

MCFR

Minnesota Council on Family Relations

Family Forum

FALL 2008

Family Forum
is the
newsletter of
the
Minnesota
Council on
Family
Relations, a
state affiliate
of the
National
Family
Council on
Relations



The Minnesota Council on Family Relations strengthens all families by educating and supporting family professionals and promoting connections among those involved in research, policy and practice.



Annual Elections Issue!

by Mary Jo Czaplewski, PhD, CFLE, Nominating Committee Chair

Please review the following MCFR Slate of Board nominees, then print your ballot (page 4) and fax it to 651-407-1754 by November 15.

At-Large Members:

Bill Allen, PhD, LMFT

William D. Allen is a licensed marriage and family therapist and owner of Healing Bonds, a private practice in Minneapolis, MN. His research interests include the intersection of families and ethnicity, and the important roles males play in family life across the lifespan. Dr. Allen is an adjunct professor in the Family Social Science Department of the University of Minnesota, and consults with both public and private sector institutions on a range of subjects related to family mental health and well-being. Bill has served on the boards of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR), Minnesota Association of Black Psychologists, the Minnesota Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, and the University of Minnesota's Consortium on Youth and Families. He has presented at many national forums and conferences on topics related to healthy marriage and family process.

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Thursday, December 4
Contemporary Families - Formation, Function, and the Future
Continuing Education and Conference Center, University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus

Minnesota Council on Family Relations

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Patricia Crumley.....612-374-0083

Sara Lassig.....651-216-6056

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Pa Nhung Yang.....651-503-1983

Minnesota Council on Family Relations

2738 Evergreen Cir, St. Paul, MN 55110

phone: 651-407-0950 fax: 651-407-1754

www.mcfr.net

From the President Betty Cooke, PhD, CFLE

Greetings MCFR Members,

What a fall of action and accomplishments it is for the Minnesota Council on Family Relations! Thanks to our exceptionally fine board and membership, much is happening as highlighted below.

Contemporary Families – Formation, Function, and the Future is the theme of our annual fall conference to be held on **THURSDAY, December 4, 2008**. With nationally known expert, **Dr. Stephanie Coontz**, as the keynote speaker and the broad array of breakout sessions planned, you won't want to miss it. The conference brochure is available in print and on our website, and you can register very easily through our new online registration with Eventville. Thanks to Rose Allen and Minnell Tralle for co-chairing this conference. I hope to see many of you there.

Remember that conference scholarships are available for MCFR student members and MCFR members with financial need. The link to the form you need to complete to apply for a scholarship is available with the registration materials. Also, please note the **Silent Auction** that will be held at the conference and let Mary Jo know if you have items to donate. All proceeds go to the **Student Scholarship Fund**.

Families, Health and Mental Health is the theme for our spring conference to be held at the beautiful new Wilder Center in St. Paul on Friday, April 3, 2009. Sara Lassig and Kristin Schneider Dillon are co-chairing this conference and welcome you to contact them if you would like to be on the planning committee.

Be sure to take a look at our new MCFR logo, membership brochure, and website graphics and configuration. All have a fresh and enticing new look thanks to the many efforts of our current MCFR Communications Committee Chair, Beth Yokom. Please let Beth know how much you appreciate these.

Thanks to those of you who responded to the request for serving as student mentors as part of the current efforts of the MCFR Student Section under the leadership of section chair, Heather Cline. If you are one of these individuals, you'll be hearing from Heather soon. Also, at the fall conference be sure to watch for the Student Poster Session after lunch and learn of current research students are doing. It is through our support and interest in our students that we grow our field.

Speaking of students, we are thrilled that our own Sara Lassig, who recently completed her Ph.D. in Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota, received the 2008 NCFR Association of Councils Outstanding Graduate Student Research Paper Award for her dissertation and will be presented with this award at the NCFR Conference in Little Rock, AK in November. Congratulations, Sara!

