



AUGUST 2015 AAGT
Newsletter



Welcome

Newsletter editor

Alexandra Schlotterbeck

Dear members,

Welcome to another edition of the AAGT newsletter. As you will read,



members have been busy. In their greetings both

Patricia and Toni mention the recent Annual General Meeting at Kean University, New Jersey in June. Not to mention the AAGT North East Conference which came beforehand.

Thanks to Ansel Woldt and James Battaglia for providing some great pics! Look out also for the report by Charlie Bowman on the conference as well as the findings of the taskforce for the international biennial conferences which has led to an amendment of the AAGT constitution. Also noteworthy are the reflections on the international research conference by Mark Reck.

Happy reading!

Alex

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Greetings from the President

Patricia Tucker

Dear AAGT Members,

As you may know, we held the Annual General Membership Meeting in June at Kean University in Union, New Jersey, USA. I was quite nervous about running my first AGM, especially since this time we had an unprecedented 40 (or so) members in attendance! But the meeting turned out to be a thoroughly exciting and rich co-creation as we explored together many areas important to the development of AAGT. I was just delighted to be there with you all and I feel inspired for what is to come!



Our areas of focus included an exploration of the meaning of our "internationality", what it means to be an AAGT region and the beginnings of a plan to develop guidelines around this, our Interest Groups and how to further develop them, our web-based presence and how to extend and expand this, our upcoming bi-annual Conference in Sicily in September of 2016, and a look at the development of a process around addressing conflicts within AAGT. Here's a brief snapshot of some of what we talked about.

When AAGT first became "an international community", in an effort towards inclusion of all, many aspects of "internationality" were not considered. It has been a learning process for all of us to continue to explore this and think about what this really means. Some of the aspects discussed were the need to increase access to conferences and other events for as many members as possible, greater attention to cultural differences, the need for translation services, the need for a sliding scale for membership based on differences in resources available to different members, the need for fund-raising efforts that could support such needs as a travel fund and other needs associated with a global membership, how to encourage a global membership when the large majority of members at present is from the US.

Our discussion on the Regions was an especially hot topic this year as we are now striving to outline and then come to consensus around what it means to be an AAGT Region – what are the responsibilities of AAGT to the Regions and what are the Regions responsibilities to AAGT? In the past, this has been a really informal process and has worked well that way. Now, as we grow, many of us recognize the need for more clarity and structure. This becomes especially true as regions develop regional conferences that are sponsored and/or supported in some way by AAGT. A Task Force on the Regions was created at the Asilomar conference and is continuing to meet to begin the development of recommendations around these guidelines.

AAGT Interest Groups are starting to grow and develop and we are excited about this opportunity for our members to come together in new ways. Daniel Bak and Bob Witchell (our board Interest Group co-chairs) are looking into new ways for members to connect and we are exploring the possibility of creating a meeting site that Interest Groups might use to have online meetings where everyone can actually see each other! I'm excited to see our Interest Groups coming back to life as groups explore sharing resources, reading together, writing together for publication and collaborating on conferences and events!

Discussion about our web-based presence ranged from increasing our online exposure through adwords and social media to the development of our new website (in progress!), to an exploration of web-based ways that members might get more involved with AAGT – expanded use of our list-serve, new ways to

Greetings from Patricia continued

As we focused in on members' ideas and concerns about next year's bi-annual conference, discussion topics ranged from technical concerns about how to submit proposals and how to participate in the planning process to concerns about the publicity materials we have so far to how to retain a sense of ourselves as a group and feel at home within this large joint-venture with the EAGT that we are planning. Our conveners welcomed everyone's participation in this discussion and were inspired by the ideas of all.

Our conflict process discussion was especially important to me as we explored our thoughts about finding productive ways to address conflicts within the AAGT that would respect and honor our Covenant of Community. There were differing opinions about whether a "formal" process was needed. One idea that I especially liked was that of creating an ad-hoc, as-needed Conflict committee whenever a member felt that this was necessary and that this could consist of board members and non-board members with some representatives being selected by all parties to the conflict. It was noted that some time frames would have to be set up when this ad-hoc committee was formed to allow sufficient time for all to be heard but not allow a conflict process to go on forever. More work on this is clearly necessary but I am so glad to see us move towards more concrete ways for all members to have an opportunity to work towards consensus with others when conflicts arise in a way that holds us true to the basic AAGT values as indicated in our Covenant of Community.

While we are always a work in progress and there is always so much more to discuss and decide, this AGM was a very satisfying and enriching process for me. I am grateful to all of the board members who were able to be there and provide their great leadership, as well as those who were not able to be there but provided terrific reports of their ongoing activities on behalf of AAGT. (see board members reports on the AAGT website.) And I am so thankful, too, to the many of you members who stuck with us throughout AGM as we not only discussed these hot topics but painstakingly made small but important changes to our Constitution. One important change that has been three years in the making was the resolution of Anne Leibig and her committee that has created a clearer and more comprehensive conference hosting process and also allows the board to designate the venue for the next bi-annual conference if it were to occur that we were unable to do so at an AGM. Many thanks to Anne and her committee for sticking with this process and bringing it to fruition!

I was so happy to get to spend this time with so many of you as we worked together to keep AAGT strong, vital, representing the views of as many of our members as possible as we continue to grow and advance Gestalt therapy.

Sincerely,

Patricia

Women presidents - past, present and future, of AAGT.



Greetings from the President-Elect

Toni Gilligan

I was at the AAGT NE conference and our AGM in New Jersey, in June. Others will be writing accounts of these and the discussion/working groups that came out of the AGM. I am excited that more people, outside the Board, will be engaged in AAGT activity between conferences and I hope that more of you who weren't at the AGM will join one (or more) of these groups.

