

# AAGT

The Association for  
the Advancement of  
Gestalt Therapy

*An International Community*

News for  
AAGT  
Members

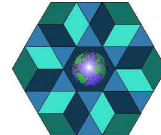
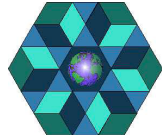
*Associating and Advancing*

## APRIL 2013



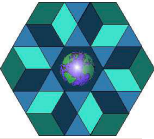
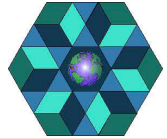
**Welcome to the ongoing experiment that is AAGT, an international community!**

Since the Newsletter is being distributed a couple of weeks late, some 'future' events have already taken place. Our Annual General Membership Meeting convened over this last weekend and we are excited to tell you that we will be sending out a special edition about it within a couple of weeks



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# Greetings from Gail Feinstein, President

Warm greetings, dear Colleagues,

Having recently returned from the Leader's Gathering Conference in Mati, Greece, I'm excited to share my experience with you.

We were a group of 40 gestalt leaders from around the world. Being part of this gathering was very powerful and empowering. I was so deeply moved by the depth of passion and commitment; intelligence and heart; creativity and accomplishment of my international colleagues. I was grateful that I was one of only a few Americans because one of my intentions in attending the conference was to gain a deeper, wider understanding of what it means to be part of an international community. I wanted to learn a more sensitive listening – a global awareness of being more attuned to the cultural relationships, especially the differences in addition to the common ground.

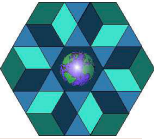
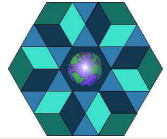
I was humbled to learn about what my colleagues in Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey, Czech Republik, Poland and many other places have been creating to grow gestalt. I was inspired to hear that a few Belgian and Dutch colleagues have started a training program in Nepal! They shared beautiful pictures and stories, bringing Nepal to us, as well. I love learning how gestalt is expanding out into the world even with many challenges; to hear how it is flourishing and thriving.

I felt thrilled and honored to be representing AAGT. I talked about our upcoming events and several people were enthusiastic to submit proposals for the 2014 conference. There also, was interest in hosting the 2016 conference by a couple of countries. They will submit proposals for the next venue.

And then, an interesting thing happened. When I introduced myself and spoke about AAGT, I was very deliberate to include our entire title, "Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy, An International Community." I received feedback along the lines of 'how presumptuous of us Americans to consider ourselves an international community'. This interested me greatly. Before AAGT added, 'An International Community', we were criticized by members of the organization for not being more inclusive.

This leads me to tell you about our upcoming Annual General Membership Meeting (AGM) on April 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> on beautiful Cape Cod at the Gestalt International Study Center in Massachusetts, USA. We will have the luxury of having seven hours on Saturday and four hours together on Sunday. This will give us an opportunity to deal with pertinent business as well as have small groups to explore and inquire: "What does it mean to be an international community?"; "what is our vision for the future?"; "how are we inspired to continue co-creating our organization?", and "what is essential to this community for its flourishing?".

The agenda and additional details can be found on our website [aagt.org](http://aagt.org). It includes saying goodbye to Cathy Gray as she leaves the vice presidency and welcoming Patricia Tucker in her new position as vice president. Our agenda is still open for suggestions. Please let us know if there is something that you would like to attend to. We welcome your input. We are working on some technological possibilities, like skypeing and live streaming. We will have a schedule posted on the website. Thus, we hope that you will be able to join us at the time of your interested topic.



## Greetings from Gail Feinstein, President

We are excited to be immediately following a ground breaking international Research Conference that we are co-sponsoring with the Gestalt International Study Center. They will be meeting from April 17<sup>th</sup> through April 20<sup>th</sup>. We hope that you will join us.

And now, pausing, I notice my breathing body and the appreciation for this community and being here with you. Each day I'm offered an opportunity to learn something new and deepen my self-understanding. I'm learning to see conflicts from different angles which helps to open up creative possibilities for resolving disagreements, to listen more sensitively, and to deal with complexities as well as to rely on my sensual experience differently due to the limitations of our mode of communicating.

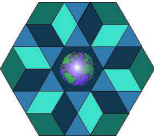
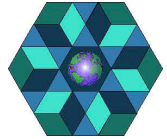
I am deeply grateful for the almost daily invitation to inhabit a new stance – a stance of uncertainty and not knowing. A stance of knowing that I can't please everyone all the time; a stance of knowing we're all in this together; a stance of pausing in the midst of the discomfort and messiness, not turning away, and opening to the next breath and the next moment; a stance of knowing that when we're in community, calling forth the depth and greatness of the other, we grow.

