

AAGT

Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy
An International Community

News for AAGT Members!

July 2010

In this issue...

July Greetings	2
New Leadership	4
Our Community Speaks	5
Our Community Gives	7
Our Community Plays	8
Annual Meeting Report	9
<i>Gestalt!</i>	12
Join AAGT Member's List	13
Our Community Plays	13
Regional News	14
Interest Groups	22
Announcements	23
Membership Application	27



We did it again!

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE PHOTOS:

[Charlie Bowman's Photos](#)

[Gary Prottas' Photos](#)

[Peter Philippson's Photos \(Snapfish\)](#)

[Ansel Woldt's Photos \(Kodak\)](#)

[Claire Asherson Bartram's Photos](#)

[Randy Baird's Photos](#)



As I settle into a hot and humid Philadelphia summer, your faces and voices inhabit my thoughts. Images of the conference still reverberate when I read your emails and fill me with excitement and hope for what we can accomplish together as we move forward.

Our conferences comprise the rare times we are together and encounter each other face to face. Our

experience this year points to our increasing ability to together create the safety and support necessary to enable many voices to be heard, to enable us to experiment with new ideas and insights, to stretch professionally, to follow our interest and curiosity, to engage our theory in action, and to grow and change through the active exploration of our differences and our similarities, and in the fleeting moments of our meeting.

Most of our communication, however, does not transpire through face to face contact but through the internet, with monthly conference calls for the board, the regional contact people (RCPs) and for some committees. In addition we use email for announcements and a member list serve for ongoing discussion of matters of importance to the membership. (Contact Charlie Bowman if you wish to be on the membership list serve and take part in these discussions.)

One notable exception to this is the activity taking place in the regions. The regional meetings carry on the face to face associating and continue the work of the biennial conference on a smaller, more intimate and local scale. The activity is growing, thanks to the enthusiasm of members and the support of the organization led by Dan Bloom during his term as president.

We are poised to address the challenging task of creating the same awareness of our process and sufficient support and space for many voices to be heard in our internet conversations. The nature of the medium makes this a particularly difficult task as people log in at different times, and enter ongoing conversations, or simply choose to read and observe, but not to share. In a face to face group the number of participants is visible. In the on-line discussions one never knows to whom you are speaking. It is difficult to figure out who is lis-

tening but needs more support to share their opinion. It is also extremely easy for the meaning of a hastily written response to be misinterpreted from the intent of the writer. In this one dimensional medium we are devoid of all the rich data we gather through our other senses to inform our contacting.

I am hopeful that we will again be able to creatively find a way to proceed that accomplishes our goals of association and inclusion. As an organization we have been inventive and successful in creating structures that support people in their experience of contacting. The process groups at conferences are a prime example of this. This year workshops and discussions at the conference further heightened awareness by focusing not only on the exploration and explication of theory, skill development, and the training of individuals as clinicians, but also on how we conduct ourselves in our interpersonally.

We are attending to personal and collective responsibility, and we are increasingly aware of the affect we have on the environment, on our communities, and on each other. Our theory guides us, informs our actions, and supports us in our conversations. I am confident that we will again devise new ways to translate the skills that we have, and bring the full weight of our theory into all our communication as we continue to grow internationally.

This was the 10th AAGT Biennial Conference. We were fortunate to have so many of the founders of AAGT present in Philadelphia, and missed those who were unable to be with us. We also had a majority of the past presidents in attendance. I am particularly appreciative of the former presidents and founders' ongoing involvement in AAGT. They embody our history, and through their continued participation ground, guide and support our growth and evolution as an organization, and as individuals.

This year we also saw many younger people in leadership positions and moving onto the board. They brought to our meetings and to our associating energy and excitement, insight and skill. Together young and old, founders and more newly associated, we move into the future with strength and a commitment to not only teach our theory but embody them in our associating and in our lives. I am excited to be part of this ongoing creative experiment with you.

Cathy



They asked me whether it would be difficult for me to pass the presidency of AAGT to Cathy Gray. No one seemed to believe me when I said it

wouldn't be and actually it wasn't difficult at all. In fact, I did so with glee and it is with an afterglow of glee that I write this, my first newsletter column as Vice-president in "descent": descent for after 4 years, I have only one more year as an officer and Board Member of AAGT.

Don't get me wrong. I loved being President. I came uneasily to the task as president as many a president does. To assume a role so well filled by Peter Philippson was daunting. But I grew to it and it grew to me. It is the nature of our wonderful organization of such kind people differently engaged to a common task that we support one another and guide one another with gentleness born of ever-renewing friendship. In my experience, we could navigate just about any disagreement with faith that our relationships will sustain us. We will have disagreements and conflicts. But when we bring to them our experience that so long as we also remain engaged with one another -- over time and with patience -- conflicts will become contact. Our sense of one another will be strengthened. This was also a meaning I took from the last Community

Meeting I facilitated as president of our organization.

I was asked to speak at the second Community Meeting on behalf of the Regional Development Fund as one of my first acts as a more-or-less regular citizen of AAGT -- no longer holding the gavel of highest office. (I as happy to do this. Sitting and doing nothing was starting to get tiresome.) We, the proponents of the fund, were asking the Community Meeting to refer the details of this new fund to the board for implementation. The fund itself had been in the annual meeting agenda for the annual meeting its details were sent to you as in the last newsletter. You might recall that this fund will help our existing regions organize their regional conferences and communities. A good number of our regions have been holding conferences. And some of them have already formally set aside funds for the regions in anticipation of this fund. The purpose of this fund is also to strengthen AAGT activities at a regional level between our biennial conferences. This new fund will provide a more formal way for this to be implemented. It will more or less be structured along the lines of our Research Fund. The Fund has enthusiastic support from the Regional Contact Persons. After some questions were asked and answered, the Regional Development Fund was enthusiastically supported by the Community Meeting and referred to the board for further action.

To those of you in the Northern Hemisphere, I wish you a good summer. And to those in the Southern Hemisphere, a gentle winter.

Dan

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Welcome to the ongoing experiment that is AAGT, an international community. If you are a returning member or if you have just joined, we invite you to find a way to be active in the association. You will find a list of the committees and the names of the individuals chairing them.

We hope you will find something that interests you in which you would like to become more involved. If you do, please contact the committee chair person(s). They will enthusiastically welcome you onto the committee and into their work.

THANK YOU DAN BLOOM

... For your leadership
 ... For your vision
 ... For your commitment
 ... For your time
 ... For your warmth
 ... For your contribution
 ... For growing AAGT

Congratulations to Our New Leaders!

AAGT Board of Directors 2010-2011

Executive Committee:

President:	Cathy Gray	cathybgray@gmail.com
VP Past President	Dan Bloom	dan@djbloom.com
VP President Elect	Gail Feinstein	ursaluna@aol.com
Secretary	Rodney Cole	rodney.cole@wesleymission.org.au
Treasurer	Burt Lazarin	brlaz@aol.com
Continuing Education Officer	Peter Cole	peterhayscole@hotmail.com

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2012 Conf Co-Coordinator	Guadalupe Amescua	cesigue@yahoo.com.mx
2012 Conf Co-Coordinator	Pablo Allen	jp_aqlen_a@yahoo.com

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 aagtone@gmail.com

Our Community Speaks!



Our Community Speaks!





Our Community Gives!



The AAGT 2010 Scholarship Fund broke all records: for the number of people to whom grants were awarded (35); the amount of money raised (about \$20,000); and, the number of countries from which the grantees came to Philadelphia (eight)! Above and beyond the figures, once again the fund both enabled persons to attend who otherwise couldn't and greatly enriched the conference and the organization through the diverse nature of the grantees...many of whom joined up.