I was interested in my experience of being the only person there from the UK, and while there were a few other non-US people present, the ratio seemed to roughly reflect the membership of AAGT, that is overwhelmingly from the US. This got me thinking about legitimacy: how, as a non-US person, I could be a useful vice-president (and in time, president) for US members. I am still mulling that over, and would welcome a discussion about this.



The other direction my experience of being an outsider and in the minority takes me to, is our forthcoming joint conference in Sicily. At the AGM a lot of anxieties were expressed about this: that AAGT members - and the organisation - would be overwhelmed by the sheer size of EAGT; that it wouldn't *be* an AAGT conference; that we have to work hard (fight?) for things like community meetings etc. And it is true in one sense that it won't be an AAGT Conference as we know them (not that any two are the same). But, while key figures in our conference planning team are saying we shouldn't configure the conference as we usually do, shouldn't have the same expectations, but see it as a one-off experiment - neither AAGT or EAGT but a unique joint creation - from where I am sitting it still seems like an EAGT conference - with grafts! We are still working on that and it would be wrong to give the impression that our EAGT colleagues in the planning process aren't willing to adapt and be influenced by us. On the contrary: however the starting place is the EAGT Conference structure and that imposes its limitations.

In our discussions about Sicily it is explicit what EAGT wants from doing this together- aspects of how we do our conferences, like process groups, and peer-review. What is not clear is what AAGT wants from this. When I think about this on a personal level I realise I am not particularly attracted by the theme of the conference, neither am I seduced by the location! I *am* interested in the experiment, but really only because there is no choice other than the experiment - or not attending.

I am however drawn to and very respectful of EAGT's Human Rights and Social Responsibility activities; that is perhaps something AAGT could learn from EAGT. And I am very, very interested in the issue of Migration/Migrants.

Sicily, like other Mediterranean countries is bearing the brunt of the terrible outflow of people from Africa, fleeing wars, famine, and persecution. How does a host population respond? At the conference a plenary meeting is scheduled with Migration as the topic. I don't know what shape this is intended to take, but I know what I would like to happen. I can envisage something exciting that we, AAGT members, could both contribute to, and gain from our two organisations' meeting if we are willing to engage with our feared role at the conference: of minority, overwhelmed by a majority, 'accommodated and accommodating' (I am quoting Talia here, thank you Tali. If we engage with the living experiment of migrant/host and support ourselves and our EAGT colleagues in exploring with us our co-created experiences of immigrant and native, incomer minority and host majority, in a large-group process that facilitates the emergence of cultural and inter-cultural dynamics, together we can expand our awareness of meeting with the cultural 'other' and perhaps learn better how to be both host and migrant.

Have a good summer: I hope your weather will be more clement than it is in the UK at the moment - very wet! And please book for Sicily: it would be the worst of both worlds if there wasn't a good size AAGT presence. All the best!

Our 2016 Conference is Open for Registration!!!



www.taorminaconference2016.com/eng/

The Aesthetic of Otherness: Meeting at the Boundary in a Desensitized World.

A Joint AAGT and EAGT Conference at the Crossroads of Civilizations.

Taormina, Sicily, September 22 - 25, 2016

Proposals are expected to have a scientific, social, cultural or political focus and should relate to the theme of the conference and/or the gestalt experiment inherent in this joint undertaking. There are opportunities for lectures (1½ hour); workshops (1½ hours); a few panels (1½ hours) and posters.

The evaluation of proposals for acceptance at the conference will be a three-step process including blind peer review.

All proposals should be submitted online. Please refer to the conference web-site to get accurate directions as to the formatting of proposals. You must be registered for the conference in order to submit a proposal. Favorable consideration will be afforded to members of both Associations.

The deadline for submission is October 31, 2015.

AAGT Northeast Region Conference Report

Charlie Bowman

The U.S. Northeast Region held a conference June 12th and 13th on the campus of Kean University in New Jersey. The theme of the conference was **"Living as Part of the Whole: Self in Community/Community in Self."** Food and lodging were included in the conference package. This contributed to the exploration of the conference theme by defining our community in a virtually secluded manner. Attendees were housed on campus, provided decent meals through on-campus dining, and had an opportunity to experiment in a the range of experiences that emerge in a communal living experience. These included dormitory living, communal dining, and a lovely sing-along led by our incoming President Toni Gilligan.

About 45 AAGT Members and 10 non-members attended this regional event. Gail Feinstein and I facilitated an exploration of our similarities and differences as a Community and as individual members of that Community. Working from a simple model, we set an intention of a general movement from "inhibiting to inhabiting to cohabitating to collaborating."

Beginning with a substantial process of orienting, grounding and centering, participants were then invited to explore their similarities to others regarding their feelings and beliefs around being and becoming part of a Community. From this base of sameness and embodied support small groups formed that consisted of members with very different experiences of being in a community and being a member of this emerging Community.

The afternoon breakout groups were designed to further the work of Self in Community/Community in Self. Nickei Falconer was one of the presenters. She traveled a great distance to get to New Jersey from Christchurch, New Zealand. Her experiential workshop, "Sharing Common Ground" developed the conference theme through an exploration of living as part of the Community of the whole planet Earth. Her workshop was well received.



Concurrent with Nickei's afternoon workshop, Mary Lou Shack presented "Moments of Mutuality" and Cathy Gray presented "With You With Me in Relationship and Community." Mary Lou's workshop provided participants opportunities to enhance awareness of moment-to-moment connecting, identify the precursors to these moments, and to experience those moments in the workshop experience. Cathy's workshop, like Mary Lou's, heightened awareness that contributed to the development of the Community-as-a-Whole. Her focus on embodied presence established firm ground for the large group community experience that followed.

