

UPDATED ! WINTER 2006

AAGT

Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy





It's time to make those resolutions for the New Year again. This past year I worked on 1) coming from a place of love in whatever I do; and 2) gratitude. Dr. Fred Luskins, author of "*Forgive for Good*," somehow got me working on the coming from love thing. Duh, I know this, but HE was able to get this through my head. There's knowing and then there's *knowing*. I can tell you that it sure works better than anything else I've ever tried. I also learned that it isn't easy and I forget all the time—I still have to pick up the book regularly. My teachings this year will be on the topics of love and gratitude. I hope to teach my children, my family, my staff and the rest of the world as long as I'm at it! Wish us all luck ~ Happy New Year.

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:

March 1, 2006

June 1, 2006

September 1, 2006

December 1, 2006

submit to Marcy Stern: imawaruru@comcast.net

*****IMPORTANT!*****

ANNOUNCING (WITH GREAT FANFARE):

AAGT'S EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2006

DREAMING THE FUTURE: Expanding our consciousness through Gestalt Therapy.

AUGUST 9 - 13, 2006.

We are thrilled to announce AAGT's 8th International Conference to be held in the sparkling and vibrant city of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

The venue for accommodation and workshops will be at the University of British Columbia, a unique and beautiful campus, home to Canada's largest university conference facility.

UBC is surrounded by ocean on three sides and a large rainforest park on the fourth. In addition to it's spectacular physical setting UBC contains many world class attractions and is only twenty minutes from both the downtown core of cosmopolitan Vancouver and the International airport. As well as a gorgeous travel destination in it's own right, Vancouver is also a jumping off point for other exciting attractions such as Whistler/Blackcomb, Vancouver Island, Southern Gulf Islands, Seattle, and cruises to Alaska.

Come early or stay late, build your own memorable and deeply satisfying holiday and conference experience in the summer of 2006.

Location

The conference will be held on the campus of the University of British Columbia, situated on 450 hectares of woodland and surrounded on three sides by the Pacific Ocean, yet only 20 minutes away from downtown and the Vancouver International Airport. The campus is home to the world-renowned Museum of Anthropology, as well as several botanical gardens and a myriad of recreational activities, including a golf course, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, hiking and cycling trails.

Vancouver is a cosmopolitan city offering a wealth of cultural, dining and recreational experiences. The city is a gateway to great vacation opportunities, both in the province of British Columbia and further afield.

Accommodation

Comfortable, reasonably priced accommodation in a variety of room types is available on campus at the Walter Gage Residence within easy walking distance of the meeting venue.

Opportunity for AAGT conference 2006! Interested in working on a committee? Best way to enhance your connections and experience of the conference is to have input while working with interesting colleagues. People interested in working on committees for the 2006 conference are encouraged to contact Co-conveners Bea Mackay: bea@drbeamackay.com and /or Warren Weir: wbweir@telus.net

COMMITTEES: Peer review: Process Groups: Scholarship: Interest Groups: Worker Bees and Work Study.

2006 Vancouver Conference—A Sneak Preview



Gage Towers



UBC Campus



Cecil Green



Vancouver Waterfront



False Creek Boats



Call for Proposals

Dreaming the Future: Expanding our Consciousness through Gestalt Therapy

AAGT 8th International Gestalt Therapy Conference

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C., CANADA

August 9-13, 2006

Conference presentations will be two hours in length, with time for participant discussion. We encourage innovative and creative presentations, student papers, and presentations based on research projects relating the conference theme to Gestalt Theory, neuroscience, transpersonal dynamics, spiritual and religious experience, clinical practice, social justice, and organizational change. Presentations may be theoretical, clinical, or experiential, and they may be demonstrations, panels, video presentations, or discussions. Presentations will be selected by the conference planning committee following blind peer review.

Continuing Education credit will be offered to attendees. The AAGT is an approved provider for Continuing Professional Education by the American Psychological Association (APA), National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), California Board of Registered Nurses, California Board of Behavioral Sciences for Licensed Marriage, Family, and Child Counselors and Licensed Social Workers.

Those wishing to submit a proposal are encouraged to download a presentation proposal form from the AAGT web site (www.aagt.org) and send it via post (not fax) to the address in the accompanying instructions. We prefer electronic submission. To begin the process of electronic submission send an email request to 2006@g-gej.org; a presentation form with instructions will be sent via email.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR VANCOUVER ARE WELCOME

Scholarship applications are being accepted for the conference in Vancouver this August. In accordance with our tradition, AAGT is eager to supply scholarships to assist persons in attending the Vancouver conference in August 2006. We are now actively raising scholarship funds. For the biennial last conference in 2004, we raised over \$9000 and welcome applications. The application form can be found below and should be sent to:

Bud Feder bfeder@comcast.net or 37 Brunswick Rd, Montclair, NJ 07042 USA.