In their own words, here is what some of the grantees wrote to me unsolicited since the conference:

Thank you for your support in aiding me in attending the conference. It was a rare experience. I enjoyed the warmth and sense of friendship I felt and created. - Anonymous

It was an exceptionally great experience that allowed me to meet very interesting people, participate in various workshops, expand my knowledge about Gestalt and get even more excited about becoming a Gestalt therapist! I thank you and everybody who was involved in the Scholarship program. You are doing an amazing job! All the best and warm regards, Svetlana

Again, I wanted to thank you, the scholarship committee, and (of course) the scholarship contributors for allowing me to financially swing attendance at AAGT 2010. I just wanted to take the time to say how great the conference was and how awesome it was to meet a bunch of you in-person! I also wanted to comment on how great a job Cathy, Burt, and the other organizers did in Philly. If I do not see you sooner, see you in Mexico in 2012! Respectfully, Mark Reck

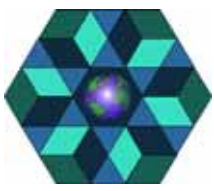
This conference well exceeded my expectations but also my financial means. I thoroughly enjoyed the conference and hope to attend in the future. As a new member of AAGT I am looking forward to getting involved and staying involved. I received overwhelming support for my presentation and am hoping to now work toward publishing in the British Gestalt Journal upon their request. This was an amazing experience. You can't put a price on that! Adrienne Newman

Many thanks to all who made this possible:

- ♥ ***Scholarship Fund Committee Members - Judy Graham, Michael Dietrich-Chastain and Katya Kolyveska***
- ♥ ***The AAGT Financial team of Peter Cole, Adam Weitz and Janneke Van Beusekom***
- ♥ ***The many persons who made special efforts by running dedicated workshops and donating part of their pre-conference workshop stipends***
- ♥ ***Auctioneer extraordinaire Charlie Bowman***
- ♥ ***Eric Hoffman for outstanding organization and the raffle***
- ♥ ***and everyone who made a donation!!!!!!***

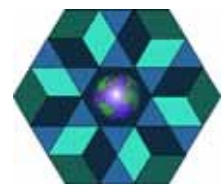
It was a very gratifying experience financially, professionally and humanistically....Bud Feder, Chair

A vibrant collage of 15 photographs depicting various social and cultural events, framed by a decorative Celtic knot border. The photos show people dancing, playing music, socializing, and participating in group activities. The collage includes: a person taking a photo with a camera; a boat labeled 'Ride the Ducks'; a band performing on stage; a person in a black dress dancing; a person holding a camera; a person singing into a microphone; a person playing an acoustic guitar; a group of people dancing; a large group of people at a social gathering; a person in a red shirt dancing; a person in a white shirt dancing; a person in a red shirt sitting at a table; a person in a white shirt sitting at a table; a person in a red shirt sitting at a table; and a person in a white shirt sitting at a table.



AAGT 2010 Annual Meeting Report

Philadelphia, June 5, 2010



Status Report on the International Research Project Investigating The Effectiveness of Gestalt Therapy

A Project of the Research Task Force of the Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy (AAGT)

In June of 2010, at the AAGT conference held in Philadelphia, the membership endorsed three initiatives proposed from its Research Task Force: (1) that it engage in active research, (2) that it create an international conference focused on research on gestalt therapy and its applications in such fields as organizational development, coaching, and social activism / public policy, and (3) that the first such research conference be held hosted at the Gestalt International Study Center (GISC) at Cape Cod, Massachusetts in 2013.

To date we have followed up with our colleagues at GISC and we are putting together a rudimentary plan for the conference. The conference will be limited in size to approximately fifty attendees. That will make for a much more intimate experience that will allow more work to be accomplished. The contact person for this project at GISC is Joseph Melnick, Ph.D., and he will work with the co-chairs of the Research Task Force (Christine Stevens and Philip Brownell).

To date the research project has taken form and gathered momentum. What follows is a description of its purpose, specific goals, design, participants, and possible future developments (Philip Brownell reporting).

We have established a Google Groups list with all cluster leaders (see below) belonging. Supportive and informative research papers are also posted to this list and available to cluster leaders for download and reading in order to help inform about the nature of elements of the design.

Purpose

To help establish a research tradition for the field of gestalt therapy, including its applications in organizational development, coaching, and the establishment of public policy, resulting in evidence that supports the practice of gestalt therapy.

Specific Goals

Provide research evidence that establishes gestalt therapy as one of several mindfulness approaches; thus, comparable to CBT's use of mindfulness

Provide research evidence that establishes the relational element in gestalt therapy; thus, comparing its relational elements to those of interpersonal, contemporary psychoanalytic, and systems approaches.

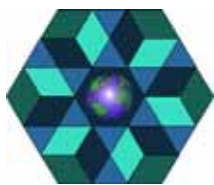
Compare effect sizes in symptom reduction and outcomes so as to show that gestalt therapy is as effective, or more effective, than medication, CBT, interpersonal, and/or psychoanalytic approaches in the treatment of various kinds of disorders and in terms of psychotherapy effectiveness generally considered.

In two parts: (a) Create multiple streams of evidence by publishing reports/articles based on this research in reviewed journals in the various regions/countries where clusters of practitioner-researchers have been working, and (b) publish in a journal of the American Psychological Association a meta-study of the aggregates across all clusters working in these various regions.

Design

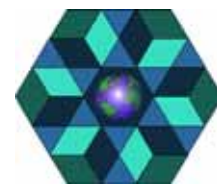
The design for this research is a bona fide research design. According to Division 12 (Society for Clinical Psychology) of the American Psychological Association, the single-case, timed series study is a "logical equivalent" of random, controlled trials, which many regard to be the gold standard of experimental psychology and outcomes research. We will utilize the single-case, timed series design, augmenting it with a "one-with-many" design. This will allow us to aggregate data at several levels. It will also allow individual gestalt therapists participating in the study to practice according to their acquired method, provided they can attest to following a theoretical core delineated in the Handbook for Theory, Research, and Practice in Gestalt Therapy (Brownell 2008, published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing), and reiterated in Gestalt Therapy: A Guide to Contemporary Practice (Brownell, 2010, published by Springer Publishing). (A questionnaire will be given to each therapist to ascertain this theoretical adherence—see the appendix for a brief description of this "core").

Each therapist will submit three or four case studies, allowing an aggregate at the level of such individual therapists. This will provide information about emergent patterns relative to the work of these individual therapists.



AGT 2010 Annual Meeting Report

Philadelphia, June 5, 2010



Hopefully, this will also establish that such therapists are effective in what they do.

In each region there will be at least one cluster of such therapists, and each cluster will have at least three or four therapists. Thus, another aggregate can be made at that level to establish that gestalt therapy is an effective approach for therapists working with people of that given culture.

Finally, an aggregate will then be made of all clusters, and this will hopefully allow us to assert the cross-cultural effectiveness of gestalt therapy.

In the process, we will address the mindfulness and relational characteristics of gestalt therapy that have been part of gestalt therapy theory all along, but that certainly position gestalt therapy right alongside the dominant paradigms of CBT and psychoanalysis.

The single case, timed series design that we will use is also described as an A-B-A approach. That is, a baseline is established in regard to the patient/client by measuring before therapy begins (A), and in order to establish a valid baseline, measurement occurs at three points prior to therapy beginning. Then, therapy is begun (B). Finally, measurement is conducted at an agreed-upon interval (perhaps 10-12 sessions in) or at termination (A). The statistical analysis is conducted comparing the effect of therapy to see if a significant difference is detected.

A measure of mindfulness will be employed to see if the client becomes more mindful. A measure of the working alliance will be used to see if a good relationship is established between therapist and client. A symptom checklist and an outcomes measure will be employed to see if there is symptom reduction or an increase in quality of life. These actual tests and scales will vary from one region to another because of the availability of them in diverse languages/countries. We will endeavor to find equivalent measures. In some places additional instruments will be used, because the researchers in those places are interested in additional social psychological questions. We will also use a demographic questionnaire to be filled out by the therapist on each client identifying such things as client age, gender, and diagnosis, so that we can sort results by various criteria.

In English speaking clusters, the Mindfulness Awareness and Attention Scale (MAAS), the Working Alliance Inventory (WAI), the Symptom Checklist 90-revised (SCL-90-R), and the Outcome Questionnaire 45 (OQ45) will be used. The WAI will be given once at the third meeting between client and therapist.

Country	Cluster Leaders	Country	Cluster Leaders
USA	Cathy Gray	Greece	Antigoni Mertika
USA	Brian Mistler	Taiwan	Wen Chun Cho
England	Christine Stevens	South Korea	Jungkyu Kim
France	Vincent Beja	South Africa	Herman Grobler
Sweden	Christel Segander	South Africa	Elizabeth Greyvenstein
Turkey	Ceylan Das	Russia	Kyrill Khlomov
Czech Republic	Anton Polak	Russia	Konstantin Pavlov

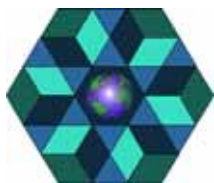
Leadership of this project is a team effort. Cluster leaders belong to a steering committee (a google groups list). We share information, discuss matters related to design, use of instruments, and we hope this group can provide support and guidance in various ways as the overall project evolves.