AAGT Northeast Region Conference Report

Continued

Adam Weitz rounded-out the breakout sessions with his workshop, "You, Me and Our Cell Phones." Starting with the premise that smart phones represent a shift in our professional and social lives and are ever-present in our phenomenological field, Adam supported the conference theme by working with this component of our daily experience of smart phones – an experience that can enhance an encounter or detract from it. Case in point: In the larger community gathering following Adam's workshop there was a moment of "pregnant silence" during our work. In that precise moment, someone's phone chimed-in. Making her presence known to the community, Siri (the voice behind most iPhones) chimed in with, "I'm sorry, I don't understand the question." Hilarious and truthful!

During the second day of our conference we worked together and focused our attention on relational attunement. Specifically, our interest moved to cultivating mutual belonging and building an embodied relational community from dyads to quads and up to the larger Community. True to our praxis, focusing on support, an appreciation of differences, and an appreciation for each individuals embodied experience led to an emergent Community that held members as they shared unfinished business with other members and with AAGT. This was a deeply moving experience marked by understanding, holding, forgiving, kindness and loving presence. Several members who had not participated in AAGT for decades remarked, "This is not the AAGT I left in the 90's!"

Many thanks to Ken Meyer, Bud Feder and Gail Feinstein for serving as conference conveners – they were outstanding hosts! I want to express my deep appreciation for my co-facilitator, Gail. Collaborating on the design and implementation of this six-hour experiment was a fulfilling and growthful experience for me. Thank-you, Gail!



AAGT North East Conference, Kean University, New Jersey.



**New York City Skyline as seen from Kean
University while enjoying the AGM Dinner**



**Lunch time at Kean
University Cafeteria**



**Northeast USA Regional
AAGT Conference**

AGM - Reflections & Appreciations

Dominique Chabre

Dear AAGT community,

When I joined the AAGT and soon after that joined the Board, I felt a new warm feeling of belonging. I did not know why that community would want me or what I could offer. It took me a long time to believe that I was part of it. And I still only feel that sporadically because I'm not used to be accepted or accept that I might be so. I have tried hard to demonstrate that I was a valuable member to our organization that I was worth being a Board member.

I always knew that one of my responsibilities was to be present at our AGMs. But I did not attend our 2013 AGM in Cape Cod because living and working in Mexico the cost was beyond my means. I was offered some financial assistance for my travelling costs by the Board but felt it was too much of an expense for our community.

I attended the 2014 AGM because it was attached to our biannual conference in Asilomar and that as an organizer and presenter I had saved all year to go there. To help with my costs the AAGT Scholarship Fund supported me. It was not easy for me to request this support but until this day I am thankful.

I had no hope of attending the 2015 AGM until several months ago the Board reiterated that as an international organization AAGT had an international Board and that as such it made sense to help every Board member to attend our AGMs. That's when I was faced with the choice of turning down the offer, as in 2013, or take the extended hand... I am not used to ask for financial assistance. I associate it with shame. My Board members colleagues gave me so much support that my shame was overcome by the feeling of pride from being wanted and accepted. And I flew from Mexico to NJ to attend the AGM and since I travelled so far I also joined the NE conference.

From the moment I arrived in NJ to my departure, every second was about the experience of living together. There was no separation between the conference and the AGM. The sense of community built during the conference just carried over for the AGM. And that is what AAGT is about for me, there is not a Board on the top. We are an organization with horizontality in all of our relationships. And that was so beautifully exemplified in our meeting at Kean.

The experience was so rich and I am filled with gratitude to be part of such a supportive community as the AAGT. It is not only the Board but all of you in my AAGT community that have made it possible for me to attend our AGM. You have given me the gift of the experience of belonging, of living as part of the whole.

I am still feeling a little shameful for using so much of our community money just for me. But then I am thinking of our internationality. How can we be so without considering geographical distances? Apart from the price of travelling I am concerned about the global sustainability issue. I know that for the future of AAGT those are important questions to address.

Thank you.
Dominique

AAGT AGM



Nancy Woldt, retiring as Membership co-chair, was taking a break on Kean University's lovely campus

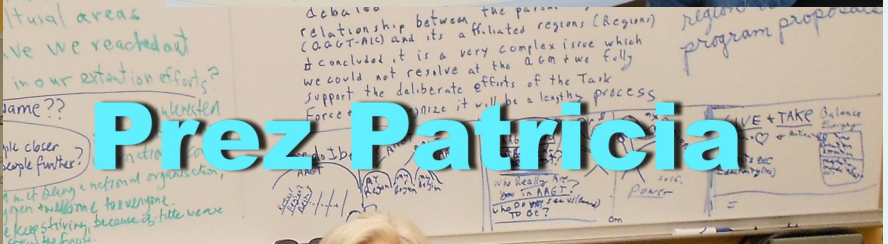
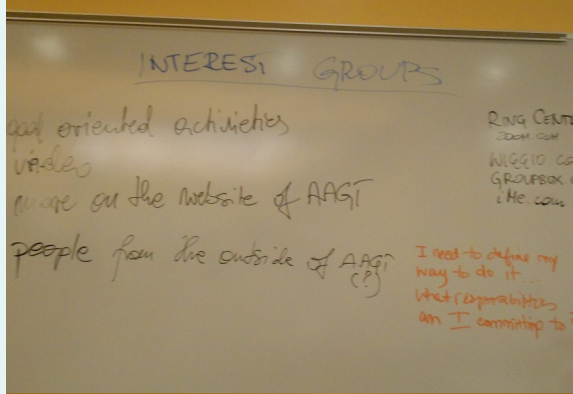


Patricia Tucker, Toni Gilligan and Gail Feinstein

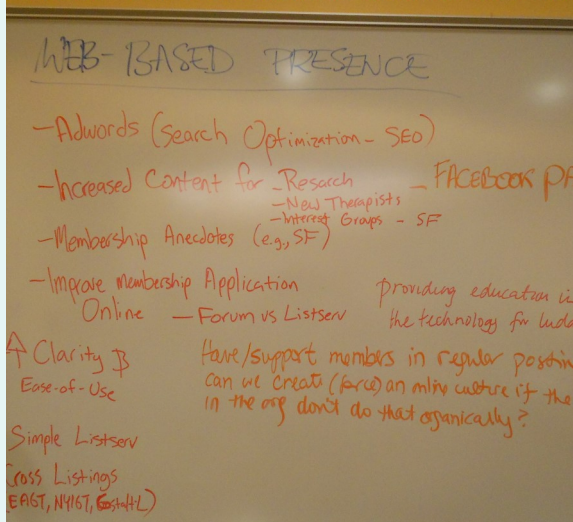


Nancy Woldt, Marlene Blumenthal, Michael Sasiain, Maryanne Nicholls and Mark Reck.

