Dear Friends,

A remarkable number of FMS-related events have occurred since the last Newsletter issue. Most seem to move the phenomenon closer to its ultimate demise, but one, an Oprah program about MPD, demonstrates why it is such a slow process.

James Toward, one of the last persons in prison from the day-care ritual-abuse cases, has finally been released. On October 1, 2010 he flew to The Hague where he will live with his daughter. (See p. 4) In 1989, Toward took a plea to charges of abusing children at the Glendale Montessori school in Stuart, Florida. Rather than release him when he was eligible for parole in 1999, authorities placed him in the Florida Civil Commitment Center where he remained for more than a decade. Toward had hoped for a new trial because he was sure that he would be exonerated given what is now known about suggestive interviewing of children. Eighty-years-old and in failing health, Toward has accepted that is not going to happen and instead looks forward to spending time with his family.

Although not as rampant as in the past, examples of over-zealous child sex-abuse prosecutions are still happening. On page 3 of this issue, the harrowing story of Rabbi Bryan Bramly’s arrest in 2009 until charges were dropped in 2010 is a riveting reminder that there is still need for organizations such as the FMSF to continue to provide information and to maintain their vigilance. This is what Bramly observed:

“What became clear to us is that this nightmare can descend upon anyone, any parent who happened to host a sleep-over – even one held 10 or 20 years ago. It can happen to any person in any profession, be it teacher, doctor or bus driver. Anyone can be falsely accused of sexual abuse. It is the most potent of charges – the one that brings the TV cameras and the instant glaring headlines. All that is required for a false accusation of sexual abuse to be made is a toxic mix of a person troubled with mental and/or emotional issues and a therapist who reflexively concludes that all present troubles of a client are based on past sexual abuse. No evidence or corroborating evidence is required for charges to be laid, arrests made and lives irreparably damaged – only a statement from the alleged ‘victim.’”

As upsetting as Bramly’s story is, however, the charges were finally dropped only because of the scientific evidence that Bramly and his attorneys amassed.

The Federal Second Circuit Court of Appeals issued a remarkable decision in the Jesse Friedman appeal. (See p. 8) Friedman, 19 at the time, pled guilty to child abuse in 1988 in a widely publicized and highly emotional case. After his release, a documentary was made about the case: Capturing the Friedmans. From that documentary, Jesse Friedman learned, among other things, that hypnosis had been used to help elicit memories from at least one of his accusers. He filed an appeal in the hope that with new evidence he would eventually be exonerated. Unfortunately, the appeal was not filed in time and his request was denied. The Appeal Court decision is such a remarkable indictment of the prosecution of child-abuse cases in the late 1980s and early 1990s that we have reprinted much of it.

“The ‘new and material evidence’ in this case is the post-conviction consensus within the social science community that suggestive memory recovery tactics can create false memories and that aggressive investigation techniques like those employed in petitioner’s case can induce false reports.”

Unfortunately, America’s romance with multiple personality and repressed memories is still “going strong.” An Oprah show in October is a prime example of the type of program that likely is prolonging the false memory phenomenon. Oprah and her staff have apparently not kept up with the scientific information about claims of repressed and
recovered memories and multiple personality disorder. (See p. 6) In the October program, not only did Oprah rehash all the unscientific popular misconceptions about memory of the past decades, she actually appeared to exploit her guest who claimed to have 20 personalities. Multiple personality disorder is, after all, a mental illness, not entertainment. Yet one promotion for the program advertised: “Watch Kim [Noble] switch into one of her personalities – a woman with an eating disorder.” To this writer that is not far removed from “Watch the monkey dance to the music.” Besides disseminating misinformation to millions of viewers, many people would say that Oprah ended up by exploiting a patient for entertainment purposes. Regardless of how it is characterized, the program was deeply disappointing.

The publication of My Lie: A True Story of False Memory (Jossey-Bass) by Meredith Maran, on the other hand, is truly exciting news. My Lie is the first major book about FMS told from the perspective of a person who came to believe that she had had false memories when she accused her father of abuse. This is Maran’s 10th book and it has had an impressive number of positive reviews. Comments that follow the reviews are another matter, showing that anyone who speaks out about false memories is still subject to mean attack.

See: http://www.meredithmaran.com/MyLie.htm

Several years ago, we spoke with Meredith Maran on the telephone. She told us about her experience, about how she came to believe her father abused her and how she later realized that she had been wrong. She said that she was really fortunate because she had been able to reconcile with her father and she took complete responsibility for what she had done. She said that she had made up her mind that she would write a book about her experience. Because she was a professional writer, she thought she could make an impact and help others to understand how an intelligent capable person could come to believe that her father had abused her when it never happened. She thought that she would be especially credible because she had spent so many years working in the child abuse prevention area. And this is exactly what Maran has accomplished in this book. She has, in addition, done this by writing a book that is also a “good read.” It’s hard to put down.

Meredith Maran is not easy on herself for what she did. She doesn’t blame anyone and I’m not certain that she even yet realizes the extent to which she was drawn into the beliefs of a subculture. Readers may not agree with all of her opinions, but that in no way diminishes the value of this book. This book is a great tool for families. We hope it is the first of many to tell the story from the perspective of someone who experienced false memories of childhood abuse.

Thank you for your generosity to our yearly appeal.

Pamela

From Reviews of My Lie: A True Story of False Memory by Meredith Maran

http://www.meredithmaran.com/MyLie.htm


“More than 20 years ago, Meredith Maran falsely accused her father of molestation. That she came to believe such a thing was possible reveals what can happen when personal turmoil meets a powerful social movement.”

Boston Globe, 9/21/10

“In this terrifying, haunting, and controversial memoir, award-winning journalist Meredith Maran delves into the fascinating subject of the recovered memory movement... Her refusal to whitewash her own behavior, her fierce ability to expose all sides of the issue, and her compassion for the abused as well as those still falsely imprisoned as abusers opens up a dialogue about memory, belief, and past- and present-day culture that is as riveting as it is important.”

San Francisco Chronicle Book Review: “Top Shelf Book”

October 3, 2010

“During the '80s and '90s thousands of people claimed they'd repressed memories of childhood sexual abuse -- and Maran was one of them. This is a frank, honest narrative.”