Thanks to the efforts of Mary Jo Czaplewski and her Nominations Committee, we have an outstanding slate of MCFR Board Members for 2009. Please read about them and be sure to vote.

Thursday, December 4

**Contemporary Families -Formation, Function, and the Future
Continuing Education and Conference Center, U of M, St. Paul Campus**

Slate of Board Nominees (Continued from page 1)

Michael P. Brown, EdD

Dr. Brown is the coordinator of Early Childhood Family Education, School Readiness, Early Childhood Screening and Preschool programs for Cambridge-Isanti School District 911. He received his B.A. in psychology and sociology from the University of Minnesota in 1996. He also received his MEd. and EdD. in family education from the University of Minnesota, in 1998 and 2007, respectively. He is an adjunct instructor at the University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin-Stout. He is a member of NCFR, Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education, National Association for the Education of Young Children, Early Childhood Coordinated Outreach, and the Minnesota Community Education Association. Dr. Brown lives in Blaine, MN, with his wife and two children.

Leeann Sponsel

Leanne served as President of MCFR in 2001 and will soon defend her Doctoral Dissertation in the College of Education specializing in Family Education. The focus of her dissertation is cooperating teachers' thoughts and actions when conferencing with student teachers in parent education. She is a parent educator with Moundsvie ECFE and also works for District 622 on interdistrict programs such as ECO, Promoting Positive Parenting, and the Parents Forever program for Ramsey and Washington County. For the past 10 years, Leanne has been teaching Child Development, Observation and Assessment, and Family-School Relations in Higher Education. Being a teacher educator is her passion – whether it is college students in the education field or parents for their life times. Leanne has two children (Maggie and Jacob) and is empty-nesting with her husband, John, in St. Paul.

Monica Potter, EdD Licensed Parent Educator, District 112

Doctorate in Education from Hamline University. Masters in Family Education from the University of Minnesota. Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Cardinal Stritch University. I began working for the Chaska School District in 1999. My classes include general parenting, raising siblings, single parenting and family literacy classes. I feel so thankful to be helping such awesome families and working with such a terrific staff of caring professionals. Carissa and Casey are my wonderful daughters. For fun, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, the arts, traveling, photography, reading, movies, gardening and being outside. My favorite color is purple and my favorite flavor of ice cream is Ben and Jerry's Creme Brulee!

Nancy Melquist

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) Coordinator for Mahtomedi Public Schools since 1985. BS in Elementary Education (K-6) University of Minnesota. Parent Education license – University of Minnesota . Working on a MS in Family Studies and Human Development – University of Wisconsin-Stout . Organization membership – East Metro Promoting Positive Parenting (chair), Washington Co. Child Abuse Prevention Council, Early Childhood Coordinated Outreach (ECO), and MCFR. Married with two adult daughters Resident of Shoreview, Minnesota

Patricia Crumley, Attorney at Law

Pat Crumley is a single parent who works as an attorney and mediator (qualified neutral) in private practice. Oftentimes the scope of her work involves criminal and family matters. It is critical that she work closely with individuals to identify resources and address issues that impact the entire family. She has over 18 years of legal experience in the private and public sectors and continues to be mindful of the importance of family relationships and support. She has represented indigent and homeless parents of teens and young children. Pat is affiliated with NorthPoint Health and Wellness, a non-profit agency with a mission to empower families by improving their quality of life through access to health care, mental health, employment and social services. As a Community Participant, she uses a restorative justice model to resolve specific incidents of crime or conflict. She works with women and children who seek to recover from domestic violence. Pat earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Macalester College and Law degree from William Mitchell College of Law. Pat adds, "I support the mission of MCFR and I am very honored to be considered as a prospective board member."

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President-Elect

Beth Yokom, MA, LPE

ECFE/SR Supervisor - Anoka-Hennepin School District

Worked 14 years as a licensed parent educator in the Mounds View ECFE program, including 8 years in Mounds View's Family Learning Program, a family literacy program funded by Even Start.

