

# Reflections from the Editors

Michael A. Dover

**Abstract:** This is the Reflections from the Editors for Volume 23, Number 1 (Winter 2016) of *Reflections*, and is published December 2017.

**Keywords:** narrative, poetry, relatedness, significant primary relationships, Reflections, confidentiality, historical narratives, intersectionality

December 26, 2017

Can reading narratives change your life? The power of poetry and novels is well known. But non-fiction narratives are less well-known for their transformative tendencies.

Starting with the last issue, our 2017-2018 Graduate Assistant, Tara Peters, MA, MSW-Candidate, and I had to decide how to increase the font size of *Reflections*, so as to make it more readable. We realized that *Sun Magazine* ([www.sunmagazine.org](http://www.sunmagazine.org)) uses a one column format, which is more compatible with larger font size. *Sun Magazine* publishes poetry, fiction, interviews and powerful non-fiction narrative.

As with *Reflections*, it is rare for an issue of *Sun Magazine* not to have narratives that have a profound impact on the reader. That is certainly the case for this issue, whose narratives are discussed below. But can reading a *Reflections* narrative really can change your life? I will provide two examples, one professional and one personal.

The professional example comes from assigning my undergraduate students to read the article, “Self-Reflections of a Gay Immigrant Social Worker,” by Jonghyun Lee and Kate Willow Robinson (2014). Students read the article after having read an article on intersectionality by Patricia Hill Collins (2015). So they have already learned to think critically about intersectionality, and how to theorize about it, by writing a definition in their own words. But now they learn to apply the concept to understanding an individual narrative that is rich with awareness of intersectionality.

After reading the *Reflections* article, they next view videos provided by a local trauma recovery program. They apply human behavior theories to generalist practice relevant to these clients and the multiple communities of which they are a part. Last week, I corresponded with three seniors who took the course and are not social work majors. One had already planned to do so, but two others now plan to apply to our MSW program. Reading that narrative and the other materials apparently changed their plans!

For a personal example, in “Social Working for Social Justice,” I shared my conversion to Judaism in 2000, after many years as a Unitarian-Universalist (Dover, 2010). But I didn’t tell the whole story. I didn’t tell of that Sunday morning when I left the church and walked across the street to Beth Israel Congregation, where my children Daniela and Mark were in Hebrew school. I went to the library and sat. You see, I was becoming more religious and I felt I needed

something. In my earlier narrative, I told the story of how I was intellectually convinced of the importance of ritual and religion by reading a book by an anthropologist with whom both I and my now wife Giselle had studied: Roy Rappaport's *Ritual and Religion in the Making of Humanity* (1999).

But there was more to the story, which I did not share. In that library at Beth Israel, I found works by Abraham Heschel and others. This further convinced me, intellectually, to undergo a Conservative conversion to Judaism. But my earlier narrative didn't mention that it was a *Reflections* narrative, "Kaddish for Joe," by Kathleen H. Millstein (1998), which helped open my heart to my conversion. Her narrative was a poignant and moving story of the impact on the author of the life and death of her Jewish father-in-law. Kathleen, like I, was married to a Jew, but was not Jewish.

Many other potentially life changing narratives lie within the pages of this journal, and even this issue. If there is a *Reflections* narrative which had a powerful impact on your life, practice, teaching or activism, please write us at [reflections@csuohio.edu](mailto:reflections@csuohio.edu).

### **Upcoming Issues and New Leadership**

This month and next, *Reflections* will publish four issues from V23(2017), and set the stage for a significant event for this journal. All authors with outstanding accepted manuscripts will be published in this time frame. This will bring the journal up to date in time to publish V24#1(Winter, 2018), the Special Issue on the Interconnections of Micro and Macro Practice, edited by Darlyne Bailey and Melissa Emmerson.

As our inside cover page has announced since V23#3, Darlyne Bailey, Ph.D., Dean Emeritus and Professor at Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, will be Editor-in-Chief beginning with V24#4 in September 2018.

