

# AAGT

Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy

**SPECIAL**

**SPRING 2004**

**CONFERENCE 2004**

**2ND EDITION**



AAGT CONFERENCE 2004

**REGISTER  
TODAY !**

**GO TO PAGES  
6-7**

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## *The Editor's 2-cents—Congratulations to the Graduate (that would actually be me)*

As I prepare for my baby boy to graduate from **high school**, I am reflecting on oh so many things. Where did 18 years go? Most importantly, HOW did they go? How did I get through this? The first things that come up are tears. Fear: "What am I gonna do now?" Lotza questions. I hear myself asking my son "Have you heard that new Incubus song?" He says "No, I haven't **seen** it yet." I'm reviewing what it's been like for ME—so many thoughts. Then I happened upon this piece below & it just made me howl with laughter and with tears —yup, this puts a frame right around all those amazing things I struggled with raising Nick. What an odyssey it is to have kids today:

**People over 35 should be dead:** here's why: According to today's regulators and bureaucrats, those of us who were kids in the 40's, 50's, 60's, or even maybe the early 70's probably shouldn't have survived. Our baby cribs were covered with bright colored lead-based paint. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets, ... and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets (not to mention the risks we took hitchhiking). As children, we would ride in cars with no seatbelts or air bags. Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat. We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle.

Horrors!

We ate cupcakes, bread and butter, and drank soda pop with sugar in it, but we were never overweight because we were always outside playing. We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle, and no one actually died from this. We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then rode down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem. We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the street lights came on. No one was able to reach us all day.

NO CELL PHONES!!!!!! Unthinkable!

We did not have Playstations, Nintendo 64, X-Boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels on cable, video tape movies, surround sound, personal cell phones, personal computers, or Internet chat rooms. We had friends! We went outside and found them. We played dodge ball, and sometimes, the ball would really hurt. We fell out of trees, got cut and broke bones and teeth, and there were no lawsuits from these accidents. They were accidents.

No one was to blame but us. Remember accidents? We had fights and punched each other and got black and blue and learned to get over it. We made up games with sticks and tennis balls and ate worms, and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes, nor did the worms live inside us forever. We rode bikes or walked to a friend's home and knocked on the door, or rang the bell or just walked in and talked to them. Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Some students weren't as smart as others, so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade. Horrors! Tests were not adjusted for any reason. Our actions were our own. Consequences were expected. The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke a law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law. Imagine that! This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors, ever. The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all. And you're one of them!

Congratulations!

### **TO ME—TO US**

p.s. I still have a 15 year old to survive.

Keep the Spirit,

Marcy

Democracy must be something more than two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner. --James Bovard, Civil Libertarian (1994)

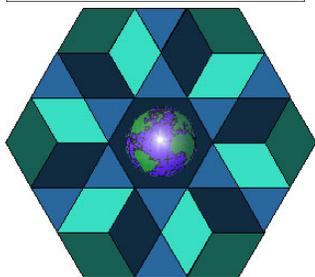


## President's Message ~ By Bud Feder

As you can see, once again our newsletter is much about the November conference. Proposals have been received and reviewed by the Peer Review Committee thanks to the hard work of Charlie Bowman, ably supervised by Sylvia Crocker. The Program Committee, under Brian, is blending the Peer Review Committee's recommendations with its other ideas for our time together in Florida and many of these ideas are novel and creative (in tune with the conference theme). Other committees are doing their jobs too: Process Group Leaders (Perry); Publicity (Marcy); Work/Study (Nancy and Linda); Logistics (Mona,Irv); CEU's (Ansel),etc. For the first time, the Conference Planning Committee (the CPC) is not meeting on site, partly because we all know the place from last time and partly because we don't feel the need. And we don't feel the need because we have been extensively using emails and conference calls to keep us in close touch with one another. I think this, in part, reflects that we all have become much more sophisticated using these modalities. So the conference will happen and the conference will be, I predict, terrific. Those of you who are not on the CPC can also help: *register*, of course, if you haven't, *spread the word* whether you have registered or not. Registration is running well ahead of last time, yet overconfidence isn't warranted. Last time it wasn't long after Sept. 11th and many people were worrying about flying. That tension has eased which may account for an earlier registration pattern. We had a fine conference last time, yet we lost money on it, at least on paper (i.e. the hotel forgave our debt of \$7000 to them when they heard we were coming back this year". That won't happen again, so we need a good showing. *Please do your part.*

### Newsletter Deadlines:

**September 1, 2004**  
**December 1, 2004**  
**March 1 2005**  
**June 1 2005**  
**September 1, 2005**  
**December 1, 2005**



### Prayer

Give me a sense of humor,  
 Give me the grace to see a  
 joke,  
 To get some pleasure out  
 of life  
 And pass it on to other folk.

- Anonymous

## Used Book Sale

At the Nov 2004 conference, we will, for the first time, have a Scholarship fund-raising Used Books Table. It will be in the literature room and actually will be much more than books: videos, journals, audio tapes, pictures, etc. — most of which will be sold be sold at very reduced prices. On the Conference Registration form, there is a box to check if you want to donate any of the above items which you no longer want. You will then be contacted by

Mona Banzer who will be in charge of the project and she will work out all the details with you. This project, suggested by Ansel Woldt, will not only provide funds for scholarships, but will also provide a service to the community by recycling unused Gestalt material. If you are not attending the Conference, you can still make donations by contacting Mona (mona@charlesdennis.net or 599 206h St., Brooklyn, NY 11218

## 2004 Directory

After the very positive response to the bound directory of members which we issued in Nov. 2002, we are very pleased to inform you that we plan to update it in time for the 2004 Conference. All members attending the conference will get their copy then. Those not attending will

get a copy in the mail soon after. We ask your cooperation in filling out the necessary changes for the new directory when you receive that request — which will be soon. And don't forget to make your responses very legible. Please send any suggestions you have for improv-

ing on the last directory to our administrative assistant Silvie Falschlunger (scfalschlunger@optonline.net or 60 Waller Ave, White Plains, NY 10605

**GREAT DEAL !!**

**SOUTHEAST AIRLINES**

**1-800-359-7325**

**FLY DIRECTLY FROM NEWARK (AND OTHER U.S. LOCATIONS) RIGHT INTO TO ST. PETE FOR**

**as low as \$59.00 each way!!**

**THOSE OF YOU FLYING TO THE NY AREA TO TRANSFER TO FLORIDA, WHY NOT FLY INTO (OR SHUTTLE OVER TO) NEWARK & HOP ON A SOUTHEAST FLIGHT? HERE'S HOW TO FIND THEM:**

**FIRST OF ALL, LET ME TELL YOU THAT THEY ARE A PUBLIC CHARTER, NOT EASY TO FIND. THEY FLY OUT OF THE AIR CANANA TERMINAL AT NEWARK. THE BEST WAY TO FIND THEM IS TOCALL:**

**1-800-359-7325**

**ONLINE: GO TO:**

**FLYSEAL.COM**

**IN THE U.S. YOU CAN CALL: 1-800-FLY-SEAL. ALSO, YOUR FRIENDLY PUBLICITY DIRECTOR WILL BE WORKING WITH THEM TO TRY TO GET A PACKAGE DEAL ONCE WE GET A HANDLE ON THE NUMBER OF YOU WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED. SO WRITE TO ME & LET ME KNOW! IMAWARERU@COMCAST.NET OR CALL ME AT 941-379-8701**

