A LIVING AND LOVING TRIBUTE TO FAYE SCHENKMAN
Special People

"As for the word 'ripples', I cannot think of a more appropriate metaphor to express Faye's impact on the world. She humbly drops her pebbles -- her guidance, her knowledge, her wisdom -- and their impact spreads untold distances. Who can know how many have been touched through her writing, teaching, healing, and being?" Dr. Janice Stefanacci Seward, Psy.D., M.C.A.T.

We meet many people in life that shape us in some way. Parents, friends, partners, teachers, and mentors all impact us at different levels and times in our lives. We often don't realize the degree of influence these individuals have had on us until long after we've met them and sometimes not at all. We retain only the intangible knowledge that someone touched us and made a difference.

On occasion we meet someone who changes us from the moment of our first encounter, someone who reflects such authenticity of spirit and compels us to evolve in that same direction. We recognize the contribution of these individuals that transcend the layers of our existence - physical, mental, spiritual. These are the people consciously working to make the world a better place and they are gifts to us all.

This missive is dedicated to one of these rare individuals, Faye Schenkman. Faye has touched the lives of so many people in her role of practitioner, teacher, friend, and more. She has worked tirelessly in her contributions to healing at both individual and collective levels of existence. Very simply, many of these people whom Faye has touched want to say, "Thank you!"

"From my very first interaction with Faye Schenkman there was a no-nonsense, solid and confident air of certainty that I was in good hands and before a person with a depth of knowledge that I have aspired to be like in my own life and practice ever since." Christofer Lovrin LMT, Owner - 3 Elements Healing Arts Center, Bayside, N.Y.

"I have so much love and respect for this woman, Faye Schenkman. To convey my thoughts and feelings in a few lines is a monumental task. In these past 9 years, Faye has opened my world to so much more than my physical body. I continue to learn so much about my mind, my body and my spirit...."
Paula Steigler, RVT and Patient

"Gracious, nurturing, caring, intelligence combined with extraordinary wisdom...Blessings come in many forms at various times in our lives. Faye is a blessing, wrapped in unconditional love." Anita Lynn, Friend
Faye Schenkman - An Introduction

“There is a saying that we can never repay God, our parents and our teachers. This is a great truth for we gain more from them than we can ever repay. But we must still do our best to honor them through what we have learned and in our care for them.

Born in Brooklyn, Faye is a direct descendant of Yitzchak Elchanan, a talmudical scholar, greatly revered by the rabbinic community.

“His sound reasoning, his liberal views and his love of peace combined to establish him as one of the great leaders of Russian Jewry.” Nahal Yitzhak by Isaac Elhanan.

I find this bloodline quite significant especially when we see the same defining attributes in Faye Schenkman.

Faye’s doctoral studies in Chinese History led her along a path that crossed with that of a great spiritual teacher, Dr Robert Sohn. In 1973, Faye was introduced to Dr. Sohn to translate Chinese acupuncture charts into English. There were very few books available in English at that time and Faye was studying and teaching Chinese language to high school students. Within a short time, their relationship grew to that of student and teacher. Faye began spending her time with a growing group of students (introduced to them by her future husband, Steve) at Dr. & Mrs. Sohn’s home, learning karate, yoga, oriental medicine and spiritual work. In time, the spiritual group evolved into an ashram and lived a life of spiritual practice. They opened the Institute for Self Development and the Wholistic Health Center, and taught the practice of Self evolution and Conscious awakening. With Mrs. Sohn’s tutelage of empathetic abilities, the concepts of AMMA were decoded, translated and guided into a practical healing art.

Kim Rosado, (MS, L. Ac., LMT, CAT, Dipl. ABT & Acup. (NCCAOM), Co-Director, Wholistic Healing Arts, LLC.

“She sees more than she will ever say. But she tells you exactly what you need to know. A genuine soul who shares her gifts wisely.” Dana Sutter, Patient

“She is indeed a rarity whose actions serve to inspire. If you’d like to find the embodiment of unbridled compassion in a world of frequent lunacy, look in the direction of Faye Schenkman.”

Steve & Marion Lefkowitz, Longstanding Friends

“...Only when we are truly versed in our understanding can we leave our door open literally and figuratively to all students, peers and superiors... Faye’s door has always been open.” Joyce Barker LMT, BPS (Amma), BFRP, Faculty Trainer YUSAi

“The world of Wholistic Health is illuminated by its brightest star, whose impact is immeasurable because of all the lives she has touched and will continue to touch. She has taught practitioners and teachers who will continue to spread the knowledge forever.

Susan & Jerry Rosenzweig- (Sister & Brother-in-law)
Faye was very instrumental in the translation, development and teaching of AMMA. The Institute for Self Development grew and transformed into the New Center College (and later the New York College) for Wholistic Health Education and Research. The college expanded its Massage and Advanced AMMA Therapy® programs and added Acupuncture, Oriental Medicine, and Wholistic Nursing. Eventually, Faye became the Dean of the Massage Therapy Program, the Director of the Advanced AMMA Therapy® Program, and the Director of the Wholistic Health Center and Herbal Dispensary. She taught in all the programs and had a thriving clinical practice.

Kim Rosado, (MS, L. Ac., LMT, CAT, Dipl. ABT & Acup. (NCCAOM), Co-Director, Wholistic Healing Arts, LLC.

“You would be hard pressed to find someone who has furthered AMMA Therapy in the health care professions more than Faye Schenkman.”
Mark Petruzi MS, LAc, LMT

“To this day, whether through her busy Wholistic Healing Arts practice with her clinic partner Kim Rosado, teaching AMMA at the Tri-State Acupuncture School in NYC, or spreading her wealth of knowledge and experience in Wholistic Health, Herbal Medicine and Nutrition to hundreds of nurses through teaching in RN Masters and Bachelors Degree programs at Columbia University and New York University for the last 13 years, I can’t think of any other person who has done more than Faye to honor her teacher and the tradition of AMMA, as well as work to keep this wonderful gift of AMMA alive.” Steven Schenkman, Husband

...
The Teacher

All AMMA students crossed her path and developed under her watchful eye. Though many had varying degrees of contact with Mrs. Sohn, it was primarily Faye who guided our education, and patient care and enabled the legacy of Mrs. Sohn’s art to be carried on. She played an integral role in the transmission of AMMA Therapy® to massage therapists, acupuncturists and nurses throughout the country including her leadership roles in the AOBTA (American Organization for Bodywork Therapies of Asia) and NCCAOM (National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine).

Faye’s commitment and dedication helped to raise up her students, not just in technique but in the higher principles that she aspired to align herself with, based on the profound teachings of Dr. and Mrs. Sohn. Through Faye’s constant oversight, her boundless knowledge, ceaseless efforts, and her true commitment to elevate her students, she gave us a solid foundation upon which to practice and evolve our AMMA.

Kim Rosado, (MS, L. Ac., LMT, CAT, Dipl. ABT & Acup. (NCCAOM), Co-Director, Wholistic Healing Arts, LLC.

Faye’s gentle compassion as a practitioner is matched by her fierce compassion as a teacher. Though sadly never a student of hers myself, her reputation as a teacher is summed up by the phrase "don’t even think about it!" It "being any and all excuses for not doing your very best at all times. She has a no-nonsense, direct, practical approach to transmitting knowledge and inspiring others to learn as well as to continuously challenge themselves. She is the kind of educator who leads by example witnessed by the evident passion and thirst for her own personal and professional growth. She has also been a tireless leader and principal advocate for the dissemination of AMMA therapy practice and education in the USA for several decades. She is quite simply the most experienced and most accomplished teacher of this discipline anywhere today.