In preparation for this role, a team of 2017-2018 Co-Editors is already involved in overseeing new manuscripts: Julie Cooper Altman (California State University Monterrey); Michael A. Dover (Cleveland State University); Priscilla Gibson (University of Minnesota); Arlene F. Reilly-Sandoval (Colorado State University Pueblo); Johanna Slivinske (Youngstown State University). We will be the editors from V23#3 to V24(#3) in Summer 2018.

*Reflections* readers will recognize these editors from our previous roles. Julie has been and remains Research Reflections Section Editor. Priscilla has been Associate Editor and co-edited the Relative Caregiving Special Issue (with Sandra Crewe) and the Dismantling Social and Racial Injustice Issue (with Sadye Logan). Arlene has been Co-editor and is now Editor of the Teaching and Learning section. She also served as Associate Editor for Issue Quality. Johanna served in that same position and also as Associate Editor for Review Quality. Perhaps most importantly, all of us are *Reflections* authors and reviewers.

As part of the transition, Associate Editor positions (with portfolio) were eliminated. We have only one 2017-2018 Associate Editor, Sarah Morton, of University College Dublin, who is a

dedicated reviewer and author of the compelling narrative, “Cold: A Meditation on Loss” (Morton, 2014). The cover art for the issue in which her narrative appeared, by Robin Richesson, was inspired by her article. A companion piece by Robin graces this issue’s cover as well.

Also still serving are Section Editors Beth Lewis (Field Education, Bryn Mawr College) and Jon Christopher Hall (Historical Reflections, University of North Carolina Wilmington). To assist with the transition and also help solicit more content on a neglected area, aging, are two Special Editors on Aging: Priscilla D. Allen (Louisiana State University) and Erica Goldblatt Hyatt (Bryn Athyn College).

In addition to these editors, we have a solid group of several dozen Narrative Review Board members, whose work over the past few years should be acknowledged. Among the over 100 active reviewers, the Narrative Review Board is made up of the most active and high quality reviewers. It is refreshed annually. There are many others whose work in previous volumes was important, but who have now retired or cycled off the board. Their names can be seen on the inside cover of each full-issue PDF. The current Board includes:

Margaret Ellen Adamek; Robin W. Allen; Priscilla D. Allen; Mari Lynn Alschuler; Jennifer Bellamy; Gary M. Bess; Sharon Bowland; Valerie Borum; Shane Ryan Brady; Kimberly A. Brisebois; Marcia Diane Calloway; Sandra Edmonds Crewe; Jennifer Davis-Berman; Diane De Anda; Sister Nancy M. Decesare; Vaughn Decoster; Mary Kate Dennis; Brenda Joy Eastman; Anthony Estreet; Catherine Faver; Dina A. Gamboni; Charles Garvin; Sheldon Gelman; Erlene Grise-Owens; Jane Gorman; Ruby M. Gourdine; Shanna Katz Kattari; Martin Kohn; Monica Leisey; Andre L. Lewis; Sadye Logan; Kim Lorber; Carl Mazza; Jane McPherson; Joshua L. Miller; Augustina Naami; Florence Ellen Netting; Lynn Parker; Phu Phan; Alankaar Sharma; W. Patrick Sullivan; Lara Vanderhoof; N. Eugene Walls; Lillian C. Wichinsky; Jim Williams; Dianne Rush Woods

Several of the above were members of the original Editorial Board of *Reflections*: Charles Garvin, Jane Gorman, Sheldon Gelman, and Martin Kohn. One other member of that original board, John Kayser, resigned just last year. John was a very important source of advice to this new editor.

I look forward to the new captain of the *Reflections* ship, Darlyne Bailey. She and I share Columbia MSSW roots that reach back into the 1970s. We also share Cleveland ties; Darlyne was for many years affiliated with Case Western Reserve University, and served as Dean of the Jack, Joseph and Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences. Both of us also share, I think it is safe to say, a deep concern for both the micro and the macro in our profession, as well as a respect for the interdisciplinary nature of practice, which is key to this journal.

