



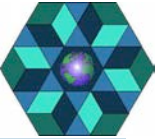
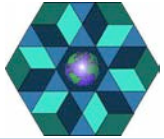
Associating and Advancing

SPECIAL EDITION THE AAGT AGM



....And The Research Conference, Cape Cod, USA

MAY 2013

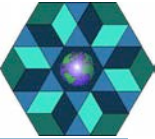
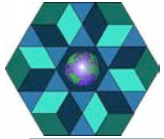


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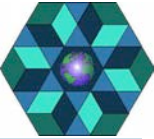
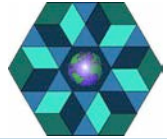
First International Gestalt Research Conference Gestalt International Study Center April 2013





Images of Cape Cod and The Gestalt International Study Centre





Report From Gail Feinstein, President

(Please note: this writing of the AGM is my perspective and experience and only includes some of the highlights of the meeting.)

Cape Cod is dear to my heart. It is a beautiful place – bay on one side, ocean on the other with lots of beaches and sand dunes in between. Nature and its wildness surrounds us. We are guests here, hopefully taking care in how we inhabit our host's home. The soft pink lighting invites us into an even more intimate relating.

This is an ideal setting for the Gestalt International Study Center (GISC). It looks and feels like it was created and built in this collaborative spirit with nature and the environment. It is light and spacious, inside and out, with lovely gardens framing the center and set into the sandy woods. Everything is fresh, budding and blooming.

It is a privilege to be here, accepting GISC's gracious offer to use their home for our gathering. The Annual General Membership Meeting (AGM) immediately follows the ground-breaking Research Conference. We are uplifted by the excitement, the energy and the enlivened presence of the participants after they've engaged for several days together. The awakening of spring is inside too!

The transitioning goes smoothly. There are 20 of us - mostly Board members, some folks lingering from the conference and a couple of members that live locally. We meet in the large room with lots of windows, sitting in a circle off to one side so we can hear each other better.

After the 'Welcoming', Al Wong reads the Covenant of Community (CoC) in a slow, mindful manner, creating breathing space and an ease of being. Ahhh, being and breathing together; and seeing each other. I'm feeling the goodness and pleasure of being here, face to face, flesh to flesh. We pause now, receiving the intention of our beautiful covenant and allowing it to flow through.

We have 11 hours together. We let the luxury of time seep into the tone, pace and rhythm with ease and spaciousness. We are curious about what we might discover and create together.

Reports from each department are presented. When a Board representative is absent, a newcomer is invited to read his/her report. It is thrilling to hear all the work and goings on of the organization.*

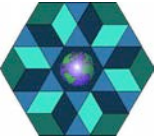
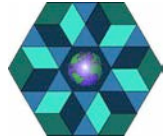
Cathy Gray leads us adeptly in the Election process.*

Over the last several months, the purpose and function of our Scholarship Fund has been challenged and explored. The following motion was presented and consensed:

"Whereas, the role of Scholarship Officers serving on the Board of Directors, "Scholarship" is therefore Constitutionally par and parcel of the broader organization and functioning of the Association. Therefore, both organically and functionally, this means that scholarships be expanded to finance participation at AAGT events: biennial, regional and research conferences and the annual general membership meeting. The allocation of funds among events and direct monies and seed monies is to be determined by the scholarship committee and with the approval of the AAGT Board."

We're excited about the expansion of the fund and how it will support the entire community.

The Ethics and Social Justice*: – (As you know, this discussion has been on the table since our last conference in Mexico.) I notice my shortened breath and quickened heartbeat – some anticipatory excitement with perhaps, a bit of apprehension of how we will hold and handle this dialogue. Patricia Tucker facilitates this discussion with precision and care. We come to each other with interest and curiosity. Our values of openness to consensual process and inclusiveness are engaged. This is especially highlighted when three members abstain. Someone inquires, "Why are you abstaining?" Others are curious, too.



CONTINUED, Gail Feinstein

We take the time to listen, explore and dialogue. The direction changes. We hold the authentic integrity of who we are and who we are becoming. Did this really just happen? Did we not move on because of pressure of time? Did we really pause here and pay attention to the differences, especially when there is potential for conflict and challenges? Yes, and we hold them with spaciousness and breath and with the space of possibility for the organization, for each other. We speak from a place of deep relatedness as everyone's contribution is acknowledged and valued.

The theme of the AGM is "Exploring Our International Community". Since the beginning of AAGT, this has been an interest of the community. When we weren't saying "international", we were criticized for not being inclusive. And then, when we say "international" we are judged for being presumptuous. This is interesting to the group.

We have members throughout the world. That may make us international but doesn't make us an international community. We inquire, "what does it mean to be an international community?"

We lean into this inquiry. With a deep sense of caring and attentiveness, our collective exploration recognizes that we are young and growing into being and becoming an "international community" and we still have lots of growing to do. Now, with "international" being a vivid figure in our foreground, we are opening our awareness and deepening into a more sensitive listening. There is much to explore and learn, certainly to be continued. We are inspired and propelled forward creating several next steps – e.g. opening ceremony at the Asilomar Conference, setting up an interest group, continuing discussion on the membership listserv.

We begin this discussion toward the end of the day on Saturday. There is so much enthusiasm, we decide to work through our break before dinner. Everyone comes to dinner at a lovely local restaurant by the water. The meal is delicious and the lively, intimate engagement from the day continues.

We begin our Sunday morning early and promptly for there are some that need to get on the road to make their flights.

A proposal for the 2016 conference is presented by Cathy Gray. It is an idea, not yet an invitation, by EAGT to have a joint conference. We will know if it is an official offer after their conference in September. This proposal creates excitement and lots of questions.