Nigel Dawes, M.A., L.Ac., Soho Health Arts, Manhattan, NY, Plaza Wellness, Brooklyn, NY

“... Through her passion and love of Amma Therapy, my classmates and I came to her searching for a pathway to health, and found a teacher we hope to emulate, and pass forward the benefits of Amma Therapy as well as continuing the treatment that is a truly healing modality for all.” Kathy Abugel, LMT

“I feel so very fortunate to have had Faye as a teacher and mentor. It was because of her that I fell in love with Amma and wanted to become an Amma therapist. She was a great teacher who inspired me, encouraged me, and generously shared her knowledge with me.” Jerelyn Kirby, MS, L.Ac, LMT, CAT

“Faye is one of my greatest professional role models; I strive to uphold her level of professional integrity and commitment to my patients and students...her work as an AMMA Therapist and teacher has benefited so many!” Elise Constantine, NY State Licensed Massage Therapist, National Yoga Alliance Certified Yoga Instructor
“As I reflect back, I now more fully appreciate and understand how the program was meant to develop an AMMA Therapist.....knowledge, technique, sensitivity, strength, compassion.....Faye is a true role model.”
Ginnette Groome, LMT, CAT, Certified Reflexologist, Bach Flower Practitioner, Baton Coach and Instructor

“There is not a day that goes by that I don’t dip into my ‘Amma Toolbox’. You have not only changed my life but your reach has extended to the many peoples lives I was able make a difference in from your teaching.”
Audrey Shapiro, LMT, CAT

“Faye became my mentor and continually demonstrated a level of professionalism that I continue to emulate to this day. Without her wisdom and guidance, I would not be the Amma Therapist and teacher that I am today.” Beth Riley, RN, BPS, CNAT

“I would like to say how much Faye meant to me as a teacher and a mentor I was very fortunate to have been a student of Faye’s in the AMMA program...” Rochelle Schaeffer, MS, L.Ac., LMT, CAT

“... her mastery of the wholistic medicine and the healing arts deepens my own understanding with a very real and percussive effect. It could be just a moment; a brief chat and suddenly I see the full ignorance of my former thought processes...” Doug Mandalone , LMT
Faye - The Clinician

“I have been very blessed to have worked closely with Faye both at the college as my mentor and for the past 13 years as partner in our private practice, Wholistic Healing Arts, LLC, in Huntington, New York. I can honestly say that I learn something from her every day. “Faye is Brilliant!” I heard Dr. Sohn say, and I have witnessed this many times over in my years with her.

I have never known anyone who could speak so intelligently and expansively on so many topics, from history, to current events, politics, religion, sports, nutrition, style, entertainment, you name it and Faye can speak on it. Not only is she well informed but she integrates her knowledge into an expansive understanding which she communicates quite eloquently and appropriately to help broaden people’s perspective and minimize suffering.

I am continually impressed by her level of intelligence, compassion, loyalty, and dedication. Her care and patient advocacy extends way beyond the patient visit. She is always thinking about her patients; who she can set up with whom, what service, doctor, herb, supplement, device will be of added benefit. She has a direct, no nonsense, ‘say it like it is’ manner along with deep compassion and a heart of pure gold.”

Kim Rosado, (MS, L. Ac., LMT, CAT, Dipl. ABT & Acup. (NCCAOM), Co-Director, Wholistic Healing Arts, LLC

I never met a patient of Faye’s whose eyes did not convey immediate and implicit trust, appreciation, respect and love whenever her name was mentioned in her presence or otherwise. Appreciation for her skills and professional knowledge that has helped so many in their suffering, respect for her guidance and wisdom in counseling beyond the treatment room and love for her obvious and seemingly inexhaustible compassion and empathy for others in distress. Faye is the senior lineage holder of AMMA therapy in the US today, a system transmitted to her in the traditional style by her mentor and the founder of the AMMA Therapy, Mrs. Tina Sohn, who passed away some years ago. In short, clinical work has always signified a form of sacred service in the hands, heart and mind of Faye Schenkman.

Nigel Dawes, M.A., L.Ac., Soho Health Arts, Manhattan, NY, Plaza Wellness, Brooklyn, NY
“She embodies everything she teaches and that is truly a wonderful quality in a healer.” Dennis Moseman, D.C., M.S., L.Ac., Dean of Studies, Tristate College of Acupuncture, NYC

“Faye is so much more than a health practitioner; she is a human being filled with deep compassion and I am so grateful to have her in my life.” Janet, Reading Teacher and Patient

“Faye’s concern for my well-being heals as much as her treatments heal. Faye’s commitment to the spiritual life is palpable and it draws me to return again and again for healing of body, mind and spirit.” Theresa Mintern, Director, Human Resources, Maria Regina Residence, NY

“Over the years I observed Faye’s unshakable concern, compassion, and devotion not only for her own patients, but for all of the patients, practitioners and staff in our Wholistic Health Center. Your mastery goes beyond the “Art of AMMA” to not only healing others, but teaching others to heal their patients, as well as themselves.” Cheryl (Strickland) Ostrow, Friend

“The effectiveness of her treatment is second only to her compassion and encouragement, which heal body AND soul! She has been a tremendously positive force in my life and I am forever grateful for all she has given me.” Michele Liva, Music Teacher, Patient

“Her invaluable advice is greatly appreciated. With love and gratitude.” Shelly, Brother

“As far as I’m concerned, it was a blessing to have met Faye (and her partner, Kim) in more ways than one. Not only have they comforted my body but have lifted my spirits. I have told them on more than one occasion that when I go to the office for a treatment it is like going to a warm and comfortable friend’s home. I am lucky, indeed, to have them in my life.” Madeline B. Ditta, Patient

“Her work ethic was stellar and she was a shining example of what a compassionate health professional and teacher should aspire to be. I am grateful for all the doors of opportunities that Faye helped to open for me.” Lorraine Kabacinski, MS, L.Ac., LMT, CAT
“Faye taught Nurse Practitioner and RN student nurses holistic health principles and Eastern and Western herbs, at Columbia University for 13 years and is currently teaching at New York University’s (NYU) RN program. She is also teaching AMMA Therapy® with me (Kim Rosado) to Acupuncturists at Tristate College of Acupuncture in New York City. She has authored the Foreword (and more) in the AMMA Therapy book by Tina and Robert Sohn, the Appendix I: Basic Pharmacology for Massage Therapists in Mark Beck’s Theory & Practice of Therapeutic Massage, and several articles in health journals throughout the years. It is our good fortune that Faye Schenkman is available for workshops on AMMA, herbs, pharmacology and its relevance for the bodyworker/acupuncturist and more. I encourage us all to continue to learn from Faye while she is still teaching.

Wisdom from our teachers is not antiquated, but multilayered. It builds over time from their being closer to the source of the teaching, driven by higher principles and having many years of direct experience. Faye is a true master of the teachings and practice of AMMA Therapy® who continues to learn, educate and inspire. I am blessed to know her as my teacher, my mentor, my business partner and my best friend.”

Kim Rosado, (MS, L. Ac., LMT, CAT, Dipl. ABT & Acup. (NCCAOM), Co-Director, Wholistic Healing Arts, LLC.

