

Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy

REGARDING OUR CONFERENCE AND ITS THEMES

The conference for 2002 is only about a year away. No one could have predicted the events of September 11th when we all decided on the conference themes, but the extreme and violent "heat" that erupted before the whole world in New York has changed the global community and effected the ground of our conference dramatically. "Holding the Heat" has now more meaning.

Consequently, we view our theme and sub-themes as all the more relevant. In the program committee our members are looking for ways to speak to world events, even while not leaving behind many of the original ideas that sparked our interest to begin with. For instance, we're hoping to meet in St. Petersburg as a community to examine the processes of associating in the AAGT, but now to come together with our differences in a more graceful, sensitive, and perhaps a more forgiving fashion. We are concerned about the course ahead, and so we want to address in some ways the field that contributes to hostility. We want to be alert to organizational as well as individual conflict, but we do not want to leave behind our other interests in creativity and contact. Because of September 11th, current geopolitical activity has drawn a more keen focus to conflict, but that should not shove those whose chief interest is in creativity or contact, in and of themselves, out of the way. We are looking for proposals that speak to all three - as each stands individually and as two or three have interactive impact.

We hope that you will attend our next conference and are making plans to do so. Registration for the conference is possible through the AAGT web site. If you would like to view the facilities where the conference will take place, consult the web site (www.tradewindsresort.com/sirata). We have a great site selected, and it should support a grand conference.

We would like to invite you all, once again, to submit your interests in presenting at the November 2002 conference. Perhaps you can understand how the events of September 11th interrupted our planning; we can understand how they may have done so for your own thinking about possibly presenting. We have been discussing being flexible with the deadline for proposals. Regardless, PLEASE, if you are interested in presenting, even if you only have a desire and a vague idea, get in touch with me. Talk with us about your idea even if you think you will not be able to make the proposal deadline. Let us help you formulate your idea. Give us an idea of how many people need a little extra time.

Help us all get back up on our feet and get going with creating our next international conference for Gestalt therapy by getting involved with those planning the next conference, and if you feel like it, join the process by joining one of our planning sub-committees. We need people to help the program committee think about plenaries and how they interface with process groups. We need people to help with the logistics, to make sure we have all the support, once there in Florida, that we know we will need. We need people to communicate their interests to the EC for how they might utilize the community meetings. We need people to help create the Experiments in Community Building.

Thanks for your attention. We wish you all well. We know that many of our folks in and around New York have been affected by September 11th in ways that are heart breaking to hear about. We know that many of us elsewhere in the world have also been affected. We hope that you and your loved ones enjoy warmth, safety, and loving company during the holiday season ahead of us. We hope to see you, to be with you again soon.



The Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy

announces its

Sixth International Conference

to be held November 6-10, 2002, St. Petersburg, Florida

> Conference Center info:

www. tradewindsresort.com /sirata

Warm Regards, Chuck Kanner - Conference Planning Committee Chair

FROM THE EDITOR

Elizabeth S. Revell, Ph.D.

ADVERTISING

Newsletter: FULL PAGE (7.5"w by 10"h): \$150

1/2 PAGE (7.5"w x 5"h) or 3.5"w x 10" h): \$85

1/4 PAGE (3.5"w x 5"h): \$50

Conference Program (Florida) FULL PAGE (7.5"w by 10"h): \$200

1/2 PAGE (7.5"w x 5"h): \$125

1/4 PAGE (3.5"w x 5"h): \$75

To advertise in the newsletter, please contact:

Elizabeth S. Revell, Ph.D. 1120 Range Road York, PA 17402

Phone: 717.840.1356

Fax: 717.840.8792

Email: Revell@suscom.net It's a different world than it was the last time I wrote to all of you. The terrorist attacks and the war against Afghanistan have changed all our lives and our psyches. How much more poignant now is the theme of our 2002 conference: "Holding the Heat: Conflict, Creativity, Contact." Exploring this theme is more important now than ever. We hope that you will send in your presentation proposals right away.

We also invite all those who are interested to submit stories about September 11th and its aftermath for publication in the AAGT Newsletter. Please send them to me: ESRevell@suscom.net or fax to me at 717-840-8792.

