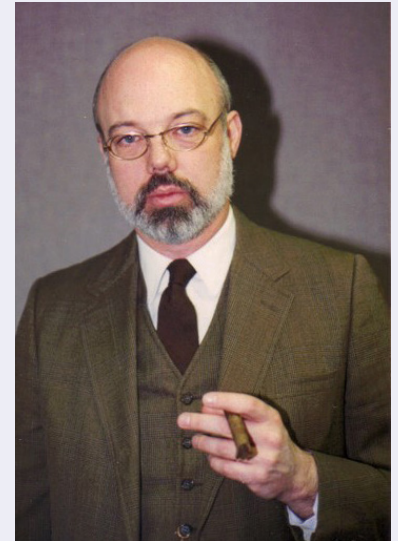


A Meeting of Minds

In the late 1970s and early 80s, the Public Broadcasting System created an award-winning television series called *A Meeting of Minds*. It was created and hosted by Steve Allen, who had also been the first host of the *Tonight Show*. In the show, Allen invited two to four historical figures from different time periods (e.g. Socrates, Cleopatra, Karl Marx, Florence Nightingale – played by actors who had studied their biographies and works) to be interviewed, to meet and interact with one another, and to share their perspectives about their own and contemporary times.

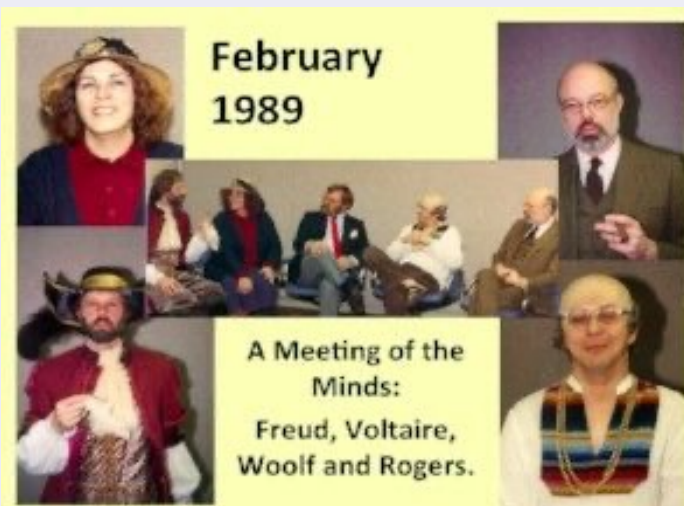
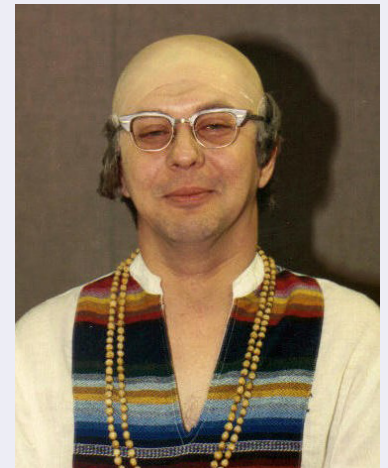


by James Zabel), Voltaire, the Enlightenment philosopher (played by Robert Zabel), Virginia Woolf, the early 20th century author (played by Mary Kay Zabel), and Carl Rogers, the humanistic psychologist (played by Carl Smith). Reece Peterson was the moderator in the Steve Allen role.



Each panel participant researched their character to find written or spoken dialogue relevant to ideas and issues related to emotional and behavioral disorders and mental health of children.

Participants met several times sharing what they learned, collaborating on a script, and rehearsing the “play.” To the greatest extent possible, the dialogue consisted of the actual written or spoken words of the historical figures themselves. With help from theater programs at their respective universities, they found costumes appropriate to the times and tastes of the characters they portrayed.



The MSLBD 1989 *Meeting of Minds* keynote was modeled on this format! The historical characters were chosen, created, researched, and enacted by members of the MSLBD Planning Committee wearing vintage costumes. In recognition of Sigmund Freud’s death 50 years earlier, the four historical guests were Sigmund Freud himself (played

Later that spring, the MSLBD *Meeting of*

Minds was performed again at the 1989 CEC convention in San Francisco.

From its beginnings, the MSLBD Planning Committee has been willing to take risks and seek to engage, stimulate, educate, and entertain Symposium participants. *The Meeting of Minds* represents creative work that is not

typical of most professional conferences and was later followed by other unusual formats for keynote sessions. Fortunately, like many MSLBD keynote presentations, the *Meeting of Minds* was videotaped and is available on the MSLBD website: <https://archive.org/details/Mslbd1989AMeetingOfTheMinds>



James Zabel as



Sigmund Freud

Mary Kay Zabel as



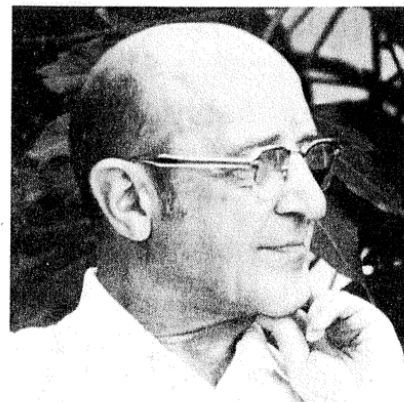
Virginia Woolf

Bob Zabel as



Voltaire

Carl Smith as



Carl Rogers