It is time to say "good bye" to Cathy, as immediate past president/vice president. Fortunately, for us, she is interested in staying on the Board and will continue as "Board Member at Large". I feel honored and privileged to be acknowledging her and to be the one following in her footsteps. She has been a great teacher for me. She has lead us with grace, rigor, wisdom, kindness, inclusiveness, elegance, heart, effectiveness, warmth, deep relatedness, a sense of humor and joy. We thank her many times over and express our deep gratitude.

And now, we welcome Patricia as she shifts from president-elect to vice president. I'm excited to continue collaborating with her. She has exhibited great initiative, clarity and wisdom already. I'm excited to see what's to come. She is welcomed with great enthusiasm and applause.

The meeting is an expression of great artistry. It is a perfect integration of taking care of business, deep embodied relational engagement as we attend to process, being respectful, kind and warm and actually having fun. We are walking in the world in a deeply related way; growing and expanding as a community.

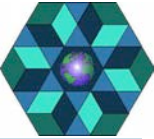
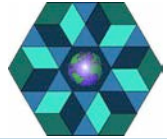
As we continue to engage, we deepen into a sense of integration and embodiment. We lean in towards the future with excited anticipation for the possibilities present for growth and expansion. We are evoking each other to bloom, inspiring each other into new possibilities.

I am in awe and in deep gratitude.

With appreciation and love,

Your president, Gail

*for further details, please see the minutes on our website aagt.org



The Accidental Attendee: My Experience of the Annual

I am an AAGT member who had never previously attended an AAGT Annual General Meeting (AGM). I was, in many ways, only accidentally there. I had just been at the Gestalt Research Conference which was held immediately prior and decided, what the heck, to stay the extra day. I did not know what to expect. I had received the lovely email flyer a month earlier and actually thought that I would have to pay to participate in the meeting. There had been no price listed on the Meeting Invitation, and I had presumed that its absence was a signifier of exclusion. *If you have to ask, you probably can't afford it.* At least so my thinking went. I eventually got the gumption up to ask, however, and was surprised to find that there was no charge.

The Research Conference which I had just participated in had left me spent. It had been exciting but exhausting at the same time. The Research Conference was packed full to the brim and, truth to tell, I could probably have used some downtime. However, equally true, was the fact that by attending the AGM, I feel I got the opportunity to witness *living process* as demonstrated by true masters of the craft. It was a genuine privilege to sit with such an impressive, heartfelt group of people gathered together in the service of a common cause. It was a small group, but the people gathered were, as would soon become apparent, giants of presence, thoughtfulness, and being.

I will not go into the details or the *content* of what was covered. I imagine that this will be discussed elsewhere within this newsletter update. What I will say, however, is that the *process* whereby the content was addressed was remarkable and deeply congruent with the underlying principles of this community.

I share two moments:

Snapshot #1

"I can't hear very well." Alan raises his hand and points at his hearing aid. "It's my deal, my problem, it doesn't have to do with anybody else –"

"I disagree," says Marlene. "It's not your problem. It's our problem."

An excluded other reaches out and makes contact. The group embraces him, assimilates him. The feeling of community grows.

Snapshot #2

Two people abstain on a vote on how to phrase a proposed constitutional change. The group listens to their concerns with attention and compassion. Silence. Suddenly, out of the space of not knowing, a new figure emerges. A discovery. The perfect phrase.

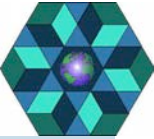
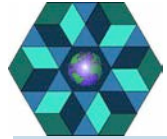
Moments of impasse. Moments of breakthrough. Respect for the dialogic process. Honesty and aliveness.

This is what it is – the unfolding of a collaborative, messy, but gloriously beautiful experiment.

Thank you for allowing me to be a small part of it. To see you walk the talk. Thank you for shepherding the community and the spirit of gestalt for all of us.

With kind regards,

Al Wong



AAGT AGM - The Democracy Project

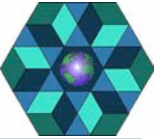
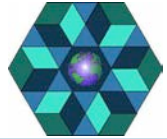
What struck me most at the AGM was the welcoming and the listening we all had to one another. The way we constantly reminded people to speak louder and clearer when it was barely audible. The way people who had just spoken were first acknowledged by the next speaker for the value of their contribution. And only then was he exposing his own feelings. The cooling and the spicing of our bits of humour... I was touched by how we were caring to each other while still committed to expressing ourselves. And proud of what we achieved through the whole process.

More personally, because I felt the atmosphere supportive enough, I could express myself more than usual in a group of American people and be fully involved in the solution we were seeking. In fact I felt so closely related to what happened that I was almost surprised to get all what was said. As if I were myself a fluent English speaker, a true part of this group!... Really a new feeling for me in a foreign country. Being, let's say, a little bit of an American in some way... And people listening to me, with interest and curiosity, finding my contribution was valuable! All that was a great part of the pleasure I had during this meeting.

Thus - at the end of the day - I feel that the question "What is it for AAGT to be an international association/community?" was met there, at least through the kind of process we shared. It needs for the AAGT to be an international community to create more occasions for people to meet through this kind of process: collaborating deeply and actively to set up what we want to do together. Which means processing actively - and in a coherent fashion with our human expectations toward each other - to establish a common ground of values and valuable goals we would like to achieve. But the process at the meeting (AGM) was clear: led by Gail, supported by Cathy who reported constantly on paper the names of the next people willing to speak. And supported by all the people involved.

Maybe you have already started to understand why I was so glad to be part of the AGM: the reason is we were breathing a nice anarchist perfume. Unlike the USA, European societies ask for security and impose it meanly instead of praising freedom. And fear has already penetrated our Gestalt Associations... I do feel we are all acting in an international struggle for human dignity and true democracy. And what supported and challenged me all along my travel and the days spent in Cape Cod was my reading of David Graeber's book "The Democracy Project". It's spirit was perfectly attuned to what happened there! I wish our association the best !

