Greetings SFBTA Members,

I’m honored to be serving as your 2023 SFBTA President. I look forward to collaborating with you all as we adjust to life-after-pandemic-when-pandemic-isn’t-really-over. Indeed, our Association has made many changes over the past few years, and we are in a time of transition. Currently, I am the only continuing Board member from last year, as several individuals either rotated off the Board at the end of their terms or stepped down early for various reasons. We thank them for their contributions and wish them well in their new endeavors.

I welcome my new fellow Board members: Carol Buccholz Holland, Dawn Crosswhite, Shaema Imam, Johnny Kim, Mo Yee Lee, Shirley Shani Ben Zvi, and Kyle Sobey. I am excited to work with each in the coming year. The SFBTA remains committed to its mission to foster the exchange of ideas and practices in the field of solution-focused practice. We have outlined the following over-arching goals for this year:

1. **Updating our bylaws and procedures, keeping in mind lessons learned through conversations related to EDI.**

Some of you are more familiar with “DEI,” but we believe that we must first strive toward equity in order to achieve diversity and inclusion goals. The pandemic necessitated some departures from what we had in place in previous years. We want to make clear the workings and opportunities of our organization, so that all may have access. We plan to hold two town halls prior to the conference, as well as offer a period for comment, prior to voting on changes at our next conference.

1. **Focus on technology.**

Our goals in this area are to: (a) make decisions on how to store and share videos and other materials gifted to our association, as well as other video recordings that may donated in the future; and (b) investigate platforms that will allow for increased communication with membership and decreased reliance on our beloved and overworked IT chair, Matt Schwartz.

1. **Return to in-person gatherings of our community.**

Although the 2023 conference will be held virtually, we are seeking hosts for “watch parties” so that members who live close to one another may “do the conference” together. If at all possible, we hope to have a contract for an in-person conference in 2024 and are seeking proposals for venues and coordinators for 2024 and 2025. Please contact me if you are interested.

If these goals align with your best hopes for our Association, please consider joining a committee. The following Board members are serving as committee liaisons:

* Conference Planning – Carol Buchholz Holland carol.e.buchholz@ndsu.edu
* EDI – Shaema Imam Shaema.Imam@du.edu
* Finance – Dawn Crosswhite dawnc1267@comcast.net
* IT and Membership/Awards (two separate committees) – Shirley Shani Ben Zvi shirley@cornerstonefamilyservices.com
* Research – Mo Yee Lee lee.355@osu.edu

 Kindly,

Marcella Stark, SFBTA 2023 President

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