To continue that maritime metaphor, I’ll stay aboard ship, but in a new role as the steward and chief engineer of *Reflections*, at least until I’m properly relieved. Formally, my title will be publisher, but this in no way reflects any superordinate role. It involves overseeing fundraising, the website, the publishing platform, and the copy editing and proofreading. Basically, we

realized, I had been both publisher and editor since 2012, and these roles needed to be separated.

Just like the show must go on for actresses and actors, one never leaves a ship until properly relieved. Those of us who are currently involved with the journal are all pledged in this regard, as Darlyne comes aboard and is welcomed by the crew. As the good ship moves from port to port, the ship will pick up new crew and some of us will move on to new endeavors. But if there is one thing I've learned about program development and organizational survival, a basic principle is that once involved, always involved, in some capacity.

As the journal moves forward, having restored (with the editorship of Darlyne Bailey) the female leadership which this journal had at the start, and enjoyed from Sonia Leib Abels to Jillian Jimenez to Eileen Mayers Pasztor, some of us in *Reflections* may transition from editor to author, from reviewer to editor, from reader to author, or even from editor to reader. But I'm confident *Reflections* will still occupy a special place in our hearts.

### **More Professional Thanks**

I would like to thank all of the above *Reflections* team members for their important roles since 2012 in helping to ensure the survival of this journal. It is a lonely job working on a journal like *Reflections*. It involves reading and reacting to manuscripts in which authors pour their hearts out and try to be true to what we see before us, around us, in us and in the lives of others. It can't be done alone.

Although they have been thanked in the past (and there are no doubt others I am forgetting to thank, and will try to do so in my final *Reflections from the Editors* in January), I must acknowledge the important role played by our Graduate Assistants: Josh Canary, Stephen "Leo" Leopold, Alison Murphy, and Maureen O'Connor. Our dedicated student employees also made important contributions: Rachel Broa, Sean LaFleur, Kailie Johnson, and Elizabeth Weems.

Perhaps the most important factor in the survival of this journal was the continued service of Art Director Robin Richesson. Robin is Professor of Art at California State University Long Beach. She has provided the majority of the cover illustrations since 2010, and approves or selects every issue's art.

My own motivation for undertaking this project was gratitude for the mentorship I received from the generation of progressive social workers which included founding Editor Sonia Leib Abels and her husband Paul, who are now residing with a daughter in Los Angeles. Personally, I received such mentorship from Charles Garvin during my years at Michigan, and before that from the late Irving Miller at Columbia. It has been a pleasure to work with Irving's son, Narrative Review Board member Joshua Miller. However, I would not have agreed to undertake this project were it not for the vote of confidence received from another professor at Columbia, Alex Gitterman. Both Alex and Charles are longstanding friends of the Abels and have long been authors and reviewers for *Reflections*.

Nor would it have been possible without the decision of Murali Nair, our CSU director in 2012,

who said the magic words about our adopting the journal from California State University at Long Beach: “The sky is the limit!” His infectious optimism and the support of the next director, Lonnie Helton (a twice-published *Reflections* author), were key.

The gracious decision of the director at California State University Long Beach School of Social Work, Christian Molitor, to approve the transfer of the journal to Cleveland State University, and the advice of outgoing Editor Eileen Mayers Pasztor, made the transition possible.

I have served as Editor and Publisher at the pleasure of Director and Professor Cathleen Lewandowski, who in our effort to utilize a maritime metaphor, we call the admiral. Cathleen was herself already involved in editing the Special Issue on Therapeutic Relationships with Service Members, Veterans, and their Families, before arriving at Cleveland State University School of Social Work in 2014. All along, Cathleen has ensured the sea lanes were clear and that vital resources were provided to the journal, including an annual course release to me and a graduate assistant. She has also given me the editorial freedom to find my own voice as Editor, and for this I will be long be grateful.

Our home port is the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, where the humanities, the social sciences and the professions all flourish. I’m grateful to our Dean Gregory Sadlek for recognizing and supporting the very special nature of this journal.

