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AAGT

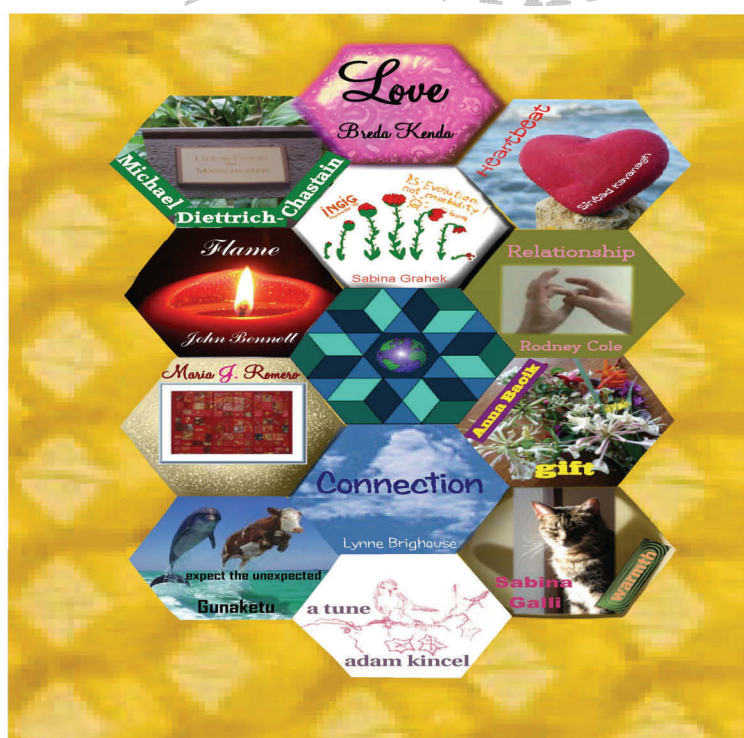
Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy
An International Community

January 2009

INGIG ART

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AAGT Board Minutes Online

The AAGT Board Minutes can be viewed online at www.aagt.org. Click on the "About AAGT" link, then go to the AAGT Executive Council.

Join the AAGT Member's List

To join the AAGT Members list e-mail your request to aag-tone@gmail.com

About This Issue

We have several monumental tasks in this issue. First, we honor our friend and mentor Richard Kitzler who died peacefully in his home on January 2, 2009. This is also our call to all members to prepare for the Annual Meeting. AAGT business needing attention is presented as the official call to members. Last but not least, look for the latest news about our 2010 Conference and Regional, Personal and Organizational updates. Have a response to what you are reading? Let us know and we will print it in the next edition of the AAGT-AIC Newsletter!



Sometimes looking forward is hard to do. At this moment, in my role as president of AAGT, I call your attention forward to our Annual Meeting on May 2, 2009, in Madrid Spain, and at the same time I to continue look back to mark with you the most recent death of my mentor and good friend, Richard Kitzler.

Many of you knew Richard as one of leaders responsible for the founding of AAGT – as well as one of the original gestalt therapists, one of those who carried gestalt therapy forward from the 1950's until his death, on the second day of this year..

AAGT will commemorate Richard in the fullness of time.

Forward: May in Madrid. Carmen Vazquez, the convener of the IXth International Gestalt Therapy Congress has generously provided a room for us to hold our annual meeting on May 2 at the conference venue, and during the conference itself. By holding this meeting in Europe, we are continuing our own commitment to being an international community.

The items that are on the agenda of the meeting are listed in this newsletter. If anyone wants to add new items, written notice must be given to the membership 45 days prior to the meeting. That notice requirement has been on posted on our website since summer, 2008.

The conference itself will be exciting. Information about it is in this newsletter. Discounted registration is available for groups of 10 or more. Contact Maryanne Nicholls - maryanne.nicholls@gmail.com for details. My best wishes to you all. I will see you in Madrid.

Greetings by **Cathy Gray, President Elect**



As I write this message to you, the snow is gently falling, softening the sharp edges of the landscape outside my window. Tomorrow Barak Obama takes office as the 44th President of the United States. Excitement pulses in the air as hundreds of thousands of people, the largest in our history, make their way to Washington, DC to celebrate his inauguration.

In listening to Obama's words over the last months, I hear echoes of AAGT, in his messages of embracing difference, of finding common ground, of reaching out to others and recognizing our interconnectedness, and of listening with interest and respect to every voice. I am reminded again of the importance of our work together individually and as an organization.

Reading the emails on the various AAGT lists, I see us grappling with the complexity of how to actualize these same ideals. I am proud - proud of us in our efforts, in our messiness, in our theory that supports the very work we are about. And, I am proud to be in this endeavor with you.

In June, 2010 we will come together again in our diversity and in our commonality. There is lots to do before then, and lots of opportunities for you to become involved in your home communities to advance Gestalt Therapy, as well as opportunities, both small and large, to help create the 2010 AAGT Conference in Philadelphia. Alone this would be overwhelming. Together we can do a great deal.

I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to support our associating, and together with you to advance Gestalt Therapy in the world today.

