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NEWSLETTER



AAGT
The Association for
the Advancement of
Gestalt Therapy

An International Community

Dear all,

Welcome to another edition of the AAGT newsletter. We are fast approaching the end of the year! It seems a busy time with many members sending in news about upcoming events. Focal to this month is the regional conference in the North West and Taormina which is around the corner. Both have led Lynne Jacobs to write a thought provoking article on what it means to be an international organisation. In it she urges others to write in and share their views too. I echo that and would love hear from you on this and other matters that interest you.

Happy reading,

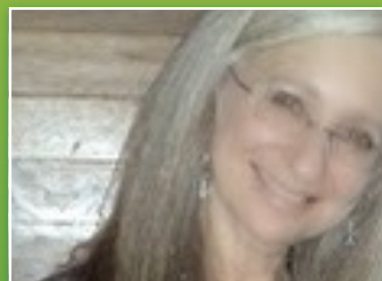
Alex



FROM THE BOARD

Greetings from president Patricia Tucker

Patricia Tucker



Greetings to you all! It's a crisp Fall day here in New York City and the city is abuzz with the Halloween Parade, the World Series and the NYC Marathon all happening this weekend! But Fall brings with it the bittersweetness and endings and beginnings. The ending of 2015, a full year of many changes and goodbyes. And beginnings.. a new year full of new possibilities and the beginning of our big AAGT Countdown to Taormina!

Our conference planning committees are hard at work reviewing proposals, planning the schedule, Process Groups, events, activities and hundreds of other details. I don't think any of us realized the challenges involved in the planning of this very large joint venture with the EAGT! We apologize for some early glitches in communication or registration processes and think we are on track now..but please do let us know if you run into any difficulties!

Some members have expressed concern about whether AAGT might 'get lost' in this big conference (maybe around 700 attending!) and so one of the things we've been focusing on is ways for AAGT members to come together and connect throughout the conference and to retain our identity as AAGT members, even as we "soften" our boundaries to join with our EAGT friends. I'm glad to say that Process Groups are alive and well, we will have two Community Meetings and we will of course have our Annual General Membership Meeting, too! As preparations continue, we have been finding this coming together of our organizations to be fascinating, challenging, frustrating, and exciting! Some of our explorations are beginning to include these areas of identity: how are we as AAGT members "different" from EAGT members? How are we the same? How do our cultural differences impact the decisions we make, the processes by which we come to decisions and other aspects of our conference? How are our differences and commonalities reflected in our understanding of, and application of Gestalt therapy theory and practice? We hope that many of you will contribute your voices to these discussions as we continue to co-create this conference!

In other news, our Regional Task Force has been continuing to meet and will soon bring to the membership some of the results of these conversations. What is at stake here seems to me to be of vital importance to AAGT as we are addressing for the first time what it means to be a designated Region of AAGT and what it means for a conference or other presentation to be sponsored by AAGT: What are the responsibilities of AAGT to its' Regions? What are the responsibilities of the Regions to AAGT?



FROM THE BOARD

Greetings from president

Patricia Tucker continued...

What constitutes a Region anyway? Do Regions need to be geographical? Should there even be designated Regions at all? These are some of the questions we have been chewing on and we are excited to bring all of you into our discussions!

Lastly, AAGT Interest Groups are starting to come alive with new groups on Gestalt Group Therapy and on LGBTQ issues starting to meet up via our new video-conferencing access. Join in on the Interest Group fun and become part of the dialogue!

So, finally, 10 months to Taormina! Let us hear your thoughts, hopes, fears, wishes and dreams as we continue to plan together. Oh, hey, also, how about planning a fundraising event to support the AAGT scholarship fund and make it possible for more of our members to join us in Sicily?

With growing anticipation,
Patricia

Patricia Tucker



AAGT NEWS

Interest Groups

Daniel Bak and Bob Witchel, Interest Group Co - Chairs

We are excited to announce two interest groups that are seeking:

1) Gender & Sexual Diversity AAGT Interest Group (GSD IG)

Dear All,

Our personal and professional experience guided us to start and offer you a new interest group: The Gender & Sexual Diversity AAGT Interest Group (GSD IG). We hope to create with you a vivid, supportive and inclusive interpersonal space for an in-depth understanding and embracing of different gender and sexual identities:

- trans (transgender, transsexual, cross-dress) identities,
- intersexual identities,
- genderqueer, genderfuck, bigender or agender identities,
- homosexual identities
- bisexual identities,
- asexual identities,

... and many more. As gender and sexual diversity also expresses itself in the form of different relationship arrangements and a myriad of ways of having sex, this group would also be open to better understanding of such identities, as poly-amorous ones and people with kinky sexual narratives.

We hope that you will find the group helpful not only as a professional but also as a human being.

Professionally, it can be imagined that the field of the group will be able to contain such possible projects like e.g. (1) a Gestalt-based published monograph on GSD issues – an awaited synthesis of what we Gestaltists know about sexuality and gender, or (2) peer-supervision for people from all around the world! As we have free-of-charge access to Ring Central video conference tool, on-line group meetings will be very easy!

Personally, we hope the group will be a safe space for all its members, including members who are GSD. We can imagine common sharing of life experiences among members of the group as an important way of getting support.

We hope you feel persuaded to join us.

We are ready to welcome you aboard:) Ring Central, a video conference tool will support our regular on-line meetings. For times between meetings we have equipped you with an on-line platform for the group. It is Wiggio-based which uses a system of invitations, so signing up for the interest group will result in such an invitation.

On the bottom of the page you can read a couple of words about us.

If you have any questions and/or want to join the group, please, contact us at this email address: [GSD IG <gsd_ig@aagt.org>](mailto:gsd_ig@aagt.org)

We look forward to hearing from you soon,

Daniel Bak, PhD & Alex Levine, MS, CADC - Gender & Sexual Diversity Interest Group Co-chairs

My name is Daniel Bak. I live in Warsaw, Poland. I graduated from the Institute of Integrative Gestalt Psychotherapy in Krakow (a four-year long school of psychotherapists and group trainers). I have been supporting GSD clients for almost 10 years now – at first as a sexual health educator, later on as a psychologist and psychotherapist. I am a Board member of the AAGT. I hope to see you on the group call very soon!

*Gender & Sexual
Identity Interest
Group*



Interest Groups continued.