One way of providing support is that we will write up a standard literature review and methods section that each cluster group can use to write up their own respective articles for publication. We have already written up a standard informed consent document that can be used or adapted for those working within institutions and who need to pass ethical requirements for working with human subjects. In addition, leaders are available to help regional clusters with whatever challenges present themselves along the way.

Participants

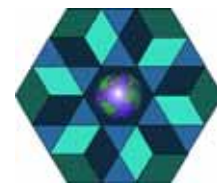
We have clusters of practitioner-researchers forming in eleven countries:

Future Developments



AAGT 2010 Annual Meeting Report

Philadelphia, June 5, 2010



Philip Brownell has also spoken with the President of the Israel Gestalt Association to see if they will be forming a cluster. We are in touch with someone who hopes to recruit people in Brazil. She is a Brazilian psychologist currently living and working in New Orleans, Louisiana, but she has many colleagues living and working Brazil.

In addition, Philip Brownell was enlisted to put together an Invited Symposium for the 12th European Congress of Psychology, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, July 4-8, 2011, and he will be presenting, along with any cluster leaders who can attend and participate, a description and status report on this project. In the process, the presenters will be showcasing both the gestalt approach and the international community known as the AAGT that is generating this research project.

Appendix: A Theoretical Core for Gestalt Therapy

For the purposes of this study, the theoretical core that represents the practice of gestalt therapy consists of

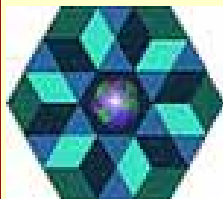
Core Element	Integrating Features
Individual Phenomenality/ Phenomenological Method	Observation and description of immediate subjective experience that emerges through awareness of contact in the environment; self forms at the boundary of that contact, and all the functions of self manifest in a person-in-contact as an experience of a given situation
Dialogical Relationship	Contact over time in which the contact between two people is “non-independent,” or a two-person field, which itself is sensitive to dynamics in the wider situation and honors the alterity of each one with regard to the Other.
Field Methodology	The situation in which individual experience emerges. The “all-things-having-effect” in overlapping spheres of influence, sets up the therapeutic strategies worked out between therapist and client
Experimental Freedom	The move to action that brightens figures, reveals a person to him or herself and to others, and gives existential form to the relationship that contains therapist and client phenomenality, the field-theoretical strategies of the therapist, and the safe emergency that permeates all of therapy
Unity of Praxis	The four core elements above interrelated through practice such that a researcher cannot extract one and examine it or a practitioner cannot factor one out to apply it without immediately involving the others.

A Trip to the Italian Market...

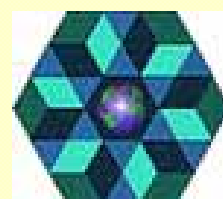
by Joe DePaula

Here is a “postscript” to the AAGT Philly conference ending, starting on Sunday afternoon, June 6th at about 3 PM. I escorted a group of 7 conference participants to the 9th Street Italian Market in South Philly. The group included Peter Philippson, Dagmar Alexander, Caroline Matters, Seishi Harada, Jack Neggerman and his partner, Tess, and Claire Bartram Asherson.

We had an interesting and fun adventure exploring Italian-American landmarks in the market area, including checking out “Ralph’s,” the oldest Italian Restaurant in Philadelphia, dating back to 1900. We walked down to Pat’s Steaks and viewed the “Rocky” plaque. Then after our extended walking tour ended, we had dinner at one of my favorite Italian restaurants in the market area, “Villa di Roma.” According to the satisfaction reactions and comments of our group, everyone had a delicious meal.!



Gestalt! is Now The Official Online Journal Of AAGT



At the 2010 conference the members expressed their support for the adoption of the online journal, *Gestalt!* (www.g-gej.org), as the official journal of the AAGT. It has been given to the association, with no strings attached, by Philip Brownell, who created and has been editing it since it began in 1996 and published its first issue in 1997. The journal has been carried in the PsycInfo database of the American Psychological Association, and will be again. Its inaugural Editors are Dan Bloom (dan@g-gej.org), Charlie Bowman (Charlie@g-gej.org), and Philip Brownell (phil@g-gej.org). A board of Associate Editors is being developed, as well as a staff of readers, as the journal is a bona fide reviewed journal and aspires to represent the AAGT with quality literature and media.

The journal will publish two issues per year: December first and June first. Submission deadlines are October 1st for the December issue and April 1st for the June issue. Submissions should be in electronic form (MS Word or RTF; do not send pdf as we cannot edit them), attached to an email message, and sent to submissions@g-gej.org. Graphics should be in jpeg, gif, or ping format (all content will be reformatted by the editorial and production staff to fit the layout of the journal). Articles should be of the same general quality as for print journals, but the process will be at a faster pace. If you have an idea for an article or some creative writing that you believe reflects the gestalt approach and/or the association values, please contact one of the editors with your proposal. Articles should be approximately 4-6000 words in length (but this is not a hard rule as there is more flexibility in the online environment).

The AAGT will charge for advertising, and the exact rates are yet to be decided. However, those wishing to submit ads should send text in the body of an email and attach their graphics. The graphics should be no wider than 150 pixels (as they will be slotted into a column). Graphics received that are wider than the needs of the journal layout will be resized to fit. URLs for linked web pages will not be active as often such things become obsolete, creating dead links in the journal's content, which is a negative on the web.

Mission Statement:

Gestalt! is an online journal dedicated to developing gestalt therapy by online publishing of peer reviewed papers and commentaries relevant to gestalt practice, theory development, psychotherapy, organizational consulting, coaching and social change. Gestalt! reflects variety internationally and bridges other modalities and fields to broaden the scope of its topics. This journal is interested in developing new writing in the field and will offer various ways to support less experienced writers in their projects.

Editorial Guidelines:

Submissions should follow APA style, have reasonable pace, with headings and sub-headings clearly furthering the progress of thought, and content should relate in some way to gestalt therapy and its applications in various fields and domains.



AAGT Members List



Managing Your Mailing List Subscription

If you are not a member of the AAGT Members e-mail list and would like to join, send your request to Charlie Bowman at aagtone@gmail.com

At the moment you're probably getting all e-mails to the list one at a time. If you set the mailing list to give you all e-mails in a Digest format, you get a summary e-mail at regular intervals which contains ALL the e-mails sent to the Members list within a certain time frame. This cuts down on the number of individual e-mails you get, while still getting the contents of the list to you.

Here's how to set the list to Digest: If you're unfamiliar with LISTSERV mailing list commands, it may be easier to do this through the webpage for this mailing list. You can find that here: <http://listserv.icors.org/SCRIPTS/WA-ICORS.EXE?A0=AAGTMembers>. You will need to login. Click on "Get Password". Type in your e-mail address (the one you use to subscribe to the list). Choose a password. You will then receive a confirmation e-mail with link for you follow to finish registering your password. Return to <http://listserv.icors.org/SCRIPTS/WA-ICORS.EXE?A0=AAGTMembers>. Now you can log in using your e-mail address and the password you created. From here you can also visit and search the archives of the AAGTMembers mailing list.

In the upper right hand corner of the webpage is "Subscribers Corner". Find the AAGTMembers list, and next to it, click on "Settings". This is a list of everything you can do with your mailing list subscription. Under "Subscription type" you will probably have "Regular" selected. There's options for several forms of Digests and also an Index mode. If you're uncertain about what the different options

are, click on the question mark icon beside "Subscription type" for explanations. Select the Digest option which most appeals to you or go for an Index. You must choose "Update Options" to save your new settings.

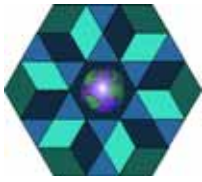
Another useful command for managing your subscription is "NOMAIL". With NOMAIL activated you will not receive messages but you will continue as a member and you can toggle NOMAIL on and off. You can still read and post through the archives, making the mailing list similar to a message board. You can use this option when you're planning to be away from the list and want to continue your membership.

Follow the instructions above for Digest until you get to the page with "Settings" for the AAGT Members list. Choose "Miscellaneous". The option you want is "Mail delivery disabled temporarily". Select that and "Update Options" to save your new settings. To receive mail again simply go back to that page, uncheck the "Mail delivery disabled temporarily" box, and then "Update Options" again.