**BON VOYAGE,  
 MARCY STERN**



CONFERENCE WORK-STUDY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE There are still openings for Work-Study opportunities during the November AAGT conference in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida, USA. Anyone can participate and **earn \$100.00 discount** off his/her registration. The Work-Study positions require that you will work a total of 16 hours (4 hour time slots-usually one a day) during the course of the conference. The work may include registration, guest speaker or leadership support, book sales, setting up signage and other logistics. This is a wonderful chance to become involved with the membership, create new contacts and meet with old friends. If you are interested please contact Work-Study Co-Chairs Nancy Woldt ( [NANSELW@AOL.COM](mailto:NANSELW@AOL.COM) ) or Linda DiTullio ( [Lin-Biker@aol.com](mailto:Lin-Biker@aol.com) )

## *Project Project!* by Susan Gregory, Scholarship Committee

The **Scholarship** Committee needs your help. We want to assist colleagues and students of Gestalt to come to the conference in November who would not otherwise be able to afford to do so. We have launched the Project Project! in an effort to match the very generous pledge that Norm Shub has made to raise funds

at his Institute. Here's how the **Project Project!** works:

We're encouraging members to organize group activities and dedicate the proceeds of these projects to the AAGT scholarship fund. A Fund Party, a workshop highlighting your specialty, a poetry reading, a supervision group dedicated to a particular theme, a musical event - anything that includes the fellowship of bringing people together and which spreads the word about Gestalt and AAGT.

For example, this month in New York, Patricia Tucker is offering a workshop "Making It Socially" whose proceeds have been earmarked for the fund. Other examples: a group of Gestaltists in a retreat organized by Carol Swanson donated a large portion of their surplus budget, Bud Feder has given two workshops on Interactive Group, I'm planning a benefit song recital. What is your way? This is a chance to be creative, reach out to let people know about your work and interests, and raise money to create a dynamically inclusive conference.

I am looking forward to hearing about what you are doing. Please email me at [sgregory@GestaltSing.com](mailto:sgregory@GestaltSing.com). Send checks to the AAGT Scholarship Fund to treasurer:

Bruce Aaron, AAGT Treasurer  
1459 W. Elmdale #2  
Chicago IL 60660.

With your spirited participation, I think we can project success for the Project Project!

Many thanks,  
Susan Gregory  
Chair, Scholarship Committee

## AAGT DUES

If we have not received your 2004 dues, please catch up! Your dues will facilitate planning our exciting 2004 Conference in Florida, our 2006 Conference in Vancouver, BC and our 2005 Annual Meeting in Amsterdam with the Dutch Flemish Gestalt Network

You can pay your dues with VISA or MC on our Website: [AAGT.ORG](http://AAGT.ORG) or Mail your dues to:

Bruce Aaron  
AAGT Treasurer  
1459 w. Elmdale #2  
Chicago, IL 60660

- \$150 (or more) **Outreach Benefactor** – Everything beyond \$100 goes to Outreach & Development
- \$100 Full-Time Professionals (Regular Dues)
- \$50 New and Part-Time Professionals (3-Yr Limit)
- \$25 Full-Time Students and Retirees

## AD RATES

To advertise in our  
Newsletter

**1/4 page: \$50.00**

**1/2 page: \$85.00**

**Full Page: \$150.00**

Contact Marcy Stern:  
[imawareru@comcast.net](mailto:imawareru@comcast.net)

**To advertise in the  
CONFERENCE  
PROGRAM  
or to reserve a table  
please contact:**

Bud Feder  
37 Brunswick Rd  
Montclair NJ 07042

973-783-0740  
fax: 810-314-2490  
[bfeder@comcast.net](mailto:bfeder@comcast.net)

*The Seventh International Gestalt Therapy Conference,  
Produced by the Association for the Advancement  
of Gestalt Therapy (AAGT) announces*



**TRANSFORMING THE FIELD THROUGH  
THE PROCESSES OF GESTALT THERAPY**

**AAGT CONFERENCE 2004**

**ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA**

We will explore the phenomena of re-creation, of new beginnings, and more specifically, we will investigate how re-creation takes place, about its transforming affect in the field, and how the processes of Gestalt therapy might be purposefully employed in each.

**November 10-14, 2004**

**Tradewinds Sirata Beach Resort**

***Plan now to attend. Put it on your calendars!***

**SEE REGISTRATION FORMS IN THIS ISSUE  
OF THE NEWSLETTER!**

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND WORK-STUDY  
OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE.**

**AAGT is an approved provider for Continuing Professional Education (CE credit) by the American Psychological Association, National Board for Certified Counselors, California Board of Behavioral Sciences, and California Board of Registered Nurses.**



Please keep watching the AAGT web page  
for these things [www.aagt.org](http://www.aagt.org)

## 2004 AAGT CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: "TRANSFORMING THE FIELD"

SPECIAL SAVINGS:	Super Saver	Bright & Early	Advance	General/On-Site
POST-MARKED:	By 12/31/03	By 03/31/04	By 09/30/04	After 10/01/04
<b>AAGT MEMBER</b>	\$ 325.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 425.00	\$ 475.00
<b>STUDENT/RETIREE MEMBER</b>	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
<b>NON-MEMBER</b>	\$ 400.00	\$ 475.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 550.00

### SPECIAL CONFERENCE FEES AND SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES

Two members of same household are registering = 10% Fee Reduction

Please register me for Continuing Education Credit \$ 30.00

I want an "ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATE" (Frameable) \$ 10.00

I need Scholarship assistance to attend; please send me an Application

Please send me a Work Study Application for one of the slots allocated to

Work Study that provide for \$100 fee reduction in exchange for two 4-hour work shifts as a staff assistant

**TOTAL FOR CONFERENCE REGISTRATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

### VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

*Scholarship Fund (BE GENEROUS! AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED) \$ \_\_\_\_\_*

**AAGT Benefactor (BE MORE GENEROUS!) \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**TOTAL AMOUNT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

### **MEMBERSHIP DUES (PAY YOUR 2004 DUES NOW!)**

Professional / Regular Membership \$100.00

New and Part-time Professionals (3-year limit) \$ 50.00

Full-time Students and Retirees \$ 25.00

Outreach Benefactor Membership \$150.00 - \$1,000.00 OR MORE

(Every dollar over \$100.00 goes to Gestalt community outreach endeavors)

**TOTAL AMOUNT FOR AAGT DUES \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**AAGT Conference Fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**AAGT Contributions \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**AAGT Membership Dues \_\_\_\_\_**

**\$ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

### *IDEAS TO MAKE THIS CONFERENCE A SUCCESS FOR EVERYONE*

I'm already registered at the Sirata Resort & Conference Center. I am planning to register and stay at the Sirata Beach Resort. Reservations 1-800-344-5999. Website: [www.thesirata.com](http://www.thesirata.com)

I am interested in sharing a room. Roommate preference: FEMALE MALE NONE

I am interested in meeting with other Students, New and/or First Timers.

I may contribute BOOKS for the BOOK SALE -- new, used, extra, valuable Gestalt books to be sold at Conference -- proceeds will go to Gestalt development (Gestalt Archives and Scholarships).

I have special needs that will make attending the conference possible or easier; they are: I am interested in presenting a ½ hr. "Poster Session" during a break. I'd like to present:

Full Payment for Conference Registration must be enclosed or your registration will not be processed. Checks must be drawn on U.S. banks. **SORRY, NO AMEX CHARGES!**

CHECK IN U.S. FUNDS

MONEY ORDER IN U.S. FUNDS

VISA / MASTER CARD

C.C.# \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_.