Our Executive Council & Additional Board Officers

President: Dan Bloom:

Vice-President: Peter Philippson

Secretary: Sarah Fallon

Treasurer: Peter Cole:

Archivist/CE Officer: Ansel Woldt:

Communication Director: Charlie Bowman:

Membership Chairs: Robert de Vos:

RCP Coordinator: Brian O'Neill:

Organizational Representatives:

Bud Feder & Morgan Goodlander:

Interest Group Coordinator: Michael Diettrich-Chastain:

dan@djbloom.com

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At the 2009 AAGT Annual Meeting in Madrid, I will be stepping down as Vice President and from the Board, and handing over the Vice-Presidency to our President-Elect, Cathy Gray. This completes the five-year cycle I started at the conference in St. Petersburg, Florida in 2004.

It has been a fascinating time for me, and I'm glad I let myself be persuaded into standing (thank you Bruce Aaron and others!). It was a time when AAGT developed our sense of being 'an international community' through our conferences in Vancouver and Manchester and Annual Meetings in Amsterdam and Berkeley. It hasn't always been an easy time, for me or for others. We have had to face questions about how to keep our commitment to dialogue as we become more far-flung, and when we have somewhat different groups of people meeting together as we meet in different countries.

At the same time, it has been a real privilege to be involved in this growth and change. I have felt wonderfully supported: particularly by Brian O'Neill (first as President and then as Vice President when I took over as President) and by Dan Bloom (as President-Elect, then Vice-President, then President), but also by the whole Board and membership. Gone are the days of 'Dead Presidents'!

My hopes for the future development of AAGT are for our developing trust of each other to allow us to play with structure. Our By-Laws speak about flexibility, yet I have also seen rigidity of 'this is how we have always been' with an underlying fear of losing who we are if we play with new things. I LOVE the playing that led to the International Next Generation Interest Group (INGIG) forming and would encourage people in INGIG to go on playing and stepping on toes.

I hope to see many of you in Madrid, and also in Philadelphia next year. Thanks for being here with me!

Our 2010 Philadelphia Conference Chairs & Co-Chairs

Co-convenors:	Cathy Gray Burt Lizarin	cathybgray@gmail.com BRLaz@aol.com	OPEN CHAIR/CO-CHAIR POSITIONS (Contact Cathy or Burt) - On-site Registration - Housing - Special Events - Treasurer
Workshops:	Marlene Blumenthal Gail Feinstein	marloblum@yahoo.com ursaluna@aol.com	
Pre-conference:	Ann Bowman Tine van Wijk	b Bowman@aol.com dewalvis@XS4ALL.NL	
Peer Review:	Charlie Bowman Bea MacKay	aagtone@GMAIL.COM bea@DRBEAMACKAY.COM	
Website:	Phil Brownell	philbrownell@LOGIC.BM	
Publicity:	Robert DeVos	rhdevos@HETNET.NL	
Process Groups:	Perry Klepner Jack Aylward	Perry302@AOL.COM JACKatPCC@aol.com	
Auction:	Eric Hoffman Linda Brownell	eric1@COMCAST.NET reachlg@juno.com	
Workshop Hosts:	Barb Taylor	barbtaylor.lcsw@GMAIL.COM	
Written Program:	Nancy Bristol	ndbristol@AOL.COM	
Scholarship:	Bud Feder	bfeder@comcast.net	
Newcomers:	Marilyn Miles Rodney Cole	mylestherapy@comcast.net Rodney.Cole@WESLEYMISSION.ORG.AU	
CE/evaluations:	Ansel Woldt Peter Cole	NANSELW@aol.com Peterhayscole@GMAIL.COM	
Music Night:	Jon Blend	life-changes@NTLWORLD.COM	

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE

YOUR ENERGY !

The experience of planning an AAGT Conference is one of a kind!

It is consensual creativity in motion!

In Memory of Richard Kitzler



Richard Kitzler (b. 1927) died January 2, 2009, in New York City. Richard was a titan in gestalt therapy. He was among Fritz Perls' early patients. He later studied with him and then was part of the "Professional Group" in New York in the 1950's. He was a fellow of the New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy and a formidable part of its foundation until his death. He was integral to the formation of the Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy. Richard conveyed the complexity of gestalt therapy to generations of students through careful line by line reading of *Gestalt Therapy* by Perls, Hefferline, and Goodman. His mind never rested. In his last decades, he broadened gestalt therapy into phenomenology and American pragmatism.

Those of us who were his students carry his imprint in our understanding of gestalt therapy, the style of our thinking, and in the structure of our language. He was brilliant, wise, concrete, and sometimes eccentrically abstract. His ideas did acrobatic somersaults that often left us breathless or puzzled. He was able to balance a remarkable, paradoxical combination of unstinting support and love with a biting "edge."

We are fortunate that in the past few years his own writings have at last begun to be published in the *International Gestalt Journal*, *Studies in Gestalt Therapy: Dialogical Bridges*, and in a collection of his essays, *Eccentric Genius*, available through the Gestalt Institute Press (www.teachworth.com).

Richard was a kind man – a gentle man--and a fierce advocate for his ideas and for his students. He was my mentor and friend. He is irreplaceable. He was a substantial part of my foundation. Such a foundation changes with his death, but cannot wholly disappear.

Dan Bloom President AAGT, NYIGT Fellow

In Memory of Richard Kitzler

I have nothing to offer but tears. Richard was part of my family for nearly 58 years and I cannot imagine life without him either in the background or the foreground regaling us with his astounding insights and memories.

With whom can I now share those special moments sitting on somebody's front steps in the summer speaking not of anything particularly intellectual, but of our childhood, of our parents, of the earlier years and the beginnings of Gestalt Therapy? "Do you remember..?" he would say, invariably telling me things I had long forgotten, or perhaps experiencing memories from his childhood which he had not thought of for years. I will celebrate his life and honor his passing. And I most certainly will miss him.

