

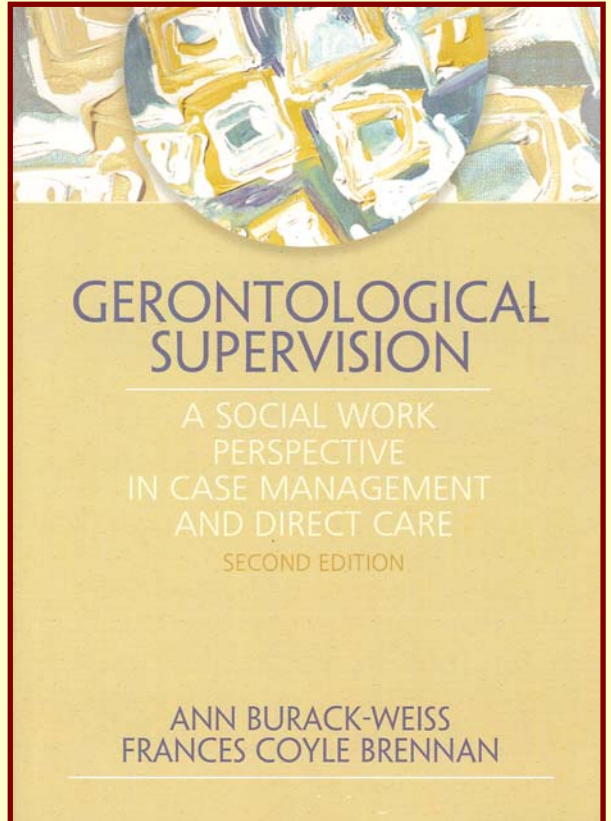
We are pleased to announce the publication of *Gerontological Supervision: A Social Work Perspective in Case Management and Direct Care*, co-authored by Ann Burack-Weiss and Frances Coyle Brennan. First published in 1991 as *Gerontological Social Work Supervision*, the new title reflects a response to the changed landscape of aging services and the needs of front-line staff who deliver them.

Those familiar with the first edition will note a significant change. The book no longer focuses exclusively on MSW supervisors, staff, and students but speaks to those of other disciplines and educational levels. An important addition is a section on supervising home health aides and nursing assistants whose work is so crucial to the care of ill and disabled older people.

A social work perspective - based on understanding parallel process, the power of relationship, a holistic approach, and a dual emphasis on person and environment - is integrated throughout the book.

In no way a compendium of supervisory approaches, research findings, or academic theory, *Gerontological Supervision* fits more aptly into a category that was once called "practice wisdom". The book is filled with direct experiences and case examples from the authors and the colleagues, supervisees, and student interns with whom they have worked over the past three decades.

Please scroll down for our op-ed article.



SBW Partners is a fee-for-service firm devoted to advancing social work practice in aging. Services are provided by Dr. Barbara Silverstone and Dr. Ann Burack-Weiss, the firm's founding partners, and a group of associates. For more information, please visit www.sbwpartners.com or call 212.337.2555.

The following is a letter in response to our February issue of SBW Notes entitled "The Strengths Based Perspective in a problem Centered World".

As appealing as a strengths based perspective is to my professional identity as a social worker, I have some concerns about how it may be misinterpreted and misused. We need to be cognizant of the messages we give our clients, so that they don't get the idea that we support destructive behavior or see it as 'positive' in any way.

The underlying need to assert oneself and maintain some control over one's life may be seen as strength; however, we should also consider the negative thinking that leads to an aggressive act toward another. This thinking might be something like 'This person is a threat to me and is trying to control me so I must stop them'. Helping this individual to not only re-direct their energies more positively, but also helping them to re-evaluate their perception and consider another point of view (i.e. 'This person/my caregiver wants me to eat because they care about my well being') may be a more constructive approach to take. Many of you will recognize the cognitive behavioral therapeutic orientation, in this instance. Helping to empower clients, rather than to reinforce feelings of victimization, is a positive approach we usually want to take.

As social workers within a humane and civilized society, we uphold and respect the inherent value of the individual. Nevertheless, as competent adults, each of us needs to take responsibility for our actions, particularly as they impact on the well being of others. Behavior in most instances is a choice that a thinking, feeling human being makes. We need to support the individual's ability to make choices which preserve life-their own, as well as others.

Carol Kamine-Brown, LCSW,
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