People Magazine, October 4, 2010

“In 1988 journalist Meredith Maran accused her father of having molested her...Eight years later she realized it wasn't true. In My Lie Maran, 59 (who has reviewed books for PEOPLE), explains why she thought she'd been abused, how she decided she was wrong, and what happened when she apologized.”
Charges Dropped

In Chandler, Arizona on March 23, 2010, Rabbi Bryan Bramly was arrested in the parking lot of his synagogue by the Child Predator Apprehension Team of the U.S. Marshalls and detectives with the New York Police Department. He was accused of raping a 7-year-old girl in New York City in 2000 where he was living with his family while enrolled in rabbinical school.

The alleged incident was said to have occurred at the Bramly family home while the accuser was spending the night with the Bramly daughter. The accuser did not report the incident until she was 17 during the summer of 2009. Indeed, the girls remained best friends and the families continued to visit each other from time to time. At no time was there ever any mention of a rape.

In recent years, the girls drifted apart. The accuser spent the last two or three years in therapy according to Bramly.

In September 2010, the charges were dropped after investigators conducted what they called a “secondary” investigation and found inconsistencies in the girl’s story.

Following is an email sent by Rabbi Bramly about his release.


Great News from Rabbi Bramly! It’s Over — Case Dismissed!
September 15, 2010 12:47 PM

Dear Friends, Family and Colleagues,

“It is with great joy and hearts full of gratitude to God and to everyone who has stood with me and my family during the past six months, that Laura and I share the following wonderful news:

“This morning in the New York County Supreme Court, Justice Rena Uviller, upon an application made by the District Attorney, dismissed all of the charges against me, bringing this six-month nightmare to an end.

“In a letter addressed to the judge and my lawyers, the DA’s office clearly stated that their decision was not based on legal, technical or procedural grounds. Rather, that “after further investigation by our office... we have withdrawn all charges in this case.”

“As you can imagine, along with celebrating this wonderful news, we are left with many questions. We must point out that no legal authority undertook the kind of investigative work one would expect prior to my arrest at gunpoint in the synagogue parking lot on March 23, 2010. For example, nobody notified me of the existence of an investigation, questioned anyone I’ve worked with over the past ten years, asked me whether I wanted to bring any facts to the attention of the investigative authorities or otherwise considered whether it was appropriate to bring criminal charges based on nothing else than the apparent statement by a 17-year-old regarding an alleged event claimed to have occurred ten years earlier. Had the authorities done such an investigation from the get-go, they would have come to the same conclusion they have come to now, and done so before dragging my name through the national and international press, causing tremendous trauma to me, my family and friends, tearing apart our congregation and my career as a rabbi, and throwing us into desperate financial turmoil. These events forever changed my life and the lives of my family.

“We owe our deepest gratitude to all of you who have provided valuable advice, love, support, prayers, and contributions to my legal defense fund. For one thing, we have learned that without the money for a proper legal defense, particularly in cases of this sensational kind, the prospects for a just outcome are not high. The DA’s office has bottomless pockets and the individual who made the allegation never had to spend a penny. We cannot emphasize enough the effort that it took on the part of our lawyers to bring us to this point. They did the strategic thinking, and encouraged legal risks – like the one we undertook when I testified to the Grand Jury (something most defense attorneys discourage defendants from doing). They had me take a polygraph administered by one of the toughest polygraphers in the country. They were intuitive, duantless in their efforts, tireless in their research, and passionate in their determination that I should not become another victim of false and flagrantly fabricated sexual abuse accusations. For all this, Laura and I owe our deepest gratitude to Alan Lewis and Michael Shapiro of Carter Ledyard and Milburn.

“To educate ourselves to fight these false accusations, both Laura and I read about many cases in the American legal system involving victims of false accusations of sexual abuse (and we can recommend some books if you are interested). While we believe that the high profile of my case and the manner in which it was handled by various law enforcement agencies is due mainly to the fact that I am clergy, what became clear to us is that this nightmare can descend upon anyone, any parent who happened to host a sleep-over – even one held 10 or 20 years ago. It can happen to any person in any profession, be it teacher, doctor or bus driver. Anyone can be falsely accused of sexual abuse. It is the most potent of charges – the one that brings the TV cameras and the instant glaring headlines. All that is required for a false accusation of sexual abuse to be made is a toxic mix of a person troubled with mental and/or emotional issues and a therapist who reflexively concludes that all present troubles of a client are based on past sexual abuse. No evidence or corroborating evidence is required for charges to be laid, arrests made and lives irreparably damaged – only a statement from the alleged “victim.”

“Obviously we are deeply perplexed about these last six months and may never know the answer to the question “why.” However, what truly upsets me
is that there are literally hundreds of people in this country – men and women alike – who have been falsely accused of sexual abuse and stand at various points of the legal process. While those who are truly guilty of such crimes should feel the maximum force of the law, there must be a mechanism put in place to ensure that the innocent are not swept up in the same dustpan as the guilty….

“So what now? As we learn in Jewish tradition, these days between Rosh haShanah and Yom Kippur are days of inner reflection and personal review. The idea is to formulate how we, in partnership with God, are to write ourselves into the Book of Life in this new year. It is clearly sound advice! So, we’re going to take some time to explore “the what might be” and hope that the coming days, weeks and months will bring clarity, opportunity and direction.

“Wishing you a sweet, joy-filled and healthy New Year and a safe and meaningful fast.”

Rabbi Bryan & Laura Bramly

Les Ravages des Faux Soubenirs
Ou la Memoire Manipulee

Brigitte Axelrad
(The Ravages of False Memories or the Manipulated Memory)

Book e-book: A Candle in Darkness
Available at Amazon.fr
http://www.amazon.fr/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?_mk_fr_FR=%C5M%C5Z%D5%D1&url=search-alias%3Daps&fieldKeywords=ravages+des+faux+souvenirs&x=0&y=0

The aim of this book is to answer questions and to teach patients, families, professionals, and lawyers about recovered memory therapies and their destructive consequences for all the victims. The questions and answers given in the book are small candles that illuminate and clear the way towards better understanding of this sociological phenomenon.

Commenting on this book, Elizabeth Loftus, stated: “

“The Ravages of False Memories is a wise and important book. Brigitte Axelrad’s cogent analysis of the false memory problem is a must-read for families who are caught in the trap of the memory wars, and for the professionals whose work influences their lives.”

This is the first book written in French about false memories “recovered” in therapy.

Was Rachel Yould Abused or Were Her Claims Part of an Elaborate Fraud?


In September, 38-year-old Rhodes-Scholar Rachel Yould was sentenced to nearly five years in prison for fraudulently obtaining hundreds of thousands of dollars in student loans using a second Social Security card and identity that she obtained after claiming that her father had abused her. The case, which was tried in Alaska, became a cause celebre for domestic-violence advocates even though the father was never charged with any crimes, and Yould apparently never produced medical or police records, witness statements or other evidence to support her claims to either the police or the Social Security Administration.