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Card Holder's Name (PLEASE PRINT)**

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Authorized Signature:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Check or Money Order payable to:**

**AAGT (or) Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Registration Form and Payment to:**

**Bruce Aaron, Treasurer**

**1459 West Elmdale #2**

**Chicago, IL 60660**

\_\_\_\_\_

*For Office Use Only*

*Registration No.* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date Received* \_\_\_\_\_

*Check No.* \_\_\_\_\_

*Amount Received* \_\_\_\_\_

*Processed By* \_\_\_\_\_

*Work Study Notified* \_\_\_\_\_

*Scholarship Notified* \_\_\_\_\_

*Book Sale Notified* \_\_\_\_\_

*Special Needs Notified* \_\_\_\_\_

*CPC Chair Notified* \_\_\_\_\_

*Poster's Coord. Notified* \_\_\_\_\_

**Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy  
Seventh International Conference November 10-14, 2004  
Re-Creation:**

**Transforming the Field Through The Processes of Gestalt Therapy  
Sirata Resort & Conference Center in St. Pete Beach, Florida, USA**

**CALL FOR PROCESS GROUP LEADERS**

**Process Group Committee:**

Rachel Brier, Linda DiTullio, Silvie Falschlunger, Perry Klepner, Elizabeth Revell.

Our PROCESS GROUPS are an integral part of AAGT Conferences. They are a unique Gestalt Therapy approach to conferencing. Consisting of small groups of ten to twelve participants, Process Groups meet throughout the conference and in plenaries to discuss and examine the conference experience. Their dialogue involves supporting, risking, understanding and contacting. Process Groups help shape the experience of the participants and contribute to the ongoing creation of the conference as members bring their group experience to their participation in workshops and other conference activities. Process Groups thereby contribute to the conference occurring as an organically emerging here-and-now experience. They are fundamentally the self-process of the conference, they facilitate putting process and program in a co-creating relationship.

Each group has two "leaders/facilitators" who encourage, stimulate, and support the conference participants to attend to their experience exploring the unique meaning/value of the conference to them. Process Group Leaders participate/facilitate the excitement of sharing interests, doubts, confusions, curiosity, satisfactions as well as dissatisfactions toward a new Gestalt. The process group is not group therapy or a leader-led topical group. Rather it is an opportunity for contacting as an esthetic, existential Gestalt Therapy experience of people in the relationship learning together.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

If you have been a process group leader in the past we invite you to bring back your experience. We also need less experienced persons who wish to contribute to this conference, learn about process groups, and risk themselves on behalf of their learning. We need members of our international community and minorities who so importantly contribute to the diversity which is fundamental to our community.

There will be a Process Group leader training and orientation on the Wednesday afternoon of the Conference, 2:00-4:00 PM, and meetings for support and evaluation on Thursday or Friday and a final evaluation on Saturday during the Conference.

Please fill out the application form below and return it as soon as possible or for further information contact:

PERRY KLEPNER:

Telephone: 212 362 7827; E Mail: Perry302@aol.com

**Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy  
Seventh International Conference November 10-14, 2004  
Re-Creation:**

**Transforming the Field Through The Processes of Gestalt Therapy  
Sirata Resort & Conference Center in St. Pete Beach, Florida, USA**

*APPLICATION FOR PROCESS GROUP LEADER*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Previous Training In Gestalt Therapy:**

**Previous Process Group Experience: When** \_\_\_\_\_

**I have a preference to co-lead with** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please consider me as**

**(....) A New or Less Experienced Process Group Leader.**

**(....) An Experienced Process Group Leader.**

**Any additional information you believe relevant:**

Please Return ASAP / Please mail, or e-mail application to:

Perry Klepner: 302 West 79th Street, 1C, N.Y. N.Y. 10024; [perry302@aol](mailto:perry302@aol).

For Information: Perry can be reached by phone at: 212 362 7827

Process Group Committee: R. Brier, L. DiTullio, S. Falschlunger, P. Klepner, E. Revell

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**WORK- STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

by Nancy Woldt and Linda DiTullio Work-Study Coordinators

*AAGT and the Conference Planning Committee will be offering a number of Work-Study positions for the AAGT Conference, November 10-14, 2004 at the Sirata Beach Resort in St. Pete Beach, Florida, USA. Work-Study provides an ideal opportunity to participate in the Conference activities as they unfold and at the same time reduce your Conference fees while providing a valuable service to the community.*

A Work-Study commitment requires serving two 4-hour shifts during the course of the 5-day Conference in exchange for a \$100.00 reduction in your Conference Registration Fee.

Work-Study duties may include a number of valuable opportunities to meet and mingle with folks attending the Conference. These include assisting with Registration and Continuing Education, supporting the Conference Coordinators, troubleshooting for the Logistics' Coordinator and hosting Guest Presenters.

Interested persons should contact Nancy Woldt and Linda DiTullio AAGT Work-Study Coordinators and should do so prior to submitting registration materials (pre-registrants can still apply). Contact by Phone: 330-673-8729; FAX: 330-673-3101; Email: NANSELW@aol.com; or Snailmail: 511 Beryl Drive, Kent, Ohio 44240.

Remember, THE EARLY BIRDS GET THE WORMS! Contact Nancy and Linda early to enhance your chances of becoming one of the 16 Work-Study participants in our great Conference.

**Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy  
Seventh International Conference November 10-14, 2004  
Re-Creation:**

**Transforming the Field Through The Processes of Gestalt Therapy  
Sirata Resort & Conference Center in St. Pete Beach, Florida, USA**

**Scholarship Application**

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone\_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone\_\_\_\_\_ Fax\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address\_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us about your present work and/or studies in Gestalt therapy or related disciplines:

Please tell us about your need for scholarship assistance:

Thank you for your application and interest in AAGT. We hope to be able to help all applicants. Scholarship funds are limited; and it may be necessary to offer you partial assistance. We look forward to seeing you at the conference in Florida, November '04. Please return this form to **Susan Gregory, 304 West 75th Street 7C, New York, NY 10023** or [sgregory@GestaltSing.com](mailto:sgregory@GestaltSing.com)

## Chicago Area Gestalt Salon *by Marilyn Myles*

Hello all, I'm Marilyn Myles, Midwest RCP. From Chicago, IL. I was inspired by fellow RCPs to get a salon going here. We have a history rich in Gestalt, and I thought it would be wonderful to reconnect those active in the past and present. I invited all I could find; we met April 25 in my home, eight in all. Even so, the diversity of ages, cultures, and professional background was rich indeed. We came from north, south, east and west. We took time to get acquainted, speaking to our history in Gestalt, its place in our lives now, and our hopes for this gathering. Let me introduce you to us.

Bruce Aaron, psychotherapist and AAGT Treasurer, desires more connection with other Gestalt colleagues. He trained with Jorge Rosner from '87 to '91, and more recently at Gestalt Institute of Cleveland, where he finds a very different approach. He's led groups for thirteen years, is learning exciting new approaches. He is planning a group for actors, short-term, focusing on here and now interactions, also created body image groups for gay men. He was recently asked to write a Commentary for the Gestalt Review. Bruce provided AAGT conference and membership information for those interested.

Charlotte Rosner, psychotherapist, has been practicing for 34 years; she was a founding member of Oasis Center for Human Potential (one of the longest running personal growth centers in the country), 1967, and of the Gestalt Institute of Chicago, 1970. Her training was provided by Cleveland faculty –Erving Polster, Joseph Zinker, Cynthia Harris, and Elaine Kempner- all of whom came to Chicago. She sees Gestalt standing on its own better than most theories, although she's opened to several other viewpoints. She studied energy healing for 4 years, and is now exploring non-duality, which is "not a technique but a system which breaks down beliefs, transcends the ego." She began with a style similar to Fritz Perls', which she describes as "edgy"; she feels she's evolved to a place of "allowing people to be where they are." She recalls, "Fritz wouldn't work with you if he didn't like you." She is currently writing a book on spirituality.

