



Dear Friends,

We laughed when we read the following in an analysis of the presidential campaign:

“The [presidential] campaign is subjecting American voters to an intensive course of attempted treatment for a non-existent-memory disorder. [They] have seeded the political discourse with what amounts to False Memory Syndrome. Not recovered memory syndrome, mind you, which assumes that the memory summoned to consciousness is real, but FMS.”

Twersky, D. (2004, Oct. 13). Global memory test. *New York Sun*, p. 11.

The term “false memory syndrome” has unquestionably become a part of our language, even if used in ways that are unrelated to the problems of the Foundation. The term has recently been included in the *Oxford Concise Dictionary* with a definition as used by the FMSF<sup>[1]</sup>. If only the use of the term could solve the problem!

The modern flirtation with recovering memories, hypnotic age regression, and past lives may very well have taken hold in the 1950s with the publication of the best-seller *The Search for Bridey Murphy*. In a seemingly scholarly style, author Morey Bernstein revealed the story of Virginia Tighe who claimed to have had a previous existence as an Irish woman born in 1798, Bridey Murphy<sup>[2]</sup>. Although Tighe, with the help of hypnosis, provided a graphic description of life in Ireland at the time, a place she had never visited, the story was thoroughly debunked a few years later. It was discovered that Virginia Tighe had been recounting stories she had heard in her childhood from an Irish neighbor in Chicago. Even so, belief in past lives and alien abduction flourished in the following decades.

By the mid-80s, the reliability of memories recovered with the help of hypnosis was completely and scientifically debunked though the research and court testimony of Martin Orne, M.D., and Campbell Perry, Ph.D., FMSF Advisors, as well as by other scientists. The American Medical Association issued a warning about the unreliability of hypnotically enhanced memories in 1985, yet almost 20 years later, the Foundation still receives calls from families whose children have recovered “memories” with the

help of therapists using hypnotic techniques.

What does it take to eliminate a pseudoscientific practice? The vastly reduced number of people who now smoke in our country demonstrate that dramatic change in personal belief and habit can happen, but it is also true that some people continue to smoke. Perhaps it is unrealistic to think that the belief in recovered memories as reliable will ever disappear. But is it unrealistic to expect that doctors will discourage people from smoking or that therapists will use techniques that do not risk encouraging patients to develop false beliefs that tear families apart?

This issue of the newsletter contains a letter from the FMS group in the Netherlands explaining that they have decided to disband. Members believe that new government regulations will prevent the FMS problem from resurfacing. (See p. 3) In this country, however, there is as yet no national policy or legislation that would prevent a resurgence.

Indeed, as long as some therapists continue to encourage belief in the reliability of all recovered memories, there is danger of a rebirth of the FMS problem. In fact, one of the first legal decisions to help slow the spread of recovered memory lawsuits is currently under challenge. (See p. 9) In its 1996 Hungerford decision, the State of New Hampshire Supreme Court ruled that repressed and recovered memories are admissible only if eight criteria are met. Four of those criteria relate to the reliability of the science of recovered memories and four concern the individual circumstances of how the memories were recovered. In a pretrial hearing taking place this autumn, New Hampshire Superior Court Judge Tina Nadeau will determine whether or not the Hungerford decision should be overturned and whether repressed memories may be used as evidence.

Compounding the legal uncertainty is the crest of legal

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cases related to the clergy abuse scandal. Many of these cases involve claims of recovered memory, but the majority seem to have been combined with other abuse cases and settled, thus not affecting laws. Still, some cases are in the courts. Although we do not anticipate a return to the legal climate of the early 90s, upcoming pretrial admissibility hearings, the trials, and the appeals have the potential to change the legal landscape.

The need for education about recovered memories and suggestible therapeutic techniques seems as great as ever because every few years there is a new generation of lawyers, reporters and therapists. Although vast strides have been made in many educational institutions, some people still are not exposed to the problems of suggestibility and false memories during their years in school. To those of us who have been enmeshed in this topic for so many years it seems impossible, but we still get calls from lawyers and reporters who know almost nothing about the problems and the research concerning recovered memories.

Exacerbating the problem of belief in the reliability of recovered memories are the movie and literary industries's fascination and uncritical portrayal of the topic. "The one thing that Hollywood likes to remember is the ability to forget"<sup>[3]</sup>. Recovered memories are likely to be with us for a long time. It is important, therefore, that stories such as "Losing Linda," are published so that the dangers of recovered memories will also be a part of the general climate. (See p. 4)

The final chapter of the Klassen case appears to have ended. (See p. 10) Richard Klassen and the 11 others who were charged with child abuse in 1991 have received not only monetary compensation but also written apologies from the police and therapists who were responsible. Apologies are the exception, although they are surely deserved and the right thing for those responsible to do. The falsely accused almost never receive an apology, either in legal cases or, as we have learned from FMSF surveys, in families.

Most of us have come to terms with the fact that apologies are unlikely, even if that is what we most wish would occur. And although many families are happily reunited, many other families have accepted that reunification of their families seems less and less likely. The death of much-loved Seattle activist Chuck Noah is a reminder of the passing years and increasing age of Newsletter readers. (See p. 11)

The preceding paragraphs might seem to suggest that we feel gloomy, but that is far from the truth. The present climate is absolutely nothing like the situation that the Foundation faced in 1992. Then, the general climate supported the notion that if an accusation of sexual abuse was made, it must be true. Many held that recovered memories

were somehow more accurate and pristine than ordinary memories. The change in understanding about memory that has taken place during the past decade is phenomenal thanks to memory researchers, scholars, careful reporters, concerned lawyers, and all of you.

The work now is to maintain the momentum and ensure that there is not a resurgence of harmful unscientific beliefs about recovered memories. Thanks to your generous financial support, the Foundation will continue to work in this direction.

We wish you the best for the holiday season.

*Pamela*

1. Soanes, C.& Stevenson, A. (Eds.) (2004). *The Concise Oxford English Dictionary*. (false memory n. Psychology- an apparent recollection of an event which did not actually occur, especially one of childhood sexual abuse arising from suggestion during psychoanalysis.)
2. See *FMSF Newsletter 2(10)*, November, 1993.
3. Macaulay, S. (2004, April 22). Not always on my mind. *The Times*, (London), p. 7.

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### Foundation Audit

March 1, 2003 - February, 29, 2004

The Foundation has received the audit for the fiscal year March 1, 2003 through February, 29, 2004 as provided by Goldenberg Rosenthal, LLP, the CPA firm that audits the books and financial statement of the Foundation. The Foundation spent \$189,659 in the fiscal year, of which 79% went to program activities, 20% went to management of the office, and 1% went to fund raising.

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"In 2000 the Psychiatric Association's trustees, eschewing risky flights into theory, approved a lower-profile 'Position Statement on Therapies Focused on Memories of Childhood Physical and Sexual Abuse.' This declaration, however, was more pussyfooting than its predecessor. The validity of recovered memory treatment, it whispered, 'has been challenged' in some quarters. While pointing out that memories can be altered as a result of suggestions from 'a trusted person or authority figure,' the drafters tactfully refrained from mentioning that the suggesting party is usually a therapist. And clinicians were advised to avoid 'prejudging the veracity of the patient's reports' of abuse, as if false reports were typically delivered to therapists out of the blue, without influence from confabulation-enhancing devices employed within the treatment. The absence of any mention of those devices, such as hypnosis and sodium amytal, marked a step backward from the association's 1993 statement."

Crews, F. (2004, March 11). The trauma trap. *NY Review Books LI(4)*, p. 37-40.

## **A Letter from the Netherlands Workgroup Fictive Memories to the FMSF**

It's been a long time since we officially communicated with you about the state of your sister organization from Holland: the "Werkgroep Fictieve Herinneringen" (WFH). We send you now a longer letter because of the fact that we have ended the activities of the WFH. Only our website will remain: [www.werkgroep-wfh.nl](http://www.werkgroep-wfh.nl).