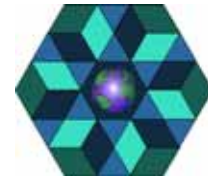
AAGTMembers@listserv.icors.org

***Join or Leave
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Regional News



Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy (AAGT) - Thursday, June 3rd - Philadelphia, PA Regional Contact Person General Meeting

Minutes by Brad Larsen

In Attendance: Anne Leibig, SE USA & Meeting Facilitator; Bea McKay, Western Canada; Seishi Harada, Japan; Sylvia Crocker, Rocky Mountain Region USA; Jon Blend, UK; Judy Graham, UK; Dagmar Alexander, Scotland; Rodney Cole, Southern Australia; Johanna Treeeweke for Kerry Shipman, Northern Australia; Maryann Nichols, Eastern Canada; Liv Estrup, SW USA; Ken Meyer, NE Region USA; Marilyn Myles, Midwest USA; Dan Bloom, Past President; Cathy Gray, President; Brad Larsen Pacific Northwest USA

Regional Reports

Jon Blend – UK

Working with Judy. "Still standing." Lively response to local activities after the Manchester (2008) conference. After second or so post event interest/energy waned due to clashing commitments. It's been hard to get and then maintain the interest and energy of others. One event at Judy's was not well attended.

Judy Graham – UK

Most success has been in London. Further north has fallen flat. It may be that we need more region coordination within the UK. People may be committed to institutes but not to AAGT. It's been quite discouraging when people do not show up, trying not to take it personally. Nonetheless, events were able to raise some money for the scholarship. Judy has been an RCP for 10 years and is now resigning. No replacement as of yet. (LATER HELENA KALLNER VOLUNTEERED TO BE A UK REPRESENTATIVE. There is an RCP for Ireland – BRONAGH STARRS. Brad will make sure she is added to Google group). Feels pressure to be bringing more people in or that there should be more activity. What do new members get with membership? Do we need to be clear that AAGT membership is not just about the conference?

Dagmar Alexander – Scotland

More depleted, very discouraged. She has been "flying the AAGT flag" but has not been able to recruit others, except for one colleague to come to the conference. Feeling that the area is over saturated. Many big name individuals are being brought to Scotland to give workshops and trainings so when AAGT hosts something locally there is less interest. (Later Dagmar volunteered to host the 2010 annual meeting in Scotland.)

Rodney Cole – Southern Australia

Had first conference last year – in Northern Australia. Next conference will be marketed as a therapist's retreat. Australia has been focusing on smaller events, reading groups and membership with AAGT is required to participate in these activities. In Sydney – there are not much in the way of training opportunities past the formal education/school level for current practitioners.

Johanna TREEWEEKE – Northern Australia (for Kerry Shipman)

Held a regional conference and will hold another in November, very successful – about 20 people. Able to send funds to the AAGT Scholarship fund. Was personally encouraged to come by Kerry Shipman. Brian O'Neil is not here but is willing to continue on the Board representing RCP's if someone else is a back up. Rodney will focus on identifying an RCP from New Zealand. Use this as an opportunity to build bridges.

Bea McKay – Western Canada

Has been an RCP for many years and has not brought any new members – even after the conference in Vancouver (2006). There is sudden interest in Vancouver however and she is establishing an institute.

Maryann Nicholls – Eastern Canada

So little representation – and little organization. Hard to connect or even find others. Would be helpful for the institutes to be more connected with AAGT than they are now.

Liv Estrup – SW USA (with Lynn Stadler)

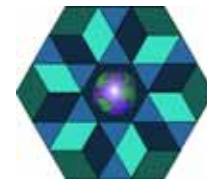
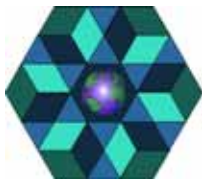
Liv has been a regional conference convener for many years and they continue to hold an annual regional conference with about 25 people (50 total who come and go). She likes the idea of linking training to the conference. Last year they showed her film on Arnold Beisser and next round they will host Todd Burley who will present on Neuropsychology and Gestalt therapy. People come to conferences to see friends and see what is new. Next regional conference will be at Asilmar near Pebble Beach the first weekend of October 2010 – contact Lynn Stadler.

Ken Meyer – NE USA (New York City)

From the New York Gestalt community – they've created an *inter-institute committee* to connect the other gestalt institutes in the region. To stand out as AAGT they held a regional conference with 70 people – raised money for the scholarship. Opportunities to stand out (as AAGT) need to be kept in the foreground. Needs to be added to the Google group.

Anne Leibig – SE USA

Originally proposed a regional conference with support from AAGT and was able to offer continuing education credits. They have gathered regional strength with support from AAGT. 30-40 people registered for their conference in the past Sylvia Crocker is a big supporter of the SE region.

**Sylvia Crocker – Rocky Mountain Region – USA**

There is a small institute in Golden Colorado associated with Naropa University. Mel Heinz has recently returned to the area **Regional Contact Person General Meeting** and with his wife, he is excited to help establish AAGT in the Rocky Mountains area. "There are all kinds of people in the area to establish a presence and a two day conference. It can sell itself, we can grow Gestalt. We're going to take over the world!"

Marilynn Myles– Midwest USA (Chicago)

Every six weeks they host a "Gestalt Salon" and people from several of the surrounding states come to participate. They hosted Erv Polster 2 years ago and are connecting more and more with Cleveland. They would like to expand to hold a regional conference.

Brad Larsen – Pacific Northwest USA

Vital gestalt community but not strongly organized or connected to AAGT. About 6 people from Portland at the conference. Goal to host some kind of regional activity by 2012.

Seishi Harada – Japan

There are more people from Japan at the current conference and they are planning to establish an institute in Japan. Seishi is not connected with this effort. Seishi will stay on as an RCP. It has been difficult for him to connect to conference calls as they occur in the middle of the night. Email is best for him.

Administrative Committee Action Items**Action Items:**

Update RCP Google Group and Website. Anne L and Brad L will work the updates. Adam Weitz (AAGT Secretary) can send updated membership reports and updates as new members join. Brad will contact Adam about providing membership by regions to Regional Contact Persons. He will also put Cathy Gray –president of AAGT on the RCP Google group.

RCP Board Representative:

The committee discussed the need for an RCP Board Representative to join Brian O'Neil, who will take on a supportive role. Anne Leibig was nominated. She expressed a desire to support the RCP phone calls/communications but not to be the board representative. Marilyn MARYLYN MYLES volunteered to share the role with Anne. CONFIRMED: Marilyn Myles and Anne Leibig will share the role as back up to Brian O'Neil. Anne will report this to the Board.

Regional Support Fund:

At the community meeting a motion will be made for the establishment of a regional support fund to direct money to regions for local activities. Please offer your support for this motion.

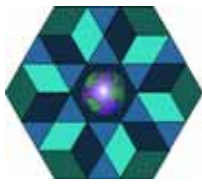
AAGT RCPs

A Group for the Regional Contact Persons

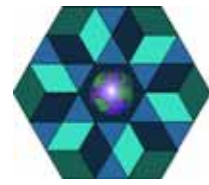


AAGT encourages members and friends living in regional proximity to maintain contact and engage in Gestalt related activities.

For more information contact the RCP Coordinator: Brian O'Neill (boneill@uow.edu.au), and or Brad Larsen bradlarsen2010@gmail.com. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in becoming a Regional Contact Person (RCP) in your part of the world, please contact Brian or Brad.



