

... community ... belonging ... networking ... social activities ... CEUs ...

September 26, 2004 Meeting Highlights

Adlerian theory ... in practice it works! **Sandy Gavin** is vice-principal of a junior high school in Joliet that has ascribed to Adlerian principles for 26 years. The school is so popular and flourishing, it has a waiting list. The talk that Sandy gave to the **Chicago Adlerian Society** had everyone practically jumping out of their seats with excitement as she described how way back in the '70s she and other teachers and administrators at Hufford Junior High were trained by **Ray Corsini** and a staff that included **Guy Manaster** and **Al Milliren** in the principles of Corsini's "Individual Education" program. Stressing the "4-Rs" of respect, responsibility, resourcefulness, and responsiveness, the school's mission statement reads

While the 4-R school promotes parental involvement in the school life of the child, students are expected and encouraged to make their own choices about their educational and social lives. ... Parents must allow their children to make their own choices (with non-coercive guidance) concerning all activities in the school.

In addition to a standard curriculum (Language Arts, Math, Science, etc.), the school offers "courses" in creativity (two periods a day) and socialization (one period a day). Conflict-resolution strategies are taught that cooperatively involve students, teachers, and administrators. Complaints, disturbances, discipline, social events and field trips are discussed at weekly family counsel-type meetings that are run on democratic principles. Parents are required to attend programs on topics such as parenting, logical and natural consequences, and the four goals of misbehavior. Teachers and administrators are called by their first names. A-B-C-D-F grades are not given: mastery of subjects is determined in a way that actively involves students, parents, and

teachers. Students are even allowed to “sign out” of classes—which encourages the teachers to be more involved with their teaching.

A school-within-a school, Hufford’s 4-R school came into being when the district was looking for ways to best handle desegregation (the 4-R school has over 170 students; the regular junior high over 900; currently, the 4-R school’s student body is approximately 30% white, 30% black, and 30% Hispanic). Students are accepted on a first come basis. Sandy reported that not only are the 4-R students’ standardized test scores higher than the general school’s students’ scores, the 4-R teachers appear less haggard after a school day—maybe because through respect and actively involving the students in the “running” of the school, the teachers can spend more time teaching and less time on discipline!

However, Sandy also reported that the school is not for everyone: for example, teachers and parents who fear that by allowing students a larger voice in their education, they are giving up their own “power.”

Thank you, Sandy!

And, thanks to all who attended. The Chicago Adlerian Society is open to all.

Other news:

Karolus Smejda, president of PowerSuasion, corporate consultants, offers seminars on how to strengthen your writing skills. As he told the group, “Your writing creates an image of you in the reader’s mind. Does your writing accurately reflect your professionalism, intelligence, and competence?” Go to www.powersuasion.com for more information. As Karolus pointed out Sunday, Corsini’s 4-R Individual Education program can be adapted for use in business settings.

Rachell Anderson's new book focuses on narrative psychology. *The Legacy Continues: Writing Healing Stories* can be ordered at Rander5022@aol.com.

Adler Speaks: The Lectures of Alfred Adler, edited by **Mark Stone** and **Karen Dresher**, can be ordered through Amazon and our parent organization, the North American Society of Adlerian Psychology (NASAP). Brilliant, easy-to-understand essays ... your library should not be without this book.

Remember:

The Chicago Adlerian Society now meets the last weekend of every month, except in special circumstances ... like in October! **CAS' next meeting:**

Breakfast Social

October 24, 2004

Time to be announced later (but obviously, in the morning!)

Meet Margot Adler, Alfred's granddaughter, NPR correspondent, and best selling author (*Heretic's Heart*).

Bacino's, 75 East Wacker Drive, private dining room

Elections are coming. Vote 11/2/04! Last day to register to vote is 10/5/04. Kerry or Bush? Which candidate do you think is more Adlerian and "kerr-operative"?

Also, reply to this message if you want to run for president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer of the Chicago Adlerian Society. Elections to be held at November's meeting.

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR NEWS OF THE CHICAGO ADLERIAN SOCIETY

... community ... belonging ... networking ... social activities ... CEUs ...