

Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute



Hanns Sachs Library and Archives Newsletter

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 1

SPRING 2016

DIRECTOR OF

LIBRARY

Dan Jacobs, MD

LIBRARIAN/ ARCHIVIST

Olga Umansky, MLS

LIBRARY/PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Drew Brydon

LIBRARY

COMMITTEE

James Barron, PhD

Ellen Goldberg, PhD

Malkah Notman, MD

Rita Teusch, PhD

Shari Thurer, ScD

Marcia Smith-Hutton,
LICSW, BCD

Steven Varga-
Golovcsenko, MD

Anna Wolff, MD

MANAGING

DIRECTOR

Carole Nathan, MBA

FINANCIAL

OFFICER

Pharrel Wener

BOSTON
PSYCHOANALYTIC
SOCIETY AND
INSTITUTE

141 Herrick Road
Newton, MA 02459

617 · 266 · 0953

From the Director

Dan Jacobs, MD

*A man ought to read just as his
inclination leads him...*

~ James Boswell

In the midst of your busy lives, take a few moments to browse in our library, to find a book or article that you hadn't known about until you see it on the shelf. And if you are searching for something in particular, there is always our library staff to help you. Or just sit in quiet space and collect your thoughts - or write them down.

Maintaining a library means work and Library Committee members (including our newest member Steven Varga) have been doing just that:

- On Friday, January 8, 2016, we met to sort through our book collection, pulling second and third copies of little read but still important works from the shelves, making room for new purchases. The results are more shelf space and the current book sale.
- With Vivien Goldman's help, we chose the photographs for her beautiful exhibit "The Persistence of Memory" (see p. 2).
- We've begun conducting video interviews with some of our current BPSI authors. The first colleague to be interviewed was Dr. Paul Ornstein

who spoke about his autobiography *Looking Back: Memoir of a Psychoanalyst* written with Helen Epstein (available in our library).

- We worked on expanding our book review section (see p. 3, 6-7). Anyone interested in contributing to this column is very welcome.
- The sale of *Grete Bibring: A Culinary Biography* has brought \$1,137 into the BPSI coffers with an equal amount raised through sales to repay APsA for its initial funding of the project. The monograph is the first of others we hope to publish cost permitting (see research opportunities on p. 5)

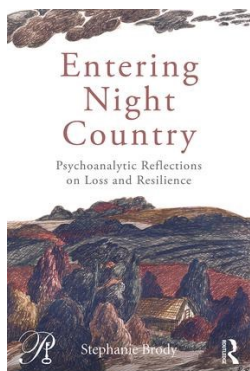
We are fortunate in hosting archival interns, Esther Kim and Kaitlin Hackbarth, this spring (see p. 5) to help make our new collections available to interested scholars.

Olga has been kept busy with archival requests (see p. 4), and with the national effort to connect psychoanalytic libraries (see p.5).

It is your support of our library that allows so many good things to happen.

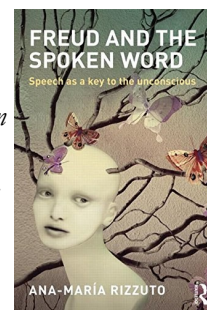
Meet the Author Series 2015-2016

On **February 9, 2016** at 7:30pm, Judy Kantrowitz discussed her new book *Myths of Termination: What Patients Can Teach Psychoanalysts About Endings* (Routledge, 2015). She challenged the myths of how analytic treatment should end and demonstrated the rich diversity of psychoanalytic terminations. Audio recording of this event is available upon request.



The Library Committee is planning to interview Stephanie Brody about her new book *Entering Night Country: Psychoanalytic Reflections on Loss and Resilience* (Routledge, 2016). Stay tuned for this and other video blogs posted at bpsi.org!

On **Monday, May 23, 2016** at 7:30pm, Ana-María Rizzuto will talk about her new book *Freud and the Spoken Word: Speech as a Key to the Unconscious* (Routledge, 2015). With careful and critical reference to Freud's own work, Dr. Rizzuto draws out conclusions on the nature of verbal exchanges between analyst and patient. Argentine born Ana-María Rizzuto has written three books, *The Birth of the Living God: A Psychoanalytic Study*, *Why Did Freud Reject God?: A Psychodynamic Interpretation*, and *The Dynamics of Human Aggression: Theoretical Foundations, Clinical Applications*, and has lectured about her work in North America, Latin America, Europe, and Japan.