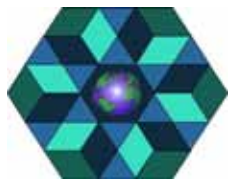
Regional News



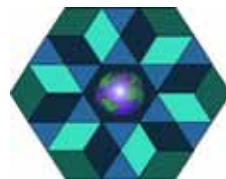
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Pictures from the 1st AAGT Regional Gathering in Australia, November 2009





Regional Contact Persons



Shipman, Kerry (Board Rep)

Alexander, Dagmar

Amescua , Guadalupe

Blend, Jon

Blom, Susanne

Bommer, Isabel

Bouwman, Petra

Cassiers, Greet

Cole, Rodney

Crocker, Sylvia

Estrup, Liv

Gaite-Navaro, Mario

Galli, Sabina

Ghaemmagham Farahani Razi

Gielis Matthias, Theo

Gregory, Susan

Hahn, Stefan

Harada, Seishi

Hernani, Villoria

Kallner, Helena

Kincel, Adam

Larsen, Brad

Leibig, Anne

MacKay, Bea

Meyer, Ken

Mosher, Vaughn

Munoz, Myriam

Myles, Marilyn

Nichols, Maryanne

O'Neill, Brian

Sen, Emre

Stadler, Lynn

Starrs, Bronagh

Turbiner, Marcia

Zielke, Olaf

Australia

Scotland

Mexico

UK

Demark

Germany

Netherlands

Belgium

Southern Australia

Rocky Mountains, USA

Southwest USA

Spain

Italy

E Canada

Netherlands

At Large

Germany

Japan

Philippines

UK

Poland

Pacific Northwest, USA

SE USA

W Canada

North East USA

Bermuda

Mexico

Mid W USA

Canada

Australia

Turkey

SW USA

Ireland

Western Pennsylvania, USA

Germany

keiv@centernet.com.au

dagmaralexander@YAHOO.DE

cesigue@yahoo.com.mx

life-changes@ntlworld.com

kreos.blom@post.tele.dk

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petrabouwman@hotmail.com

greetcassiers@multidimens.be

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sabinagalli@gmail.com

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myrmunpd@hotmail.com

mylestherapy@comcast.net

maryanne.nicholls@GMAIL.COM

boneill@uow.edu.au

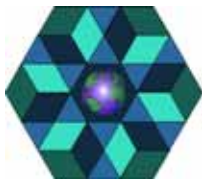
emrechopin@yahoo.com

lynnstadler@verizon.net

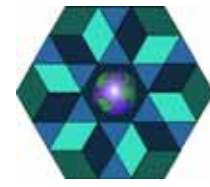
bronaghstarrs@gmail.com

mturbiner@gmail.com

mail@olafzielke.de



Regional News



Dear AAGT-Southwest Friends,

If you are planning to attend the AAGT-Southwest regional conference October 1-3, 2010, please send your housing form (next page) to Asilomar before **July 31st**. The Asilomar Conference Grounds in beautiful Pacific Grove, California is on the coast, and close to Carmel, Big Sur, Monterey and Santa Cruz. The nearest airports are in Monterey and San Jose.

As usual we will begin at 4pm on Friday for check-in and topic selection. Our Saturday morning plenary will feature **Todd Burley Ph.D** for his expertise on "**How Research and Neuroscience Inform Today's Gestalt Therapists**." We'll have additional discussion groups on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, as well as plenty of time for sightseeing, bike riding, beach walking, swimming, or relaxing.

Asilomar is not only beautiful and rustic, but also very affordable. The following room rates are per person for two nights, including meals: Single occupancy is \$335.52; Double occupancy is \$233.32.

Our annual two-day Writers' Conference will be at Asilomar September 30th and October 1st. (If you plan to attend the Writers' Conference, please indicate on your housing form that you need accommodations for four nights.)

The one challenging aspect of having our conference at Asilomar is that we need to commit to an exact number of rooms and participants two months prior to our meeting, so please register with Asilomar before July 31st.

To register, please print the enclosed housing form and send directly to Asilomar. Then please print this email, complete the following information, and mail a check or money order made out to AAGT-SW to:

Lynn Stadler AAGT-SW Regional Contact Person
410 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

___ \$30 for Writers' Conference

___ \$60 for AAGT-Southwest Conference

___ \$60 for AAGT-Southwest Conference

___ \$30 for Writers' Conference

See you there!

Lynn





HOUSING FORM Gestalt Therapy AAGT-SW 50199E

Friday, October 1 – Sunday, October 3, 2010

Two Nights. Full time participation only

Asilomar use only

One Form per
person or family

ATTENDEE INFORMATION PLEASE PRINT

Last Name:

First Name:

Address:

City/State/ZIP:

Country:

Business Phone:

Home Phone:

Fax:

Email: (please print clearly in order to receive email confirmation)

Disability Access and/or special requirements:

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT INFORMATION

Fax completed form to 831-642-4262

____ Visa	____ Master Card	____ Amex
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

Expiration Date

Card Holder Signature
Asilomar will bill your credit card upon receipt
and confirmation sent.

HOUSING INFORMATION

Guest rooms are assigned on first come, first served basis. Rates are per person. Please number choices in order of preference. If your choice is not available you will be assigned based on availability and the appropriate charge will apply.

**** Telephone reservations will not be accepted**

Historic Single Occupancy

☐ \$335.52 (Limited)

Historic Double Occupancy

☐ \$233.32 each Person

Youth (ages 3-17)

☐ \$174.14 each Youth

Housing Form must be received 60 days prior to arrival date to assure reservations

☐

I will share a room with:

•

____ Check here if you are **financially responsible** for the person named above that you are sharing with *

☐

Please assign a roommate for me

☐

I am Male

☐

I am Female

☐

I am Vegetarian

☐

Medical Diet. See Chef on arrival day

CHECK PAYMENT INFORMATION

All checks payable to Asilomar Conference Grounds.

Mail this form with check to:
Asilomar Conference Grounds
P.O. Box 537
Pacific Grove, CA 93950
FAX 831-642-4262

GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Cancellations within 60 days prior to arrival date forfeit all fees.**
- **All cancellations are subject to a \$25 per person processing fee.**
- All rates are for full time conference participation. There is no discount for shorter stays.
- Housing rates are per person and include lodging, meals, meeting space rental, and all applicable taxes (*subject to change in accordance with State and Local taxes*). Meals begin with dinner on the first day and end with lunch on the last day.
- Check in 3pm. Check out 12noon.
- Purchase orders and telephone reservations will not be accepted.
- To preserve the refuge atmosphere at Asilomar, our Guest rooms are free from the distraction of televisions and telephones. There is a business center located next to the front desk.
- All Guest rooms and meeting rooms are non-smoking.
- For additional information, maps, and directions please visit our website at www.VisitAsilomar.com

2nd AAGT Australia Regional Gathering & Retreat for Therapists.



Exploring the Spirit of Gestalt Therapy

26th - 28th November 2010

Gunnebah Retreat in the beautiful Tweed Valley

www.gunnebah.com.au

- *Two nights' accommodation*
- *All meals*
- *Registration, Workshops and Yoga*
- *\$300*
- *Register at www.gestalt.org.au click "events"*
- *(Also send email to keiv@westnet.com.au with name and contact details)*

The dominant discourse within the West is imbued with the ethos of competition which can evoke an 'all or nothing' approach to life experiences. From this dualistic perspective some of our ways of contacting tends to be more ruptured rather than encountered and/or engaged. If it's 'all or nothing' we can easily end up loving nothing. At this gathering we will explore Gestalt's unique Field based position which is both in opposition and contact with this dominant discourse. We will explore the experiential and theoretical aspects of:

**I-Thou - Inter-connection of the Field - The Narrow Ridge Between
Sitting with Not Knowing - The Fertile Void - Either/or vs Both
Co-Creation - Ambiguity - Contact with Difference - Spiritual Intrajects
Brokenness & Wholeness - Failure giving birth to Wisdom.**

Co-ordinator; Kerry Shipman 0266 57 2702 0458 265 421 keiv@westnet.com.au

Follow this link to become a member of AAGT - www.aagt.org

*Join us for this exciting and nurturing exploration of being a therapist.
(If you wish to present a workshop contact Kerry)*



Join us in Asheville as we co-create a **regional learning community** hosted by an **international community**.

Presenters include: Sylvia Fleming Crocker, Barbara Crosby, Bryan Dieterich, Nicholas Emmanuel, Gail Feinstein, Cathy Gray, Susan Gregory, Anne Leibig, Kenneth Meyer, Deborah Ullman, and Ansel Woldt.

What: Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy - An International Community's fourth annual Southeast USA Regional Conference, Asheville, NC

When: October 15 – 17, 2010

Where: Warren Wilson College - Asheville, NC

Who: Counselors, mental health professionals, psychologists, psychiatrists, psychotherapists, social workers, substance abuse counselors, massage therapists, and those interested in personal growth

Credit: 12 Continuing Education Credits

For more information and to register online, visit our website at www.agti.org.