Graduate fellowship at the UMN.

MA in Family Education from the UMN, 2005.

Currently employed as an ECFE/SR Supervisor in the Anoka-Hennepin School District.

Extensive experience as a workshop designer and trainer for various projects in Family Literacy and ECFE.

Member of the MN ECFE Curriculum Committee, whose recent project has been the creation and presentation of Minnesota's Parent Education Core Curriculum Framework and Indicators.

Served on the MCFR Conference Planning Committee for the Dec. 2006 conference.

Served for past two years as MCFR Board Secretary.

Served for past year as chair of the MCFR Communications Committee, leading a project to create and implement a new graphic look for MCFR, including a new logo, brochure and website.

Secretary

Mary Maher, MSW

Mary Maher brings over 25 years of experience working with families and family service agencies to the MCFR board. She holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Minnesota. Mary served as Parent Warmline Coordinator(1990-92), Even Start Program Supervisor(1993-99) and taught the University of Minnesota Parent Education Practicum (2002-2004). She is in her 24th year as a part-time Parent Educator with Mounds View ECFE. Mary co-authored the State of Minnesota Family Literacy Quality Indicators and the Even Start Program Guide. She became a Reflective Dialogue associate in 2001.

Mary has extensive volunteer experience at Bridging, Parent Warmline, Loaves and Fishes, Childbirth Education Association and the Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota. Mary is a longtime MCFR and MNAFEE member.

Mary and her husband Mark have been married for 33 years. They raised their family in the Anoka-Hennepin and Mounds View School Districts. They currently reside in New Brighton but visit the North Shore as often as possible.

MCFR acknowledges Mary Jo Czaplewski for her amazing energy and above-and-beyond efforts chairing the Nominating Committee and we thank all of our nominees for their willingness to serve.

2009 MCFR Board Ballot

President-Elect: (Write-in or choose one nominee)

- Beth Yokom, MA, LPE
- _____

Secretary: (Write-in or choose one nominee)

- Mary Maher, MSW
- _____

At-Large Members: (Write-in or choose up to six nominees)

- Bill Allen, PhD, LMFT
- Michael P. Brown, EdD
- Patricia Crumley
- Nancy Melquist
- Monica Potter, EdD
- Leeann Sponsel
- _____

DIRECTIONS

Please print this page, then return your completed ballot to MCFR via fax (651-407-1754)

or US mail to:

Minnesota Council on Family Relations
2738 Evergreen Circle
St. Paul MN 55110.

Ballots are due by November 15, 2007
Thank you.

Contemporary Families: Formation, Function and the Future

Thursday, December 4, 2008

(Note-we have departed from our usual first Friday in December date)

Continuing Education and Conference Center
University of Minnesota – St Paul Campus

by Rose Allen and Minnell Tralle, Conference Co-Chairs

Along with the conference committee:

Betty Cooke, Carolyn Latady, Holly Weisert, Sharon Powell and Linda Vukelich

When we as family professionals talk about family – what are our definitions and assumptions? Who is in a family? How are families formed? What is the role of family members? How do we best parent the children in many types of families? How do we launch our children as they become young adults? What is the meaning of marriage? What do we believe about the future of the families in our community?

The 2008 MCFR Annual Fall Conference will focus on the formation, function and future of families.

Leading this discussion is Stephanie Coontz, an internationally recognized researcher and family historian.

Stephanie teaches history and family studies at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, and is Director of Research and Public Education for the Council on Contemporary Families, which she chaired from 2001-04.

Stephanie is an engaging and provocative speaker who is often quoted in the media around issues involving families today. She takes on the myths and assumptions we hold about families past and present. With the backing of historical and current data she sets the record straight. Prepare to be surprised and informed.