Ten years ago a few falsely accused parents started the working group, naturally on a smaller scale than you did in 1992. We limited the problem to bad therapies inducing incest memories. At first we thought that our task should be easy, that people and officials were rational, especially psychologists, especially in Holland, such a down-to-earth country, as we like to think. How naive! We registered nearly 300 cases in these ten years, mostly in the first 4-5 years; and all were horrible stories.

We learned a lot from your newsletters and fact sheets, and translated and distributed them among ourselves and others. The problem here was virtually the same as in the USA, with a similar proportion of victims (Holland has 16 million inhabitants). We met with the same opponents, who visited our country and were working with Dutch scientists and practitioners, making the dissociation theory blossom here. We met with the same smear and accusations. The official psychological organizations didn't answer our letters, didn't want to meet us, didn't give us a chance to speak at conferences, didn't print our articles. We had to work hard to get the attention of the Ministry of Public Health, using much politeness and patience. Our experiences, like yours, were mostly very frustrating and infuriating. Happily there were some wonderful independent scientists, who—like Elizabeth Loftus—never got tired of speaking

out and publishing about the problem. Perhaps you know some of their names: Hans Crombag and Harald Merckelbach (Maastricht University) and Peter van Koppen and Willem Wagenaar (Leiden University). They wrote books and articles and acted as experts in court cases. There was some very good publicity, mostly initiated by one of our working group-members, Jan Buijs.

Slowly the tide turned. Claims of "repressed" and "recovered" memories of abuse could not be proven; no trace of "satanic circles" has ever been found, despite fierce police research. Certain media (tv shows) were fined for having unfairly accepted and publicized outrageous claims about abuse and implicitly and explicitly accusing innocent citizens.

Personally we had several ups and downs, and our working group became smaller and smaller. In the beginning we had 6 active members. In the ten years we existed, three of them died. You knew Jan Wind, and you had some correspondence with Siena van Borrendam, a wonderful person, who did such good work. She died of cancer 2 years ago. We went through the same frustrations and disappointments as you did, but sometimes events went well for us. Adriaan Mak was our "liaison master"; he translated our news for the FMSF.

Our main goal was to force the organizations of psychiatrists and psychologists to take responsibility. One problem was that our Minister of Public Health, in contrast to the Minister of Justice, didn't feel any need to correct "her" field, mental health; and so the spending of tax money on phony and dangerous therapies went on.

After our complaint about non-cooperation of the Minister of Public Health to the National "Ombudsman"—an institute with great authority in our country, which can advise the government to take citi-

zen complaints seriously—action was taken at last, although very slowly. In 2000, the minister of Public Health asked another institute concerned with health, the Health Counsel, to advise her in this matter.

A committee was set up (a process that took more than a year!) with well known scientists from different sides, including the main players in the field (Nel Draijer and Onno van der Hart; but also Harald Merckelbach and Willem Wagenaar). That was a difficult but important move. To our great surprise (and after a long 2 years) the final, official advice (January 2004) was as good as it could be: recognition of the problem, and acknowledgement of the dangers of certain forms of psychotherapy to suggestible people. Furthermore, suggestions were made to construct guidelines to disseminate the knowledge of the workings of memory, and so on. In June 2004, the Minister of Public Health accepted all the points in this report.

We feel now that our main goals are reached. Not to perfection, but that is impossible. Parents no longer telephone us in despair. In recent months, there is even a very active retractor, seeking publicity, with good web sites, [www.traumaversterking.nl](http://www.traumaversterking.nl) and [www.valseherinnering.eigenstart.nl](http://www.valseherinnering.eigenstart.nl). All in all, we think this is the time to end the activities of the WFH. We are tired; we want to rest, and let time heal the wounds—if possible. Only a small number of our children have returned (as is, unfortunately, the case in the USA) and there is still a lot of grief. We have to accept that life is like that. There is a long way to go for psychotherapy before it is as well-controlled as medical practice.

We hope that you will also see, one of these days, the end of your FMSF-work. We are very, very grateful to you for your example and your courage. We keep an interest in your work and will be happy to continue to receive your newsletters by mail.

With all due respect and sincere feelings of friendship, brought on by our shared difficulties,

Yours sincerely,  
Mieke Bakker

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### **Lest We Forget: An example of the climate of belief in 1992 when the Foundation began.**

“Sexual assault, incest, cannibalism, torture, brainwashing, even murder. Can this actually be going on? In Manitoba? In the name of the Devil? Leanne Boyd, a mental health worker who chairs a government committee on ritual abuse and youth involvement in satanic cults, says stories of ritual abuse should not be dismissed.

“‘The very fact that you’ve got a committee made up of four different government departments and representatives from the clergy and the police should tell you that’s it real, that it’s out there,’ she says. The registrar of the Psychological Association of Manitoba, Dr. Lois Edmund, said she has an inch-thick file of articles from professional journals dealing with ritual abuse.

“‘Certainly within the last couple of years people have become increasingly aware of these problems,’ Edmund said. But if it’s out there, where’s the proof? Why has no perpetrator of these unspeakable crimes ever been arrested? Counsellor Shirley Tervo says it is because victims often have no memory of the crimes. Some have dissociative disorders—or multiple personalities—which must be overcome before they could ever testify. Others have been brainwashed, she says, or threatened with death if they ever expose the cult.”

Gair, B. (1992, April 25). Outlandish stories ring true to experts.  
*Winnipeg Free Press.*

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“Memory is a complicated thing, a relative to truth, but not its twin.”

Barbara Kingsolver

## **Losing Linda: A Legacy of Recovered Memory Therapy**

### **Part II**

Jennifer Anderson

Part I of “Losing Linda” contained the testimony of a woman who believed that she had been a victim of satanic ritual abuse and was in court seeking a restraining order against her mother.

### **Part II**

I believe that my sister, Linda, was lost to us in the recovered memory therapy process endorsed by *The Courage to Heal*. In order to understand the full scope of this iatrogenic process, I’ll begin at the beginning, before Linda began therapy and was still in contact with us, her family. Ironically, the family member with whom she kept in most contact was the one whom she eventually accused of satanic ritual abuse and murder: her mother.

Linda was a prolific writer of letters and postcards, most of which my mother saved as mementos. They were filled with the large and small happenings of my sister’s busy life. My sister was married in 1982, at 22 years old. An especially poignant response to her wedding invitation read:

I wanted you to know how pleased I would have been to be at Linda and David’s wedding. They are exceptional young people and I have been privileged to get to know them (especially Linda) well. I especially respect a mother who can raise and nurture a young woman of Linda’s strength and depth of character. I hope we have an opportunity to meet some day...

A 1985 birthday card sent to my mother read:

Dear Mom,  
Happy Birthday! I hope your day is wonderful! How are you? David and I are doing A-okay. David’s beard has filled in and he’s put on about 25 pounds. I look about the same. Have you ever been shaded? That’s where a person tells you what season you are according to your skin tones, hair,

and eyes. I am an autumn. That means I look best in brown, rust, yellow, orange-red and generally warm colors. David is a spring. Take care of yourself,  
Love, Linda

Later that same year, Linda sent a Mother’s Day card:

Dear Mom,  
Happy Mother’s Day! How are you? David and I are fine. The weather here is beautiful this time of year. I love to go swimming in the Gulf. I’m mainly writing to say I’m thinking about you and I hope you really have a wonderful day.  
Much happiness to you always!  
Love, Linda

Christmas arrived, and again Linda wrote:

Dear Mom,  
Have a Merry Christmas! Peace to you throughout the whole New Year.  
I love you!  
Love, Linda and David

1986 came around, a new year...and many more letters. Linda and David bought a house in Florida. Linda responded to a letter my mother wrote, commenting on a visit from our father (our parents divorced years ago):

Dear Mom,  
Hi! How are you doing? Thank you for your letter. Dad came to visit us Monday. It was really good to see him. I’d love to see you sometime too! We finally bought our house Monday, right after Dad left. We’ve already planted two pine trees in the front yard. We have one more pine tree to plant and a yellow rose bush. I want a rose garden. I’ve always wanted a rose garden. I love roses...Take care, Mom!  
I love you!  
Love, Linda

Her letters continued as the months passed by. Linda and David moved to Oregon. A 1987 card decorated on the front with a fuzzy, white,

smiling sheep read:

Dear Mom,  
Hi again! There's a lot of sheep raised here in Oregon. I was thinking about you today and thought you might like this card. Happy Birthday again! The sheep's name is Sunshine, by the way. Actually I think this is your Easter card and Sunshine is an Easter sheep so...Happy Easter! How are you doing? Jenny tells me you're working too hard. I hope you're not overdoing it. Spring has sprung here. The flowers are beautiful and my allergies are blossoming with each tree...I'd love to visit you again. I plan to once we have the money. Take care, Mom.

