

Editorial

This Special Issue of *Moving On*, Volume 11, No's 1 and 2, focuses on the work of Dr Marcia B. Leventhal, dance movement therapy (dmt) clinician, educator, and pioneer. Through a selection of some of her early and significant writings, conference presentations, contributions from colleagues and past and present students, we present a picture of her growth as well as the influences she has had on the dance movement therapy profession. That is, of course, in her homeland - the USA – and, significantly for us in Australia is the training she developed here. This has become her model in other places across the globe.

Dr Leventhal's first visit to Australia was in 1987, when she was invited to be the keynote speaker at the first dance movement therapy conference held in this country - in Melbourne. Since then she regularly visited Australia, mainly Melbourne, initially for professional development purposes. Over time her educative teachings grew into a training model, which continues successfully to this day.

Some of Dr Leventhal's contributions have not previously been published, and some are reprinted because of their historical significance in the development of dance movement therapy in Australia and around the world.

Influences that have given Shape and Meaning to My Life as a Dance Therapist Clinician and Educator, follows Dr Leventhal's *Biography*. This writing is quite recent. It was Dr Leventhal's presentation on the Pioneer's Panel that took place in February, 2012, at Anna Halprin's studio, in California (organised by the Californian Chapter of the American Dance Therapy Association in San Francisco). It is printed here because her personal recollections of her career from this presentation seem such a natural development from the facts in her *Biography*.

Similarly, *How I Learned a Basic Dance Movement Therapy Tenet*, was written by Dr Leventhal in 2010 for the anniversary of the passing of laws relating to children's education. Again, the writing is quite recent, it is about her hindsight – her recollections - of the importance of what she learned very early in her career as a dance movement therapist. It describes how crucial her 'Magic Drum' was in establishing her engagement with one particular child, as well as other children that she was working with. And 'magic' that drum still seems to be! As every time we opened up the document that became this publication - the photo of her and that drum had

moved! It was always the only photo shifting position out of the many photos included in this publication!

Structure in Dance Therapy: A Model for Personality Integration and Dance Therapy as Treatment of Choice for the Emotionally Disturbed Learning Disabled Child, follows. These are two of Dr Leventhal's historic articles that are fundamental to establishing the foundation of her work. We are particularly pleased to have been granted permission to reprint them in this issue.

The Healing Rhythm of the Dyadic Union: The Development of the Therapeutic Relationship in Dance Therapy comes next, and although this has not previously been published, it is widely known as a reference in Dr Leventhal's teachings. *The Ancient Healing Art of Dance* was the keynote address at the first ever Australian dmt conference in Melbourne in 1987. The address was published in a newsletter called *Kinesis*, which was for the benefit of the local community. *Kinesis* was the newsletter of the Victorian branch of the Australian Association for Dance Education (AADE), now called *Ausdance*, but the address has never been published more widely.

A quantum leap in time is then taken from these early foundation articles to a more recent keynote address delivered by Dr Leventhal in 2007 for the Marian Chase lecture at the 45th ADTA conference in New York City. Dr Leventhal was chosen by the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA) to be the Honoree/Keynote Speaker for this event. Her speech, entitled *Transformation and Healing Through Dance Therapy: The Challenge and Imperative of Holding the Vision*, was published online and in the *American Journal of Dance Therapy (AJDT)*, June 2008, Volume 30, Issue 1, 4-23. However, in this Special Issue of *Moving On*, we are privileged to be able to publish the original speech, as it was prior to editing for publication in the *AJDT* journal. At the same time we are grateful to the ADTA and Springer, USA, the publishers of the *AJDT*, for granting us permission to do this.

This is followed by *Training the Trainer: Essential Components in the Teaching and Dissemination of Dance Movement Therapy Worldwide*, which Dr Leventhal wrote for her inspirational workshop presentation at the more recent 46th American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA) conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 2011. The focus of that workshop was on how to develop a viable international training model.