In this issue we are again printing the call for proposals, since there is still time left for you to submit. In addition, we hope that you will use the registration form to take advantage of the discount and register in advance. Your advance registration provides the seed money we need to set up the conference.

In this issue, in addition to the call for proposals and the registration form there is a letter from the conference chair. There are also articles about AAGT members reaching out, advancing Gestalt Therapy in the US and about making connections with our colleagues in other countries. Finally, Carol Brockmon's President's Corner has a special treat this time. We are printing a poem she wrote entitled "Moving In and Out: Five Elements and Six Senses." I know that you will enjoy this work as much as I did!

ADVANCING GESTALT THERAPY

Sarah Toman

On November 8th and 9th, I attended the All Ohio Counselor's Conference (of the Ohio Counseling Association) in Columbus, Ohio and was pleasantly surprised to find TWO Gestaltoriented presentations on the program. Norman Shub, President of Gestalt Associates, presented Character Work With Adolescents, and Being With: Using Gestalt Skills to Create a Relationship with a Child or Adolescent. Both presentations were well attended and provided Ohio school and community agency counselors with useful information for working with children and adolescents. Norman is truly participating in the "advancement of Gestalt therapy" by offering such presentations to Ohio counselors. Thanks Norman!

EXPERIMENTS IN COMMUNITY BUILDING

The committee is now forming for the Experiments in Community Building Track for the AAGT 2002 Conference. We invite interested members to contact either

Brian O'Neill, Chair email boneill@ouw.edu.au or Zelda Friedman, email ZelNorm@aol.com phone 718.353.3631 fax 718.353.4778

GESTALT IN THE WORLD

Elizabeth S. Revell, Ph.D.

A number of AAGT members were able to attend the conference of the European Association of Gestalt Therapy in Stockholm, Sweden, from September 13th through 16th. Those who attended were those who managed to get out of the US before the terrorist attacks on September 11th.

For the past year several members of the Executive Committee have been working to form a closer affiliation with EAGT and with GANZ (Gestalt Australia New Zealand). I have been writing about my efforts to create a joint newsletter, with the help of Sharon Snir (Editor of the GANZ newsletter) and Lars Berg (Editor of the EAGT newsletter). Sharon, Lars, and I finally met in Stockholm on September 12th. On the 15th we presented a workshop together: "Our Write to Re-member: Reconnecting with our Inner Writer, Poet, and Storyteller." Participants enjoyed the workshop, and



Sharon Snir , GANZ newslet ter, Lars Berg, EAGT newslet ter, Elizabeth Revell, AAGT newslet ter.

several of them became "unstuck" as writers as a result of the work they did. These participants are also the core of a movement for Gestaltists worldwide to share their writings. Lars Berg coined the phrase Freedom Xpress as a name for the movement.

At the closing plenary I carried a message from AAGT that we would like to move toward what Bud Feder referred to as "a United Nations of Gestalt." The message received applause, so we know that others throughout the world are interested in closer contact with our world colleagues. I would love to hear from any AAGT member who supports this effort and would like to help to further this goal.

We would like to extend our thanks to the following AAGT members who presented at EAGT: Todd Burley, Sylvia Crocker, Liv Estrup, Ruella Frank, Susan Gregory, Carl Hodges, Talia Levine bar Yoseph, Bea Mackay, Rita Resnick, Robert Resnick, Ansel Woldt, and myself. We also appreciate those whose proposals were accepted for presentation but who were unable to attend because of suspended flights: Carol Brockmon, Edwin Nevis, Penny Backman, Joe Melnick, and Anne Teachworth.



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Ansel Woldt presenting at the EAGT conference in Stockholm.



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REGISTER FOR THE 2002 CONFERENCE ONLINE



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

MOVING IN AND OUT: FIVE ELEMENTS AND SIX SENSES

Sight: Wood

Two ways of seeing: When my eyes scan for a path or figure Or when my eyes receive what is there--The moment of stillness when the blue Of one particular delphinium Breaks my heart with its silence, When rusted metal of a fractured hull Defines the light, When the hairs on the underside of a Pink and mauve and white and burgundy Clover blossom, Every cell outlined, Catch and hold me as I stumble Over the emerging neckbones of the earth.

