



**Claude Barbre, M.S., M.Div., Ph.D., L.P.**, received the Johanna K. Tabin Award for Exceptional Public Service from The Chicago Center for Psychoanalysis, Chicago, IL on December 1, 2023. As CCP wrote in conferring the award: “The Tabin Award is bestowed annually upon an individual who has made a significant contribution toward promoting mental health and mental health treatment. The award is inspired by the devotion and hard work of people like Dr. Claude Barbre who advocate strongly for the rights of all to mental health services that are accessible, humane and usable.” Receiving the award, Dr. Barbre presented a short talk on the legacies of self-object families in our lives (see below). Dr. Barbre is Distinguished Full Professor of Clinical Psychology at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology where he is Course-Lead Coordinator of the Psychodynamics Orientation, and lead faculty in the Child and Adolescent Studies. He is also a Board Member, Training Supervisor, and Vice-President of the Chicago Center for Psychoanalysis (CCP), and in private practice in Chicago, IL. A full biography follows the text of his acceptance talk.

## **TABIN AWARD RESPONSE**

**by Dr. Claude Barbre**

My thanks to Alan Scholem for your kind words, and to the flourishing and formative community of the Chicago Center for Psychoanalysis. I am deeply honored this evening to receive the Johanna K. Tabin Award from the Chicago Center for Psychoanalysis, and I am humbled by this meaningful acknowledgment, especially considering Johanna Tabin's creative energy and legacy that continues to replenish an ever-widening circle of others. There are some energies in the world that draw us, as the poet Billy Collins says, "like ripples moving towards the center instead of away." I am reminded how Esther Menaker, my supervisor, and a contemporary of Tabin's and Hedda Bolgar's, once remarked to me that her son, a distinguished research biologist, had said, "since my mentor was the scientific son of Theodosius Dobzhansky, that must make me a grandson of Dobzhansky!" Such a statement illustrates the profound influence a person can have on another to the extent that he or she feels intimately connected with that individual as part of a family of kindred spirits. But more importantly, the remark illustrates quite vividly what Heinz Kohut called the "selfobject" experience-- that is, an intrapsychic phenomenon in which the presence or activity of an object, often another person, an idea or a cause, helps to

bring forth, guide, and sustain a person's sense of self. In our example, the ideas of Dobzhansky, twinned with the historical presence of a mentor, form a particular relationship in which Esther's son felt nourished and supported by the object of his attachment and affection. Esther described this relationship well when she noted that "through processes of internalization of the "other", the self grows; it forms its own structure out of the building blocks of the goals, ambitions, and ideals of the other, its chosen selfobject, by adding them to its original inherent self" (Menaker, 1995, 142). This process goes on throughout life, and underscores an important aspect of the growing and developing self-- namely, just as we burgeon from a family tree rooted in our particular biological ground, we are also living members of a selfobject tree that is our psychological heritage and home.

The biologist's insight leads us to a particular selfobject tree – that of CCP and its generative community, a home where many of us are able to find vital nourishment and support from the ideas and presence of others who ultimately sustain and help make possible the growth of our particular idiom and voice. It is an honor to accept the Tabin Award and to continue to internalize this vibrant and sustaining self-object family. A self-perpetuation takes place in our internalization of the other who finds a kind of generativity through the legacies of their living presence in us. And

“these memory images are transmuted to harmonize with the original, constitutionally given nature of each of our particular idioms and creative wills to form a cohesive whole. Thus, the “other” lives on within ourselves” (Menaker, 1995, p. 151) as we offer ourselves to the world. W.B. Yeats captures well this feeling in his poem *Vacillation* (1932), when he writes:

My fiftieth year had come and gone,  
I sat, a solitary man,  
In a crowded London shop,  
An open book, and empty cup  
On the marble table-top.  
While on the shop and street I gazed  
My body of a sudden blazed;  
And twenty minutes more or less  
It seemed, so great my happiness,  
That I was blessed and could bless.

Or, as the poet Raymond Carver (Carver, 1989, “Late Fragment”) writes simply:

And did you get what  
you wanted from this life, even so?  
I did.  
And what did you want?  
To call myself beloved, to feel myself  
beloved on the earth.

I am grateful to the CCP family for the memorable opportunities to feel such blessings, this beloved community. As James Hillman

says well, one's remaining image, that unique way of being and doing, left in the minds of others, continues to animate each other:

We are left as traces, lasting in our very thinness like the scarcely visible lines on a Chinese silkscreen, microlayers of pigment and carbon, which can yet portray the substantial profundities of a face. Lasting no longer than a little melody, a unique composition of disharmonious notes, yet echoing long after we are gone. This is the thinness of our aesthetic reality, this old, this very dear image that is left and lasts (Hillman, 1999, p.202).