Although Yould’s case does not involve claims of recovered repressed memories, it does provide insight into the social response to claims of past abuse and as such gives broader understanding to the diffusion of the recovered memory phenomenon.

Jeffrey Toobin writes about the intriguing case of Rachel Yould in the October 4th issue of The New Yorker. Some of his story is available at: http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2010/10/04/101004fa_fact_toobin
#ixzz112bXz9g7.

In a separate post, Toobin commented on the Yould case:

“What attracted me to Rachel Yould’s case, which I wrote about for The New Yorker this week (subscription required) was that it was kind of a double mystery. The first is her criminal case: did she hatch the bizarre scheme to defraud the government in order to fund her quixotic dream of running a scholarly magazine? The second is a deeper and more sinister question about domestic violence: did Rachel’s father abuse her in the grotesque way that she claimed (and he denies)—or are the charges an example of how her own character is twisted?” Toobin notes that the defense and prosecution documents presented to the judge prior to sentencing show “entirely different pictures of the very same woman.”

Toobin’s post and those documents can be found at http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/news-desk/2010/09/the-two-rachel-youlds.html#ixzz112fma26P


One of the Last Persons in Prison from Day-Care Ritual-Abuse Cases Is Finally Released

On October 1, 2010, James Toward was released from the Florida Civil Commitment Center in Arcadia, Florida and ordered to leave the country immediately.

In 1989, Toward took a plea to charges of abusing children at the Glendale Montessori school in Stuart, Florida where he was the headmaster. The case was one of more than 100 ritual abuse day care cases to follow in the wake of McMartin.

Toward’s agreement in 1989 was that he would serve 27 years in prison followed by 10 years of probation. Toward was supposed to be paroled in 1999 but just as he was to be released,
he was ordered to be held at a treatment center because state psychiatrists said that he might molest other children. The law that allowed his civil commitment was passed after his plea. Toward has been waiting for a civil jury to determine if he should continue to be incarcerated after completing his criminal sentence.

Assistant State Attorney Linda Craft told reporters that the state agreed to release Toward because he is 80-years-old and in failing condition. She also indicated that the original accusers had moved on and did not want to participate in another trial. “[T]rying to prove that (Toward) meets the criteria for commitment did not seem viable.”[2]

Ritual-Abuse Day-Care Hysteria

Between 1984 and 1995, there were approximately 185 adults, about half of them women, who were charged with ritual sexual abuse. 113 of those were convicted, mainly on words of young children. [*] Below is a list of some of the better known of the scores of day care cases.

1982 Kern County child abuse case
1983 McMartin Preschool trial in California
1984 Fells Acres Day Care Center
1985 Wee Care Nursery School in New Jersey in April
1987 Cleveland child abuse scandal in England
1989 Glendale Montessori sexual abuse case in Stuart, Florida
1989 Little Rascals Day Care Center scandal in Edenton, North Carolina
1990 All charges dropped in McMartin preschool trial
1991 Christchurch Civic Creche
1992 Martensville Scandal, Martensville, Saskatchewan, Canada
1994 start of Wenatchee Sex Rings


Problems With Glendale Case

A lengthy article about the Glendale case appeared in the FMSF Newsletter in 2008, Vol 17 (2).

Briefly, anatomically correct dolls were used in the interviews which elicited accusations; there was evidence of intensive suggestive interviewing including at least one interviewer-therapist who was described as being preoccupied with satanic ritual abuse; there was no physical evidence found to support the bizarre reports of the children; parents were talking to each other about the case and therapists organized meetings in the highly charged climate of the time thus contaminating the stories.

Toward has moved to The Hague where he will live with his daughter and her husband. James’ wife will join them soon.

This is not the way in which Toward and his family wanted him released. They wanted another trial because they believed that he would be exonerated in the current climate that is not fueled by satanic-abuse hysteria and because of the greater understanding of how children’s interviews could be contaminated.

1. According to investigative reporter Debbie Nathan, Frank Fuster is still in prison in Florida and the Daniel and Francis Keller are still in prison in Texas. Nathan says that the National Center for Reason and Justice is still learning about non-day-care cases from the period. One such case can be found at http://www.fourliveslost.com.

Washington State Judge Refuses to Allow Rare Defense in Attempted Murder Case

Following a two-day hearing to determine the admissibility of “betrayal trauma theory” to explain why Sheryl J. Martin was not responsible for shooting her husband, Clark County Washington Superior Court Judge Barbara Johnson ruled in August that the theory was interesting but that there had been only limited research on the subject.

In 2007, Sheryl Martin called police to say she had shot her husband. She told detectives that she suspected he was having an affair and confronted him. Her husband admitted to the affair and said he wanted a divorce and then went to sleep in a camper parked near their house.

According to records, Sheryl later went to the camper with a loaded 16-gauge shotgun and shot her husband twice. She then went out, reloaded, and came back to shoot him again. Her husband survived the shooting.

Defense attorney David McDonald claimed Sheryl Martin was so emotionally distraught that she was not able to form the legal intent to shoot him. He argued that betrayal trauma theory explained her situation. The hearing was to determine if betrayal trauma theory has been generally accepted by the scientific community and was relevant to the Martin case. The theory emerged as a way to explain how child sex abuse victims repressed memories of abuse from close relatives on whom they depended.

An expert for the prosecution stated: “The most glaring error is there is no prior record of this defense being raised in any courtroom in the United States,” He said that most psychologists who are aware of the theory are among a close-knit group who focus on trauma behavior.

Another prosecution expert testified that she had consulted numerous colleagues at the state hospital where
she worked and none of them had heard of the theory. Judge Johnson wrote:

“The court has concluded...it has not been researched and established to any degree with respect to adult domestic violence.

The case will go to trial in October.

_Oprah Got it Wrong: MPD as Entertainment_
http://www.oprah.com/showinfo/An-Oprah-Show-Exclusive-One-Mom-20-Personalities

The October 6, 2010 “Oprah” program was called “One Mom, 20 Personalities.” Promotions for the show featured: “Watch Kim [Noble] switch into one of her personalities—a woman with an eating disorder.” Was Oprah exploiting mental illness for entertainment?