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“Faye’s guidance and teachings have helped me to become the person I am now, to become an Amma Therapist, to have compassion, understanding and to love my profession.” Irma Callahan, MS, L. Ac., LMT, CAT

“I feel so very fortunate to be able to continue learning, working and collaborating with Faye. I consider her to be an early pioneer in the field of Eastern medicine, learning, practicing and paving the way for us to treat our patients in a holistic perspective.” Joyce K. Anastasi, PhD, DrNP, FAAN, LAc, Independence Foundation Professor, Founding Director, Division of Special Studies in Symptom Management, NYU College of Nursing

“Faye continues in her commitment to keep alive the legacy of her teachers. ...I trust she will be positively affecting the lives of others for many years to come as she has mine.” Peter Yates, MS, L. Ac., Dipl. Acup. (NCCAOM), Spirit Gate Acupuncture

“Faye has always presented a calm and professional demeanor even in face of things that would try the patience of a saint.” Cindy Banker, MA., Chinese Herbal Medicine and Language, AOBTA Certified Instructor of Five Element Shiatsu, Dipl. ABT (N.C.C.A.O.M.)
Friend of The Wellspring School

The Wellspring School for Healing Arts is committed to maintaining the integrity of the AMMA Therapy® lineage as part of our overall charter. As such, we spend much of our time educating on the origins, efficacy and contributors to AMMA in hopes of generating broader awareness and healing powers of this incredible modality. As a learning institution gifted with this mission, we are indebted to our predecessors and the teachers that have made it possible for our school to be here today.

We send our gratitude to Faye along with the promise that we will continue along this path with her as our role model for as long as we are able.

“I am forever grateful for your enduring, loving presence in my life and in the lives of all those you touch directly and indirectly through the lessons and lineage you have imprinted on those of us who practice and teach in your footsteps.” Rylen Feeney, CAT, LMT (#14733), Dipl. ABT & CH (NCCAOM), Founder of The Wellspring School for Healing Arts

“What I learned from Faye through AMMA I use daily and will keep with me till the end of my days.” Michael Guida, LMT (#19016), BPS (Amma), Dipl. Asian Bodywork Therapy (NCCAOM), Certified Triathlon Coach

“...you have spread a knowledge of and respect for Asian Medicine and its value in everyday life.” Linda Handley

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Faye – The Person

Faye Schenkman has overwhelmingly touched the lives of many over the past few decades in her role as teacher, mentor, colleague and practitioner. As a human being, she represents the type of person with whom we all want to spend time and maintains the levels of authenticity and integrity we all want to emulate. Faye has made us all better people as well as practitioners. We are blessed to have her in our lives. We are honored to be able to express our gratitude.

After 37 years of marriage it still never ceases to amaze me what a caring, compassionate, strong, and committed person and healing practitioner Faye, (my lovely wife), remains. I have been involved working in the education and training of massage therapists and acupuncturists for many years all over the country, and for the last many working in the education of various other Allied Health practitioners, and I have never met any practitioner go to the extents that she has and does to treat and care for her patients even if that meant accompanying her long-time cancer patients to their oncologist or hospital appointments in order to advocate for them.

Steven Schenkman, Husband

“A greater friend one could not have, a straight shooter who will tell you like it is, a mentor, a teacher, a lifter of people!” Susan Ambert, Family Friend

“Words spoken by Faye Schenkman, carry their weight in gold.” Cindy Kenny, RN, BSN, MAM (Masters of Arts in Health Care Management)

“I always say that if I was on the Millionaire TV show, Faye would be one of my life-line because she is knowledgeable about so many things. She is a wonderful teacher, mentor, role model and colleague.” Bernadette Capili DNSc, Assistant Professor, Associate Director, Special Studies in Symptom Management New York University College of Nursing

“Faye is a human chalice of loving white light that speaks with her smiles and heals with her hands.” Kelly A. Simmons, patient since 2006, honorary niece since 2008, Environmental Scientist, MS Marine Biology, outdoor education instructor, published author and poet
Thank you, Faye
With love and gratitude,
All of the friends, family, students, colleagues and patients whose lives you have touched

This piece was a collaborative effort of many people. A special thanks to Kim Rosado, Ryleen Feeney and Michael Guida for initiating the process, reaching out to Faye’s community and collecting all of the wonderful feedback. Thank you to Rachael Myles for putting the final written piece together. Finally heartfelt thanks to all of those who provided such beautiful words to weave into this tribute.
Contributors: raw and uncut!

As a student and patient of Faye’s, I learned so much about AMMA Therapy, herbal medicine and adjunct therapies. However, it was in my role as an Herb Room Assistant that I got to see Faye behind the scenes, and witnessed just how much thought, research, and concern she gives to each patient before, during and after treatment.

I recall Faye huddling over the herb room counter as she sighed, grumbled and shouted Aha! while tweaking formulas. When a patient looked unsure about making a “tea” from a bag ground up bugs and sticks, she was quick with loving and light-hearted words of support. Long after patients left the Wholistic Health Center, Faye could be found at her desk pondering the case, taking notes, doing research, consulting with allied health professionals.

Faye is one of my greatest professional role models; I strive to uphold her level of professional integrity and commitment to my patients and students.

She is well-deserving of this tribute; her work as an AMMA Therapist and teacher has benefited so many!

Elise Constantine, NY State Licensed Massage Therapist, National Yoga Alliance Certified Yoga Instructor

I think it is a wonderful idea to celebrate and honor our teacher and mentor, Faye.

I would like to contribute the following......

When I entered massage school back in 1990, I was prepared to learn a new skill, but had no idea how it would change and guide the rest of my life. I cannot imagine my life without AMMA Therapy and all the knowledge and logic on which it is based. Faye of course, was the instructor of Oriental Anatomy and Physiology I, my first taste of TCM. The information seemed so natural to me and Faye’s sincerity and commitment was immediately apparent. I knew I was somehow led to this work. I am forever grateful to Faye for inspiring and nurturing my interest in AMMA, as my teacher, therapist and mentor. I watched as her life reflected her teachings; caring for her family, patients and students, with equal time and commitment. Time.....there was always time to answer a question.

Aside from AMMA, I am grateful for the special period of my life spent at the NY College for Wholistic Health, Education and Research. As I reflect back, I now more fully appreciate and understand how the program was meant to develop an AMMA Therapist.....knowledge, technique, sensitivity, strength, compassion.....Faye is a true role model. I would like for her to know that AMMA Therapy is alive and well in Keene, NH and her spirit helps to drive my continued growth.

Thank you Faye, for your dedication to AMMA and to us all!!!!

Respectfully,

Ginnette Groome
Faye Schenkman was one of my mentors over the years that I worked, studied and played at the New York College for Health Professions. She was always supportive in many ways both personally and professionally. Her work ethic was stellar and she was a shining example of what a compassionate health professional and teacher should aspire to be.

I am grateful for all the doors of opportunities that Faye helped to open for me. Congratulations Faye on years of service to your students, patients, family and friends."

Lorraine Kabacinski

Faye Schenkman was not only my teacher in the techniques, concepts, subtleties, complexities of Amma Therapy, but was also a role model of what an Amma Therapist should be in practice and was a mentor to me as an eventual instructor of the art. Her influence went way beyond lessons I might put up on the white board, or the application of a specific Amma technique to a patient, but gave a deep sense of the purpose of what was being taught, and also the importance of sharing what I was learning.