Thank you.

**Claude Barbre, M.S., M.Div., Ph.D., L.P.**, is Distinguished Full Professor, Clinical Psychology Psy.D. Department, The Chicago School, Chicago IL. Dr. Barbre is Course Lead Coordinator of the Psychodynamics Concentration at The Chicago School, and lead faculty member of the Child and Adolescent Studies, and the Psychology and Spirituality Studies. In addition, he is a Board Member, Faculty Member, and Training Supervisor at The Chicago Center for Psychoanalysis (CCP), Chicago, IL. A teacher and a psychotherapist for the past 44 years, Dr. Barbre served for 12 years as Executive Director, Faculty Member, and Clinical Supervisor at The Harlem Family Institute, a New York City school-based, psychoanalytic training program working with children and families. In 2010 he received the Margaret Morgan Lawrence Award “for outstanding service to the Harlem Family Institute, and the children and families of Harlem, New York City.” During Dr. Barbre’s tenure as Executive Director, The Harlem Family Institute provided nearly 60,000 therapy sessions with children and families who would not have had therapy sessions provided for them without HFI’s school-based and

neighborhood outreach programs. Thanks in part to his leadership for 20 years at HFI, The Harlem Family Institute continues to offer therapeutic services to this day. Dr. Barbre brings his many years of institute experience to the Chicago Center for Psychoanalysis where he teaches, supervises, and serves on the Board of Directors. He helped found the Hedda Bolgar Memorial Lecture Series, and has been a strong support for early career scholarship and the fellow's program at CCP.

In addition, Dr. Barbre is a past faculty member, training supervisor, and analyst at Westchester Institute for Training in Psychoanalysis (Bedford-Hills, N.Y.) He taught psychology and religion at Manhattan College and Fordham University before his appointment at The Chicago School in 2009, and has lectured widely as an international, national, and community speaker on topics devoted to psychology and religion, psychoanalysis, and the humanities. Dr. Barbre is a former Editor-In-Chief of *Gender and Psychoanalysis* (IUP Press), and was Associate Editor of the *Journal of Religion and Health: Psychology, Spirituality, and Medicine* (Springer Press) for 15 years. His edited books include: with Esther Menaker, *The Freedom to Inquire* (Jason Aronson, 1995), and *Separation Will, and Creativity: The Wisdom of Otto Rank* (Aronson, 1996); with Alan Roland, and Barry Ulanov, *Creative Dissent: Psychoanalysis in Evolution* (Praeger-Greenwood Press, 2003); and with Marcella Weiner and Paul C. Cooper, *Psychotherapy and Religion: Many Paths, One Journey* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2005). He is currently editing the papers of Margaret Morgan Lawrence M.D. entitled, *Plenty Good Room: The Selected Papers of Margaret Morgan Lawrence*, and is completing an edited book on Otto Rank entitled *Soul Diver: Otto Rank's Psychology of Religion*. He is also editing a book on ecocriticism and ecopsychology.

Author of prize-winning articles, books, and poetry, Dr. Barbre is an eight-time nominee and five-time recipient of the international Gradiva Award ( in four separate categories--Book, Article, Book Chapter, and Poetry) “for outstanding contributions to psychoanalysis and the arts,” presented by the National Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis (NAAP). In addition, he is a William B. Given Jr. Fellow of the Episcopal Church Foundation, and a Daniel Day Williams Fellow in Psychiatry and Religion at Union Theological Seminary, New York City. A licensed psychoanalyst and ACPE hospital chaplain, Dr. Barbre also served from 1994 to 2004 as Director and Pastoral Supervisor of *Openings*, a Bellevue Hospital lay chaplaincy program of The Episcopal Social Services (ESS), New York City. He was also the American Academy of Religion (AAR) Mid-Atlantic Region Coordinator of the Psychology and Religion Section for nearly 15 years.

Nominated three times by graduate students at The Chicago School for excellence in teaching (2012, 2015, 2016), Dr. Barbre is the 2017 recipient of the Ted Rubenstein Inspired Teaching Award, and the 2018 Distinguished International Research and Scholarship Award-- both presented by The Chicago School. He is also the recipient of the 2022 Distinguished Psychoanalytic Educator Award, from the International Forum for Psychoanalytic Education (IFPE). Dr. Barbre’s poetry has appeared in numerous journals, including *Cold Mountain Review*, *Indelible*, *Sophrim*, *Mountain Summer*, and *Clio’s Psyche*. Recently, he has read his poems at the Festival of Books in Dubai, UAE (American University), the London Center for Interdisciplinary Research (University of London), The London Arts-Based Research Centre (London), and the Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society (Rutgers University). He is also on the consultation board of the literary and arts journal, *Indelible* (London, UK). Dr. Barbre is in private practice in Chicago, IL.