Kim Noble, from Great Britain who appeared with her daughter by her side, was the featured guest. Viewers learned that the personality most often present was Patricia. Pat told viewers that: “living with DID means sharing a household—there are different clothes, closets and toothbrushes for each personality. I mean, I suppose I don’t blame them. They don’t want to use somebody else’s toothbrushes.’’ (If each of the 20 alters had his or her own closet, might this imply that Kim Noble lived in a truly spacious house or mansion?).

Oprah questioned Kim’s daughter Aimee who remained rather non-committal until a discussion in which one of the alters did not know that she was Aimee’s mother. Tears came to the child’s eyes who said she felt rejected.

Twenty years ago Oprah had a similar program on which she interviewed Truddi Chase who claimed 92 personalities and who wrote the popular book, _When Rabbit Howls_. Oprah tells viewers how Truddi’s story of abuse moved her to tears.

“I really connected the dots of how profound the manifestation of abuse can be in other people’s lives. The way she shattered her personality and became a multiple is her way of protecting herself. Her own little inner-spirited child.”

Oprah replayed some of that program and then showed a clip of a person whose life was improved because she had seen Oprah’s program. Oprah then interviewed Truddi Chase’s daughter Kari, asking her what it was like growing up in such circumstances.

“It was a roller coaster ride, but it’s what I know as normal.”

While MPD may provide attention and explanations to the person who believes he or she has it, from what daughter Kari said it plays havoc with the life of the person’s child. Kari says:

“When I started to tell [other children] what was happening, a lot of them were not accepting. The few that were are still my friends today. I think it was a big fear thing. We fear what we don’t understand, and they didn’t want to take the time to understand. Their parents didn’t understand, so their parents wanted to keep them away.”

Oprah did mention that the diagnosis of MPD (DID) is controversial. But her understanding of “controversial” seems different from the use of the term “controversial” in the memory wars. She calls on an “expert”, Mary S. Moore, Ph.D. to explain:

_Oprah: D.I.D. is still a very controversial diagnosis, though. What is the debate? That this isn’t real?_

_Moore: One of the things that, I think, happens is, that the way the brain works what we have experienced we can image. This D.I.D.—or multiple personality as it used to be called—that is so far on the extreme because of the extensive and extreme abuse that most of us haven’t felt it before._

_Oprah: You can’t relate to it._

_Moore: Yeah_

(Since most of us have not experienced Vampirism, we wonder if Dr. Moore would say that is the reason why a diagnosis of Vampirism is controversial.)

_A Sad Memoir_
_Mother Had A Secret: Learning to Love My Mother & Her Multiple Personalities_
by Tiffany Fletcher
Covenant Communications, Inc. (2010)

Tiffany Fletcher begins her memoir with an incident that took place when she was a senior in high school in 1994. She was working at a restaurant and saw an automobile accident through the restaurant window only to realize that the driver of one of the cars is her mother. Tiffany’s mother does not respond coherently to the medic and Tiffany explains to him that her mother is on many medications. In fact, Tiffany’s mother had a serious drug problem.

While her mother is in the hospital...
after the accident, the doctor diagnoses her with MPD. Fletcher tells us that mother had been seriously abused as a child and that the doctor said that her mother “seems to be a classic case,” (p. 10) and that

“normally a person with a disorder like this one would undergo several months’—even years’—worth of evaluation and treatment. . . . Unfortunately, your insurance will not cover it. If you would be willing to pay the—”

The family had no money to pay for treatment. They brought the mother home and continued to care for her. Most of that care was done by the author. Even before the accident, the author tells us that when she was fourteen, “I felt as though I was responsible, not just for my younger siblings who, like me, were abandoned by my parents’ neglect, but to my mother as well.”...

For the family, the diagnosis of MPD and the mother’s 15 personalities appear to explain her tumultuous moods and behavior. The children can love some of the personalities and hate others. After the mother died from a drug overdose, the family moved on to happier times.

The book which is published by Covenant Communications appears to be marketed to a Mormon (LDS) audience. At the end of the book, the author provides a list of resources to which others in similar situations could turn for help.

The book shines a light on the role that MPD plays in our culture. It raises questions about what might have happened if the mother had been treated for drug abuse, or what would have happened if the family had had enough money for the traditional MPD treatment that the doctor wanted to provide. The story is certainly evidence that MPD remains popular and can wreak havoc on the rest of the members of the family involved.

Investigating the Investigator
Canadian Auditor General’s Office
Used Public Funds for Rebirthing Sessions

The Canadian Auditor General is mandated to investigate the misuse of public funds.[1] This summer, the Auditor General’s office itself came under investigation for using funds for dubious training courses for its employees, including “rebirthing.”[2]

To be fair, the Auditor General’s office pays for a wide range of courses for its employees that further professional development. How then did rebirthing, a controversial program that aims to “heal subconscious memories using breathing” techniques, happen to be approved? The Office defended “rebirthing” sessions saying that they were “beneficial to increase its employees’ confidence.”

Rebirthing workshops are not advertised as professional training but as “health and healing” workshops. In Quebec, however, they have been considered professional training courses for several years. The website of the institute in question claims the workshop “allows for the liberation of energy that was blocked during past experiences, when that memory, anchored in our subconscious, directly limits our quality of life.”

Rebirthing techniques are highly controversial because there is no scientific evidence that memories of events occur earlier than 3 years. “Rebirthing” is not an evidence-based therapeutic treatment.

1. All of the quotes in this article are reprinted from: Turbide, M. (2010, August 9). AG dish- ing out for training. Winnipeg Sun, News 5.
2. One form of rebirthing was banned in several states after the death of Candace Newmaker in 2000.

Update of Des Moines Embezzler Case

Phyllis Stevens and her companion Marla Stevens have pled guilty to embezzling $5.9 million from a Des Moines insurance company where Phyllis Stevens had worked for 35 years. In the summer FMSF Newsletter it was reported that Phyllis Stevens’s attorney had filed a motion to determine if she was competent to stand trial because she suffered from multiple personality disorder for which she had been treated from 1988 to 1995. The judge in the case found that she was competent to stand trial. After protracted negotiations with the federal prosecutor, the two women agreed to plead guilty.


Textual Analysis
of a Recovered Memory Trial,
Assisted by Computer Search for Keywords
Max Scharnberg
Free download at:
http://www.yakida.se/max/start.html

Anyone interested in knowing what is happening in other countries in child abuse cases gone awry will likely want to read about the Swedish case that is examined in this book. Others may find the author’s textural analysis technique for trying to determine the truth to be of interest.