Gestalt group therapy *Interest group*

My name is Alexander (Alex) Levine. I live in New York City and am completing my predoctoral internship at Baruch College's counseling center. I also instruct yoga and volunteer for local LGBTQ organizations (e.g. Trevor Project). My dissertation and thesis research focused on the intersection of gender roles and internalized homophobia in gay men, and I also have presented and published an integration of my quantitative research with Gestalt theory. I am very excited to be a part of this new interest group and look forward to it being a source of support and intellectual stimulation.

2) Gestalt Group Therapy IG description

This group is formed to bring together Practitioners who are currently doing Gestalt Group therapy or have an interest in Gestalt Groups. The purpose is to create a forum for discussing Gestalt group therapy theory, structure, interventions and styles. This group will also serve as a means to strengthen this modality within the Gestalt community and, if there is interest, further study or writing about Gestalt group therapy. Currently, we are forming a virtual peer super-vision group for members who are currently running one or more gestalt groups. In true Gestalt form we will follow what emerges from our interest. Contact me, Laura Carite, at restoremindbody@optonline.net or 973-601-7788.

Video conference tool for AAGT Interest Groups.

AAGT makes available, free-of-charge, a video conference tool for AAGT Interest Groups. It is called **Ring Central** and allows up to 25 people meeting on-line at the same time. So, if you currently chair an Interest Group or are considering chairing one in the future, here you have an effective way to gather people around the idea of a given interest group. Ring Central is very easy to use. You tell us what date and time you want to meet and we send you a link for members of a given group. Everyone clicks the link and logs in into a video conversation.

We hope the ability to use video conferences will encourage you to develop interest groups in our AAGT Community.

To be assisted with scheduling video calls, please contact Daniel Bak (dbak@gestalt.waw.pl [<mailto:dbak@gestalt.waw.pl>](mailto:dbak@gestalt.waw.pl)).

For further information about Interest Groups please contact IG Co-Chairs - Daniel Bak dbak@gestalt.waw.pl and/or Bob Witchel bwitchel@iup.edu. We are available to respond to questions, for guidance and support, and help with stimulating the awareness of an IG's development. Also, see "[AAGT Interest Group](#)" Facebook page.

Interest Groups continued.



General Information on Interest Groups in AAGT

Interest groups were and can again become vital to the functioning of AAGT, and provide an opportunity for members to engage each other in a more on-going way. Interest Groups (IGs) are created by and for persons with similar interests so they can communicate and network. In the past, IGs were focused on AAGT's internal functioning, while other IGs focused on Gestalt Therapy theory, types of clients or client issues, while other IGs focused on community concerns and networking. Below you will find: 1) a preliminary list of potential AAGT Interest Group topics, based on the recent survey of AAGT members, and 2) roles and responsibilities of IG Chairs/Co-Chairs

1. We hope you have a curiosity about one or more of the following Interest Group topics:

Gestalt Theory (development, discussion, etc.)
Physical Process
Gestalt Dream work and other creative approaches/experiments
Gestalt and working with children, adolescents and couples/families

Gestalt and working with couples/families
Working in Organizations, including building coaching skills
Diversity/intercultural
Addiction
Becoming a Gestalt Therapist / early career therapist

The Aging Therapist
Trauma
Grieving
Gestalt: Outdoors and Adventure-based

2. Roles and Responsibilities of a Specific Interest Group Chair/Co-chair - using the AAGT "Covenant of Community" and the AAGT "Constitution and Bylaws" as ground for Interest Groups (IGs), we offer the following guide for roles and responsibilities of an Interest Group Chair/Co-chair. As self-regulation, on-going organic process of Gestalt formation and completion, and inclusionary decision-making are significant tenets of Gestalt Therapy and AAGT, the explicit roles and responsibilities of an IG Chair/Co-Chair will be determined by members of a given IG, and the following serves as a guide:

1. Volunteer to serve as an Interest Group Chair/Co-Chair, and provide a topic for and initial description of an Interest Group (e.g., Addiction, Physical Process, Dream work, LGBTQ).
2. Through dialogue, support the awareness of the Interest Group among AAGT membership, with support and guidance from the Interest Group Co-chairs (Daniel Bak and Bob Witchel). If an Interest Group is an open group, continue to find ways of expanding the awareness of the IG amongst the membership.
3. By engaging Interest Group members, explore methods for the Interest Group to interact such as, online communication (create a Circle on AAGT Website, email listserv, Skype, Facebook), or face-to-face meetings at and between workshops.
4. Facilitate the creation of short and long-term goals for the Interest Group, with support (if needed) from Interest Group Co-chairs (Daniel Bak and Bob Witchel).
5. Dialogue with Interest Group Co-Chairs (Daniel Bak and Bob Witchel) about ways they can provide guidance and leadership for the Interest Group's success and its' contribution to the AAGT International Community.

Scholarship Fund

Appeal

*Our scholarship
fund has received
much fewer
donations*

Dear Colleagues

This year it is not possible to donate to scholarship fund while signing up to the AAGT / EAGT conference in Sicily. This means that our scholarship fund has received much fewer donations than previously, and we are concerned how much we would be able to support attendees of the next conference.

Over the years, the fund has enabled over 100 persons to attend AAGT conferences who otherwise would not have been able to. And many of these have gone on to become permanent members and actively engaged in AAGT work.

For many of us the economic climate is difficult. Our profession does not offer highest salaries and some of us donate their time and money for other causes. Some of us request money from the scholarship fund due to illness, redundancy or being early in their career, some of us can donate. If you belong to the latter group, please consider donating as soon as possible. Any amounts are welcomed.

<https://www.aagt.org/contributions/>

Thank you.

Adam Kincel
On behalf of the Scholarship Fund Committee



AAGT/EAGT JOINT CONFERENCE 2016

The Aesthetic of Otherness:

meeting at the boundary in a desensitized world



A joint AAGT and EAGT
Gestalt Conference at the crossroads of civilisations
22nd-25th September 2016
Taormina (Sicily), Hilton Hotel

Join us in this passionate and exciting experiment in co-creating a learning and teaching community in Taormina, one of the most beautiful places in the world, a real crossroad of civilisations!

See links below for conference website, registration, booking a room at the Hilton, and proposal process.

This is the first AAGT and EAGT joint Conference: a unique opportunity for the two main international associations for Gestalt therapy to meet and learn from each other!