With deep appreciation,



**Watch for the Special Edition of the newsletter containing News of the Annual General Meeting and Research Conference being published in the coming 2 weeks!**





# Greetings From Patricia Tucker, President-Elect

## In Support of our Regions....



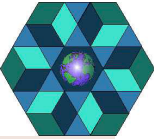
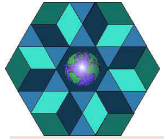
Just back from the wonderful, “Supporting the Whole” conference presented in Asheville, NC, USA by Anne Leibig and our SE-USA Region. Anne and the Appalachian Gestalt therapy Institute welcomed us to their community with open arms, warm hearts and lot of good ideas about Gestalt Therapy! Attending this conference as AAGT’s President-Elect inspired me to a greater appreciation for each of our Regions. Each year, many of our regions present conferences in areas around the globe each in their own way contributing to the overall advancement of the AAGT and of Gestalt Therapy! This year, Adam Kincl has done a terrific job as our Regional Contact Person’s Representative as we continue to develop our regions and the Regional Development Fund to allow more assistance to the regions from AAGT. I note that we have two regional conferences coming up soon: **AAGT- Mexico Regional Encounter, July 18-21st, 2013 in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico** and **The AAGT-SW Annual Conference in Los Angeles, USA, November 1-3, 2013** and I highly recommend them! Regional conferences are a wonderful way to connect with Gestaltists in smaller settings than our Biennial events. I encourage you to get involved by attending your regional conferences, talking with your area’s Regional Contact Person, becoming a Regional Contact Person and/or starting an annual or bi-annual conference in your own region if one does not yet exist.

I am also excited about the upcoming **Gestalt Research Conference, The Challenge of Establishing A Research Tradition for Gestalt Therapy, an International Conference**” which is being held at the **Gestalt International Study Center (GISC) in Wellfleet, MA, USA** from **Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**. Wow, research in Gestalt Therapy! This conference should really promote some new ideas and I am really looking forward to hearing them!

Immediately after the research conference, on **Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**, we will also hold **AAGT’s Annual Membership Meeting** at the **GISC**. We are thrilled to be able to use the GISC’s wonderful home in Cape Cod and to be able to join together to continue to co-create the ongoing experiment called the AAGT! See the full agenda on our website and make sure you contribute your ideas to us, even if you cannot be there in person. We want to include your ideas and thoughts! But we are very hopeful that many of you will be able to join us in person to participate!

It’s supposedly Springtime here in my part of the world, but I am still waiting for evidence! Wishing you a wonderful new Season wherever you are!

Patricia



# Greetings from newsletter editor, Alex Schlatterbeck

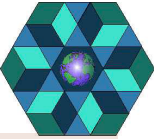
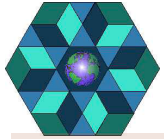
Welcome to another edition of the AAGT newsletter! In the last three months the AAGT has certainly been living up to its name of being an international community. These pages are filled with news from regional conferences in the US to the Leader's Conference in Greece to a workshop with Michael Clemmens in Sweden, amongst others. Furthermore the members' list serve has been buzzing with discussion about how best the email discussion group should serve the community: do we impose more structure? If so, what type of structure? This has arisen after a lot of interest and energy around the subject of a proposed social and ethics committee. It feels like energy and interest is building for the Annual AAGT Board Meeting where these topics and others will be discussed. All are welcome to join the meeting right after the Research Conference on Saturday April 20th and Sunday April 21st.



I know that in many parts of the world including the UK where I am, we are waiting for the Spring to arrive after a very long Winter. I get the impression that our community has been busy mobilising itself without waiting for the weather which is very inspiring. Here's to another colourful and exciting couple of months. Please share anything you have created or planning to create in your part of the world so that we can even more keenly this sense of international community and so that we can continue to learn from, participate with and grow from each other. After all as Perls, Hefferline and Goodman say:

*"It is impossible for anyone to be extremely happy until we are happy more generally. Yet if we get into contact with this terrible actuality, there exists in it also a **creative possibility**"*





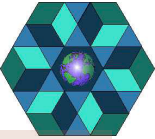
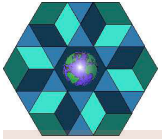
## Participation in Board Meeting Agenda

*The AAGT Board welcomes any feedback, questions, or issues raised by members. Members wanting to submit items to the Board can do so via the secretary, Rodney Cole. The items will be added to the agenda of the meeting, which is held on the last Sunday of every month. Rodney's email is*