“Only when recall performance can be checked against the original stimulus material (easy in the laboratory, difficult in the clinic) can hits and false alarms be unambiguously identified and response biases controlled. Finally, hypnotic hypermnesia has been revealed to be an empty subset of hypermnesia, as controlled experiments show that hypnosis adds nothing to regular hypermnesia.”

Jesse Friedman’s Conviction is Upheld


In August, the Federal Second Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan upheld Jesse Friedman’s 1988 guilty plea. Friedman had filed his appeal in the hope that he would be exonerated of his child abuse conviction.

Jesse Friedman and his father Arnold were accused of child molestation in 1987 in Great Neck, Long Island. Arnold gave computer lessons to children in his home and he died in prison. Jesse Friedman, who was 19 at the time, was paroled after serving 13 years.

After his release, Jesse Friedman learned that hypnosis had been used to help at least one witness remember abuse. He learned this from a 2003 documentary video made about his case: “Capturing the Friedman’s.” (See FMSF Newsletter, 13(2), March/April 2004) In his appeal, Jesse Friedman now contends that he lied when he confessed to sexually abusing children in computer classes.

The Court denied Friedman’s appeal on a technicality not on the merits of the case. The Court wrote that Friedman failed to meet a one-year submission deadline. The case was held before Circuit Judges Rosemary Pooler and Reena Raggi and District Judge Edward Korman. All three judges agreed that the filing had been late and that they must deny the appeal. However, two of the three judges wrote that they hoped the Nassau County District Attorney’s Office would have a complete review of the Friedman case. Judge Raggi did not agree that the case should be reexamined.

The opinion contains a remarkable evaluation of the prosecution of abuse cases of the period. A portion of it is printed below with most references deleted. It is available at:

Excerpt from the opinion:

“While the law may require us to deny relief in this case, it does not compel us to do so without voicing some concern regarding the process by which the petitioner’s conviction was obtained. The magnitude of the allegations against petitioner must be viewed in the context of the late-1980’s and early-1990’s, a period in which allegations of outrageously bizarre and often ritualistic child abuse spread like wildfire across the country and garnered world-wide media attention. [Susan Bondes notes] that the accusations against Arnold and Jesse Friedman arose at a time at which concern about day care sexual abuse had reached a fever pitch both in the United States and abroad. The media sensationalized these allegations, generating a national perception that sex rings were widespread and had infiltrated average communities. “Vast moral panic fueled a series of highly-questionable child sex abuse prosecutions. By 1991, for example, 25 percent of prosecutors had handled at least one case involving satanic abuse. Although many of these cases included “fantastical accusations,” such as those of satanic abuse — a strand of accusations which has been discredited entirely — others involved allegations of real and serious crimes committed in an impossible manner. In the Fells Acre case, for example, Gerald Amirault, a member of a family which owned the Fells Acre pre-school, allegedly “plunged a wide-blade butcher knife into the rectum of a 4-year-old boy, which he then had trouble removing.” According to a child witness, a teacher in the school saw Amirault with the knife, asked what he was doing, and then told him not to do it again. “On this testimony, Gerald was convicted of a rape which had, miraculously, left no mark or other injury.”

“Overall, at least seventy-two individuals were convicted in nearly a dozen major child sex abuse and satanic ritual prosecutions between 1984 and 1995, although almost all the convictions have since been reversed. Some defendants, fearing trial, pled guilty or “no contest” to impossible acts of ritualistic abuse, and in some cases they provided detailed confessions in exchange for immunity or generous plea bargains. Many have described these widespread prosecutions as a modern-day “witch hunt.”

“These prosecutions were largely based on memories that alleged victims “recovered” through suggestive memory recovery tactics, including those petitioner claims were used in this case. Indeed, the dramatic increase in conspiratorial charges of child sexual abuse has been traced to a relatively small group of clinical psychologists who supported the psychoanalytic notion of “repressed memories” and encouraged patients to employ extensive “memory recovery procedures” to “break through the barrier of repression and bring memories into conscious awareness.” Popular memory recovery procedures included hypnosis, age regression, dream interpretation, guided abuse-related imagery, use of photographs to trigger memories, journaling, and interpretation of symptoms as implicit memories. These procedures and others commonly employed have great potential to induce false memories. Hypnosis, for example, has been shown to produce bizarre and impossible memories, including memories of ritualistic satanic abuse, memories from early infancy, memories from past lives, and memories from the future. The prevailing view is that the vast majority of traumatic memories that are recovered through the use of suggestive recovery procedures are false, and that almost all—if not all—of the recovered memories of horrific abuse from the late-1980’s and early-1990’s were false.

“Moreover, many highly-publicized and large-scale investigations into alleged child abuse conspiracies were also accompanied by a variety of interviewing techniques designed to assist children in recalling abuse—techniques which an extensive body of research suggests can induce
false reports. Garven et al. describes a “package” of techniques that, although based on a different highly-publicized 1980’s abuse case are remarkably similar to the techniques employed in petitioner’s case. The package included (1) “Suggestive Questions,” (2) “Other People” (telling the child that the interviewer has already received information from other people regarding the topics of the interview), (3) “Positive and Negative Consequences” (responding positively to accusations of abuse and negatively to denials of abuse), (4) “Asked-and-Answered” (re-asking a child a question he or she has already unambiguously answered), and (5) “Inviting Speculation.”

“Scholars have suggested that each interviewing technique can induce false reports on its own. For example, they cite research which indicates that children often change their answer when asked the same question more than once during an interview, either because they assume that the first answer was incorrect or because they would like to please the adult interviewer. But the techniques have their greatest impact in combination. Garven et al. examined the effect of the “package” of techniques described above on false allegations of wrongdoing compared with suggestive questioning alone. They found that children exposed to the package of techniques falsely alleged wrongdoing over three times as often (58 percent of the time, compared to 17 percent of the time). This error rate of nearly 60 percent occurred after less than five minutes of exposure to the combined techniques. Though the study examined children who were somewhat younger than the complainants in petitioner’s case, the results are instructive as to the general dangers of suggestive interviewing techniques.

“Finally, once individuals “recovered” memories of abuse or otherwise labeled themselves victims of abuse, they were generally encouraged to participate in various activities on an individual and community level to reinforce and develop existing memories of abuse. There, proponents of recovered memories advised alleged victims to expand on existing memories of abuse. There, proponents of recovered memories advised alleged victims to expand on existing memories through suggestive memory recovery procedures (both in and out of therapy), participation in survivor groups, and solicitation of consistent information from others, “all with significant potential both to bias construction of historical narratives and to lead to confabulation of false memories.” When allegations of abuse span an entire community, these activities can provide an outlet for community reinforcement—an outlet which can strengthen survivor identities and foster the collective growth of increasingly inaccurate memories.