Local Organizer

SIPG (Società Italiana Psicoterapia Gestalt)



More info:

www.taorminaconference2016.com

Conference conveners

Gianni Francesetti, Burt Lazzarin,
Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb,
Jelena Zeleskov Djoric



Conference Registration Fees (in euros)	Students	AAGT, EAGT, SIPG members	non members
Before April 30th 2016	230	330	380
Before August 31st 2016	280	380	430
After August 31st 2016 and at the conference	310	410	460

The AAGT and EAGT will be providing support to those people who need financial assistance to attend the conference. Scholarship funds will be available.

To access any of the following conference information please click on the appropriate LINK below:

[Conference Website](#)

[Conference Registration](#)

[Call for Proposals \(Deadline - Oct. 31, 2015\)](#)

[Submit a Pre-conference Workshop \(Deadline - Nov. 30, 2015\)](#)

[Booking a Room at Conference Site \(Hilton Giardini Naxos\)](#)

REGIONAL NEWS

Pacific Northwest

2015 PNW Regional Conference in Portland
a Great Success!

Gratitude and appreciation were the words of the day for the Conference Planning Committee, conveners, panelists and presenters at the completion of the 2015 Pacific Northwest Regional AAGT Conference, co-sponsored by Portland's Gestalt Therapy Training Center—Northwest. Both the invited panel presentations and the peer reviewed workshops contributed greatly to the breadth and depth of the conference program.

Close to 100 participants attended, most from the Pacific Northwest, and a number from far-flung locations in the US and abroad. The venue was the beautiful light filled Native American Student Center of Portland State University. At the check-in/reception the excitement and anticipation of this long awaited event and the energy of connecting with colleagues, and friends was palpable.

The conference opening on Friday evening included a brief history of the PNW regional group, and some historical context about the Gestalt therapy community in Portland, and those who have been instrumental in developing, growing, and nurturing it over the past 40+ years. Patricia Tucker, current AAGT president, also gave a brief overview of AAGT, and noted "...The importance of regional conferences highlighting local presenters for the continuing development and advancement of Gestalt therapy throughout the world."

The conference presentations got off to a rousing start with the opening panel discussion that included Gestalt therapists considering "the state of" and "the art of" Gestalt therapy from the perspective of their own practices, and generational perspectives. Topics ranged from important historical perspective, to research, to the future of Gestalt therapy in relation to the current trends in psychotherapy practice. It was especially gratifying to hear the passion and clarity of the younger generation of up and coming Gestalt therapists. The evening ended with connecting with process groups, and sharing what brought us to the conference, and what came up in the panel that resonated with why we were there.



AAGT-PNW
Portland
Conference
Closing Plenary
Panel



Reunion of
some members
of the original
Portland
Gestalt therapy
study group
that trained
with Isadore
From.
Shannon
Pernetti, Jeffrey
Sher (front)
Steve Zahm,
Carol
Swanson, Eva
Gold aboard
the Portland
Spirit.

Pacific Northwest News continued.

Saturday included three different workshop sessions with four workshops to choose from in each session. We completed the day with re-connecting with our process groups and sharing our conference experience. The Saturday evening dinner cruise on the Willamette River was an opportunity to relax and connect, and to enjoy the view of Portland lights and beautiful bridges. Everyone seemed to agree that it was over too soon! Sunday offered another round of workshops, followed by our final process group meeting.

All workshop presenters on both days were roundly applauded and appreciated for their careful preparation, depth of knowledge, and high quality presentations and workshops. Eight of the sixteen presentations were by newer or first time AAGT conference presenters, and everyone enjoyed their high energy and fresh perspective.

The closing panel on Sunday focused on Gestalt therapy and the wider field, and was a lively engagement and discussion of different approaches, and their relationship to Gestalt therapy. Included were several vignettes illustrating Gestalt therapy method that offered jumping off points for discussion. Represented were Processwork, Reichian therapy, EFT, Buddhist psychology, and Existential/ Humanistic therapy. We found much common ground of course, and different emphases, which made for a rich learning experience. Our hope is that this contact strengthens connections in this community among those of us who value authenticity, humanity, relationship, and depth in the psychotherapy process.

Although we have greatly appreciated the more loosely structured, spontaneous, and intimate gatherings that our region has enjoyed in the past several years, this structure allowed us to offer CEs, and the larger and more inclusive format increased awareness in the Pacific Northwest area of Gestalt therapy and what it has to offer, drawing many participants who have not attended a Gestalt therapy conference before. We hope this might also bring new members and new energy to AAGT as a whole.

Thank you to the Planning Committee, panelists, presenters, and to all those who attended for your contribution to a beautiful, connecting, and inspiring event!

Eva Gold & Brad Larsen-Sanchez



Conference conveners and planning committee left to right: Jim Rowley, Brad Larsen-Sanchez, Richard Kite, Eva Gold, Steve Zahm, Sarah Voruz, Camille Curry, Jamie Young. (Not pictured: Laura Hirsch, Karen Stallwood, Cassandra Mitchell)



THANK YOU

from

Gestalt Therapy Training Centre

Gestalt Therapy Training Center—Northwest Co-Sponsors AAGT-PNW Conference

Gestalt Therapy Training Center—Northwest is delighted to have co-sponsored the first AAGT-PNW regional conference in Portland--and the first ever Gestalt therapy conference in Portland!

It has long been a goal of ours to create more opportunity for connection and contact between the trainees in our various programs, GTTC-NW graduates, our Gestalt therapy graduate students, and the wider Gestalt therapy and psychotherapy community in Portland, and across the Pacific Northwest.

The volunteer efforts of the many GTTC-NW trainees and graduates that made this conference possible helped turn that vision into this reality, and it was deeply gratifying to see these connections happening over the course of the conference weekend.

We'd like to extend thanks to AAGT's Patricia Tucker and Dina Miller for their support, as well as to the AAGT scholarship fund which made it possible for a number of participants to attend the conference who would not have been able to otherwise. And, of course, thanks to all those who helped plan and those who participated in this conference. Each of you enriched this experience for all of us.

The three of us are blessed to be part of this amazing community, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to continue to nurture and support it.

Jon Frew, Eva Gold & Steve Zahm
Co-Directors, GTTC-NW

*Thank you from
the organisers*



Eva Gold and Steve Zahm Directors of Gestalt Therapy Training Center-Northwest celebrate the completion of a successful conference!