### **Personal Thanks and How to Propose a Special Themed Section**

Personally, I started out as a reader and subscriber after meeting Sonia and Paul Abels at a conference of the International Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups, just after the journal was founded. A few years later, in 2000, I co-edited a Special Issue on Social Work and War in the Balkans (Dover, Garvin, Goodkind, Moch and Reisch, 2000), with Michael Reisch writing the introduction. In 2009, I tried my hand at an article about my own practice, based on process recordings and memories of my work in several settings (Dover, 2009).

Next, I thought it would be valuable to have a special issue about Work and the Workplace (Dover, 2010b). I invited Dan Molloy, the Director for many years of the Personal Services Unit of the National Maritime Union, to contribute a narrative of his work with merchant seafarers. Sheila Akabas, Director of the Workplace Center at Columbia University School of Social Work, also agreed to write a narrative. Paul Kurzman agreed to write the introduction. We were in business. Occupational social work was the field I worked in for over ten years. Sheila and my field instructor, Beth Silverman at District 65-UAW, had brought me into that field, and readied me for my first voyage.

That voyage was to New Orleans. I was aboard for five years. Dan Molloy assigned me to the port of New Orleans, where I got to know the sea salt of the earth: merchant seafarers. Perhaps once I’m no longer editor, I can write of those special times. Days when the Public Health Hospitals, founded in 1798, were closed as the first official act of President Ronald Reagan. Days when the HIV virus was brought back by seamen having sex with men and intravenous

drug-using seafarers sharing needles on ship and shore, in ports round the globe. We didn't know at first what had caused the death of the first one of our members to die of AIDS, at a Catholic hospital in New Orleans.

I am grateful for Sonia's early nudging, for Paul's later encouragement, and for the opportunity to work with my colleagues on these two special issues, without which I would not have been able to later serve as editor. At the time of the transition, the Abels also gave a thumbs up to Cleveland State University School of Social Work—where Sonia once served on the faculty—taking over the journal.

As this section shows, special sections (which have by and larger replaced special issues) are often the first *Reflections* point of contact for authors, reviewers and editors. To propose a special themed section of the journal (some of which later become special issues, but all of which involve a Call for Narratives, an introduction and manuscripts approved by the special editors, and often covert art), see the Announcements at [www.rnoph.org](http://www.rnoph.org) for a copy of the Call for Proposals for Special Themed Sections.

### **Submit a Narrative to *Reflections* and Encourage Others to Do So**

Again, this is a very special journal. This journal allows the editor to say things like how, without the love and support of Giselle and my immediate and extended family, without friends like Steve Seif, Jim Williams, Joan Dworkin, and Otrude Moyo, and without the many mentors and colleagues I am thanking today, I would not have been able to have undertaken the role of editor of this journal.

Let me give you still another example. Last week, I received a request to read a 3500 word draft of an MSW admissions essay from a mentee who is planning to apply to schools of social work. It was a very *Reflectionsy* essay. *Reflectionsy* means something is full of feeling, of sharing, of vulnerability, of showing, of telling; in other words, of narrative and exposition! She wanted feedback. What could I say? This essay was convincing her to change her life! Getting an MSW is, of course, a life changing experience. I gently suggested that she consider shortening the essay for the originally intended purpose .

But I also asked myself, would it be appropriate to say more? True, I have long complained that appropriateness is the number one unstated and perhaps overblown value of the profession of social work. My historical analysis suggests it goes back to the days when the wealthy pressured friendly visitors not to give too many alms to the poor. As a profession and individually, we've forever been pressed to behave appropriately. Just what does that word mean? After all, *Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History* (Ulrich, 2007). Do we always have to be so darn appropriate? Are lawyers and doctors pressured to behavior appropriately, or just professionals from historically female professions?