Faye had a remarkable way to be crystal clear and direct in her communications and corrections but at the same time extremely nurturing. She wanted me to excel. She wanted me to grow. What I learned from Faye through Amma I use daily and will keep with me till the end of my days.

Michael Guida LMT (#19016), BPS (Amma), Dipl. Asian Bodywork Therapy (NCCAOM), Certified Triathlon Coach

Dear Faye,

There is not a day that goes by that I don't dip into my "Amma Toolbox". You have not only changed my life but your reach has extended to the many peoples lives I was able make a difference in from your teaching. It is my honor to honor you.

Audrey Shapiro

Thank you for the gift of Rylen Feeney, one of your students who ended up teaching in Boise, Idaho. Through her, you have spread a knowledge of and respect for Asian Medicine and its value in everyday life. My acupuncture practice has been built upon the foundation you established through Rylen. Thanks.

Linda Handley

In the world of body work and healers I have often come across many ungrounded "flaky" practitioners and teachers, but from my very first interaction with Faye Schenkman there was a no-nonsense, solid and confident air of certainty that I was in good hands and before a person with a depth of knowledge that I have aspired to be like in my own life and practice ever since.

Christofer Lovrin L.M.T
I would love to honor Faye for the unwavering support she has given me over so many years - every single time I have asked her to do some God awful Certified Instructor Interview or Oversight Committee for the Certified Instructor Interview Comm. - Faye never let me down! These frequently included terribly stressful politically charged situations that no one else would have been able to handle. Faye has always presented a calm and professional demeanor even in face of things that would try to patience of a saint.

I remember one time in the very beginning of the AOBTA when Carl Dubitsky was being terribly misbehaved and there was some kind of crisis ensuing on our brand new AOBTA Board of Directors. Jan St Germaine called me in the morning and got me out of my bed to come down to the Board meeting and help her stand up to some kind of atrocity she was describing that was all some sort of effect of Carl - I'm sure, although I don't think I could explain now what the problem was. Anyway, Steve was President. I got there and Faye was there as well. We were both kind of up in some kind of grandstand seating with the Board a little off in the distance. I remember Faye jumped to some defense of Steve as I think she perceived I was attacking something Steve was responsible for. It seemed very brave I think, under the circumstances. I think Faye wasn't really aware of how much Steve and I had actually become accustomed to crisis situations generated by Carl! Anyway, Steve immediately reassured Faye and said something like I was actually quite a benign entity (I actually can't remember exactly how he described that now). While perhaps not described as well as I could with a lot more time on my hands here I think the incident spoke volumes of how much Faye can be depended on to defend those she loves as well as how much crap everyone has to get used to putting up with when we get to know each other through volunteering to help out the AOBTA.

I guess one other story I would try to relate is once I got phished and had lost control over my Yahoo email account. I was really in a panic! I had to come up with a legitimate alternative email address and I remember I called the Schenkmann's home and I got Faye. I remember Faye being really calm and reassuring! I also remember when I talked to Steve he kind of shunned me at the time and said he didn't want to jeopardize his own email account. None of us really understood what has happened to me - I think I was an early victim of the phishing thing. But it was very remarkable that while Faye was steadfast and reassuring at a time when even Steve - who I usually thought of as a steadfast friend - was ready to respond by kind of running to the door.

And if you have space for one more on a slightly more serious note - Faye was always regarded in the C.I. Interview Comm. as the person we could count on to hold people to the highest standards. Bill Helm described once that "the Amma people eat their own children", when discussing whether Faye could fairly evaluate someone who had studied with one of her own students.

so - I hope these are not too late and you can use some of it! Just between us I also want to tell you that the original email about a tribute for Faye scared the shit out of both me and Robbee Fian! We really needed some recovery time after we saw that Faye is actually fine and her students just want to honor her in this way.

*Cindy Banker, MA., Chinese Herbal Medicine and Language
AOBTA Certified Instructor of Five Element Shiatsu
Dipl. ABT (N.C.C.A.O.M.)*
There are so many ways that Faye has impacted my life. But, there is my one defining moment with Faye that happened on my 1st day of clinic in 1996. My first patient was a very close family member who was suffering both physically and emotionally. The more she was treated medically, the worse her condition became. I was very concerned about her and had convinced her to come in to the clinic. I had no idea who the clinic supervisor was until Faye walked down the hall. I gave her some background information on the patient and within a matter of minutes, Faye correctly diagnosed the issues and prescribed appropriate herbs and nutritional changes.

But even more importantly, she was so compassionate, kind and reassuring, putting the patient at complete ease. Within a few weeks, there was a complete turnaround in her condition and her mental outlook. To this day, I am eternally grateful to Faye for saving her life and so is she. Faye became my mentor and continually demonstrated a level of professionalism that I continue to emulate to this day. Without her wisdom and guidance, I would not be the Amma Therapist and teacher that I am today.

Thank you, Faye … for everything!

With respect and love,

Beth Riley, RN, BPS,CNAT

I will always cherish and value the influence Faye continues to have on my life as a wife, mother, grandmother, sister, friend and therapist.

What stands out most and has thankfully stayed with me the longest is the importance of knowing one’s subject. Only when we are truly versed in our understanding can we leave our door open literally and figuratively to all students, peers and superiors.

Faye’s door has always been open.

I remember one T’ai Chi Chuan form correction class that several of the esteemed AMMA instructors attended. Faye assumed wu chi posture behind me and said audibly “I’m going to follow Joyce.” Although my knees commenced shaking, my heart beat with pride and a true sense of belonging.

Faye exemplified by example that all great teachers continue to be students.

And, although Faye made the decision not to have children she is one of the most maternal women I have ever known.

Faye is kind, inclusive and caring.

And, best of all, for me anyway, is Faye’s sense of humor. There is really nothing like an incredibly intelligent, funny New York Jewess!!!! Faye is funny in an articulate, dry and feel like I’m home kind of way.

Thank you, Faye

Joyce Barker LMT, BPS (Amma), BFRP, Faculty Trainer YUSA
After 37 years it still never ceases to amaze me what a caring, compassionate, strong, and committed person and healing practitioner Faye, (my lovely wife), remains. I have been involved working in the education and training of massage therapists and acupuncturists for many years all over the country, and for the last many working in the education of various other Allied Health practitioners, and I have never met any practitioner go to the extents that she has and does to treat and care for her patients even if that meant accompanying her long-time cancer patients to their oncologist or hospital appointments in order to advocate for them.

From the time she was first taught AMMA directly from Mrs. Sohn and continued by her side for years to became one her most trusted and valued students, authored the Amma textbook under both the Sohn's directions, became the Director of the Wholistic Health Center and Dean of the Massage Therapy program including both the Associate and Bachelor degree programs in AMMA, she has been the greatest advocate of this amazing healing art.

To this day, whether through her busy Wholistic Healing Arts practice with her clinic partner Kim Rosado, teaching AMMA at the Tri-State Acupuncture School in NYC, or spreading her wealth of knowledge and experience in Wholistic Health, Herbal Medicine and Nutrition to hundreds of nurses through teaching in RN Masters and Bachelors Degree programs at Columbia University and New York University for the last 13 years, I can't think of any other person who has done more than Faye to honor her teacher and the tradition of AMMA, as well as work to keep this wonderful gift of AMMA alive.