Jane Gerber has practiced for 45 years as a family therapist; she is also a founding member of Oasis and the Gestalt Institute of Chicago. She was led to gifted teachers like F. Perls and Virginia Satir; she's written a book about Satir's methods. She remains fascinated by this field – "I will do this work as long as my mouth moves!" . Priveleged by her age, she now sits back and takes a more interfacing but challenging role with clients; she's working with the third generation of some of her families. Having taught in Mexico, Europe and Japan, She wants to offer herself as a guide to young practitioners, helping them take more responsibility for themselves; "The more we're in tune with ourselves, the more resources we have to offer clients."

Ray Robertson is a psychiatrist of 53 years; he was taught by both Charlotte and Jane, and was happily reunited with them after many years! He's survived heart problems by altering his lifestyle, and at age 81 is healthier than ever. He developed an elective class at Loyola University Medical Center in which he's taught Gestalt to many residents over the years. He maintains a private practice in which he does as much therapy as pharmacology. He estimates he's participated in 1700 hours of Gestalt training/workshops.

Hema Pokharna is a Ph.D biochemist at University of Chicago, where she also teaches an elective in spirituality. She's created a program called "Journeys of Life", offering free classes which focus on "health as inner peace" through authentic connection with self and others. She teaches meditation, Focusing, Non-Violent Communication to help students deal with stress and violence. She trained for two years in Cleveland and utilizes Gestalt concepts such as here and now in her work. She believes a therapist needs to be focused and centered, and hopes to work on that for herself with the support of this group.

Mandakini Pokharna, M.D., is an internist introduced to Gestalt by her sister, Hema, with whom she coleads classes; she studied at Cleveland, naming Michael Clemmons as an influential teacher. She believes this training enables her to be a better physician and counselor; she particularly appreciates the power of the "empty chair" technique. She struggles to find Gestalt therapists for her patients, for whom she seeks to provide holistic care.

Les Wyman, MSW, has been in practice since the mid-seventies and taught on the faculty of Cleveland for 24 years, chairing their training program in Israel and teaching in most of the other programs there. He's planning to relocate to Evanston (Chicago suburb) to join his children and grandchildren. He works with couples and families, and is offering workshops called "Gestalt in Chicago". He marvels at the network of connections amongst us and hopes to expand relationships here through this group.

My own history of Gestalt began in 1980 with the group leadership training at Oasis, then progressed to J. Rosner's 3 year program – Bruce is my "training sibling". Jorge asked most candidates for his program what their dreams were. When I said I wanted to have a private practice and see the world, Jorge promised "With Gestalt, you'll be able to join a world-wide community of therapists." These were years of much personal growth during which I came alive in many ways. When the training ended, some of us continued to meet regularly, occasionally bringing in a trainer from Toronto and local leaders like Charlotte, and visiting Jorge at his farm in Wisconsin until his death. Gestalt stimulated my interest in the mind-body connection, and led me to study somatic therapies for trauma treatment, massage, Reiki, and Internal Family Systems, a method of working with sub-selves similar to Psychosynthesis.

After introductions, we viewed and discussed the video "Creating Gestalt Therapy With Isadore From". His exquisite pacing and fine attention to language were appreciated, and Ray remembered "From said love is four things – Respect, caring, knowledge, and responsibility, which he defined as "ability to respond."

Our next task was to decide how we wished to continue. Much enthusiasm and excitement was generated as wants were expressed. The desire to share our years of accumulated wisdom with young practitioners emerged as a priority. Attending to our own personal growth in order to stay centered is a shared concern. Ideas proposed included 1) utilizing the group to work on our own issues 2) "live" case presentations – we'd bring in a client with whom we've reached an impasse, who would listen as the group helps the therapist process his/her work, 3) videotaping the above work, 4) each of us offering didactic presentations of areas of expertise, 5) view videotapes of Fritz and other therapists. We will meet quarterly, rotating between our respective offices. We each committed to bring another person with us.

I sensed that we've all hungered for this kind of community for some time, for the flow of contact, ideas and planning seemed effortless. For me, the meeting was like a family reunion (sans BBQ) that left me with a strong and welcome validation of my Gestalt "heritage". I am grateful for, and revived by the wealth of resources here, and hope to connect us to other states in the Midwest in the future. This is what makes being an RCP so rewarding. Many thanks to Carl Hodges for initially persuading me to get involved, and to Nancy Woldt for her continued support and nudging to write this!



## *Service Exchange Program by Bud Feder*

AAGT has initiated a new program, called Service Exchange (SEP) and invites your participation, both as donor and recipient. Through this SEP, AAGT aims to further professional exchange and development among its members. We encourage participation in this program through which AAGT members will have access to complimentary professional and training services from other members, as well as the opportunity to provide such services to members who can benefit from their expertise.

**HOW IT WORKS.** AAGT members may contact other AAGT members and request "Service Time." All AAGT members are invited to pledge four hours of professional time per calendar year providing one or more of the services listed below. Members may make a direct barter agreement with the requesting member, or may provide the service with nothing in return. No member is required to agree to a request. In the event that a member has completed the four-hours of service, or if the member

opts not to agree to a particular request, said member may offer the requested services on a fee-for-service basis.

### **SERVICES IN THE PROGRAM**

- Phone consultation on a clinical issue or case
- Co-facilitation of another member's therapy group
- Training in a particular aspect of Gestalt Therapy
- Guest group supervision to an existing supervision group
- Mentoring a Gestalt institute student
- Seeing a client/couple/family along with the requesting therapist for consultative purposes
- Editing an article written by another member
- Other (as specified by the donor)

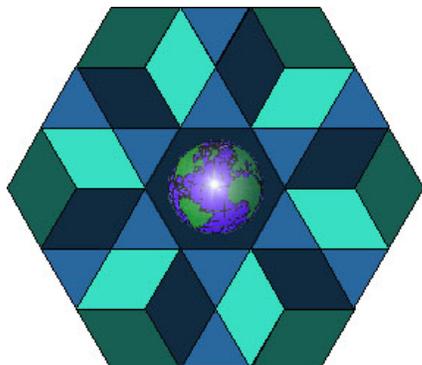
### **FOLLOWUP AND ASSESSMENT.**

In order to assess as well as promote the program, AAGT members who perform a service will be requested to make a very brief report on their activi-

ties and the outcomes to the Service Exchange Committee. Permission granted, such activities may be featured in our publication—and perhaps others—and serve to promote individual members, our organization and Gestalt Therapy in general.

### **INSURANCE CONSIDERATIONS.**

Please note that AAGT members who participate in this SEP must carry their own professional liability insurance for whatever service they offer. AAGT as a tax-exempt membership organization does not offer clinical consultation or treatment and cannot be liable for such activities which are conducted under a member's aegis, nor does AAGT carry professional liability insurance, only administrative practice insurance (covering possibilities of fraud, theft, etc). This insurance does not cover individual members for their professional activities. Thank you for considering participation in the Service Exchange Program, and please feel free to contact any committee member if you need any additional information or clarification.



**THE SCHOLARSHIP DONATION** AAGT is very grateful to the members who collectively donated \$500 to our Scholarship Fund. This group met at a retreat in the Pacific Northwest during this past September and at the end of the retreat, when there were funds left over from the retreat fee, generously decided to donate this money to our Scholarship Fund. This amount will enable some needy student or young professional to attend our Nov 2004 Conference. So, again, thank you!



**SOUTHWEST AAGT**  
**3739 Foothill Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93105**  
**(805) 682-4010 Phone and Fax**  
**Freddy9282@aol.com**

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual SouthwestAAGT conference that will take place on October 22-24, preceded by the Writers Conference on October 21-23. This year we will be meeting in Santa Cruz at a spectacular resort-conference center called *Chaminade*. Each year, both of these conferences have been wonderfully rewarding experiences, both personally and professionally - a juicy mixture of warmth, support, stimulation and great fun.