Vincent Beja



Report From Patricia Tucker, Vice - President

I've been learning a lot about the AAGT since last May in Puebla when I became President-elect! Now, I was on my way to the Annual General Membership Meeting where I was to become Vice-President. After a year of listening in on our monthly board conference calls (and once in a while adding my 2 cents), figuring out who's who on the Board, studying the Constitution, by-laws and Covenant of Community, and trying to follow the list-serve as much as possible, I felt that I had some small grasp of what we are all about at AAGT. Still, as I approached Cape Cod (in Massachusetts, USA) and the Annual General Meeting, I was nervous! Would I feel that I know these folks (who are often disembodied voices on a conference call) once we could meet in person or would they seem to be strangers? Would they be comfortable with me or feel that I am still a bit of an outsider? Would I understand what the important issues were at the AGM? Would I be able to present my ideas clearly? Would I push too hard for resolution of issues without being mindful enough of the process? And, what did it mean, exactly, to be AAGT Vice-President?

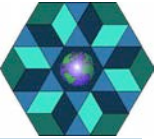
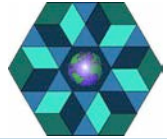
As soon as I arrived, though, I looked around the room and breathed a deep sigh of relief. "Oh yeah, I remember these people now," I thought, "I can be with them and we can figure things out together". The good-will and thoughtfulness of our Board, as well as the non-Board members who joined us, was undeniable. Once again I was, and continue to be, in awe of the work that our Board does and to be humbled by the sheer amount of work and struggle that they engage in, entirely on a volunteer basis of course, in order to keep AAGT not only alive, but thriving. Please check out the minutes on-line to see reports of many of our Board members activities around the globe!

During the meeting, I was pleased to be able to present to the Board the list of ideas and suggestions on adding a social justice/ethics piece to the Covenant of Community. I hope that I presented a fair representation of what everyone said in the discussion and on the List of Ideas developed on our member's list-serve. We had quite a fruitful discussion on this and, separating the content into two parts, we looked at both the question of whether to add to the CoC our focus on and commitment to working towards social justice and the issue of how to proceed when any member feels that the CoC has been violated. Within this second part, we discussed whether or not we felt that there should be a more specific "ethical code" we would want to promote for our members and/or whether there should be a specific strategy or process by which members could address "violations" of the CoC.

After much discussion, we DID, by consensus, adopt this new paragraph to be added to the Covenant of Community:

"Moreover, we will undertake, in whatever way emerges through our experience with the larger field to support the purpose and ethical values of our community, which include the human worth and dignity of every person. In this way, we declare our commitment to equality and social justice among persons within our community and in the wider, external community".

I'd like to briefly acknowledge here the work of the Ethics Study Group and specifically Joe DePaula and Zelda Friedman, in creating the first draft of this addendum to the CoC – this was so valuable to us as we continued to "chew on it" and change it together!



Continued, from Patricia

We also decided NOT to create a specific ethical code or set of ethical imperatives (or even suggestions), as there was consensus that we did not wish to consider ourselves to be the arbiters of the behavior of our profession, or even of our members. We DID decide to add a paragraph to the Covenant of Community addressing what course of action towards resolution a member may take if they believe that the Covenant of Committee has been violated and they wish to address this in a structured and supported way. A committee has been formed to draft the specific language about this to be added to the CoC in the near future.

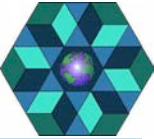
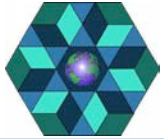
It was inspiring to be part of these conversations! To see all of our groundwork and preparation come together in a way that felt inclusive of different ideas and passions and was respectful of these differences between us, was a unique experience that made me glad to be part of AAGT as it continues to grow and thrive. I left feeling very hopeful about our continually changing and developing community, and excited to see what will emerge next!

The theme of this AGM was on the meaning of our Internationality and the central question posed was, "What does it mean for AAGT to be 'an international community?'" Of course, this is a question whose answer is also changing and developing as our membership changes and as we all continue to think and talk together about what this question means both in theory and viewpoint, and also in practice. For me, the essence of becoming truly international is inclusiveness. Inclusiveness of ideas, of differences, of cultural preferences and cultural meanings, and of attempting to be ever inclusive of those aspects of 'field' that some of us might be likely to become unaware of at times such as differences in power, in privilege, in access and ability. I think that this conversation is necessarily ongoing as we continue to co-create who and what we are; this is part of what makes AAGT so special to me, our commitment to this ongoing awareness development that will keep our organization from becoming a static and fixed Gestalt.

It is the practical side of our internationality that I walked away thinking most about, though. And this was because I was reminded so clearly at the AGM of the power of meeting in person! The felt connection between us was so different for me than I could ever feel it on the phone calls. I so treasured being able to see the facial expressions of those there as we responded to each other, and to have a conversation in what seemed to me a "normal" rhythm of give and take, to see the look in someone's eyes as they met me with excitement or with interest or with irritation or frustration or confusion or anger, and to see their bodies speak, too, as we reacted and responded to one another! I also valued so much the non-meeting time, to just talk and laugh and eat and learn about each other and feel our way into those places of true meeting that can happen when we come together. That "felt connection" is, for me, like nothing else!

And the more I was moved by my closeness to those who were there, the more I felt the absence of those of you who were not – both those of you I know and wanted to be with and hear more from, and those of you I don't yet know and so don't know what I could be missing out on! Thus, I feel that a sense of inclusion always contains an awareness of what is excluded and I was very much aware of this polarity. So as we continue to think about our 'internationality', I continue to look at the challenges in bringing more of us together in person at meetings and events. We are working to bring our technology to the place where more can be included videographically, and while I am glad about this, it isn't the same! And so it is the financial challenges of creating more and more in-person access for our members that I find myself looking towards as I begin my term as Vice-President. I look forward to finding new ways to meeting these challenges and I, oddly, feel excited by the possibilities of finding new ways to fund our activities so that as many of us can present with us as possible!

