

**APPA Annual Meeting 2013
at The City College of New York
Meeting Summary, and Tribute to Pierre Grimes**



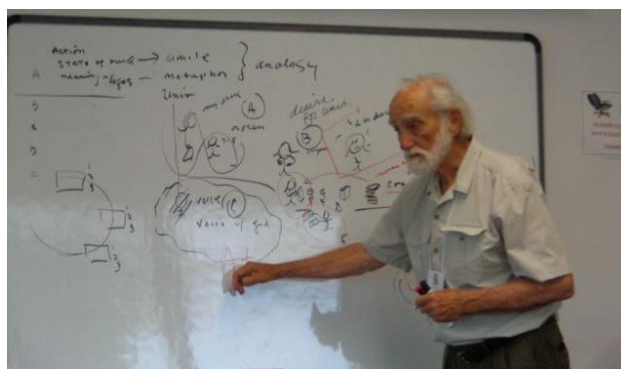
APPA Annual Meeting, New York, July 13, 2013

standing, left to right: Skye Cleary, Richard Levi, Julie Postel, Dan Fincke, Nancy Grimes, Sara Ellenbogen, Barbara Jones, Patrick Roff, Meredith Garmon, Jonathan Gileadi, Rus Postel, Regina Uliana, Susan Accongio, Patricia Murphy, Peter Grimes
seated, APPA Directors: Lou Marinoff, Pierre Grimes, Vaughana Feary

Meeting Summary

APPA's 2013 annual meeting began with a report by President Lou Marinoff, who summarized current events and new developments in the field. APPA Vice President Vaughana Feary also contributed valuable insights. Participants responded with enthusiasm, and animated discussion followed.

The meeting continued with Part One of a two-part workshop by APPA Vice President Pierre Grimes, on the theory of philosophical midwifery. After a leisurely lunch at a local Latin bistro, Pierre conducted Part Two of his workshop: a demonstration of his unique methodology. Julia Postel describes Pierre's work in her tribute on pages 3-4.



Pierre explains Socratic midwifery

Next, Richard Messing outlined his theory and methodology on the importance of mobilizing clients' will-power in philosophical counseling. Will-power is an under-utilized resource in most forms of psychotherapy, so philosophical counselors are well-positioned to help clients muster inner strengths, including the power of volition.



Richard Messing elaborates the power of will

The program finale was provided by Barbara Jones, back by popular demand, who treated participants to a "sneak preview" of her latest Cabaret-Philo, *You've Gotta Have Heart*, which she performed on a big stage in August, at the 12th ICPP in Athens. As always, Barbara's performance was musical, lyrical, and inspirational.



Barbara Jones performs her latest Cabaret-Philo

Finally, participants repaired to Rosa Mexicano, a popular Mexican restaurant near Lincoln Center, for a traditional symposium over margaritas, mojitos, signature guacamole, and other fine fare from south of the border. A great time was had by all, philosophically and otherwise.



Symposium at Rosa Mexicano

Tribute to Pierre Grimes

by Julia Postel

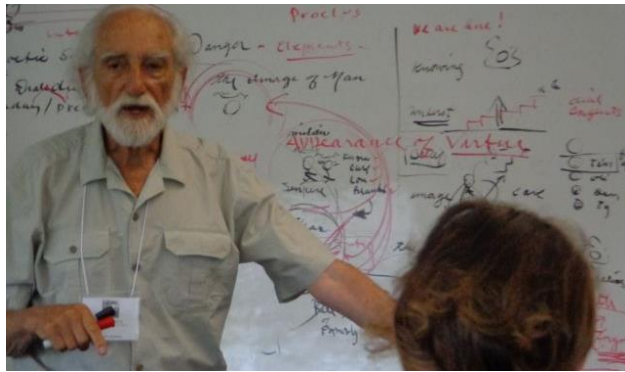
Pierre Grimes was the featured speaker at the APPA Annual Meeting in July 2013. He spoke on the Theory of Philosophical Midwifery (PMW) in the morning, and provided a demonstration of PMW in the afternoon. After Lou Marinoff's thoughtful introduction of Pierre as "the doyen, so to speak, of philosophical counseling ... and the philosophical counseling movement ... the first of the 20th century to be doing real philosophical practice," Pierre went on to use the whiteboard in his unique way of drawing out his thought into images so that the material, the logos, not the speaker, becomes the focus.

Pierre described his method for exploring human problems, a method which has its beginnings in the study of beliefs and what is blocking us from attaining our personally significant goals. Pierre has a novel paradigm which it does not fit into any system, but does include Platonic and Homeric ideas. His method can provide a way of understanding dreams and daydreams, which Pierre has shown to be directly related to one's understanding of their personal problems. Since all facets of our lives have been seen to be intelligible, the same principles hold true. He said that his book *Philosophical Midwifery* is outdated (but still a good read). As PMW has developed its spiritual aspects, it supersedes psychology and can address man's most fundamental questions. The Noetic Society, incorporated by Pierre in 1978, continues to study philosophical excellence. Its members meet every Friday night in Southern California. The study of the works of Proclus, Plotinus and Plato wake up our dreams, said Pierre, and enlightenment experiences are thereby revealed.



Pierre explains his method of dream-work

When Pierre explored a dream of one of the attendees by drawing out her dream on the whiteboard and explaining how he structures his analysis and assists the dreamer to come to her own insight about the dream's meaning for her, those in attendance could see the subject experiencing the effects of her insights in the present moment and it was beautiful; the dreamer could see that these tools could enable her to re-evaluate her understanding of family dynamics and assumptions about herself. Pierre made it look easy to stay with the words of the dreamer without using interpretation, and the benefit to the dreamer was obvious in the moment as the subject could see the importance of the dream for her. Pierre's older students in attendance were, once again, in appreciation at the mind knowing itself. Pierre Grimes has shown that "dreams are allegorical expressions of the state of the soul ... and they identify where you are stuck in your path." Since "ignorance is more powerful than anything except the truth," says Pierre, it is our responsibility to share what can help people to "dump all masks, attitudes, and get into a



Pierre analyzes a dream

dialogue ... to see what's most important, and keep going." I believe his work has revived the goal of excellence for mankind. When a new kind of understanding emerges from seeing how we came to believe what we believe, we become free to excel and not only experience the higher states of mind, but understand them, too. Pierre says that understanding in this way can bring about "a new breed of man, truth-tellers, lovers of wisdom, lovers of truth." Those in attendance appeared eager to learn more about his work and had some good questions about his early work with alcoholism and the *pathologos*, a false self-belief which is unique to each individual but has universal features such as "imitating the appearance of virtue."



Pierre, with daughter Susan and son Peter, in New York

Pierre Grimes's work can be explored at www.noeticsociety.org and <https://academyofplatonistudies.com/>

Julia Postel has been a student of Pierre Grimes' since the late 1980s and has traveled with him to many conferences. She has published papers on philosophical midwifery, uses Pierre's method to strive for excellence, and is a long-standing APPA Member.