The applications form can also be obtained by contacting Bud Feder directly. We raise funds through a line option in the conference registration form and through special events put on by members. In the past, these events have included workshops, song recitals, auctions etc. Anyone wishing to put on such an event, please contact Bud Feder as per the information above. For starters, Bud is offering copies of "A Living Legacy of Fritz and Laura Perls: Contemporary Case Studies" for \$5.00 plus shipping, all proceeds to the fund.

AAGT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

FOR VANCOUVER CONFERENCE, AUG 2006

Preface: AAGT is very proud of its tradition of helping persons who are financially challenged to attend our conferences. Over the years we have enabled many persons from many countries to join us and both the recipient and the organization have been immeasurably enriched.

The criteria which the scholarship committee will consider include the following: ethnic diversity, financial need, geographic diversity, student status, new practitioner status, potential conference presenter, as well as unique circumstances. We also consider your specific conference expenses based on travel distance, etc. After giving us the demographic information requested, please write in 150 words or less your interest in attending and in what ways you reflect our eligibility criteria. Email your application to

Bud Feder, 2006 Scholarship Fund Committee Chair: bfeder@comcast.net.

There is no specific deadline yet the sooner the better. After you file your application it will be acknowledged and if any additional information is needed, you will be notified. Feel free to contact the chair with any questions you have or any clarification you require.

NAME _____ - POSTAL ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE # _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Your request in narrative form (150 words or less):

WORK STUDY APPLICATIONS FOR VANCOUVER ARE WELCOME!

As with scholarships, AAGT has a tradition of offering Work Study opportunities to people who are willing to help at our conferences. If interested in details and applying for a Work Study position to help defray conference fees, please contact the Work Study Coordinator, Linda Di'Tullio, at LinBiker@aol.com.

5th GANZ International Conference in Australia

Dear Gestalt Colleague

We are writing to you in relation to the forthcoming 5th GANZ International Conference to be held in Melbourne Australia in September 2006. On our Web site you will find two files containing the "Call for Participation" and a brochure for a "shared day" between the GANZ conference and the 27th Australian Family Therapy Conference. We have been working as a committee for the last 20 months and are pleased to inform you of our plans.

This is the first time the Conference will be held in Melbourne and we hope you will join us in what promises to be a stimulating professional development experience. There are many ways to participate in the conference including presenting workshops and symposium papers.

At this stage we mostly want to inform you and invite you to think about presenting your ideas and work. Participating is a great way to build your profile and contribute to the life of the Gestalt community – not to mention have some fun, meet new people and have a holiday adventure in Australia.

We hope that you will consider joining us for the Conference, the shared day and/or the post conference workshop – and if this is not possible perhaps you can pass on this information to someone whom you think might be interested. One way to register your interest is to email the secretariat at ganz2006@gestalt.com.au. And let us know your intentions. This way we can keep you posted on conference news and developments. We look forward to hearing from you. You can check out further information on the website www.ganz2006.com.au

With Best Wishes

Gabe Phillips (Conference Chair), Leanne O'Shea, Dave Mutton,
Kerry Devine, Jeff Hood, Caroline Rose, Faye Brazel (Secretariat).
2006 Conference Organising Committee

RCP Update

RCP's are active and expanding! First, I'm pleased to announce that Tine Van Wijk is joining me as RCP Co-Representative - as you may know, Tine organized the very successful Amsterdam Regional conference last summer, and I look forward to collaborating with her. We are planning to do a workshop in Vancouver for present and future RCP's, tentatively entitled "RCP's - A Creative View on the World". We hope it will foster connection and imaginative planning for future RCP activity.

We have also welcomed several new RCP's from diverse parts of the world. Katya Kosheleva, from St. Petersburg, Russia, is a Gestalt therapist who is excited about being an RCP. She is starting her first therapy group this month, and will be working with a co-therapist. Katya played an active role in the Amsterdam conference, including co-leading a workshop on bridging cultural differences, and interpreting for others attending from Russia.

Petra Bouwman, from an Amsterdam suburb where she has a private practice, has attended European Gestalt conferences as well as the Amsterdam regional conference. She has gotten to know Tine better through AAGT, and hopes to introduce other Gestaltists in the Netherlands to AAGT. She did her Master's training in London, and wrote her dissertation on binge eating; she hopes to do workshops on the topic, which has been of world-wide interest.

Lynn Stadler, from Santa Barbara, California, was on the planning committee for the New York AAGT conference, and is taking Isabel Fredrickson's place as SW RCP. Isabel, thank you for sharing your wisdom and guidance with us all over the years! Lynn did her Gestalt training with Isabel and Joseph Zinker, and also with Violet Oaklander - she has assisted in establishing the Oaklander Foundation and web-site which responds worldwide to those working with children and teens. Lynn has a private practice, and a six week old daughter named Pearl. She plans to come to Vancouver, is considering doing a workshop on Gestalt therapy for children.

