

SPRING 2006

AAGT

Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy



AAGT **8**th
International Conference

Vancouver, Canada
August 9th -13th, 2006

AAGT'S EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2006

AUGUST 9 - 13, 2006

CONFERENCE DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE: AAGT.ORG

THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

(beginning on page 13) IS INCLUDED AT THE END OF
THE NEWSLETTER SO THAT YOU CAN PRINT IT OUT
EASILY.



I love Springtime. Time for new beginnings, new growth. I have been the AAGT Newsletter editor/publisher for almost 4 years now & I'm morphing, getting ready to fly away, ready to blossom in a different direction, ready to resign from my position as editor/publisher. AAGT is family to me, so this transition is certainly going to be a challenge. I'm reminded of Jane Gerber teaching me the go/don't go thing with one hand beckoning and the other pushing away. That's where I've been for a while & I'm still feeling a lot bit one foot in & one foot out. I'm not sure what the transition will bring or where I'll be with AAGT in the future, but I know that it's time for me. It is my hope that my passion will be carried forward. The newsletter has been a huge labor of love for me & now it's ready to go off to college.....So, I'm so excited about the conference! It is absolutely mind-blowing how much work our board, planners, & those who care have put into the conference. I feel honored and blessed to have this group of hardworking/hardly-sleeping teammates making this all happen. I look forward to seeing you all in Vancouver!

AAGT Board Minutes Now Online

The AAGT Board Minutes can now be viewed online on our web site: www.aagt.org. From the home page, click on the "About AAGT" link, then go to the AAGT Executive Council and the link for the minutes is located near the top of that page. The minutes from each meeting will be added monthly. If you do not have Internet access and would like to receive a "hard copy" of the notes, please notify Ann Bowman, AAGT Board Secretary at 317-843-0717 opt. 2.

Our Board:

- ♦ Brian O'Neill, President
- ♦ Peter Philippon, Vice president/President-Elect
- ♦ Ann Bowman, Secretary
- ♦ Peter Cole, Treasurer
- ♦ Ansel Woldt, Archivist & Continuing Education Officer
- ♦ Marcy Stern, Publications Director
- ♦ Bruce Aaron, Membership Co-Chair
- ♦ Allan Singer, Membership Co-Chair
- ♦ Jack Aylward, Interest Groups' Coordinator
- ♦ Morgan Goodlander, Organization Members' Co-Representative
- ♦ Bud Feder, Organization Members' Co-Representative
- ♦ Marilyn Myles, Regional Contact Persons' Co-Representative
- ♦ Tine van Wijk, Regional Contact Persons' Co-Representative

Newsletter Deadlines:

September 1, 2006

December 1, 2006

submit to Marcy Stern: imawareru@comcast.net

Presidential Message

Brian O'Neill

As a runner, now in the later stage of my life, I have developed a sense of pacing that I did not have when I was young. It is this sense of pacing which comes to mind as we approach the Conference in Vancouver and all that it will offer.

This is a nice point in the run to stop for a deep breath (*not that we need it, mind you*) . . . and have a little drink of water. As we pause to sip and breath, lets have a look at the field.

In second place, hot on my heels, is Peter Philippon. I could hardly wish for someone better to work with as a team of President and Vice President; and I have noticed how more and more, we are simply that – A TEAM! The transition of the presidency is already feeling smooth and in process. We are effectively a "self".

Ann Bowman now has a well-earned reputation in the race as Secretary. Ann has done a sterling job, not only with the minutes (*which she has now put on the web*), but as a strong and active voice in debates. For someone who is already very busy, you give much Ann and deserve our thanks.

Peter Cole is, of course, the dream Treasurer! With a professional background in finance, I am constantly delighted to have Peter pull us up as we rush head-long into spending and remind us of our budget. He, too, has a firm yet gentle voice in our debates as a Board. He also took on the task of Peer Review for the Conference. Thanks mate!

Ansel Woldt, who has been a Board member since its inception and has therefore been in the race the longest and is at times the "tireddest," now looks after Continuing Professional Education (*CEU's to many*) and the Archives – which entails being the "keeper" of the Constitution and By-Laws. While he is usually quietly present on our teleconference calls, he speaks loud and clear on issues of importance in emails. We all know your signature line – and I wish the same for you – "Love and Hugs, Ansel."

Off-times, in particular with the Amsterdam name-change debate, we have removed our "terms of endearment" from the emails; and that, for me, has been another sign of the health for our Board. We have disagreed vehemently at times, yet few have left and many more have spoken out who would normally be silent.

Marilyn Myles is another who has spoken out with gentle persistence on sensitive issues and her dedication has flowed over into her work with the Regional Contact People (RCPs) whom she regularly talks with via internet and phone link up. As we say in Australia – "good onya Marilyn!"

Marilyn and Bruce Aaron have the luxury of being near each other in Chicago; and Bruce has transitioned from his job as Treasurer to take up the job of Membership Co-Chair along with our new Board member Allan Singer. Bruce provides a loving and confronting presence. I still remember him questioning my ability to be president in New Jersey due to the distance of Australia, and he has at the same time offered so much love and connection with others that I feel well able to trust you and your work for AAGT. For me, Bruce, you are a delicious mixture of love and challenge that makes for deep friendship.

The same goes for Allan as he joined the Board at a time of conflict following his election as Membership Co-Chair in Amsterdam. You brought yourself into the debate with a firm gentleness Allan, which was respectful of every person's position while still being true to your own. And all with that special twinkle and laugh – you know what I mean Allan.

continued

Marcy Stern, our Newsletter Editor, also brings much lightness and gentle humour to our Board discussions. I was very impressed that it was you, Marcy, who called us to be ethical and stand for the principles of AAGT in dealing with the hotel bill in Florida and not take the “expedient,” “smart” or “economical” response. I am forever grateful that you reminded us, as many have done, to be an ethical field at that important juncture in our decision-making.

The same is so true for my friend Tine van Wijk, who has not only delivered our first conference outside of the USA, but has strongly challenged me and many others on issues of power and the forming of "inner circles". This was done with courage and personal risk of rejection and yet the results were, I believe, worth it. Thanks Tine! Thanks also for joining forces with Marilyn to Co-Coordinate work with the RCPs and with Bea to handle publicity for the conference.

Now, of course, one of the older runners here is coming up in the rear – Bud Feder! (*Does anyone not know Bud?*). For me, **YOU** did a mammoth task of holding the Presidency and Conference together in a very difficult field and instead of leaving the race, you joined this new race. Bud now works with Morgan Goodlander as a team to support Organizational Memberships – that is, when he isn't playing tennis on his new courts in Berkley, California. Morgan has also stayed in the race despite his hectic schedule; and I thank you for that. And Bud, you know I love you!

Five other people who are not on the Board, yet are ex-officio members, deserve a very special mention as they are, in fact, leading the field way ahead of me.

Bea Mackay and Warren Weir are doing an exceptional professional, open and consultative job of organizing this conference. You both have my deepest respect and gratitude. The same goes for Victor Daniels and his team of program planners. I want the membership to know the creative, yet task-driven job, Victor and his PPC team have done – with the least of fuss and the maximum of efficiency. You are my hero Victor!

A true Hercules of the Internet is Phil Brownell, who so many say has an amazing talent to do so much so quickly. When do you sleep Phil? You have stayed in the debate about the name change with persistence and dedication and held your place while developing another Internet tool, our new AAGT lists, for all of us to use. You know I rank you as the first pioneer of Gestalt on the Internet. You deserve many Thank You's!

Now for the quiet achiever – Silvie Falschlunger, our Executive Assistant. Silvie is like the race official on the sideline who makes sure everything for the race is needed and provides the whole ground for so much that happens and without whom we would simply be a group of people running in a field with no start or finish line, no celebration bunting and no stalls with water. Thank you for your constant dedication and attention to detail.

So there it is – an introduction to the work behind the scenes to bring you AAGT and the Vancouver Conference. Now – on with the race! We're not there yet. . . . Come on. . . . Back to it! . . . Lift those legs! . . . And anyone not yet on board, welcome to the race!

Brian

"Notice of formal motion to be presented at the Annual General Meeting of AAGT in Vancouver for discussion and decision:

That the AAGT changes its name to the 'International Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy'. This motion needs to be notified in advance as it would be a major change in our Articles of Incorporation.