Fun in Portland at the Pacific Northwest Regional Conference!

by Patricia Tucker

First of all, many thanks to our Pacific Northwest Region folks in Portland for their hard work in bringing together this regional conference and in creating a warm and welcoming environment for all. The conference entitled "The State of, The Art of Gestalt Therapy, was held from October 9-11 and focused exclusively on the work of practitioners local to the region. Held at the lovely Native American Student Center at Portland State University, the conference co-conveners Eva Gold and Brad Larsen-Sanchez did a great job in creating a conference that was fun, exciting and comfortable with a mix of presentations and process groups!

A plenary panel at the beginning of the conference on The State of, the Art of, Gestalt therapy brought forth different views on what stands out most for participants in Gestalt therapy today, what is "cutting edge" and what integrations with other disciplines might be useful to us. A closing plenary panel opened up discussion to looking at 'Gestalt Therapy and the Wider Field; as it explored more about Gestalt therapy's place in the psychotherapy world and the world outside of the therapy room.

Many presentations also looked towards integration with, or drawing from, other models such as Daniel Schiff's presentation, "Reich Informs Gestalt Therapy -Again", Rebecca Stauffer's "Reimagining Dialectical Behavior Therapy through a Gestalt Lens", Bob Edelstein's "Existential-Humanistic Therapy", Bruce Kenofer's "integrating Kegan's Subject-Object Theory of Self Development with Gestalt Therapy", Sharon Chatkupt Lee and Cassandra Mitchell on "Integrating Gestalt Therapy and Emotionally Focused Therapy for Couples", and Judith Weaver's "Sensory Awareness -- A Foundation of the Art of Gestalt Therapy".

It was fascinating to think and talk together with other Gestaltists about how our models come together with others and how they stand apart. In addition, Eva Gold and Steve Zahm continued to present their work on Mindfulness of the Body and Gestalt Therapy, Sean Coyle focused on Delusions as Creative Adjustments, Bea Mackay on Two-You work, Peter Mortola on the Oaklander Approach to Gestalt Play Therapy, Sharoon Peretti on Non-dual Therapy, Cyndy Sheldon on the Egalitarian Foundation in Gestalt Therapy, Carol Swanson on Meeting the Other in Play and Conversation, Jon Frew and BJ Scott on Creatively Adapting in an Increasingly Diverse World, Ysahi Boussi on Bridging the Gap between Parents and Adolescents, Annie Blair on "Hidden Treasures in Eating Habits" provided a wide-ranging look at the State of, and the Art of, Gestalt therapy today.

The conference was capped off by a beautiful look at Portland by boat as we dinner-cruised up and down the river!

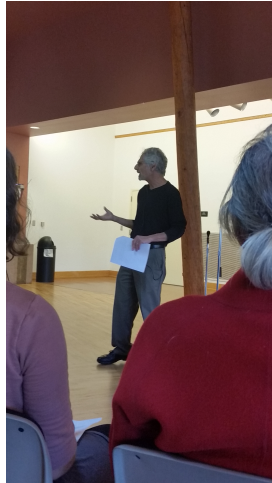


www.shutterstock.com - 256730977



Images of Fun in Portland at the Pacific Northwest Regional Conference!

from Patricia Tucker



Top right:

Shannon Peretti, Jeffrey Sher, Bea Mackay.

2nd down from Top Meghann Case, Patricia Tucker, Brad Larsen-Sanchez.

Second row middle: Daniel Schiff.

Bottom photo: Participants



Roots VII Conference

Gestalt and Social Activism: Roots and Branches

Presented by GISC

Dates	April 7-10, 2016 Begins Thursday, 1pm; Ends Sunday, 1pm
Fee	\$550 USD/Approx. 485 EUR (accommodations and meals not included) GISC Members: \$500
CE hours	20
Co-Chairs	Seán Gaffney, PhD, and Joseph Melnick, PhD
Location	Aquamarina Hotel, Mati, Greece

Join us next spring for the seventh in the series of Roots Conferences. These conferences have provided an opportunity to focus on Gestalt therapy theory, its roots, development and the rich diversity of its application.

International Conference • Gestalt and Social Activism

Gestalt practitioners, whether therapists, coaches, consultants or educators, have long had a deep and shared commitment to changing the world we live in.

This commitment to social activism has deep roots, beginning with Fritz and Laura Perls in Berlin. Even before the Perls' arrived in New York such people as Paul Goodman and Elliot Shapiro were already acknowledged as influential social activists. Both Goodman and Shapiro were members of the original training group which became the founding members of The New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy. They were joined there later by such people as George Dennison (First Street School) and Patrick Kelley (New York Street Gangs) and many others, amongst them active supporters of the LGBT community up to the present.

As the Gestalt approach spread throughout the world, impacting the environment became a fundamental, though usually underacknowledged value wherever Gestalt institutes were founded and Gestalt practitioners lived and practiced.

At this conference we hope to honor this commitment by sharing and discussing our work. We invite you to join like-minded Gestalt practitioners in sharing our thoughts, practices and projects to influence the world in which we live and work, and which our children and grandchildren will inherit.

Topics & Presenters: Among the topics presented will be "Identity House: A Gestalt Experiment Reexamined," "Embodied 'Support' for Those Engaged with Social Change and Social Activism," and "the Experiment of the Trojan Guild." Presenters will include Burt Lazarin, Trevor Bentley, Rosie Burrows, Eugenio Molini, Seán Gaffney, Joseph Melnick, and others.

Format: All presentations are in plenary and followed by small group work to process the content, and then a plenary report-back session. Our aim is that all participants and presenters are fully involved in all aspects of the conference and our hope is to generate collective knowledge.

For a list of presenters, topics, and complete conference details, visit:
www.gisc.org/practitioners/programs/RootsVIIConference.php

508-349-7900 • www.gisc.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOB LISTING**Job Summary**

Organization: The Gestalt Institute of Cleveland, Inc.

Location: Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Job Type: Full Time Employee

Years of Experience: 10 – 15 with 5 in managerial roles

Educational Level: Master's Degree or above

The Position: Executive Director

The Organization: The Gestalt Institute of Cleveland is a small non-profit post-graduate training institute whose primary services are full-length training programs and workshops geared toward personal and professional development of participants. Our participants are primarily therapists, counselors, coaches, organizational development professionals, public and private sector professionals who generally have advanced degrees in many fields. Our faculty are independent professionals. The revenues are generated from tuition, fees, grants, and fund raising. We have completed a three-year strategic plan and are positioned for significant growth and development during the next several years.