Steven Schenkman

I feel so very fortunate to have had Faye as a teacher and mentor. It was because of her that I fell in love with Amma and wanted to become an Amma therapist. She was a great teacher who inspired me, encouraged me, and generously shared her knowledge with me. I saw the way she treated patients, students, and all she came in contact with. She is brilliant, compassionate and has a caring and gentle heart. My life changed dramatically after learning Amma and changing careers. All for the better. I feel honored to know her and at times to be able to work with her. She is an exceptional human being who has touched countless lives, including mine. I am forever grateful to her. My prayer for Faye is that all the good she has done in this world will return to her a thousand times over and that her heart may always be filled with gentle peace and untold joy.

With much admiration and love,

*Jerelyn Kirby*
I have known Faye Schenkman since 1999. She is my go-to person for herbal medicine and eastern nutrition. I always say that if I was on the Millionaire TV show, Faye would be one of my life-line because she is knowledgeable about so many things. She is a wonderful teacher, mentor, role model and colleague. I have learned a great deal from her and have great respect for her as an individual and clinician.

Bernadette Capili DNSc
Assistant Professor
Associate Director, Special Studies in Symptom Management
New York University College of Nursing

Faye was my instructor in acupuncture school. As someone who is trained in both Eastern and Western medicine, I can really say that Faye has a depth of knowledge like no other. She embraces both Eastern and Western medicine. Faye is always professional, caring, and sincere. I feel so very fortunate to be able to continue learning, working and collaborating with Faye. I consider her to be an early pioneer in the field of Eastern medicine, learning, practicing and paving the way for us to treat our patients in a holistic perspective.

Joyce K. Anastasi, PhD, DrNP, FAAN, LAc
Independence Foundation Professor
Founding Director, Division of Special Studies in Symptom Management
NYU College of Nursing

I first met Faye in 1997. She and her husband Steve had arranged for me to relocate from England to teach at their school in Syosset, NY. Through their help I was able to obtain a work permit which eventually led to me becoming a U.S. citizen.

This was not the only way I have benefitted from Faye’s help. Throughout the years I have known her she has always generously shared her vast knowledge of herbs and nutritional supplements with me. More recently I have benefitted from herbs she has sent me to aid in my recovery from an injury.

Faye took the traditional route to learn her craft by apprenticing with Dr. Sohn and his wife Mrs. Tina Sohn, a path that entailed total dedication and commitment. She worked tirelessly behind the scenes to perfect her art and aid her Teachers in spreading understanding of AMMA and related healing arts.

Faye continues in her commitment to keep alive the legacy of her teachers. Countless patients have experienced her compassionate healing and countless students have experienced her excellent teaching. I trust she will be positively affecting the lives of others for many years to come as she has mine.

Peter Yates, L. Ac.
Spirit Gate Acupuncture

“The world of Wholistic Health is illuminated by its brightest star, whose impact is immeasurable because of all the lives she has touched and will continue to touch. She has taught practitioners and teachers who will continue to spread the knowledge forever.

Susan & Jerry Rosenzweig - (Sister & Brother-in-law)
The world is filled with all kinds of people, most of them affixed to their own personal agendas with very little room for the consideration of those around them. Rarely do we see an individual with broad, unflinching concern for the well-being of others. Faye Schenkman is such an individual. Highly trained in areas such as massage therapy (Amma) and Herbalism, she’s taken the tools she’s accrued over the years and used them to build better lives for a multitude of individuals she’s befriended as family members, friends, patients and students. We’ve known Faye for 40 years and we’ve had a front row seat to her phenomenal growth as a person, healer and teacher.

Through thick and thin she’s been a true blue friend and confidant. In instances too varied and impossible to count, we’ve asked for her help as a healer and friend, and in each and every instance, despite an already hectic schedule, she’s come through for us without fail. Our immediate family is just the two of us and our three miniature schnauzers (Mollie, Harpo and Kasha). We have been regularly supplied with her therapeutic wisdom and an avalanche of nutritional and other remedies to help get us through some really tough times. It is truly difficult to express the immense appreciation we have for the efforts and actions she’s manifested on our behalf and our reciprocal love for her.

In addition to the vast amount of knowledge she’s accrued in the field of Wholism, Faye has been a serious student and practitioner of esotericism. She’s applied these powerful principles to her life and to her role as wife, teacher, healer and mommy to her canine loved ones. We believe this special dynamic interplay between knowledge of both higher and lower realms is what makes her so effectual in the various segments of her life. She is indeed a rarity whose actions serve to inspire. If you’d like to find the embodiment of unbridled compassion in a world of frequent lunacy, look in the direction of Faye Schenkman.

We are fortunate to be her close friend and ally over the last few decades, and we wish her continued health and wellness as she moves forward in the various facets of her life. In sincerity, we can say that the world is a much better place with her in it.

Steve & Marion Lefkowitz
I am a grateful recipient of the fruits of Faye’s life and work. From the very first time I was treated by someone trained by Faye I felt the healing power of personal attention to me in addition to receiving the healing touch of Amma.

In recent years, I have experienced the gift of being treated by Faye, herself. My body is treated by her skilled hands and my mind and heart are opened and nourished as she shares the steps in her past and present life journey while she is treating me. Faye’s concern for my well-being heals as much as her treatments heal. Faye’s commitment to the spiritual life is palpable and it draws me to return again and again for healing of body, mind and spirit.

With love and deep gratitude for who you are, Faye!

**Theresa Mintern, Director, Human Resources Maria Regina Residence, NY**

I was in desperate need of healing when I discovered Wholistic Healing Arts. Out of work with Chronic Fatigue/Immune Deficiency after multiple infections and a case of shingles, I was discouraged by the consensus of doctors who urged me to "just stay home and rest." When I did not know where to turn, Faye gave me hope, and started me on a path toward better health. Her expertise in amma, herbs, and nutrition produced immediate results, and with diligence and integrity, she sought effective remedies, ever sensitive to my changing needs. She never gave up, and was always flexible in her approach.

The effectiveness of her treatment is second only to her compassion and encouragement, which heal body AND soul! She has been a tremendously positive force in my life and I am forever grateful for all she has given me.

**Michele Liva**

She sees more than she will ever say. But she tells you exactly what you need to know. A genuine soul who shares her gifts wisely.

**Dana Sutter**

I would like to say how much Faye meant to me as a teacher and a mentor. She was always there and ready to help me in any way. I was very fortunate to have been a student of Faye’s in the AMMA program and have fond memories of my time spent in school back in Manhasset.

**Rochelle Schaeffer**

Faye Schenkman - - - where do I begin.

"Gracious, nurturing, caring, intelligence combined with extraordinary wisdom."

As Director of Student Services and Academic Studies at the New York College for Wholistic Health, Education and Research; I had the pleasure of working with Faye on a daily basis. I watched as she taught with the brilliance of a phenomenal educator. Her knowledge and experience is a gift she gladly shares with each student. Her energy is unstoppable and her commitment, together with her enthusiasm, continually overflows.

If you are a patient of Faye's, you are truly blessed. I also had the good fortune of being treated by Faye. Her kindness and calm demeanor sets her apart from the rest. She truly cares for each and every one of her patients.

Blessings come in many forms at various times in our lives. Faye is a blessing, wrapped in unconditional love.

I will treasure our experiences and friendship always.

**Anita Lynn**
This is a very brief outline of my relationship with Faye Schenkman who has treated me and members of my family for more than 20 years now.