Stephanie Coontz is the author of *Marriage, A History: From Obedience to Intimacy, or How Love Conquered Marriage* (Viking Press, 2005), *The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalgia Trap* (1992 and 2000, Basic Books), *The Way We Really Are: Coming to Terms with America's Changing Families* (Basic Books, 1997), and *The Social Origins of Private Life: A History of American Families*. She also edited *American Families: A Multicultural Reader* (Routledge, 1999).

For more information about Stephanie Coontz go to: <http://www.stephaniecoontz.com/>

After Stephanie Coontz sets the stage for looking at the concept of family, you can choose from 12 break out sessions looking at the issues and providing resources to work with families today. A full description of the workshops is available at www.mcfr.net

This conference will also feature the work of students in the family field. We are currently accepting proposals for student posters that describe projects and research completed by students in the family field over the past year.

You are also encouraged to come for the MCFR Annual Meeting and the presentation of the Friend of the Family and the Ruth Hathaway Jewson Awards at the beginning of the conference.

Last but not least, bring your check book and your holiday shopping list. The Third Annual MCFR Silent Auction will be a feature at the conference. All the funds collected go to provide student scholarships for future MCFR conferences.

For full details – go to www.mcfr.net.

Register online today!

Simply go to mcfr.net and register. Early registrants will receive a \$5 credit. Thank you for using your credit card to register online and helping us to keep administration expenses to a minimum.

MCFR
Minnesota Council on Family Relations





Committee Reports

Communications Committee Report

Beth Yokom, MCFR Secretary and Communications Committee Chair;
Anoka-Hennepin ECFE/SRP, Blaine MN

This summer was an exciting time for MCFR Communications! We have a new logo, brochures and conference display board, all sporting a new look for MCFR. This new look will soon be transferred to our website, which is currently under revision. And, the new look will go national when a group of MCFR board members take the MCFR display to the NCFR national conference in Little Rock, Arkansas in early November, as part of the Association of Councils exhibits. So, keep your eyes open for our new look, let us know what you think of it and offer any ideas you have for spreading the word about MCFR.

Policy Committee Report

Carolyn Carr Latady, Acting Policy Committee Chair; Family Support Advocate, Forest Lake Area Schols

There are some changes to report from the Policy Committee. MCFR's Strategic Plan Goal related to policy: "MCFR will work to affect family policy by providing a clear view based on research." After discussion and reflection on how best to move forward with this goal, members of the Policy Committee have laid out some clear next steps.

Taking into account the wide diversity of views held by MCFR members as well as the multitude of issues important to MCFR's work, the Policy Committee felt that one way to ground our work related to policy would be to connect it to the themes highlighted in each of the MCFR conferences.

MCFR conferences, held every spring and fall, reflect current, important and research-driven issues relevant to MCFR members. Our new approach will connect conference issues with policy implications by:

- Integrating family policy thinking as an element in each conference planning process.
- Developing *Policy Action Bulletins* related to each conference theme. *Policy Action Bulletins* will include an outline of the relevant issues/themes; credible research in the area and possible actions steps members could take.
- Disseminating *Policy Action Bulletins* to all MCFR members as well as external audiences such as legislators and other organizations working in the area of family policy.
- Using the MCFR listserv as a means of connecting members with policy information, links, resources and opportunities for actions.

Watch the MCFR website soon for the first *Policy Action Bulletin* based on MCFR's Spring Conference 2008: *Nature, Children and Families: A Necessary Connection*.

Membership Committee Report

Tammy Dunrud
Membership Committee Chair

MCFR membership has gone to the age of technology! We now offer an online option for our members to renew their membership and register for conferences. Many of you shared with us that you weren't sure when your membership was due from year to year. Now you will get an email with a link and with a few clicks you are done and can print a receipt for your tax purposes. Another advantage is the cost reduction to our organization which is a real plus in our economic times. We will be buying less paper and purchasing less administrative time. The good news is that you benefit because we don't have to increase our membership rates. If you would still like to continue receiving a paper membership reminder, please let Linda Vukelich know by calling her at 651-407-0950 or email her at: l.vukelich@comcast.net

Currently our membership includes:

102 Regular MCFR members
187 Affiliate members
21 Student members

Join us at the fall conference where we will debut our new marketing materials including a new membership brochure. Thank you to Beth Yokom and the board members who have worked hard to give MCFR materials a new look and logo. We hope you enjoy the new look!