The Persistence of Memory by Vivien Goldman

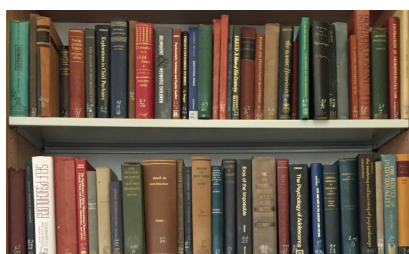
Vivien Goldman, a former librarian at BPSI, is a fine art photographer. She likes to focus on seeming unimportant objects in everyday life. Her current exhibit in our library are images of books locked away in a *genizah* in a large Jewish Cemetery in West Roxbury. In Hebrew *genizah* means "reserved" or "hidden". It is a room or depository where personal books, papers, and often religious artifacts belonging to a person who has died, are stored for a time. It is part of ancient Jewish custom not to destroy sacred documents but to bury them with the same dignity and ritual as the human body. The books—bibles, talmuds, tefillin, even tallit - become stand-ins for the times and desires of people for whom they were once important.

In this way they are bridges from the past, telling us how people once lived their lives, all the things that



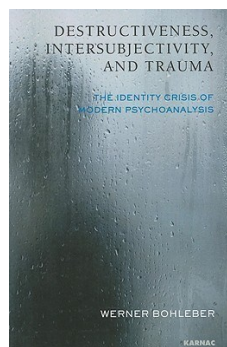
mattered once to individuals and communities. The dog-eared pages, the soft undulating edges of missives still hold up: beautiful now in new ways as age yellowed them, curled the corners, tore small pieces away from pages into landscape-like form. The word lives, even as it is buried, and remembered and revered.

Library Book Clearance



Recently withdrawn duplicate library books are now on sale in the Community Room. Stop by and browse through - you might find just the thing to fill the hole in your own collection! Checks or cash are accepted, any book is just \$1 now. Leave the money with Olga or Drew. All sale proceeds will go toward the purchase of new books. Thanks!

What Are We Reading?



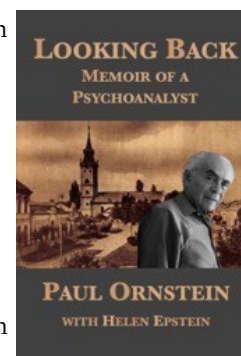
Bohleber, Werner (2010)
Destructiveness, Intersubjectivity and Trauma: The Identity Crisis of Modern Psychoanalysis.
London: Karnac Books.

A few years ago Peter Fonagy encouraged Werner Bohleber, a prominent German psychoanalyst, to compile some of his papers and publish them in the US. Fonagy

wrote in his introduction that “Bohleber shows total comfort with almost the entire spectrum of psychoanalytic ideas and modern philosophical and sociological thought, and has brought to the international psychoanalytic scene a sense of balance and open-mindedness and has arrived at a sophisticated, integrated view of the most complex and controversial topics within the psychoanalytic field.” The book is divided into three parts: Part I: The Inter-subjective Paradigm in Psychoanalysis and late Modernity. Part II: Trauma, Memory and Historical Context. Part III: Psychoanalysis of Ideological Destructivity. Bohleber argues that the relational turn in psychoanalysis has been invaluable in firmly incorporating the analyst’s subjectivity into the analytic investigation. However, unique elements of the patient’s psychic reality are often not activated in the inter-subjective field and become a blind spot. He convincingly argues for an integration of the relational and drive models. Bohleber’s three chapters in Part II on trauma, memory and dissociation are, according to Fonagy, “arguably a better introduction to the psychoanalytic study of trauma than the reader is likely to find anywhere in the literature.” The third part discusses the most destructive forces within European culture and draws parallels to current developments emphasizing the importance of malignant narcissism and prejudice and the role of unconscious fantasies underlying terrorism and fundamentalism.

I highly recommend this book. I enjoyed the theoretical and clinical sophistication of this author and his insistence that we need to work towards integrating the latest neurological, physiological and psychodynamic knowledge of the effects of trauma on the mind with our psychoanalytic theories and practice.