First let me say that her treatments are always consistent from the first moment she lays her hands on you until the very last procedure (which is usually a toe massage). Regardless of how her day is going or how she is feeling, she is able to focus totally on you and your treatment. I know this because once after my treatment when she turned around, I noticed a warming patch on her back and yet she gave me as thorough a treatment as she always had. And there have been times that she has had family issues and, again, she can manage to put me and my problems in the forefront. I truly admire and respect her for that.

Secondly, she is able to totally focus on the patient and her needs and zone in on what is needed in each circumstance. I have a couple of autoimmune diseases (sarcoidosis Stage III and fibromyalgia) and have had total hip replacement surgery. She has been there throughout my struggles and has always been patient and totally focused on me and my needs and tailors her treatment to meet those needs. She listens and understands what my particular problems are that week and can reason with me as to how we are going to proceed. She never seems to tire of my “complaining” (unlike most doctors who “zone” you out).

She treated my daughter when she was in her teens when no doctor could do anything that would make her feel better. Faye was able to totally cure Stephanie through her manipulation and herbs. I am forever grateful for that.

Over the years Faye has shown enormous empathy for me and my situation. When I had no one to help me when I went into hospital for hip surgery, she took it upon herself not only to take me to hospital and pick me up to bring me home but she queried doctors about my care and treatment. And she tried to fit this in, in spite of her very busy schedule. She has gone above and beyond what any other caregiver would do.

As far as I’m concerned, it was a blessing to have met Faye (and her partner, Kim) in more ways than one. Not only have they comforted my body but have lifted my spirits. I have told them on more than one occasion that when I go to the office for a treatment it is like going to a warm and comfortable friend’s home. I am lucky, indeed, to have them in my life.

Very truly yours,

Madeline B. Ditta
It is astounding when one individual can “wear so many hats” and have a gift for them all.

AMMA Therapy is considered “The Ancient Art of Oriental Healing”. And I know that Faye is a Master at the “Art” of AMMA, as her abilities go far beyond a skill or talent. Most healthcare professionals are skilled in the aspects of their medical knowledge and practice. They understand the meaning of their patient’s disease, and what treatment steps to take from years of textbook and clinical practices.

However, do these practitioners first have the compassion for their patients to even notice that they, and their families, are suffering? If that aspect is overlooked and ignored are they truly healing their patients? The word compassion literally means to “suffer with”, to recognize that suffering and imperfections are a part of our collective human experience.

Over the years I observed Faye’s unshakable concern, compassion, and devotion not only for her own patients, but for all of the patients, practitioners and staff in our Wholistic Health Center. And, in so many ways she taught me to become a more sympathetic and compassionate person as well. From Faye’s examples and teachings, I evolved from a distant business woman, one who was polite with selfish thoughts of my own desire to advance in my career and to have people like me, to a more sympathetic and kindhearted human being.

For 12 years, Faye Schenkman was my boss, my AMMA therapist/herbalist, as well as my mentor on many levels and those were the best years of my life. Thank you Faye for your countless hours, your unwavering patience, but most of all for your compassion and love that made an enormous difference in the person I am today. Your mastery goes beyond the “Art of AMMA” to not only healing others, but teaching others to heal their patients, as well as themselves.

Cheryl (Strickland) Ostrow

I have so much love and respect for this woman, Faye Schenkman. To convey my thoughts and feelings in a few lines is a monumental task. In these past 9 years, Faye has opened my world to so much more than my physical body. I have and continue to learn so much about my mind, my body and my spirit; I so look forward to our time together-I am truly blessed to have Faye in my life.

Paula Steigler

I feel blessed to know Faye Schenkman. If you’ve ever had a mentor, then you know how significantly the right one can fundamentally awaken your senses to a facet of life and show you in no uncertain terms the underlying reality. It wasn’t with flowery words, but advanced practical knowledge and unsurpassed understanding of her profession. The results are the teachings I lucidly remember and my own ability to affect the body’s condition for the better. In essence, her mastery of the wholistic medicine and the healing arts deepens my own understanding with a very real and percussive effect. It could be just a moment, a brief chat and suddenly I see the full ignorance of my former thought processes. Thank you Faye, you are a true Healer and masterful Teacher!

Doug Mandalone

I have been in the health and healing profession for over 35 years. I first met Faye 18 years ago as I faced a life threatening illness. Faye was instrumental in guiding me along a wholistic path to regain my health. She is an excellent diagnostician and Amma practitioner. Her in depth knowledge of herbal supplements is surpassed only by her compassion and ability to educate patients in a clear direct manner so they can understand and participate in their healing.

Words spoken by Faye Schenkman, carry their weight in gold.

In deep admiration and appreciation,

Cindy Kenny, RN, BSN, MAM (Masters of Arts in Health Care management)
We all speak of college and the importance of a good education. How many teachers actually live the life they teach? We all should as health care practitioners "live" the life we represent...in other words "walk our talk".

Faye is probably one of the only teachers I have had, that is truly the living example of this.

She was my Amma therapist when I began my study at the New Center in Manhasset in 1992, I knew nothing about Amma therapy or what it actually takes to be a massage therapist.

Her presence made it known quite clearly to my young and not so young classmates. This was serious business. We were to be health care practitioners that will impress upon the world by our good example how important Amma therapy and good lifestyle truly is.

She was my Amma therapist, and still is my Amma therapist. Not only does she treat, but with each pathology I come to her with, be it my own, or of my patients, she teaches and extends her knowledge with every inquiry I have. Through Faye's constant example of what a true Amma Therapist is and represents, I have grown in my own practice of 20 years, with the confidence and security of knowing I had the best education I could have ever had as a massage therapist.

I still consult with her, rely on her expertise with treatments and herbs. She heals with heart and hands.

I feel blessed and very grateful in having her in my life as a teacher, and friend. Through her passion and love of Amma Therapy, my classmates and I came to her searching for a pathway to health, and found a teacher we hope to emulate, and pass forward the benefits of Amma Therapy as well as continuing the treatment that is a truly healing modality for all.

Kathy Abugel, LMT

I have known Faye Schenkman for over ten years and I am one of the original patients of Wholistic Healing Arts. Faye has seen me through a decade of physical and emotional ailments. My son is also her patient and she has guided him through the turbulent years of young adulthood with her insight and understanding. Often, her opinion was the only one that he respected. Faye is so much more than a health practitioner; she is a human being filled with deep compassion and I am so grateful to have her in my life.

Janet

How often do you find a person so kind, that puts others first and extends such peace of mind?!

How often do you find a person so generous and giving that will stop what she is doing at the drop of a hat to lend a hand and make sure your needs are met – just like that?!

A greater friend one could not have, a straight shooter who will tell you like it is, a mentor, a teacher, a lifter of people!

That is our Faye – a privilege to know – so special and so rare. She is beyond compare!

Susan Ambert
Tribute to Faye

The Tao says “Those who speak do not know, those who know do not speak.” Those of us who know the treasure who is Faye Shenkman would have to keep silent for lifetimes to express the treasure of her worth. However, it is our honor to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Faye, our teacher, colleague, mentor, and friend, so we cannot be silent.

In this spirit, I humbly offer just two of the myriad words in the lexicon of praise that come to mind when I reflect on the essence of Faye. These words are ‘gratitude’ and ‘ripples’.