This is the same path I have walked In frantic anger Aware only of destination So that this ancient, aging rock And ephemeral scarlet pimpernel Winking in this moist loam and soft, scant duff Might as well have not Been.

Taste: Fire

On my searching tongue Bitter residue, bitter, calling forth A flow of spit. The difference Between gulp and savor. ls stillness. The bite of watercress Wakes (zing) My lazy palate. Fat sweet comfort Of creamy melting chocolate finds A warm flow of milky tea. My passive tongue encounters Rough grains and soft slides Chilling over my aching Throat of tears. l spit Bitter flecks of nutgall And the coppery warning of toxic glue.

Voice: Wood

I could sing my fury till the walls fall down! Transform that rage To a joyous wave Flowing out and out . . . Up and over, -- but I am so quickly out of tune. What a joke That everything sings in me when My voice breaks and breaks, Loses pitch, will not stay on key Or in pleasing harmony --

I could sing about anything. If my voice were Just a little more obedient I could sing to gulls and dolphins like a siren; I could join the keening of The women of the world and Shift the key and rhythm of our moan; I could chortle and bubble and glide into such Registers that butterflies and gulls Egrets and condors Would ride the whirling currents Of my voice

Smell: Metal

The scent of rusty sea spray, cool Foggy grass with ocean roses Cut for a moment by the sharp stink of gasoline exhaust From a passing fishing boat Is calling to some foreign sense of home.

The difference between baking bread and baking biscuits? Yeast, yeast is the difference. Place and presence. Presence and place. The intimate awareness of aromatic urine after asparagus; The acrid insult Of narcissus in a closed room. Wakening zings of eucalyptus Beckoning whiffs of savory promise . . .

But a clean baby's neck, There is a smell above all comforts! A soft interstice between ear and shoulder To bury my nose softly, Joining for one stolen moment, The breathing center Of all things.

Hearing: Water

Twisting my body's ear in every direction, Like a seeking shell I hear fomenting earthquakes Conspiracies of hurricane. Underbrush crackles in my mind's ear. But the twitchy music of rustling paper In this room Is louder, the whirr of oscillating fans The swish and creak of clothed bodies shifting on leather. When does listening for drown listening to? I can send my ears just so far, and then Nothing. Trees may be falling, but I hear no sound.

Voices: shattered snatches of conversation On every corner, Every bus and train. Small, insulting emblems of contempt in "Oh, you're here!" after a lonesome day, Or the voice crying out behind a brick wall With a closed window; And you saying to me "Didn't you remember?" And the radio, Drowning the incessant hum of cleaning machines.

I will keep close the roar of the ocean, Background to all sound; while into my ear pour Waves, drumming and smacking, Dear voices and songs Words, secrets, squeaks, whistles, bells, gongs And the crackle of water trapped in My ear's structure, Blinding me to sound like an auditory fog. I must quiet so many things to listen, Only to, hear first The rush of my own blood.

Touch: Earth Engaging Touch, Soothing, stroking touch With no flinching away, Even in the tender places. Firm, supported touch The tentative brush of fingers, the clutch Of a hand that won't open to release Anything. Receiving touch-The press of a dry cheek In a perfunctory "A" shaped hug, A deep resting lean into a long, silent embrace. Sensation quickening During one warm, inviting Tease.

Awe: Fire

Today I Craved the spinning energy Of a dervish, an ecstatic; unhinged and untethered With no story; But driven by bottomless Almost manic Love.

When this blue delphinium is before me Gathering my eyes, where is the splayed maroon Of the little maple? Or the traffic at my back? The beetle on a spent dandelion? My bent neighbor With her thinning hair and pink, raw scalp? The shifting sky, broken by wires, planes; Inhabited by city birds? And the rough concrete under my feet-Verging on earth?

What is more precious here? Focus or periphery?

I stand before this dot of my little garden In the crevice of a suburb of A city, in a country, a, region, a planet, this planet, Whirling out of notice in the Opulent brilliance of the Milky Way.