Ornstein, Paul (with Helen Epstein) (2015) *Looking Back: Memoir of a Psychoanalyst.* Plunkett Lake Press



This 200 page memoir written by BPSP’s eminent psychoanalyst and self-psychologist Paul Ornstein together with journalist

Helen Epstein provides an intimate window into the life journey of an exceptional psychiatrist who was able to navigate through one of the darkest periods in Germany and Europe. Born in Hungary in 1924 with a brilliant, sensitive and observing mind, and sustained by strong family connections and a belief in Zionism, which provided him with community and a sense of purpose, Ornstein, even though he experienced apocalyptic trauma during the Holocaust, nevertheless remained able to systematically pursue and realize his longstanding ambition to become the best psychoanalyst he could be. Ornstein is the author of three books and over 100 scientific articles. He reveals in his memoir how, aided by his optimistic spirit and the unwavering support of his wife Anna and close friends, he became one of the foremost self-psychologists in the United States and internationally. He has taught, wrote and advocated for the deeply transforming therapeutic power of empathy. Nancy Chodorow wrote that Ornstein’s memoir serves as companion volume to his beloved Anna’s “My Mother’s Eyes” (2004, Emmis Books). Of special interest to psychoanalysts is Ornstein’s discussion of his ego-psychological psychoanalytic training in the 1960’s. I found this memoir a fascinating read, and was left with a sense of awe about the incredible plasticity of the human mind.

~ reviews by Rita Teusch, PhD

In the Archives

Olga Umansky, MLS

Precious Gift: Two Letters by D.W. Winnicott

Ruth G. Dean, PhD, psychotherapist and social worker from Boston, made a valuable contribution to our archives this fall. Dr. Dean kindly gave us her brief correspondence with D.W. Winnicott, which took place in 1969. In her commentary about their curious exchange, Ruth Dean shared that her initial letter to Winnicott was provoked by the intriguing statement she found in one of his books: "He said that both men and women hesitate to vote for women into positions of power because we have all been helpless at the hands of a powerful mother." What D.W. Winnicott wrote in response may surprise his future biographers! Both letters have been digitized and added to our [Assorted Correspondence](#) collection.

Recent Archival Inquiries

Danielle D'Ambrosio, Esq., Vice President of Carucci Group requested a copy of Sanford Gifford's interview of Louise Kush, recorded for BPSI Archives in 2008. Mrs. D'Ambrosio is working on a biographical article about her friend and colleague Louise Kush. Mrs. Kush was a cousin and a last known heir of Hanns Sachs.

Tjark Kunstreich, MA, candidate and researcher from the Vienna Psychoanalytic Society requested a search of our archives for any information related to the attempt of Hanns Sachs and Max Eitingon to sponsor the escape of Otto Brief and his family to Norway in 1940. Mr. Kunstreich is working on a paper about Viennese analysts who tried but failed to escape the Nazi hostilities in Europe.

Daniela Schmid, an art historian from Vienna, was interested in Dorian Feigenbaum's connection to the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute. Dorian Feigenbaum (1887-1937) studied analysis with Freud, served in the military during WWI, worked in Switzerland and Palestine and eventually moved to New York, where he practiced and taught psychoanalysis at the New York Psychoanalytic Institute and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. His main legacy

is the founding of Psychoanalytic Quarterly in 1932. Our archives hold Feigenbaum's correspondence with Ives Hendrick from 1930-1936, in which they share thoughts on various papers and discuss lectures at BPSI and NYPSI.

Alex Wermer-Colan, a professor of English Literature in New York, contacted our archives in search of scientific papers and other materials connected to his grandparents, Olga and Henry Wermer, both psychoanalysts and early members of BPSI. The family shared the following story and the photograph with our archives. According to Hedy Wermer, Olga and Henry emigrated from Vienna in 1938, coming on a boat with Olga's aunt and uncle Marie and Sigmund Frisch. Olga had another six months to go before she could complete her medical degree. In 1939, Olga had to go back to Europe to finish medical school. Since she was no longer allowed to study in Austria, which was under Nazi control, she first went to Bologna, Italy, but was quickly chased out by Mussolini's people. She then went to Lausanne, Switzerland, where she completed her medical degree. At the end of this extended trip, she visited her family in Tarnow, Poland for the last time. Olga returned to America quickly on the urging of her parents because it was known that the Nazis would soon invade Poland (which they did less than a week after she had left). She never saw her family again.



