

A note from the editor

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Satir International Journal

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SATIR INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

A Note From The Editor

The world is in flux. Calamity is all around with earthquakes, hurricanes, terrorist attacks, massacres, mud slides, raging fires, melting icebergs, political and economic upheaval. Uncertainty is high and many people are more aware of intense feelings of dread and doom and a diminution of hope and vitality. Yet, this October, in the midst of all of this turmoil, I found an oasis in my first experience with a conference sponsored by the International Human Learning Resources Network (IHLRN). I felt as if Virginia Satir were in our midst, as this group of people reflected her values (our values) so beautifully.

Although a member of the Satir network since 1981, I had never made a home with the IHLRN group. The IHLRN meetings had been recommended to me countless times over the years by friends I truly love, but for one reason or another, I had never attended. I am very happy that I made attending this year's conference a priority, despite the fact that the deadline for publishing this Fall issue of the journal was clawing at me. As stated on the IHLRN website, (ihlrn.org), this organization brings out the best in people and establishes a climate where people can grow and share.

I have rarely encountered such a welcoming, warm, accepting, and engaging group of people as those I have met through the Satir network, and now, particularly, with IHLRN. My experience with IHLRN brought back wonderful memories of experiences at Avanta meetings which I first attended back in 1981. (Avanta is the original name for the current Satir Global Network.) Unfortunately, the Satir Global meetings, which extended over several days, have over time disappeared due to reductions in operating expenses.

The *need* for face-to-face contact in an inclusive and accepting environment has never disappeared for me. Perhaps, as other Satir Global Network members have discovered, IHLRN can fill that vacuum. Congruence and gentleness abound in this organization. If you have a week to spare in a gorgeous setting among *The Beautiful People* (the original name, apropos I might add, that Virginia Satir gave this group she founded), I highly recommend that you check out this group. As an added benefit, you can also pick up continuing education credits while living Satir values within a marvelous community of kindred souls whose meetings embody the principles Satir taught. The next meeting is to be held on the harbor in Victoria, British Columbia, October 14-21, 2018.

I have been working on the *Satir International Journal* and its prior two iterations for nearly 12 years, the last four as Editor, and prior to that as Associate Editor. Believing in the importance of an academic journal focused on the Satir Model, Steve Bentheim (Editor) and I enjoyed plowing new ground as we developed the original print journal, funded and published by the Satir Institute of the Pacific. After Steve's death, I took over serving as Editor of the journal, out of loyalty to Steve Bentheim and to the belief that Satir needs a presence in the academic community if the model is to stay alive and flourish for decades to come. Sadly, too many young therapists in North America are not even aware of the Satir Model since it is covered in so few academic programs these days.

While I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure with the journal, I am retiring after the publication of this issue and passing the baton to a new editor, yet to be named. In order to accomplish a search for a new editor, I sought the help of Sharon Loeschen, President of Satir Global, to help with this transition. I thank her agreeing to help find others to shoulder this critical task of finding a suitable editor who might lead the further development of our journal.

I thought that forming a search committee might foster the Satir network's further ownership of the journal since the publication requires the full support of the network to thrive. I wanted to form a search committee that included two members from the Satir Global Network, two members from the Satir Institute of the Pacific and the current editor. At Sharon Loeschen's request, Eileen Strider has graciously agreed to chair this committee and this gives me tremendous relief, knowing that Eileen will conduct this search in a thorough and professional manner. "Our baby" is in the loving and capable hands now of the following committee: Eileen Strider, Sharon Loeschen, Michael Callaghan, Mary Leslie, and me. Inba Kehoe, the University of Victoria librarian who manages the university's journals will advise the committee as needed.

Inba has been a vital support of the journal from its inception at the University of Victoria, as has the Editorial Board of SIJ.

I was determined to include representatives from both the Satir Global Network and the Satir Institute of the Pacific on the search committee because both organizations have supported the journal since I took over the editorship, both in spirit, and formally, through official Memorandums of Understanding, the statement of which appears at the bottom of the opening page of the *Satir International Journal* (journals.uvic.ca/index.php/satir):

The Virginia Satir Global Network and the Satir Institute of the Pacific have agreed to work together with the *Satir International Journal* to promote research, development, teaching and practice of the Satir Model in both the academic and practitioner community worldwide through the publication of material related to the Satir Model.

I am sure that you will see the search committee at work in short order so be thinking of people who might be perfect fit for this volunteer position. During the search, I will continue to collect manuscripts, therefore, please continue writing and submitting your articles to me. Submission information can be found on the journal website.

About This Issue

Let's move on to the current issue of the journal and take a peek at our offerings for 2017. The first article, by Darya Haitglou, M.S., describes *The Satir Systemic Coaching Model*, an approach she is developing that incorporates practical techniques of the Satir Model into coaching in business and life coaching. Part of Darya's approach to coaching includes an embodied dimension, where she explicitly utilizes physical movement, sensory awareness, and experience of the body in space as resources in her work. The body was a primary dimension in Satir's work reflected in the two dimensions of her Self-Mandala, physical and sensory. Darya's work, applied in a setting outside the therapy room, is a welcome addition to this current issue.

The main section of the journal also includes an article by Janet Christie-Seely, M.D. that may help you "wake up" and/or become motivated to use your influence to increase your own and others' awareness about climate change, a very timely issue. Janet weaves in a great deal of current research and thinking on the matter as she describes a plan of conducting a workshop on Climate Change based on the work of Joanna Macey and informed by the Satir Model.

An interview with John Banmen, Ph.D. is also included in this section where he talks about his early relationship with Virginia Satir and his pursuit of understanding and articulating what constituted her "magic." Banmen and Carlock go on to discuss the background of the writing of the book, *The Satir Model*, the origin of the "Iceberg" metaphor, his growing understanding of the spiritual dimension of Satir's approach, and his ideas about what he might include in a new volume on the model.

Our *Satir Around the Globe* section highlights two gems, an article by Liu Chi, *Satir theory and sculpting in Social Work education*. It is heartening to see Dr. Liu's incorporation of the Satir Model in social work education in China where she has begun using experiential learning, particularly sculpting, in her teaching. The author also emphasizes the dual social work goals of helping people and helping themselves as students are taught to use the lens of the Satir Model to make sense of both their own and another's experience.

The second article in this section, Outcome of psychotherapeutic training MOVISA (Model of Virginia Satir) contributed by Mgr. Ondrej Sekera, Ph.D. of the Czech Republic, summarizes research results regarding their rigorous, comprehensive training program. The program evaluation focuses on discovering the circumstances that motivated participants to choose this particular training program and delineating the impact of the program on both personal and professional lives of the trainees.

Recently, Jessica Erker, M.S. completed a Master's thesis analyzing literature on the Satir Model from 1988-2016. She also conducted semi-structured interviews with ten Satir experts. Jessica presents a summary of her research in the third article in this section where she describes the diversity in the practice of the Satir Model in its practice and application both in clinical and non-clinical settings.

Our *Insights* section includes a follow-up article by Laura Dodson, Ph.D. entitled, *What's the World Trying To Do Now?* where Laura frames the cultural transformation during President Trump's time in office as an "energy transformation" in the USA and the world. Drawing from her knowledge and experience with the teachings of Virginia Satir and Carl Jung, she proffers her idea that this new energy is moving towards wholeness.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy this issue,

Jesse Carlock, Ph.D.
Editor