"World Cafe" Issues & Ideas regarding AAGT Interest Groups



"World Cafe" Ideas re. AAGT's Web-based Presence



AAGT AGM

President-Elect, Toni Gilligan, opening
the AGM with some fun activities



L-R: Domi Chabre, Jim Battaglia, Carl Hodges, Toni Gilligan,
Daniel Bak, Bob Witchel, Bud Feder

Issues & Ideas expressed regarding our 2016 AAGT-EAGT Conference

31-ANNUAL CONFERENCE (TAORMINA, 2016)
SICILY

Attention to making AAGT VISIBLE in this conference — TWO VERY DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURES

- how to get involved in the process
- how to submit presentation proposal
- how is AAGT going to 'Be' in this ^{AAGT} process? — PRE-CONFERENCE?
- * From Adam: See "Increasing Internationality" — Peer Review program → (SAME AS AAGT)
 - process gps
 - CE's
- HOW TO FEEL AT HOME
 - The Brochure artwork is 'dark' in mood... awful and offputting — and exploitative/manipulative

MAINTAINING TRANSPARENCY, CLARITY, HORIZONTALITY

SPACE?
TIME?
Self-Regulation?
what will this look like → security

AAGT AGM



L-R: ???, Nancy Bristol, Patricia Tucker, Cathy Gray, Gary Gray, Bob Witchel, Maria Kirchner, Janneke van Buesekom



L-R: Michael Saslain, Burt Lazarin, Mary Lou Shack, M'Lou Caring, Marlene Blumenthal, Nancy Woldt



Bud and Daniel



Carl, Adam, Michael



After desert at the AGM dinner



Denise and Dina enjoying the AGM

A great gestalt closure with a great group hug in celebration of a great AAGT Annual General Meeting



Report from the AAGT International Biennial Conference Task Force — by Charlie Bowman.

The AAGT International Biennial Conference Task Force completed our mission with the report and recommendations presented by the Task Force Chair, Anne Leibig, at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, June 13th, 2015. The 2012 Task Force was commissioned to recommend an AAGT by-law addition stating how the community of AAGT determines the host for the Biennial Conference – with several Task Force members supporting Anne's presentation of recommendations. The full Task Force consisted of Anne Leibig, Charlie Bowman, Brian O'Neill, Kerry Shipman, Maria Oneide Willey, and Ansel Woldt.

The need for the task force emerged at the AGM in 2012 with a proposal to host the 2014 Biennial Conference in Asheville, North Carolina. Anne Leibig offered and then withdrew the invitation after the community voiced a strong negative reaction to the North Carolina legislature's vote to ban gay marriages. The 2014 conference was held instead at Asilomar in California. Members were asked to serve on this task force to explore a structure and description for deciding conference venues in accordance with our Constitution and By-Laws, our mission and expressed desires of our membership at the 2013 AGM.

At the recent 2015 AAGT AGM meeting of about 50 participants there was a responsive interest and a positive sense of completing unfinished business. With the presentation of the By-Law amendment there was a strong sense of completion of a three year process that resulted in the acceptance of the By-Law addition as follows:

For the AGM, Ansel introduced the by-law addition thusly: "After considerable discussion by members of AAGT's International Biennial Conference Task Force, followed with reviews and recommendations by the AAGT Board, and distribution to the AAGT member list for suggestions or additions, it is proposed that AAGT add the following statement to Article 1V" [minor grammatical corrections followed, consult the Constitution and By-Laws for final wording]:

Section 5- Biennial Conferences

AAGT shall conduct a Conference to be held biennially in conjunction with the Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) to maximize the number of participants able to participate in the direction and course of action of AAGT. It is intended that these conferences will provide opportunities for AAGT membership and others to associate and advance Gestalt therapy through both planned and spontaneous activities such as community meetings, process groups, sharing research, works-in-progress, theoretical knowledge, strategies and values through peer reviewed presentations, plenary sessions, socializing opportunities, and experimental workshops.

A Conference Hosting Committee Proposal Form is available through the AAGT Web site and the Newsletter. Gestalt Institutes, persons or groups interested in hosting a conference will submit a proposal request to the AAGT Board for consideration, at least three months prior to the AGM two years preceding the proposed conference. AAGT is committed to engaging in dialogue with differences and no country or region will be excluded from consideration. The Board will encourage and facilitate an online conversation around the biennial conference host selection and organizing committee before the AGM. Upon receipt and discussion of proposals, the Board will prepare a recommendation to the membership for presentation at the AGM for decision by members present. If at the end of Annual General Membership meeting the membership is unable to reach consensus in determining the venue and organizing committee the Board will make this determination. In the event there are no Conference hosting proposals the Board will of necessity recruit an ad hoc Conference organizing committee to determine the best possible Conference venue and coordinators.

After the By-Law was voted into effect there was resounding applause for the work of the Task Force and Anne Leibig's leadership!

