

Therapist Certification Association

For Clinical Professionals who want to take their careers to the next level!

Dear Subscriber, This month's news and events:



- [STTI August Guest Speaker - Jim Gigliello](#)
- [Congratulations Ieshai at the 2015 Transgender Training](#)
- [Transgender: At War and at Love](#)
- [Upcoming Workshops](#)
- Certification in hypnosis by the National Guild of Hypnotists [Integrative Counseling and Hypnosis Associates.](#)
- Monthly Article [When Normal Is Crazy](#)
By Dr. Carol Clark, *Author of Addict America: The Lost Connection*
- [Let us provide CEUs for your next workshop!](#)

Joining us on August 8 at STTI: Jim Gigliello

Jim has been in the leather BDSM community for 41 years both as a boy and a Daddy. He is the Founder of the Leathertarian Award which recognizes those who work to make the leather/fetish communities a better place, and the Vice President of the Leatherheart Foundation which gives money to those in financial distress.

He has served on numerous boards for HIV



Jim Gigliello

prevention and is currently a volunteer with the Broward County Dept of Health and with the State Health Department in HIV prevention with his efforts focused on the leather community. He has sat on many panel discussions both for HIV prevention and with the focus on leather relationships. He has been a keynote speaker at various leather functions. He was awarded Associate of the Year in 2011 and 2013 for The Trident Knights and in 2014 for the First Coast Leather Society; both leather clubs. He has assisted various leather groups throughout the years and is currently a second year PH.D student in Psychology focusing in Gender Diversity.

Interested in a free try-out class at the Sex Therapy Training Institute?
[Register here](#) today!

Classes are held year-round on Saturdays from 9:00am – 3:00pm with open registration. You can begin the program at any time. Visit our website: [Sex Therapy Training Institute](#).

Remember that you may attend all classes from home or office via live webinar!

Congratulations to our most recent STTI graduate, Ieshai Davis! Ieshai is now a Board Certified Sex Therapist. Since her completion of the program, she has also enrolled in the 2015 ITCA Transgender Care Training.



Pictured (from left to right): Dr. Marilyn Volker, Dr. Maylin Batista, Dr. Cristina Sabroso, Jessica Lam, Ieshai Davis and Dr. Carol Clark.

Articles and Media of Interest

[Transgender, at War and in Love](#)



Senior Airman Logan Ireland
(Photo: Courtesy of Jesse Ehrenfeld)

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS
CEUs
PROVIDED BY DR. CLARK



Introduction to Interdisciplinary Collaborative Law – September 16th, 2015, Collaborative Family Law Institute. Coral Gables, FL. <http://collaborativefamlaw.com/>

2015 Florida AFCC Conference – October 1-2, 2015, Florida Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. Tampa, FL. <http://www.flafcc.org/seminars.cfm>



Integrative Counseling & Hypnosis Associates, P.A.

A Centre for Personal Empowerment



Certification in hypnosis by the National Guild of Hypnotists is conferred upon those who successfully complete the 100 hour course curriculum offered by Dr. Melody Smith, at the Boca Raton, Integrative Counseling & Hypnosis Associates Training Center

This certification program is approved for 75 CEUs through Dr. Carol L. Clark #50-550/BAP585. Call or [click here](#) for details. With unlimited income potential, you can help people modify their behavior and improve their lives. Classes occur weekends, Friday through Sunday for 3.5 weekends per course, (see schedule [here](#)). Limited number of candidates per course. Minimum of 10 students required. For more information, please contact Dr. Melody Smith drsmith@therapy-4u.com or Teresa Sgrioa, Practice Manager 561-393-1911.

When Normal is Crazy

An Article by Dr. Carol Clark, author, [Addict America: The Lost Connection](#)

This is actually misleading, because in a paradoxical way, crazy *IS* normal.

People are always asking me about normal – “Is this normal?” “Am I normal?” “Is my partner normal?” etc.

What they are really asking about is crazy. Most people don’t want to be crazy, or at least they don’t want to be thought of as crazy. They also want confirmation that their behavior is ok so they can feel justified in continuing to do it.

For example, when one partner wants to engage in a sexual activity in which the other partner does not wish to participate, they will both want my imprimatur that each is “normal” and the other is “crazy.” I, of course, do not take sides. My job is to help them step outside the country of “normal” while avoiding the island of “crazy.”

A lot of what we consider normal is what we used to see on TV show like “Father Knows Best” or “Leave It to Beaver,” what we see in our friends’ homes, or just what we are told about how our lives “should” be. “Normal” then becomes a projection that is without substance. Even in the 50s, few families were as “normal” as the Cleaver household. What we

see in our friends is the “normal” that they want us to see. I work every day with people who grew up in households where alcoholism or domestic violence or sexual abuse was rampant, but they projected a picture of a loving, close-knit family.

Finally, wanting to be normal is part of the basic human need to belong to the group. Those who are not normal are exiled, shunned, ridiculed, and otherwise isolated. Being normal allows us to survive.

So what do we do when we or our clients or our friends want reassurance that we, or they, are normal?

We can start with the recognition that there is no “normal” and then accept that it’s ok. We can take our behavior out of the right/wrong absolute thinking of the dreaded “should” word – “I should do it this way” or “You should be like this.”

Then we can embrace the crazy without fear! There are groups for everything and everyone these days. Find them. Accept that there is no right or wrong except within the law and our own consciences and step out of the arguments.

We can revel in the reality that we are all wonderfully unique individuals who also share a common humanity that allows us to Connect while maintaining our boundaries.

Dare to be crazy and discover your normality!

Be In Light,

Carol