Committee Reports (continued)

Spring 2009 MCFR Conference

The Intersection of Families & Health

Sara Lassig and Kristin Dillon, Conference Co-Chairs

The spring 2009 conference will be held on Friday April 3rd at the Wilder Center in St. Paul. We are very excited to be hosting this conference in this beautiful new venue. The topic of the conference is Families and Health, and themes will include: Health care policy and families, the role of family professionals and educators in working with families facing health/illness issues, children's mental health, and families dealing with death and dying, post-partum depression, and much, much more. One of the highlights of the day will include a panel made up of children and teens who have first hand experiences of navigating the school system and "life," while living with a chronic, terminal, or significant illness or health issue.

If you would like to be a part of the planning committee for this conference, please contact Sara Lassig at Lass0044@umn.edu or (651) 216-6056.

Lots of Opportunities for Growth!

Heather Cline
Student Section Chair

I have to begin with a big thank you to those professionals and students who completed the first online survey to participate in our new mentorship program. Three pairs have been matched so far. A second e-mail will be coming to the MCFR listserv soon to provide a chance for more professionals, and students or new professionals to participate in a mentorship experience. Take this opportunity to promote engagement between current and future professionals focused on families!

With the success of our spring 2008 Student Section social event, we are going to try a similar format. On October 17th, students and professionals in Minnesota and surrounding areas are welcome to join the Student Section at the Wilder Foundation in St. Paul from 4:30-6:30pm.

Kristin Dillon is a new professional at Wilder, and the former chair and co-chair of the Student Section. She is currently the treasurer for MCFR and is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota. She, along with Sara Lassig, will be speaking about their new roles as professionals in the family field, and the transition from student to professional. Sara works at the VA Medical Center and is an adjunct instructor in the University of Minnesota's Department of Family Social Science, where she completed her Ph.D. in May. Sara is also a MCFR board member, and together, Kristin and Sara are co-chairs for the spring 2009 MCFR conference.

A new venture of the Student Section is a student poster session at the upcoming December 2008 MCFR conference. This will provide students the opportunity to present their research or practitioner-focused work in a supportive environment while connecting with local professionals. We hope for this to become a traditional element of the MCFR conferences.

As you can see, by participating in the Student Section of MCFR, you will experience numerous opportunities for personal and professional growth, which will contribute to our organizational growth and ability to serve you better.

For further information on any of the Student Section happenings, please visit our blog at <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/cline048/mcfr/>. For any questions or comments or to join the Student Section of MCFR, contact Heather Cline at cline048@umn.edu. We now have an active listserv focused on student events, news, information, and dialogue – just another benefit for our Student Section members.

Two in a Bed

By Dr. Paul C. Rosenblatt, Professor of Family Social Science, University of Minnesota

In 2006 I published the book, *Two in a Bed: The Social System of Couple Bed Sharing*, with the State University of New York Press. It is about couple interviews I carried out that focused on the ways two people who share a bed struggle to deal with their differences and quirks, how they manage to sleep despite the ways each can disturb the sleep of the other, and how they manage to coordinate bed sharing and find it rewarding. It's a scholarly book, but the qualitative nature of it makes it accessible to the general reader, and it has generated great interest in the U.S. and around the world. I've given about 150 media interviews about it so far. Parts of it were reprinted in the Times of London and on MSNBC.Com. A German bed store gave free copies away to people who bought a certain bed package. An Italian TV comedy show did a half hour of skits based on interview quotes in the book. The New York Times article about the book set records for website hits.