Under *Contributions from the USA*, Iris Rifkin-Gainer, friend and colleague of Dr Leventhal, and pioneer in dmt herself, contributes *Through memory's moving lens: Dr. Marcia Leventhal's multi-faceted embrace and transformation of Dance Movement Therapy*. This article gives a glimpse into the early days when they first met at New York University (NYU) at the beginning of the 1970's.

Mutual and Reciprocal Consciousness in Action, a contribution from Jane Wilson Cathcart, takes us further into the 1970's, when Jane met Dr Leventhal and into times she spent with her after that. It also explains how the title of her article reflects the elements that are 'Marcia'.

Patricia Capello, whose name is well known to us in Australia, contributes *Spirit Dances*, and Anne Marie Ruta Buchanan writes about *A Moving Journey* she experienced with Dr Leventhal. Both Patricia and Anne Marie were former students of hers. Then Professor M. Linda Graham tells us about *A Beneficial Relationship*.

This is followed by Theresa Jackson giving us succinct but profound words in *Ahead of Her Time*. Very many years ago Theresa was one of Dr Leventhal's early students at NYU, and here connects the divide between the USA and Australian contributions, as she has probably lived for equally as many years in Sydney as part of our Australian dance movement therapy community.

In *Contributions from Australia*, we reprint an article by Jenny Czulak (before she became Jenny Czulak Riley), *Dance for Health*, published in 'Nature and Health' Magazine, 1990. This is followed by *An Interview with Dr Marcia B. Leventhal*, by Jane Refshauge, Australian dmt and psychologist. The interview was originally published in *Moving On* in 2005. Although that was only a few years ago, we are reprinting it now because it is full of historical interest to dance movement therapists, and we believe it should form a part of this collection.

Dr Marcia Leventhal and IDTIA history, contributed by Tony Norquay, provides an overview into the development of the training at the International Dance Therapy Institute Australia (IDTIA), founded by Dr Leventhal. Jennifer Helmich contributes *The Spirit of a Pioneer* and Bella Grossberg picks up on the content of that article in her *Recollections of Princeton*.

A very light hearted and delightful *24 hours in one day is not enough!* comes from Fran Ostrobrski – host to Dr Leventhal during her numerous visits to Melbourne over the years. Fran

literally holds the 'Space' for Dr Leventhal in her home where one room is "reverently referred to as 'Marcia's room'" (p.96).

What it takes: Creating the Leventhal Model, stems from a conversation Elizabeth Mackenzie had with Dr Leventhal when she visited Melbourne in 2008. With only a few questions and comments from Elizabeth, Dr Leventhal's remarkable recall went into action and she expounded on the development of her model of dmt. Such was the 'Free Flow' of her memories and thought processes, that only small triggers were needed to get such a full account!

Slipping into the Quantum - Lasting impressions of Dance Movement Therapy training from Naomi Audette (1970 - 2011), Australian dmt and teacher at the IDTIA, demonstrates how much she was a proponent of Dr Leventhal's work in relation to the influences of quantum physics.

In *Through the Known to the New*, Elizabeth Loughlin revisits the teaching of Dr Leventhal "to continue to uncover the new" (p.111). We then have Jane Refshauge's *Reflections on my learning*, and *A Perspective of What I Have Been Given* from Mary Bulth.

We are delighted to be able to have contributions from other parts of the world - from Amanda Kougioufa and Nina Alkalay in Greece, and Gerry Harrison in the UK. These are both places to which Dr Leventhal's international training has spread and her teachings have had a great influence.

And finally, Jane Guthrie begins by reflecting on being a participant in Dr Leventhal's *Training the Trainer* workshop (46th ADTA conference, Minneapolis, 2011), but takes a change of direction to arrive at *Another Side*. This allows us to discover even more about who Dr Leventhal really is.

We would like to thank all who have contributed to this special issue of *Moving On*, and helped to make possible this collection of writings on and about Dr Leventhal. In compiling and editing we hope we have done them justice and captured the incredible contribution she has made, and continues to make, to the development of dance movement therapy both in Australia and worldwide. Our intention is for this issue to make a valuable addition to the writings on dance movement therapy wherever it is studied and practiced and we hope that this has been achieved.

Jane Guthrie and Naomi Aitchison