- Renate Perls, New York, NY

Memories of a Watch Dog. I have read of Richard's passing with sadness. Memories of our interactions in the early, early stages of AAGT, even before it was AAGT, flood my mind. At the Chicago and Boston Gestalt Conferences (1990-1991) attendees held open meetings to discuss the formation of a new organization of Gestalt therapists to expand the field of influence and contribution. Those early meetings were exciting for everyone, filled with controversy, ambivalence, and intrigue. Richard, ever the anarchist, led the voice of those who questioned the need for organization and the purpose and the structure/control it would take. Richard and a few others stood at the back of the room raising questions, rousing the participants to laughter sometimes, to frustration sometimes, and to appreciation as they spoke to the values and principles of a noncentrist perspective. As the facilitator for these initial meetings, I found the energy of Richard and others to be valuable and essential to these early stages of a new organization. At the second community meeting in Boston, task groups were formed to continue the development of the new organization. Richard called out that he wanted to have a task group that would be the "Watch Dogs". They would watch and be sure that the process in forming the mission and by-laws of the new group were those that held true to the values of our Gestalt community. Even though they often stopped us in our tracks, Richard's watch dogs were the best thing that happened to the ensuing process. Because of

him and his group of "Watch Dogs" we have a stronger and more viable AAGT. I will always remember him as authentic, irascible, annoying, and admirable.

- Felicia Carroll, Solvang, California

I met Richard at one of the early Gestalt Journal Conferences in the '70s and always looked forward to our time together. He was such a brilliant man. While I quaked in my boots every time he attended one of my presentations, I always experienced his sensitivity, support and kindness. I recall his challenging me and my doctoral advisees on the statistics we used to validate the instrument used to measure contact styles at a presentation we did at the Provincetown Inn on "Re-Searching Gestalt Therapy." Even though it had been years since his own stats courses, he was as knowledgeable as Rich Hellgren, the stellar statistician who presented with me.

Another fond memory was from the Group Therapy Symposium in NYC when he asked me to volunteer to be in the demonstration group. That was a very moving experience for me. Richard was a "monster" during the authoring of AAGT's constitution and by-laws. While there may not have been a single phrase or paragraph that he didn't challenge or offer alternative language, his heart was golden in every step of the way. Yes, we had an argument or two over what I was trying to say, but his presence was always golden in forming the gestalts that developed the foundation on which AAGT stands.

- Ansel Woldt,

I felt a sense of something quite momentous when I heard about Richard's death. He was the last surviving member of the original group in New York out of which Gestalt Therapy grew. He held the theoretical and oral history of that emergence, and I am grateful that I was able to be around him and get a sense of that history. Having trained in quite a revised and revamped version of Gestalt Therapy, I was drawn to Richard and the New York Institute to fill in the holes in my understanding. I asked Richard for supervision when I came to New York, and to my great joy he agreed. It was different from other supervisions I have had:

... continued on next page

In Memory of Richard Kitzler

for example I remember him continually tracking my breathing and body movements, and elucidating the whole of my difficulties with a client from my foot movements. I also liked the fact that he, in some ways the standard-bearer for orthodoxy, was willing to question orthodox readings of PHG and other texts, and to encourage others to do the same. He seemed to me at first overbearing, and then I realized that people were willing to put forward their own ideas in his presence, and though he said firmly what he thought, somehow he didn't stop people being creative. His commitment to the New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy and to AAGT was simultaneously a commitment to the people, not just to the organization. I will miss his presence in New York and at AAGT conferences.

- Peter Philippon

A brief farewell. Richard, -lion heart, out spoken long term member of the Braking and Watch Dog Committee of AAGT; New York Institute of Gestalt Therapy Fellow, member, trainer, supervisor, mentor, colleague, loved friend; gestalt therapy theoretician, philosopher, humanitarian although not always 'nice' seemingly, consistently. You were there at the beginning of the New York Institute, Fritz and Laura in the New York crowd, AAGT, process groups, my personal/professional lives supporting resolute courage confronting the majority, the tyrannical minority, those holding a weak truth or strong error, the intimidated and withdrawn, fallen wounded comrades on the side of the road, overwhelmed in the face of dark anxiety. How inspiring was/is your brilliance, personal contact, insight, support, love with the power of the ground shaking and new ground building, discovering inventing, more vulnerable and caring than known. "Love and support makes for a healing relationship" you said. I see you seeing me seeing you when eyes are lost to life's inevitable course. Goodbye, Farewell, Adieu, never forgotten, always a part of me and mine, all I contact.

- Perry Klepner

THE ANCESTOR TREE

*The giant redwoods stand in circles.
The center of those circles is not empty.*

*Within it is a mound of humus morphing to soil.
It is the remains of the ancestor tree,
From whose seeds the ring of giants grew.*

Richard was our ancestor tree. He touched the sky in places To which we can only dream
And towards which We must continue to try to reach.