Other suggestions have come up from the membership and will be part of the discussion, including to keep the name as it is, or to have a legal name and an unofficial 'Doing Business As' name, or to add 'An International Community' to all publicity."

Also: Please see board meeting minutes on our website AAGT.org.

2006 AAGT-Southwest Conference at ASILOMAR

The 11th annual AAGT-SW conference will be held in Pacific Grove, California at ASILOMAR October 6-9, 2006. As in recent years, there will also be a 2-day writers' conference preceding the main event. All are welcome! For more information please email Cara Garcia at Cara.Garcia@pepperdine.edu

"Ring the bells that still
can ring, forget your perfect
offering, there is a crack in
everything, that's how the light
gets in".

Leonard Cohen

***SOME LINGERING LAVENDER-HUED REFLECTIONS OF AMSTERDAM and AAGT ...
and GAYLY ANTICIPATING VANCOUVER***

I want to share a few, indelible memories of my experience as a gay-identified man at the Amsterdam conference this past summer. To sum it up in a sentence, I felt wholly supported in my gay self-identification throughout, a delicious felt sense of my being at ease in the larger community of both AAGT and Amsterdam.

Amsterdam, of course, has been a civic leader in welcoming its LGBT (lesbian/gay/bisexual & transgender) citizenry and enacting/affirming LGBT civil rights legislation for many years. I believe that it was the first country to enact same-gendered marriage legislation (now followed by Belgium, Spain, Canada, South Africa, and the state of Massachusetts in the USA). Traveling into the city on the train from Schipol Airport, I kept thinking: "I'm in a place where it's really fine to be gay ... " ... a thought that inherently relaxed and pleased me. The AAGT Amsterdam conference coincided with the annual Amsterdam LGBT Pride Parade celebration, the third largest public event in Amsterdam held each year. Thousands of people lined the canals to watch myriad boats float by, occupied by celebrants of any and all persuasions, frequently decorated in festive and creative costumes ... or the relative absence thereof(!) and creating an amazing visual and perceptual sensory feast, along with an impression of a city that truly enjoys and supports its citizenry. I remember with warmth watching this parade, surrounded by fellow AAGT conference attendees, some of whom I had met for the first time in Amsterdam: from Greece and Russia and Australia and the USA. Women. Men. Sexual/erotic orientations and gender identifications? Yes. (At least, I presume!) Across the spectrum (I presume). No matter. Ultimately irrelevant and relevant ... it's ALL GOOD. We were huddled in my small room at a canal hotel which overlooked the canal parade route, peering out the two windows, enjoying the moments together. Indelible and lovely ("love" being an integral component of that word). That was one unforgettable part of the AAGT conference in Amsterdam for me. AAGT gatherings have always felt like extremely supportive experiences related to sexual orientation diversity. I felt great pleasure at the Amsterdam conference at how often, in advance of the Pride Parade, I heard AAGT people saying that they were planning to attend the parade. Irrespective of anyone's particular sexual (and/or gender) orientation, many AAGTers found their way to the parade ... or spoke of their interest in it, even if they couldn't attend. I can't describe how lovely that felt -and feels- for me to be noticing that level of interest in a public LGBT event, albeit one for the entire community to enjoy.

I've been "out" in one form or another since age 19, somewhere around 1971 many years ago, obviously. Yet from a broader perspective, no matter where we, as LGBT folk, might be in our individual coming out process, in some sense we're always faced with "coming out" anew, depending on whatever existing context and field conditions we may inhabit at any given time. For me, as for many of us, vestiges remain of having invisibly harbored a secret "sexual/sensual/erotic/loving self" in development for so many years of gestation, and within an encompassing field context of shaming beliefs which are encoded and expressed through our familial and cultural surrounds, no matter what our points of origin on earth. Given the latter conditions, I fully appreciate, and hope that you do as well, my sense of preeminent pleasure in noting the interests of my fellow AAGT conference participants to participate visibly in witnessing the LGBT Pride Parade .. to express their excitement overtly and with joyful abandon, irrespective of their sexual orientations.No evident fears of coming out were apparent to me, not from those colleagues and associates and emerging friends, not in this AAGT gathering. And if those fears exist (as they likely do and must, on some level, given the developmental conditions previously described, which affect all of us, irrespective of our sexual/gender orientations),

I project that there's a multitude of support available in our AAGT community to draw upon, to re-claim our beings, our right-to-life as LGBT or LGBT-supportive (or any otherwise oriented) folk. It really is a lovely gift of attending AAGT conference events, experiencing this level of inclusive embrace in relation to LGBT identity. The lunchtime gathering of the LGBT Special Interest Group (open to any and all, apart from sexual/gender orientation) at AAGT Conferences are often spoken of as important, informal touchstone experiences for those who attend, where those in attendance can visibly connect, the typically invisible figure of LGBT-identity raised into the visible and communal foreground. With all the ways that we may struggle at times in AAGT, expressing differences in lively, sometimes challenging, even occasionally disconfirming manner, I've always bathed in a felt sense of openness and inclusion for the gay-identified aspects of myself. I TRULY LOVE THAT OPPORTUNITY at AAGT (I feel moved as I re-read this) ... in case you didn't know. Then again, gestalt being a theory/therapy of the obvious, I don't mind being obvious about my gratitude. So, I'm looking forward to the Vancouver conference this August. Vancouver certainly has a large LGBT community, but as with Amsterdam, that factor shall merely be a very welcome backdrop. For whether we identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, straight, queer, transgender, or whatever other rubrics of identity we may align with, the culture of AAGT itself seems to draw people who truly want to "associate" ... and extend towards .. and sometimes beyond ... those invisible, metaphorical contact boundaries of ours the ways that we define our similarities and differences which shape our identities and inform how we express our "positions" ... so that we may learn from and, at the very least, be with one another, continually creating an inclusive community.

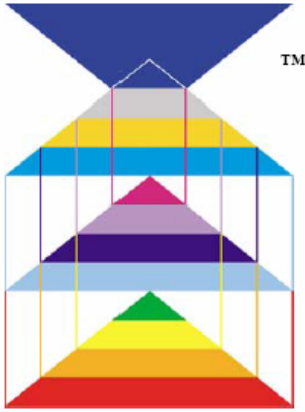
Now THAT, to me, is a RICH landscape! I do love that lavender seems to be such an inherently valued part of the whole rainbow at AAGT.

yours in community,
Allan Singer

THE TWELVE LEVELS OF BEING

A Transformative Approach to Understanding The Evolution Consciousness through The Personality, Soul and Spirit with

Sharon Snir CMGANZ MPACFA



This workshop is for individuals who know their life's work is to inspire, support, guide and facilitate individuals, communities, organizations and nations to recognise, embrace and stand in the fullness of their potential.

The 12 Levels of Being presents us with a new map of understanding the natural cycles of being human. Problems, challenges and life transitions are seen as an aspect of a particular Level or Levels of Being.

By becoming aware of these 12 fields of energy and fully claiming them we can expect an expansion of perception, a deepening of understanding and an emergence of a profound inner peace.

LA and NJ WORKSHOP DETAILS

These workshops are limited to
18 participants only

Date: May 27-28, 2006

Time: 9.30 am to 5.00 pm

Place: Le Studio,
3025 Olympic Blvd. West, Stage A,
Santa Monica CA 90404
Just West of Centinela Avenue,
Next door to New Roads School.

Date: June 3-4, 2006,

Time: 9.30 am to 5 pm

Place: 47 Clive St. Metuchen,
NJ 08840

Cost: \$300

What to Bring: A note pad and comfortable
clothes

What to Expect:

A magnificent perspective through which to see
yourself and those with whom
you live and work

Payment details and for more information
Click onto

www.sharonsnir.com

Sharon Snir B.A., College MGANZ, MPACFA, is a psychotherapist, teacher and energetic healer in private practice in Sydney Australia. She has taught numerous workshops and presented at conferences both in Australia and abroad. Throughout the past 26 years, her work has led her to develop The 12 Levels of Being.

LEVEL- 1 CHOICE

From Fear to Love

Reconciling two aspects of Self, that which fears and that which Loves through identifying and understanding how beliefs, values and perspectives drive choice.

LEVEL- 2 CONNECTION AND HARMONY

The Emotional body

Through narrative, myth and fairytale we explore how we choose to feel in any given situation.

LEVEL- 3 BALANCE

Yin Yang...Matter and Antimatter

Recognizing and embracing the polarities that operate within we begin to align Choice with Connection and Harmony through the Power of Reason.