Olga and Henry Wermer at BPSI, 1964

In the Archives

News from the Sigmund Freud Archives



The Oral History Workshop of the American Psychoanalytic Association was devoted to the history of the Sigmund Freud Archives this year. The workshop presenters, Nellie L. Thompson, Ph.D., Harold Blum, M.D., Anton O. Kris, M.D., and Louis Rose, Ph.D., shared intricate stories of collection, transportation and preservation of Freud's materials at the Library of Congress, initiated and led by Kurt Robert Eissler for nearly half of a century. The speakers explained the clouded history of restrictions, which today are no longer in place and announced the release of over 270 interviews by Dr. Eissler in October, 2016 (consult [the SFA finding aid](#) for details). The speakers also described a new project, funded by the Polonsky Foundation, to digitalize all of the unrestricted SFA papers, eventually posting their holographs on the LOC website.

Connecting Psychoanalytic Libraries

The Committee on History, Archives and Library of the American Psychoanalytic Association took the initiative to connect the psychoanalytic librarians and archivists in the US and Canada. The goal is to share knowledge and resources in the effort to help each other with various programs, such as an Archival Consultation Service, book rehoming, library fundraising campaigns. The online questionnaire was distributed to 32 American and 5 Canadian societies this winter. If you would like to take part in the building of a psychoanalytic library consortium, please contact library@bpsl.org and share your ideas.

Olga Umansky, MLS

Research Opportunities

BPSI Archives is calling on scholars to explore our unique materials for potential publications. Our large collection of [Ives Henrick's, MD, \(1898-1972\)](#) papers gives plenty of insights into an interesting life of one of BPSI's founders. We have unpublished biographical sketches, oral histories, and letters that shed light on Freud's close friend, one of the earliest member of the Secret Committee of Six, and the founder of American Imago, Hanns Sachs (1881-1947).

Our Assorted Correspondence collection includes many treasures, such as [Heinz Hartmann's letters](#) to Anna Freud, Marie Bonaparte, Ernest Jones, Jacques Lacan and Daniel Lagache.

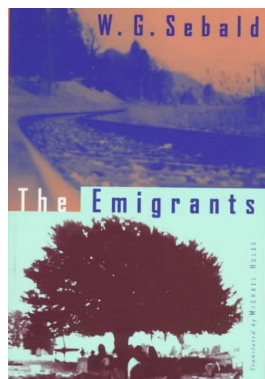
Yet to be explored are several collections on the history of child analysis: [Putnam Children's Center Archive \(1942-1991\)](#), [Hampstead Nursery Records \(1931-1948\)](#), [Child Analysis Materials \(1926-1989\)](#), and recently added [Lora Tessman's Papers](#).

Spring Internship Projects

Esther Kim, our Field Study student, is working on the processing and conversion of over 180 infant research audio-cassettes of the Boston Change Process Study Group. Esther holds a BS in Management from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and is working toward her Master of Library and Information Science degree with concentration in Archives.

Kaitlin Hackbarth is processing the minutes of the APsA History and Archives Committee donated to us by the Gifford family. These new materials will be accompanied by cross-references and added to our small collection of APsA historic records. Kaitlin holds a BA from Smith College in English Literature and the Study of Women and Gender and is currently an Archives/History graduate student at Simmons College.

What Are We Reading?



Sebald, W.G. (1997) *The Emigrants*. New Directions.

Reading W.G. Sebald's *The Emigrants* is bit like eavesdropping on a psychoanalytic session. The peripatetic narrator -- who may or may not be Sebald -- conveys the haunted memories of four Jewish-

affiliated exiles from Germany who emigrated about mid-century to England or the US. Part memoir, part fiction, part intricately digressive travelogue, it reads like a dream diary comprised of the author's associations as he investigates the anguished memories of others. His characters are suffering from a profound sense of displacement. Two commit suicide. Always in the background is the chilling knowledge of the Holocaust. Sebald's impassive, expressionless tone belies the magnitude of the pain these individuals endured, rendering it all the more horrifying. Perhaps, like Freud, Sebald is trying to make sense of these individuals' traumatic past so as to understand theirs (and our) present. Here is how he describes one character, Max Ferber: he is an artist who continuously rubs out his canvases until the surface is almost obliterated, leaving just a few lines. When he was convinced that a portrait was finished, "an onlooker may well feel that it had evolved from a long lineage of grey, ancestral faces, rendered unto ash but still there, as ghostly presences, on the harried paper." This is similar to the way Sebald writes, wherein "ghostly presences" convey multitudes. Later in the novel, Ferber gives the narrator his mother's diary which contains an account of her pleasant stay in a Bavarian village. It was written as she and her husband were awaiting deportation to the East and their death. The irony of her innocence in face of her future reinforces a tension that hovers throughout the book. Integrated within the text is a grab bag of old photographs, copies of paintings, postcards, maps. These are images of a bygone era. There is, for example, a photo of the Midland Hotel (or a building that is reminiscent of the Midland Hotel) which is on the brink of ruin; there is another