- Dan Bloom

I had been gaining weight, secretly felt out of control for along time, and was perpetually denying my shame and declining health. Generally people are polite and trite about fatness. Not Richard. We saw each other at an AAGT Florida conference. We always hugged when we first met after long absences but this time he kept a distance of a few feet looking me over top-to-bottom. We hadn't seen each other for over a year. I had gained a lot of weight. "Charlie," he said with obvious surprise, "You look so full of yourself!" I was utterly stunned. I could only respond, "I am." I carried that encounter with me for years. I worked on it in therapy. I shared it with my friends. Everyone, therapists included, said it was mean, harsh and arrogant. I alone did not hear it that way. It was the loving truth and it shined a brilliant light upon my self that I had never seen before. Richard named the obvious in one sense but in another he saw me and was brave enough to speak the truth. He saw my struggle. He saw me trapped. After I chewed on that encounter for a long time I went on a high protein, low carb diet and started seeing Richard regularly when I was in the city. He was so supportive of my weight loss, sharing with me his diet and his experience of food and exercise. Ultimately, I failed at that diet. He never commented on the failure. Thirteen months ago I had bariatric surgery. I now weigh 195 pounds, down from almost 400. One of the last times I saw Richard this year he looked me over top-to-bottom and said, "Charlie, you look so svelte." To my credit I was able to take that in like a little boy and I beamed! There was a twinkle in both our eyes in that moment. -Charlie Bowman

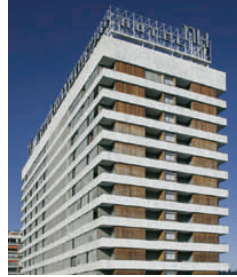
You can view a video of Richard discussing "unfinished business" at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ga2qaXHfrjs>

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AAGT ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

DATE: SATURDAY, 2 May, 1800—1930

VENUE: Hotel NH Eurobuilding
Calle Padre Damián 23
28036, Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 353 73 00
info@hotelneurobuilding.com



Located in the nerve centre of Madrid, beside the convention and exhibit centre (Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones) of the Paseo de la Castellana, NH Eurobuilding is surrounded by the most emblematic business buildings of the city: the Europa, Picasso and Kio Towers and the Azca Centre – apart from Bernabeu Stadium – beside the commercial zones, with a varied range of restaurant and night life offerings. Website: www.xicongresointernacionalgestalt.org

The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held in Madrid, Spain during the 11th International Gestalt Therapy Conference, April 30 to May 3, 2009. Sponsored by The Centro de Terapia y Psicología - CTP organizing the Conference on behalf of the Spanish Association for Gestalt Therapy (AETG). The President of 11th Conference and an AAGT member herself, Carmen Vázquez Bandín has graciously agreed to give AAGT a room and time to meet.

AETG CONFERENCE: Under the motto “The Union of the Differences”, this Conference wants to bring together members of Gestalt communities from all the countries where Gestalt Therapy is known and applied. To exchange experiences and to share theoretical and methodological views and criteria will be the main goal. Based on a Gestalt structure, the Conference aims to be an accurate reflection of the approach we live, work with and teach, in short, the approach that we love! You are welcome and we look forward to the presence not only of well-known Gestalt therapists, but also of other professionals who have walked a longer path and gained experience, of those who are taking their first steps as professionals, as well as all those students and trainees of Gestalt Therapy who want to come and feel and live a part of the International Gestalt Community.

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

POSITIONS TO BE ELECTED, SELECTED OR APPOINTED

(to review of these positions go to <http://www.aagt.org/html/constitutionbylaws.htm>)

Association Archivist - 3 year term by Board Appointment. Ansel Woldt stands for reelection.

OM Representative - 1 year term, Open for nominations and election by membership. Bud Feder stands for reelection.

RCP Representative - 1 year term. Selected annually by the RCPs and announced at the Annual Meeting

Publications Director - 3 year term by Board appointment. Charlie Bowman has agreed to fill this position.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO AAGT BY-LAWS:

PROPOSED CHANGES TO CONTINUING EDUCATION OFFICER: The Continuing Education (CE) Officer shall be appointed by the Board of Directors (based on review of qualifications and recommendations by the Executive Council as having the necessary professional education, credentials, ability to attend to detail, and time) to a three (3) year term of office, commencing in the year 1998, to serve as a member of the Executive Council and Board of Directors. His/her duties and responsibilities shall include:

1. Direct, administer and coordinate AAGT's Continuing Education (CE) activities, including such things as completing applications for provider approval, filing annual reports to approval boards and keeping files of CE programs and participants as required by approval boards.
2. Formulate CE policies for approval by the Board as necessitated to maintain providerships in the various professional societies whose advocacy and involvement we desire in our programs. This necessitates automatic inclusion on all conference and program planning committees and other committees or commissions pertaining to the professional educational components of AAGT.
3. Implement, operationalize and oversee the functional aspects of CE provider agreements with regard for policies of the Association in such a manner that is in keeping with ethical practices of professional societies.
4. Prepare and administer the necessary forms and materials for CE registration at conferences and programs, including the preparation and dissemination of CE Registration forms, CE Program Attendance Compliance forms, Needs Assessment forms, Program Evaluation forms and Certificates of Completion and Certificates of Attendance for patrons not enrolling for continuing education credit.
5. Assist and advise AAGT's Treasurer and Conference Planning Committees in determining fees to be charged for CE registrants.
6. Serving as Chair of the Association's Advisory Committee for Continuing Education.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO AAGT BY-LAWS (CONT'D):

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE: Ninety days notice is to be given to the membership via e-mail and regular mail for any item to appear on the agenda of any meeting open to the membership and at which a vote of the membership is required. This does not restrict the right of any member to add a new issue to the agenda at any meeting.