I am eternally grateful to Faye for all she has given me over the course of our 30 year friendship. Faye has been my Teacher, my Doctor, my Mentor, and my friend. She exemplifies, for me, the pinnacle of The Way of The Great Teacher as described by Chuang Tzu in the classic Taoist Text The Inner Chapters:

- The one who knows her true nature is at one with heaven as well as humankind.
- Being at one with heaven she is in tune with heaven. Being at one with humankind, she uses her knowledge of the known to explore what is unknown and enjoys the fullness of her life. This is indeed the perfection of knowledge!

Chuang Tzu continues:

- The true sage keeps herself apart from the world, standing straight and firm without wavering. She is humble yet not servile, independent yet not stubborn. She is open to all things and does not boast. Her radiance comes from her inner light.

I have immeasurable gratitude to have received Faye’s radiant inner light for all the years of our friendship.

As for the word ‘ripples’, I cannot think of a more appropriate metaphor to express Faye’s impact on the world. She humbly drops her pebbles -- her guidance, her knowledge, her wisdom -- and their impact spreads untold distances. Who can know how many have been touched through her writing, teaching, healing, and being? On that, we must be silent.

I thank you, Faye, for your brilliance, humility, compassion, and example. Your love waters and feeds me as it does countless others. My best way of honoring you is not to speak but to be, in action, like you. This I strive to do every day, with my own patients, students, and family, and we are all enriched. You are the Cauldron, the Ding, the Jade Vessel. You are the Treasure of our house. It is our great Good Fortune to be walking the Way along with you, dear Faye. I wish you countless blessings, so well and richly deserved.

Dr. Janice Stefanacci Seward, Psy.D., M.C.A.T.
When I think of Faye Schenkman the word that comes into my mind is Gratitude. Faye is the most inspiring and encouraging teacher I have ever known. I am grateful and honored to have been one of her students. Faye’s guidance and teachings have helped me to become the person I am now, to become an Amma Therapist, to have compassion, understanding and to love my profession.

Thank you Faye for all your support, especially for believing and trusting in me, when I did not believe or trust in myself.

Irma Callahan, LMT, CAT, MS, L. Ac.

You would be hard pressed to find someone who has furthered AMMA Therapy in the health care professions more than Faye Shenkman. Her passion for AMMA Therapy and her compassion for her patients are clearly evident in any conversation had with her. She has a wealth of knowledge and is all too willing to share. Faye continues to influence many lives in her treating and teaching.

Mark Petruzzi MS, LAc, LMT

I have known Faye Schenkman since 1994 and have had the pleasure of interacting with her in a variety of settings. She has been my practitioner, my teacher, my colleague and certainly my friend. When I think of Faye, the thing that strikes me most is her fierce commitment to what she does. She embodies everything she teaches and that is truly a wonderful quality in a healer. I have been fortunate to be around her, to learn from her and work with her. I hope that together we can continue to carry forward the rich tradition that she has so willingly shared with all of us.

Dennis Moseman D.C., M.S., L.Ac.
Dean of Studies, Tristate College of Acupuncture, NYC

For many years my wonderful caring sister has counseled my wife Fran and I to help improve our health. Her invaluable advice is greatly appreciated.
With love and gratitude,

Shelly

I am blessed to have the guidance, protection, love and support of many earth angels. Some are friends, some are biological relatives and others are honorary relatives, such as Ant Faye.

Faye is feminine name with origins in the middle English word Faie for fairy and the old French word Foy for Faith, as in Saint Foy a French Martyr from Agen in 300 A.D.

Amma is the Ancient Chinese massage technique, developed nearly 5000 years ago, that balances the flow of energy in a person’s body. “Amma” means push/pull in Chinese, while amma means Mother in many other languages.

Faye is a faithful fairy of Amma that has pushed and pulled me to and along the path of my sacred task.

She has listened, shared, hugged, laughed, called back, found appointments, removed a spoonful of pity pie from my mouth, congratulated, encouraged, supported, concocted teas and powders in her mystical apothecary, drove me to and held my hand before a scary surgery, and visited me after the same scary surgery ---not for a fee, but because she is Faye.

I am glad to have crossed your path Ant Faye. May love and light continue to be your constant companions.

By Kelly A. Simmons, patient since 2006, honorary niece since 2008

Environmental Scientist, MS Marine Biology, outdoor education instructor, published author and poet
I was thrilled and honored when my friend and colleague Kim Rosado asked me to contribute a few words as part of a collective tribute to Faye Shenckman respectfully offered by those who have been lucky enough to know her personally and professionally over her many years of remarkable service and accomplishments within the field of natural healthcare and education.

In my experience Faye is one of the most complete and shining examples of what I would consider the quintessential definition of a truly outstanding clinician, teacher and researcher. Her maturity and depth of skill, understanding, inquisitiveness, compassion and selfless dedication is startlingly rare and is certainly impossible to convey adequately in words but I will offer a few attempts based on my 20 years of knowing Faye and her work:

**Faye as Clinician**

I never met a patient of Faye’s whose eyes did not convey immediate and implicit trust, appreciation, respect and love whenever her name was mentioned in her presence or otherwise. Appreciation for her skills and professional knowledge that has helped so many in their suffering, respect for her guidance and wisdom in counseling beyond the treatment room and love for her obvious and seemingly inexhaustible compassion and empathy for others in distress. Faye is the senior lineage holder of AMMA therapy in the US today, a system transmitted to her in the traditional style by her mentor and the founder of the AMMA Therapy, Mrs. Tina Sohn, who passed away some years ago. In short, clinical work has always signified a form of sacred service in the hands, heart and mind of Faye Schenkman.

**Faye as a Teacher**

Faye’s gentle compassion as a practitioner is matched by her fierce compassion as a teacher. Though sadly never a student of hers myself, her reputation as a teacher is summed up by the phrase “don’t even think about it!” “It” being any and all excuses for not doing your very best at all times. She has a no-nonsense, direct, practical approach to transmitting knowledge and inspiring others to learn as well as to continuously challenge themselves. She is the kind of educator who leads by example witnessed by the evident passion and thirst for her own personal and professional growth. She has also been a tireless leader and principal advocate for the dissemination of AMMA therapy practice and education in the USA for several decades. She is quite simply the most experienced and most accomplished teacher of this discipline anywhere today.

**Faye as Researcher**

As it was formerly known, the NY College for Wholistic Health, Education and Research founded many ground-breaking and clinically important research initiatives over the years. Many of these, especially in the AMMA Therapy department were conceived and orchestrated by Faye. Research for Faye is a matter of pragmatic, honest and creative inquiry as measured by empirically validated clinical results. This approach to research requires a methodology governed by detailed and honesty scrutiny of actual rather than hoped for results and a critical eye on the practitioner’s strong potential for bias. In this sense Faye is to my mind a great example of research thinking and methodology that is more likely to help patients that an other.

It has been my great privilege to know Faye, her husband Steve and all those who made my own personal experience over the 8 years I worked in that remarkable community in Syosset a truly memorable and deeply influential one.

Thank you Faye for being an inspiration to all of those committed to finding more balance in their own health whether patient, student or practitioner. You are the best!

**Nigel Dawes, M.A., L.Ac.**

Soho Health Arts, Manhattan, NY
Plaza Wellness, Brooklyn, NY
It is with great love & respect that I write this tribute to honor Faye Schenkman as a master teacher and practitioner of AMMA Therapy®. There is a saying that we can never repay God, our parents and our teachers. This is a great truth for we gain more from them than we can ever repay. But we must still do our best to honor them through what we have learned and in our care for them.