Love, Linda

P.S. I was thinking about how neat it is that you're a feminist. I've been getting involved in feminism and "peopleism" lately.

Love, Linda

Linda mailed an unusual birthday card in April 1987, addressed to "Joanne," rather than "Mom." At this point in time, my sister may have already become involved in psychotherapy, as a patient herself, through her graduate studies, or as a therapist. We don't know for sure. Despite the more impersonal opening, her letter is extraordinarily warm and loving:

Dear Joanne,  
Hi! How are you? David and I are fine. The weather has been beautiful here the last few weeks. It's been sunny and warm, which is amazing for Oregon this time of year. I really have been enjoying working and living here...I've been taking some fun classes like acting! I'm going to be taking an Indian beadwork class, too. Remember the bead chains I used to make? I miss you and Jenny and Craig and Michael...I would really like it if David and I could come to visit you soon...Take care of yourself. Happy Birthday!

Love, Linda

P.S. My birthday present to you is a very big, warm hug which is sealed in this envelope! Just shut your eyes

and you'll be able to feel the loving warm hug I'm giving to you...I hope this year is really a happy one for you! You are a very special person- especially to me!

I love you!

Love, Linda

My sister's rounded, feminine handwriting sprawled across letter after letter to our mother. She adds a Master's Degree in Education to her undergraduate Physics degree...I mentioned that my sister was bright, didn't I? Her dabbling in counseling starts to solidify with this 1988 letter, after another move to New Mexico:

Dear Mom,

Hi! How are you doing today? I could tell you weren't feeling too well the other day when I called. I've been having my ups and downs too, with looking for work, getting acclimated, and making new friends here. So far I haven't gotten a job. I'm thinking of opening my own counseling private practice if nothing else works out. I wasn't planning on doing this for a few years yet. I'll see what happens...

Take care Mom! I love you!

Love, Linda

One final card ends the stream of caring and support pouring out from Linda's distinctive handwriting. It's a Christmas card, addressed to my mother and brother, Craig, arriving in her mailbox on December 14, 1988. It's the last loving card from Linda that my mother has received to date. Linda writes:

Dear Mom and Craig,  
Merry Christmas! How are you doing?...We are sending lots of love and good wishes that you two have a great Christmas and New Year. Take care, and Mom, thanks for the recipes!

Love, Linda and David

Then the axe falls. Linda makes a memorable telephone call to my mother in August 1989. At this point, the recovered memory therapy movement is well underway. The 1988 edition of

*The Courage to Heal* is available in bookstores. Our self-help culture readily absorbs its skewed teachings. My mother recalled the strange phone conversation, "She (Linda) asked me if she had been abused as a child. I answered, 'No! If you had, you would have told me.' She talked briefly and hung up hurriedly." My mother was confused by the call. She thought that Linda was asking if she had ever been abused by anyone. She never considered that Linda was asking if she had been abused by her own mother.

My relationship with Linda was strained at this point. For the past few years her behavior had changed towards me. She had become distant and withdrawn. Phone conversations with my sister left me feeling like I had just talked with a therapist. It was annoying. Linda's speech patterns had even been affected. We talked less and less, often letting months slide by, as I was no longer comfortable talking with my sister. My childhood camping, tennis, and horseback riding partner had changed in an inexplicable manner. I just couldn't figure it out. I also felt she was shirking her family responsibilities in many ways and began to resent the way she was distancing herself from my mother and two younger brothers.

By the time Linda made that last phone call to our mother, I hadn't talked with her for a long time, perhaps even a few years. I had written her letters, but she never wrote back. Looking back through the scrapbook my mother has made with Linda's postcards and letters surprised me. She had written regularly to Craig, our youngest brother, and our mother. I had thought at the time that the reason Linda never wrote back to me was that she was angry with me. I didn't understand it, but felt I had to have done something that really upset her. I couldn't remember what, but lived with the nagging doubt that I had botched our relationship somehow. I felt guilty. Surely I had done some-

thing. I never dreamt that the reason she was distancing herself from our family was that she was becoming afraid of us.

After the phone call, my mother's anxieties over Linda shifted into high gear. She worried that Linda was involved in a cult, as she had now completely cut off all communication with us. Linda and David had moved to Florida. They ignored my mother's increasingly concerned letters and phone calls. Finally, my mother left a message on Linda's answering machine, saying she was coming to visit. She received an extremely hurtful letter in reply. It contained one stinging, short paragraph, long engraved in my mother's memory:

Joanne,  
You are not welcome here. If you  
come to visit, we will not see you...  
Linda and David

No explanation. No 'why.' A total cut-off for no reason. It was the strangest letter I had ever seen. "I had no clue," my mother remarked years later. Despite the cold response, she flew out to see them in September, 1990. In fact, the letter only deepened her worry that something was terribly wrong with my sister. The trip was a disaster. My mother stayed in a motel room for eight days, leaving phone messages daily on their answering machine. There was no response. Although she knew Linda's home address, she didn't attempt to see Linda and David in person. "I thought she was mad at me about something and I didn't have a clue. I felt very awkward and didn't want to force myself on her. I was brought up to believe that you don't push yourself on people that don't want you," my mother explained. My mother returned home with all her questions and concerns unanswered.

I believe that Linda had become enmeshed in recovered memory therapy by the time of my mother's Florida visit. She had almost certainly read

*The Courage to Heal*. In retrospect, her actions are a textbook case of recovered memory therapy. My claim is supported by documentation, the vast majority of it supplied by my mother, who continues to this day to worry over Linda's welfare. Without this carefully compiled documentation, I couldn't have written Linda's story.

For whatever reason, Linda entered therapy in the late 1980's. The reasons could be many or few. At any rate, Linda was in an emotionally vulnerable position, as women who enter therapy tend to be. Her master's degree in education and her previously stated interest in counseling may have brought her into contact with recovered memory therapy. The reasons for entering therapy, oddly, do not really matter. It's the immersion in recovered memory therapy that has the devastating impact.

My words are validated in an ironic twist of fate by the very person I believe helped contribute to Linda's therapy-induced mental distress that we witnessed during the restraining order hearing. I am referencing official declarations handwritten by Linda's friends and supporters. This paperwork was submitted to the Superior Court of Washington, King County, 1998, supporting Linda's petition to have a restraining order issued against my mother. The first declaration is written by a licensed mental health counselor in the state of Florida. It reads:

I knew Linda \_\_\_\_\_ (previously Linda \_\_\_\_\_) while she lived in Florida from 1989-1991. I was a friend and colleague of Linda's during the time she was recalling memories of childhood abuse. The memories Linda shared with me were incidents of severe abuse in which she was victimized by her parents and other family members. Linda was very frightened of her parents and wanted absolutely no contact with them. She asked repeatedly for them to leave her alone and stop any attempts to contact her. As I recall, they ignored her

attempts and continued to contact her. Linda grew more and more frightened and at one point when her mother was in Florida, she avoided going home as much as possible for fear her mother would be there.

With my 14 years of experience as a licensed Mental Health Counselor in the State of Florida specializing in abuse issues, I believe the information Linda is giving you to be correct. I believe her request for a restraining order should be granted.

Even as I type the therapist's words, it takes my breath away that one person could do so much damage to another, with the very best of intentions.