The Position: We are seeking an energetic leader able to implement our strategic plan and grow our organization through program expansion, marketing, and fund raising. The Executive Director is responsible for supporting and reporting to a board of directors, working with independent-minded faculty, supervising staff, relating to participants and the community, and integrating the work of the whole organization to carry out our mission: To create powerful, positive change in individuals, groups, organizations and communities.

Demonstrated skills for the position include: Systems thinking and strategic leadership skills, excellent communication skills, relationship building skills, administrative skills, capacity to manage stress productively, political savvy, flexibility, and a sense of humor.

Education and Experience should include: A Master's Degree or higher in business or public administration, organizational development, education, or other relevant field; 10 – 15 years overall work experience, 5 years in related management/supervisory roles. Experience should include some background in fund raising and marketing and familiarity with Gestalt theory and methods. Relevant prior work settings are non-profit or business organizations, higher educational institutions, or private foundations.

For additional information: Please review the full job description and candidate brochure at www.gestaltcleveland.org. These documents are available on www.gestaltcleveland.org/employment.php, located under the About Us tab.

How to Apply

To be considered for this challenging opportunity, please forward electronic copies of the following: (1) a letter of interest addressing how you are the ideal candidate, (2) a resume, and (3) contact information for a minimum of three references. Submit applications to gestaltedsearch@gmail.com prior to October 15, 2015.



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Experiencing the "GIRL"

An Adventure in Gestalt Contact and Resistance Processes

A summary of the research methodology to develop the 100-item inventory will be followed with working dialogically in a Gestalt therapeutic manner with personal and interpersonal data as participants share information learned from their own GIRL profiles. We will facilitate understanding the relationship of their assessment data to both Gestalt therapy theory and present contact functions in the group. The workshop will culminate in brainstorming and discussion of ways the GIRL might be used in clinical practice and ideas for future research.

Ansel Woldt, EdD, LP, LPCC-S

6.5 CEs

November 14, 2015

Mary Plank, MEd

Awakening the Dream: Gestalt Practice with Dreams, Fantasies, Stories and Symbols

Therapists, coaches and facilitators in human development can access resources and insight that may not be readily available in the client's current awareness. The Gestalt approach has unique and specific ways to develop and illuminate these hidden resources by working with dreams, fantasies, stories and symbols, things that are part of everyone's experience. These can be like tightly packed treasure boxes that can reveal jewels hidden in plain sight. The Gestalt approach offers many ways to unpack these rich sources of meaning.

James I. Kepner, PhD

13 CEs

January 13-17, 2016

Maria de Lourdes Quiroz Kepner

TRAINING PROGRAM

Group Intervention Training Program

Gestalt Group Process Facilitation Skills

Module 1 of this program focuses on skills in assessing and facilitating groups and small systems. In keeping with Gestalt principles a key focus is the development of the practitioner's self-awareness parallel with group awareness. Building ground that enables sustainable progress in the group while developing individuals is woven into the facilitator's skills. The design of creative and developmentally appropriate interventions is an essential part of the training.

Mary Ann Kraus, PsyD, Jay Brinegar, MS

J. Rick Day, PhD Jacqueline McLemore, PhD

March 20-24, 2016

registrar@gestaltcleveland.org

Call 001-216-421-0468

www.gestaltcleveland.org

The Gestalt Institute of Cleveland is approved by the Ohio Psychological Association to offer continuing education to psychologists and by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Gestalt Institute of Cleveland maintains responsibility for this program and its content. The State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board grants the Gestalt Institute of Cleveland approved provider status to provide continuing education for Counselors and Social Workers. GIC is ACTP accredited.

MEMBERS

Lynne Jacobs - can AAGT be an international organisation?

We are now one year from our experiment of a joint conference with EAGT. So, is it untimely for me to offer my thoughts on AAGT'S mission to be an international organization? I hope not. I hope to start a conversation that we can have on our Listserve, in the newsletter, and other venues.

In previous conferences we have tried unsuccessfully to think through the complex question of what it means to be an international organization. Perhaps we can do a better job by taking the time to write to each other.

During the process group at Asilomar last year, I heard from one of our actively involved younger members that his generation really wants this question resolved rather than have it drag on year after year, draining interest and attention and excitement from other aims of AAGT.

I look forward to going to Taormina, and I loved going to Puebla. But I have serious doubts about the wisdom and feasibility of having AAGT exist as a truly international organization. I think we may need to amend our founding document.

I would like to take you through my thinking/feeling as it evolved at the conference, based on my experience of listening to various points of view and descriptions of different experiences.

I came to the conference quite comfortable with the notion of AAGT as an intentionally international organization. I have since evolved to a position close to one that Joe Melnick proposed: that we can be an American-centered organization, with membership from anywhere welcome, with no geographic restrictions on who might assume leadership and/or committee responsibilities.

When I first heard Joe give voice to that idea, I was shocked and disturbed. I worried that it was exclusionary. But in actuality, that is the organization we have! Might it be duplicitous to present ourselves otherwise?

We might be acting in bad faith by acting as if we can be truly wholly international. For instance, how can we be a wholly international institute when our by-laws require that every other year we meet in the US?

By the way, I am closely acquainted with two large psychoanalytic organizations that both profess to be international. They even have that word as the first word in the titles of their organizations. But everyone knows that the organizations are American-centered in just the way I described above. They do have conferences outside the US some times (IARPP, especially). And anyone is welcome to serve on leadership positions. But the administration is centered in the US, and by and large, leadership and committee work is done by US members. These organizations are quite large, and everyone seems to understand and accept that the organizations would fall into total disarray if they are not "centered" somewhere. Since both were founded by groups of people who live in the US, it makes sense that the organizations rely on the infrastructure and admin resources that developed on US soil.

I have serious doubts about the wisdom and feasibility of having AAGT exist as a truly international organization. I think we may need to amend our founding document.



Lynne Jacobs continued.