I gave the matter some ethical consideration. In part, she was approaching me for feedback as one of her mentors, not just as a faculty member. I attended her wedding, for instance, like Sheila "Shelley" Akabas and Beth Silverman did ours. Writing for *Reflections* was something I

had talked with her about before. I decided to share with her that I felt her essay was full of the very show and tell that is the hallmark of a good *Reflections* narrative. I encouraged her to expand it into a fuller article she could submit to *Reflections*. I said another editor would assign the reviewers and make the editorial decision, under our conflict of interest policy.

Are student admissions essays be a great start to a *Reflections* narrative? I think so! Many students open up their hearts, and share of themselves and their practice, their volunteering and their activism, in such essays. Why not encourage students who have recently written admissions essays to BSW, MSW or doctoral programs to turn their essay into a narrative?

And why not talk to your own, friends, and mentors and ask: Could I write something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue, for *Reflections*? What should I write about? Where should I start? What moment should I focus on for my beginning? What historical event? What memorable client or community? What cause, crusade, or conundrum? Which of the things I mucked up or muddled through should I write about? We all have such moments. We all have voices which must be heard, and people to whom we want to give voice.

### **A Little Help from Our Friends and Publishing Partners**

Each year around this time we try to issue a fund-raising appeal. Usually it is a bit late, as this year's appeal is. Students come first and it is hard to find the time to get the appeal written and an issue out until after grades are submitted. Thankfully, an author in this issue, Karen Myers, as well as Special Editor Erica Goldblatt Hyatt—also an author in this issue—agreed to proof read and copy edit this very issue. I entered the changes over the last weekend.

Today I copyedited and proofread the full issue myself. Any remaining errors are my responsibility. But as readers, authors, reviewers and editors, it is our responsibility to see to it that we can further professionalize the copy-editing and proofreading of this journal.

Time and time again, we have found that three sets of copyediting and proofreading will find three sets of necessary changes! The journal very much needs the resources to be able to ensure that one of the sets of eyes that sees each manuscript before it is published has the professional training to ensure the quality of the journal. This requires the journal be on a firmer financial footing.

We very much need funds to publish the journal and to do things like provide Art Director Robin Richesson—for the first time—with a healthy honorarium. This holiday season, we will be able to do so, in two installments, due to the generous gift of one person: Darlyne Bailey. Darlyne's leadership gift of \$1000 has enabled Friends of *Reflections* to form a new category of givers: A Thousand Thanks!

For those who join *Friends of Reflections* in the Friends for Life or A Thousand Thanks categories, we are also willing to append (in honor of) or (in memory of) to your gift. We can do the same for current *Friends* who wish to give once again at a higher level of support, whether another \$18 or \$180 or \$1800 dollars. Why not donate "in honor of Art Director Robin

Richesson?”

We are also open to a truly major gift or a bequeath. If you are interested in such a gift, Cathleen Lewandowski or I can put you in touch with the CSU foundation to make arrangements for a tax-deductible dedicated donation to the *Reflections* gift fund. Or you can contact the foundation directly through Constance Kopec, our College’s Director of Advancement ([c.kopec@csuohio.edu](mailto:c.kopec@csuohio.edu)).

We have now consolidated on one page the names of our dozens of supporters and the means to join them! Please see our Announcements links at [www.rnoph.org](http://www.rnoph.org) or visit here directly: <https://tinyurl.com/yatt6ndp>. Please download the *Friends of Reflections* PDF from that secure [reflections@csuohio.edu](mailto:reflections@csuohio.edu)-linked Dropbox folder (no sign-in is necessary) and use one of the links to make a donation.

I’ll be honest however; it would be unwise to base a journal only on individual support. If you give individually, please know that your good money is not going to be a bad investment.

### **Institutional Friends and Publishing Partners**

From the beginning, we were pleased to receive support from a number of Institutional Friends: California State University Long Beach School of Social Work; Boise State University School of Social Work; The Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work, University of Oklahoma; University of Kansas School of Social Welfare; University of Michigan School of Social Work; Adelphi University School of Social Work; University of Minnesota School of Social Work; University of Buffalo School of Social Work. Organizations can continue to donate \$250 (at the above link) on a one-time basis. This can alert your faculty, staff, field instructors and alumni of the opportunity to read and write for *Reflections*. We plan to make another wide appeal for such Institutional Friends in Spring 2018.