of a teas-maid, a contraption that tells time and makes tea, an appliance that no longer exists, and so on. The specificity of Sebald's descriptions and photos of seemingly random or inconsequential things, is at odds with the dimension of the tragedy of the World War II. His use of incidental details reminded me of the little girl in the red coat in Steven Spielberg's film *Schindler's List*, one of only four color images in the three hour black-and-white film. As the movie proceeds, the viewer sees the red coat on a pile of corpses. The detail of the coat brings the immensity of the catastrophe down to a size that is apprehensible to the viewer, and all the more poignant. Philosopher Roland Barthes might call these details the literary equivalent of "punctum," the object that jumps out at viewers and pricks them. The mood of the narrative is one of melancholic reverie. Life is impermanent; deterioration is inevitable. Sebald conveys a world-weary, Mitteleuropean sensibility. Perhaps he had survivors' guilt? As a German who moved to England, he must have encountered the damage caused by his brethren. I read this book in 2001 and recall looking forward to immersing myself in Sebald's other digressive narratives. I was shocked and saddened to learn that he died at age 57 that same year. His untimely death felt like an uncanny reminder of the inevitability of loss.

~ reviewed by Shari Thurer, ScD

Meyers, William R. (2015) *Social Science Methods for Psychodynamic Inquiry: The Unconscious on the World Scene*. London: Palgrave/MacMillan.



This is a book I have been re-reading, having had the opportunity to have read a version of the manuscript. It is written by a friend and colleague, William R. Meyers, who is a distinguished Emeritus Professor of Psychology at the University of Cincinnati, long interested in the interface of psychoanalysis with social psychology and political psychology. His early published work included a ground-breaking study

(Continued on page 7)

What Are We Reading?

(Continued from page 6)

Citizen Participation in Mental Health: Research and Social Policy in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He was the Director of research for the Peace Corps, and has authored a major work on clinical and program evaluation, *The Evaluation Enterprise*, has been active in the International Society of Political Psychology. This book, then, represents the summation of his research and theorizing on the role of the unconscious in political behavior, and his insistence on the importance of attempting confirmation or disconfirmation of “psycho-historical” hypotheses. His review of the status of the field of psycho-history emphasizes the successes and failures of the century long enterprise, and highlights the need for, and value of, “*Integrating Social Science Concepts and Findings into Psychodynamic Inquiry*,”—Chapter 5. In brief, how does one remain open to the complexity of motivations and causes in the historical and political realms, and still focus on the role of unconsciously driven behavior by leaders and their followers?

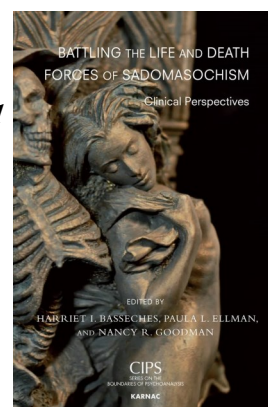
“*A Systematic Study of Irreality*”—Chapter 8, an update of previously published work on post-World War II authoritarian leaders who present as clowns, buffoons, and outrageous braggarts—strikes a very contemporary note on the current presidential campaign scene in the United States. “Irreality” is a term coined by the author to designate the practice of deliberately creating confusion about whether or not the would-be or actual dictator really means the outrageous claims he is making. The listeners, by design, are left believing-not believing, what the speaker is espousing as a policy and plan. Buffoonery is a strategy aimed at disarming the critical faculties. Tragically, the strategy can work! This investigation combines insight into the defense (and offense!) mechanisms involved in generating “irreality” with a well-laid out methodology for minimizing observer bias and skewed sampling.