If I held it all, Would there still be The heartbreaking blue of this one delphinium? The fine hairs on the underside of one bloom of clover? My eye is a huge reflecting ball, Skimming all, holding nothing.

Here is the lesson: Only in the face of this Can I see that truly. I want to taste in all directions The salt of the wind!

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

REPORT

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE By Isabel Fredericson

We of the Membership Committee are asking you, the members, for any input in terms of your ideas, your energy and your interest.

We are hoping to engage in more outreach activities in general, and, more specifically, for the next conference to be held in St. Petersburg, FL. Our committee is coordinating its work with both the regional groups and the interest groups. Additionally, we are hoping to create a more active ongoing liaison between the regions and the membership.

If you are interested in becoming a member of this committee, or if you simply have some good ideas that you would like to share with us, please contact Isabel Fredericson at: freddy9282@aol.com, or fax to: (805) 682-4010.

Please let us hear from you.

As plans for the November 2002 conference move ahead, we need additional volunteers in some specific areas. Zelda Friedman and Brian O'Neill have made an appeal for members to help design the Experiments in Community Building. Perry Klepner has requested that people come forth to work on the Process Groups committee. We need people to help with logistics, making the actual event in Florida happen smoothly.

We are also in great need of someone to spearhead our publicity effort. Each conference gives us a unique possibility to advance Gestalt Therapy, and it is through the conference publicity that the word can get out. We hope that each of you will consider whether you can fill this all-important role.

If you are willing to fill any of these committee roles, please contact Chuck Kanner at your earliest convenience at chuck@kanneracademy.com.

CONFERENCE CENTER - TRADEWINDS SIRATA BEACH RESORT IN FLORIDA

Registration for the conference is possible as well through the AAGT web site. If you would like to view the facilities where the conference will take place, please consult the web site for the hotel (http://tradewindsresort.com/sirata).



Be one of the first to experience the TradeWinds Sirata Beach Resort...the newest addition to the TradeWinds collection. Set on 12 acres of natural beachfront, this sun-drenched resort provides a relaxing resort experience with a Mediterranean flair and warm, personal service.

Gently swaying sea oats, miles of white sand beaches and the gentle sounds of the surf invite visitors to relax and cast their cares to the wind. Brilliant west coast sunsets mark the close of another perfect day, while you enjoy a tropical cooler at one of the poolside beach bars. Discover a fun place for families at Island Cafe and Kidspace where kids can escape upstairs to a video game center or scoot down the two-story slide for a casual meal with the family. Choose from a range of accommodations including a variety of bright, spacious guest rooms, parlor rooms and newly decorated suites with kitchenette. Beach cabanas, parasailing and a variety of shelling, snorkeling and sailing excursions enhance the beachfront activity. Experience the magic of the beach at TradeWinds Sirata Beach.

In addition to all the recreation and dining choices at TradeWinds Sirata Beach, guests are also encouraged to enjoy all the options at TradeWinds Island Grand and TradeWinds Sandpiper as well, with charging privileges back to their Sirata room folio. TradeWinds Sirata is located just "three doors away" from TradeWinds Island Grand and TradeWinds Sandpiper (an easy 5 minute walk along the beach or boulevard) and just 30 minutes from Tampa International Airport.

The TradeWinds Sirata Beach is located at 5300 Gulf Blvd., St. Pete Beach, FL 33706 Telephone: (727) 363-5100 Toll Free Reservations: 1-800-344-5999

Sirata Beach Resort

Miles of white sandy beach 3 heated pools 2 whirlpools Fitness Center Beach Cabanas 2 barefoot beach bars Water trykes Beach Volleyball Supervised children's programs Nearby Golf priveleges Parasailing and watersports At the Sirata Beach

Resort, you can do it all or nothing at all.

Relax to the gentle sounds of the surf and softly swaying sea oats along the dunes.

Stroll miles of our award-winning beaches while enjoying a brilliant west coast sunset.

The Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy

announces its

Sixth International Conference

to be held November 6-10, 2002, St. Petersburg, Florida

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

"HOLDING THE HEAT: CONFLICT, CREATIVITY, CONTACT"

Embracing four sub-themes:

- Re-envisioning Conflict: Discovering the Creative Potential
- Examining Our Process: Gestalt Theoretical Models
- Conflict as Growth: Contacting Difference
- Standing One's Ground: Authority, Power and Courage

Presentations will be two hours in length, with time for participant discussion. We are encouraging innovative and creative presentations and experiential workshops that explore how people move in and out of conflict in various contexts: intrapersonal and interpersonal, couples, families, small groups, organizations, and communities. Student papers and presentations based on research projects are welcomed. Presentations may be theoretical, clinical, or experiential, and they may be demonstrations, panels, video presentations, or discussions. Presentations will be selected by the conference planning committee following blind peer review. Interest groups are encouraged to submit proposals. Presentations will be taped and tapes will be made available during the conference. Continuing Education credit will be offered to attendees.

Those wishing to submit a proposal must submit a presentation proposal form following the procedure described below. Interested persons can use the form below, request that a presentation form be sent to them, or download one from the AAGT web site (www.aagt.org).

Proposal Deadline Extended

The deadline for proposals for AAGT 2002 has been extended to February 1, 2002. Although only proposals that were received before December 15, 2001 can be used in publicity for the conference, we welcome additional submissions through the month of January. The form asks for a 200-300 word description of the presentation, an outline, questions that can be answered from attending the presentation, and three relevant readings. Presentation proposal forms will be blind peer reviewed and selected according to the needs of the program. If accepted, the corresponding presenter(s) will be required to submit (within two weeks) a 100 word abstract of the presentation to be published in the conference program, a 60 word biography reflecting the relevance of presenter background(s) to the presentation, a signed release permitting the taping of the presentation, a description of any audiovisual aids required, and a curriculum vita for each presenter (please have these ready). All these items are necessary to support the process of review and the AAGT's granting of Continuing Education Units; we appreciate your cooperation.

Correspondence around presentations with multiple presenters will be conducted with the person submitting the proposal, who will be responsible for communicating with co-presenters and sending in the requested materials.

Those needing help in the preparation of a presentation proposal can contact the conference coordinators, Chuck Kanner (chuck@kanneracademy.com), who will either answer the questions directly or assign a mentor.

PRESENTATION PROPOSAL FORM

AAGT 6th International Gestalt Therapy Conference November 6-10th, 2002; St. Petersburg, Florida, USA

Deadline to receive this proposal form is December 15, 2001

"HOLDING THE HEAT: CONFLICT, CREATIVITY, CONTACT"

Embracing four sub-themes:

- Re-envisioning Conflict: Discovering the Creative Potential
- Examining Our Process: Gestalt Theoretical Models
- Conflict as Growth: Contacting Difference
- Standing One's Ground: Authority, Power and Courage

What to send and where to send it:

4 copies of form, plus a cover letter (via mail, not FAX) to:

AAGT Peer Review c/o Effie Bastas 5026 Copley Rd. Philadelphia, PA 19144

1 copy of your cover letter only to:

Cynthia Cook 23 Nelson Ave. Provincetown, MA 02657

1 copy of your cover letter only to:

Philip Brownell 315 Golf Course Rd., #1806 Morganton, NC 28655

Include in your cover letter the title of your presentation, your name, highest degree, your complete address, telephone number, FAX, and e-mail address, and (if applicable) the same for all co-presenters.

DO NOT put any identifying information on your presentation proposal form. You will be notified when to send the other information.

Please type (all sections must be completed in order to be considered; expand the sections as needed and/or use additional sheets as necessary)

- 1. Gestalt Experience Level Suggested for Participants:
- ___Experienced
- ___Novice
- ___No Limitations
- 2. Format (prioritize categories and elements that apply; 1=highest)
- ___Didactic Category
- ____Based on a formal paper (have copies available)
- ____Based on a research project
- ____Based on work experiences
- ___Based on theory
- ____Experiential Category
- ___Demonstration
- ____Panel
- ___Discussion
- ____Experimental participation
- ____Video/multi-media Presentation

ID #

- 3. Title (Limit to 65 characters, including spaces):
- 4. Description (a 200-300 word description of what you intend to do, how you intend to do it, and in what ways that relates to the conference themes and/or sub-themes; be specific):

5. A five to ten-point outline of the material to be covered, expanding on the description above; this need not be detailed:

6. An assessment test consisting of five objective questions (multiple choice, true-false, fill in, or matching). The correct answers to these questions must be included. If the presentation is entirely experiential, answer this question, "What three new awarenesses were the result of participation?" The questions must be able to be answered as a result of attendance, and the shorter and less complicated the better.