I heard some people accuse those who decried the loss of home of just being afraid of change, resistant to globalization as a new fact of life. I think that was disrespectful to those who feel the American-ness as home. As Eva Gold pointed out, it is not easy to speak against a thorough-going internationalism, as if we are being exclusionary and shamefully parochial. Yet, as has been pointed out many times, AAGT has always served as the national conference of Americans, who have no other national gathering (and cannot feasibly arrange such). But of course, this is what makes our international intention a kind of bad faith. Because AAGT is also the time for Americans to gather.

Importantly, some of the AAGT folks who hail from other countries also said they are attracted to AAGT in part for its American-ness, and would not want to lose that flavor. If we are to be intentionally, fully international, we would have to have conferences in the US only occasionally. Like it or not, that probably would mean the death of the American-ness.

We would also have to work harder to develop international leadership and committee involvement. I heard the folks who don't live in the US being berated for not joining committees more. I was taken aback by that hectoring. Those who do a lot of committee work know full well that they emerge from a network of friendships, most likely a supportive local community, etc. These are supports for greater involvement with its rewards and sacrifices. Many who hail from elsewhere have no such community and few if any long-standing relationships with AAGT active folk. They feel far from the action. It takes more initiative to overcome that distance than it does for someone in the US.

So, as I said at the beginning, I now favor reconsidering what AAGT takes as our mission in light of what is more likely possible, which is the situation we have: an American-centered organization open and eager to have members from everywhere. It is more honest, and as an American who wants a home, I can say I would appreciate the generosity of those from outside the US, in their willingness accept that I want a sense of home.

Because actually, without you who hail from elsewhere, who have been central to the founding and further development of AAGT, it would no longer feel like home. I want an American-centered home, but I do not wish to play only amongst Americans. That leaves me feeling impoverished. I love that for the second time that I know of, our President-elect is not from American shores.

I do hope others will write their thoughts. I am pretty sure that it will help the board to plan some way to address this issue in the future. Our next generation does NOT want to be saddled with this tension as we move on!

PS. while writing this, I swelled with a feeling of gratitude to all of you who have built and sustained the most unusual experiment. Thank you.

With gratitude,
Lynne Jacobs



*I do hope others
will write their
thoughts. I am
pretty sure that it
will help the
board to plan
some way to
address this issue*



Two new books from Illawarra Press

Couples Therapy: A Gestalt Approach By Brian O'Neill

This book brings together training and experience as a couples therapist and trainer across 30 years into profoundly simple theory, skill and practice of working as a couples therapist using a gestalt perspective. Topics include –

Overview of Couples therapy models

Phenomenology in working with Couples

Dialogical psychotherapy

Field and Systems Perspectives

The Gestalt methodology of Experiment

Assessment of the couple system

Shame and Attachment

Art of Therapy

Trauma and abuse

The Spiritual Aspects of being a Couple

Available through Ravenwood Press http://illawarragestalt.org/index_files/Page619.htm

And Createspace <https://www.createpace.com/5387539>

Catch the Message: Female Gestalt therapists in Interview 2013/2014

Female Gestalt therapist. Who comes to mind? In addition to Laura Perls, there are many great, contemporary female therapists who have dedicated their life to Gestalt therapy and contributed significantly to its development. This book pays homage to them.

Catch The Message is the result of this process and of course it is also the outcome of the partnership with Jay Levin, my teacher, friend and colleague, who agreed to join me in this project and made it broader and more colorful. Of all these questions, the most important issue for me was the following: what is the essence of your work (what works). *Adriana Feckova*

I am grateful to all the participants for their generous contributions to our project and also for the opportunity to be in touch with outstanding women who I might never have had the pleasure of meeting, if it were not for this assignment. It is my hope that these interviews will provide a wonderful window for our readers to see into the lives and experiences of some of our foremost living Gestalt therapists and to offer this volume as a tribute to those who have fashioned a path for others to follow and expand. Jay Levin

Therapists in the book: Isabel Fredericson; Judith Brown; Liv Estrup; Elinor Greenberg; Gaie Houston; Lynne Jacob; Hanne Hostrup; Violet Oaklander; Rita Resnick; Nancy Amendt-Lyons; Ruella Frank; Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb; Iris Fodor; Talia Bar-Yoseph Levine; Nurith Levi and Sonia Nevis.

Available through Ravenwood Press http://illawarragestalt.org/index_files/Page619.htm

And Createspace <https://www.createpace.com/5082579>

Excerpt from Field Theory of a Couple

The connection to the later theory of Gestalt therapy is evident. The organism is part of a larger field of organism and environment. In a statement predating the concept of self in Gestalt therapy, Wertheimer describes the meaningful, functioning whole of a group of people, such as children or South Sea Islanders as being a “self,” an organism. In such situations he states that the “I” of the person rarely stands out alone, and it is the wider organism of the group which exists.

The Couple as One

The concept of the couple as a self in the organism/environment field offers a unique aesthetic to enter into contact with a couple in therapy. In essence we realise the couple we are contacting is *One Life*. They appear as two people of course, but in the view of the couple as one, a richer fuller tapestry emerges. This is at the heart of the original work by Martin Buber, *I-Thou*, and provides a lens with which to understand his deeply mystical and personal style of writing.

As Buber (1958) writes:

The human being is not a He or She, bounded from every other He or She, a specific point in space and time within the net of the world; nor is he a nature able to be experienced and described, a loose bundle of named qualities. But with no neighbour and whole in himself, he is Thou and fills the universe. (p. 8)

While describing the separate person as “whole in himself” (an individual), Buber paradoxically at the same time tells how she is a Thou which fills the universe. The person is both a separate identity and connected to all there is in a mystical fashion. Her separate identity also fills the universe and is more than the individual personal nature of “self.” Such an experience of self is most fully experienced in an enduring sense as part of a couple.

By the very recognition that there is something larger present in the therapy situation than just the sum of the total of the individuals physically there, this is already a recognition of the “more than personal.” (Hycner, p. 97)

This description is particularly relevant to the couple, where there is indeed something “larger” present in the therapy situation than the sum of the two individuals physically present. There is a presence of that which is “more than the personal” the couple self.