LEVEL- 4 TIME

Constriction to Expansion

Awakening awareness to our own unique rhythm we move from the constrictive finite perspective of time to embracing the expansive infinite cycles of energy.

Levels 5, 6, 7, 8 will be introduced at this seminar and can be read in some detail on Sharon Snir's web site. Her new book, The 12 Levels of Being, will be available towards the end of 2006

A Gentle Winter Drifts toward Spring *by Sonia March Nevis*

Today is the first day that I can feel Spring. The air is softer, though this winter was not harsh.

I never know exactly why a moment comes when I'm moved to write about the thoughts that have been running around in my head, but I have developed a faith that the moment will come.

I've been thinking about children. Several things have combined to keep me on these thoughts. One is a telephone call I received, from a therapist wanting to ask me a question. She said: "is it all right to advocate for children outside of my office." I think I was stunned into silence for a minute and then said - "of course."

Second, I've been thinking about a gentle man that I have been corresponding with in Australia. His gentleness turns to fiery passion when he writes and works to affect change in policies and practices relating to children. He is much on my mind in my heart these days since he is mortally ill.

I think that for all us the fate of so many children in the world weighs heavy on our hearts. In addition, personally, I often chew on what kind of mother I was for my own children and on the ways that I wish I had done things differently. Sometimes I can't believe my luck that they grew into such fine women.

Then I read an article by Laura Miller about a Brit called Philip Pullman, an author of children's books. Everything I read about his work has cheered my heart.

Pullman's major work is a sophisticated trilogy of children's books, widely read also by adults, called collectively "His Dark Materials." The trilogy was inspired by Milton's "Paradise Lost."

He refers to the upbringing of children as "The School of Morals." He says the schooling is inherently ambiguous, dynamic and democratic. He calls it a "conversation." This is in opposition to theocracy, the tendency of human beings to gather power to themselves in the name of something that may not be questioned.

He says that a moral education gives us the notion of how to live a life where "responsibility and delight can coexist." Theocracy squelches both.

I think that perhaps I understood that even though I couldn't have articulated it as beautifully as he does.

He doubts if democracy can defeat theocracy yet urges us not to surrender but to act "as if." He said we should tell children stories and read books to them, take them to see plays and to learn poems, and to play music. All as if it will make a difference. He advocates acting as if the forces of ambiguity and democracy will win over theocracy.

I smiled at these "rules" of his since I thought that those were the rules that I had followed. I'll ask my children if they agree. My experience bringing them up was that I had no idea what I doing and often wondered whether I wasn't doing them a disservice by opting not to give them a religious education. I had none myself, and it seemed to me that I didn't miss it. I'm Jewish and we did follow a few of the traditions, but I worried that perhaps religious education had something that I didn't understand and therefore didn't value. However, I decided to let them find their own way.

Imagine my surprise to learn that Pullman says, "although I call myself an atheist, I am a Church of England atheist, and a 1662 Book of Common Prayer atheist, because that's the tradition I was born in and I cannot escape those early influences." I finally breathed a sigh of relief. Maybe I had done as well as possible for my daughters.

I wish I could see into the future and find out if "The School of Morals" has won.

A word about the Gestalt International Study Center. All is well here and we are about to start our more active time - Spring. Come to some of our programs. Always a pleasure to be with those of you whom I know and I look forward to meeting some of you that I have never met in person.

Warmly,
Sonia

Sonia March Nevis
Gestalt International Study Center
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Work-Study Opportunities for AAGT Conference 2006

by Claire Asherson Bartram and Anne Walker, Work-Study Coordinators

AAGT and the Conference Planning Committee will be offering a number of Work-Study positions for the AAGT 8th International Gestalt Therapy Conference, University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Work-Study provides an 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 Claire Asherson Bartram and Anne Walker, AAGT Work-Study Coordinators and should do so prior to submitting registration materials (pre-registrants can still apply). Contact: FAX: 08701 689 758 Email: Clairebartram@blueyonder.co.uk or annewalker@telus.net or write to: Anne Walker at 209 – 2416 West 3rd Ave, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6K 1L8.

Remember, **THE EARLY BIRDS GET THE WORMS!** **There are a limited number of opportunities** Contact Claire and Anne early to enhance your chances of becoming **a Work-Study participant.**



Dreaming the Future
Expanding our consciousness through Gestalt Therapy

AAGT **8**th
International Conference

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SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS AND EVENTS URGED

As we approach the next AAGT conference, please keep in mind that one of the great things we do is assist persons from all over the world to attend who otherwise would not be able to. We do this through our Scholarship Fund.

This year, as in the past, we already have scholarship requests from various far-flung countries. If you are attending the conference, please note the 'Scholarship' line on the registration form and donate what you can. If you are not attending, please make a donation, if you can, directly to our treasurer Peter Cole (2011 P St, Suite 201, Sacramento, CA 95814) making sure to earmark it "Scholarship Fund". Also, consider running a special event to raise money for the scholarship fund. In 2004 several members raised over \$2000.00 through events such as workshops, song recitals, book auctions etc. Our conferences are greatly enriched by attendees from all over the world, many of whom have been able to come because of this assistance...and they are very grateful. The enrichment is mutual.

Thank you, Bud Feder 2006 Scholarship Fund Chair



AAGT

2006 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR GESTALT THERAPY
VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA
AUGUST 9-13



Come to beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia, beside the Pacific Ocean on the campus of the University of British Columbia, and join an international community of Gestalt practitioners in the eighth international conference for Gestalt therapy of the Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy. We will have colleagues present from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Bermuda, the USA, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Russia, India, Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, and Israel. They will provide pre-conference workshops and marathon groups, within-conference demonstrations, didactic and experiential presentations, symposia, and panels based on formal papers, active research, theory and clinical practice. The keynote address will be given by Erving Polster, Ph.D. Peruse the following schedule and workshop descriptions, and then consult www.aagt.org for registration information.

Pre-Conference Workshops (contingent upon sufficient enrollment leading up to the conference)

August 7, 6:30pm - August 9, 5:00pm. Peter Cole and Daisy Reese "Gestalt Group Process Residential" Off Campus

The Sierra Institute for Contemporary Gestalt Therapy offers an annual summer intensive. The summer intensive is one of the requirements for a certification of completion of the training. The summer intensive is an experience of Gestalt Group Work. Usually the institute offers a five-day intensive. This year, in conjunction with AAGT's Vancouver conference, we plan to offer our trainees and others a two-day intensive, and have them attend the conference to meet the intensive requirement. There will be room for about six additional participants besides Sierra Institute Trainees.

August 8, 9:00am – 9:00pm. Ansel Woldt and Tom Mraz Gestalt Group Marathon, 211

A 12-hour small group experience limited to 12 people, facilitated to explore personal and interpersonal processes. The basic content of the workshop is the participants themselves. Gestalt encounter emphasizes awareness, authenticity, spontaneity and contact, without a fixed agenda. The group develops a here and now, process-oriented experience. Participants often report gaining greater awareness and understanding of their own behaviors, plans, hopes and dreams. Many utilize the group as a safe place for experimenting with new behavior, working through unfinished situations in their life and obtaining closure of unfinished gestalts. The facilitators have several years experience in group work, dating back to the '60s and '70s.

August 9, 9:00am - 7:30pm. Brian and Jenny O'Neill "Deepening Connection" 212A

Brian and Jenny will bring their work and lived experience both as a couple and as trainers of Gestalt therapists to this workshop. They will offer a focus on the paradoxical nature of intimacy and connection in relationships. Gestalt encounter emphasizes awareness, authenticity, spontaneity and contact, without a fixed agenda. Participants will engage in a marathon group experience in which they can utilize the group as a safe place for experimenting with new behavior, working through unfinished situations in their life and obtaining closure. Brian and Jenny have been facilitating groups for over two decades in Australia.

August 9, 9:00am - 7:30pm. Sharon Warwick and Rob Tyson "Strangers on the Shore - A Therapy Marathon" 211

For all of us, coming to the AAGT Conference in Vancouver will mean entering into new field conditions, which will include meeting new people. Dreaming the Future is projection. We want to provide a forum in which to explore current projections in the context of new and foreign ground. We hope this will support the emergence of a richer community and lay the ground for our co-created experience of the conference. To do this we are offering the opportunity to participate in a gestalt marathon group, using a blend of classical and relational gestalt, as a precursor to the conference.

