

## EDITOR'S COMMENTARY

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Alfred H. Katz, this journal's founding editor. "To the memory," however, is figure of speech and metaphor—much more than retrospective recollection is involved. Indeed, Alfred's lifetime contribution in so many ways shaped the core of the field of self-help and self-care, its boundaries and its interfaces, that his influence remains current and even futuristic.

Al's career path and notable publications are recorded "In Memoriam" by his UCLA colleagues Linda B. Bourque and Carl A. Maida. Thanks to Linda and Carl for this valuable overview of Alfred's career and background.

Volume 2 Number 1 opens the publication year with three manuscripts selected from Al Katz's "nachlass," edited only slightly, in some instances lacking a few citations. We chose to honor the substance of the articles as prepared, noting their origin in the mid-1980s and encourage present-day authors to build on this work as the field of self-help and self-care assumes increasing importance in this century of turbulence and limited resources.

A further article in this issue, by Ann Dadich, addresses the topic of research, and the paradoxes and dilemmas complicating the task of systematic inquiry in self-help.

Our final article by Carl A. Maida focuses on "stigma," its sociocultural context, including medical/hospital settings, and examines the extent to which patients with chronic conditions can obtain support from self-help groups, including hemodialysis and lupus erythematosus, a severe inflammatory autoimmune disease.

We invite contributions from colleagues and from our readers.

. . . always open to comments and suggestion!

*Your Editor*  
*fred.massarik@anderson.ucla.edu*