PROPOSED BOARD/EC POSITION CHANGE: The Director of Publications shall be renamed the Director of Communications and be appointed by the Board of Directors (*based on a review of qualifications and recommendation by the Executive Council*) to a three (3) year term of office, commencing in the year 2009 and every three years thereafter, and shall serve on the Board of Directors with the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Serve as the Editor of the AAGT Newsletter and other association publications
2. Provide guidance in the development of publication efforts of the Association.
3. Formulate and recommend publications and editorial policies for approval by the Executive Council and/or Board.
4. Implement, operationalize, and oversee the functional aspects of editorial and publication decisions and policies of the Association in such a manner that is in keeping with ethical journalistic practices of professional societies.
5. Oversee all aspects of the AAGT Web Site including editorial, administrative, policy and financial management of the site.

TERM OF OFFICE FOR OM AND RCP REPRESENTATIVES. Both positions shall be 3 year terms to support the ongoing composition of the Board to bring greater organization to the Regions and our member Organizations, add continuity to the Board and allow for the development of individuals in those roles.

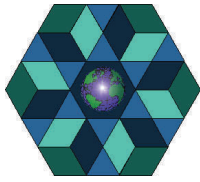
OTHER BUSINESS

CLARIFICATION OF SECRETARY'S RESPONSIBILITIES. To be eligible for election to Secretary it is necessary to have a computer and to be able to type notes during meetings and Board conference calls. To do the latter it is wise to have a speaker phone so you can type notes and participate in the Board calls at the same time. Board conference calls are typically held once per month on Sundays. It will be necessary to respond to Board emails and other correspondence in a timely manner. After each meeting the notes must be typed up and distributed to the board via email for corrections, additions and approval (Board members are responsible for correcting/adding/deleting and getting those changes back to you). Once everybody is satisfied you send the final notes to the AAGT Webmaster to post on AAGT's web site.

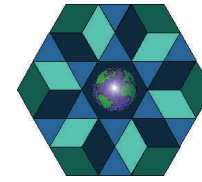
PROPOSED RESEARCH TASK FORCE: Proposed: That the AAGT-AIC form a task force to explore the issues and implications inherent in actively promoting research focused on gestalt therapy, including the application of gestalt therapy principles in organizational development, coaching, and training practices. Proposed that Phil Brownell and a suitable co-chair lead this task force. This task force would make report to the board so that discussion could be conducted at the AGM in Madrid; it would produce a formal proposal for discussion in Madrid with a view to decision making at the Philadelphia 2010 conference. Possible co-chairs might likely come from the INGIG special interest group, but not be limited to them; there are quite a number of people expressing active interest in research, and they can be seen at the social networking site for gestalt research (www.gestaltresearch.ning.com). All this would be a logical extension of the interest displayed in research at the Manchester conference, and it would be a natural follow up to that interest. In addition, the idea of promoting research, and encouraging and offering reasonable support for people interested in research, fits with our mission, because these people advance gestalt therapy through their associating and collaborating, to say nothing of the very practical advantages to any actual research that is produced.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FUND: The Board has approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to explore the procedures, possibilities and pitfalls in the creation and implementation of what is tentatively being called THE AAGT DEVELOPMENT FUND. It is now proposed that we create a Development Fund for the purpose of bringing gestalt therapy training to areas around the world where there are persons learning the trade and wanting training, but cannot afford training fees or travel costs. The Development Fund Committee will explore the feasibility of such programs and study this Proposal, making recommendations to the Board regarding implementation and next steps. AAGT members interested in participating in this online committee, please contact: Bud Feder [bfeder@comcast.net] or Charlie Bowman [aagtone@gmail.com]. The Committee will commence in January, 2009.

PROPOSED RECIPROCITY FOR ORGANIZATION LEADERS: At the Manchester conference, we discussed inviting presidents and/ or board/members of other Gestalt organizations to attend our conferences with the registration fee waived, so long as they reciprocate.



Regional News



AAGT Southeast USA 3rd Annual Conference “Being a Gestalt Community...as the leaves turn” Asheville, North Carolina October 16-18, 2009

AAGT-SE USA region is hosting its third annual Conference in Asheville North Carolina on the third weekend in October, 2009. Community meeting, workshop presentations and process groups in the style of AAGT-AIC will shape the weekend. Continuing education units are available through AAGT. For information, as the specifics are decided, check the web site AGTI.org or e-mail regional contact person Anne Leibig at abjl@mounet.com.



SEE YOU IN ASHVILLE!



**We always need news
of the Regions !!!**

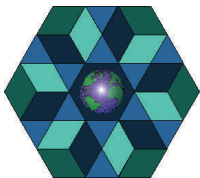
If you are an RCP,
please send any up-
dates, news of your re-
gion or announcements
to Marcy Stern:

imawareru@comcast.net

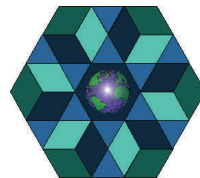


YOUR REGIONAL CONTACT PERSONS (RCP)

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Regional News



Inaugural AAGT South East Queensland/Northern
New South Wales
Regional Conference For Gestalt Therapists

Co-Creating Unique Communities: An Exploration in Field Phenomena.