Membership

Dear Colleagues,

As membership chairs we are reaching out to each of you to remind you it is time to renew your annual dues. To renew online, select "membership renewal page" at www.aagt.org. You may also renew by snail mail. Send your payment to: AAGT P.O. Box 42221 Portland, Oregon,



The AAGT Scholarship Fund

The **AAGT Scholarship Fund** currently has \$16,000

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

WE WELCOME YOUR DONATIONS

Latest news from the **AAGT Scholarship Fund Committee**

The AAGT Scholarship Fund and AAGT endorsed regional and research conferences:

In addition to allocating funds to individuals who wish to attend our biennial conferences the Scholarship Fund is available to allocate funding to AAGT endorsed conferences. Regional and research conference organisers may request funding from the scholarship committee. In that event the Scholarship Fund Committee will allocate one member to work closely with a designated person from the conference CPC, to:

- Encourage the conference to have a fundraising strategy in place before and during the conference; e.g., conference participants are asked to contribute money to the scholarship fund when they sign up and/or they have one evening event where fund raising will take place
- One conference organiser and one SF committee member will together assess individual applications for scholarships

The amount available to each eligible conference will be decided by the SF committee based on a maximum of 20% of the funds fundraised since our last conference.

The SF committee designed a standard scholarship application form for regional and research conferences: www.aagt.org/scholarship_fund_regional/

In 2015 to date, the Scholarship Fund made grants totaling \$2000 to assist [or enable] individuals to attend the following AAGT endorsed conferences:

- The International Research Conference, "The Challenge of Establishing a Research Tradition For Gestalt Therapy, Part 2", May 27-30, 2015, GISC, Wellfleet, Cape Cod, MA.
- The NE Regional Conference, "Living as Part of the Whole: Self in Community, Community in Self", June 12-13, 2015, Campus of Kean University in Union, NJ.
- The NE Conference held a silent auction which raised \$200 for the SF and an additional \$300 was allocated to the fund, stemming from a surplus at the end of the conference/AGM in the NE/AGM account.

The AAGT Scholarship Fund

The AAGT Scholarship Fund and the 2016 Taormina AAGT/EAGT Biannual Conference:

The AAGT SF committee provided consultation to EAGT on how to set up an EAGT scholarship fund for their members attending the 2016 conference in Taormina, Sicily. Both organizations decided to have an integrated scholarship application system. However each organization will offer priority to their own respective members.

The Scholarship Fund current goal:

The SF aims at fundraising \$40,000.00 of which \$32,000.00 will go towards the Taormina 2016 conference and \$8,000.00 to regional and research conferences. If we manage to get more then this could go towards a reserve.

The SF committee is aware of various sources of money coming to our fund:

- (1) Money paid to the fund at the sign up for a conference.
- (2) Conference auctions.
- (3) Regional conferences donating from their surplus income.
- (4) Money donated at the time of membership renewal.
- (5) Special appeals, such as the one Bud Feder made in 2014.
- (6) Other events.

You might consider additional creative ways to fundraise ("Other events"). Apart from encouraging members of your community to organize a workshop, lecture or a webinar, you may also:

- ♦ -Organize a race or marathon for the AAGT scholarship fund.
- ♦ Organize a fundraising event in your towns (gig, dinner, party, etc.)
- ♦ Approach private foundations or corporations for donations.

The Scholarship Fund Committee

Adam Kincel and Domi Chabre, co-chairs

Bud Feder, Cathy Gray and Ariel Valenzuela, members.

Associating

&



Advancing

Reflections on 2015 International Research Conference:

The Challenge of Establishing a Research Tradition for Gestalt Therapy, Part II

Mark Reck, AAGT Research Liaison and Chair of the AAGT Research Committee

Although it has been a few weeks since the conference, I am still left with strong impressions of the conference. The wonderful weather and coastal environment of Cape Cod, USA. The inviting feel of the Gestalt International Study Center. The smiling faces and beautiful presence of the conference participants. The wonder of meeting new people and connecting with old friends.

We were honored to have exceptional mentors-in-residence at the conference, Les Greenberg and Scott Churchill. Not only were their talks thought-provoking and stirring, but their continued presence throughout the conference was incredible around their dialogues with and support of the other presenters and participants around the challenges of research. Their willingness to share so much of themselves over the course of the conference was incredible.

And, as to be expected with gestalt therapists gathering and sharing about empirical research, there were moments of conflict and struggle. Yet, in my experience in those moments, that conflict and struggle was attended to with great awareness and warmth, navigated with awe-inspiring agility in only the way that exists within our community. Criticisms were shared, not with the intention of tearing down, but with the motivation of identifying further areas of support. That constructive feedback sparked further dialogue, deeper awareness, and likely helped mobilize action in our ongoing endeavors with research.

Additionally, and most importantly, the conference was infused with heart-felt contact and emotion. Not just the passion for empiricism that one might find at any research conference, but a deep sense of connection in meeting each other, of sharing ourselves with each other, of receiving and being received by each other. I continue to strongly doubt that such an experience happens with such regularity and cultivation at any other research conference. It is one of the sources of pride I have about our community in approaching a general subject that often has the association of sterility and concreteness; that we bring excitement, energy, creativity, and spontaneity.

I am excited in anticipating the next International Research Conference in 2017 in Paris, France. I hope to see many of you there!

Peace be with you,

Mark

BOOKS

“Binge Crazy” by Nathalie Gold.

I’m a Toronto-based Gestalt therapist (changehappens.ca), and I’ve written a book entitled, “Binge Crazy. A psychotherapist’s memoir of food addiction, mental illness, obesity and recovery.” The book will be published online in the fall, 2015, as an e-book (on Amazon, etc), by a small online publishing company (Arrow Publications – who are better known for their romance fiction, but who are also branching out into non-fiction).

