

Editor's Note

This issue marks the beginning of our third year of publication. The *Journal* has reflected and stimulated the growth of the National Association for Poetry Therapy (NAPT). In our feature article, Kenneth Gorelick, NAPT President provides a compelling argument for the pluralistic base of poetry therapy. The process of self-creation is examined with specific attention given to schizophrenic patients. He closes with an examination of the growth of the field of poetry therapy and discusses its three self-creation components.

The "Brief Reports" are indicative of the international and interdisciplinary range of the *Journal*. Alexander Alekseychik, a psychiatrist from the Soviet Union joins our list of new friends. He describes his method of diagnosis and treatment that incorporates prescriptive bibliotherapy within a medical model. Alice Gullen Smith's report includes guidelines for the librarian using reading guidance on the subject of death and grief. She provides a brief annotated bibliography. We also have a brief report on the development of the Center for Applied Humanities at the University of South Florida. Sara Deats and Lagretta Lenker note that their project, "affirms the belief that the humanities transmit profound reflections on human life that have shaped our heritage." The *Center* has already sponsored successful conferences on topics relating literary perspectives to spouse abuse and youth suicide.

Indeed, the role of the arts in health, education, and social welfare is one that is all too often overlooked, especially when it comes to government funding. As we begin our journey into the third volume year, it is imperative that the *Journal of Poetry Therapy* continue to not only survive, but also serve as a beacon for those who still believe that the poetic offers our best hope in dealing with both the pain and the promise inherent in life and the therapeutic growth process. Robert

Fulghum (1988) in, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* offers some advice, "When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands and stick together. Be aware of wonder." Keep searching . . .

Nicholas Mazza