6th - 8th November 2009
Gunnebah Retreat, Nobby's Creek,
In the Beautiful Tweed Valley



(www.gunnebah.com.au)

On Line Registration \$75 + Accommodation Option— www.gestalt.org.au click
"Events"

Accommodation Options:

(The following is for two days - Fri D, Sat. BLD,
Sun. BL)

Full Accommodation (includes meals)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| a) 4 rooms with 2 beds | |
| b) 1 room with 4 beds | |
| c) 2 cabins with 6 beds | \$200 |
| d) Camping + Meals | \$140 |
| e) Day Visitors+Lunch & breaks | \$66 |

Join us for an informal and restful gathering with fellow therapists. As an inaugural conference/gathering we will have the opportunity to experience the context of each other's unique contribution to our growing gestalt community via:

- Coming together as a community
- Establishing networks of continuing support
- Participating / Presenting workshops
- Honouring each others uniqueness
- Giving a voice to Gestalt's capacity to nurture and sustain the relationship between context, uniqueness and community.

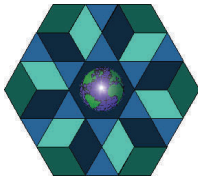
Gestalt Therapy in America:
A Call to a New Dawn - by Charlie Bowman

There can be no doubt that what we have to offer is what America needs. Has there ever been any doubt among us, dating back to the pronouncement on the jacket of PHG, that Gestalt therapy just might hold the hope for preventing the destruction of the world? Today marks the inauguration of President Obama. The broadcaster said that what America is desperately seeking is authenticity and empathy. Obama repeated that this will be an era of inclusion. INCLUSION. An end to the growing polar divides in the world. Respecting the environment from which all things form. This is the playground of Gestalt therapy.

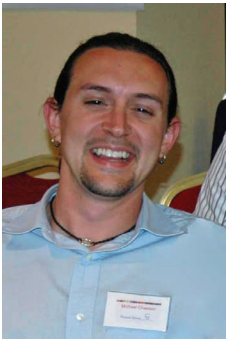
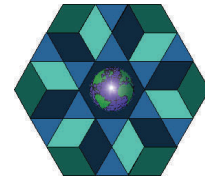
It is incumbent upon us to repackage our wares in the cloak of these pleas. We have "held these truths to be self evident" since 1950 and we have refined the work of the forefathers of Gestalt therapy to a point that they are most applicable to what ails America and the world today. It is time for us to make an impact not only in the arena in which we are most comfortable – that of psychotherapy – but in our communities, in our government, our military, our houses of worship and institutions of learning. We were not forged in the narrow lens of psychotherapy. We were forged to be agents of growth in the world, through that piece of it that is our phenomenal world.

Let us go directly to the world we can touch, see, hear and feel and make a difference. There is room for us and drastic need for our skills. Like American democracy we have withered a storm of conservatism that has labeled our practice outlandish, cathartic and extravagant. As the tides change the recognition will come that there is no easy way to integration, that you cannot reason a way to empathy and that there is no such thing as cognitive authenticity.

The crossroads we face is a meeting of heart and mind and Other. Who better to welcome Others into the crossroads than those of us dedicated to Gestalt therapy? Let us move out of a shadow of obscurity and pronounce loudly that WE ARE AMERICAN GESTALT THERAPISTS and YES WE CAN!



Interest Groups



I would encourage all AAGT members who have a shared enthusiasm for a particular topic to start their own interest group. Through our interest groups we can have more contact, share and learn from our own experience and then affect our larger AAGT community by bringing that enthusiasm to our larger meetings. Please don't hesitate with any idea that surfaces as a potential new group. What do you think?

- Michael

COMING SOON!

A NEW AND IMPROVED AAGT WEBSITE!

- **Pages for Interest Groups and Regions**
- **Easy Access to Newsletters Past & Present**
- **Conference Announcements**

KEEP IN TOUCH AT <http://www.aagt.org>



DON'T BE THE GHOST OF AAGT!

It only takes a minute to write a note and share about yourself, your interests, what's going on in your region, your creativity, your boredom, your hopes, your ...

Send a note to the AAGT Newsletter...

Marcy - imawaruru@comcast.net

Charlie - aagtone@gmail.com

Continuity and Change: Gestalt Therapy Now

AAGT 10th International Gestalt Therapy Conference!

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA

June 3 - 6, 2010

Look for the CALL
FOR PROPOSALS in
February

COMING SOON!

Look for the call for
proposals for Precon-
ference Workshops in
your e-mail and on
our websites!

Want to be a Peer Re-
viewer? Volunteer by
sending an e-mail to

[peer-review
@philadelphia2010.aagt2.org](mailto:peer-review@philadelphia2010.aagt2.org)

Associating!

Photos from the Manchester conference are available at:

<http://www.aagt-manchester08.org/pictures>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/maetang/sets/72157594242250624/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/aagt1/sets/72157606571601390/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/aagt1/sets/72157606458380435/show/with/2717244829/>

<http://flickr.com/photos/aagt1/sets/72157606475227914/>

From Philip Brownell, January 15, 2009

In early November of 2008 Vaughn Mosher, Regional Contact Person for Bermuda, was afflicted with a staff infection. The infection attached to the titanium parts in his artificial joints. He had three joint replacements (two knees and a hip) that were affected. The infection spread throughout his body and by the time he was flown to Boston for emergency care he had to be placed on the Intensive Care Unit and put into an induced coma. All his artificial joints were surgically removed, and he was placed on high doses of antibiotics. The doctors believed that he had about a 25% chance of survival. He remained in the coma for weeks with his life at risk. Finally, he started responding positively, and he was awakened, taken off life support, and put on a rehab schedule. Although the surgical replacements for his joints will have to be accomplished in three separate surgical procedures that will take about a year and a half to complete, he is flying back to Bermuda as I write (January 15, 2009), and he will be in touch with the office here via videoconferencing from his home. He, his family, Linda and I, and all of us who remember Vaughn from the Manchester conference are relieved that his health is returning. If you'd like to send best wishes to him, he can be reached at vmosher@logic.bm.