Finally, I can't overstate my gratitude to our Board and all of their hard work -- people volunteering themselves – their thought, their attention to the so important but often unnoticed administrative detail, their preparation, their concern for our process and their commitment to working towards true consensus – this is the real essence of AAGT!



Cool Air, Warm Feelings

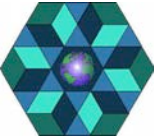
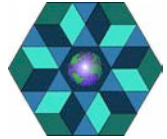
It has been approximately 2 weeks since the 2013 Annual General Meeting, which was right on the tails of the 1st Annual International Gestalt Research Conference. Despite the time that has passed, I still find myself energized by my participation in both. I liked the interest and passion that I experienced during the AGM: the active grappling with very difficult topics and the respectful navigation of conflict around contentious issues. So impactful was this experience that I found myself carrying that energy into my meetings back at work and with trainings that I facilitated, as well as in my clinical work and personal life. AGM was a reminder of the great community of which I find myself, leaving me feeling honored and humbled, knowing that such communities are not always ever-present in my life or in others' lives. I appreciated the openness of all who participated, the welcoming and interested spirit of new faces, and the brightness and warmth of being reintroduced to familiar faces.

Cool air in Cape Cod
Contacting, dialoguing
How warm I feel now

-Mark Reck, Psy.D.

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



What Comes Up For Me - by Alan Schwartz

In response to Gail's invitation, I am working with what comes up for me re: both the research conference and the AGM. What pops into my foreground in this moment is my mind's picture of myself, Bud, and Ansel sitting at a table fussing with our hearing aids. Bud and I are commenting on the difficulties with acoustics in the large meeting room and its effect on our devices...ah well....

I paid as much attention as I was able to what I was exposed to re: the conference. It rather confirmed a number of items for me. Firstly, as I have written before, Gestalt is in the process of change and will continue to do so. In no particular order, I rather think that issues around licensing and "legal" purposes related to that, taking its place on a equal footing with other psychotherapies, and the agendas of individuals who seriously are in the process of "re-fashioning" the approach for reasons unknown to me make for an interesting time in our history..

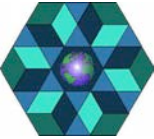
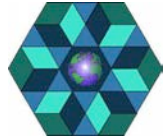
Quantitative research has emerged as a major system of possible "proof" of Gestalt's efficacy. It appeared that presenters worked hard at this postulate. I note over the past few days, as the euphoria is beginning to die down, that some are posting concerns around the quantitative/qualitative issue. I rather suspect, given what I observed, that quantitative research has boarded an express train and is steaming full speed ahead.

These are my observations. I have no personal stake in the issue as yet.

Insofar as the AGM was concerned, I was impressed at how efficiently it was handled with almost all the items enumerated dealt with along with the civility experienced. I was also left with continuing concerns, not about issues of social justice of which I am in total agreement, but with its being put forth to the world as a tenet of a gestalt body. I stated my reasons at the meeting and will not repeat them here. I remain quite interested in how this plays out in the future.

I guess I could say I am "old school." With that in mind, I found the entire experience instructive. And having said that, I have been meditating on these perceived changes and how I do or do not fit in with them.

Alan Schwartz



From Cathy Gray

As I write this piece for the newsletter I am sitting in full view of the beautiful rug and tray that the board gave me as a thank you gift. The gifts and the words that were spoken, gifts in themselves, continue to fill me with warmth and gratitude for the individuals with whom I have had the privilege to work and for the experiences we have shared.

The board created a place for me to continue as Member-at-large. I am honored.

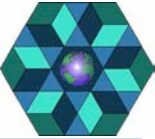
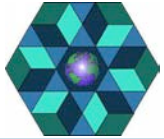
This has been an intense period of involvement in AAGT for me. (President-elect, Vice President, President for two years, plus two years as Co-convenor of the Philadelphia Biennial AAGT International Conference.) In those 7 years I have watched us grow as an organization. We have struggled with what it meant to have most of our communication electronically with participants from all over the world. And we continue to try to find a way that will be more equitable to all who are participating.

We are getting better at building consensus as a board, and still have more to learn about how to do it effectively and in a reasonable time frame with the whole community. What stands out to me is that we have learned to be speak with each other with greater respect for our differences, and seek together to find a solutions that everyone can live with.

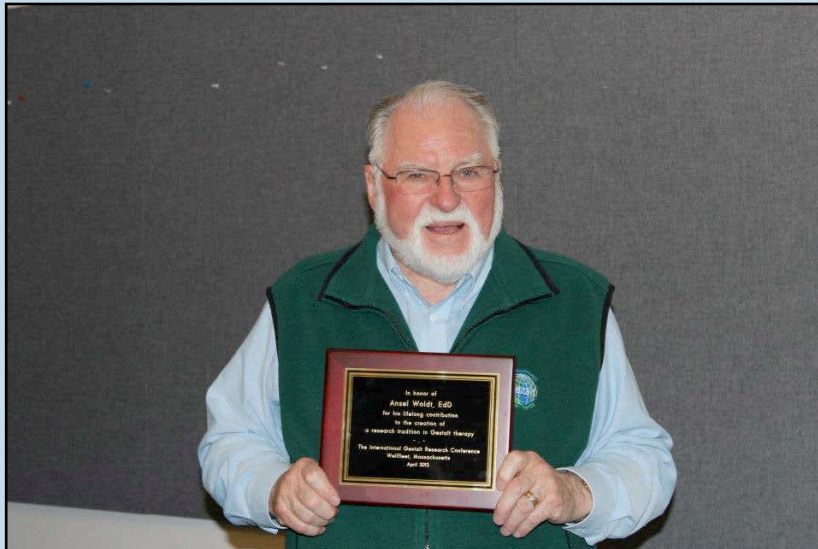
Others in this special issue of the newsletter have written about the respect, inclusion, and warmth they experienced participating in the AGM this year. I feel proud of us all when I read their words. I believe their experience reflects how we have grown. And we still have more to learn.