However, we are now in a position to be able to announce an initial group of four Publishing Partners of *Reflections*. Inspired by a similar arrangement long in place at the International Consortium on Social Development (<http://www.socialdevelopment.net>), the journal concluded that it is essential for the profession of social work and other helping professions to find a new way to reliably publish open access, double-blind peer-reviewed journals. It shouldn’t be done on a shoe string. It should be done with a clear separation of the publishing side and the editorial side; one that continues to give editorial independence and leadership to the editor (whose new title, Editor-in-Chief, will reflect that).

But the publication of the journal and its publishing policies require input from more than the formal publisher of the journal. Cleveland State University holds the copyrights to the current and past issues. So far, four schools of social work have agreed to support the journal in two special ways: annual generous contributions to the journal’s budget and the appointment of a representative to serve on an Executive Committee of the journal. Although the Editor-in-Chief and Publisher will serve on that committee ex-officio, the Publishing Partners will advise the Director on publishing policy, budget and future editorial successions.

The journal is thankful for the decisions made in this regard by: Sandra Crewe, Dean, Howard University School of Social work; Ana Scheyett, Dean, University of Georgia School of Social Work; Robin Mama, Dean, Monmouth University School of Social Work, and Nancy Meyer-Adams, Director, California State University Monmouth School of Social Work. We are hoping that with this initial group to help us lead the way forward, we can build a group of Publishing Partners which can help cement the long-range success and growth of this journal.

### **Welcome Aboard: Going from Reader to Author to Reviewer to Editor and Back Again!**

Become a *Reflections* author, and you can become a *Reflections* reviewer. We often recruit our reviewers from those who had to work hardest on revising and/or re-submitting manuscripts. If they accepted our help, we think, they can provide help to other authors.

Next, once having served as a reviewer, it becomes possible to play a more active role on the Narrative Review Board, as a co-editor of one of the special sections.

I highly recommend that readers and authors of this journal consider volunteering to become more involved, and see where it leads. We need emerging authors and reviewers who can help chart the way to the future of this journal. Please contact us at [reflections@csuohio.edu](mailto:reflections@csuohio.edu). The 2017-2018 Co-Editors can be reached at: [coeditors@reflectionsandnarrativesofprofessionalhelping.org](mailto:coeditors@reflectionsandnarrativesofprofessionalhelping.org). Or, thinking ahead to next September, contact our Editor-in-Chief Designate, Darlyne Bailey, at [dbailey01@brynmawr.edu](mailto:dbailey01@brynmawr.edu). (Please be patient, she is on sabbatical.)

### **Articles in this Issue**

What a privilege it was to see the articles in this issue come to fruition. I had earlier read all but the manuscript by Erica Goldblatt Hyatt (from *Research Reflections*, edited by Julie Altman). But seeing the final manuscripts in their near-final form was a real pleasure.

One of the goals of sections like this in *Reflections from the Editors* is to help the reader be selective about what to read. But it won't be easy, as the following renditions will hopefully show. I had written a version of these comments earlier, and now I'm going to amend them, to reflect the attention they deserve.

In "Our Immigrant Fathers: Reflecting on Caregiving," Laurens Van Sluytman and Halaevalu Vakalahi engage in what is classic *Reflections* narrative composition. In doing so, they reach deep into their respective personal roots and show how their cultural origins and those of their fathers affect their own caregiving. They place caregiving in the context of the immigrant experience. Each tells a story: one of a Guyanese dad, and one of a Tongan (Pacific Islander) dad. The authors then situate their stories in the context of an evolving literature on caregiving. They conclude with lessons for social work. Caregiving has long been an important source of *Reflections* narratives.

The entire Special Issue on Relative Caregiving (V20#3) is perhaps the best example. This

narrative, like the narrative by Bharati Sethi in this issue, makes important points about one of the most important issues facing our globe: immigration. The lessons learned from the author's reflections on the cultural context of their own caregiving are relevant to caregiving, but also to larger issues related to gender, nationality, race and their relationship to the quality of life of immigrant families.