Gary Prottas, LCSW, LP would like to announce two Interactive Gestalt therapy Groups in NYC for Gay men. The groups address: Intimacy & Trust, Effective Communication, Dealing with conflict, Improving Relationships, Receiving and giving healthy feedback, and exploring what gets in your way of relating effectively and intimately. One group deals with sexual compulsion and the other with intimacy. Both have men who are HIV positive and negative. Both deal with shame and other uncomfortable feelings. My office is at 201 East 34 Street, 5th floor. Group fees are \$50 per session payable one month in advance. I am an Aetna provider and also have many out of network plans 6 month minimum commitment. Feel free to see my website: <http://www.garymprottas.com>



Advancing!

Call for Papers—Gestalt!

Gestalt!, the online journal for gestalt therapy, is putting together an issue covering the Manchester AAGT conference. We need people who will serve as a reader for peer-reviewed articles to simply read and comment on (using a simple form) - perhaps once or twice in the course of a year. Gestalt! is newly revamped and will be putting out two issues each year. Readership is wide with about 6,000 people each month referring to it. We would also like to have people read an article from a mainline professional journal and then respond to that in an article of their own. If you might be interested in writing for Gestalt!, this is a way to start. If you have an article you've been working on, why not consider submitting it to Gestalt! The journal is referenced in the APA's databases just like Gestalt Review, the International Gestalt Journal, and Gestalt Theory. **If you would like to know more about this, contact Philip Brownell, Sr. Editor (phil@g-gej.org).**

The Handbook for Theory, Research, and Practice in Gestalt Therapy

The Handbook is now out and available for purchase at <http://www.amazon.com>. The book is divided into three main parts. Part one explores a ground for research in gestalt therapy. Part two forms a methods section for the practice of gestalt therapy itself, and it covers the unity of theory, the phenomenological method, dialogical relationship, field-theoretical strategies, experimental freedom, and the unity of practice that are central to gestalt praxis. Part three concerns the formation of gestalt research communities and provides examples of people either doing or informed by research. The chapter contributors to this book come from various places in the world: The Czech Republic, Australia, Sweden, Canada, USA, England, Israel, and Korea. They are Alan Meara, Anton Polák, Eva Gold, Stephen Zahm, Paul Barber, Leslie Greenberg, Talia Levine Bar Yoseph, Brian O'Neill, Peter Philippson, Todd Burley, Dan Bloom, Sylvia Fleming Crocker, Gary Yontef, Jungkyu Kim, Victor Daniels, Sean Gaffney, Joseph Melnick, Sari Scheinberg, Anna Johansson, Siobhán Conway-Hicks, and Philip Brownell.

Advancing Stepfamily Awareness through Psychotherapy

A new organization StepIn asap Advancing Stepfamily Awareness through Psychotherapy has been founded in England by Claire Asherson Bartram. While many people seem to support its aims, I have found that workshops set up on Stepfamily issues tend not to attract many people; that is neither therapists for CPD purposes, or stepfamily members. We have therefore devised a short research form to find out what prevents people and what they might be interested in. We would appreciate this being filled in by anybody who is interested. If you would like me to email this form to you and/or want further information about StepIn asap please contact me. clairebartram@blueyonder.co.uk

Developmental Somatic Psychotherapy™ - Two-Year Training Program New York City

Developmental Somatic Psychotherapy, created by Ruella Frank, Ph.D., is a relational and movement-oriented approach to psychotherapy within a gestalt therapy framework. Developmental Somatic Psychotherapy is a template for understanding and working with early psychophysical blocks as they emerge in the here-and-now of therapy. Attending to movement patterns is particularly powerful when guided by contemporary developmental theory. Training is held in four Modules: 9/20-26, 2009; 4/11-17, 2010; 9/19-25, 2010 & 4/10-16, 2011. Trainings meet for five full days and two half days per module. Ruella Frank, Ph.D. is the director of the Center for Somatic Studies and author of Body of Awareness: A Somatic and Developmental Approach to Psychotherapy. For further information and to apply, visit the Center's website at www.somaticstudies.com.

Advancing!

"A Couple of Individuals..." GATLA in Seattle, Washington.

A Couples and Individual Gestalt Therapy 3 Weekend Training Series for Therapists. April 25-26, 2009, September 26-27, 2009, November 14-15, 2009. Faculty: Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D., Rita Resnick, Ph.D. Todd Burley, Ph.D., ABPP. Tuition for the 3 Workshops: \$1200.00.

After two successful Samplers in Seattle, Bob, Rita and Todd are pleased to announce the formation of an ongoing training program in both Couples and Individual Gestalt Therapy. For 2009, there will be three additional workshops in 2009 with the probably four additional workshops in 2010. Theory, supervised practice, trainer demonstrations will all be included along with discussions, comparisons, questions and comments from therapists with a wide range of orientations and a deep well of experience. Those joining this series who did not attend the Couples workshop Jan 17-18, 2009, there will be an optional Couples Therapy theory review on the Friday night (April 24, 2009) before the workshop begins on Saturday. Ongoing participants are welcome as a review. There is no additional charge for the Friday night presentation.