August 9, 9:30am - 3:30pm. Dolores Bate "Gestalt Dreamwork" 205

Fritz Perls regarded dreams as the Royal Road to Integration. I've found this to be true. Dreams offer new information and guidance about the present, past and future as well as insight into our place in the world and our spiritual lives. If you're interested in starting a Dream Group for clients, or for yourself and your friends, this workshop is for you. We'll learn how to begin and to continue our Dream Work in a simple, effective form. If time allows, we'll look at more traditional Gestalt approaches to working with dreams, as well.

August 9, 8:30am - 12:30pm. Philip Brownell "Resolving Unfinished Religious Business and Other 'God Stuff'"

216

This will be an exploration for people interested in making progress with unresolved religious issues, processing abusive religious experiences, exploring nagging questions associated with a theistic worldview, and/or gaining cultural competence for working with religious clients. It will lay a ground for theism in Gestalt therapy and then provide opportunities for group members to respond. God will not be left out and talked about; God will be brought in and addressed. Since religious difference often stimulates the defense of belief structures, tolerance of uncertainty in the role of faith will also be considered.

August 9, 2:00pm – 6:00pm. Richard Erskine "Adaptation, Internal Criticism, and Psychological Withdrawal - Psychotherapy of the Schizoid Process" 216

This workshop consists of much didactic material and some demonstration. It is based on Dr. Erskine's contribution to the symposium that he did a couple of years ago with Gary Yontef and Lynn Jacobs on the treatment of the schizoid process.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

12:00-1:00 AAGT Board Meeting #1 Party Room

4:00-10:00 Conference Registration Party Room

4:00-6:00 Jack Aylward: **Process Group Leaders Orientation, 205**

4:30-6:00 Newcomers Orientation to the AAGT:

If you're a "newbie," come have fun and meet others new to AAGT with Nancy & Ansel Woldt and Ann and Charlie Bowman in the Party Room

Beginning of the Conference (8:00 pm – 11:00 pm)

8:00-9:15 **Process Groups - Session #1, Ballroom**

9:30-11:00 Reception, Cecil Green Center

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

6:30-8:30 Breakfast Buffet, Party Room & Courtyard

7:00-8:00 Morning Activity: "Meditation for Early Risers" 214-16

7:00-12:30 Registration, Partyroom

Opening Plenary (9:00 am -10:50 am)

1. **Bea Mackay and Warren Weir, Conference Coordinators "Welcome to Vancouver and the University of British Columbia," Ballroom**

2. **Marilyn Myles: "Saying Hello to Each Other," Ballroom**

3. **Brian O'Neill, AAGT President: "Presidential Address," introduced by Sharon Warwick, Ballroom**

4. **Erving Polster, Ph.D.: Keynote Speech, "A Giant Next Step for Psychotherapy," introduced by Eva Gold, Ballroom**

Historically, psychotherapists have worked with individuals, small groups, large groups, organizations and, even, governments. We have moved from treating pathology to facilitating personal growth to expanding public consciousness. A next step is to offer life-long psychological guidance to congregations of people. With religion as precedent and psychotherapy's large group processes as instrument, Dr. Polster will show how we may continually address everyday, non-pathological needs of people, describing these procedures and their theoretical underpinnings. Especially pertinent is psychotherapy's methods for joining its discoveries of the fundamental requirements of "just living" with its inspiration to be "noticeably alive."

11:00 Thursday-5:00 Saturday: EXHIBITORS' DISPLAYS AND SALES Room 201A (Ballroom extension)

First Round of Workshops (11:00 am - 12:50 pm)

11:00-12:50 Gary Yontef "Relational Gestalt Therapy: What It Is, What It Isn't, and So What?" Ballroom

In this lecture/discussion/demonstration we will discuss the relational nature of Gestalt Therapy and the practice implications. We will differentiate the relational perspective as an observational stance and as a practice ethic. We will talk about the implications for practice of a relational practice ethic. Topics will include conceptions of phenomenology, field theory, and dialogue, and my viewpoint of relational practice. During the second hour I plan to demonstrate by doing experiential work with volunteers from the audience.

11:00-12:50 Daniel J. Bloom "Clarifying Gestalt's Language of Experience: Awareness and Consciousness," 205

Gestalt therapy's concepts of "awareness" and "consciousness" have been used confusingly and interchangeably. Gestalt therapy is a phenomenological psychotherapy with a serious metatheory and can be expected to use ideas in a clear, consistent manner. This workshop will begin to clarify these terms, showing they are differently intrinsic to contacting and self-functioning. Awareness and consciousness are intransitive and transitive experiences - correlative in a figure/ground relationship. Both are contact-boundary functions enabling intersubjectivity. They express the phenomenological concept of intentionality. This didactic/experiential workshop will raise questions, provide the outline for further exploration, but not reach a conclusion.

11:00-12:50 Peter Mortola "Learning From the Experience of Childhood: The Oaklander Approach, 207

Aspects and implications of Violet Oaklander's experiential approach to training adults to work with children will be explored, analyzed, and discussed. Participants will leave with an enriched appreciation of the ways in which both a cognitive and an experiential understanding of the phenomenology of childhood is key to working therapeutically with children, the ways in which these cognitive and experiential understandings of childhood lead directly to practical approaches in the moment-to-moment process, and the ways in which an appreciation for the phenomenology of childhood can expand our sometimes limited sensibilities and levels of consciousness as adult therapists.

11:00-12:50 Marion Schirling "Daring to Be Me - Women and Resilience," 209

Throughout their lives, most women experience, apart from moments of joy, many situations of hardship - the loss of a loved one, a serious illness, a traumatic event, burn-out or relationship problems. Some women seem to be able to cope more effectively with these stressful events of life than others. The question arises: "What are their helpful resources of resilience that enable them to do so?" This workshop is intended to encourage women to discover these significant factors, strategies and personal skills for building resilience.

11:00-12:50 Ed Harris "Working With Forgiveness in Gestalt Therapy," 211

Much has been written about forgiveness as a way to overcome hurt and anger from violation and betrayal. However, victims of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, divorce or other personal tragedies are often quite conflicted about forgiveness. This presentation will first conceptualize forgiveness in Gestalt Therapy terms. We'll then examine the client and therapist issues involved in forgiveness work, when and how to introduce forgiveness, how to draw on the client's religious/spiritual background, and how to utilize some innovative Gestalt experiments such as meditation, prayer, and the creation of healing rituals in working with forgiveness in therapy.

11:00-12:50 Joseph Melnick "Optimism: How to See a System and Make Interventions that Stick," 212A

In this workshop optimism will be defined and linked to Gestalt theory and culture. Data will be presented as to how optimistic and pessimistic perspectives impact our therapeutic and consulting stances in terms of how we observe, assess and intervene. Last, a model for how to make interventions "stick" and have impact will be articulated. The workshop will be a combination of lecture and experiential exercises.

11:00-12:50 Sharon Warwick & John Harris "'The Street' - A New Approach to Group Therapy," 214-216

The workshop will introduce participants to a model of group work in general and therapy in particular which Peter Philipppson and John Bernard Harris have developed in Manchester. The origins of 'the Street' will be presented, followed by a basic outline of the new paradigm for group work, which it exemplifies. We will then run a Street (experiential exercise) followed by a review. If time permits, we will then demonstrate the Street model as applied to an ad hoc therapeutic group convened in the workshop, followed by a final discussion.

12:50-1:50 Box Lunch, Party Room & Courtyard

1:00-1:50 Institutional Members Meeting (Bring your box lunch), 211

1:10-1:50 Victor Daniels "Gestalt Therapy 101: Elements, Methods, & Styles of Work" (Bring your box lunch), 214-16

This presentation offers a "users guide" to the conference by exploring the territory of Gestalt Therapy's past and present. It begins with the triad of theory, attitude, and method. Then it describes how all approaches to Gestalt therapy are similar and how they are different. It looks at how Gestalt theory is applied in conversational, empty-chair, enactive, psychodramatic, somatic, and group-based approaches, and discusses the ways these overlap. One training exercise and one innovation in therapeutic method are included. Online and hardcopy resources for further learning are identified. (Best for Beginning and Intermediate Level)

Second Round of Workshops (2:00 pm - 4:00 pm)

2:00-2:55 "Conversation Hour with Richard Kitzler (interviewed by Jon Frew)," Ballroom

Richard Kitzler was part of the original training group in New York who met with Fritz and Laura Perls, and he has been an influential member of the New York Institute ever since. Jon Frew is a clinical psychologist, trained through the Cleveland Institute, who practices in Vancouver, Washington and teaches at Pacific University.