Karen Myers' "Trapped in a Pipeline: The Plight of Too Many Children and Youth (Exposing the School-to-Prison Pipeline)," is one of a growing number of *Reflections* narratives (including two in this issue) which have utilized poetry as part of the narrative process. I would like to thank one of our Narrative Review Board members, Mari Lynn Alschuler, of Youngstown State University, who has herself written a *Reflections* narrative about poetry therapy, for advice along the way. This journal doesn't currently publish poetry per se, but who is to say that poetry isn't part of the narrative process of expression, introspection, and exposition? This is an issue I commented on in V22#4 as well (Dover, 2016). I invite readers to write the journal with their views on how to draw more on poetic content.

Myer's narrative has a poem at its center. Her goal is to humanize an issue which is often seen in abstract terms: the school-to-prison pipeline. Myers drew on her own experience working in the public schools for over twenty years. Again, as in classic *Reflections* practice, she drew on this experience to tell a story. Here, our abandonment of the two column form allows the poem to flow, unencumbered by unnecessary wrapping. Being an online journal, we don't have to worry about too many pages.

We should, however, worry about the lives of those caught up in this pipeline, or impacted by zero-tolerance policies, who are often in need of the services of social workers and of lawyers. Myers has played both roles. I don't want to characterize the impact of the poem. I encourage you to read it for yourself. However, I can share that Myers concludes there is hope, and that the concept of restorative justice is part of that hope.

Also using poetry in her narrative is Bharati Sethi, in her "Between Then and Now: My Coming, Being, and Staying in Urban/Rural Canada." A previously-published *Reflections* author, Sethi uses both poetry and non-poetic narrative to tell her story and to show us her experience in Ontario. As she did in her earlier work, she reflects on the question of encounters—as an immigrant—with both Toronto and the smaller communities in which she has lived and worked. Her appeal to finding a way to stop "othering" those we consider "strangers" was made more poignant by her use of poetry. Sethi's narrative involves her transition from Bharati to Jessica and back to Bharati. As with the previous narrative, reading this narrative produces feelings of both despair and hope. Perhaps it is such experiences which demand poetry as part of narrative.

In "It's Not All About The Behaviors: Identifying and Addressing Relational Neglect in Adolescence within the Familial Environment," Tawanda L. Hubbard portrays her work as an in-home therapist working with adolescents. She begins by discussing how it is often the case that work with adolescents often focuses on their "behavior." She discusses the facile solutions we often find, such as in-home placement. After generalizing, she gets very specific. She portrays the nature of some of the "cases" by providing vignettes which help us to see how teens

suffer from something she calls *relational neglect*. She defines this as “the absence of nourishing interactions of attunement and quality connection within the familial environment.”

Based on her excellent literature review, Hubbard discusses this in terms of important concepts such as attunement, attachment, and familial environment. She stresses the centrality of family relationships as the focus of clinical social work in child welfare services. In self-determination theory terms, this would be called an unmet psychological need for a sense of relatedness (Ryan and Deci, 2017). Do they, also, perhaps suffer from the unmet human need for significant primary relationships (Gough, 2017), and from other unmet intermediate needs of the kind required for basic human needs for health and autonomy?

In her concluding reflections, Hubbard issues a call for action! But not without also encouraging others to write narratives of their practice! This narrative is one of the first produced by the growing numbers of students in clinical doctoral programs in social work, and will hopefully be followed by many more.

In “Supervisor and Intern Reflections on a Year of Research: Why It Worked,” Erica Goldblatt Hyatt and Brandon D. Good contribute to the Research Reflections section edited by Julie Altman of California State University Monterey. The order of narratives in this and other issues is dictated by the alphabetical order of the sections, from General Submissions through Research Reflections. While last, her narrative is not least. This is an excellent example of the power of narratives of the research process. As with most narratives, the focus is on relationship; in this case the relationship between faculty member and undergraduate research assistant. Most universities have programs which encourage faculty to engage undergraduates in summer research; this narrative is must reading for both faculty and research involved in such relationships! Perhaps most importantly, it situates the professional relationship within the framework of the important personal experiences of each participant.