What I am most clear about is that I treasure continuing the journey with AAGT and our imperfect attempts at living our philosophy. I am grateful for the opportunity to walk on this path with you.





ANSEL WOLDT HONORED AT FIRST INTERNATIONAL GESTALT THERAPY RESEARCH CONFERENCE!



Ansel Woldt, founding secretary and archivist of AAGT, was recently honored on April 19, 2013 at the research conference held at the Gestalt International Study Center (GISC) in Wellfleet, Massachusetts, USA. The conference theme was “The Challenge of Establishing a Research Tradition for Gestalt Therapy”. The conference was attended by psychotherapy researchers and theorists from twelve countries in addition to those from across the USA. Phil Brownell and Joe Melnick organized this successful conference that was co-sponsored by GISC and AAGT.

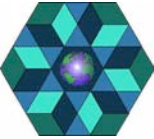
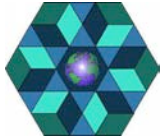
Ansel’s award reads, ***“In honor of Ansel Woldt, Ed.D., for his lifelong contributions to the creation of a research tradition in Gestalt therapy.”*** Awarding of the honor followed Ansel’s invited presentation entitled, “Mining for Crystals – From Gestalt Q-Sort to the GIRL: Creating Valid and Reliable Measures of Gestalt Contacting Processes.” Several of Ansel’s former students, including Jon Frew and Logan Lamprecht, as well as others whose research Ansel had supported over the years, gave testimonials.

I first met Ansel about 20 years ago, when he attended a workshop on learning disabilities that I was facilitating at a Child and Adolescent Conference held at the Gestalt Institute of Cleveland, where both Ansel and I had trained. I was impressed by his generosity in being one of the first to share his experience of his difficulty with left brain memory that resulted from a severe closed-head injury when he was young. A few years later, I again experienced Ansel’s generosity when I attended one of the Gestalt Series workshops that Ansel regularly scheduled at Kent State University, where he is an Emeritus Professor of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology. Ansel would invite well known Gestalt therapists and theoreticians to facilitate workshops to which he invited his students and those of us in surrounding communities. And, once, again, I was impressed by his generosity in the 90’s when he connected me with his co-researcher who then helped me with my dissertation research, using the GIRL that they had revised together.

Ansel has advanced Gestalt therapy through his steady contributions throughout the last 50 years. He founded and served as the collector for the Gestalt Therapy Archival Research Collection in the Kent State University Library, which contains over 300 doctoral dissertations on various aspects of Gestalt therapy; he directed 101 dissertations and theses (50 on Gestalt therapy); he co-edited and is a chapter author with Sarah Toman of ***Gestalt Therapy: History, Theory and Practice (2005)***; and he has served as Associate Editor of the ***Gestalt Review***. He has been a devoted Board Member of AAGT since its inception and has been our Continuing Education Officer, spending hours upon hours keeping our accreditation current. He continues to offer his well-known marathon workshops as well as others at AAGT conferences and other venues throughout the world and continues to serve on AAGT’s and *Gestalt Review*’s Boards..

It was, indeed, a privilege for me to be present to witness the honoring of Ansel Woldt at the first international Gestalt research conference.

Marlene Moss Blumenthal



From Phil Brownell

The recent international research conference held at Cape Cod, and jointly hosted by the AAGT and GISC was a great success, with people coming from many different countries. We are beginning to organize for various purposes that interested people will learn about more and more in the future. One thing that became quite apparent is that research for the gestalt community is a global movement. Here are some tangible results as we start moving forward:

- (1) Joe Melnick and Philip Brownell will be editing a book consisting of chapters from presenters at the conference, including those who were accepted but could not attend for a variety of reasons.
- (2) A group of American gestalt therapists representing four training institutes will begin a phenomenological research project under the mentorship of Linda Finlay of England.
- (3) A group of European gestalt therapists are organizing to train European therapists in research methodology and still others are organizing practice-based research networks that will utilize the single case, timed series design to generate data on the processes of change in gestalt therapy.
- (4) To create web-based instruments that gestalt therapists can use.
- (5) The Research Conference will be held again in 2015; Philip Brownell and others will be organizing (the conference attendees believed it is important to continue holding conferences like the one we had in order to keep encouraging, influencing, and shaping one another.
- (6) A project aimed at eventually producing a descriptive manual of treatment for gestalt therapy has begun.

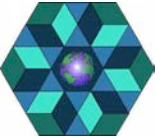
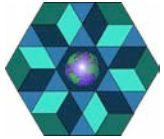
We have committed to the generation of credible research in various mixed methods and its publication in peer-reviewed journals.

It is a new day in gestalt therapy.

I am encouraging people interested in becoming part of this new day to join any number of email based discussion groups. In the future there will be a growing list of web-based platforms in English and other languages to provide a place where gestalt people can continue to help one another.

I have created a social networking site called GestaltResearch (www.drphilipbrownell.com/GestaltResearch) where gestalt researchers can gather and influence/encourage one another, organize, and otherwise facilitate the work of research in gestalt therapy.





One Attendees Report from the first ever Gestalt International

I thought that I was attending the research conference only because it was being held just before and on the site of our Annual General Membership Meeting. Just between us, I expected it to be rather boring. To my surprise, it was fun, fun, fun!