Born in Brooklyn, Faye is a direct descendant of Yitzchak Elchanan, a talmudical scholar, greatly revered by the rabbinic community.

"His sound reasoning, his liberal views and his love of peace combined to establish him as one of the great leaders of Russian Jewry." Nahal Yitzhak by Isaac Elhanan.

I find this bloodline quite significant especially when we see the same defining attributes in Faye Schenkman.

Faye's doctoral studies in Chinese History led her along a path that crossed with that of a great spiritual teacher, Dr Robert Sohn. In 1973, Faye was introduced to Dr. Sohn to translate Chinese acupuncture charts into English. There were very few books available in English at that time and Faye was studying and teaching Chinese language. Within a short time, their relationship grew to that of student and teacher. Faye began spending her time with a growing group of students (introduced to them by her future husband, Steve) at Dr. & Mrs. Sohn's home, learning karate, yoga, oriental medicine and spiritual work. In time, the spiritual group evolved into an ashram and lived a life of spiritual practice. They opened the Institute for Self Development and the Wholistic Health Center, and taught the practice of Self evolution and Conscious awakening. With Mrs. Sohn's tutelage and empathic abilities, the concepts of AMMA were decoded, translated and guided into a practical healing art.

Faye was very instrumental in the translation, development and teaching of AMMA. The Institute for Self Development grew and transformed into the New Center College (and later the New York College) for Wholistic Health Education and Research. The college expanded its Massage and Advanced AMMA Therapy® programs and added Acupuncture, Oriental Medicine, and Wholistic Nursing. Eventually, Faye became the Dean of the Massage Therapy Program, the Director of the Advanced AMMA Therapy® Program, and the Director of the Wholistic Health Center and Herbal Dispensary. She taught in all the programs and had a thriving clinical practice. All AMMA students crossed her path and developed under her watchful eye. Though many had varying degrees of contact with Mrs. Sohn, it was primarily Faye who guided our education, and patient care and enabled the legacy of Mrs. Sohn’s art to be carried on. She played an integral role in the transmission of AMMA Therapy® to massage therapists, acupuncturists and nurses throughout the country including her leadership roles in the AOBTA (American Organization for Bodywork Therapies of Asia) and NCCAOM (National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine). Faye’s commitment and dedication helped to raise up her students, not just in technique but in the higher principles that she aspired to align herself with, based on the profound teachings of Dr. and Mrs. Sohn. Through Faye’s constant oversight, her boundless knowledge, ceaseless efforts, and her true commitment to elevate her students, she gave us a solid foundation upon which to practice and evolve our AMMA.

I have been very blessed to have worked closely with Faye both at the college as my mentor and for the past 13 years as partner in our private practice, Wholistic Healing Arts, LLC, in Huntington, New York. I can honestly say that I learn something from her every day. “Faye is Brilliant!” I heard Dr. Sohn say, and I have witnessed this many times over in my years with her.

Continued....
I have never known anyone who could speak so intelligently and expansively on so many topics, from history, to current events, politics, religion, sports, nutrition, style, entertainment, you name it and Faye can speak on it. Not only is she well informed but she integrates her knowledge into an expansive understanding which she communicates quite eloquently and appropriately to help broaden people’s perspective and minimize suffering.

Faye has helped me to evolve along my spiritual path, develop as a health practitioner, gain balance and find my own voice. She has been instrumental in my healing on many levels and stopped my recurrent winter pneumonia. I am continually impressed by her level of intelligence, compassion, loyalty, and dedication. Her care and patient advocacy extends way beyond the patient visit. She is always thinking about her patients; who she can set up with whom, what service, doctor, herb, supplement, device will be of added benefit. She has a direct, no nonsense, ‘say it like it is’ manner along with deep compassion and a heart of pure gold.

Faye taught Nurse Practitioner and RN student nurses holistic health principles and Eastern and Western herbs, at Columbia University for 13 years and is currently teaching at New York University’s (NYU) RN program. She is also teaching AMMA Therapy® with Kim Rosado to Acupuncturists at Tristate College of Acupuncture in New York City. She has authored the Foreword (and more) in the AMMA Therapy book by Tina and Robert Sohn, the Appendix I: Basic Pharmacology for Massage Therapists in Mark Beck’s Theory & Practice of Therapeutic Massage, and several articles in health journals throughout the years. It is our good fortune that Faye Schenkman is available for workshops on AMMA, herbs, pharmacology and its relevance for the bodyworker/acupuncturist and more. I encourage us all to continue to learn from Faye while she is still teaching.

Wisdom from our teachers is not antiquated, but multilayered. It builds over time from their being closer to the source of the teaching, driven by higher principles and having many years of direct experience. Faye is a true master of the teachings and practice of AMMA Therapy® who continues to learn, educate and inspire. I am blessed to know her as my teacher, my mentor, my business partner and my best friend.

**Kim Rosado, LMT, CAT, MS, L. Ac. Dipl. ABT & Acup**

**Co-Director, Wholistic Healing Arts, LLC.**
Honoring Faye –
When Kim called asked what I thought about partnering with her and putting together some sort of tribute for Faye, I jumped at the idea.

In the days that have followed I have been touched and brought to tears reading some of the submissions we have received from those who know and love Faye as much as we do. To see everyone’s outpour of love is a beautiful and deeply moving thing to witness.

I can’t think of anyone more deserving to read and hear these words than Faye. I hope that by having the words of those that love her close at hand, she knows that she need but only ask and any of us would stop whatever we were doing and help if ever need be.

There is nothing new I can say that hasn’t been said – but the truth bears repeating. Faye is an exceptional woman, mentor, scholar, teacher, partner, spiritual guide, surrogate Mom, comedian, friend, and a genuine master practitioner of Amma Therapy, Chinese Medicine, Wholistic Health and Herbs.

Because of her I am who I am. Because of her I have a career I love for 23+ years and passion for healing and Amma Therapy. A passion and an uncompromising inquisitiveness, I hope I pass on to all those I have been fortunate enough to teach.

Faye worked closely with me giving me the courage and the guidance to bring the training of Amma Therapy to the west coast in 1992. For the past 20 odd years I have stayed as true to the principles of the art as they were passed on to me through my Amma teachers, mostly Faye & Steve. As Kim mentions those of us who studied Amma from the late 80’s on really have Faye to thank for our gift of this healing art. I valued having the opportunity to train and be treated by Dr. & Mrs. Sohn – but it was Faye who was my primary mentor; Faye who was always present, working tirelessly and whose brain I picked.

I love Faye’s sense of humor and her “tough love” ways. As many have said Faye never minces words and her wisdom and lessons often come in short succinct questions or wry statements that cut right to the heart of the matter.

Many of us were fortunate to have Faye as a role model – we learned to disciple our minds and to be cognizant of “who the driver was up there”. We learned to live authentically, with passion and compassion and to have a thirst for knowledge. We learned to never give up, that everyone was worthy and deserved to be treated. We learned that we were here to work hard and work it out and to not be a victim. And we learned that we could do it! Faye never asked of us what she didn’t do herself times 10.

Thank you Faye, I love you and I am forever grateful for your enduring loving presence in my life and in the lives of all those you touch directly and indirectly through the lessons and linage you have imprinted on those of us who practice and teach in your footsteps.

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Founder of The Wellspring School for Healing Arts