

## **Westchester Chapter Meeting and Educational Presentation**

Members and non-members are all welcome.

TOPIC: **"Clinical Social Work in a Culture of Celebrity "**

SPEAKER: **Sue Erikson Bloland, LCSW**

DATE: Saturday, March 2nd, 2013

PLACE: The Mental Health Association, 29 Sterling Avenue, White Plains, NY

TIME: 9:00 Practice Meetings

10:00 Networking and Refreshments

10:15 Chapter Business Meeting

10:45--Noon Presentation

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### **DESCRIPTION**

This presentation will address the challenge posed for mental health professionals by modern society's obsession with fame and celebrity. The achievement of renown has come to be viewed as the epitome of "success"--- a state of well-being assumed to provide profound feelings of accomplishment and enhanced self-esteem.

Sue Erikson Bloland experienced fame first-hand as the daughter of Erik Erikson, a psychoanalyst very well-known in his time, not only to the members of his profession, but to the general public as well. Ms. Bloland's behind-the-scenes experience of her father's celebrity gave her a unique perspective on the real nature of fame as a psychological phenomenon and on the reasons why fame cannot (despite our fantasies) provide the enduring emotional gratification that we assume it will.

In a culture of celebrity it is inevitable that our clients will be drawn to the fantasy that they can heal their own narcissistic wounds through the achievement of renown. We can help them gain insight into this illusion, and discover a more genuine path to healing and to self-esteem, if we have examined the fantasies that infuse our own view of fame and the famous.

## **SPEAKER**

Sue Erikson Bloland, LCSW, obtained her master's in social work from New York University and her certificate in psychoanalysis from the Manhattan Institute for Psychoanalysis. She is a practicing psychotherapist in New York City and a faculty member at the Manhattan Institute for Psychoanalysis. She has written for *The Atlantic Monthly* and *Psychoanalytic Dialogues* and has given numerous lectures on the subject of "fame."

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For more information, please contact:

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