Unfortunately, I had to miss the first half of the conference. But I feel so fortunate to have been there for the second half. First of all, (and, truthfully this could be the best part for me), I keep meeting Gestaltists at our conferences who are just great people; people I was to know and talk to and hang out with and exchange ideas with. Those folks who attended and presented at the research conference were no exception! They were so enthusiastic about our theory and our practice, and they are working to develop this in so many different venues – schools, mental health centers, advocacy organizations, training institutes, etc. -- that it was not only enriching but really exciting to hear about their work! Secondly, these Gestalt researchers were exceptionally thoughtful about our theory and the difficult questions of how to bring what we do to light through in-depth research that can be helpful in continuing to refine our practice.

As I often feel at our conferences, I just wished that I could be in more than one room at a time, so that I didn't miss anything. So glad that I got to see what I did, though! For example, it was fascinating to hear Linda Finlay talk about "The relational approach I phenomenological research" as she looks at the inter-subjective elements in our work and carefully studies each person's narrative.

I also was delighted to hear John Frew, a longtime AAGT member and a faculty member at Pacific University, introduce the recent studies of three of his supervisees: Mark Reck talked about his 2009 dissertation research entitled, *The Gestalt of Multiculturalism: an Analysis of Gestalt Therapy Theory In Light of Ethnic Diversity with a Focus on Organismic Self-Regulation.* Meghann Case, PsyD, discussed her 2011 study, "[Measuring Processes in Contemporary Gestalt Therapy: Development of Gestalt Therapy Prototype and Applications in Research](#)" and Allison Chambers, MS, CACD-I, talked about her 2011 research on "Gestalt Group Therapy in the context of Multiculturalism." The titles alone piqued my interest tremendously, but what was most meaningful to me was the way that all three talked about the development of their research and the careful and precise ways that they are attempting to create research tools that don't only quantify what we do, but help us to see what we are doing, how we do it, and how research can broaden our awareness to continue to make the changes that enrich and enliven our work.

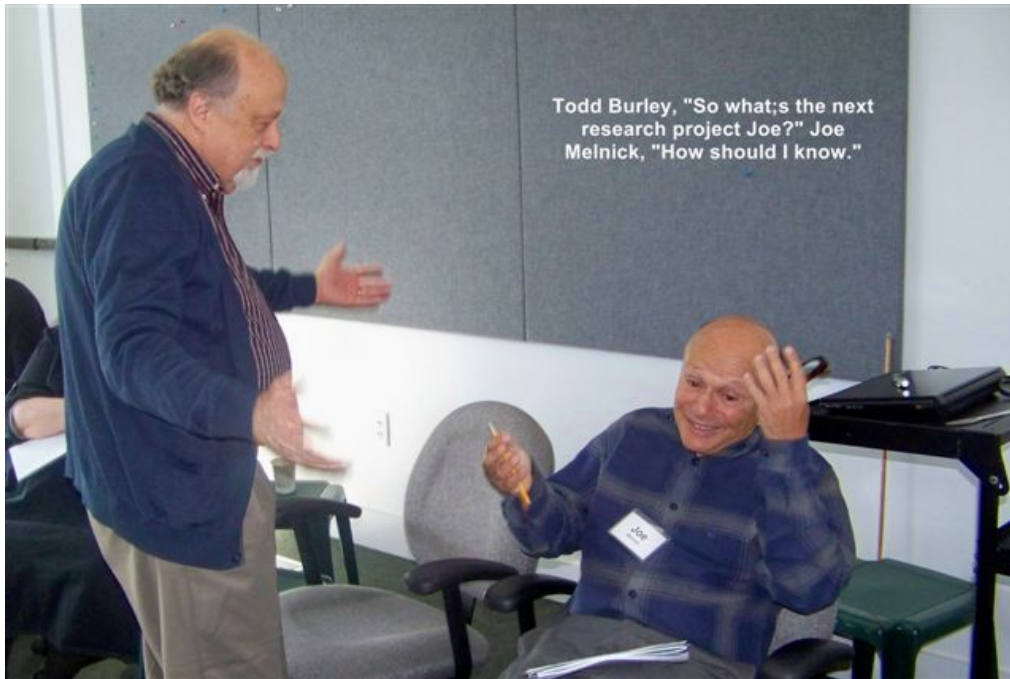
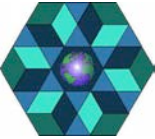
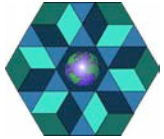
And, of course it was wonderful to hear Ansel Woldt present "Mining for crystals - from Gestalt Q-Sort to the GIRL: Creating valid and reliable measures of Gestalt contacting processes." I especially loved learning about "the GIRL" – the Gestalt Inventory of Resistance Loading -- the assessment tool that Ansel and others developed at Kent State and to think together about the ways this type of tool might be helpful to us in study and in practice!

Finally, I was very moved to be present for a lovely tribute to the tireless work of Ansel Woldt who has single-handedly advanced Gestalt Therapy in so many ways – through his writing and through all of his research work and supervision of others at Kent State and, course, through his warm and loving presence! I am so glad I was able to be there to join in honoring him!

I think that a lot of us Gestaltists are afraid of research as we fear being pinned-down, manualized, limited by too much structure and boxed in to working according to specific protocols. What I felt the most inspired by at this conference was the understanding that research can be a systematic way to unpack elements of our work and look from new perspectives that can yield new avenues of discussion and exploration that can't help but advance Gestalt therapy as we delve into the ways our practice reflects our theory.

In closing, I just want to express my gratitude to Joe Melnick and Phil Brownell for presenting this conference and bringing us together to begin to meet the 'Challenge of Establishing a Research Tradition in Gestalt Therapy! You both presented a welcoming, warm and quiet leadership that felt open and inviting. I look forward to continuing this new 'tradition' together!

Patricia Tucker



Todd Burley, "So what's the next research project Joe?" Joe Melnick, "How should I know."