Hycner also describes the Hasidic story of the holy sparks which initially are “All that Is” shattered into holy sparks, which are separated and contained in all things, yet remain the common source of wholeness. To paraphrase this in couples therapy, the self as a couple (containing the holy sparks), provides the experience of two separate beings (sparks) nonetheless connected in the experience of coupling (wholeness). It is this connection we experience as the “between.” We want to emphasize this is a view of the couple *both* as a “oneness” (a self) and also as two individuals in a field. As we shift to experience the couple as an ongoing “self” then a wider view opens to therapy and spiritual life. Note that within the therapy context in working with a couple, there is a greater self still, of the therapist and couple together. However for the purposes of this work our focus will be with the self of the couple.

As Erv and Miriam Polster (1973) state:

Contact is not just togetherness or joining. It can only happen between separate beings always requiring independence and always risking capture in the union. At the moment of union, one's fullest sense of his person is swept along into a new creation. I am no longer only me, but me and thee make we. (p. 99)

Excerpt from Field Theory of a Couple

The couple is the new creation and the Polsters describe the challenge of *risking capture* in the union, *gambling* with the dissolution of individuality and *wagering* our independent existence. This attention to *both* the individual's and couple's experience of self, and the tension between each are, to us as therapists, very important. It is particularly well articulated through shame theory and the field theory definition of the couple.

When people reach the stage of their lives that they start looking for a partner, they have accumulated various amounts of what Robert calls ground shame and have developed creative adjustments that incorporate their ground shame into styles of connecting (Lee, 2004; Wheeler, 1991). Here is where the concept of a couple's "oneness" or "self" provides a lens that offers a unique view. This mix of life experience and beliefs as well as the individual's yearnings for connection become an integral part of their couple "oneness." In this way a couple's "oneness" includes their mutual sense of disconnection as well as their longing for and accumulated skills of connection.

As connection is the reason for coupling in the first place, connection and a desire to grow are the major driving forces operating in couples developing "oneness." However, in their "oneness," couples can find themselves moving toward connection, *or* they can find themselves reinforcing in each other the sense that connection is not possible. This is because, ironically, moving toward connection may activate the couples' sense of the necessity of disconnection. Hence the couple's joint underlying beliefs, embodied in their styles of connecting, contain taboos that require a disowning of aspects of self in order to "belong." Simple examples of these manifest as "If I am strong I will be loved (but not if I am weak)" or "I can never fully trust another with ALL of me."

The degree to which a couple individually "disowns" aspects of themselves in order to be a couple, is a benchmark of the degree to which a couple may seek support and therapy in order to re-align these creative adjustments to become more authentic as a couple and as individuals.

Such experiences are paradoxical as is the change that is engendered, and it helps to know at some level that this couple is a self. This creates for awareness as therapists not only of each individual but to the couple as a whole. This knowingness can lead us to understand that there are two "realities" at play here: the reality evident to our senses of the two people and the more subtle reality of the self of the couple. Each has a clear aesthetic to our senses, yet our phenomenology needs to be educated and developed to look for the signs of two individuals acting also as a couple. This is found in glances, in touch and in words, yet the phenomenological mind set which is only fixed to observe the separate self of the individual will be "blind" to these sensory figures to all intents and purposes this reality of the couple self is "invisible."



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Roczny Program Gestalt Therapy dla Profesjonalistów

Cykl czterech 2-dniowych spotkań seminaryjno-warsztatowych

Prowadzący: Ewa Canert-Łąka i Piotr Mierkowski

Data rozpoczęcia: 21 i 22 Lutego 2016

Program szkolenia oparty został na książce **Gestalt Therapy. Excitement and Growth in the Human Personality**, autorstwa F. Perlsa, R. Hefferline'a i P. Goodman'a - a przede wszystkim na jej drugim tomie *Novelty, Excitement and Growth*, jaki do dzisiejszego dnia stanowi teoretyczną podstawę podejścia Gestalt do psychoterapii. To ważne dzieło, które nie doczekało się jeszcze polskiego wydania zostało przetłumaczone na język polski na potrzeby warsztatu.

Ze względu na odkrywczość i ponadczasowy humanistyczny przekaz książki, znanej w środowisku gestaltystów jako „PHG” - od pierwszych liter nazwisk jej autorów, duża część szkolenia zostanie poświęcona dokładnemu studiowaniu jej zawartości, linijka po linijce, włącznie z krytyczną dyskusją przekazów w niej zawartych.

Powszechnie wiadomo, iż język w jakim „PHG” została napisana, nie należy do najłatwiejszych i nie pozwala na automatyczną introjekcję jego zawartości. Wręcz przeciwnie, książka ta wymaga od czytelnika pełnej koncentracji i zaangażowania, a zawarte w niej sprzeczności i niespójności, prowokują do rozważań, eksperymentów i dyskusji, dzięki którym rozwija się indywidualne rozumienie i ucieleśnienie jej przekazu oraz wzrasta świadomość nas samych i otaczającej nas rzeczywistości.

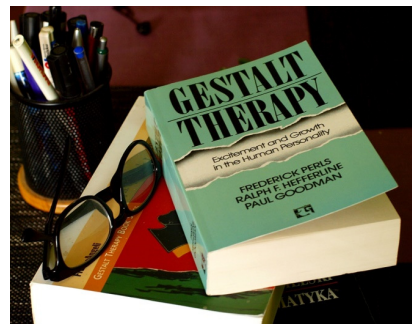
Oprócz wspólnego „przeżywania” źródłowego tekstu, roczny program obejmuje pracę terapeutyczną, demonstracje i superwizję przypadków oraz filmy, które pozwolą na lepsze poznanie początków terapii Gestalt i jej twórców. Podstawową metodą będzie praca w grupie oparta o wspólne poszukiwanie rozumienia, nadawanie indywidualnego znaczenia, odnajdywanie siebie i swoich zasobów bycia psychoterapeutą we współczesnej sytuacji w Polsce.

Prowadzenie warsztatów:

Ewa Canert-Łąka, PTPG, EAGT, psychoterapeutka i superwizor, certyfikowany trener (FORGE); współzałożyciel i pierwszy prezes PTPG (2005-2014). Od 22 lat szkoli i prowadzi psychoterapię indywidualną i grupową w ramach prywatnej praktyki.

Piotr Mierkowski, UKCP, BACP, mgr psychoterapii Gestalt, psycholog, certyfikowany terapeuta par i superwizor. Od 1991 r. prowadzi prywatną praktykę psychoterapii w Londynie. Były dyrektor-konsultant *Gestalt Centre London*; członek AAGT i UKAGP.