[Rodney\\_Cole@hotmail.com](mailto:Rodney_Cole@hotmail.com)



[WWW.AAGT.ORG](http://WWW.AAGT.ORG)



## AAGT 2014 Conference: Call for Proposals!



**DEADLINE**

**EXTENDED**

The next AAGT biennial conference is from September 2-7, 2014 at Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds. The theme of AAGT's 2014 Conference, Exploring the Diversity of Gestalt Therapy, is intended to embrace all aspects of diversity in the approaches and practice of Gestalt Therapy. We hope that presenters' topics will range from a diversity of methodology and approaches, to Gestalt Therapy's understanding and inclusion of aspects of cultural diversity in both approach and practice.

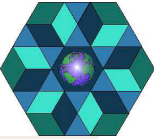
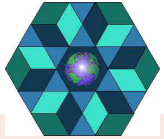
We encourage all types of program presentations – experiential workshops, demonstrations, standard lectures with discussion, pedagogical papers, innovative and creative presentations, student papers, and workshops on various dimensions of gestalt therapy applications. Proposals are welcome on mind-body connections, clinical practice, teaching and training, neuroscience, transpersonal dynamics, spiritual and religious experience, social justice and organizational change. Presentations may be theoretical, clinical, or experiential, introductory or advanced. They may be demonstrations, panels, video presentations, or discussions. Presentations will be selected by the Presentations' Committee following blind peer review.

Proposals are being accepted for four or eight hour pre-conference workshops and two hour conference programs. Please know that the online submission form must be completed all at once and changes cannot be made once it has been submitted.

**PROPOSALS ARE DUE BY September 1st, 2013**

To submit your proposal, go to: [www.aagt.org/  
conference/proposals/](http://www.aagt.org/conference/proposals/)





The **Scholarship Fund** currently has  
US \$ 13,627



- To encourage a growing community of diverse practitioners and students from all over the world to attend our conferences
- So that we can share and grow together

**We welcome your donation!**

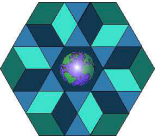
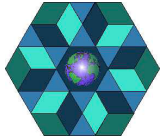
## AAGT RCPS

A group for the regional contact people of the Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy  
- An international community.

The **Regional Development Fund** currently has  
US \$1,563

**We welcome your donation!**

The **Research Fund** currently has  
US \$295



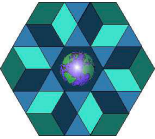
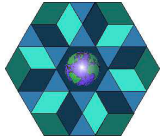
## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's that time again!

Membership renewal is May 1<sup>st</sup>

Sign up online at [www.aagt.org](http://www.aagt.org)





## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AAGT is constantly expanding in terms of numbers of members and areas of the world where these members live and work. We now have members in many different regions of the world, including Japan and the Philippines, South Africa, India, Australia, Europe, Russia, South America, the United States of America and Canada. According to our by-laws what constitutes a region is determined by geography and the interest among the membership. The regions can be formal or informal and have their own Regional Contact Persons.

The numbers of Gestalt practitioners in the different countries and their conditions of practice and the ease with which they can associate with each other differ. Some regions could do with support for the activities they organize to meet together and advance Gestalt therapy locally.

In recognition of this fact in March 2011 AAGT founded a Regional Development Fund (RDF) to offer financial support for such regional activities. The funds are intended for projects organized by regions and local Gestalt communities, but not by individuals.

Do you live in an area where Gestalt colleagues are few and far between and you have difficulty in meeting up with or perhaps even finding other people to exchange views and experiences or do further training with?

Would you like to organize a meeting yourself but hesitate in case you might not be able to cover the costs? Why not apply to the fund for a “seeding money” loan?

Moneys from the Regional Development Fund can be distributed in the form of either a loan or a grant. It is preferable if they can be paid back at some point, but AAGT realizes that this may not always be possible, or not possible in full.

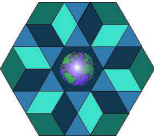
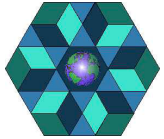
**Applications** can be made to the fund using the form provided on the AAGT website: <https://www.aagt.org/rcp/>

The RDF Committee meets to decide on applications 3 times a year on January 31, March 31 and September 30. Please keep this in mind when setting your event dates and submitting your applications.