“When viewed in its proper historical context, petitioner’s case appears as merely one example of what was then a significant national trend. This was a “heater case”—the type of “high profile case” in which “tremendous emotion is generated by the public.” Bandes writes that in heater cases, the criminal process often fails:

“Emotions like fear, outrage, anger and disgust, in situations like these, are entirely human. The question is what the legal system can do to correct for the excesses to which they lead. The crux of the moral panic dynamic is that the legal system, in such cases, does not correct for them. It gets swept up in them instead.

“The record in this case suggests this is precisely the moral panic that swept up Nassau County law enforcement officers. Perhaps because they were certain of Arnold Friedman and petitioner’s guilt, they were unfazed by the lack of physical evidence, and they may have felt comfortable cutting corners in their investigation. After all, “[t]horoughness is a frequent casualty of such cases.” The actions of the prosecution are also troubling. In representing the sovereign, a prosecutor is a “servant of the law, the twofold aim of which is that guilt shall not escape or innocence suffer.” “[W]hile [a prosecutor] may strike hard blows, he is not at liberty to strike foul ones. It is as much his duty to refrain from improper methods calculated to produce a wrongful conviction as it is to use every legitimate means to bring about a just one.” Thus, prosecutors have an obligation to curb police overzealousness. In this case, instead of acting to neutralize the moral panic, the prosecution allowed itself to get swept up in it.

“Petitioner has come forward with substantial evidence that flawed interviewing techniques were used to produce a flood of allegations, which the then-District Attorney of Nassau County wrung into over two hundred claims of child sexual abuse against petitioner. Petitioner never had an opportunity to explore how the evidence against him was obtained. On the contrary, the police, prosecutors, and the judge did everything they could to coerce a guilty plea and avoid a trial. Thus, with the number of counts in the indictments and Judge Boklan’s threat to impose the highest conceivable sentence for each charge, petitioner faced a virtually certain life sentence if he was convicted at trial. And the likelihood that any jury pool would be tainted seemed to ensure that petitioner would be convicted if he went to trial, regardless of his guilt or innocence. Nor could he have reasonably expected to receive a fair trial from Judge Boklan, the former head of the Nassau County District Attorney’s Sex Crime Unit, who admitted that she never had any doubt of the defendant’s guilt even before she heard any of the evidence or the means by which it was obtained. Even if innocent, petitioner may well have pled guilty.

“As such, this case is unlike other appeals which raise concerns about the quality of the evidence and the guilt of the defendant. In those appeals, we defer to the judgment of the jury after the defendant has received a fair trial. We take comfort in “[t]he established safeguards of the Anglo-American legal system [which] leave the veracity of a witness to be
tested by cross-examination, and the credibility of his testimony to be determined by a properly instructed jury." In this case, the quality of the evidence was extraordinarily suspect and never subjected to vigorous cross-examination or the judgment of a properly instructed jury."

"[W]hen a prosecutor comes to know of new and material evidence creating a reasonable likelihood that a person was wrongly convicted, the prosecutor should examine the evidence and undertake such further inquiry or investigation as may be necessary to determine whether the conviction was wrongful. The scope of the inquiry will depend on the circumstances. In some cases, the prosecutor may recognize the need to reinvestigate the underlying case; in others, it may be appropriate to await development of the record in collateral proceedings initiated by the defendant. The nature of the inquiry or investigation should be such as to provide a "reasonable belief" . . . that the conviction should or should not be set aside.

Quoting from New York Rules of Professional Conduct 3.8, Comment 6B

"The record here suggests "a reasonable likelihood" that Jesse Friedman was wrongly convicted. The "new and material evidence" in this case is the post-conviction consensus within the social science community that suggestive memory-recovery tactics can create false memories and that aggressive investigation techniques like those employed in petitioner's case can induce false reports. Indeed, it is not even clear from the record that Assistant District Attorney Onorato was aware of the suggestive questioning techniques that were used by the Nassau County police. More importantly, the record does not speak to whether the then-District Attorney of Nassau County, whose principal role was administering and overseeing the activities of one of the largest such offices in the United States, was aware of the techniques used by the Nassau County detectives, who were not members of his staff.

"Only a reinvestigation of the underlying case or the development of a complete record in a collateral proceeding can provide a basis for determining whether petitioner's conviction should be set aside. We hope that, even if she continues to oppose relief in collateral legal proceedings, the current Nassau County District Attorney, who was not responsible for the investigation and prosecution of Jesse Friedman, will undertake the kind of complete review of the underlying case suggested in the Comment to Rule 3.8."

[8] The techniques were based on those used in the McMartin Preschool case, in which seven teachers were accused of abusing several hundred children over a ten-year period. None of the teachers were actually convicted. The case, which took place in a Los Angeles suburb, began in 1983 and ran through 1990, and it remains one of the longest and most expensive trials in California history.

[9] These interviewing techniques are consistent with the theory that child abuse victims tend to deny abuse at first but will eventually admit abuse if repeatedly questioned. This theory, known as child sexual abuse accommodation syndrome ("CSAAS"), is now highly controversial. Indeed, empirical support for the theory was largely based on children who claimed they had experienced ritualistic satanic abuse. See id. at 211–13.

Abstracts of Two Papers of Interest

Nonbelieved Memories.


Authors’ Abstract:

"This is the first empirical study of vivid autobiographical memories for events that people no longer believe happened to them. Until now, this phenomenon has been the object of relatively rare, albeit intriguing anecdotes, such as Jean Piaget description of his vivid memory of an attempted abduction that never happened. The results of our study show that nonbelieved memories are much more common than is expected. Approximately 20% of our initial sample reported having at least one nonbelieved autobiographical memory. Participants' ratings indicate that nonbelieved memories share most recollective qualities of believed memories, but are characterized by more negative emotions. The results have important implications for the way autobiographical memory is conceptualized and for the false-memory debate."

***

Observation Inflation:

Your Actions Become Mine


Authors’ Abstract:

"Imagining performing an action can induce false memories of having actually performed it—this is referred to as the imagination-inflation effect. Drawing on research suggesting that action observation—like imagination—involves action simulation, and thus creates matching motor representations in observers, we examined whether false memories of self-performance can also result from merely observing another person’s actions. In three experiments, participants observed actions, some of which they had not performed earlier, and took a source-memory test. Action observation robustly produced false memories of self-performance relative to control conditions. The demonstration of this effect, which we refer to as observation inflation, reveals a previously unknown source of false memories that is ubiquitous in everyday life. The effect persisted despite warnings or instructions to focus on self-performance cues given immediately before the test, and despite elimination of sensory overlap between performance and observation. The findings are not easily reconciled with a source-monitoring account but appear to fit an account invoking interpersonal motor simulation."