3:05-4:00 "Conversation Hour with Anne MacLean (interviewed by Seán Gaffney)," Ballroom

Anne Maclean is a founding editor of the *Gestalt Journal of Australia and New Zealand*, author of *The Heart of Supervision*, and co-editor of *Grounds for Gestalt* and *More Grounds for Gestalt*, both volumes published "down under." She has been training and supervising people in New Zealand for many years. Seán Gaffney is an organizational consultant and Gestalt trainer who resides in Sweden but who teaches and works internationally through the Gestalt International Study Center, among other organizations.

2:00-4:00 Linda Curran "Gestalt Approach to Treating Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse," 205

This workshop is a multimedia presentation including; film clips, accurately portraying childhood sexual trauma and its physiological and psychological sequelae; a short history of Freud's Aetiology of Hysteria, his retraction, and his legacy; and a visually compelling display of clients' artwork. Cognizant of disturbing nature of the material, the facilitator will call attention to participants' internal experience throughout and demonstrate techniques for grounding, centering, and self-soothing. Those techniques- guided visualization, accupoints (meridian) tapping sequences, and Shen poses- will be explained and participants will leave with the ability to incorporate them into their clinical practice.

2:00-4:00 Peter Philippon "Mirror Neurons, Intersubjectivity, & Groupwork," 207-209

The discovery of mirror neurons, neurons that sit beside motor neurons and fire both when I act or if I am in contact with someone else acting, has opened up a whole new area of knowledge and speculation about how human beings relate. These ideas strongly support the Gestalt theory of relational self. My intention in this workshop is to present my understanding of the implications of this for the theory and practice of Gestalt group therapy, by means of theoretical input, experiential group work and discussion. I will include a 'new paradigm' theory of groups, which I co-developed.

2:00-4:00 Eva Gold "Gestalt Therapy & Buddhist Psychology," 211

Vipassana or Insight meditation is a central Buddhist teaching. At the heart of this teaching is mindfulness. Like Gestalt therapy, mindfulness involves cultivating awareness-experiencing what is, as it unfolds, in the present moment. In this workshop I will outline major Buddhist psychology concepts, and particular meditation methods, and relate these to Gestalt therapy theory and practice. Guided meditations will provide an experience of these methods for participants. This will create the ground for further discussion about the ways Gestalt therapists can benefit from these teachings, for our own personal and spiritual growth, and in our work.

2:00-4:00 Lisa Houston "Undoing Social Oppression in Therapy: What Gestalt Has to Offer" 212A

Globalization has produced rapidly changing demographics for populations worldwide. These changes

bring challenges and opportunities for those engaged in cross-cultural work. Gestalt therapy offers a grounded and timely perspective for working with non-majority culture persons, yet little research exists for empirically validating the richness of the Gestalt approach. This workshop will present results from a research study applying Gestalt therapy with adult Latinos/as in the Southwestern United States. The need for more research into Gestalt therapy and diverse populations will be proposed. Open discussion will be solicited, exploring what Gestalt therapy has to offer to the Multicultural Competence Movement.

2:00-4:00 Sylvia Fleming Crocker "A Dramatic Approach to Gestalt Dreamwork," 214-216

This presentation will demonstrate a Gestalt version of Psychodrama, with a focus on dreamwork. Here the dreamer chooses group members to play roles in the dream but--unlike Psychodrama in which these persons attempt to improvise their roles--the dreamer reverses roles with each of them as the dreamwork unfolds. Thus all of the psychological material comes only from the dreamer. This is especially powerful in working with recurrent dreams that repeatedly prompt the dreamer to address some important existential issue that has remained unresolved and unassimilated.

4:14-6:15 Community Meeting #1, Ballroom

6:30-8:30 AAGT Board & Conference Planners, Tennis Club

6:30-7:45 Dinner (on your own)

Third Round of Workshops (8:00 pm - 9:45 pm)

8:00-9:45 Stella Resnick: "Embodying the Future - Gestalt, Neuroscience, & Sexuality," Ballroom

This workshop explores a body-based Gestalt approach emphasizing personal growth through relationship and sexual self-discovery. It integrates Gestalt theory, developmental neuroscience, and recent findings in sexology to offer a coherent system for expanding our therapeutic sphere of effectiveness. A core aspect of "embodied therapy" is the significance of non-verbal, subtle shifts in body tension, sensation, breathing patterns, movements and gestures. We will begin by examining some of the recent evidence in the psychoneurobiology of attachment and neuroimaging science (fMRI) that support basic Gestalt principles and methods. We will proceed to experiment with several key processes for honing "felt sense" observations.

8:00-9:45 Franklyn Wepner "Gestalt Dreamwork as Alchemy, Process, and Theater," 205

When Gestaltists speak of "dreaming the future," the future is "the coming solution," which is Aristotle's "final cause" drawing forward as an object of love and desire. I will discuss analogies between Fritz's psychology and Aristotle's philosophy as these relate to the alchemical theories of Paracelsus, the theory of prophecy put forth by Maimonides in his "Guide For The Perplexed", and the aesthetics of Artaud's "alchemical theater" as presented in his "The Theater And Its Double". I will describe my own work since 1975, directing Merkavah Jewish Theater, work that has been based on this expanded view of Gestalt dreamwork.

8:00-9:45 Susan Friedberg "Making the Invisible Visible - Videotaping Treatment with Couples," 209

This presentation will combine theory and practical illustration with the purpose of demonstrating the use of Videotaping as a tool in couple's treatment. We will discuss family dynamics from a Gestalt perspective, using the concepts of creative adjusting, contacting and its interruptions, and family systems concepts of redundancy and pattern repetition, feedback loops, and mutual organizing of experience. Similarities and differences between the two perspectives will be made obvious. Following the didactic portion, the presenter will

show a videotape of couples' interactions and discuss how this tool can be used within therapy to heighten awareness.

8:00-9:45 Razi Ghaemmagaham Farahani "Two-chair Technique as a Hypnotic Phenomenon," 211

Disclosure of inner conflicts directly relates to processes of the conscious and unconscious mind within space and time. Memory, imagination, need, and desire become active through the unconscious mind. The logical portion of mind in two-chair technique is not involved except at the initiation of dialogue. The inner self mostly involves and operates within unconscious mind, while the outer self operates within the logical portion of mind in awareness. This presentation will provide opportunity for individuals and the group to experiment and recognize the hypnotic phenomena in two-chair technique within their experiences. Participants will also learn about self-hypnosis.

8:00-9:45 Patricia Wehr, Siobhán Conway-Hicks, Maryanne Nichols "Spirituality of the Ordinary: The Quiet Warrior," 212A

We intend to lead a group exploration of the theme of ordinary spirituality. We are working with a celebration of the every-day, of 'mundane' tasks, and truly bringing life to the commonplace. We are affected by the meaning of virtue. Virtue means 'to cut well,' as in a knife has virtue if it cuts well. So, we are looking for those mundane authenticities that can be done with excellence if connected to excitement. Inspired by the work on spirituality by Buber and Rosner, we develop a sense of the liveliness in the everyday through didactic, experiment, and discussion.

8:00-9:45 Susan Gregory "A Gestalt Therapist Teaches Singing," 216

You are invited to bring questions you always wanted to ask about Voice to this experiential and didactic workshop. Together, we will explore boundaries between breathing and phonation, between sound making and words, between speaking and singing. We'll investigate how these reflect in our relational styles. Have you wondered about carrying a tune? singing in front of an audience? feeling at ease as a listener/observer? singing higher-lower-louder-softer-freer? Here is a chance for Voice/Self exploration. Experienced singers, neophytes, listener/observers are all welcome.

10-? Irish Interest Group (IIG Gathering and Inductions), at the Hare & Hound

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

6:30-8:25 Breakfast Buffet, Party Room & Courtyard

7:00-8:00 Morning Activity: "Tai Chi for Early Risers" 214-16

8:15-8:25 Overview of the Day: Ann Bowman, Secretary, 207-09

Fourth Round of Workshops (8:30 am - 10:20 am)

8:30-10:20 Richard Erskine "Dimensions of Relational Methods of Gestalt Therapy," Ballroom

This workshop will describe the contact-oriented, relationship-focused methods of Gestalt Therapy. A gentle, respectful inquiry into the client's experiences provides both client and therapist with an ever-increasing awareness. Attunement includes the therapist's sensing the client's affect, natural rhythms, devel-

opmental level of functioning, and relational-needs, expressing corresponding affect and resonating behavior. Involvement reflects the client's experience that the therapist is committed to his/her welfare. It includes sensitivity to and acknowledgement of intrapsychic functions and feelings, validation and normalization of the client's sense of integrity and style of coping, and the presence of the therapist through his/her responsibility, dependability, and reliability.