For anyone interested in writing, the Writers Conference is a fantastic resource. In a very supportive, non-judgmental atmosphere people can bring their notes, outlines, first drafts, or just ideas, and receive attention, suggestions, and concrete help in developing their work. Several articles, as well as a book, have been published as a result of these conferences. Joe Melnick, Editor of THE GESTALT REVIEW will lead the conference, as he has done so successfully each year.

The agenda of the Southwest conference is co-created by the group during the opening session on Friday afternoon. One pre-planned session, chosen by the group last year, will be a presentation by Marsha Hudson on *Dreamwork in a Group*. Suggestions made at last year's conference prompted two new additions to the 2004 conference schedule.. On Thursday evening, a free presentation will be offered for local Gestaltists and others who may be interested in learning more about us, about AAGT, and new developments in Gestalt. The second new event, to be held Friday afternoon, will be a meeting to welcome and orient newcomers to the conference.

We have two evening gatherings planned as well. On Friday, we are hoping that everyone will be able to come to the dining room about 7:30 p.m. to have dinner together and to get to know one another better. Our committee has also planned a PARTY for Saturday evening with music, dancing, and maybe even karaoke! Bring friends, significant others, musical instruments, tapes or CDs, and your dancing shoes. We've planned for a no-host bar, snacks and a great time!

Those of us who have seen or heard about it, are very excited about our conference site. The *Chaminade* is an award-winning, four-diamond center located about three miles outside of Santa Cruz. There are tennis courts, a golf course, a spa, a heated pool, a fitness center, miles of hiking trails, and more. Built on a bluff, Chaminade is surrounded by woods and gardens. A panoramic view of both the mountains and Monterey bay is enjoyed by most of the rooms.

The costs are per day are: \$210 per person for a double room, \$294 for a single room, and \$378 for couples. The rate includes three elegant meals per day, as well as two snacks, mid-morning and mid-afternoon, a beautifully furnished meeting room that is ours to use for the duration of the conference with whatever equipment we may desire. We have also arranged for day rates of \$63 and \$102 for students coming from San Francisco, and others who will not be staying overnight. All the amenities of the conference, snacks and lunch are included for \$63. The \$102 rate includes dinner as well. *Chaminade* is well known for its fresh, delicious, and bountiful menus. Although we will not have a private dining room, we will have our own reserved, out-of-the-way dining area.

Since there will be no extra fees for the meeting room and equipment, there will be no need for the usual conference registration fee; however, there will be an assessment for participants in the Writers Conference to cover some of Joe Melnick's expenses.

Parking is free. Maps will be available for those who are driving. For those without cars, Chaminade provides free bus service to Santa Cruz if arrangements are made beforehand. For those flying into Monterey or San Jose, the conference committee will try to arrange transportation to *Chaminade*. Please make your reservations as soon as possible to be assured of the conference rate. You can reach the hotel by phone at: 831-475-5600 or 1-800-283-6569. The fax number is: 831-476-6569. More information is available on their website: [www.chaminade.com](http://www.chaminade.com).



### WRITERS/ CONFERENCE

Thursday, October 21 9:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

Friday, October 22 9:00 a.m.– 2:30 p.m. (Further information about the Writers Conference will be sent to those who register.)

### OUTREACH EVENTS

Thursday, October 21 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Welcome to the World of Gestalt: Outreach program for the local community— Leaders: Kerena Gordhammer and Lynn Stadler

### SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE

Friday, October 22: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Opening session  
7:30 community dinner

Saturday, October 23: 10:00 - 12:00 Presentation by Marsha Hudson  
Noon - 4:00 p.m. free time or break-out groups  
4:00 – 6: 00 p.m. session  
8:00 - ? Party

Sunday, October 24: 10:00 a.m– Noon Closing session



### REGISTRATION FORM

I wish to attend the following conferences:

SWAAGT \_\_\_\_\_

Writers Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail, fax, or e-mail your registration to Isabel Fredericson, 3739 Foothill Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93105; phone and fax numbers are: (805) 682-4010, e-mail is: [freddy9282@aol.com](mailto:freddy9282@aol.com).

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS AUGUST 15 FOR THE WRITERS CONFERENCE AND SEPTEMBER 15 FOR THE SWAAGT CONFERENCE**

CEU'S will be available for those wishing it. There will be a small charge. Lucanna Grey is in charge of this and can answer any questions you may have. Her e-mail address is: [lucannag@earthlink.net](mailto:lucannag@earthlink.net), and her phone is: (650) 961-4860.

We look forward to an exhilarating, exuberant, and exciting time together.

Your conference committee,

Isabel Fredericson

Kerena Gordhammer

Marsha Hudson

Lynn Stadler

Please forgive our late entry—we missed the winter deadline .....



## *Under a Blanket of Snow by Sonia March Nevis*

Cape Cod is incredibly beautiful today. The sun is shining, reflecting off the snow. Dazzling.

I've been thinking about our profession, about taking psychological principle and using them to try to enhance the lives of people in their personal life and in their work life. What is that we think we do that will make at least a noticeable difference to them?

I remember my father trying to figure out what I did. When I tried to explain, he said, "I don't get it. In my hometown, in Russia, there was a man who opened his umbrella every time he left the house. Most of the time it wasn't raining. Now, HE was crazy. So, what is it that you do?" He finally gave up asking that question and changed his question to "so how old is your oldest patient?" Still trying to make sense of my work.

I remembered my daughters, trying to answer that question, since they were frequently asked what their very busy mother did. They decided to say that their mother helped people get unstuck. I thought this was not a bad summary.

It's not that I don't know all the Gestalt theory, I do. I've been using Gestalt principles for almost fifty years now and will continue to do so. Almost daily, I experience the effects of Gestalt work with my clients. Certainly I never cease to be grateful for how my immersion in the Gestalt community has shaped and enhanced my life. Yet, I'm less certain now that all the things I do flow only from our theory. Wisdom allows us to draw upon interventions that might not seem to flow obviously from our theory.

Many years ago, I was on a panel at the American Academy of Psychotherapy. The keynote speaker has a sweet man who spoke about his long history with psychotherapy. He had been seeing therapists since he was a child. He said he was "different" and that his parents were modern and saw therapy as the best way to guide him. His long history involved seeing many therapists of different schools.

What he wanted to tell us mostly was about the therapist who had

been most helpful. The therapist was an older man who guided him by saying things like: "get a haircut," "buy yourself a suit before you go to that interview." We all laughed but it was sobering. He reminded me of how often I had said to my clients "Now I'm taking off my therapist hat because I want to say something that I want you to hear."

When I think of this story, I remember the adolescent girl that I worked with years ago who would only respond to me for a long time through talking about movies. Was I "taking my hat off" then?

I also remembered a study that must be at least forty years old but that I cannot locate. The study recorded therapy sessions of three therapists, newly graduated, one each from the Freudian school, from the Jungian school and one from the Horney school. They found that the three recorded sessions were very different. Then they repeated the experiment, but this second time they recorded sessions from an experienced therapist representing each of the three schools. These sessions were very similar to each other. What can we make of this? Novice therapists and experienced therapists working from the same set of principles should be doing different things. But it would appear that wisdom becomes an arbiter of ideology.

Two years ago, I brought together some family therapists from different schools of family therapy. I can tell you that it was very easy to find the similarities in what we did in the sessions and much harder to find the differences.

These ruminations lead me back to how I became attracted to the melding of awareness and action, the melding of the thinking of the East and thinking of the West that underlies the Gestalt model. Out of this came an emphasis on intimacy, authenticity and clear, functional use of energy to support what we want and to influence others. Our theory is strong.

Yet, I find myself more and more watching what I really do and say.