**Donations** to the Regional Development Fund are also very welcome from anyone at any time. Please find the link to the donations form under “CONTRIBUTIONS” on the AAGT website: <https://www.aagt.org/contributions/>

For more information please visit the AAGT website or contact the RDF Committee via the link provided on the AAGT website





## AAGT/USA Southeast 6th Regional Conference *Supports the Whole* in Asheville North Carolina, March 22-24.

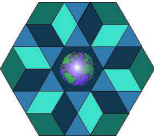
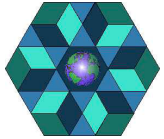
Anne Leibig, retiring USA Southeast Regional Contact Person, in her keynote address dedicated the conference to Laura Perls (1905-1990). Anne handed out the New York Times' obituary for Laura, a clear summary of her life. She quoted from Living at the Boundary by Laura Perls (edited by Joe Wysong; A Gestalt Journal Publication; 1992; Center for Gestalt Development, Highlands NY): "...The **boundary** is where I and the other meet. The **boundary** is really crucial in Gestalt Therapy. That is where awareness takes place. ...**Contact** is on the **boundary**, and in order to make **contact** with a really new, different **other** you have to have **support**. ... **Contact** can only be as good as **support** is available. **Support** is everything that one has assimilated and integrated."

Contact and Support were plentiful throughout the weekend among the thirty-six participants who attended the Appalachian springtime conference in cold weather threatening snow. People came from the southeastern states of Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida. AAGT's membership person, Maryanne Nichols, traveled from Toronto, Canada to present "Living Life through Nature: the Native American Approach to Living and How It Relates to Gestalt Therapy." Linda Curran from Philadelphia presented "Trauma Essentials and Gestalt Therapy." Patricia Tucker and Denise Campono from New York City were an AAGT presence, and facilitated a process group. The AAGT conferencing style of combining workshops, process groups, community meetings, and fun together in the evening was the form that encouraged the contact and support.



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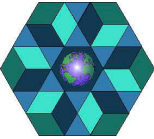
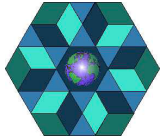
## **AAGT/USA Southeast 6th Regional Conference *Supports the Whole* in Asheville North Carolina, March 22-24.**

James Yates from Charlottesville Virginia accepted the USA Southeast Regional Contact Person role. James' workshop at the conference was "Invoking Allies: Building Support for Facilitating Contact." He trained at the Gestalt Institute of Cleveland and has over 20 years experience as a Gestalt therapist working with individuals and groups in private practice. His primary focus is life transitions. Motivated by an illness in the family, he is creating a holistic model, *Survive and Thrive*, for laypersons to make the shift from passive consumers to active participants in their health care.

The Appalachian Gestalt Therapy Institute (AGTI) and the Gentle Bio-energetic Institute co-hosted with the Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy. AGTI's Nicholas Emmanuel and Madelon Clark led an introduction to Gestalt Therapy workshop while Bryan Dieterich facilitated "Gestalt as Ecotherapy: The World Outside the Office." Patsy Owens "fed the hungry" providing abundant and delicious refreshments. Sandra Tompkins of the Gentle Bio-Energetics Institute led "Discovering the Roots of Trauma with the Trauma Life Line," as well as administering and registering. Dina Miller, AAGT's continuing education officer was not physically present but offered her energies in designing the sign in sheets, registration and evaluation forms.

As Jack Mulgrew from Boone North Carolina closed the gestalt of the conference, more than a dozen people volunteered to "do it again next year." Anne rejoiced at letting go of the leadership role and knowing that others will continue co-creating and connecting in the Southeast USA.

**Watch for the Special Edition of the newsletter containing News of the Annual General Meeting and Research Conference coming in the next 2 weeks!**



## Leadership Gathering Meeting for Gestalt Institutes, Trainers and Leaders

As an invited facilitator, I had the privilege of attending this stimulating and diverse gathering of gestalt leaders from Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republik, Denmark, Hungary, Israel, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, Poland, Turkey, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

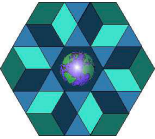
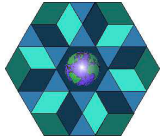
We met in Mati, Greece, the resort area of Athens at a modest hotel on the sea, where we could take brisk walks near the water and clear our lungs from the smoke filled hotel!! I learned that Greece is one of the few countries that continues to allow smoking in public places. Perhaps, we were fortunate that it was not yet 'season' at our hotel.