10 FMS Foundation Newsletter FALL 2010 Vol. 19 No. 4
Indiana Clergy Recovered Memory Case Settles

Just one year after an Indiana judge’s controversial decision that jurors would be allowed to hear testimony about “repressed memories,” parties in the case settled for an undisclosed amount but less than $200,000. (See box on this page for history of this case.)

The settlement was reached during court-mandated mediation and averts the trial scheduled for later this year.

“In January 2010, Superior Court Judge David Dreyer ruled that jurors would be allowed to hear the testimony about the validity of repressed memories and decide for themselves whether the late recovery of the memories should allow [this] lawsuit to go forward decades after the statute of limitations had expired.”

The plaintiff in the case commented in an interview that he was not certain how his case would have gone in court, and he did not want to undercut the trial scheduled for later this year.


Dear FMSF Community:

Until recently I had a blog online where I wrote about recovered-memory and false-memory accusations, including my own personal experiences of being falsely accused. A judge in Pennsylvania ordered me to remove the blog, stating that it violated the confidentiality clause in a settlement of a civil suit. I am appealing his decision finding me in contempt of court and any assistance anyone would be kind enough to provide toward my legal costs would be greatly appreciated. Please write to me at the address below for more information.

Many Thanks,
Michael Donnelly
2261 Market St. #258
San Francisco, CA. 94114

We Will All be Together Again

It will be 12 years in November since our daughter accused her father. We will never give up hope that she will return. She was our first child, a true gift, as is her brother.

Families need to encourage each other through the newsletter. I always go directly to the letters written by parents or other family members.

To be honest, it’s hard to watch what her brother, his wife and their two boys have had to experience because of the accusations. Our two grandsons have asked about their aunt. They would love to have a relationship with their aunt, uncle and two cousins. My husband, our daughter’s brother and his wife, and I speak only positively about our daughter. Our grandsons are told that their aunt is a beautiful person.

My daughter is valued and some day we will all be together again. That’s the truth.

A Mom

“It’s not over.”
“They’re at it again.”

These were some of the headers of your emails this past month calling attention to the small resurgence of activity with recovered memories and MPD.

FRoM | OUR | READERS

FROM OUR READERS

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Message From An FMSF Member Concerns of Newly Accused Parents

I answered a voice mail message from a couple in another state. They had gotten my name from the Foundation in Philadelphia. Their daughter has recently made accusations that the mother abused the daughter between the ages of 5 and 14. They are concerned for the daughter’s welfare as well as for the fact that she is in their will and designated as their health decider in the event of their inability to make decisions on this. They have another daughter, who is also designated as such in the will. This second daughter does not believe her sister’s accusations.

The accusing daughter asked her parents to come to her state to see her therapist with her. The parents did this. That was when the mother was accused. The mother reported that her daughter seemed quite uncomfortable as she read the accusations. She told me that when her daughter seemed to stop, the therapist would cough or click her fingers and their daughter then continued. The mother said that she and her husband were totally shocked — they had never expected anything like this. They left the office denying that the things they had been accused of had ever happened. After going outside and talking to each other for a while, they went back in the office. The mother said that they felt that their daughter was even more confrontational and upset when they returned. They thought that she seemed more certain about her accusations than she had earlier.

The accusing daughter as well as the other daughter are both therapists. The therapist who is treating the daughter is a licensed marriage and family therapist who has a website advertising how to make a lot of money as a therapist. She is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and she gives speeches and presentations.

The parents are concerned that their daughter might file a lawsuit against them. They did not know in which state she could file a suit. When I suggested to them that they file a complaint with the Department of Professional Regulation, they said that they were afraid that might turn the daughter against them even more. They were wondering about whether or not the daughter’s insurance should cover this type of therapy. I told them that as soon as her insurance ran out, the therapist would probably dump her like a hot potato.

The Invisible Gorilla

“Take memory. It fades over time and is distorted by our beliefs, desires and interests. Events that occur long after the original experience can distort your recall. Simply talking about something that happened distorts your memory; you come to remember not the event itself, but the story you told.”

“[A]nyone’s memory of an event that happened 12 years ago is likely to be profoundly distorted. It is only in rare cases that others are motivated enough to seek out objective confirmation for our reports of our pasts, and only then that we learn how bad our memories really are.”

Bloom, P. (2010, June 6). What we miss...We tend to believe what we see, and what we remember, even if it never happened. The New York Times Book Review, 30. Review of The Invisible Gorilla by Christopher Chabris and Daniel Simons.

Regarding means for correcting the present problems inherent in recovered memory therapy: “The treatment requires public awareness, public indignation, and massive media exposure. The implementation of these measures—outside the confines of our offices—provides us with the best help for a turnaround.”

Richard Gardner

The Rutherford Family Speaks to FMS Families

The DVD made by the Rutherford family is the most popular DVD of FMSF families. It covers the complete story from accusation, to retraction and reconciliation. Family members describe the things they did to cope and to help reunite. Of particular interest are Beth Rutherford’s comments about what her family did that helped her to retract and return.

Available in DVD format only:
To order send request to FMSF-DVD, 1955 Locust St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103
$10.00 per DVD; Canada add $4.00; other countries add $10.00
Checks payable to FMS Foundation

SOME BOOKS OF INTEREST

The Trauma Myth: The Truth About the Sexual Abuse of Children and Its Aftermath
Susan A. Clancy

Remembering Trauma
Richard McNally

Science and Pseudoscience in Clinical Psychology
S. O. Lilienfeld, S.J. Lynn, J.M. Lohr

Psychology Astray: Fallacies in Studies of “Repressed Memory” and Childhood Trauma
Harrison G. Pope, Jr., M.D.

