the association, most especially Annual Conference. Next year's event will be even bigger and better with an unbelievable roster of speakers."

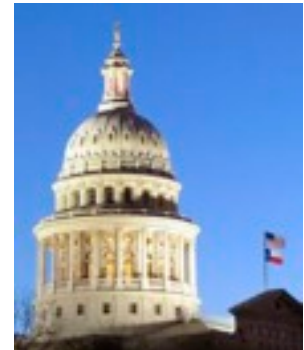
TAMFT's biennial *Day at the Dome* (DATD) is a legislative advocacy day paired with the association's Annual Conference. This year's DATD was especially important because TAMFT and its members were fighting for every clinician's business bottom line.

TAMFT's leadership emphasizes that the association represents you your business concerns.

Recent years have seen efforts by other professional groups to limit how, where and to whom you conduct your work. TAMFT has fought off these attempts to limit your scope of practice and continues to expand how LMFTs can be reimbursed.



Photos of HAMFT's Austin Trip by Joan Harwood



The 2013 legislative agenda included clarifying LMFTs' eligibility to be paid by the Workers Compensation Fund.

Demonstrating how TAMFT is always looking forward to the future needs of professionals and the communities they serve, TAMFT is advocating for authorizing the use of internet technology to reach clients in rural via tele-therapy. In addition to homebound clients, tele-therapy will allow clinicians to gain clients in the 70 percent of Texas counties whose rural population does not have access to mental health services.

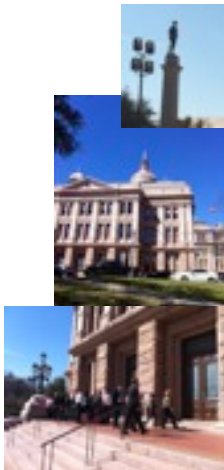
All of TAMFT's legislative efforts are done to 1) ensure that the public receives effective psychotherapy, and 2) that clinicians are compensated for their work. These efforts are not performed by faceless staff who work in the TAMFT offices. It is therapists, like you, who take time off work to meet with state legislators to advance the concerns and goals of our profession. TAMFT needs your voice,

your time and your resources because they are the only professional group whose sole mission is to advance the effective practice of marriage & family therapy.

Though the 2013 DATD has come and gone, you can still make your voice heard by investing in FamilyPAC, TAMFT's political action committee. - *Information contributed by Brandon Wheeler*



Mark Herranen, HAMFT's Legislative Liaison Chair



HAMFT members entering the State Capitol



The 2013 TAMFT Conference was held in Austin at The Westin at The Domain. HAMFT is thrilled that the 2014 TAMFT Conference will be held in our own Sugar Land, Texas!

HAMFT Awards First 2013 “Warm Hearth Scholar”

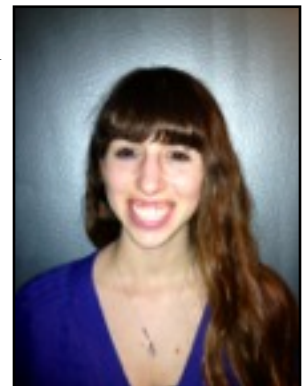


“Thanks” from UHCL Student, Samantha Caplan

Thank you so much HAMFT for awarding me the Warm Hearth Scholarship, which allowed me to attend the TAMFT Annual Conference in Austin. I attended the conference on Friday and presented a poster entitled “Couples Counseling and the Transition to Parenthood”. During the breakfast meeting, Dr. Jason Martin discussed Family PAC and the importance of joining the cause. We were also honored to witness a panel of historical leaders of our profession discuss the evolution of the mental health field in Texas. This was a very interesting and important discussion, especially for young students like myself. After breakfast, I joined a table of my fellow students from University of Houston Clear Lake at the “Mindfulness & Self-Compassion: Integration in Systemic Work” workshop presented by Kristin Neff. I was very interested in the relaxation and self-compassion exercises that we did during the workshop. During lunch, we were updated on the current situation with our license and TAMFT’s advocacy efforts in the 83rd Legislative Session. After lunch, our group attended an afternoon workshop conducted by Dr. Mary Green entitled, “Queer Therapy: What to Ask and How to Ask It”. This was a very intriguing and interactive workshop. We were split into groups with other students and professionals, which was a rewarding experience. We set up our posters and met students from other schools who were also presenting at the poster session. It was really great to compare and contrast our programs and interests with other students. During my poster session, I was able to discuss my interests in couples’ counseling for couples going through this powerful life transition as well as other relevant professional interests with practicing therapists from all over Texas. This entire experience was extremely helpful and rewarding. I will definitely be attending the conference next year and I plan to volunteer during the conference as well. I sincerely thank HAMFT for this wonderful opportunity!

Many Thanks,

Samantha Caplan



And, Congratulations, Sam, From HAMFT!

How the Warm Hearth Scholarship Started...