The book is written from a professional perspective as a therapist specializing in binge eating disorder and from lived experience. Gestalt therapy is mentioned over 40 times (with some simplified explanations), and is credited (along with a 12-step recovery program) as being essential to my recovery. The story begins in 1967 as I end up committing myself to one of the best mental hospitals in Canada, where I stayed for 10 months as an inpatient and 15 as an outpatient, and continues with snippets related to binge eating, obesity, etc. until I found the help that worked. I’ve used actual hospital records to help describe my fractious relationship with my parents, and a lot else (including stories from when I was based in my birthplace, London, UK).

Nathalie is looking for reviewers. If you are interested please contact her directly at info@changehappens.ca



BRITISH
GESTALT
JOURNAL

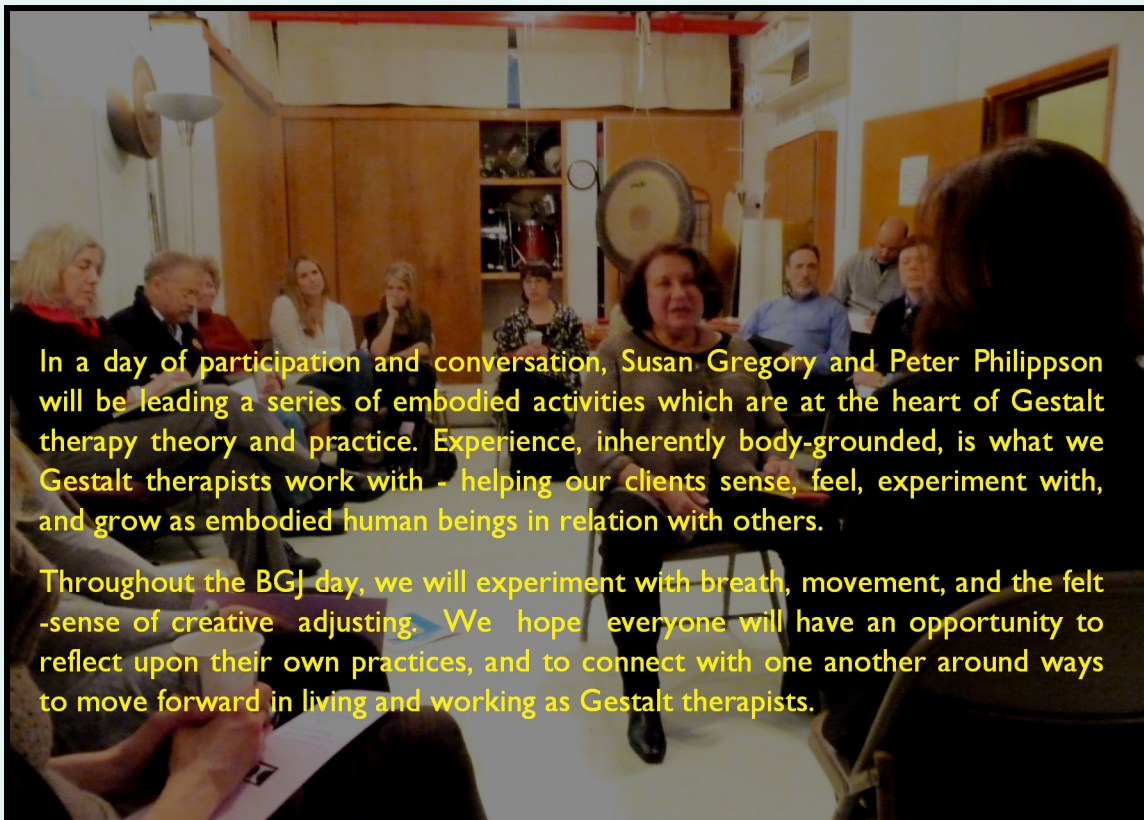
Breathing, Moving and Creating in Gestalt Therapy

Presenters: **Susan Gregory & Peter Philippson**

14th Annual British Gestalt Journal Seminar Day

Saturday, 14th November 2015 11.00am–4.30pm at Colet House, West London

Bookings: www.britishgestaltjournal.com and bgj.eventbrite.com





Fall/Winter 2015-2016 International Training Workshops

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

Moscow, Russia:

Oct. 2-4, 2015 Gestalt Therapy Training
Workshops for Therapists – closed
MIGIP

Dublin, Ireland:

Oct. 8 (eve) New Gestalt Therapy Film
Screening and discussion – open

Oct. 9-11 Gestalt Therapy Training
Workshop for Therapists – open
Contact: Stephen Vaughn sjpccv@gmail.com

Zagreb, Croatia

Oct. 16 (eve) Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D.
Film Screening: New Gestalt
Films & Discussion – open

Oct. 16 – 18 Rita F. Resnick, Ph.D.
Gestalt Therapy Training Group –
closed

Oct. 17 – 18 Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D. The Place
of Dialogue in Gestalt Therapy - open
Contact: Ana Horvat ana.milcic@gmail.com

Sydney, Australia:

Oct. 29 (eve) Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D.
New Gestalt Therapy Film
Screening and Discussion - open

Oct. 30 “Two Become One and Then There are
None” – A one Day Couples Therapy Workshop
Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D. Rita F. Resnick, Ph.D.

Oct. 31 – Nov. 1 Gestalt Therapy: An
Advanced Training Opportunity Celebrating
and Integrating Difference.
Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D. Rita F. Resnick, Ph.D.

Contact: ashleigh@therelationalinstituteaustralia.com

Perth, Australia

Nov. 7- 8 Rita Resnick, Ph.D.
Contemporary Gestalt Therapy: A
Training Workshop for Therapists – open

Nov. 7 -8 Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D.
“Two Become One and Then There
Are None” A Couples Therapy
Training Workshop for Therapists – open

Contact: GTIWA zish@westnet.com.au

(New) Malibu, California

January 10 – 15, 2016 4-day Residential Couples
Therapy Training Workshop for Therapists
“Two Become One & Then There are None” - open
Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D & Rita Resnick, Ph.D.

with
Kevin McCann, H. Dip. GT & Favo Barbarello, M.Sc.