Zapraszamy wszystkich psychoterapeutów, którzy chcą poszerzać swoją wiedzę na temat terapii Gestalt: terapeutów Gestalt, psychoterapeutów humanistycznych i pracujących w innych nurtach, specjalistów counsellingu i coachingu, psychologów, oraz studentów dwóch ostatnich lat szkół psychoterapii. **Grupa liczy max 15 osób.**



“Poznanie PHG było dla mnie odkrywcze i ugruntowujące. Sięgnięcie do korzeni okazało się bardzo rozwijające.”

Roczny program dla Profesjonalistów

obejmuje cztery 2-dniowe spotkania seminaryjno-warsztatowe, odbywające się w soboty i niedziele (9.00 – 18.00) z godziną przerwą obiadową.

Terminy poszczególnych spotkań:

6-7 lutego 2016 - Wprowadzenie do PHG
16-17 kwietnia 2016 - Rzeczywistość, natura ludzka i społeczeństwo
9-10 lipca 2016 - Antropologia postawy neurotycznej
23-24 października 2016 - Teoria Ja

Koszt rocznego programu: 3600.00 PLN
 Koszt wpisowego: 600.00 PLN
 Koszt jednego warsztatu: 750.00 PLN

W cenę programu wliczony jest również egzemplarz angielskiego wydania książki.

Po ukończeniu całego kursu uczestnicy otrzymają certyfikat (łącznie 72 godziny).

Jeśli ktoś chce nas wcześniej poznać może wziąć udział w warsztacie grupowym skupionym na rozwoju osobistym, pt. *Sztuka Dialogu*, który odbędzie się w dniach 21-22 listopada 2015 w Warszawie.

Informacja: gestalt@gestalt-szkolenia.pl

Szczegółowe informacje i zapisy na szkolenie: gestalt@gestalt-szkolenia.pl

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- Group Facilitation Training Intensive - 10-week and teaching block options, from April to July 2016

Gestalt in Organisational Development led by Tony Fraser and Christina Schuierer:

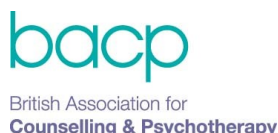
- Core Concepts - two-day workshop, 11 & 12 December 2015
- In Practice - 2 x three-day workshops, 21 – 23 January & 3 – 5 March 2016
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GATLA International/ Domestic Workshops

Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D.

Rita F. Resnick, Ph.D.

2015-2016

Sydney, Australia

October 29, 2015 (eve) Robert Resnick, Ph.D.
New Gestalt Therapy Film Screening and Discussion

October 30, 2015 - Robert Resnick, Ph.D.
Rita F. Resnick, Ph.D.

"Two Become One and Then There are None"
A One Day Couples Therapy Training Workshop

Oct 30 – Nov 1, 2015 Robert Resnick, Ph.D.
Rita F. Resnick, Ph.D.
**Gestalt Therapy: An Advanced Training Opportunity
Celebrating and Integrating Difference.**

Contact: Ashleigh Power
ashleigh@therelationalinstituteaustralia.com

Perth, Australia

November 7 - 8, 2015 - Rita F. Resnick, Ph.D.
Contemporary Gestalt Therapy: A Training Workshop
for Therapists

November 7 - 8, 2015 - Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D.
"Two Become One and Then There are None"
A Couples Therapy Training Workshop for Therapists –

Contact: Zish Ziembinski – zish@westnet.com.au

Seattle, Washington

Nov. 12, 2015 (eve) 6:30 pm – 8:45 pm
Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D.

New Gestalt Therapy Film Screening and
Discussion – Open

Location: Seattle University Bannon Rm 102

Reservation and Payment:

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2321758>

Contact: evonnenoble@gmail.com

Seattle, Washington

Four Weekends: *A Couple of Individuals* (Individual
and Couples Therapy Training for Therapists)

2016: Feb. 6-7, June 4-5, Sept. 10-11, Dec. 3-4

Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D. and Rita F. Resnick, Ph.D.

Location: Emily Program, Seattle Washington

Contact: Rita Resnick ritaresnick@gatla.org

Info & Registration: <http://gatla.org/masterclass-seattle/>

Portland, Oregon

December 11, 2015 (Friday eve. 7pm -10pm)

Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D.

**New Contemporary Gestalt Therapy Film
Screening and Discussion**

Location: Lewis & Clark College Templeton Campus
Center Stamm Dining Room

Contact: Robert W. Resnick, BobResnick@aol.com

Registration: <http://gatla.org/portland-film-screening/>

December 12, 2015 (All day Saturday, 9 m - 5pm)

Rita F. Resnick, Ph.D. Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D.

Couples Therapy Training: Lecture/Demonstration

Location: Lewis & Clark College Templeton Campus
Center Stamm Dining Room

Contact: ritaresnick@gatla.org

BobResnick@aol.com

Info/Reg: <http://gatla.org/portland-lecturedemonstration/>

Malibu, California

January 10 - 15, 2016

Rita F. Resnick, Ph.D. & Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D.

**Residential Couples Therapy Training Workshop for
Therapists**

Location: Serra Retreat Conference Center Malibu, CA

Contact: Rita at: ritaresnick@gatla.org

Bob at: BobResnick@aol.com

Info/Reg: <http://gatla.org/malibu-residential-couples-workshop/>

Oslo, Norway

April 15-17, 2016

Rita F. Resnick, Ph.D. & Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D.

**Couples Therapy Training Workshop "A Couple of
Individuals"**

Contact: Erling Thorkildsen erlingmt@gmail.com

Killarney, Ireland

April 22-24, 2016

Rita F. Resnick, Ph.D. & Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D.

Couples Therapy Training Workshop

"A Couple of Individuals"

Contact: ritaresnick@gatla.org or BobResnick@aol.com

Amsterdam, Holland

April 28 - May 1, 2016

Rita F. Resnick, Ph.D. & Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D.

Couples Therapy Training Workshop

"A Couple of Individuals"

Contact: Paul ter Weijde, paulterweijde@planet.nl

45th Annual European Summer

Residential

Coast of Portugal (tentative)

Couples Therapy Training Program July 10 -16, 2016

Gestalt Therapy Training Program July 17- 29, 2016

Contact: ritaresnick@gatla.org

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Please send contributions to Alex. Email is: Alexschi@hotmail.co.uk by 15th January 2016.

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