8:30-10:20 Perry Klepner "Gestalt Therapy - Awareness, Consciousness and Interpretation," 205

Awareness, consciousness and interpretation have been essential factors in gestalt therapy and psychoanalytic approaches. They dynamically relate to influence how psychotherapy is understood and progresses. However, their meaning and use have varied. In gestalt therapy awareness was an innovation which, along with contact, experiment, and field, allowed new dynamic therapeutic interactions, supporting spontaneity, authenticity, depth and meaning of experience and, most importantly, new experience. Experiential and didactic segments will clarify and discuss these terms, make understandable their dynamic roles in gestalt therapy, and point to their varying importance and application in the contemporary psychoanalytic field.

8:30-10:20 Philip Brownell, Talia Levine Bar Yoseph, Nahida Hadeesh "Religion & Prejudice - Expanding Cultural Consciousness," 207-209

The presence of difference is at the core of dialogue. It is also at the core of prejudice. A Gestalt therapy approach, however, makes no broad and categorical assumptions about people; rather, Gestalt therapists engage in a dialogue that allows the unique differences between individuals to emerge within specific intersubjective fields. This workshop utilizes the assumptions surrounding fundamentalist religion to explore the dynamics of dialogue in order to help therapists work with people of challenging differences. Join a Circassian Moslem, an Israeli Jew, and an Evangelical Christian as they explore this territory through narrative, didactic, and experiential means.

8:30-10:20 Kailish Tuli "Yoga is Indian, Gestalt German - Will They Marry or Live Together?" 211

This presentation, both in theory and demonstrations, is intended to address the basic issue of a mirror reflection between Yogic and Gestalt psychotherapy. It appears to be an unfortunate coincidence that Fritz and Laura Perls did not notice Yoga when Eastern thoughts like Zen entered the Gestalt bibliography. The presentation shows how Yoga might positively influence the practice of Gestalt therapy. Further, since psychotherapy has potential to influence beyond the clinic to one's style of life, Yoga offers more than mere physical regimen; it is an influence on style of life and philosophy

8:30-10:20 Claire Asherson Bartram "Families of the Future - Stepfamilies," 212A

Stepfamilies are the fastest growing family form in America and the UK; they provide a different setting from families where children and adults are biologically related. Gestalt has a lot to offer in working with stepfamily members, particularly through exploring dialogically different and challenging positions. The workshop will explore stepfamily issues experientially through recreating a stepfamily based on either personal or client material brought by a group member. This will evoke an awareness of pertinent dynamics into the group awareness bringing the possibility of experimentation and insight. There will be time for discussion and to process the issues that arise.

8:30-10:20 Allan Singer & Marilyn Myles "Charting Your Midlife Voyage, Re-Envisioning Your Possibilities," 214-216

Our mid-life passage presents an opportunity both to reflect on our accumulative life experience and to consider how we might direct ourselves anew in creating a vitally nourishing journey. This experiential

workshop will offer participants a supportive forum in which to value our strengths and appreciate our life learnings, as we continue to cultivate the grounds of our personal visions of possibility. Through guided imagery and group dialogue exercises, we shall envision ourselves in taking interesting next steps towards expanding our fullness in this life path.

10:30-11:55 **Process Group, Session 2, All Rooms**

12:00-12:50 Box Lunch, Partyroom & Courtyard

12:00-12:55 Board Meeting 2, (bring your box lunch), 212A

Fifth Round of Workshops (1:00 pm - 3:00 pm)

1:00-1:55 Carl Hodges "Metaphor as Field," Ballroom

Gestalt field theory takes seriously the notion of group as figure/ground, wholes/parts, process/events, gestalt formation/destruction. Much of what occurs in the group/field is non-verbal, pre-verbal, and a-verbal. While pedestrian language cannot catch the field, metaphor can. At its simplest, metaphor is a portal for proceeding from the known to the unknown and back again. It is a transfer of meaning, a bridge, a way to make contact by "carrying across." Existential and experiential, it gives us a different map of the field/group/self than simple descriptive statements provide. We shall use our Process Groups as support for this rich journey.

2:05-3:00 Philip Lichtenberg "Culture Change via Conversation with People Differing Politically," Ballroom

There are challenges in applying Gestalt Therapy in everyday conversations with family and friends. My aim is to promote democratic and egalitarian relations in an increasingly authoritarian society. Conceiving the leadership of society as reflective of the culture of that society, and the culture as importantly embodied in daily discourse, I look at how Gestalt Therapists can apply our orientation so as to change the "common sense" of our culture. The focus will be predominantly directed to how we talk politics and religion, a diminished art in the modern world.

1:00-3:00 Niela Miller "Metaphorical/Sensory Experiments for Gestalt Groups,"

This session presents varied ways of working with sensory/metaphorical processes in Gestalt-oriented groups. We involve participants in experiments, which mine potential insights below the level of awareness. We take into account the transformative nature of whole brain/body participation and how change and awareness can occur which produce heightened consciousness, new possibilities and fresh perspectives. The workshop will be largely experiential and consist of a series of short exercises focused on creating the future (our own, our groups, our world) using different media such as drawing, movement, writing and sound for discovery learning, followed by practice and discussion. **205**

1:00-3:00 Bea Mackay & Warren Weir "Gods & Monsters, A Two-Chair Approach to Dream Symbols," 207-09

The Gestalt Two-Chair technique is a productive way of working with dreams and dream symbols. Dreams convey the unconscious dynamics that clients are struggling with, bringing to the foreground current splits and polarities. Often it is more productive and effective to work with the symbols and the interaction in the dreams rather than talking about the issues. This workshop teaches therapists how to use the Gestalt Two-Chair with dream symbols. It deals with the types of splits that evolve out of the work and how to shift and change with the different splits as they come to the foreground.

1:00-3:00 Patricia J. Tucker "Practice Meets Theory: Revealing the Magic of Gestalt," 211

Talk of Gestalt theory is often rich and nuanced, but these discussions seem abstract, far from actual therapy. Watching Gestalt sessions, we are often filled with a sense of awe, but by simply staying with the mystery of the co-created moments, we lose a deeper theoretical understanding. In this workshop, we bring together practice and theory with live demonstrations followed by focused yet flexible discussions on areas such as relationship between therapist and client, contact and interruption, and creative adjusting. The workshop leader will also encourage discussion to take shape on its own, its direction formed by the participants.

1:00-3:00 Tine Van Wijk "Moving Out of the Power Game," 212A

We will explore the three positions in the power triangle we usually operate from: omnipotence - impotence - power struggle. By identifying with different characters in a story that will be told, we will discover how we go from playing the savior to being a victim and the prosecutor. With the support of the Gestalt Layer theory we will find out that we need the struggle for power to surpass our roles and make contact by becoming responsible for the needs behind our roles. If things go as expected, participants will experience their strength, autonomy, and leadership.

1:00-3:00 Stephen Zahm & Eva Gold "Demonstration of Radically Phenomenological Couples Therapy," 214-16

One presenter (Steve) will work with a couple, demonstrating this approach, which is radically phenomenological, and field theoretical. Prior to the demonstration, we will outline the concepts of ego analytic couples therapy, and discuss their integration into a Gestalt approach. These concepts are not "add-ons," but offer a fuller articulation, and clinical application, of aspects of Gestalt therapy theory in work with couples. After the demonstration, there will be time for participants to ask questions and engage in discussion of the work with presenters and the demonstration couple.

Sixth Round of Workshops (3:10 pm - 5:00 pm)

3:10-5:00 Ann Teachworth "The Star Trek Model of Couple and Parental Counseling," Ballroom

For too long the basis for couple or parenting counseling has been the belief that a couple's relationship problems stem from the client's unfinished business with one of their parents in childhood. Anne's Psychogenetic approach demonstrates how the problem most often hides within the parents' troubled relationship - introjected into the client during childhood. Using a ten-question family of origin inquiry, Anne will demonstrate a simple role-playing exercise that boldly takes one's parents' relationship further than they were able to go on their own and produces a healing change in the current clients' introjected inner-couple patterns.