I've received lots of e-mails and letters about the book, and also had plenty of feedback about the ideas in it from reporters and from callers to radio talk shows in which I've been the "expert." I think those people have taught me something about what they hunger for.

Some people want solutions to their problems--for example, how to sleep when a partner snores loudly, how to sleep with a person who steals covers, how to share a bed when one wants far more covers than the other. Some people want validation. They have decided to do what they have decided to do and want to be validated even though their bed partner, their friends, and their family think there's something wrong with them. They might, for example, go to another room to sleep on some nights that they are having trouble sleeping with their partner. Some women might, when their bed partner is out of town, ask a sister or a woman friend to stay with them so they can feel secure.

Some people find it really interesting and entertaining to know what others do when sharing a bed. One woman said she loved knowing what others wear to bed or what happens to their shared sleeping when they go to bed angry at each other. Some people want ammunition in an ongoing conflict about bed sharing--for example, they like to read that others can't sleep when the partner is sitting up reading in bed or watching TV while in bed.

Some people said they appreciate being helped to see bed sharing as a system. They like to know that it's not just something about them that makes it challenging to sleep, but that it's something in their relationship with their partner. Instead of partner A going to the doctor to get help sleeping, she/he can see that perhaps partner B needs to go to the doctor, or maybe they need help as a couple.

Some people find other people's difficulties entertaining or find it reassuring that things are going better for them than for at least some other couples. Some find it reassuring that the ways their shared sleeping with their partner have changed to being less romantic over the years is similar to changes many other couples have experienced.

I wrote the book for a scholarly audience, but it has been fascinating to learn how much the general public hungers for information they can understand about the ordinary lives of people trying to live together and that they can use in living their own everyday lives. We who know about families have knowledge that many people hunger for and value.



Help MCFR go GREEN!

Did you know you can renew your MCFR membership online? Now MCFR offers a new tree-friendly alternative. Simply go to mcfcr.net, click and renew. Renew online and you will also help us keep administration expenses down.

Reviewed by Jo Musich, Extension Educator in Family Relations, University of Minnesota Extension, Grand Rapids, MN

Joanne Gordon's book, *Be Happy at Work*, can give you a new vocabulary and a fresh angle from which to consider your own relationship with work. I think women and men can learn from the profiles of women who are happy at work and the answer to WHY!

The method Gordon used was to find 100 women who were happy at work and ask them WHY. She interviewed the women, resulting in a profile of a diverse group of women from many walks of life. The 100 women's stories prove that happiness does not just happen. Women must seek it out, foster it and fight for it.

Gordon sees three common themes significant to being happy at work among the women interviewed-- Process, Purpose and People. Various forms of happiness are found by being engaged in processes whose purpose they feel proud of and with people they respect.

A fourth P, Proactive, results when happy women take control. Seven proactive steps include:

- * Know what you want.
- * Ask for what you want.
- * Reinvent the rules; recast stereotypes.
- * Seek support.

- * Explore-don't ignore-instinct and coincidence.
- * Weigh the sacrifices.
- * Exude confidence.

Reading the stories provides practical advice and inspirational stories that would help women craft a happy working life for themselves and be good for their family and employer. *Be Happy at Work* can be purchased through Random House in print or E-book versions or check it out at your local library. That's where I found my copy and then liked it so much that I bought my own copy to share with the women and men in my life.

Support the MCFR December 4 Silent Auction

December 4 is the date of MCFR's Annual Conference. One of the fun activities during the day is competing for coveted treasures and prospective gifts at the Silent Auction. There are several ways you can do this.—

- You can contribute a special item for the auction, such as crafts, international artifacts, a basket of related items, gift cards, jewelry, books you have authored or edited, DVD's, pottery, needlework, baby items, and white elephant items you find in your attic or closets. You can really be creative!
- You can purchase items by bidding on them, up in increments from the base price and you can outbid your colleagues.
- You can do both and in so doing support Student MCFR members. How? All funds raised from the auction go to support student scholarships and expenses to travel and attend the conference. Last year almost \$500 was raised. Let's do this again this year!