The gathering was well organized into Discussion groups of 8-12 people where attendees signed up for two meetings on either *Leadership, Ethics & Quality Control, Gestalt in a Social, Organizational & Political Field, or Supervision, Training & Teaching*, alternating with choices for participating in groups on *Accreditation and Licensure, Research & Writing, The Business of Institutes, or Curriculum* for two meetings. Each time these smaller discussion groups were debriefed in the larger community. In addition, there were plenary presentations carrying the theme of leadership by Yona Weiss, of Israel, who presented a case on bereavement in a group setting, and by Brenda Levien of New Zealand on life after earthquake trauma.

Before dinner each day we met in 'home groups' to process our experience. We enjoyed our meals together in small groups, getting to know one another in different ways and often laughing together. In the evenings we continued to enjoy ourselves by singing songs from all countries, and relaxing together. Saturday night we were included by the local Greeks in traditional dancing in the lounge! What fun!

The conveners, Joe Melnick (USA), Talia Levine Bar-Yoseph (Israel), Gro and Daan Skotten (Norway) and Marit Maridtboe (Norway) did a masterful job of organizing a much needed, heartfelt gathering, setting the ground for exploration of deeper issues. I left with ideas of how to reorganize the curriculum at my training institute, and with a heightened sense of what it means to be an ethical leader in a training institute.

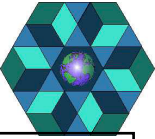
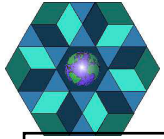
With appreciation,  
Marlene Blumenthal



## Leadership Gathering Meeting for Gestalt Institutes, Trainers and Leaders







## News from Sweden - Michael Clemmens Workshop

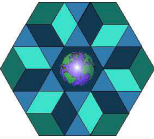
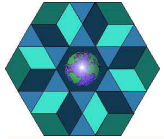
In beginning of March me and my colleagues at the Centre for Relational Gestalt psychotherapy in Sweden organised a workshop with Michael Clemmens in Stockholm. The interest was big – within a month more than 30 gestalt therapists and students had signed up and we ended up with a group of 40! Although the group was big, together we managed to create an intimate space that allowed for exploration, sharing and lots of fun and community building experiences. The topic was “The Embodied Relational Field”. It has been quite some time since an international trainer visited Sweden for an open workshop like this. But, inspired by the interest generated by this event, and by the wish to create a space for dialogue around contemporary gestalt, relational perspectives and cultural differences, we will continue to organise open workshops. The next one will be in November 2013 with Margherita Spagnoulo Lobb “The Now-for –Next in Gestalt Therapy: From Individualistic Perspective to the Situational Field”. We are also grateful that Jean Marie-Robine will visit Stockholm in April 2014 and teach about “The Id of the Situation”.

Helena Kallner

[helena@relationalgestalt.se](mailto:helena@relationalgestalt.se)







# Mexico Regional/National Conference

## July 18th - 21st

Dear All-

Here in Mexico, we are feeling the excitement of our upcoming regional/national conference in Guadalajara –July 18-21st! We have had a great response from the national Gestalt community, with institutes from north to south getting ready to join together and share what we do and who we are. This is a fabulous opportunity for us to grow and integrate as a national community, and we would also love to have to have YOU come back down to Mexico for a visit and to share with us in sunny Guadalajara! We are currently looking at having about 200-300 people at the event, and have about 80% Mexican national participation so far. Remember- this will still be a FULLY bilingual event, so don't be shy!

For fun, we will be running DRY evening events- Author's Night, followed by masterfully run large-group Gestalt Dynamics on Friday, and Dinner, dancing and karaoke on Saturday! There is nothing quite like a night of singing among friends in Mexico!

Our lovely, centrally located hotel venue is a comfortable starting point for anyone who wants to do some touring around very safe and tourist-friendly Guadalajara, and we have a small but very dedicated Organizing Committee and a great Tour Company to help you out with anything from air travel to the little details.

Don't miss this great chance to dive deep into Mexico's Gestalt culture and the warm, wonderful people who make it what it is!

**[Gestalt2013.com](http://Gestalt2013.com)**

Your Organizing Committe, GDL 2013.

Queridos todos,

Aquí en México, estamos viviendo la emoción de nuestra próxima conferencia regional / nacional en Guadalajara de julio de 18 al 21! Hemos tenido una gran respuesta de la comunidad nacional Gestalt, con institutos de norte a sur a punto de unirse y compartir lo que hacemos y lo que somos. Esta es una fabulosa oportunidad para crecer e integrarnos como una comunidad nacional, también nos gustaría tenerte entre nosotros compartir con nosotros en la soleada Guadalajara! En estos momentos estamos buscando tener alrededor de 200-300 personas en el evento, y tenemos aproximadamente un 80% de participación mexicana hasta ahora. Recuerda que este seguirá siendo un evento totalmente bilingüe, así que no seas tímido!