The Warm Hearth Fund was established by Bob Stecker and Joan McKirachan in memory of Joan’s husband, the Rev. Fred McKirachan, who was a firm believer in the personal growth

component of professional development.

- The Warm Hearth is funded by member contributions.
- The Warm Hearth Fund is accessible to all HAMFT members, including students, whose application for assistance needs meets the following criteria:
 - The scholarship is applied toward expenses for attendance at a

professional development experience.- usually MFT-related.

- The applicant manages whatever expenses they are able to pay and requests a Warm Hearth Scholarship to supplement that cost.
- The applicant agrees to write, following attendance at the professional development experience, a brief description of the

workshop and the meaning that it had for the participant, and offer the description for inclusion in the HAMFT Newsletter.

When a request for funds is approved, 75% of the requested costs may be allotted with a maximum cap of \$300.00 per application.

Warm Hearth Applications should be submitted via email to info@hamft.org.

HAMFT Acknowledges Our 2013 Board Members!

President – Joan Collins Harwood

President-Elect - Twila Ross

Secretary – Delee D’Arcy

Treasurer – Grayson Miller

Past President – Sally Miller

Membership Committee – Adrienne Armstrong,
Chair; Purva Patel

Public Relations Chairs – Tracy Kottwitz and
Paige Roane

Programs Committee – Christie Farris, Chair;
Iris Chang

Elections Committee Chair – Brandon Wheeler

Ethics Committee Chairs – Laura Shely and
Rochelle Bridges

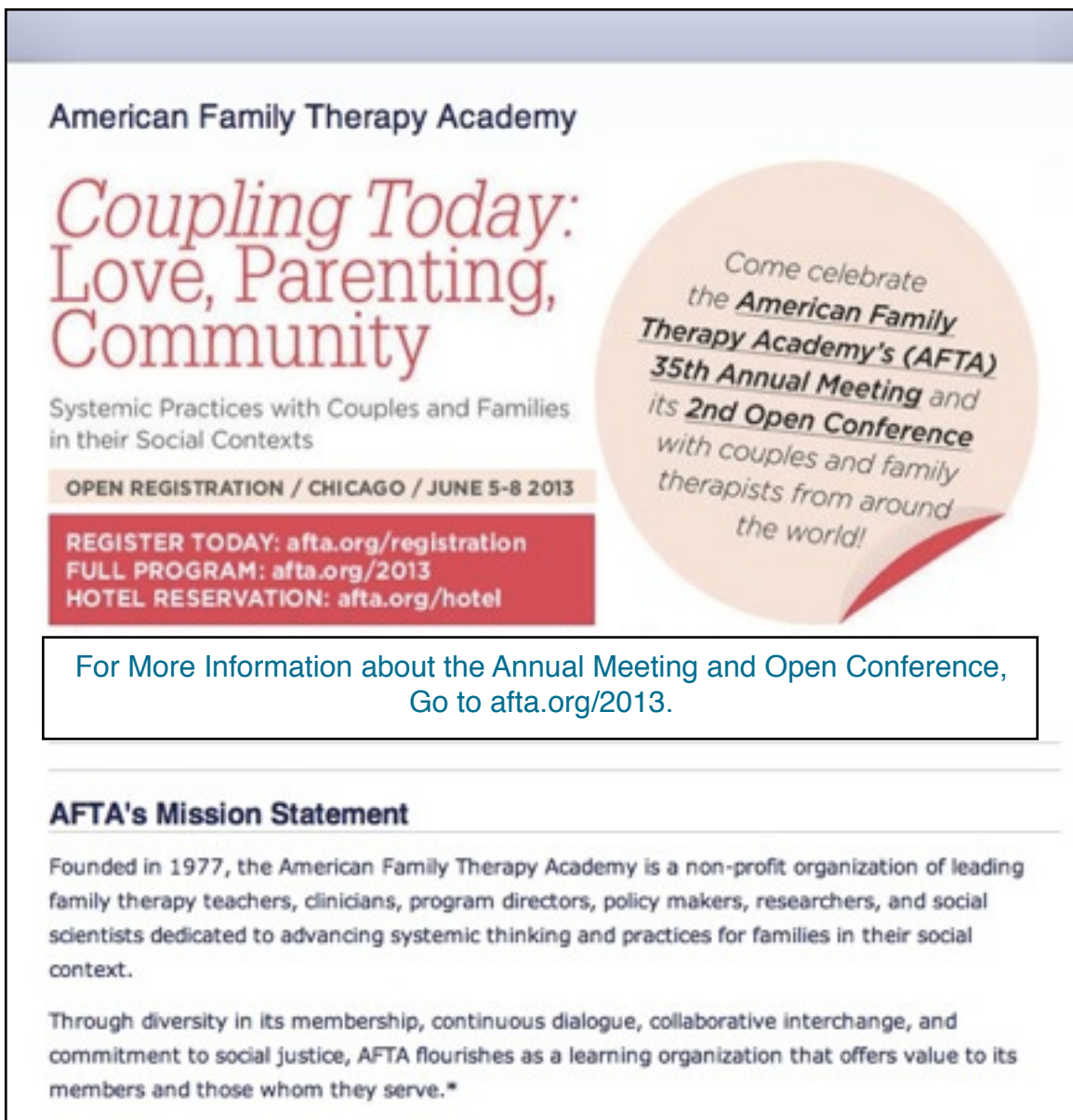
Banquet Committee – Angie Chicca, Chair; Isis
Zuniga