You can bring your items to the conference on December 4. Call or email Mary Jo Czaplewski at czapmj@usfamily.net or 763-502-1345 before Monday, Dec. 1, and let her know what you are bringing, its \$\$ market value and what base price you want the bids to start at. If possible bring it in a carry home container.

So far, we have almost 30 items collected. But we can use many more! Be an early bird Christmas shopper! Enjoy the fun of bidding! Support our students! Thanks.

A Note from the Editor:

Hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter. Included are a ballot and candidate bios. Please vote. Also included in this issue is an obituary of Vera Mace, a pioneer in the family field and long-time NCFR member who died recently. My thanks to the Nominating Committee, to Mary Jo Czaplewski for the obituary, and to all other contributors. Again, I encourage each of you to consider contributing to Family Forum—by preparing a book review or a research article/brief or by submitting an item for "Members' Corner" (our version of Letters to the Editor). Thanks.

Ron Pitzer
Family Forum editor
612-331-1970
rpitzer@umn.edu

MCFR History

Sue Meyers, Professor Emeritus, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota; MCFR historian and Board member

I love radio – an opportunity to listen to stories or reports and see how they reflect upon my personal history or on the family field to which I have devoted many years. I especially enjoy biographical interviews with people I have known or stories that relate to families, such as those on American Life on PBS.

Today I listened to an interview that Dan Olson (MPR and a former colleague of mine) conducted with Clarke Chambers, retired history professor at the University of Minnesota and archivist of the UMN Social History collection. I appreciated Clarke Chambers' description of the values learned from his parents and how much of his approach in life was shaped by being raised in a small town (3500 population). Dan Olson obviously asked good questions, listened well, and was able to integrate different parts of the interview into a marvelous story. There is such art and skill in listening and in phrasing the questions. And Clarke Chambers is a gifted subject, willing to share without any need to teach others.

I initially learned about Clarke Chambers from Ron Pitzer, my esteemed colleague of many years. Ron has always had an eclectic view on life, and being introduced to Clarke Chambers in the early 1970s was a treat. Chambers' father was one of the early framers of the Minnesota State Fair (agricultural fair, back then). As Chambers described the Memorial Day observance in his hometown, I was back in my northern Illinois town sharing the same celebration. When he described the student

reciting from memory the Gettysburg Address, I remember when my mother felt guilty about bribing her children with one dollar for memorizing it (obviously a value conflict).

As has happened more often as I grow more experienced in years, I become more aware that our generations have common experiences, but they may differ from adjacent generations in subtle ways. We tend to assume that our backgrounds are quite similar to our friends, regardless of age. In some respects there are similarities, but the framework from which it comes may be very different. These generational differences have shaped us in subtle and overt ways, often without our being conscious of them. When we attend class reunions or visit with those who know all the words to songs from late grade school or early high school, we come closer to our generation.

A number of years ago my mother died, and I was the eldest surviving child in the family – the "history-memory-keeper" of our family. I was brought up short when I realized that I lacked understanding of our family prior to my birth. Thank heavens my sister-in-law had paid attention to my brother's childhood, because I could not reconstruct those first 4 years.

In time all of you will experience those limits to our understanding of our families.

There are so many experiences that have shaped me in the family field, and working with Ron has been one of the real treasures. When he and Nancy recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, I remembered the slide show we (mainly Ron) put together called "77 Ways to Make Your Marriage More Exciting!" This was an amusing view about tending to the relationship over the years. The last suggestion was: "Rent a hall and invite all the people who said your marriage would never last." Obviously they could rent a large hall for family professionals who have observed this long-lasting and vital marriage over many of those 50 years. They both have been amazing role models for all of us.

