Editorial

Jonathan Magonet

This issue continues a tradition in this journal of devoting issues to the broad theme of ‘Judaism and Psychotherapy’. It began formally in autumn 1982, but the journal had already explored the topic earlier with occasional writings as noted by Howard Cooper.¹ The dedicated issues grew out of a series of lectures on the topic initiated by Leo Baeck College and were subsequently continued in collaboration with the Raphael Centre, a Jewish counselling service. The origin of this exploration belongs in large part to the influence of Irene Bloomfield z’l, who became involved, together with Dr Wendy Greengross z’l, in the establishment of a pioneering programme of ‘Pastoral Care and Counselling’ for the rabbinic students at the College. It is a privilege to be able to include in this issue a previously unpublished paper by Irene, together with Gaby Glassman, her partner in pioneering work on the impact of the Holocaust on the second generation of survivor families.

Irene Bloomfield (1918–2001) was born in Germany, came to the UK at the age of eighteen to work as a domestic, and went on to become a psychologist, psychotherapist and group analyst, working within the National Health Service and later in private practice. She supported her colleague Father Louis Marteau in the development of the Catholic Dympna Centre and subsequently in the creation of the Association for Pastoral Care and Counselling (APCC), pioneering work in providing support for Christian clergy and exploring the meeting place between religion, psychotherapy and interfaith dialogue. Her article ‘Aging Patients, Psychotherapists and Holocaust Survivors’ appeared in European Judaism 32, no. 2 (Autumn 1999), 66–68, and ‘Remembering and Forgetting: A Reflection on Jewish Experience’ in 35, no. 1 (Spring 2002), 101–110, which also contains tributes and memoirs following her death by Gaby Glassman, Helena Klimova, Louis Marteau, Lionel Blue, David Freund and Danny Smith (pp. 111–126).

The theme of the impact of trauma or conflict on subsequent generations is taken up by Stephen Blumenthal writing on individual and group identity in relation to his own family history.
When the editor invited possible contributors on this topic, he was surprised by the number of articles on offer that addressed in different ways the topic of psychoanalysis. In earlier issues the focus was largely upon the area of psychotherapy and counselling, and sufficient articles have been received on this topic to make it the area of examination in this year’s autumn issue (Judaism and Psychotherapy 2). The articles on psychoanalysis in the current issue divide into two major groups. The first addresses the history of psychoanalysis, in a general overview by David Herman, and through two biographical accounts of individual analysts. John Launer is the author of the book *Sex versus Survival: The Life and Ideas of Sabine Spielrein*. Here he examines her life, the controversies that surrounded her and her contribution to psychoanalysis. Klara Naszkowska draws on her ongoing study of the history of women psychoanalysts who escaped Europe to America following the rise of Nazism and the important roles they played in the development of psychoanalysis in their adopted country. A second group of papers, by Agata Bielik-Robson and Stephen Frosh, address more directly the relationship between psychoanalysis and aspects of Jewish social, philosophical and ethical values. In her article, Lisa Appignanesi touches on a number of the themes covered in this issue: Freud’s growing interest in societies and nations after 1918 and, with the rise of Nazism, antisemitism and the impact of repression. Like the work described by Irene Bloomfield and Gaby Glassman, her own childhood was affected by her parents’ wartime experience in Poland.

The In Memoriam section includes a personal memoir of Rabbi Professor Jonathan Sacks, Baron Sacks z’l, former Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth (1948–2020) by Tony Bayfield. Also a reflection on the interfaith writings of Professor Hans Küng z’l (1928–2021) by Michael Hilton.

It concludes with two book reviews, by Marc Saperstein of Michael A. Meyer’s book on Rabbi Leo Baeck, and by Reuven Silverman of a new study of Spinoza’s *Ethics* by Harvey Shoolman.

**Note**

1. A study of the development of this topic within the journal can be found in Howard Cooper’s ‘Forty Years of “Judaism and Psychotherapy” – An Overview’ in *European Judaism* 39, no. 2 (Autumn 2006), 14–19, an issue marking the fortieth anniversary of the publication of the journal.