Dina Miller, AAGT Continuing Education Officer Columbus, Ohio



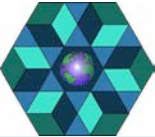
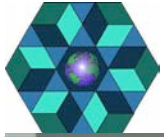
L -> R: Al Wong, U Tennessee; Mark Reck, U Vermont; Allison Chambers, Pacific U; Meghan Case, Vasar



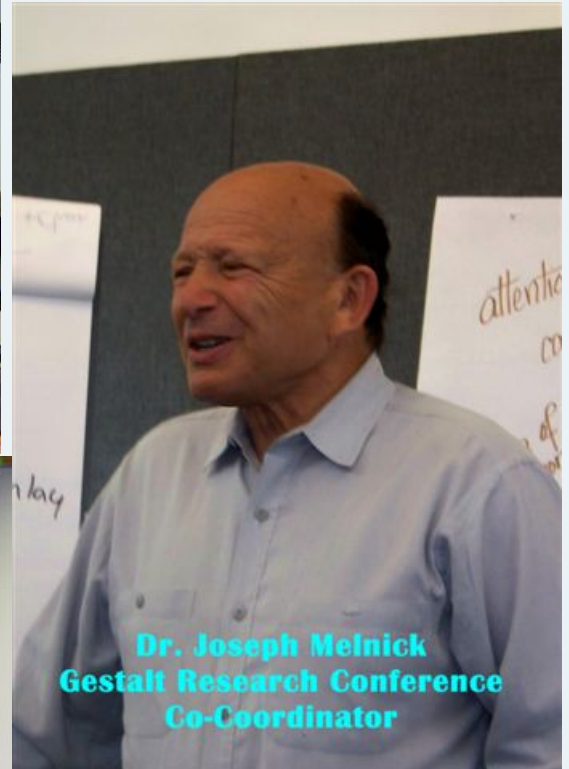
Vincent Beja, France; Marlene Blumenthal, Cleveland; Michele Cannavo & Marco Lobb, Italy



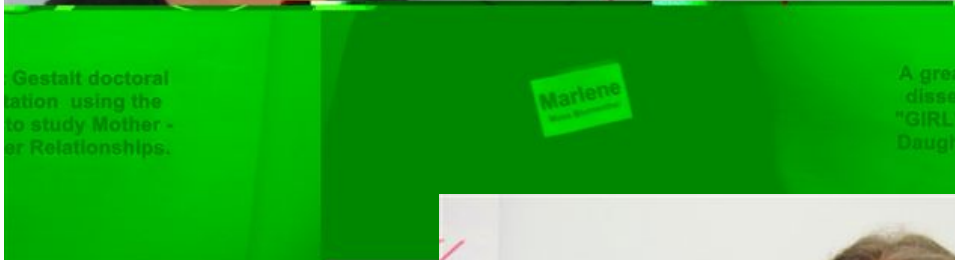
Linda Finlay, PhD, Academic Consultant Open University, UK; Visiting Professor Novi Sad, Serbia



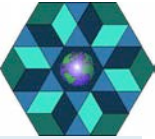
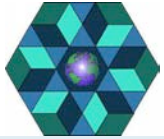
Alan Schwartz, "And what did you reeseach today my dear?" Deborah Ulman says, "Hm, let me think."



Dr. Joseph Melnick
Gestalt Research Conference
Co-Coordinator



Pablo Herrera Salinhas, Pontificia
Universidad Catolica de Chile:
Gestalt Coherent Outcome Measures



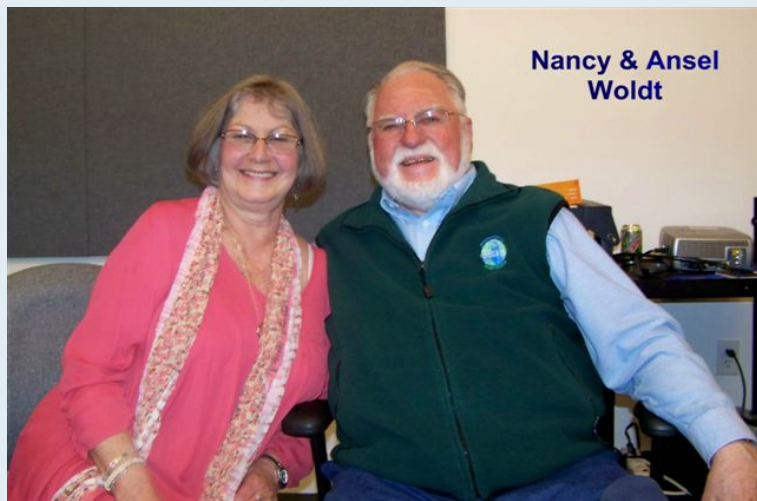
Cathy Gray
Marlene
Blumenthal
Nancy Woldt
Gail
Feinstein
Ansel Woldt



Anshuman Gandhi, Toronto,
Canada; Monique Mercado, St.
Marys U, San Antonio, Texas



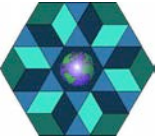
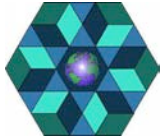
Gestaltists with Linda Finlay presenting
"The Relational Approach in
Phenomenological Research"



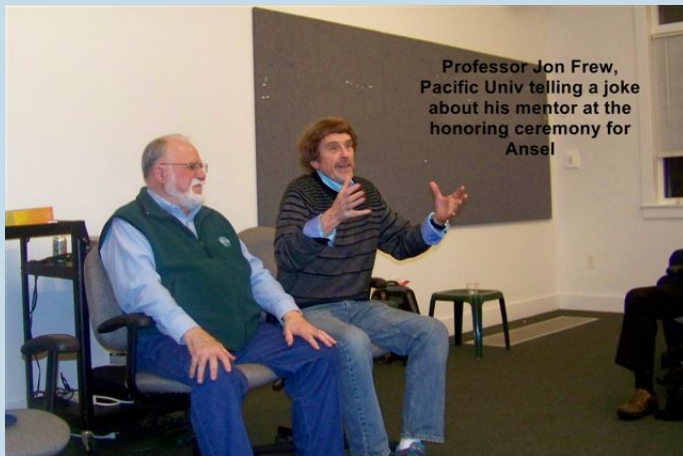
Nancy & Ansel
Woldt



Joseph Melnick honoring
Ansel at the Research
Conference



Jon Frew, Todd Burley, Monique Mercado, Vincent Beja, Bud Feder, Al Wong



Professor Jon Frew,
Pacific Univ telling a joke
about his mentor at the
honoring ceremony for
Ansel