Linda's belief in the value of recovered memory therapy came straight from her mouth in an April 1997 conversation she had with Michael, the older of our two younger brothers. It was the year before the restraining order hearing. Michael had left a message for Linda, as he was very concerned for her welfare. We all feared at this point that Linda was involved in a cult. Recovered memory therapy was completely unknown to us. Michael volunteered to try again to contact his sister. Surprisingly, Linda returned his call and they had a strained, uncomfortable conversation. During the call, Linda suggested to Michael that he needed Memory Enhancement Therapy. She was very mistrustful on the phone and when Michael asked what group she was involved in, Linda hung up. This scenario is remarkable in that Linda feared her family because she thought we were part of a satanic ritual abuse cult, and we feared for her because we thought she was involved in a cult herself! No wonder the conversation was so stressed.

One year later, in a statement to the court, she wrote:

...certifies under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct...sending mail to me

although I have repeatedly stated to family members that I want no contact...As a child and teenager she sexually and physically abused me many times. I witnessed her kill many people (children and adults). I have seen her use knives. I have scar tissue under one arm and injuries to ribs from beatings. I know as a child and teenager we were drugged sometimes and other victims were drugged prior to killing them. She was and probably still is an alcoholic...

The fact that there are no missing persons in the area that my mother lives in serves as no reality check to Linda. The scar tissue under one arm that she is writing about may simply refer to when she had moles removed that were becoming irritated by clothing, while she was in college. I waited for her in the doctor's office during the procedure, as she was understandably nervous. Her rib injuries I know nothing about and strongly suspect that they are figments of her therapy-induced fantasies..

The phraseology used in this next "certified under penalty of perjury" declaration, submitted in Linda's support of the restraining order, is chilling. The words and phrases can be traced directly back to *The Courage to Heal*. A friend of Linda's writes (name withheld to protect privacy):

I am writing in support of the restraining order which Linda has requested be placed on her birth mother, Joanne. Several years ago, Linda told members of her family-of-origin, including Joanne, to leave her alone...Because it is unusual in our society for someone to request a restraining order against one's own mother or family, I would like to tell more about Linda's situation. Linda has told me about how she, her siblings, and other children were severely and ritually abused at the hands of the adult family members and other adults while Linda was growing up. Linda's family belonged to a cult. And the cult members would cut the children with knives and some of the children would die. These ritu-

als would often take place on holidays, like Easter and Halloween.

I have known Linda for the past 7 years and during these holiday times, I've witnessed Linda to be very upset and traumatized as the memories of what happened would come to her...Linda is a very strong and brave woman who suffered greatly as a child, but who is committed to healing from the trauma. She has chosen to live a life very different from that which she was raised in, and this means no contact with her family-of-origin...

As I read over the court documentation, I was struck at the odd phrases used so readily by Linda and her friends. The words leap right off the pages of *A Courage to Heal*. "Healing" is a familiar refrain throughout the book, echoed by Linda's friend. One chapter, titled "Families of Origin," is dedicated to continuing, or not continuing, relationships with the accused family. I dislike the phrase "family-of-origin," sprinkled so liberally throughout the chapter. Labeling one's family a "family-of-origin" is an effective distancing technique, setting the stage that allows the 'survivor' to cut off her family, an act that is encouraged by the authors. "It is painful to make a break with your family, but it is even more painful to keep waiting for a miracle," admonish the authors, in a section called "Making the Break" (Bass & Davis, 1988, p. 305). The ease with which the authors recommend cutting off all contact with the 'survivor's' family is astonishing, "If you decide to make a separation for the sake of your own healing, you will have to let go, grieve, and move on" (p. 303). Then, the authors encourage, "mark the occasion" with a ritual of some sort, whether it be "going to the desert, holding a wake, throwing a party, writing a "Dear John" letter" (p. 306). Linda's equivalent to a "Dear John" letter was her September 1990 letter, addressed to "Joanne." The letter was so upsetting that my mother finally hid

it within a book, preventing her from compulsively reading it over and over.

Bass and Davis then propose creating a new family, "...you can create an alternative family of your own choosing in the present. Look to your friends, the members of your incest group...they can offer abundant opportunities for nurturing, closeness, and comfort" (p. 306). Unfortunately, this advice effectively maintains the closed belief system of recovered memory therapy. Linda is firmly centered within this belief system. Her family and childhood friends have been discarded, replaced by friends and therapists who support her false beliefs. There is no opportunity for a seed of doubt to be planted and to allow the closed belief system of false memory syndrome to self-correct.

Bass and Davis then note how "other women have changed their names, casting off any identification with the abuser" (p. 306). Linda followed their suggestion and cast off both her maiden and married names, selecting a new middle and last name as part of her newly constructed identity as a 'survivor.' My mother had sent her many letters before the restraining order, before we realized what we were dealing with. The letters to Linda from my mother have dwindled to a small trickle now. I had been writing Linda sporadically, but after the 1998 restraining order, have sent her only one brief note, when my husband, two children and I moved to a different state. I don't attempt to contact Linda for two reasons. First, it was very clear at the hearing how afraid of us Linda was. I didn't want to add to her fears and force her to move away again. Linda holds an excellent position in a university now, and I didn't want to impact her career in any way. Second, I've always had an instinctive fear that Linda was so mentally unstable as a direct result of this 'therapy' that she may attempt to hurt herself if pushed too far. In doing research for this

paper, my worst fears were confirmed. Bass and Davis devote an entire section to suicide, titled “Don’t Kill Yourself.” They counsel the reader with:

Sometimes you feel so bad, you want to die. The pain is so great, your feelings of self-loathing so strong, the fear so intense, that you really don’t want to live...It’s okay to feel as devastated as you feel. It’s just not okay to hurt yourself...(as listed in a footnote within the same section).(fn. Many of the women whose stories appear in “Courageous Women” have felt suicidal at some point of their healing. Their words can reassure you that it’s worth staying alive.) (p. 202)

Truly this is therapy gone haywire. It sickens me that this book has had such a far-reaching impact. Therapy is supposed to make you feel better, not drive you to contemplating suicide!

The late 1980s are noteworthy in that the belief in satanic ritual abuse cults was a widespread social phenomenon. It seems more than coincidence that:

At about the same time that therapy-induced memories of childhood incest became common, grotesque stories of ritualistic abuse by satanic cults began emerging from therapy sessions. A growing number of licensed therapists are involved in these cases. Some therapists claim that they have patients who are victims of an international cult of satanists operating in virtually every town and city in America. (Goldstein & Farmer, 1994, p. 319)

Satanic ritual abuse (SRA) cults are a myth. The cult’s myth status has been shown in an exhaustive investigation by FBI agent Kenneth V. Lanning, who conducted an often cited nationwide study as chief FBI expert in the field of child abuse allegations (Lanning, 1992). He states:

...in none of the cases of which I am aware has any evidence of a well-organized satanic cult been found...For at least eight years American law enforcement has been

aggressively investigating the allegations of victims of ritual abuse. There is little or no evidence for the portion of their allegations that deals with large-scale baby breeding, human sacrifice, and organized satanic conspiracies. Now it is up to mental health professionals, not law enforcement, to explain why victims are alleging things that don’t seem to have happened” (1992).

In 1994, a “federally commissioned research project, directed by Gail Goodman, Ph.D., examined 12,264 cases of suspected SRA. The research could not find a single case of alleged child sexual abuse where there was clear corroborating evidence for the existence of a well-organized inter-generational satanic cult which tortured children and committed murders” (as cited in Freyd & Goldstein, 1998, p. 90). Satanic ritual abuse cults simply don’t exist.