When I am working to influence someone to do something that I think would be useful for him or her, what exactly am I doing? Is telling people what to do my business? Is the spiritual life of my clients any of my business? Is their politics, environmental actions, etc. any of my business?

Maybe we should get experienced therapists from a variety of schools to talk to each other about these dilemmas.

Changing tracks, I want to give you a short update on the Center. All is going well. We had our IAN New Year's Eve party and although we were a small group we had a fine time. Danced, ate, played games, laughed. We look forward to doing it again next year.

Remember our two IAN gatherings this year: March 26-28 here on Cape Cod and April 23-25 in Sweden. Come to one or to both, even if you are not a member.

On April 23-25, we will have an exciting Conference on the issue of Power for Professional Women. A brochure is available; contact us if you want one, and come if the topic interests you as it does me.

We'll have two other Conferences this year, one in June on Applying the Gestalt Model in Complex Organizations, and one in November on the Seven Deadly Sins. These are described in our Catalog and on our website ([www.gisc.org](http://www.gisc.org)). Detailed brochures will follow later.

Last, we've completed the second module of our new three-session Leadership Program. It was excellent and very eye-opening to the participants. The last session is in May and we're looking forward to it.

Happy New Year to you all.

Warmly, Sonia

Sonia March Nevis  
Gestalt International Study Center  
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USA  
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## *A Delayed Spring by Sonia March Nevis*

Flowers here are just breaking through the earth, and I always forget how joyful I feel when the first colors begin to show. But I think it has been a long wait this year. The winter kept lingering.

This morning I went to the dump. Since I'm a city person I had heard about dumps but had never been at one while growing up. For all of you who do not know what a dump is, it is a place to bring your garbage, your material to be re-cycled, and a place to leave things that you no longer want, in the hope that someone else will be able to use them.

Here in Wellfleet the dump has the fancy name of Transfer Station. It is a clean dump but still a dump.

I love going there and am willing to live with the fact that my family and friends laugh at me, since it makes no sense at all that I would love it so much. The laughter set me to thinking about the joy I get whenever I go. This morning I figured it out.

The sensation is of unencumbering myself. Everything that I have no use for is gone, and gone to a good place - a garbage heaven. I feel free and that feeling is delicious.

For so many reasons in my life, freedom is a passionate hunger of mine. To have a minimum of encumbrances has been my goal. I went through my teen-age years with two skirts, one pair of shoes and a few blouses. I owned no books, using the library instead, and cherished the fact that I could move anywhere with a few minutes notice.

I have many of these habits still, a minimalist wherever I can be. The sensation of freedom is still precious to me and I never take it for granted.

As I was thinking about it this morning, I also had to ask myself why I have taken on so much that encumbers me. To paraphrase Kazantzakis, I have taken on the whole catastrophe: a husband, children, grandchildren, important friends, a house (in the past two houses), and now a thriving Center. My attachments are strong, my freedom diminished.

Why did I do that? I think that freedom lets me feel that I am flying, that I can live at the edge of danger and survive by my own wits. My attachments give me the feeling of being well grounded. They hold me firmly and give me the feeling of safety, surrounded by people who know

me, love, and will protect me.

Only as I write do I remember that everybody wants both - safety and freedom. We are always making compromises to get one and then to get the other. Too much freedom is scary, and too much safety stifles the spirit.

As we watch ourselves becoming frightened in the world today and looking anxiously for safety, let's hope we can find a way to balance freedom and safety and are able to emerge from these scary times unharmed.

Switching now to some news from our Center. Sunday we concluded a conference for women on the issue of power. Being in the midst of the creative energies of some 45 women was memorable. The work in the world they do, the work they are planning to do, the help they give and receive from each other, the world has no choice but to get better and better.

Our Center for the Study of Strategic Systems will do their annual conference on "Applying the Gestalt Model to Complex Organizations" on June 10-13. Complex systems are endlessly fascinating and the conference will be useful for all who work in or consult to one. A complete brochure is posted on our website, [www.gisc.org](http://www.gisc.org).

Also want to remind you that Erv Polster will be here to do a workshop on July 31-August 1. I know many of you look forward to working with him.

The Leadership program, which started last October, will be finishing on May 15. Both participants and faculty are applying their learning almost immediately, and are pleased with the results. We're looking forward to starting a second class.

The latest issue several of us are talking to each other about, we are calling "The Next Phase." With good health giving us a longer span of life, we move through more phases, which require change, than our parents and grandparents did. We are planning a trial workshop on August 26-29. The topic excites us and I hope you come.

Be well, Sonia

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Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear.

- Ambrose Redmoon

By all means get married, if you get a good wife you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher. -

Socrates (470?-399 BC)

### **Prayer for Healing**

**Mother, sing me a song  
That will ease my pain,  
Mend broken bones,  
Bring wholeness again.  
Catch my babies  
When they are born,  
Sing my death song,  
Teach me how to mourn.**

**Show me the Medicine  
Of the healing herbs,  
The value of spirit,  
The way I can serve.**

**Mother, heal my heart  
So that I can see  
The gifts of yours  
That can live through me**

*Native American*



## *Gestalt Therapy Art in Amsterdam: The Celebration of Life*

*by Tine van Wijk*

This is a story how Perry Klepner & Tine van Wijk got to know each other and connected in a Gestalt way New York with Amsterdam. It began in 2000 in Montreal, during the conference that honored the Polsters. There Perry gave a workshop about Exploring Intimacy. Because Tine had before hand read his article in The Gestalt Journal, she was interested, participated, became excited, asked Perry if his article could be published in The Netherlands. While talking and dreaming of new horizons, they decided it could be worthwhile to organize Perry's Intimacy workshop in Amsterdam.

Their dream came true in September 2001 a few days after 9/11. It gave the event extra radiance, because for a few days Gestalt colleagues in Amsterdam were literally connected with a colleague from damaged New York. Strange was that our background music came from the neighbouring mosk. It sounded peaceful, Moslims, but probably no terrorists.

The connection became closer when Tine decided to cross the Atlantic and discover the city that once was called New Amsterdam. Perry made her feel at home by offering his office as a place to sleep and by making a dream come true and taking her to a meeting of the New York Gestalt Institute. It touched her to see that work there still goes on. She met Renate Perls, who told her about her book and said she was nostalgic for South Africa and thought of going to Amsterdam (where she was as a baby with her parents?) Tine and Perry's relationship developed further by meeting during the AAGT Conference in Florida in 2002, the anniversary conference of the New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy in 2003 and by organizing a second Perry-workshop in Amsterdam about Aggression & Conflict. In this workshop the seed of working with Creativity & Art was planted. Not on purpose though. Perry worked with what he called flow writing and let the participants play moviescenes and Tine became so enthusiastic that she went on working this way after he left. After some time she decided to call it Gestalt Therapy Art and discovered this was not new but is emerging in a number of places in the world. Like the art of printing books, Dutch people think it started in Holland, Chinese claim it was in China, Russians are certain it was in Russia and they are all right.

Anyway, Tine invited Perry to take this way of working serious and so a new idea developed: let's give a Gestalt Therapy Art workshop in Amsterdam we lead together. And let's do it in the summertime when the city is quiet because a lot of people are on holiday. And give at the same time a chance to Gestalt people from the States or elsewhere who plan a vacation in Europe to take part. Extra attraction is to start or end this period with discovering more of Amsterdam.