Remembering Our Childhood: How Memory Betrays Us
Karl Sabbagh

Making Minds and Madness: From Hysteria to Depression
Chapter 3
“A Black Box Named Sybil”
Mikkel Borch-Jacobsen

Try to Remember: Psychiatry’s Clash Over Meaning, Memory, and Mind
Paul McHugh, M.D.
CONTENTS & MEETINGS - UNITED STATES

ALABAMA
See Georgia

ALASKA
Kathleen 907-333-5248

ARIZONA
Phoenix Pat 480-396-9420

ARKANSAS
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COLORADO
Colorado Springs Doris 719-488-9738

FLORIDA
Central Florida - Please call for mtg. time John & Nancy 352-750-5446

GEORGIA
Atlanta Wallie & Jill 770-971-8917

ILLINOIS
Chicago & Suburbs - 1st Sun. (MO) Eileen 847-985-7693 or Liz 847-827-1056

INDIANA
Indiana Assn. for Responsible Mental Health Practices Pat 317-865-8913 & Helen 574-753-2779

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Wichita - Meeting as called Pat 785-762-2825

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Sarah 337-235-7656

MAINE
Portland - 4th Sun. (MO) Bobby 207-878-9812

MARYLAND
Carol 410-465-6555

MASSACHUSETTS/NEW ENGLAND
Andover - 2nd Sun. (MO) @ 1pm Frank 978-263-9795

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Lee & Avone 406-443-3189

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Web Sites of Interest
www.seweb.uci.edu/faculty/loftus/
Elizabeth Loftus

www.theisticsatanism.com/asp/
Against Satanic Panics

comp.uark.edu/~lampinen/lab.html
The Lamppinen Lab False Memory Reading Group, University of Arkansas

http://www.exploratorium.edu/memory/
The Exploratorium Memory Exhibit
theretractor.angelfire.com/
Site for retractors run by Laura Pasley

www.process.org/
Site of Investigative Journalist

www.psyfmfrance.fr
French False Memory Group

www.psychoheresy-aware.org/ministry.html
The Bobgans question Christian counseling

http://www.IllinoisFMS.org
Illinois-Wisconsin FMS Society

www.itech.net/OHIOarmhp
Ohio Group

recoveredmemorytherapy.blogspot.com
Matt Stone’s updates on Australia FMS

http://www.bfms.org.uk
British False Memory Society

www.religioustolerance.org/sra.htm
Information about Satanic Ritual Abuse

www.angryparents.net
Parents Against Cruel Therapy

www.peterellis.org.nz
Site run by Brian Robinson contains information about Christchurch Creche and other cases.

www.falseallegation.org
National Child Abuse Defense & Resource Center

www.markpendergrast.com
Excerpts from Victims of Memory

www.rickross.com/groups/fsf.html
Ross Institute

www.enigma.se/info/FFI.htm
FMS in Scandinavia - Janet Hagbom

www.ncrj.org/
National Center for Reason & Justice

www.traumaversterking.nl
English language web site of Dutch retractor.

www.quackwatch.org
This site is run by Stephen Barrett, M.D.

www.stopbadtherapy.com
Contains information about filing complaints.
Aaron T. Beck, M.D., D.M.S., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; Terence W. Campbell, Ph.D., Clinical and Forensic Psychology, Sterling Heights, MI; Rosalind Cartwright, Ph.D., Rush Presbyterian St. Luke’s Medical Center, Chicago, IL; Jean Chapman, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI; Loren Chapman, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI; Frederick C. Crews, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, CA; Robyn M. Dawes, Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA; David F. Dinges, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; Henry C. Ellis, Ph.D., University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM; Fred H. Frankel, MBChB, DPM, Harvard University Medical School; George K. Ganaw, M.D., Emory University of Medicine, Atlanta, GA; Rochel Gelman, Ph.D., Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; Henry Gleitman, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; Lila Gleitman, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; Richard Green, M.D., J.D., Charing Cross Hospital, London; John Hochman, M.D., UCLA Medical School, Los Angeles, CA; David S. Holmes, Ph.D., University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS; MA; Robert A. Karlin, Ph.D., Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; Elizabeth Loftus, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, CA; Susan L. McElroy, M.D., University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH; Paul McHugh, M.D., Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD; Harold Merskey, D.M., University of Western Ontario, London, Canada; Spencer Harris Morfit, Author, Westford, MA; Ulric Neisser, Ph.D., Cornell University, Ithaca, NY; Richard Ofshe, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, CA; Emily Carota Orne, B.A., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; Loren Pankratz, Ph.D., Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland, OR; Michael A. Persinger, Ph.D., Laurentian University, Ontario, Canada; August T. Piper, Jr., M.D., Seattle, WA; Harrison Pope, Jr., M.D., Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA; James Randi, Author and Magician, Plantation, FL; Henry L. Roediger, III, Ph.D., Washington University, St. Louis, MO; Carolyn Saari, Ph.D., Loyola University, Chicago, IL; Michael A. Simpson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C., D.O.M., Center for Psychosocial & Traumatic Stress, Pretoria, South Africa; Ralph Slovenko, J.D., Ph.D., Wayne State University Law School, Detroit, MI; Jeffrey Victor, Ph.D., Jamestown Community College, Jamestown, NY; Hollida Wakefield, M.A., Institute of Psychological Therapies, Northfield, MN; Charles A. Weaver, III, Ph.D., Baylor University, Waco, TX.

Advisors to whom we are grateful who are now deceased.
Martin Gardner, Author, Norman, OK; David A. Halperin, M.D., Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY; Ernest Hilgard, Ph.D., Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA; Philip S. Holzman, Ph.D., Harvard University, Cambridge; Harold Lief, M.D., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; Martin Orne, M.D., Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; Campbell Perry, Ph.D., Concordia University, Montreal, Canada; Theodore Sarbin, Ph.D., University of California, Santa Cruz, CA; Thomas A. Sebeok, Ph.D., Indiana University, Bloomington, IN; Margaret Singer, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, CA; Donald Spence, Ph.D., Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center, Piscataway, NJ.

The False Memory Syndrome Foundation is a qualified 501(c)3 corporation with its principal offices in Philadelphia and governed by its Board of Directors. While it encourages participation by its members in its activities, it must be understood that the Foundation has no affiliates and that no other organization or person is authorized to speak for the Foundation without the prior written approval of the Executive Director. All membership dues and contributions to the Foundation must be forwarded to the Foundation for its disposition.

The FMSF Newsletter will be published 4 times in 2010 by the False Memory Syndrome Foundation. The newsletter is delivered electronically and it is also available on the FMSF website: www.FMSFonline.org Those without access to the Internet should contact the Foundation.

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Do you have access to e-mail? Send a message to pjf@cis.upenn.edu if you wish to receive electronic versions of this newsletter and notices of radio and television broadcasts about FMS. All the message need say is “add to the FMS-News”. It would be useful, but not necessary, if you add your full name (all addresses and names will remain strictly confidential).

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