“*The Munich Crisis Examined*,”—Chapter 9—describes in detail a collaborative study designed to test the validity of the hypothesis that, among others, Czech leaders in the period leading up to Munich were driven by self-destructive motives and behaviors, (a hypothesis put forth in a book by David Beisel, *The Suicidal Embrace: Hitler, the Allies, and the Origins of the Second World War*, 2003). In all, Meyers’ work on

psychodynamically informed research of political behavior is both profoundly challenging and cautiously optimistic: he argues that the need is urgent, and demonstrates the actuality of interdisciplinary cooperation and cross-fertilization. No one investigator or discipline has all the answers. But studies and research in social psychology and political psychology also afford examples of useful interventions. This book provides an eminently usable introduction and guide for psychoanalysts to complex realms of behavior where we are always in danger either of offering oversimplified and reductionistic dynamic hypotheses or avoiding or ignoring what may seem to us too messy and overwhelming. Worth reading!

~ reviewed by **Bennett Simon, MD.**

Basseches, Harriet I. et al. (2013). *Battling the Life and Death Forces of Sadomasochism: Clinical Perspectives*. London: Karnac.



Almost every analyst has experienced a patient who, knowingly or unknowingly tries to communicate his difficulties through almost unbearable and unrelenting expressions of sadism or a persistently masochistic stance. The analyst’s reaction to these ongoing ways of relating may well determine the success or failure of the analytic endeavor. That is why this book is so important. Through the presentation of case studies by four analysts, the difficulties in treating their patients are described. Each case illustrates in detail the analysand’s attachments to a sado-masochistic position and the resulting countertransference of his or her analyst. Each case report is followed by a discussion by three prominent analysts (Bass, the Novicks, Grotstein, Ellman among them) who help deepen our theoretical and clinical understanding of sadomasochism. One of the best treatments of the subject that I have read.

~ reviewed by **Daniel Jacobs, MD.**

New Books

The following is a list of books recently acquired by the Hanns Sachs Library:

Benjamin, Walter (2015). *The "Berlin Chronicle" Notices*. Hudson, NY: Publication Studio.

Bleger, José (2013). *Symbiosis and Ambiguity: A Psychoanalytic Study*. London and New York: Routledge.

Brody, Stephanie (2016). *Entering Night Country: Psychoanalytic Reflections on Loss and Resilience*. London and New York: Routledge.

Glen O. Gabbard, Glen O.; Myers, Michael F. (2008). *The Physician as Patient: A Clinical Handbook for Mental Health Professionals*. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Publishing.

Hasinoff, Amy Adele (2015). *Sexting Panic: Rethinking Criminalization, Privacy, and Consent*. Urbana, Chicago, and Springfield: University of Illinois Press.

Junkers, Gabriele, ed. (2013). *The Empty Couch: The Taboo of Ageing and Retirement in Psychoanalysis*. London and New York: Routledge.

Kandel, Eric R. (2006). *In Search of Memory: The Emergence of a New Science of Mind*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton and Company.

Luyten, Patrick et al., ed. (2015). *Handbook of Psychodynamic Approaches to Psychopathology*. New York, London: Guilford Press.

Naïburg, Suzy (2015). *Structure and Spontaneity in Clinical Prose: a Writer's Guide for Psychoanalysts and Psychotherapists*. London and New York, Routledge.

Ornstein, Paul with Epstein, Helen (2015). *Looking Back: Memoir of a Psychoanalyst*. Plunkett Lake Press.

Williams, Paul et al. (2012). *Independent Psychoanalysis Today*. London: Karnac.

In the Library

Library Services for All

Call or email our library to request articles, reference and quote verifications, bibliographic searches, audio or video recordings of past events at reasonable fees:

Reference Searches—free for members
Emailing of Article Reprints—\$5 per article
Audio Streaming—\$10 per file or disc
Video Streaming—\$25 per file or disc set

Book Returns

Please please take a few moments to look around for any books, DVDs, or other materials that you have borrowed from the Hanns Sachs Library over the past few months. Your prompt return of the books ensures that our patrons can always find the resources they need in the library.

Thanks!

BECOME A LIBRARY MEMBER

Library Membership is available for non BPSI members. As a Library Member, you are entitled to free bibliographic searches, can borrow books, make book purchase recommendations, use current journals in the library and **subscribe to PEP-Web** at no extra cost! For more information please email library@bpsl.org