Para la diversión, tenemos la "noche del autor", seguido magistralmente por una gran dinámica de grupos Gestalt el viernes y la cena, baile y karaoke el sábado! No hay nada como una noche de karaoke entre amigos en México!

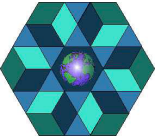
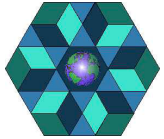
Nuestro hotel es un lugar precioso, céntrico, y cómodo punto de partida para cualquier persona que quiera hacer un poco de turismo en Guadalajara, y tenemos un comité organizador pequeño, pero muy dedicado así como una gran agencia de viajes para ayudarte con cualquier cosa relacionado a transporte aéreo y los pequeños detalles.

No te pierdas esta gran oportunidad de profundizar en la cultura Gestalt de México y la calidez de la gente, tan maravillosa que lo hacen ser lo que es!

**[Gestalt2013.com](http://Gestalt2013.com)**

El Comité Organizador, GDL 2013.





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**Intensive 8 hours pre-encounter  
workshops  
Thursday, July 18 th**

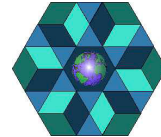
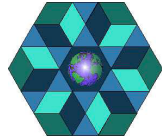
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*The Gestalt Institute of Cleveland's (GIC) mission is to enhance the awareness and skills essential to building authentic relationships and powerful, positive change in individuals, groups, organizations and communities.*

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

### **Gestalt Couples Therapy with Trauma Survivors**

Trauma survivors struggle with affect regulation and safe emotional engagement. This workshop will highlight specific insights, strategies and interventions to help both individuals and the system become skilled in processing emotions, developing a secure connection, and developing steps in coping with and integrating traumatic events.

**Karen Tomoff, LPCC-S & Martina Moore, MA**

**May 23**

### **Leveraging Polarities in Coaching**

#### **Tapping the Power of "both/and" When Client Interests Conflict**

What happens when clients view difficult situations or dilemmas only as problems to be solved? Some situations, issues, and problems are not always "solvable" in the traditional sense; they are interdependent energy systems or polarities that require "both/and" thinking. Gestalt theory has historically acknowledged polarity tensions and has evolved to include the Polarity Map and process—a vital competency needed by coaches, consultants, and other helping professionals. This workshop provides coaches with a powerful tool and process to enhance their skills and tap into the inherent power of conflicting interests.

(ICF Accredited)

**Barry Johnson, PhD & W 'Cliff' Kayser SPHR, MSHR/MSOD**

**June 6-7**

### **Team Coaching**

Creating and sustaining dynamic and effective teams is essential to organizational success. Over the years there have been many ways of assisting teams to increase their satisfaction and performance; team building, team facilitation and group process consultation being the more popular approaches. Most recently, team coaching is being promoted as a best practice for increasing a team's satisfaction and performance. This workshop explores the principles and tools needed to coach a team using Gestalt and group theory as a guide for observations and interventions.

(ICF Accredited)

**Juliann Spoth, PhD & John Griffin, PhD**

**June 23-25**

### **Gestalt Experiences in Relational Power: Legal & Ethical Considerations**

Utilizing experiential activities, we will explore the legal and ethical professional standards in relation to power differentials and imbalances in teacher-student, counselor-client, therapist-patient and supervisor-supervisee relationships. We will provide an integrated perspective that combines Gestalt therapy theory with social construction and post-modern theories to better understand ways in which power differentials can undermine learning environments, motivation to change and possibilities for growth and development.

**Ansel Woldt, EdD & Logan Lamprecht, PhD**

**June 14**

### **Gestalt Marathon:**

#### **A Day-Long Experiential Group for Personal and Professional Development**

This group experience engages participants in holistic, present-centered and process-oriented interactions by attending to both 'What is being said' and 'What's not being said'. By our attending to the 'Here and Now', 'I—Thou', and 'What and How' awareness and contact, participants will have the opportunity to experience authenticity and integrity in their personal and professional living. Participants will enjoy a day away from the usual and learn to be spontaneous in exploring creative alternatives for their lives.