Registration Form

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State and Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Fees

_____ Conference Oct. 15, 7pm - Oct. 17, 12:30 pm. (12 contact hours)

Choose a payment type:

_____ \$100 normal

_____ \$80 full-time student

_____ \$80/person for groups of 3+

_____ AAGT CE Admin. Fee (\$15 required for credit)

Payment

_____ Check (Make checks payable to "Gentle Bio-Energetics/AAGT", memo "AAGT SE conference.")

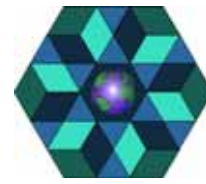
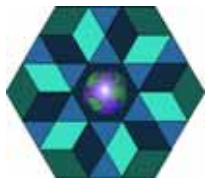
_____ Credit Card:

VISA/MC # _____ Exp. Date ____/____ Bank/Issuer _____

Cardholder Name _____ Authorized Signature _____

Return the registration form **with \$10 deposit by Sept. 15** to AGTI, PO Box 19154, Asheville, NC 28815. Visit our website for information on lodging reservations (\$99 at Ramada River Ridge with group rate by Sept. 15.)

A partnership between the Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy, the Appalachian Gestalt Training Institute, and the Gentle Bio-Energetics Institute.



From the Interest Group Coordinators...

AAGT encourages members and friends living in regional proximity to maintain contact and engage in Gestalt related activities. For more information contact the RCP Coordinator: Brian O'Neill (boneill@uow.edu.au), and or Brad Larsen bradlarsen2010@gmail.com. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in becoming a Regional Contact Person (RCP) in your part of the world, please contact Brian or Brad.

Ecological Dimensions of Gestalt Therapy Interest Group Meeting AAGT Philadelphia Conference

On June 4 at the Philadelphia Conference Billy Desmond, Will Adams, Bruce Aaron, Gail Feinstein, Marilyn Myles and Kailash Tuli convened an invited panel presentation and discussion titled ***Gestalt: Sustainability of Our Global Environment***. While this wasn't an announced or formal meeting or the Ecology Interest Group of AAGT, the process and discussion was similar, important and intense. We, the group participants, wanted to share a statement from this gathering with future conference conveners, the Ecology Interest Group and the AAGT Membership at large. The following points were made during our gathering that we would like to share:

- ♥ We appreciate the efforts of the Philadelphia conference conveners and the Sheraton hotel to be ecologically mindful. We encourage AAGT to hold the venues for our conferences even more accountable and to include a formal position, report or evaluation of the efforts of the venue to meet strict environmental standards as part of the negotiation process.
- ♥ We encourage the leadership of AAGT to take a written stand regarding the Gulf of Mexico disaster and the responsibility and accountability of British Petroleum. We would like to see AAGT become politically active in efforts to save our planet.
- ♥ We encouraged members of this group, members of the Ecology Interest Group and Gestalt writers everywhere to use the written medium to encourage eco-friendly existence using the tools available to us as Gestalt therapists.
- ♥ We encourage the Program Planning Committee for the 2012 Conference to invite speakers and presentations that address ecology issues.

This meeting at the Philadelphia conference was intense, passionate and marked by a readiness of the participants to make some level of commitment to action. We are interested in spreading this energy through out AAGT and through out the communities where we live and play and work!



Are you an AAGT Organizational Member?
Post your organizational update, training invite or publication here!
Free in the AAGT Newsletter!

Gestalt Associates Training Los Angeles

Presents

MASTERCLASS IN GESTALT THERAPY A TRAINING SERIES IN NEW YORK CITY *with*

**Alan Cohen, MSW & Connie Newman, M.A., M.A.
Rita F. Resnick, Ph.D. & Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D.**

A Master Class is a class given to advanced professionals and students, by very seasoned and experienced trainers, who listen to and critique the work of individual participants one at a time, while the others look on. The training will also include live demonstrations by the trainers where comparisons and discussion is encouraged. Alan, Connie, Bob and Rita are offering this opportunity to interested Gestalt therapists.

This is an advanced training opportunity designed for therapists who have extensive training and background in Gestalt Therapy. The program will consist of a series of workshops with Bob and Rita Resnick emphasizing live and video demonstrations of their work, hands on practice of therapists working with each other with live supervision from Bob and Rita, as well as advanced theory presentations and discussion. Connie Newman and Alan Cohen's work will emphasize supervision, consultation, discussion and more live supervised practice. All workshops will include theory, clinical practice and discussion and all clinical work will be related to the theory, hopefully enriching both.

Rather than attempt to recruit therapists to adopt a particular style or emphasis, our goal is for each therapist to refine and deepen his/her own style of practicing Gestalt Therapy. After being exposed to and discriminating among all that they have experienced (observing, experimenting, practicing) our hope is that each participant will take away a style of practice that is assimilated and integrated with the ground of all their former training and experience.

This program will begin with a "sampler" workshop in the fall of 2010 in NYC. We want participants to taste the program before deciding to join the series of around four workshops.

If you are interested in receiving announcements from us regarding these and other training opportunities please send you email address to RitaResnick@gatla.org

Embodied Relational Gestalt: Advances in Somatic Practice and Theory

**Conveners: Michael Clemmens,
Ruella Frank, James Kepner**

**Esalen Institute®
July 31 - August 5, 2011**

During this six-day conference, we will explore specific relational and somatic theories and methodologies within our gestalt psychotherapy frame. Going well beyond the original gestalt practice of "concentration" and "attention to sensation", these cutting edge advances emphasize the significance of observing and understanding the body-to-body communication that emerges within the relational field. Such ongoing interactive patterns convey enduring and embodied themes that are elicited and shaped within the client and psychotherapist dialogue. A growing sensitivity to nonverbal patterns of communication expands and augments the psychotherapists' ability to understand their own and their clients' fullness of experience.

The format of the conference will include plenary presentations each day, followed by a variety of workshops on various applications of gestalt somatic and relational practice. These will include working with developmental and post-traumatic disturbances, culture, family therapy with children, adolescents, as well as infants. There will be community and free times for participants to enjoy the thrilling landscape of Big Sur and the relaxing environment of Esalen Institute. The conference will begin on Sunday evening July 31 and close Friday morning August 5.

Register on the web or call (831) 667-3005

For additional information please contact info@esalen.org

Click here for the complete flyer: [EmbodiedGestalt-Esalen Flyer.pdf](#)

Passion, Sustainability and Succession

The 5th International Gestalt Leaders' Conference

29th March to 2nd April 2011

Hertfordshire, Near London, England

The conference is for current and future leaders of Gestalt Institutes and Organisations and as with previous conferences, attendance is open to two delegates from any one Institute or Organisation.

The conference offers both an invitation to dialogue and a forum for Gestalt Institutional and Organisational leaders to consider shared concerns, challenges and good practice.

Further information on location, cost, the programme and a registration form can be found at :

www.gestaltleaders-conference.org

We very much look forward to seeing you/your delegates here in the UK.

Christine Stevens, Lynda Osborne, Toni Gilligan
Conference Convenors

Introduction to Developmental Somatic Psychotherapy with Ruella Frank, Ph.D.

January 28th - 30th, 2011, Cleveland
Friday 5:00pm - 8:00pm
Saturday 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sunday 9:00am - 1:00pm

Fee: \$250, \$200 for students
Deposit: \$100 to save your place

Location: TBA Cleveland (Downtown)

Ongoing nonverbal interactions with our primary caregivers during the first year of life set a relational foundation that is apparent both in the everyday life of the adult and in psychotherapy. Even though our adult postural attitudes, gestures, gait and breathing patterns have changed over time, the foundations established in our first year remain readily observable and available. Attending to these patterns within psychotherapy is especially powerful.

During this workshop, participants learn how their relational styles originated through affective/movement patterns within the infant/caregiver dyad. Through movement, participants will explore these intrinsic yet unaware primary patterns which are part of present experiences and influence daily life. We then apply this understanding to the here-and-now of the client/therapist dyad.

This workshop is open to psychologists, social workers, psychiatrists, infant educators, mental health counselors, as well as movement therapists/educators who wish to better understand the relationship between psychological experience and physical expression.

Ruella Frank, Ph.D., has been exploring early infant movements and their relationship to the adult since the mid-1970s. She brings many years of experience to her work as a gestalt psychotherapist – as a professional dancer, yoga practitioner/teacher, student of several movement theories and therapies, and student of Laura Perls, co-founder of gestalt therapy. Ruella is founder and director of the Center for Somatic Studies, faculty at Gestalt Associates for Psychotherapy and the New York Institute for Gestalt therapy, and also teaches throughout the United States, Europe and Mexico.