Gestalt Therapy Art can be seen as a way to use Gestalt to express yourself the Artist's way or the Play way. It invites you to express your fear to be considered crazy or infantile and experience what it means to be spontaneous. We can do that by flow writing: put your hand on the paper, let it move even when you have no words and do the work. After ten or twenty minutes you will perceive you created a work of art that asks to be expressed by being recited or sung or even by being danced or drawn. The experience is that a group of people can lift each other up to creating a work of art that can be a play or musical or a huge drawing or a ballet. The great advantage of Gestalt Therapy Art above Art in itself can be that you do it in a group and with a group that consistst of people willing to take the risk of making a fool of him- or herself, for the sake of creating something new, something that nobody ever has seen before, something unique because it cannot be repeated. Besides that the memebers of the group are also your public, they see and can support you the moment you are creating, give you feed back, admire you and are the ground for an extreme Here-And-Now experience. Being seen while you create and being able to create because you are seen, heard and felt.

To really make the dream come true we need you and other people to do the work. That is why we invite you to come to Amsterdam on Friday 23 July and stay at least till Sunday 25 July and if you can stay a few nore days to enjoy the city. We plan to do the workshop from Friday night till Sunday noon, then we hope to meet Sunday afternoon or night with colleagues to brainstorm about further projects that connect Europe with America and other continents. A project that is already in process is the possibility of organizing a Regional European AAGT Conference in 2005 in Amsterdam, followed by the Annual AAGT Meeting. That is why we hope that RCP's in Europe and elsewhere will come and take part.

The workshop is open to anyone and will be given in an inspiring space that used to be a grain silo, located on the river Amstel. It can hold about fourty people and has showers and good matrasses. If you want you can spend the night if you bring your own bedclothes and towels. No extra charge.

How we organize meals and drinks and things like that, we decide together. We have the choice to shop for breakfast and lunch or let caterers come or eat out on the bank of the river in a sidewalk café if the weather permits. Of course we can also choose for an inside restaurant. As we cannot cook in The Space we have to go out for dinner. Although may be it is possible to have a catering company do the work.

For people who are interested to experience more of Amsterdam, Tine is available as a guide on Monday and Tuesday. During the workshop she will bring information to make it easier to choose if you want to go to concerts, see Rembrandt, Van Gogh or Breitner who painted and photographed Amsterdam in the late 19th century, make a walk through the old (Jewish) part of the city, go to the Anne Frank House, take a boattrip, go shopping or pay a visit to a coffeeshop to have a joint. If you want an hotel, she advises you to visit [www.nh-hotels.com](http://www.nh-hotels.com). It is a chain with a lot of different priced hotels, mainly in the heart of the town.

This piece of writing created itself when I (Tine) practised flow writing and let my hand do the work. While typing it out, I discover that I am exciting myself. I hope I did the same to you. If so please say yes and join us in celebrating life in the tradition of Laura Perls who emphasized the esthetics and creativity of Gestalt Therapy.

For more details mail to Tine van Wijk: [dewalvis@xs4all.nl](mailto:dewalvis@xs4all.nl) or to Perry Klepner: [Perry302@AOL](mailto:Perry302@AOL)



## THE GESTALT INSTITUTE of SAN FRANCISCO

The Gestalt Institute of San Francisco is centered on both the need for behavior specific experiential training in the mental health field and the need within the general population for a pathway toward greater wholeness and well-being. The Institute offers students an opportunity to learn life-transforming skills through demonstration, direct application, personal experience and mentorship. It provides high quality structured training in the context of experiential learning and personal growth. The behavioral "nuts and bolts" of the Gestalt approach are clearly presented in an atmosphere of spontaneity, creativity, self-acceptance and group process.

These elements form the essential training experience. Participants therefore begin to demonstrate not only skill acquisition, but also authentic expression and artistic development. Institute programs are contemporary and often leading edge. Our current project is to integrate ideas from postmodernism into an experiential (inter-subjective) framework.

Participants who have no experience with Gestalt work often start by attending one of our free introductory seminars and joining one of our ongoing Gestalt groups. Most of what happens in everyday life is in one way or another repeated in the emotional life of the Gestalt group. The group acts like a mirror displaying each participant's own history and psychic organization. For each participant the group becomes a "house of mirrors" reflecting back what they bring to each other. Common interpersonal themes are quick to begin repeating themselves as participants unconsciously shape the group in the image of their own struggles. Before they know it, group members are confronted with their familiar feelings, blocks, and social conundrums. If all goes well, participants find themselves in the midst of a "safe emergency" in which they uncover hidden patterns of behavior, heal past traumas, and experiment with taking new risks. The groups meet on Monday and Friday evenings.

With international programs in France, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Australia, and other countries, the Institute is acutely aware of the need for a broad contemporary perspective that includes many frames of reference and cultural orientations. Every individual student is honored and welcomed from the unique historical context and cultural tradition from which they come. The diversity of the student body in regard to race, gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation and class position is seen as vitally important for addressing issues of personal growth and social transformation.

To keep informed about Institute activities and our special workshop with Joseph Zinker in Feb. 2005, please visit:

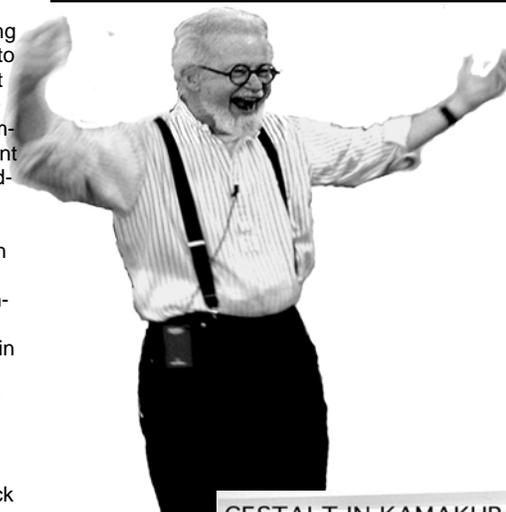
www.GestaltInstitute.com or call Morgan Goodlander, Director or Ruth Boerger, Program Coordinator at 415.379.9848

\*\*\*\*\*Welcome to our new\*\*\*\*\*

### **Organizational Membership**

section! In each issue, we will feature one or more of the organizations which have joined AAGT in the Organizational category.

To begin, in this issue here is news and information about the Gestalt Institute of San Francisco, the Gestalt International Study Center, and Neila Miller



THE GESTALT INSTITUTE OF SAN FRANCISCO PRESENTS:

July 10-11, 17-18

summer intensive  
2004

Turning  
Dreams  
into  
Reality  
with  
Morgan  
Goodlander

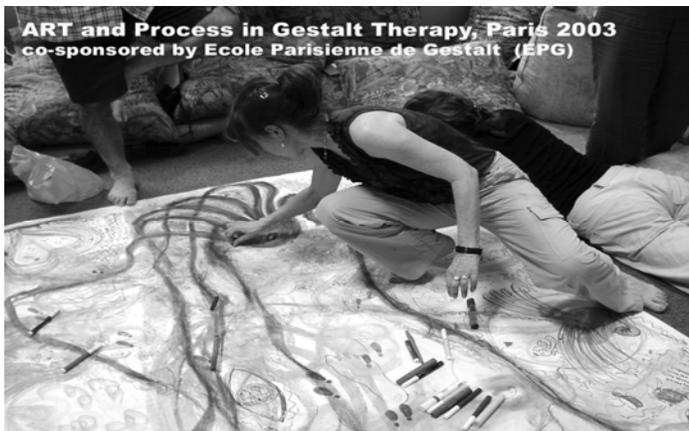
Investment: \$400.00

GESTALT IN KAMAKURA, JAPAN

Morgan Goodlander & Beatrice Chorinsky, leaders 2003



ART and Process in Gestalt Therapy, Paris 2003  
co-sponsored by Ecole Parisienne de Gestalt (EPG)



To have your organization mentioned here, contact the editor at:

imawareru@comcast.net



## ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBER PAGES

### GISC Upcoming Trainings

**June 17 - 20, 2004 - On Monhegan Island**  
with Carol Brockmon and Stuart Simon  
Starts Thursday 7 PM, ends Sunday 1 PM

**October 29 - November 1, 2004 on Cape Cod**  
with Carol Brockmon and Stuart Simon  
Starts Friday 3 PM, ends Monday at 12 Noon

Workshops are \$495/couple (\$450 for members of GISC). Complete travel and housing information will be sent upon registration, and can be found posted on our website at [www.gisc.org](http://www.gisc.org). Register online or contact the office.