So where has this taken us? Has our society learned anything from this social phenomenon? Most importantly, has the psychiatric field learned caution? I believe the tide has turned, as many former accusers have recanted their claims of childhood abuse and returned to their families. Many therapists have learned caution in their work. I read an intriguing sidebar contained within the November/December 2003 False Memory Syndrome Foundation Newsletter. The editors printed a quote by Janet Boakes, head of psychotherapy services at St. George’s Hospital, London. Boakes states, “Most doctors in the mental health field now accept that some so-called recovered memories can be false memories unwittingly induced in therapy by leading questions and suggestions. Most clinicians now accept the reality of ‘false memory syndrome,’ but few recognize that they could themselves be responsible for creating or fostering false memories.” I understand the hesitancy a psychotherapist would feel when shouldering such a burden. Acknowledging the harm done

to families by a substantial number of one’s colleagues would be extremely difficult, especially when that profession is dedicated to helping their fellow human beings.

I wrote this account in late 2003 of how our family lost Linda through recovered memory therapy. I still dream of Linda at least once a month. In my dreams, she is never scary, never the stuff of nightmares. Linda is just reassuringly there, present as my subconscious mind unravels the events of daily life. Pamela Freyd gently suggested that writing Linda’s story may help me lay it to rest. The only problem is, I don’t want to lay it to rest. I want my sister back.

### References

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Pendergrast, M. (1995). *Victims of Memory: Incest accusations and shattered lives*. Hinesburg, VT: Upper Access, Inc.

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“Ah, amnesia. It’s been a staple in films since, well, longer than I can remember. There was a bit of a lull in the memory-loss tale for a few years there in the ‘90s, but no more. Whether by accident, trauma or design, memory loss is once again a favorite concept among contemporary movie makers.”

Rosen, L. (2004, March 21). Movies, amnesia, mon amour. *Los Angeles Times*. p. 8.

**Hungerford Challenged****New Hampshire v. Bourgelais**

#02-S-2834 ET AL Rockingham County  
NH Superior Court

In its 1996 Hungerford decision, the State of New Hampshire Supreme Court ruled that repressed and recovered memories are admissible only if eight criteria are met. Four of those criteria relate to the reliability of the science of recovered memories and four concern the individual circumstances of how the memories were recovered.<sup>[1]</sup> A challenge to that decision is currently taking place in New Hampshire.

In a pretrial hearing, NH Superior Court Judge Tina Nadeau will determine whether or not the Hungerford decision should be overturned, and whether repressed memories may be used as evidence against Phil Bourgelais, who was accused of child sexual abuse by his now 18-year-old daughter Rhianna Light. The prosecution argues that the science of memory repression has changed since 1996. States with similar admissibility rules are watching this case.

According to reporter Chris Bernard, Rhianna Light claims to have recovered repressed memories of sexual abuse by her father. When Light was 2-years-old, her parents divorced, and she lived full time with her father. Later, she alternated weeks with each parent. In July 2000, 14-year-old Light told a counselor that she wanted to live with her father "because he listens." At that time, she said her relationship with her father was great, and she was worried about telling her mother. Custody of Light became an issue.

In 2001, however, Light accused her father of physical abuse, but, unprompted, she also told an officer that she had never been sexually

abused. Her father was convicted of physical abuse, and Light stayed with her mother full time. Later, she said she remembered being sexually abused when she was 6 or 7 years old.

The reliability of Rhianna Light's memory of abuse is the issue of the current hearing. Light said that she began to suspect that she had been sexually abused when she was hospitalized because of suicidal thoughts. She said that she had started hearing voices when she was in her early teens. When Light was 13, therapist Catherine Ganley-Brown told her that hearing voices can be an indicator of sexual abuse. Light then purchased several self-help workbooks about sexual abuse and joined an online forum for survivors of abuse. Defense attorney Andrew Cotrupi argued that Ganley-Brown suggested the possibility of abuse, thus planting the seed for Light's recovered memories.

Rockingham County Assistant Prosecutor Brad Bolton called expert witness Daniel Brown, Ph.D., who testified for two days about the nature of memory and said that since 1996 "the science of memory recovery has caught up with the phenomenon." Brown cited 85 clinical studies that he claims document the reliability of repressed memories. He said that the majority of his field supports the science of memory repression and recovery, and that a well-organized vocal minority led by the FMSF are flag-bearers for the opposition. Brown also said that he tested Light's inclination toward suggestibility in order to rule out false memories being implanted by others.

Defense attorney Cotrupi challenged Brown on the credibility of many authors that he cited and on his methods and motives. Cotrupi noted that Brown earns about \$4,000 a

semester from Simmons College as an adjunct professor but has earned almost \$200,000 as an expert witness supporting repressed memories over the past two years.

The defense called Harrison Pope, MD, as the first of three witnesses. The prosecution asked how Pope could be an expert on recovered memories if he did not think that they existed. Pope went on to testify that the studies that Brown presented did not meet the criteria for sound scientific research. He said that the only studies that can scientifically show the reliability of recovered memories must be prospective and include a documented trauma. They must show that the individual was actually unable to remember the trauma and rule out other reasons for amnesia, such as physical reasons.

Pope testified that his search of medical indices showed that before the early 1990s, there were virtually no published studies that were accessed by the search term, "repressed memory," but that this number rose to over 100 in the year 1997 alone, then fell back sharply to an average of only 25 papers per year in 2001-2003. By contrast, Pope said, scientific papers about well-validated disorders show a steadily expanding rate of publications as the science develops. He argued that the "rise and fall" pattern of repressed memory suggested a "fad" that had enjoyed only a brief period of scientific interest, rather than an established, scientifically accepted phenomenon.

Prosecutor Bolton pointed out that Pope was a member of the FMSF Scientific Advisory Board and questioned the integrity of the FMSF. Bolton noted that Pope typically charged \$600 per hour as an expert. Pope countered that he had accepted the case knowing that the defendant had limited funds, and that he did not expect to be paid more than a small fraction of his charges.

The defense then called expert Peggy Ward, Ph.D., who testified that

she supports the reality of repressed memories but did not think that Light met the criteria. She said that Light had felt pulled by her parents and that she was inconsistent in her statements. She also noted that Dr. Brown had omitted any studies by Richard McNally when he presented his table of studies.

The hearing is scheduled to continue in November when another defense expert is expected to testify about the interpretation of the psychological tests taken by Ms. Light. We will report the results of this hearing on the FMSF e-mail news list as soon as they appear.

1. [www.courts.state.nh.us/supreme/opinions/1997/hungfrfd.htm](http://www.courts.state.nh.us/supreme/opinions/1997/hungfrfd.htm)

Chris Bernard, C. (2004, Aug. 11). Human mind put on trial; (2004, Aug. 24). Teen hopes to change the way sexual abuse cases are tried; (2004, Sept. 10). Teen's memories on the stand; (2004, Sept. 12). Repressed memories take the stand; (2004, Sept. 14). Repressed memories at issue in trial; (2004, Sept. 17). Expert questions sex abuse. *The Portsmouth Herald*

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### Update of Klassen Case [1]

In June, the Klassen and Kvello families reached a settlement with the government, ending a 14-year legal fight about their malicious prosecution for child abuse. No details of the agreement were released.

In 1991, the Richard Klassen and 11 members of his family were charged with child abuse based on stories of three foster children. The charges were dropped two years later and in 1994 the malicious prosecution lawsuit was filed. Terms of the settlement are confidential.

In January, 2004, the Saskatoon Chief of Police, Russell Sabo, apologized on behalf of his force. He commented that: "[M]y sympathy goes to each and every person that was wrongfully charged and I extend my apologies to them for any part that the Saskatoon police service played in this case."

Finally, in September 2004, all 12

people received declarations of their innocence from the three main officials who handled the case.

"I acknowledge and accept, based on the information and evidence now available to me, that all Plaintiffs in the above-mentioned action were, and are, innocent of all criminal-related charges that the plaintiffs faced."

wrote Saskatoon Police Services Supt. Brian Dueck. Crown prosecutor Matthew Miazga and therapist Carol Bunko-Ruys wrote similar declarations.

Platt Productions of Toronto is planning to produce a made-for-TV movie about the Klassen case.