Enjoy this issue!

### References

- Abels, S. L., & Abels, P. (Eds). (2010). Special Issue on Social Justice. *Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping*, 16(3), 1-99. Retrieved from:  
<http://www.reflectionsnarrativesofprofessionalhelping.org/index.php/Reflections/issue/view/91>
- Collins, P. H. (2015). Intersectionality's Definitional Dilemmas. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 41(1), 1-20. doi:10.1146/annurev-soc-073014-112142
- Dover, M. A. (2009). Rapport, empathy and oppression: Cross-cultural vignettes. *Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping*, 15(4), 21-29. Retrieved from:  
[www.reflectionsnarrativesofprofessionalhelping.org/index.php/Reflections/article/view/900](http://www.reflectionsnarrativesofprofessionalhelping.org/index.php/Reflections/article/view/900)
- Dover, M. A. (2010a). Social working for social justice. *Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping*, 16(3), 37-49. Retrieved from:

[www.reflectionsnarrativesofprofessionalhelping.org/index.php/Reflections/article/view/835](http://www.reflectionsnarrativesofprofessionalhelping.org/index.php/Reflections/article/view/835)

Dover, M. A. (Ed.) (2010b). Special issue on work and the workplace. *Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping*, 16(2), 1-108. Retrieved from:

<http://www.reflectionsnarrativesofprofessionalhelping.org/index.php/Reflections/issue/view/90>

Dover, M. A., Garvin, C., Goodkind, S., Moch, M., & Reisch, M. (2000). Special Issue on Social Work and War in the Balkans. *Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping*, 6(2), 1-75.

Retrieved from:

<http://www.reflectionsnarrativesofprofessionalhelping.org/index.php/Reflections/issue/view/50>

Dover, M. A., & O'Connor, M. (2016). Reflections from the editors. *Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping*, 22(1), 1-10. Retrieved from:

[www.reflectionsnarrativesofprofessionalhelping.org/index.php/Reflections/article/view/1528](http://www.reflectionsnarrativesofprofessionalhelping.org/index.php/Reflections/article/view/1528)

Gough, I. (2017). *Heat, greed and human need: Climate change, capitalism and sustainable wellbeing*. London, UK: Edward Elgar.

Lee, J., & Robinson, K. W. (2014). Self-Reflections of a Gay Immigrant Social Worker. *Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping*, 20(1), 15-28.

Millstein, K. H. (1998). Kaddish for Joe. *Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping*, 4(2), 5-12. Retrieved from:

[www.reflectionsnarrativesofprofessionalhelping.org/index.php/Reflections/article/view/549](http://www.reflectionsnarrativesofprofessionalhelping.org/index.php/Reflections/article/view/549)

Morton, S. (2014). Cold: A meditation on loss. *Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping*, 20(1), 5-8. Retrieved from:

[www.reflectionsnarrativesofprofessionalhelping.org/index.php/Reflections/article/view/611](http://www.reflectionsnarrativesofprofessionalhelping.org/index.php/Reflections/article/view/611)

Rappaport, R. A. (1999). *Ritual and religion in the making of humanity*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Ryan, R. M., & Deci, E. L. (2017). *Self-determination theory: Basic psychological needs in motivation, development, and wellness*. New York: Guilford Press.

Ulrich, L. (2007). *Well-behaved women seldom make history* (1st ed.). New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

**About the Author(s):** Michael A. Dover, Ph.D. is Associate College Lecturer, Cleveland State University School of Social Work and Editor (V18#2-V23#2) of *Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping* ([m.a.dover@csuohio.edu](mailto:m.a.dover@csuohio.edu); [reflections@csuohio.edu](mailto:reflections@csuohio.edu); 216-687-3564).