7. List one to three significant readings (articles or books) on the subject of your presentation. These need not cover the specific topic, but should serve to provide information for further study and be generally relevant. Use this format: Author Last Name, Initial. (date) Title of article or book. Name of Journal (if appropriate). Publisher City, State: Name of Publisher.

The Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy

announces its

Sixth International Conference

to be held November 6-10, 2002, St. Petersburg, Florida

REGISTRATION FORM

"HOLDING THE HEAT: CONFLICT, CREATIVITY, CONTACT"

Embracing four sub-themes:

- Re-envisioning Conflict: Discovering the Creative Potential
- Examining Our Process: Gestalt Theoretical Models
- Conflict as Growth: Contacting Difference
- Standing One's Ground: Authority, Power and Courage

Join Gestalt therapists from around the world for: Plenary Sessions • Two-hour Workshops • Process Groups • Community Building Activities • Interest Group Meetings • Special Events • Continuing Education Credits

CONFERENCE FEES*:

AAGT Member (see opportunity to join included in this registration announcement):

- Early Registration (postmarked before February 28th, 2002) \$340
- Normal Registration (postmarked between March 1st & June 30, 2002) \$370
- Late Registration (postmarked between July 1st & September 30th) \$400
- "At the Door" Registration (postmarked after September 30th or accomplished on site) \$450

Non-Member:

- Early Registration (postmarked before February 28th, 2002) \$390
- Normal Registration (postmarked between March 1st & June 30, 2002) \$420
- Late Registration (postmarked between July 1st & September 30th) \$450
- "At the Door" Registration (postmarked after September 30th or accomplished on site) \$500

Student (defined as full-time enrollment in an academic program):

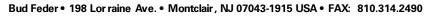
Students have a choice to make. They can opt for complete conference attendance, which affords them access to all the breakfasts, luncheons, workshops, plenaries, community building activities, special events, and participation in process groups (all of which is recommended), or they can choose to purchase day passes (offered as an outreach incentive), to attend workshops, community building activities, and plenary sessions, and to pay for their own food (day passes do not include participation in process groups). Those students choosing full conference participation should contact the scholarship committee to inquire about work-study and other possibilities that might offset expenses.

- Student, full conference fee (early, normal, and late registration) \$200
- Student, full conference fee ("at the door" registration) \$250
- Day Passes \$25/day.

*Confirmation will be mailed to you. There will be a \$25 processing fee for all cancellations. No refunds will be granted after October 15, 2002.

Make checks payable to:AAGT Conference (checks must be drawn on US banks in US nds)

Please fill out the following information and indicate whether or not you are		Indicate:	
□ joining the AAGT at this time or are		Conference Fee:	
a current, paid up member:		Membership:	
NAME:		Scholarship Donation	
		Total Enclosed:	
ADDRESS: CITY/STATE/ZIP:		For purposes of luncheons please	
		indicate if you are <u>vegetarian</u>	
		or <u>non-vegetarian</u>	
COUNTRY:			
		Master Card of Visa payr	ment accepted
TELEPHONE (WORK)	TELEPHONE (HOME)	expiration date:	
FAX NUMBER:	EMAIL ADDRESS:	Master Card or Visa #:	
You may also register using the secure server option at the AAGT website http://www.aagt.org.		Signature:	
		g. Roommate Request. "I need a roommate	e at the hotel "
If you encounter trouble with the web	site, please contact the conference co-chairs (Phil and/or Chuck).	Please circle: I am Male Female	
Mail or FAX registration to:		Please circle: I am	viale Female





AAGT MEMBERSHIP: Full Professional Status - \$1 00 New Professional or Semi-Retired - \$50 Student - \$25

Non-Smoking

I need Smoking



Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF GESTALT THERAPY

AAGT

Carol Brockmon

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PA 19027

USA