1. Of the five known Canadian Multiple Victim-Multiple Offender cases, only one has escaped critical attention, namely the Prescott, Ontario case (a.k.a. Project Jericho. See *FMSF Newsletter*, 13(2)). The other cases are: Stirling (Martensville, SK), Kliman (Richmond, BC), Klassen (Red Deer, SK), Leduc (Cornwall, ON), and they have now all been exposed. Makin, K. (2004, Oct. 19). Cornwall child-sex case sunk by delays. *The Globe and Mail*, A1. Warick, J. (2004, June 26). Klassens, Kvellos reach deal with provincial gov't. *Leader-Post*, B2. Warick, J. (2004, Sept. 11). Klassens, Kvellos declared innocent in writing. *Leader-Post*, B1.

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"We hold that the trial court erred by refusing to allow Defendant to present expert testimony on the subject of the proper protocols for interviewing young children to avoid suggestiveness and the implanting of false memories.

"Our Supreme court has observed that most jurors are likely to be unfamiliar with the behavioral sciences. Consequently, they do not necessarily possess the experience to determine what constitutes proper questioning of child witnesses or the knowledge of the possible effect of suggestive questioning on a young child's memory and its impact on the reliability of any subsequent testimony."

Judge Patrick Irvine

*Arizona v. Speers* 1 CA-CR 02-0578 Ct. App. Div. 1 Dept B. 2004 Ariz. App. LEXIS 139. Filed September 28, 2004.

### In Memoriam

On August 27, 2004, we lost a good friend and a most kind man, Chuck Noah. He was a true pioneer in the struggle for good therapy and sound mental health practices.

Our condolences go out to his wife, June, and to all his fine daughters and their children.

Most of us early-'90s FMS parents were shocked into a numbed state of grief and confusion by our children's or grandchildren's false allegations of childhood sexual abuse. A few pockets of families around North America, following the lead of Pamela Freyd and the newly-formed False Memory Syndrome Foundation (March, 1992), organized to educate ourselves, the media, and the culture in general, as to the destructive nature of what was reported to be the recovery of repressed memories of childhood sexual abuse.

We were generally good, middle-class citizens who counted on the conventional wisdom of expressing quiet, polite opposition to a wrong-minded theory which was doing harm to our children and destroying our families. We were confident that, once the national mental health associations were apprised of the facts, remedial corrective action would soon follow to put an end to the unfounded, unscientific practice of repressed memory recovery, in therapy and elsewhere.

Chuck Noah, however, decided to do what any good labor union member would do when shunted aside by a judgmental system, which not only deemed him to be guilty without a hearing, but also rendered him voiceless, helpless to protect his child and to restore his good name and reputation. He picketed the clinic staff who had harmed his daughter and ruined his reputation.

Eventually, his daughter's "therapist," credentialed only with a certificate in bookkeeping, was censured and her license briefly suspended. The clinic later shut its doors.

Early on, to show how ridiculously easy it was to do, Chuck paid \$78.00 to the State of Washington for a license to practice private psychotherapy. Armed only with his signs and his therapist license, Chuck took it upon himself to continue to oppose fad therapy, despite it costing him dearly. He gave unselfishly of his time and effort to help all of us. And why? Because he knew it was the right thing to do. My own father was a union man, first for the Boston Police and later for the Stonecutters, so I could identify with what Chuck believed in and the way he lived his life.

Chuck even flew East, at his own expense, on two occasions, in September, 1995 and April, 1998, when the Middlesex D.A. unsuccessfully tried to remove Ray and Shirley Souza from house arrest and put them in prison. He made his signs, put them all over his rental car, and parked illegally in front of the courthouse in Cambridge, Mass. Court employees brought him coffee. A State policeman, who stopped him on the highway because of the signs all over the car, told Chuck he knew the Souzas were innocent, wished him well, and sent him on his way.

Chuck had a way with people.

Before he went home from his trip in 1998, the last time I saw him, Chuck said he wanted to do two things: see Salem, Mass. and visit Gerald Amirault. He and I, in one day, went to the Witch Museum in Salem, Old Ironsides in Charlestown, and

"The memories which lie within us are not carved stone; not only do they tend to become erased as the years go by, but often they change, or even increase by incorporating extraneous features."

Primo Levi

Plymouth Correctional Center to see Gerald Amirault.

As we stood in the great hall of the Witch Museum, surrounded by the life-sized panoramas of the 1692 Witch Trials, looking up at the gruesome scenes of Giles Corey being pressed to death, the hysterical children in the court house, and the executions on Gallows Hill, Chuck "tsked, tsked," as he often was wont to do, and said, "So this is where it all began."

After lunch at Salem Willows, in Salem Harbor, we toured the U.S.S. Constitution, "Old Ironsides," in Charlestown Navy Yard, then drove through Boston down to Plymouth. Chuck and I signed in at the prison and were admitted to the 'outside' section of a little totally enclosed cubicle. When Gerald was escorted into the 'prison' side of the cubicle, he picked up the phone and I introduced him to Chuck. They stayed standing and put a hand on the Plexiglas, a poor substitute for shaking hands. Chuck said into the phone, "It's an honor to meet you, Mr. Amirault." And Gerald said, "It's my privilege, Mr. Noah. I have heard a lot about you."

I felt like I was observing the meeting of two legends of our time, icons of courage and integrity, two John Proctors out of *The Crucible*, the elder and the younger. Our visit lasted only 30 minutes but I'll remember it always.

When June called to tell me of Chuck's passing, I immediately pictured Chuck, healthy again, standing next to Saint Peter at the Pearly Gates. He has a picket sign in his hand. It reads, in huge black letters, "Unrepentant Voo Doo Therapists Need Not Apply."

Chuck, I miss you, my friend. When I grow up, I want to be just like you. June, we all love you.

Frank Kane

Volunteer FMS Contact from  
Massachusetts

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## Discipline Action

I was deeply involved in false memories for over ten years, but I have come to realize that my road to disaster first began when I went to a social worker who diagnosed me with MPD. During the decade that I was his patient, this therapist sent me to psychiatrists who took his word for the diagnosis and who heavily medicated me. I lost my marriage, custody of my kids, my career, friends, and the list goes on.

I stopped seeing that therapist a year ago and filed a complaint against him with the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners. On September 10, 2004, the Ethics Committee of the Board met in San Antonio to review complaints filed against 24 therapists, including mine. Mr. James (Jim) Perdue's case was the second on the agenda, and the specific charge was "inflicting harm during therapy." Among the examples of harm were that he broke the confidentiality of clients, solicited clients to join in private business ventures, made sexual innuendos, and advertised him-

## Correction

In the July/August 2004 newsletter we incorrectly stated that the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety Division of Consumer Affairs had ordered social worker Dorothy Neddermeyer to remove the "Ph.D. from the list of credentials on her web site since she did not have that degree." Dr. Neddermeyer does have a Ph.D. In 2003, New Jersey permanently restrained Dr. Neddermeyer from practicing social work or providing counseling and/or therapy services. They also ordered her to change her web site to "make it clear that she is not licensed or certified to engage in social work, counseling and/or therapy and to pay restitution to all clients that she counseled after April 1, 2002."

self as a family therapist when he has no such certification. There were three other patients of Mr. Perdue at the hearing so there was not time to say all of the things that I wanted to. A state investigator reported to the committee and verified the accusations. Mr. Perdue did not deny any of the charges, although he did seem to try to justify his actions and even made unflattering remarks about his clients.

The committee voted to suspend Mr. Perdue's license indefinitely, pending a complete medical evaluation (to determine the extent of his sleep problems), as well as a psychological analysis to certify his fitness to be a counselor. The committee advised him that he could not practice therapy until the Board scheduled another hearing to review the results of the evaluations. Mr. Perdue has 30 days in which to appeal this decision.

For the record, even though I no longer believe that I have multiple personalities, I do know that I was abused by a relative when I was a child. I am also sure, however, that I was not abused by all the other men that I accused as a result of the hypnotic trances induced by Mr. Perdue.