Multicultural Committee – Samantha Caplan,
Chair

Newsletter Editor – Purva Patel

TAMFT Liaison – Warren Holleman

Legislative Liaison – Mark Herranen



American Family Therapy Academy

*Coupling Today:
Love, Parenting,
Community*

Systemic Practices with Couples and Families
in their Social Contexts

OPEN REGISTRATION / CHICAGO / JUNE 5-8 2013

REGISTER TODAY: afta.org/registration
FULL PROGRAM: afta.org/2013
HOTEL RESERVATION: afta.org/hotel

Come celebrate
the **American Family
Therapy Academy's (AFTA)**
35th Annual Meeting and
its **2nd Open Conference**
with couples and family
therapists from around
the world!

For More Information about the Annual Meeting and Open Conference,
Go to afta.org/2013.

AFTA's Mission Statement

Founded in 1977, the American Family Therapy Academy is a non-profit organization of leading family therapy teachers, clinicians, program directors, policy makers, researchers, and social scientists dedicated to advancing systemic thinking and practices for families in their social context.

Through diversity in its membership, continuous dialogue, collaborative interchange, and commitment to social justice, AFTA flourishes as a learning organization that offers value to its members and those whom they serve.*

CEU EVENTS PAST AND FUTURE IN 2013!

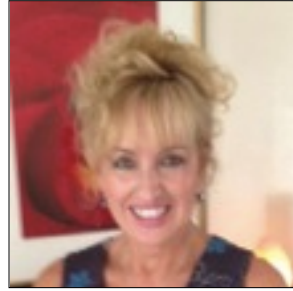
Get Your CEU's!!!

Your HAMFT board works hard to host a variety of interesting and educational CEU events throughout the year that are interesting and keep family therapists abreast of the most leading-edge ideas and therapeutic modalities in the field.

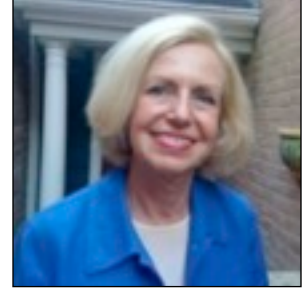
CEU events each month usually fulfill at least three credit hours of the requirements for the Texas State Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapists. You may find the calendar of events at hamft.memberlodge.org or www.hamft.org.



Shawn Kent, March 22nd



Terri Barnes, March 22nd



Mary Ann Knolle, April 19th



Warren Holleman, May 17th



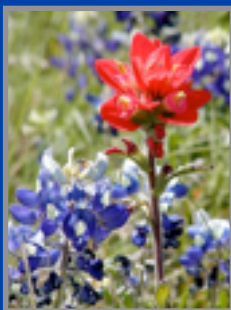
Jeffrey Rice, June 14th



A Special Panel Discussion
Dedicated to Helping
Our Veterans, July 19th



*Yours truly, sneaking
around the Rotunda!*



A Few Last-Minute Notes...

Bluebonnets, paintbrushes and other Texan wildflowers are a part of spring in Houston that a lot of people take for granted, but as a reminder of newness, vitality and hope, they have been a bright spot for me in light of the recent tragedies in Boston and West. HAMFT sends our compassion and affection to those who have been the most seriously impacted.

Visiting Austin for the 2013 TAMFT Conference was a lot of fun, hanging out with old and new friends, seeing some of the places I frequented in high school and college like “the Drag,” Town Lake, the Capitol and lunching at Kerbey Lane with my cousin, Carol.

I enjoyed meeting Mike Bishop, our 2013 TAMFT President from Paris, Texas, and James Morris from Austin, our Past TAMFT President. Both of these men are impassioned about preserving our licensure and meeting the needs of our membership.

And, in case anybody in our local membership doesn't already know what an excellent job Brandon Wheeler does as the Executive Director of TAMFT, I sincerely appreciated the work he put into this incredible conference!

Join other clinicians at HAMFT's next CEU Workshop for networking and keeping abreast of what's going on with your fellow clinicians around Houston. The workshop features our own Warren Holleman, Ph.D., LMFT on Fri., May 17th at 12 p.m. See you at the workshops!

Joan Collins Harwood, MA, LMFT, LPC - 2013 HAMFT President