**Ansel Woldt, EdD & Logan Lamprecht, PhD**

**June 29**

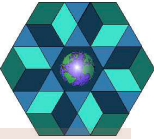
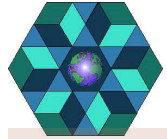
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# LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

## 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summer European Residential Programs

### *Couples Therapy Training Workshop: July 7 – 13, 2013*

The Couples Program has two levels of training – Basic and Advanced – and offers participants an opportunity to see experienced Couples Therapists (Bob and Rita Resnick) present their model of couples therapy and work live with model couples. Participants will work “hands on” with role-play or model couples with live supervision from faculty.

### *Gestalt Therapy Training Workshop: July 14 – 26, 2013*

The Gestalt Program has five levels of training from Basic to Master Class and includes the option of daily individual therapy as well as daily theory lectures, practice in trios and quartets and the opportunity to see International faculty work and relate clinical work to theory. Opportunity to work with live faculty supervision.

These two training programs take place in the elegant Art Nouveau Grand Hotel Union in the heart of the old city of Ljubljana with the river at its doorstep and cafes and musicians spilling onto the river banks. Think of Ljubljana as a mini Prague with music festivals and incredible architecture.

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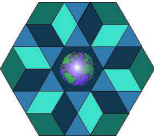
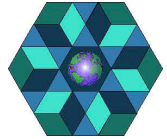
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## AAGT PROCESS GROUPS

*The following has been put together by from Perry Klepner's online training for Process Group Facilitators and includes an edited version of a private communication between Carl Hodges and Perry Klepner.*

PROCESS GROUPS are a unique Gestalt Therapy approach to conferencing. They are an integral part of AAGT Conferences and have an important function in the conference as a whole. They consist of small groups of ten to twelve participants with two facilitators and provide a place for people to think and feel how they are responding to the conference. These groups meet throughout the conference. The space for processing the conference experience supports the development of the conference community.

### A BRIEF HISTORY

Process groups were a development from Richard Kitzler and Carl Hodges, coming out of Richard's background in group dynamics, training, and work with Amtrak employees, and from Carl's background and experiences at A.K.Rice (Tavistock) Conferences in which there were plenaries, community events, small group meetings, review groups, application groups, etc.

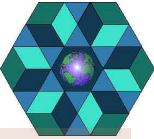
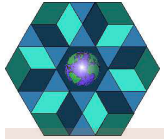
The review groups were created in order to "provide opportunities for the members to examine their experience of the various roles that they take within the conference" They were first used at, the 1991 New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy "Gestalt Approaches to Group Conference" in New York City, which was organized by Bud Feder and Ruth Ronall. For this Richard Kitzler and Carl Hodges enlisted and trained group leaders from persons attending the conference, principally members of the NYIGT. Their goal was to develop a gestalt therapy approach to conferencing grounded in gestalt therapy theory and practice.

Carl Hodges provides insight into their thinking as follows: "We had noticed for years that some of the most exciting chewing and interaction occurring at Gestalt Conferences was when people met over lunch (or drinks) and talked about their experiences at the conference.

We wondered if we could create a space where that energy could be shared more formally and brought back into the conference as a whole. That way the conferees could begin to shape and help form an on-going conference, an emerging Gestalt.

For the 1991 Gestalt Approaches to Group Conference we began to look at Conference-as-field/whole, where the small groups are seen as parts containing and working on issues and dynamics belonging to and important for the whole. At first they were called "focus groups", but we eventually saw that our groups had more to do with "process". Our process groups are a "microcosm", and hold vital information for the whole". (Private communication, October 14, 2010)"

The approach of using small and large groups to integrate experiential process requirements and task objectives, were also utilized in group meetings held from 1989–95 during which AAGT was organizing and growing. Process groups were then instituted at the AAGT's inaugural conference in 1995 and have been a valued aspect of all subsequent AAGT conferences.



## New Edition of InnerSense: A Journal of Spiritual Life

### Volume 3 number 1

In this edition of InnerSense Seán Gaffney completes the trilogy of articles for InnerSense with Still...On My Way; Anne Mclean describes the wider gestalt that makes up our life from beginning to end; Kerry Shipman writes of the importance of beliefs; Yaro Starak suggests the spirit of gestalt therapy is in danger of dying in Australia; there is a chapter from the upcoming book by Brian O'Neill The Tao of Gestalt: Poetry, Creativity and the Rediscovery of the Child which connects Perls, Hefferline and Goodman (1951) with creativity and recollection of the child; and Jase Hodson writes of his experience as a counsellor and priest with those who have died and the importance of understanding and being in this space with them. There is also poetry by Yaro Starak, Anne Maclean, Vivienne Barnett, Stella Green, Ulli Radtke, Gunarnava and Vishalini (Linda and Graham Foward), and Tine C. van Wijk.

