

# **Michigan Inter-Professional Association on Marriage, Divorce and the Family**

## *Immediate Past President's Message*

After much discussion and investigation and input and work, we proudly present our updated and ever so informative website! Special thanks goes to Dr. Larry Friedberg and Rick Catron of BOLD Technologies for their efforts in making our website a viable means of information and communication for our members as well as others seeking information about MIPA and what we offer. I urge you to check our website frequently for timely items about upcoming events, and information that will benefit our interdisciplinary approaches to the families we serve.

As I reflect upon the past two years as your president, I am very proud to note that we again, delivered a fine series of timely and thought-provoking roundtables. We began our 2004-2005 year with a close examination of civility in the courtroom. Other roundtables focused on attachment issues with children of divorce and special considerations for elderly couples seeking a divorce. We ended the year with a critical examination of ex parte communications. 2005-2006 roundtables offered our members a chance to become better informed on a burgeoning movement in approaching divorce: Collaborative Law. We dedicated one afternoon to highlighting programs and services to help families in crisis. Attorney Nancy Diehl enlightened us on the subject of interviewing children when allegations of abuse arise within the context of a divorce. Our final roundtable offered us a chance to shed some light on the purpose and problems in the role of the guardian ad litem.

Such varied and provocative subject matter, teamed with the opportunity to network with colleagues and enjoy a delicious lunch gives each MIPA member a chance to gain knowledge and perspective to take back to our offices, whatever the discipline we practice. In the works for the coming year, we will present four more of these valuable opportunities to learn, lunch, and exchange ideas.

The members of the Board of Trustees informally solicit opinions and feedback regarding our roundtables. Sometimes it's just a tap on your shoulder from Wade Jackman or Larry Friedberg with a "What did you think of today's roundtable?" as you are leaving our luncheons. We urge you to contact any one of us to give your opinion of our roundtable presentations and to offer your suggestions about new subjects. Next year we have already begun to formulate our line-up of topics that will inform and impress and get you thinking. The variety and vitality of our presentations depends on the generation of new and timely topics and we invite all our members to bring their ideas forward. Again, please contact any one of our Board of Trustee members to offer suggestions for future

roundtables. We want topics that will increase the understanding, cooperation, and service delivery to our clients across all disciplines.

Janice Morganroth was an angel on earth and through her enthusiasm and dedication to her work she provided me with a vision and an invitation to become involved in this organization. Everyone who knew Janice and worked with her misses her warmth, integrity and skill in the practice of family law. I'd like to think she would have been very pleased that the enthusiastic therapist she brought on board to MIPA over a dozen years ago became the president. My goal as president of MIPA was to bring a sense of caring and a balanced rational approach to the problems that effect families. That goal reflected how I practice as a clinical social worker. Ron Bookholder, will bring his experience and dedication to the practice of family law to the office of president. He doesn't make mandel bread (biscotti) like I did, but he is a very sweet guy! Good luck to you, Ron! And thank you, one and all, for being a part of making the Michigan Interprofessional Association a vital and vibrant place to promote understanding and cooperation across all disciplines.