Cynthia A. Cook  
Coordinator  
Gestalt International Study Center  
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1-508-349-7900, Fax 1-508-349-7908  
[www.gisc.org](http://www.gisc.org)

We have no more right to consume happiness without producing it than to consume wealth without producing it. - George Bernard Shaw

*Humor and its fruit of laughter are, in themselves, points of light within your inner spirit.*

*Unknown*

The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter." Churchill

### NEILA MILLER

"I have learned so much from Niela. She is a brilliant facilitator of personal and professional growth processes; an expert in the use of a myriad of emotional intelligence and creativity tools and techniques; a powerful, wise and loving woman--and so much more. Every person and organization can achieve impressive results and receive great gifts through working with Niela Miller.

- Lisa Kleitz, Inner Assets

Life Coaching, Executive Coaching, Training

CREATIVE & EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS for anyone who works with groups or organizations.

DATES: June 4-6, 2004 (Begins at 3pm Friday and ends at noon on Sunday)

FACILITATOR

Niela Miller, PeopleSystems Potential ([www.peoplesystemspotential.com](http://www.peoplesystemspotential.com))

MS Ed, LMHC, coach, trainer, educator, mentor, Gestalt therapist, multi-modal artist.

#### DESCRIPTION

If you want to experience many more ways of bringing aliveness and creative possibility into your life and work, this training event is a good choice! It will be geared primarily for those who work with organizations but open to any people professionals.

The workshop will be highly experiential using metaphorical and symbolic formations arising from the use of arts tools and humanistic process psychology models. New insights, perspectives and problem-solving possibilities will emerge which could never have been accessed by thinking or talking alone.

FEE: \$375 plus \$15 materials fee which will include Niela's concise manual, chock full of tools and tips. (Being Alive! Creative & Emotional Intelligence Tools)

Contact Gestalt International Study Center, 508-349-7900 to register. Wellfleet, Ma. on Cape Cod. The conference center is state-of-the-art, intimate, in a lovely setting with nearby accomodations..See [www.gisc.org](http://www.gisc.org) for more information

#### BIO

Niela Miller has her own coaching/training/counseling business in Acton, Ma called PeopleSystems Potential. After many years of front line work incorporate, non-profit, government, academic, medical and other organizational environments plus a large private practice, she is now focusing primarily on teaching, training, supervising and mentoring people., professionals who want to be more creative, fluent, spontaneous, and innovative in their lives and their work with clients. She is also always involved in her own expressive work in music, fine arts and writing.



In experiencing another  
We experience ourselves

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**A Ceremony**  
(excerpt)

**We will grow old, and older.**

**One of us will die, and then the other.**

**The earth itself will be impaled on sunspokes. It doesn't matter.**

**We have been imprinted on the protons of energy herself, and so stand in another atmosphere, where an undiscovered star we will never live to see casts shadows on a grove of succulents we cannot yet imagine.**

**There our interchangeable features still vibrate and blur, each smile half of one circle, each utterance spiraling like light upward in shudders along the spine as if the moon and you and I were slivers of one mirror, gazing on herself at last.**

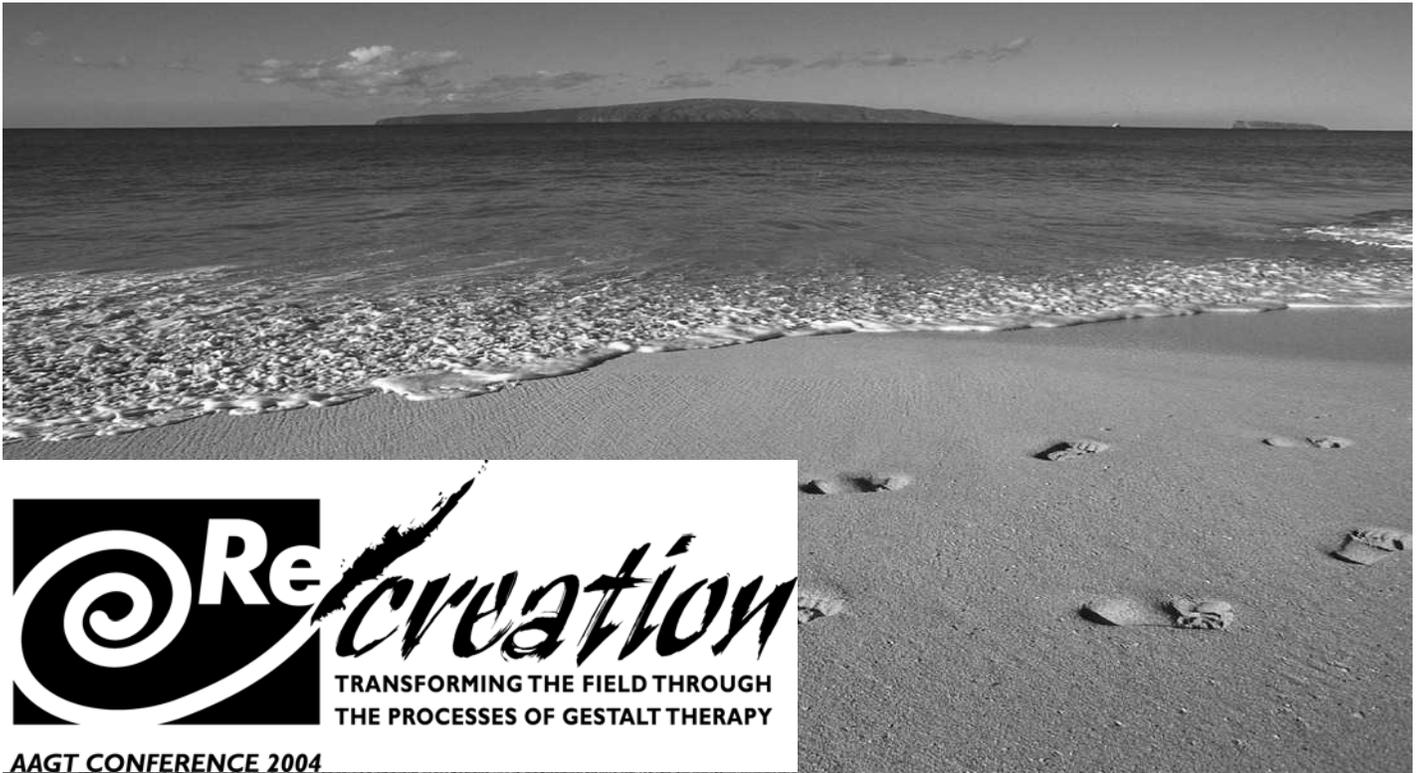
~ Robin Morgan ~

Life responds when we risk.

-Rodney Smith, "Lessons From the Dying"

For a spiritual practitioner, one's enemies play a crucial role. As I see it, compassion is the essence of a spiritual life. And in order for you to become successful in practicing love and compassion, the practice of patience and tolerance is indispensable. There is no fortitude similar to patience, just as there is no affliction worse than hatred.

-His Holiness the Dalai Lama From "The Pocket Dalai Lama"



**AAGT CONFERENCE 2004**  
ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA



**NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF GESTALT THERAPY**

**AAGT**

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