Victor Bogomolov, from Moscow, Russia, has completed a three year Gestalt training program, and works in a Mental Health Institute. Victor is also working on establishment of a private practice. He's just moved to a new apartment and is enjoying creating this new space for himself. Victor is attending a February Gestalt conference in Russia, and is planning to do a workshop entitled "The Beauty of the Symptom". He has invited Katya to attend as well.

RCP's are working with Bea to inform our regions of the Vancouver conference, helping folks make decisions about attending, and doing what we can to raise scholarship money. On our last conference call, Petra volunteered to investigate obtaining continuing education credits from professional organizations in the Netherlands for attendance at AAGT conferences, in hopes that it will be added incentive for attendance from the Netherlands. Victor plans to attend, but notes that language barriers, financial need, and visa difficulties act as a "wall" preventing contact between Russia and the rest of the Gestalt world. Victor plans to write an article on the Amsterdam conference for his local Gestalt publication, to spark more interest in AAGT. Tine suggested forwarding the newsletter to those in Russia who are interested, and planning more regional conferences to bring the world to Russia! Katya offered her experience in getting visas to attend conferences in USA and Canada; she proposed more extensive use of interpreters to encourage participation. Katya is also exploring the possibility of getting Ansel Woldt's (et al) new textbook translated into Russian.

If you are interested in becoming part of this lively and inspiring group of RCP's, please contact us (Marilyn at mylesther-apy@comcast.net, Tine at dewalvis@xs4all.nl).

Marilyn Myles

Tine Van Wijk

AAGT-Southwest Celebrates 10th Annual Conference & Launch of the Violet Solomon Oaklander Foundation

The September 2005 AAGT-Southwest Conference brought more than 30 members together in beautiful Montecito, California for a weekend of discussion, presentation, celebration, and visiting with new and old friends.

We met at La Casa de Maria, a lush retreat center on the outskirts of Santa Barbara. As in years past, the 2-day conference was preceded by the AAGT-SW Writers' Conference – a smaller gathering of our group focused on supporting each other on a variety of writing projects at various stages. Joe Melnick was unable to attend and facilitate this year, so the writers group was self-led and enjoyed by all.

The larger group kicked off the weekend late Friday afternoon with brief introductions and checking in. We then proposed discussion topics for Saturday afternoon, and narrowed nearly a dozen down to four:

1. Gestalt Then and Now
2. Training Curriculum
3. Gestalt and Social Responsibility
4. Working with Relationships

After gathering for dinner together in the La Casa de Maria dining room, we reconvened for a dessert reception hosted by the founding members of the Violet Solomon Oaklander Foundation (VSOF). Nearly 70 people were there to celebrate the launch of VSOF, learn about its mission and raise funds to get it off to a healthy start. (See www.VSOF.org) Violet was there with family, friends, colleagues and many of the nearly 30 founding members of VSOF. Music, balloons, book signing, a DVD training demonstration, a raffle, and many luscious desserts made for quite a lovely party.

We were back together by 9am on Saturday for a presentation on “Gestalt Therapy with Children & Adolescents” by Violet Oaklander and Lynn Stadler. Several students from nearby graduate programs attended the presentation. Thanks to Isabel Fredericson and Quan Greenberg for their outreach efforts.

Saturday night's celebration was more intimate and personal than Friday's VSOF party. We gathered with cake, candles and a slide show comprised of images from ten years of AAGT-SW conferences – jogging memories from Santa Fe (1996 & 1997), San Antonio (1998), Santa Barbara (1999), San Diego (2000), Las Vegas (2001), Los Angeles (2002), San Francisco (2003), and Santa Cruz (2004).

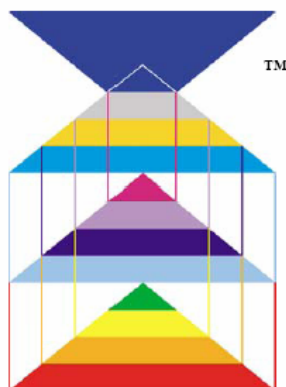
Next year we'll be meeting at Asilomar in Pacific Grove, California on October 6-9, 2006. The Writers' Conference will be October 5-6. For more information, please contact Cara Garcia at Cara.Garica@pepperdine.edu.

Submitted by Lynn Stadler, RCP

THE TWELVE LEVELS OF BEING

A Transformative Approach to Understanding the Evolution of the Soul 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.

WORKSHOP DETAILS

This workshop is limited to
18 participants only

Date: February 18-19, 2006

Time: 9.30 am to 5 pm

Place: The Intuitive Well-
70 Bronte Rd. Bondi Junction

Cost: \$330

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: To secure your place please
send \$50 deposit to:

Sharon Snir

47 Sylvan Avenue, East Lindfield, 2070

Ph: 9924 2192

For all enquiries and to receive
The 12 Levels of Being full brochure
contact Sharon directly

sharonthrul2@optusnet.com.au

www.sharonsnir.com

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's web site. Her new
book, The 12 Levels of Being, will
be available towards the end of 2006

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.

