

## THE AHP CHAIR'S PAGE

Lucy Scurfield\*

*AHP Chair*

Dear Friends,

*Self & Society* is an important voice of exploration and a healthy challenge to anyone interested in Humanistic Psychology and its engagement with looking at human capacity and potential so as to enhance both the individual and society. The journal's editorial team and regular contributors always ensure that its contents are a fantastic resource for anyone wanting thought-provoking articles, discussions, book reviews and poems. The content reliably raises searching questions regarding issues relating to the richness that Humanistic Psychology is. The entire series reaching back to 1973 is available online.

The AHPB Board – Adrian Barker, Dina Glouberman, Richard House (*S&S* co-editor) and myself (Chair) – strive hard to maintain the organization in a sound and forward-looking way. During 2015 this was reflected in a series of monthly workshops (CPD). It is anticipated that further events will be planned in the future. Watch this space!

The Board is extremely grateful to our volunteer, Dominique Fray-Aitken (research student at the University of Roehampton). Dominique's enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to the administrative work she has done are appreciated enormously. She has been assisting a new volunteer administrator, Anne Goodhew. Anne has taken on the task of overseeing the subscription base since the end of January this year. Her tireless and enthusiastic work is also hugely appreciated by the Board. Her contribution is invaluable in helping to ensure that the AHPB develops as a solid organization able to meet our obligations to Routledge, and ensure that subscribers and members have online access to the whole digitized archive.

More volunteers, with a few hours to spare each week, are required to help AHPB build a sound base for the promotion of Humanistic Psychology. In particular, assistance with the administration of the subscription base is vital. Volunteers will be given free membership.

The Board would also be delighted to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming a Trustee. Please do get in touch if you want to make a difference by being part of this innovative leading-edge organization. Its voice is as important as when it was first heard 43 years ago. The exploratory and challenging nature of the organization remains vital at a time when there seems to be potential for less openness in many areas of life. Latterly, with the refugee crisis in Europe, the effects of austerity and the increasing power of big business, there seems, in some quarters, to be greater receptivity to the fear of the 'other', an apparent need on the part of some to silence

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voices expressing an alternative to the status quo, and an increasing aversion to risk-taking in many areas of life.

Humanistic Psychology is the natural arena for debating a number of these issues, and not allowing some to assume they have authority to decree what is desirable or not. There is a need, for example, to keep raising questions in the ongoing debate about what is good education, and to continue raising questions relating to what the enhancement of the individual and society means and involves. AHPB provides such a voice, particularly through *Self & Society*. Its desire for openness and tolerance, for allowing different voices to be heard, remains as important today as it was when it began publication in 1973.