She is author of articles and chapters in various publications, as well as the book *Body of Awareness: A Somatic and Developmental Approach to Psychotherapy*, available in five languages. Her new book with co-author and psychoanalyst Frances LaBarre, *The First Year and the Rest of Your Life: Movement, Development and Psychotherapeutic Change*, is to be published by Routledge Press and will be available Fall 2010.

Please make checks payable to: Kirste Carlson Group, Inc. and send to: Kirste Carlson, Overlook Park Drive, Cleveland, OH 44110. Further information and to register: Kirste Carlson at kirste27@gmail.com

There will be a world summit of OD practitioners in Hungary at the end of the summer (www.odworldsummit.org). Gestalt will be represented by Joe Melnick, Brenda Jones (a past president of NTL and part of John Carter's center) and Carolyn Lukensmeier.



Celebrating The Power of Writing: The 25th Anniversary of the Founding of GestaltPress and GISC Writers' Conferences

Dates: September 23-26, 2010
Begins Thursday, 3:00 P.M.
Ends Sunday, 12 noon

Location: Wellfleet, Cape Cod, USA

Fee: \$450, includes attendance at Dinner Dance Saturday night.
CE Hours Available.

Conference Chairs: Gordon Wheeler, Joseph Melnick, Deborah Ullman, Edwin Nevis

Honorary Guests: Philip Lichtenberg, Carolyn Lukensmeyer, Sonia March Nevis, and Malcolm Parlett

This Conference is to celebrate the accomplishment of publishing over 100 authors in over 40 books, and the fostering of over 100 journal articles in small conferences. Both of these enterprises were made possible by Gestalt International Study Center which, beginning approximately in 1985, provided the seed money for formation of **GestaltPress** and travel support for the early Writers' Conferences. **GestaltPress** and **GISC** are especially proud to host the Conference at GISC's Wellfleet, Cape Cod Meetinghouse.

We have invited as Honored Guests: Carolyn Lukensmeyer, who began the quest to publish our work, Malcolm Parlett, who attended early Writers' Conferences and extended them to Europe, Philip Lichtenberg, esteemed Gestalt teacher and pioneer in the application of Gestalt to social action issues, and Sonia March Nevis, GISC co-founder.

The Conference is not fully designed, but we have already arranged the following:

Two Panel Discussions

- The "We" of our Situation: Our Evolved Relational Brain
Panelists: Gordon Wheeler, Deborah Ullman, and a Neurobiologist, TBD.
- Applying the Gestalt Model In Social Change Interventions
Panelists: Carolyn Lukensmeyer, Talia Bar-Yoseph, Joe Melnick
- Moderator: Edwin Nevis

Presentations of Writing Works In Progress

Time will be allotted for as many as 12 attendees to present works-in-progress. If you would like to take advantage of this remarkable opportunity to present your work-in-progress and gain feedback using the supportive and effective GISC Writers' Workshop model, please indicate this on your registration form and forward a 1-to-2 paragraph description of your project to Joe Melnick (gestaltrev@aol.com).

Theory Discussion Groups

Using an "Open Space" Model, we will create small groups around topics selected by Conference participants.

We hope to hatch some new writing projects, as well as to have some solid theoretical exchanges. As our design further unfolds we may be in touch with some of you to make a further contribution to the events.

The Conference will include a Dinner Dance on Saturday night.

Announcements!

WindWhispers Press announces
Historias de la Sanadora Herida
by Mariah Fenton Gladis



Historias de la Sanadora Herida, the Spanish translation of Mariah Fenton Gladis' book, *Tales of a Wounded Healer* has hit the top 50 on the best selling list of Sanborns, the most important bookseller in Mexico. Recently translated and published in Mexico by El Camino Rojo Ediciones, *Historias de la Sanadora Herida*, is also available in Salvador and Panamá.

"I am so happy about reaching the top 50 in Mexico," says publisher Anand Dilvar, General Manager of El Camino Rojo Ediciones. "Slowly, slowly we are opening doors and getting more attention to Mariah's work, which I love. Publishing Mariah's book allows me to provide a way for the Mexican and South American people to be touched by her love and compassion. I am honored to provide a conduit for her work."

"I feel incredibly blessed to have *Tales of a Wounded Healer* published in Spanish," says Mariah. "The fact that it is a best seller in Mexico promotes possibilities of contributing to other cultures and I look forward to working with

the Spanish people in the future."

The Preface to *Historias de la Sanadora Herida* is enlightening:

"The initial circumstances of our lives were determined by chance. We could have been fortunate and born into a loving, economically stable family. Our parents could have been, responsible, intelligent and conscious. Instead, we could have been born in a country filled with poverty or in a dysfunctional, violent family. The circumstances that make up a great part our personality were also determined by chance. And the chemical processes of our bodies that influence and determine our emotional state and way of being are also in part out of our control.

"For this reason, one day, we need to take responsibility of our destiny. Without personal work, a clear intention and an iron will power, we are just victims of our circumstances.

"I met Mariah at the Esalen Institute in Big Sur, California in the same place that Gestalt therapy was first developed. There I took with her an existential workshop called "Not For the Feint of Heart".

"What is important?" she asked the participants before beginning their individual work in front of the group. When it came my turn, I responded, "What is important to me, Mariah, is to take advantage of my potential and contribute to the well-being of my community in the best way possible." I was moved. For six days, I had observed how Mariah would repeatedly go beyond the physical limitations inflicted upon her by her illness and she would attend to, guide and heal one by one of the group participants.

"You are an example to me of committing yourself to and love for others. You have inspired me to try even harder to give to the world what I came here to give. Thank you, Mariah," I remarked to her.

"This book has that intention: to inspire you to work on yourself, to take responsibility of your own life and of your development. These pages are filled with love, courage, strength and commitment.

"I have the great fortune of participating in the creation of this version in Spanish of a wonderful book, to help in some way to carry out Mariah's message to as many people as possible. My dear reader: Let yourself be touched by the Wounded Healer. Open up your heart to Mariah and let her guide you in a process of human development that will make you more sensitive, more present, more loving and happier."

—Anand Dilvar

About the Publisher

El Camino Rojo Ediciones publishes books on human development, spiritual novels and self-improvement. Their books are distributed in Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Salvador and Panama.

Publisher Anand Dilvar is a Gestalt therapist, lecturer and author of 25 titles of human development, several of which have alternated at the top of the list in major retail chains in Mexico. In his lectures, he combines humor and a knowledge of Gestalt Therapy to move audiences around the world who are interested in internal change and increased awareness. Dilvar also runs "Vision Quest" a meditation and retreat Center where he gives workshops combining Gestalt psychotherapy, Osho meditation techniques, philosophy and ceremonies of the Indians of North to create a growing space that goes far beyond personal growth or the pursuit of excellence, to the recovery of personal power, dignity and self respect.

About *Historias de la Sanadora Herida*

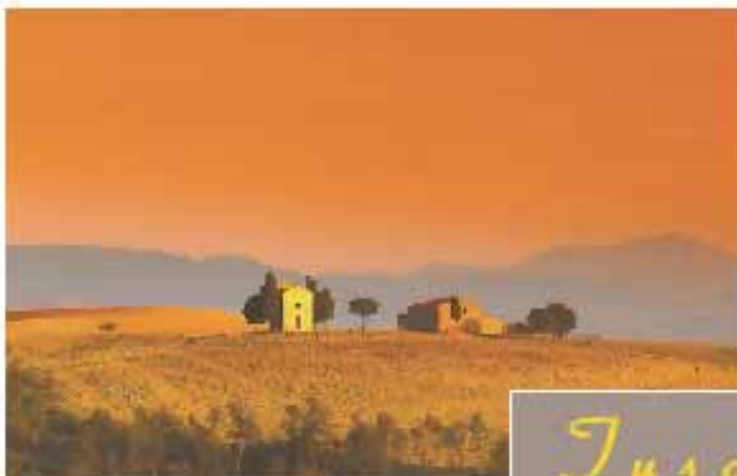
Historias de la Sanadora Herida is an extremely creative and innovative approach to teaching basic counseling skills built into the personal story of a remarkable woman who is a 29-year survivor of a terminal diagnosis. It has solid theory brought to life by true stories of people who have changed their lives by this profound work, including that of the author. It is also a highly readable and extraordinary look into the soul of a therapist at the exact moment she is working with her clients.