Contact: BobResnick@aol.com
www.gatla.org



Ruella Frank, Ph.D.

Oslo

Developing Presence

November 19 - 20, 2015

Presence develops through finding ourselves in our relational world. In this two-day workshop, we explore the phenomenology of presence as it develops through emerging interactions of baby-parent in the first year of life and client-therapist in the here-and-now of therapy. Lecture, movement exploration, discussion and therapy demonstration.

For more information and to register contact: Norsk Gestaltinstitutt, www.gestalt.no

Milan

Traumatic Attaching: A Phenomenological Approach

March 17 & 18, 2016

This cutting edge advanced practitioner workshop will center on the interactions of infant and parent, which over time create patterns of embodied traumatic attaching, and which signify the passage of intergenerational trauma. It is ideal for experienced counsellors and psychotherapists who are Developmental Somatic Psychotherapy graduates, or who have a grounding in working with body process.

For more information contact: Istituto di Gestalt HCC, www.gestalt.it

Paris

French Language Training Program, 2016-2018

Developmental Somatic Psychotherapy™

developmental process embodied within the clinical moment

Module 1, March 20 - 23, 2016
taught by Ruella Frank

Module 2, October 23 - 26, 2016
taught by Helena Kallner

Module 3, April 9 - 12, 2017
taught by Ruella Frank

Module 4, November 5 - 8, 2017
taught by Helena Kallner

Module 5, April 22 - 25, 2018
taught by Ruella Frank

Developmental Somatic Psychotherapy, created by Ruella Frank, Ph.D., is a relational and movement-oriented approach to psychotherapy within a gestalt therapy framework. Inspired by the work of developmental psychologists and somatic practitioners, Developmental Somatic Psychotherapy is a template for understanding and working with early psychophysical blocks as they emerge in the here-and-now of therapy. Attending to movement patterns is particularly powerful when guided by contemporary developmental theory.

For further information and to register contact: Institut Français de Gestalt-thérapie
305 route de Chemin Court, F. 33240 SAINT ROMAIN LA VIRVEE, +335 57 58 29 70, ifgt@orange.fr



SUPERVISION: A RELATIONAL CHANGE PROCESS

POST-GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

MARIE-ANNE CHIDIAC, SALLY DENHAM-VAUGHAN & LYNDA OSBORNE

Beginning September, 2015

Supervision is a requirement for counsellors and psychotherapists and many others in the helping professions. It is a key differentiator in the coaching and organisational development world.

In psychological work we consider change to be best supported by relationships in which difficulties can be explored, challenges made and good practice confirmed.

Whether working clinically or in a coaching setting with clients it is not unusual for practitioners to experience relational and practice difficulties. This translates into the need for a supervisor who can offer new models and a fresh perspective or insight, as well as supporting competent practice.

VENUE: London Heathrow, UK

DATES:

11-12-13 September, 2015

21-22 November, 2015

6-7 February, 2016

15, 16, 17 April, 2016

FOR MORE INFORMATION [Course Details](#)



Residential Workshop

Building Resilience: Developing Resources for Life

Led by Lynda Osborne & Mary Turner

5pm Thursday 1st October to 3pm Monday 5th October 2015.

Alresford, Hampshire

Further information: [Building Resilience - Details](#)



NEW PROGRAM!

Clinician's Advanced Training with Certification Option (CATCO)

Core Faculty: Heidi Abrams, MSSA, LISW, Marlene Moss Blumenthal, PhD, Daniel E Jones, PhD, Mark McConville, PhD, Lester P Wyman, PhD, LISW-S; Special Topic Faculty: Kathy Clegg, MD, Michael Clemmens, PhD, Ellen Ressler Hoffman, MA, PCC, James I Kepner, PhD, Jacqueline McLemore, PhD, BCC; Educational Consultant: Mark Cheren, EdD

DATES: October 15, 2015 - April 30, 2017

Core theoretical concepts, legal and ethical principles, and acknowledgement of individual differences will be combined with the goal of increasing participants' capacity to be active, present-focused clinicians embracing the relational, curious stance of a Gestalt therapist. Curriculum will attend to the development of three defining and interpenetrating dimensions of Gestalt therapy practice: Being, Knowing, and Doing. The pathway to integrating these dimensions will include close mentoring, in-vivo supervision of practicum, group engagement, didactic presentations, reflective awareness of one's own process, ongoing collaborative assessment, and feedback. Topics will include the therapeutic relationship, ethics, diversity and culture, life span issues, assessment, diagnosis and treatment planning, anxiety and depression, trauma, characterological issues, and strengths and limitations of Gestalt therapy practice.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Gestalt Approach to Working with Anxiety: Adolescents and Emergent Adults in Psychotherapy

Anxiety issues are increasingly prevalent as a presenting clinical profile in adolescents and emergent adults who are referred for therapy, and individuals in this age group present a unique challenge to therapists. What does Gestalt therapy offer to these clients that other approaches do not provide? This workshop will address the challenges of understanding the embodiment, the phenomenology, and the relational-field context of anxiety phenomena in young people. Therapeutic methodology will include strategies for engaging anxious clients, tapping and activating their internal resources, and mobilizing the latent therapeutic potentials of their family systems.

Mark McConville, PhD

6 CEs

September 12, 2015

Working with the Family Business: A Coach-Approach

In this one-day experiential workshop, coaches, family business advisors, and consultants will learn to access deeper meaning and greater understanding with the family business clients. With plenty of practice, we'll work with an overarching family business coaching model and practical tools that can be put to use immediately. Content will be linked with the Gestalt Coaching Stance, ICF Core Competencies, and Galliard Family Business Advisor competencies.