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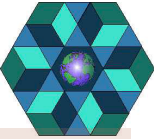
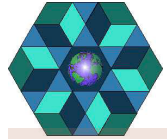
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## New books at Illawarra Gestalt

# Gestalt Group Therapy: A Practical Guide 2nd Edition

by Bud Feder with a Foreword by Peter Cole

"Gestalt Group Therapy is a profoundly human endeavor. Its practice touches every corner of the human condition. Bud Feder traverses this territory with a light touch and a gentle humor. But make no mistake, the territory he maps can be as treacherous as it can be rewarding, and the advice he shares is hard won from a lifetime of entering into the mysteries, surprises and challenges of the practice of Gestalt Group Therapy. Bud brings a unique perspective to his work with groups – one that integrates a deeply democratic sensibility with an appreciation for the judicious exercise of the leader's authority. This integration helps bring the best of the gestalt therapy tradition into the realm of interactive, process-oriented group work promoting dialogical relationships among all group participants, members and leaders." Peter Cole

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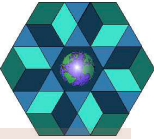
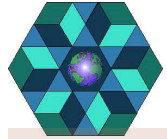
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## New books at Illawarra Gestalt

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#### The Gestalt Field Perspective: Methodology and Practice

By Seán Gaffney and Brian O'Neill Foreword by Malcolm Parlett

In this book, the authors do what I think is most essential for our discipline. They describe the perspective but do not get too caught up in the (at present) unfathomable aspects; nor do they get absorbed in theory to the detriment of talking about practice – indeed, application is their chief focus to which they return again and again. They draw upon the field perspective, they utilise it, and explore its ideas in practical, useful, intelligent ways. They have both made historic contributions in applying their gestalt skills to social and political issues, and made a difference.

This book is solidly in the tradition of the original gestalt therapy founding group in New York, with their wide and ambitious view of the potential for gestalt thought and practice to make a difference, not only to peoples' personal lives and relationships, but to their working and artistic engagement in the community, to educating the young, and to raising political consciousness. I applaud the authors here for taking further steps towards reinstating these values as central to the gestalt tradition. ( Malcolm Parlett)

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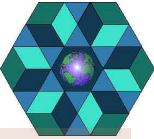
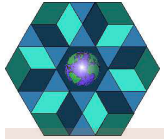
#### The Nobel Quest: Psychotherapy and the Holy

by Brian O'Neill

Since the beginning of time people have developed knowledge to make sense of who we are and the world we live in. The ancient forms of psychology (as in the original meaning of the study of the 'psyche' or soul) included the visible and invisible aspects of reality - unlike the current split today between secular and spiritual, between the visible and the invisible which proliferates in Western culture. Most modern psychologies, by attending mainly to the visible world, have focused on that which will fade and die - the visible. The ancient psychologies began in the visible realm and included the invisible beyond external appearance. These approaches are seen by modern psychologists as religions or spiritual practices. Yet ancient psychologies were simply broader and more holistic, discovering the source of the visible world in the invisible world. They discovered the Holy and for many this Holy is God.

This is the aim of this book. To tell the story of the loss of the Holy in psychology and regain this experience, as it is happening today. To make whole the visible and invisible realities currently divided. It offers a journey of exploration to discover a golden thread of the wider reality that makes us essentially human. This wider reality helps in understanding and healing the unavoidable sufferings of being human.

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# The Tao of Gestalt: Poetry, Creativity and the Rediscovery of the Child

by Brian O'Neill Foreword Seán Gaffney

This book accentuates poetry creativity and the spirituality of the Tao as aspects of the organism/environment field in general and Gestalt therapy in particular. This is in accord with the early founders of gestalt therapy who seek to further the recollection of childhood as "some of the most beautiful powers of adult life that must be recovered: spontaneity, imagination, directness of awareness and manipulation." and embrace a "unitary approach". By being present to the emergent creation of the field with the recovered faculties of children and artists we work and live creatively and authentically in the present moment.

"In ideal circumstances the self does not have much personality. It is the sage of Tao that is 'like water,' assuming the form of the receptacle."

(Perls, Hefferline and Goodman  
1951, pg 427)

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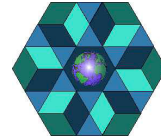
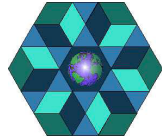
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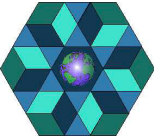
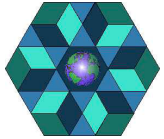
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### Publication Guidelines:

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.

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