



**SANTA BARBARA
MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION, Inc.**

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Corliss Porter Riggs, MFCC
Executive Director

June 2, 1992

Dr. Walter Capps
Department of Religious Studies
University of California Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

Dear Dr. Capps,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Mental Health Association, I would like to thank you for giving our clients and families an opportunity to share their personal experiences with your students. Mental illness continues to be an invisible disease that no one talks about resulting in stigma and shame for both the patient and their family. Only through education about mental illness will destigmatization be achieved thus allowing people with a mental illness to be integrated into the community.

Your class provides an excellent opportunity to reach many young people so that they might have a better understanding of people with a mental illness. Your use of "stranger," as a relational term that identifies someone who is as yet not-known in relation to that which may better known sums up our hope for the mentally ill. It is our hope that by allowing their voices to speak, your students will have a better understanding of the mentally ill and have learned something important. If we can be of use to you in future classes please feel free to call. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Corliss Porter Riggs
Executive Director



County of Santa Barbara

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



Administration
300 San Antonio Rd., Rm. 274
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
(805) 681-5220
FAX (805) 681-5262

Merna McMillan, Ph.D., Director

June 1, 1992

**Dr. Walter Capps
c/o Religious Studies Department
University of California Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106**

Dear Dr. Capps,

Both Laurie and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the chance to speak before your class on Thursday, May 21, 1992. Laurie, as a member of the Santa Barbara Family Alliance for the Mentally Ill, and I, as a staff member of Santa Barbara County Mental Health Services, are very concerned about issues regarding people with mental illness. Each opportunity to address these issues advances our goals of reducing stigma and promotes a more enlightened, educated society. There are many new and exciting developments in how the needs of the mentally ill are being addressed today, and we are ever anxious to share knowledge and experiences with others.

We would very much like the opportunity to return to your class, "Voices of a Stranger". Please stay in touch with us and do not hesitate to call on us for any reason.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Selina I. Glater". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

**Selina I. Glater, M.A., R.M.T.
Self-Help and Advocacy Coordinator**

SG:cs

**cc: Merna McMillan, Ph.D., Director
Santa Barbara County Mental Health Services**

**Arnie Schildhaus, LCSW
Housing and Program Development Manager**