My feelings about this experience are mixed. On the one hand, I was surprised that the Board took me so seriously because I honestly didn't expect them to. On the other hand, I am "ticked off" that Mr. Perdue basically called me a liar about one part of my complaint. In the meantime, I have also filed a complaint with the Texas Medical Foundation and they told me that they would investigate the doctors involved in this situation.

I would be happy to speak to anyone who would like additional information. You can contact me through the FMSF.

A retractor  
Incorporating information provided by  
an FMSF member who attended the hearing

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### THEOPHISTIC COUNSELING

Jan Fletcher, writer for the *Central Kentucky News-Journal*, won an award for Excellence in News Writing from the newspaper's parent company, Landmark Community Newspapers Inc. The judges said of Fletcher's entry about Theophostic counseling:

"This reporter's work stood out for its depth of detail and the authoritative voice. The reporter took the time to explain very complicated theological issues in an understandable manner. The stories on Theophostic Ministries were intriguing on several fronts, from one local man's rise in a niche field to the legal ramifications."

Jan Fletcher's website, [www.lyingspirits.com](http://www.lyingspirits.com), contains an investigative report on Theophostic counseling that is available to download, as well as links to resources for those interested in learning more about Theophostic counseling and recovered memories.

<http://www.cknj.com/articles/2003/07/02/news/04smith.txt>

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## Canadian False Memory Support Groups Meeting Ontario and Quebec Families, Friends, and Professionals CURRENT ISSUES AND PERSPECTIVES

**Sunday, November 7, 2004**

Civic Garden Center (Edward Gardens)  
Toronto Botanical Gardens ( Civic Garden Centre)  
S.W. corner of Lawrence East and Leslie South

### PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- 9:15 Registration
- 9:45 Welcome and Introduction: *Mavis Lipman*
- 10:00 Challenges for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Decade of the FMSF  
*Pamela Freyd, Ph.D., Executive Director, False Memory Syndrome Foundation*
- 11:00 Brief presentations:  
Why the Dutch parents' group has been so successful in getting ministries of health and justice on its side  
*Adriaan Mak*  
Attempting to get through to officials in Manitoba  
*George Bergen*  
A victim of recovered memory therapy seeks justice  
*Roma Hart*
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 The Science and Folklore of Traumatic Amnesia:  
Facts parents and others need to know about the current state of the memory war.  
*Richard J. McNally, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Harvard University*
- 2:15 Break
- 2:30 Legal Developments: The Good, Bad, and Ugly  
*Alan D. Gold, Criminal Lawyers Association of Ontario.*
- 3:45 Discussion: Where are we now? Where do we go?  
What needs to be done?  
Concluding remarks: *Mavis Lipman*
- 4:15 Conclusion

### Registration

The cost of the meeting, including lunch, is \$25.00 (Canadian) per person. Coffee, soft drinks and juice will be available at no charge.

Contact:

Mavis Lipman, 2021 Lac David Est, Chertsey, QC  
J0K 3K0; e-mail: [mavisl@colba.net](mailto:mavisl@colba.net); phone: 450-882-1480

"The reason why psychotherapists ought to familiarize themselves with actual knowledge about the workings of memory, and why their professional societies should stop waffling and promulgating misinformation about it, is not that good science guarantees good therapy; it is simply that pseudoscience inevitably leads to harm."

Fred Crews (2004, March 11). *NY Review of Books*

## Web Sites of Interest

[comp.uark.edu/~lampinen/read.html](http://comp.uark.edu/~lampinen/read.html)  
The Lampinen Lab False Memory Reading Group,  
University of Arkansas

[www.exploratorium.edu/memory/](http://www.exploratorium.edu/memory/)  
The Exploratorium Memory Exhibit

[www.ctnow.com/memory](http://www.ctnow.com/memory)  
*Hartford Courant* memory series

[www.tmdArchives.org](http://www.tmdArchives.org)  
The Memory Debate Archives

[www.francefms.com](http://www.francefms.com)  
French language website

[www.StopBadTherapy.com](http://www.StopBadTherapy.com)  
Contains phone numbers of professional  
regulatory boards in all 50 states

[www.IllinoisFMS.org](http://www.IllinoisFMS.org)  
Illinois-Wisconsin FMS Society

[www.ltech.net/OHIOarmhp](http://www.ltech.net/OHIOarmhp)  
Ohio Group

[www.afma.asn.au](http://www.afma.asn.au)  
Australian False Memory Association

[www.bfms.org.uk](http://www.bfms.org.uk)  
British False Memory Society

[www.geocities.com/retractor](http://www.geocities.com/retractor)  
This site is run by Laura Pasley (retractor)

[www.geocities.com/therapyletters](http://www.geocities.com/therapyletters)  
This site is run by Deb David (retractor)

[www.sirs.com/uptonbooks/index.htm](http://www.sirs.com/uptonbooks/index.htm)  
Upton Books

[www.angelfire.com/tx/recoveredmemories/](http://www.angelfire.com/tx/recoveredmemories/)  
Locate books about FMS  
Recovered Memory Bookstore

[www.religioustolerance.org/sra.htm](http://www.religioustolerance.org/sra.htm)  
Information about Satanic Ritual Abuse

[www.angryparents.net](http://www.angryparents.net)  
Parents Against Cruel Therapy

[www.geocities.com/newcosanz](http://www.geocities.com/newcosanz)  
New Zealand FMS Group

[www.werkgroepwfh.nl](http://www.werkgroepwfh.nl)  
Netherlands FMS Group

[www.falseallegation.org](http://www.falseallegation.org)  
National Child Abuse  
Defense & Resource Center

[www.nasw.org/users/markp](http://www.nasw.org/users/markp)  
Excerpts from *Victims of Memory*

[http://www.rickross.com/groups/fsm.html](http://http://www.rickross.com/groups/fsm.html)  
Ross Institute

[www.hopkinsmedicine.org/jhhspsychiatry/  
perspec1.htm](http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/jhhspsychiatry/perspec1.htm)  
Perspectives for Psychiatry  
by Paul McHugh

[www.enigma.se/info/FFI.htm](http://www.enigma.se/info/FFI.htm)  
FMS in Scandanavia - Janet Hagbom

[www.ncrj.org/](http://www.ncrj.org/)  
National Center for Reason & Justice

[http://www.undergroundbride.com/lying  
spirits.html](http://www.undergroundbride.com/lying_spirits.html)

Skeptical Information on Theophostic Counseling

[www.traumaversterking.nl](http://www.traumaversterking.nl)

English language web site of Dutch retractor.

[www.FMSFonline.org](http://www.FMSFonline.org)

False Memory Syndrome Foundation

## Legal Web Sites of Interest

- [www.caseassist.com](http://www.caseassist.com)
- [www.findlaw.com](http://www.findlaw.com)
- [www.legalengine.com](http://www.legalengine.com)
- [www.accused.com](http://www.accused.com)
- [www.abuse-excuse.com](http://www.abuse-excuse.com)

## HUNGRY FOR MONSTERS

When 15-year-old Nicole Althaus told a teacher that her father was molesting her, the quiet affluent Pittsburgh suburb of Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania, was turned inside out. Nicole's father, Rick, was arrested and charged with sexually abusing Nicole amidst bizarre satanic rituals. With the support of her favorite teacher, police, therapists, social workers, and officers of the court, all of whom believed her stories, Nicole began to embellish her initial accusations. As she recovered more memories of wild orgies, sacrificed babies, and murder, more people were arrested, including her mother and a pair of strangers.

A year later, all charges were dropped, and Nicole admitted that her accusations were false. After Nicole and her parents reconciled, they sued the authorities.

### Ordering Information

The introductory VHS price is \$195.00 to universities/libraries/ institutions and \$39.00 to individuals for home use.

Add \$5.00 for shipping.

George Csicsery

P.O. Box 22833,

Oakland, CA 94609-9284.

Fax 510-429-9273.

Email: [geosci@compuserve.com](mailto:geosci@compuserve.com)

There will be a screening of "Hungry for Monsters" at the Three Rivers Film Festival in **Pittsburgh on Tuesday November 9, 2004**. Call the FMSF office in October for time and location.