3:10-5:00 Ruella Frank "Developing Intersubjectivity: Infant Behavior and Adult Treatment," 205

The relationship between intersubjectivity in the field of contemporary infant research and Gestalt therapy theory and clinical practice is discussed. Emerging intersubjective process within the client/therapist field - an implicit knowing of "other" that relies on identification, differentiation - is described from its roots within the infant/caregiver dyad. It will become clear how in either dyad, infant or adult, affective/movement patterns that arise through non-verbal dialogue create a here-and-now choreographic, kinetic text which reveals clear and relevant information about each forming relationship. A basic system of nonverbal analysis will be presented to enhance therapists' ability to Gestalt diagnose the relational field.

3:10-5:00 Jack Neggerman "Recounting Fritz' Final Dream - A Gestalt Kibbutz at Lake Cowichan," 207-209

Fritz Perls came to the environs of Vancouver to create a Gestalt Therapeutic Community. We will recognize and honor Fritz in his final venture and refresh our recollections of his transition from Esalen to Lake Cowichan by reviewing the perceptions of those he encountered in his twilight years. We will review how the founder has impacted attendees and sort out which of his concepts and methods still seem vital and what aspects of Fritz you have discarded. We will end by addressing your own dreams for yourself in the future of Gestalt Therapy. Didactic, Historical, Lake Cowichan film.

3:10-5:00 Lester P. Wyman & Arie Cohen "Shrinking Distances - It Can Be a Smaller World After All," 211

We provide real-time, distance learning Gestalt training activities via Internet voice chatting technology to trainees and training faculties. We intend to provide participants the opportunities to learn some Gestalt practice theory through this technology. We intend to do the above by using this technology to provide a live session in which I teach a model of Gestalt practice. Our future will be in an ever-shrinking world. This presentation will demonstrate the possibilities of an inexpensive way to "share the wealth" of knowledge and skills among us by bringing together trainers and trainees who are otherwise never likely to meet.

3:10-5:00 John Harris "The Communicube - A New Method of Working," 212A

John Harris, gestalt psychotherapist, will present the film, "The Communicube", to introduce The Five Story Self Structure: a new way of working which gestaltists, psychosynthesists, drama therapists, TA therapists, psychodramatists and counsellors are using with individuals, couples, families, groups and organisations. The method enables client and therapist to model complex, multi-layered, even chaotic material and make sense of this complexity. The Communicube is a transparent five level structure that was invented by Dr. John Casson during research with people who hear voices but has been found to have much wider applications. It is a 21st Century Communication Tool.

3:10-4:00 "Conversation Hour with Judith Brown (interviewed by Ansel Woldt)" 214-216

Judith Brown, a former lecturer and researcher at the University of California, Santa Barbara, has conducted 135 psychotherapy workshops in the U.S. and Canada, 262 training workshops in the USA, Canada, England, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Holland and Russia, 51 workshops for couples and couples' therapists in the US and abroad, and 42 workshops for management and organizational development. Ansel Woldt is professor emeritus at Kent State University and the AAGT archivist.

4:10-5:00 "Conversation Hour with Erving Polster (interviewed by Eva Gold)" 214-16

Erving Polster is the Director of the Gestalt Training Center, San Diego, Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, University of California at San Diego, and the author of numerous books, articles, and chapters of books. He is in demand as a training and workshop leader, and his clinical experience extends to the middle of the last century! Eva Gold is Co-Director of the Gestalt Therapy Training Center--Northwest, a licensed psychologist in practice since 1988, and an adjunct professor at Pacific University School of Professional Psychology.

5:30-6:30 Transportation to Harbor Cruise

6:30-10:30 Harbor Cruise with Gourmet Dinner (costs extra but worth it)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

6:30-8:30 Buffet Breakfast Partyroom & Courtyard

7:00-8:20 Morning Activity: Yoga 211

7:30-8:20 Supervision Discussion with Anne Maclean and Ansel Woldt 205

8:15-8:25 Overview of the Day: Peter Cole, Treasurer, 207-209

Seventh Round of Workshops (8:30 am - 10:20 am)

8:30-10:20 Frank Staemmler "Monkeys, Players, & Clairvoyants - A Gestalt Concept of Empathy," Ballroom

“There can be no true contact in empathy. At its worst it becomes confluence,” Fritz Perls rigorously said. However, in my view empathy cannot be relegated from gestalt therapeutic practice. Therefore it appears to be useful to think about a gestalt therapeutic understanding of empathy. I will offer some ideas about a notion of empathy that I think are in keeping with more recent trends in gestalt therapy (e.g. dialogue and field theory). I will also draw on sources such as phenomenology, gestalt psychology, hermeneutics, baby research, neurosciences, parapsychology, and others.

8:30-10:20 Jay Levin "Professional Issues for Therapists Working with Detainees," 205

The plight of detainees is dire. They usually have no access to reasonable health care, oversight, or legal process. They are often hidden from public scrutiny and are offered no protection under the most basic laws of civilized society. This presentation falls within the area of "social justice" and explores some of the ethical, clinical and professional issues confronting the mental health worker who is called on to be responsible for the treatment and wellbeing of detainees. . It will be partly didactic and partly discussion, and I intend to use PowerPoint to illustrate some aspects of the presentation.

8:30-10:20 Lynn Williams "The Spirit of Gestalt - Spirituality, Gestalt, Self & Relationship," 207-209

Fritz Perls has said spirituality is: “neither shitting or getting off the pot”. Michael Murphy calls Perls a “cryptomystic” who had significant spiritual experiences (although he himself did not label them as such) and “at times enjoyed moments of extraordinary illumination”. This experiential workshop will explore our extraordinary moments and how spirituality can manifest in our lives through a Gestalt approach. We will explore how basic Gestalt principles such as awareness, embodiment, relation and co-creation can facilitate these experiences. Activities will encourage exploration and integration of spirituality using mind, body, heart and soul both individually and in a relational context.

8:30-10:20 Seishi Harada “Gestalt Image Therapy,” 211

Gestalt Image Therapy is an attempt to apply gestalt dream technique to phenomenology using a metaphor. Participants will first portray a problem metaphorically, for example, calling it a “morass.” Then, we will talk about the “morass” in detail. Next, participants will describe themselves as if they were the “morass.” Since imagery belongs to middle, we will discuss the difficulties involved with portrayal. Participants will be encouraged to explore hidden factors in the process. We will conclude by making observations of the practical utility of imagery to Gestalt therapy.

8:30-10:20 Philip Brownell "Expanding Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Using Gestalt Therapy," 212A

This workshop briefly describes adolescent sex offenders and summarizes effective practices that have been used in their treatment. It demonstrates how the coherent theory behind contemporary Gestalt therapy harmonizes with those treatment interventions. Participants interested in expanding their practice to include working with this challenging but interesting population will be given an introduction to the field, standards of practice, and necessary competencies so as to extend their practice of Gestalt therapy on the one hand and

the field of sex offender treatment on the other.

8:30-10:20 Judith Brown "What IS - Demonstration Work" 214-16

My focus will be "what is:" what is actual in the moment. For me this basic Gestalt methodology of attention to the ever changing now moment is the key to process, allowing the emergence of a series of fresh moments leading...? Since the paradoxical nature of change requires both therapist and client to let go of desires for specific outcomes, this is a process of discovery. With the participation of volunteer clients I plan to demonstrate examples of what is possible in the pursuit of wholeness and integration when we engage totally with what is.

10:30-12:00 Process Group, Session 3, all rooms

12:00-12:50 Box Lunch, Partyroom & Courtyard

12:00-12:50 Regional Representatives Meeting, (bring your box lunch), 212A

Eighth Round of Workshops (1:00 pm - 2:50 pm)

1:00-2:50 Ann Bowman, Judy Graham, & Gail Feinstein "The Intimacy of Being Woman," Ballroom

This workshop focuses on how womanhood is relevant in our work as Gestalt therapists, what women have to offer the wider Gestalt community and the impact of the feminine on the field. We will challenge our beliefs and feelings about what is beautiful, female and correct; explore our interruptions of contacting to what is unique to being a woman (body, mind, spirit). We will seek to discover what field experience supports and what inhibits women's authenticity. How do we hide? How do we dream? Our women-only experiment is part of a process towards full contact in the AAGT field/community.