As this program is not yet on the gatla website (www.gatla.org) for additional information and registration please contact Rita Resnick at ritaresnick@gatla.org or call Rita at 310-395-3700. and Gestalt Theory.

Gatla's 38th Annual European (2009 In The USA) Residential Gestalt Therapy And Couples Therapy Training Workshops, July, 2009

We are delighted to announce an opportunity for U.S. and Canadian Gestalt Therapists and trainees to join our International community at our 38th Annual unique and stimulating Couples Therapy and Gestalt Therapy training programs - without having to go to Europe. Our Couples training workshop takes place over 5 days (July 5 – 11, 2009) and consists of daily live demonstrations by Rita and Bob Resnick working with real couples on real issues, cutting edge theory, supervised practice, and international therapists and couples.

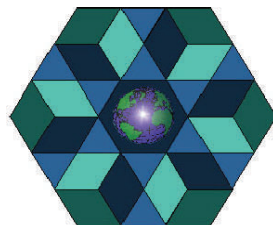
The Gestalt Training Programs takes place over 12 days (July 12 – 24, 2009) and consists of, participants from 25 different countries in 5 levels of training – Basic to MasterClass. There is daily individual therapy (for those in the lower groups) and opportunity to do daily individual therapy (those in higher groups) with live faculty supervision. The program offers cutting edge theory and has an 80 % return rate!

Both programs will be held in the US for the first time in 30 years. Our beautiful venue this summer is an executive retreat center near Niagara Falls, NY - making this a drivable and more affordable option for many. The venue has 300 acres, a private spring fed lake for fishing, boating and swimming, a swimming pool, two Jacuzzi's, A/C, sports facilities with elegant and healthy cuisine. Todd Burley, Rita and Bob Resnick and our International faculty and staff of about a dozen invite you to come and learn first hand about our constantly evolving training programs. For more information please see our website: www.gatla.org (program will be up shortly) or contact Rita Resnick at ritaresnick@gatla.org or call at 310-395-3700.



Got a message to share?

Let us know what's up in your part of the world!
Post a personal note or an organizational invite
Free in the AAGT Newsletter!



AAGT
The Association for
the Advancement of
Gestalt Therapy
An International Community

AAGT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

In accordance with AAGT's Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and By-Laws, the purpose of AAGT is to support the professional and personal associating and advancing of persons interested in participating in a forum committed to the preservation and advancement of the philosophy, theory, practice, and research of gestalt therapy and its various applications.

In furtherance of this purpose, AAGT shall encourage the development and application of principles and practices in the organization that are consistent with the following tenets:

That an organization can be created, rather than imposed, and that it will grow out of our contacting; and

That a structure will emerge in response to our shared needs, interests and concerns; and

That by believing in the unity of theory and practice, an organization that so creates itself, is itself an experiment, an on-going organic process of gestalt formation and destruction, in which old forms are destroyed and new figures emerge through contact that is bright and lively, energetic, graceful and fluid; and

That such an organization provides the ground for the enrichment, articulation and support of the constantly emerging figure that is **Gestalt Therapy!**

With these tenets as ground, we welcome as figure your **APPLICATION** to become a member of AAGT.

Membership entitles you to a listing in the AAGT Directory, reduced conference fees, opportunities to contribute to the gestalt community through our Service Exchange Program (SEP) and access to AAGT's Listserv.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2008-2009

Supporting Members \$150.00 or more, your contribution to advancing Gestalt Therapy \$ _____

Full-Time Professionals who have been Members more than one year \$100.00 \$ _____

New (first year) Professional Members \$50.00 \$ _____

Retirees and Full-Time Student Members \$25.00 \$ _____

Organizational Membership for Training Programs New is \$100.00, \$150.00 thereafter \$ _____

Scholarship Fund Donation – your contribution to those less-able to participate \$ _____

MEMBER INFORMATION Name _____ Title, Degree or Prefix _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Email: _____ Phone(s) : Home _____ Office _____ Cell _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

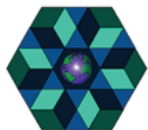
To PAY ON-LINE go to: **AAGT.org**

TO PAY BY CHECK: Checks must be drawn on U.S. banks, made payable to AAGT. Send check with this form to: Adam Weitz, AAGT Administrator, 31 Union Square West #10D, New York, NY 10003 USA

TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD Visa and MasterCard only. Send to Adam Weitz at the above address

Credit Card No. _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card _____ Signature: _____



AAGT An International Community

Charlie Bowman, Communications Director
9292 N. Meridian Street #311
Indianapolis, IN USA 46260

YOUR AAGT NEWSLETTER IS HERE!

Publications Editor:
Marcy Stern

Communications Director:
Charlie Bowman

Publication Guidelines:

Articles accepted between 500 and 1500 words. Content relates to Gestalt therapy, AAGT and the creativity and interest of the membership. Letters to the Editor should be succinct and to the point. All material submitted remains the property of the Newsletter staff. Deadlines are final. Style can be informal, but should be good writing. All material is subject to editing to fit the parameters and needs of any given issue of the Newsletter.

The content herein represents the opinions of contributing authors and not the opinion, policies or procedures of AAGT unless otherwise specified.

Let Us Get To Know You!