## Notice

A group of individuals in southwest Virginia is drafting legislation that seeks to attack the false memory problem before it begins as well as proposing a way for families to speak out after separation from their relative has occurred. We are asking for input from other Virginians who have been affected by the false memory syndrome and who would like to join us in support of this legislative effort. Please express your interest by email to the following address: [frang@kimbanet.com](mailto:frang@kimbanet.com) or by regular mail to Att: Lee Law, P.O. Box 231, Collinsville, VA

## FMS Stories Wanted

Seeking FMS-related nonfiction accounts by survivors of False Memory Syndrome for collection of work to be published by DEL SOL PRESS. We define "survivors" as patients recovering from therapeutic FMS/MPD abuse. We include relatives who have not retracted but admit harm. Contact Mary O'Neal:

[fmsdialogue@mail.com](mailto:fmsdialogue@mail.com)

## The Rutherford Family Speaks to FMS Families

The video made by the Rutherford family is *the* most popular video of FMSF families. It covers the complete story from accusation, to retraction and reconciliation. Family members describe the things they did to cope and to help reunite. Of particular interest are Beth Rutherford's comments about what her family did that helped her to retract and return.

### Available in DVD format only:

#### To order send request to

FMSF Video, 1955 Locust St.

Philadelphia, PA 19103

\$10.00 per DVD; Canada add \$4.00;

other countries add \$10.00

Make checks payable to FMS

Foundation

## CONTACTS &amp; MEETINGS - UNITED STATES

## ALABAMA

See Georgia

## ALASKA

Kathleen 907-333-5248

## ARIZONA

## Phoenix

Pat 480-396-9420

## ARKANSAS

## Little Rock

Al & Lela 870-363-4368

## CALIFORNIA

## Sacramento

Joanne & Gerald 916-933-3655

Jocelyn 530-873-0919

## San Francisco &amp; North Bay

Charles 415-984-6626 (am);

415-435-9618 (pm)

## San Francisco &amp; South Bay

Eric 408-738-0469

## East Bay Area

Judy 925-952-4853

## Central Coast

Carole 805-967-8058

## Palm Desert

Eileen and Jerry 909-659-9636

## Central Orange County

Chris & Alan 949-733-2925

## Covina Area

Floyd & Libby 626-357-2750

## San Diego Area

Dee 760-439-4630

## COLORADO

## Colorado Springs

Doris 719-488-9738

## CONNECTICUT

## S. New England

Earl 203-329-8365 or

Paul 203-458-9173

## FLORIDA

## Dade/Broward

Madeline 954-966-4FMS

## Central Florida - Please call for mtg. time

John & Nancy 352-750-5446

## Sarasota

Francis & Sally 941-342-8310

## Tampa Bay Area

Bob & Janet 727-856-7091

## GEORGIA

## Atlanta

Wallie & Jill 770-971-8917

## ILLINOIS

## Chicago &amp; Suburbs - 1st Sun. (MO)

Eileen 847-985-7693 or

Liz & Roger 847-827-1056

## Peoria

Bryant & Lynn 309-674-2767

## INDIANA

## Indiana Assn. for Responsible Mental

## Health Practices

Pat 260-489-9987

Helen 574-753-2779

## KANSAS

## Wichita - Meeting as called

Pat 785-738-4840

## KENTUCKY

## Louisville- Last Sun. (MO) @ 2pm

Bob 502-367-1838

## MAINE

## Rumford

Carolyn 207-364-8891

## Portland - 4th Sun. (MO)

Wally & Bobby 207-878-9812

## MASSACHUSETTS/NEW ENGLAND

## Andover - 2nd Sun. (MO) @ 1pm

Frank 978-263-9795

## MICHIGAN

## Grand Rapids Area - 1st Mon. (MO)

Bill & Marge 616-383-0382

## Greater Detroit Area

Nancy 248-642-8077

## Ann Arbor

Martha 734-439-4055

## MINNESOTA

Terry & Collette 507-642-3630

Dan & Joan 651-631-2247

## MISSOURI

## Kansas City - Meeting as called

Pat 785-738-4840

## St. Louis Area - call for meeting time

Karen 314-432-8789

## Springfield - Quarterly (Apr., Jul., Oct.,

## Jan. - last Sat. of month) @12:30pm

Tom 417-753-4878

Roxie 417-781-2058

## MONTANA

Lee & Avone 406-443-3189

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mark 802-872-0847

## NEW JERSEY

Sally 609-927-5343 (Southern)

Nancy 973-729-1433 (Northern)

## NEW MEXICO

## Albuquerque - 2nd Sat. (BI-MO) @1 pm

## Southwest Room -Presbyterian Hospital

Maggie 505-662-7521(after 6:30pm) or

Sy 505-758-0726

## NEW YORK

## Manhattan

Michael 212-481-6655

## Westchester, Rockland, etc.

Barbara 914-761-3627

## Upstate/Albany Area

Elaine 518-399-5749

## NORTH CAROLINA

Susan 704-538-7202

## OHIO

## Cleveland

Bob & Carole 440-356-4544

## OKLAHOMA

## Oklahoma City

Dee 405-942-0531 or

## Tulsa

Jim 918-582-7363

## OREGON

## Portland area

Kathy 503-655-1587

## PENNSYLVANIA

## Harrisburg

Paul & Betty 717-691-7660

## Pittsburgh

Rick & Renee 412-563-5509

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John 570-278-2040

Wayne (includes S. NJ)

Jim & Jo 610-783-0396

## TENNESSEE

## Nashville

Kate 615-665-1160

## TEXAS

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Jo or Beverly 713-464-8970

## El Paso

Mary Lou 915-595-3945

## UTAH

Keith 801-467-0669

## VERMONT

Mark 802-872-0847

## VIRGINIA

Sue 703-273-2343

## WASHINGTON

See Oregon

## WISCONSIN

Katie & Leo 414-476-0285 or

Susanne & John 608-427-3686

## WYOMING

Alan & Lorinda 307-322-4170

## CONTACTS &amp; MEETINGS - INTERNATIONAL

## BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

## Vancouver &amp; Mainland

Lloyd 250-741-8941

## Victoria &amp; Vancouver Island

John 250-721-3219

## MANITOBA CANADA

Roma 204-275-5723

## ONTARIO, CANADA

## London

Adriaan 519-471-6338

## Ottawa

Eileen 613-836-3294

## Warkworth

Ethel 705-924-2546

## Burlington

Ken & Marina 905-637-6030

## Waubauskene

Paula 705-543-0318

## QUEBEC, CANADA

## Chertsey

Mavis 450-882-1480

## AUSTRALIA

Evelyn everei@adam.com.au

## BELGIUM

werkgr.fict.herinneringen@altavista.net

## ISRAEL

## FMS ASSOCIATION fax-972-2-625-9282

## NEW ZEALAND

Colleen 09-416-7443

## SWEDEN

Ake Moller FAX 48-431-217-90

## UNITED KINGDOM

## The British False Memory Society

Madeline 44-1225 868-682

Deadline for the JAN/FEB Newsletter is December 1. Meeting notices MUST be in writing and should be sent no later than two months before meeting.

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1955 Locust Street

Philadelphia, PA 19103-5766

Phone: 215-940-1040

Fax: 215-940-1042

mail@FMSFonline.org

www.FMSFonline.org

ISSN # 1069-0484

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November 1, 2004

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**Do you have access to e-mail?** Send a message to

pjf@cis.upenn.edu

if you wish to receive electronic versions of this newsletter and notices of radio and television broadcasts about FMS. All the message need say is "add to the FMS-News". It would be useful, but not necessary, if you add your full name (all addresses and names will remain strictly confidential).

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The FMSF Newsletter is published 6 times a year by the False Memory Syndrome Foundation. The newsletter is mailed to anyone who contributes at least \$30.00. It is also available at no cost by email (see above) or on the FMSF website: www.FMSFonline.org

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