1:00-2:50 Tine Van Wijk "Dance What You Write, Write What You Dance," 205

By letting our imagination stream we can literally dream our future and give it form by using the process that follows the content. After a guided meditation, we will write what comes to mind by letting our hands do the work. Either in pairs or in group we will read out loud what we wrote while our bodies start moving and dance to the words. When the dance is done, we will go back to our papers and continue writing. We will complete the workshop by discovering if this creative process has given a new meaning to our future.

1:00-2:50 Victor Daniels, Sylvia Fleming Crocker, Seán Gaffney, Talia Levine Bar Yoseph "Symposium on Gestalt Social Theory," 207-209

We will apply Gestalt Therapy and Kurt Lewin's Field Theory to the "therapy" and evolution of social units from families & communities to cultures. Seán Gaffney will examine effects of Gestalt training and organizational consulting in Northern Ireland. Talia Levine Bar Yoseph will apply insights from living in diverse cultures to her experience as a therapist and consultant. Sylvia Fleming Crocker will examine values inherent in a Gestalt approach relevant to specific situations in actual societies. Victor Daniels will describe the "Gestalt Social field Analysis" model. Panelists will discuss present starting points for systematic future development of Gestalt Social Theory.

1:00-2:50 Peter Mortola "BAM: Helping Boys Make Contact in Groups," 211

BAM! stands for "Boys Advocacy and Mentoring." It was created by professionals to address issues

boys face in communities and schools. This presentation synthesizes our experience running boys groups at a local elementary school over the past six years. It focuses on one, ten-week group with fifth grade boys in which we tell stories, create adventures and learn together. Participants will leave this presentation with an enriched appreciation of the ways Gestalt therapy has influenced our work with boys, the influence of narrative theory on our work, and an appreciation for the influences of gender in our work with children.

1:00-2:50 Daniel Schiff "Cycle of Experience: An Affective/Bioenergetic Developmental View," 212A

We are in a period of tremendous growth in our knowledge of human functioning, growth that both expands upon and confirms the organismic self-regulatory processes first articulated in Reichian and Gestalt theory and therapy, and depicted by the Cycle of Experience (COE). In this presentation I will enlarge upon the theoretical and clinical understanding of the COE, incorporating Stanley Greenspan's model of functional emotional development, Allan Schore's research on the developmental neurobiology of attachment, and Wilhelm Reich's research and writings on life energetic functioning, and discuss its application in the framing and execution of clinical interventions.

1:00-2:50 Bud Feder & Susan Gregory "Interactive Group Therapy," 214-16

This workshop will begin with an overview of Gestalt Group Therapy, starting with the style developed by the Perls', through to a description of Interactive Gestalt Group Therapy. This approach emphasizes a focus on participants' experiences pertaining to the present group. Bringing in outside events is discouraged. This 'staying in the group' leads to meaningful and intense experiences and awarenesses and creates the ground for important experimentation. After this initial presentation, followed by any clarification requested, volunteers will be sought for a demonstration group lasting 75 minutes. Following the demonstration there will be processing of the experience by all in attendance.

Ninth Round of Workshops (3:00 pm - 4:50 pm)

3:00-4:50 Ansel Woldt "Using Dialogical Processes to Teach and Write About Gestalt Therapy," Ballroom

Join Sylvia Crocker, Peter Philippson, Gary Yontef, Bud Feder, Paul Schoenberg, Jon Frew, Brian O'Neill, Bob Lee, Seán Gaffney, Helga Matzko, Michael Clemmens, and Phil Brownell for reflections and discussion around the process of using dialogue during writing and teaching. Following a brief presentation on the origins and role of dialogical processes in Gestalt therapy and teaching, co-presenters discuss their experiences of engaging in this process as a contribution to the textbook *Gestalt Therapy, History, Theory, and Practice*, edited by Ansel Woldt and Sarah Toman, of which these named people were chapter authors.

3:00-4:50 Gail Feinstein Women Growing Bolder, 205

Our community/world/future calls women in power and truth to speak from their visions, their deep knowing and wisdom. Authentic and bold expression begins with sensing and occupying our bodies, cultivating an intimate relationship with them, our nature and environments. Through slowing down and pausing, we use sensory awareness in breathwork, movement, meditation and sound, to deepen exploration of what keeps us from fully stepping into our powers to defend what is sacred to us and how we interrupt and obstruct growth, moving from inhibiting to inhabiting our bodies, souls and ultimately, our lives - freeing our bold, wild women selves.

3:00-4:50 Isabel Frederickson, Joseph Handlon, Joan Cole, Bob Wendlinger "The Royal Road to Enlivened Aging," 207-209

Four lively elders will discuss factors that they believe are important in aging successfully. The principle of integration is key: integration of self, of community, and of the world. Gestalt theory and practice provides a uniquely useful perspective for this process. Its emphasis on the importance of context helps us understand decisions, which may bring us pleasure or regrets. Integration includes the process of closure, as in dealing with “unfinished business” as well as “unfinished pleasures.” Recapturing past “lost” memories, plus a way of “triggering” them will be presented. The importance of interpersonal connectedness throughout life is a basic theme.

3:00-4:50 Nikitina Ekaterina & Victor Bogmolov "Beauty of the Symptom," 211

This presentation will be covering the topic of the aesthetic quality of contact in Gestalt therapy. The aesthetic aspect of psychotherapeutic work will be explored and its relationship with clinical, diagnostic judgment and flow of awareness. Along with the beauty of specific symptoms, the general phenomena of beauty in psychotherapy will be observed. It is assumed that the aesthetic component, once in awareness, can be supportive to gestalt-therapists. This presentation includes work in smaller groups and discussion.

3:00-4:50 Karen K. Humphrey and Stephanie Glickman "Making Meaning in Gestalt Therapy" 212A

This experiential, improvisational workshop investigates directly the process of the co-creation of meaning and its implications for therapeutic practice. The workshop draws on exercises and techniques developed for experimental ensemble theater as a phenomenological demonstration of basic Gestalt principles and field dynamics. Using these techniques, participants will create short dramatic sketches informed by the conference theme. These sketches will form the basis of joining and witnessing: two crucial elements in the co-creation of meaning. The workshop leaders are collaborators professionally as well as in an improvisational performance group. No theater experience necessary. Wear comfortable clothing. This will be fun!

3:00-4:50 Marilyn Myles "Mending Clients, Mending Self: Finding the Balance," 214-16

The work of a therapist is intensely rewarding and we give to it from the deepest parts of ourselves. Yet it is hard work that can deplete energy reserves if they are not monitored and replenished when necessary. In this workshop, we will explore the concept of "compassion fatigue" with a brief didactic overview and a self-test. Participants will have the opportunity to experience how they can nourish themselves physically, emotionally and spiritually through awareness, movement, and rituals invoking the healing powers of nature, as well as through contact with one another.

5:00-7:00 Community Meeting #2 & Annual Meeting, Ballroom

7:00-7:30 Meeting for People Interested in Planning the 2008 Conference in Manchester, UK, Partyroom

7:30-12:00 Dinner and Dance, Ballroom

8:30-12:00 Alternative to the Dance, Partyroom

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

6:30-8:25 Breakfast Buffet, Partyroom & Courtyard

7:00-8:00 Morning Activity: "Wake up stretching to say goodbyes, and . . ." 209

8:15-8:25 Overview of the Day: Ansel Woldt, Continuing Education Officer & Archivist, 205

9:00-10:45 **Process Group, Session #4**, All Rooms

11:00-12:30 Closing Plenary, Peter Philippson, President, Ballroom

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Continuing Education (CE) Certificates will be available at the Registration Table on Sunday from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM for those who qualify for them. You must sign up for CE credit at the beginning of the conference, the administrative fee being \$30.00, and obtain signatures on your ATTENDANCE ROSTER throughout the conference. Twenty-six CE credits (26 hrs.) can be earned for those who attend the WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS, PLENARY SESSIONS, and PROCESS GROUP SESSIONS. Additional credits can be earned by attending the pre-conference sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday.

AAGT is approved as a provider of Continuing Education by the following professional societies and accrediting associations (AAGT maintains responsibility for the program):

- American Psychological Association
- National Board of Certified Counselors
- California Board of Behavioral Sciences

California Board of Registered Nurses

The logo for the American Association of Graduate Theologians (AAGT) is displayed in a large, dark blue, serif font.

March 2006