About Mariah Fenton Gladis

Mariah Fenton Gladis, MSS, QCSW, is the founder and clinical director of the Pennsylvania Gestalt Center for Psychotherapy and Training and is on the faculty of Esalen Institute. She serves on the Board of Advisors of Camp Dreamcatcher—a camp for children affected/infected with HIV/AIDS, and is faculty and trainer for Center for a Healthy World, a volunteer-driven psychotherapy cooperative. Mariah, a long-term survivor of Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS), also counsels people with life threatening illnesses and their families, hoping her personal story will serve as an inspiration.

For more information please contact: Ron Gladis, Pennsylvania Gestalt Center
 610-251-0945 pagestalt@comcast.net

<http://www.gestaltcenter.com> <http://wounded-healer.com>



Sometimes I've believed
as many as
six impossible things
before breakfast.
—Lewis Carroll

Tuscany 2010

A Workshop for Therapists and Therapy Friendly Adults

Treat yourself to a two-week Gestalt workshop in the rolling hills of Tuscan wine country

Nourish your spirit, mind & body

Find movement in your personal challenges with support.

Access your depths of creativity

Discover ways to increase your satisfaction in relationships

Find paths to self-acceptance and experiment with new ways of being

Explore your internal world

Enjoy wonderful Tuscan meals and sample the fruits of wine country

Shop in quaint, Tuscan hill towns

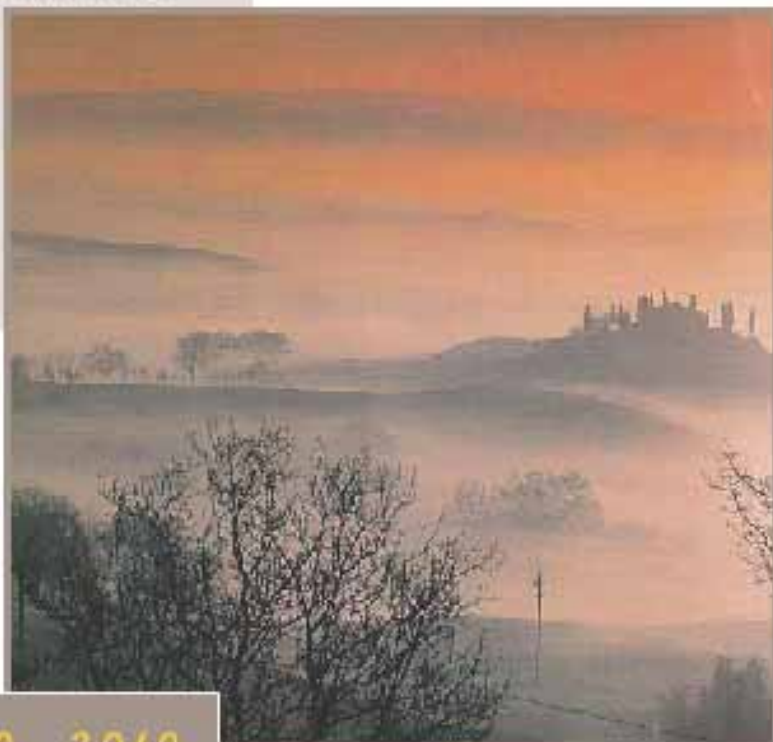
Presented by:

Mary Lou Schack, Ph. D.
Cathy Gray, LCSW

For Information Email:

mlschack@comcast.net
cathybgray@gmail.com

Sponsored by:
The Gestalt Therapy Institute of Philadelphia



October 17 – October 30, 2010

JOIN US for GTIP's 8th European Workshop at a villa in the southern hills of Tuscan wine country. Our workshop, enhanced by the inspirational and enchanting countryside will focus on developing your creativity in living and discovering deeper aspects of yourself using the experiential media of art, music, movement, and body as source of creative energy. You will learn more about Gestalt Therapy by working with and observing master Gestalt Therapists' work, and through discussion of our theory and ideas about the therapy process. We will explore our relational selves, and how we create ourselves as therapists, by attending closely to presence, style, energy and spontaneity. With support and a safe environment you will have the opportunity to explore your own creativity and to reawaken your unique talents.

On afternoons and days off, there will be time to get lost in the countryside; stumble upon charming trattorias; sample the simple, soulful food; learn a little Italian; and explore the steep, narrow streets of hill towns. Day trips to Florence, Rome, Siena and Assisi are possibilities, as are time off for contemplation and solitude.

As leaders, we bring our wisdom, our experience and training, our presence, our integration of body, mind and spirit, as well as our appreciation of the tremendous creativity in Gestalt therapy practice.

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS:

MARY LOU SCHACK, PH.D. is a clinical psychologist who has studied and practiced Gestalt therapy for over 40 years. She co-founded the Gestalt Therapy Institute of Philadelphia and the GTIP European workshops, and continues training and supervising therapists in the Philadelphia area. In her practice and her teaching, she remains committed to the idea that all persons contain the seeds for their own growth that await a nurturing and challenging environment to support their blossoming. Her current interests include the role of the body in traumatic anxiety, the forgiveness process, the process of mutuality in relationships, and the connection between intimacy and differentiation.

CATHERINE B. GRAY, MSS, LCSW has more than 35 years working with individuals and organizations, first as an organizational development consultant, and later as a psychotherapist. In her private practice Cathy works with individuals, couples, and groups and provides supervision to psychotherapists. Cathy has trained in improvisational movement, Mind-Body Centering, and Developmental Somatic Psychology. Her particular interests are in working with psychotherapists in becoming more embodied practitioners, and in supporting clients and therapists to be able to live more creative, spontaneous lives. Cathy is on the faculty and Board of Directors of the GTIP and is the president of the Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy, an international community.

Fill out & mail this REGISTRATION FORM with a check made payable to:

Gestalt Therapy Institute of Philadelphia

GESTALT THERAPY INSTITUTE OF PHILADELPHIA - P. O. Box 961 - Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-0961

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Daytime Ph: _____ Home Ph: _____ Cell: _____

Fee paid with registration? _____

To receive CEU certification, circle one: LSW LCSW PSY LMFT LPC GENERIC NURSING

Completed evaluation prior to departure is required to receive CEU credits. **Psychologists and nurses**, your license number is required.

Fee: **\$3400.00** US includes lodging, most meals, Workshop fee. Does not include transportation. Discounted fee of **\$3000.00** US if paid in full by Aug 30, 2010. Space is limited. A deposit of **\$800.00** US will hold your place. In the event of cancellation, fee will be refunded if we are able to fill your place. All fees are due by Sept. 30, 2010. CEU prep is \$20. Questions, call **Mary Lou Shack** at 610-388-2864 or email mlschack@comcast.net, or **Cathy Gray** at 610-667-4770 or e-mail cathybgray@gmail.com.

This session is co-sponsored by Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research for a maximum of 35 credit hours. Bryn Mawr College GSSWSR, as a CSWE accredited School of Social Work, is a pre-approved provider of continuing education for Social Workers in PA and many other states. GTIP is approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Psychology to offer 35 hours of continuing education for psychologists. GTIP maintains responsibility for the program. The Pennsylvania State Board of Psychology requires Psychology workshop participants to furnish their license number to receive a certificate of attendance. Contact hours for nurses offered by La Salle University School of Nursing & Health Sciences. La Salle University School of Nursing and Health Sciences is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the PA State Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.



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 2009-2010

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

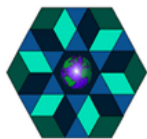
To PAY ON-LINE go to: <http://www.aagt.org>

TO PAY BY CHECK: Checks must be drawn on U.S. banks, made payable to AAGT. Mail check with this form to: Adam Weitz, AAGT Administrator, 31 Union Square West #10D, New York, NY 10003 USA or fax to Adam Weitz in the USA at 212-202-3974

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

Credit Card No. _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card _____ Signature: _____



AAGT An International Community

Charlie Bowman, Communication Officer
9292 N. Meridian Street #311
Indianapolis, IN USA 46260

YOUR AAGT NEWSLETTER IS HERE!

Communication Officer:
Charlie Bowman

Assistant Communication Officer
Brian Mistler

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!

- List yourself in the AAGT Directory
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- Join the AAGTMembers Listserv—An AAGT e-community (e-mail your request to aagtone@gmail.com)