May we all have opportunities to listen to the stories of families. May we have time to reflect on the similarities and differences among these families. May we continue to value our family colleagues who provide examples of celebrations in blended families, graceful transitions to loss of loved ones, or depth of values throughout life. Our personal heritage and our professional heritage have shaped us all.

May we continue to value our family colleagues who provide examples of celebrations in blended families, graceful transitions to loss of loved ones, or depth of values throughout life.

Vera Chapman Mace, Jan. 24, 1902 – July 22, 2008

A Pioneer with her Husband, David, in the Marriage Enrichment Movement

Contributed by Mary Jo Czaplewski

Vera Chapman Mace died on July 22, 2008 at the age of 106 in Burlington, VT. She and her husband David (who died in 1990) were pioneers in the area of marriage enrichment. As early as 1949, they founded the National Marriage Guidance Council in London, England. They were co-executive directors of the American Association of Marriage Counselors (now AAMFT), and were among the charter members of the National Council on Family Relations. David served as NCFR's 19th President in 1961. In 1975 the Maces were awarded NCFR's Distinguished Service to Families Award. In addition, they were co-founders of the Association for Couples in Marriage Enrichment (ACME).

Together, the Mace's were long time contributors and supporters of NCFR, attending the conferences and serving on many early committees. They were especially well known international ambassadors often representing NCFR at the United Nations Institute for the Family, and at meetings abroad.

Vera was also given a distinguished service award by the United Nations International Year of the Family in 1995 for her life-long efforts in promoting marriage enrichment internationally. This was presented by Henryk Sokalski, UN-IYF Coordinator at NCFR's international IYF conference at Black Mountain, North Carolina.

Vera started her teaching career in England, and later earned a Master's Degree in Religion from Drew University in NJ. She was a gifted writer and together with her husband, David co-authored over 30 books on marriage and family relations. She was also a prolific needle pointer, doing exquisite, intricate work clear into her late 90's.

Vera is survived by two daughters, Sheila E. Jagan of Majorca, Spain, and Fiona Patterson of Burlington, VT. She has 5 grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren.

Memorial donations can be made to the LNA Education Fund, Birchwood Terrace Healthcare, 43 Starr Farm Road, Burlington, VT 05401.

News from NCFR

Marcie Brooke CFLE
NCFR Association of Councils
Past President

The National Council on Family Relations is very busy preparing for the national conference "Lenses on Family" to be held in Little Rock, Arkansas, November 5-8, 2008. Besides the state-of-the-art research and practice that will be presented and shared, there will be two other exciting presentations at this year's conference.

There will be the exciting unveiling and announcement of a new institutional identity for NCFR on Thursday, November 6th at the William J. Clinton Presidential Library. Dwight Jewson, son of the late Ruth Jewson who was a former Executive Director of NCFR, and his team have graciously donated their leadership and expertise for the

Institutional Identity Project over this past year. NCFR leadership is convinced that this new identity will take our professional organization into the 21st Century.

NCFR's newest scholarly journal, *Journal of Family Theory and Review*, will also be presented at a special reception hosted by Wiley-Blackwell Publishing. The University of Arkansas School of Human Environmental Sciences and the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences will sponsor a tour of the library after the reception.

The Association of Councils Executive Board, under the leadership of MCFR member, Dr. Ada Alden, will present a Leadership Workshop from 8:30-1:30 on Wednesday, November 5th to assist Affiliate Councils in creating new councils, growing non active affiliates, and enhancing active affiliates.

Since MCFR has just created and produced a beautiful new logo, color palette and brochure design, news of the above unveiling of the updated institutional identity for NCFR has caused some angst among MCFR members who have worked hard and invested valuable dollars on the new state image. I want to assure you that the identity change at the national level is a process and will take time to extend to the state affiliates. I am confident that MCFR's work and the NCFR work will come together and we will all be professionally richer for the efforts and final products. The process that is starting will improve communication and help our national and state professional organization grow so we can continue to bring our expertise to families across Minnesota and beyond.