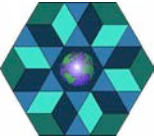
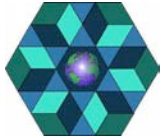
Ansel being recognized as "Grand Mentor" by Mark Reck
& his mentor Jon Frew, Ansel's mentee



Phil Brownell honoring Ansel for his
contributions creating a research
tradition in Gestalt therapy



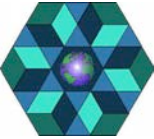
Logan Lamprecht,
Cleveland State
University Professor of
Counseling honoring
his mentor and friend



A Word of Thanks and Appreciation

I want to thank everyone present at the First Gestalt Therapy Research Conference, and others not able to be present who have emailed me, for the honor bestowed on me for my contributions to the establishment of a research tradition in the Gestalt therapy community. Not believing myself to be a true scholar, yet I have had the privilege of mentoring hundreds of wonderful people with their academic accomplishments. I felt humbled to be acknowledged for my contributions in the presence of Gestalt therapists who I have looked up to over the years and the youthful community of new scholars in attendance at the research conference and AAGT's AGM. Thank you all for the graceful gifts you have given me.

Thank you, Ansel Woldt



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE & JOIN US!

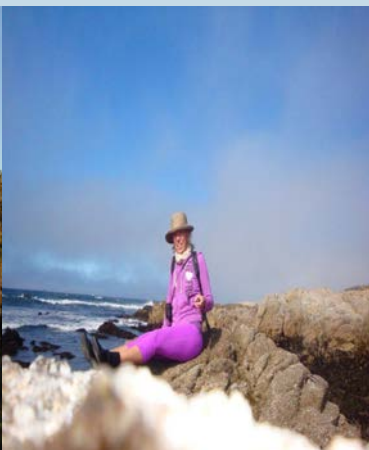
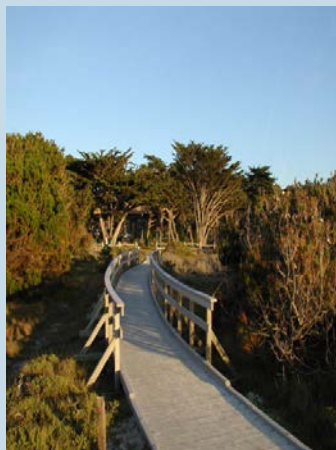
Sept 3-7, 2014

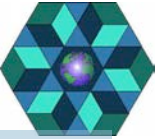
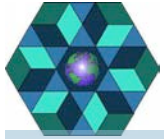
AAGT's 12th Biennial Conference at
The Asilomar Conference Grounds

Located at California USA's Beautiful Central Coast

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AAGT 2014 Conference: Call for Proposals!



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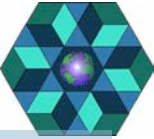
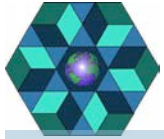
The next AAGT biennial conference is from September 2-7, 2014 at Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds. The theme of AAGT's 2014 Conference, Exploring the Diversity of Gestalt Therapy, is intended to embrace all aspects of diversity in the approaches and practice of Gestalt Therapy. We hope that 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 heART OF CONNECTING CO-CREATING
INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

September 20–22, Krakow, POLAND

Conference in Krakow is already the eleventh European conference that EAGT organized from the beginning of its existence. Every three years, the conference is an opportunity to meet Gestalt communities from Europe and other continents. This year, we invite you to Krakow, on behalf of the organizer of the national Polish Society for Gestalt Psychotherapy.

Participants:

Trainers (trainers) and Gestalt therapists, Gestalt practitioners in organizations (GPOs) from Europe and other continents.

Language: English

Objectives: Participants will be able to participate in workshops, lectures and presentations related to the clinical, social, political application of the theory of Gestalt Therapy, explore the connection in the creation of individuality and society, in psychotherapy, politics, and social activities.

We invite you to co-create the Conference.

On behalf of Polish Society of Gestalt Therapy (PTPG)

The President
Ewa Canert-Łąka

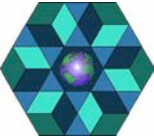
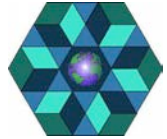
Costs:

Before the 30.05.2013

• EAGT-, PTPG- and NOGT-Members	470 €
• PTPG Trainee members	370 €
• Non members	500 €
• Trainees and students	370 €
• Deligates from (East)European countries	370 €
• Accompanying person	320 €
• One-day registration	320 €

After the 30.05.2013

• EAGT-, PTPG- and NOGT-Members	500 €
• PTPG Trainee members	400 €
• Non members	530 €
• Trainees and students	400 €
• Deligates from (East)European countries	400 €
• Accompanying person	350 €
• One-day registration	350 €



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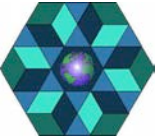
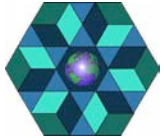
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YOUR AAGT NEWSLETTER IS HERE!

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Newsletter Editor: Alex Schlotterbeck

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.

Next newsletter will be published around July 15th.
Deadline is 30th June.

Please send submissions to alexschi@hotmail.co.uk
and type 'newsletter' into the email heading.