Melissa S. Kelly-McCabe, MS, MCC, GPCC™, BCC & Lisë Stewart, PCC, GPCC™

6 ICF Core Competency CCEUs (pending)

September 25, 2015

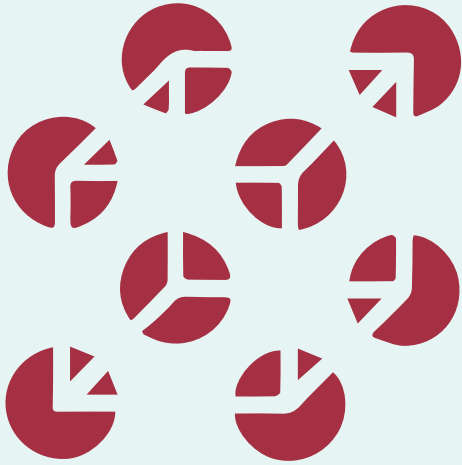
The Gestalt Institute of Cleveland is approved by the Ohio Psychological Association to offer continuing education to psychologists and by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Gestalt Institute of Cleveland maintains responsibility for this program 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.

registrar@gestaltcleveland.org

Call 001-216-421-0468

www.gestaltcleveland.org

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AAGT-pNW 2015
conference
october 9-11
aagt-pnw.org

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**GESTALT THERAPY
TRAINING CENTER**
NORTHWEST



The growing edge of contemporary Gestalt therapy,
the evolution of Gestalt therapy in its 60+ year life
span, and the influence on the broader field of
psychotherapy

CE Credits available



This program is co-sponsored by the Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy (AAGT) and AAGT-Pacific Northwest region (AAGT-PNW). Psychologists: AAGT is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AAGT maintains responsibility for this program and its content. MFTs, LPCCs, LEPs, and LCSWs: This course meets the qualifications for 15.25 hours of continuing education credit for MFTs, LPCCs, LEPs, and/or LCSWs as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. Provider Number: CBBS-PCE #3043. Nurses: Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number 11846 for 15.25 contact hours. Attendance at this program can earn up to 15.25 CE credit hours. For further information contact the AAGT CE Officer,

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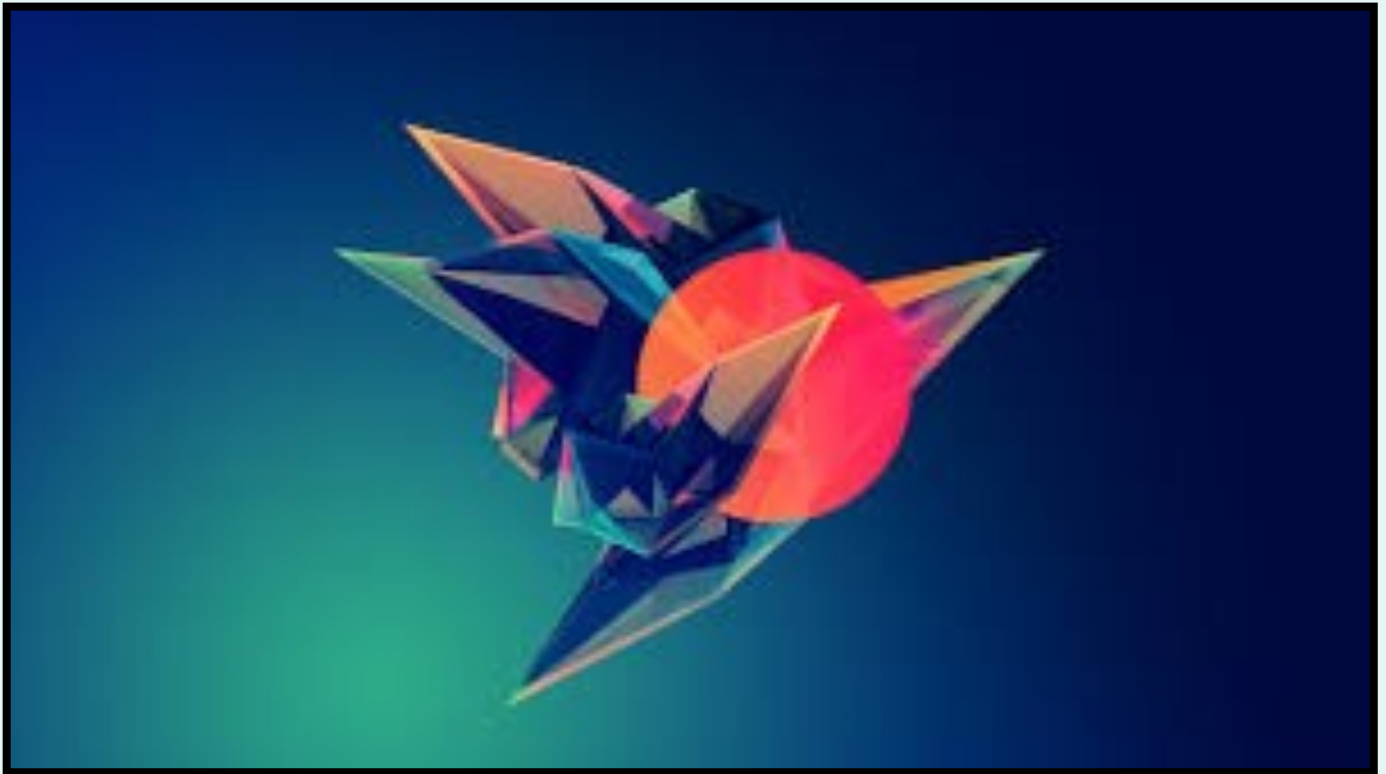
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**Your next newsletter will be published
at the end of October.**
Please send contributions to Alex. Email is:
Alexschi@hotmail.co.uk by 15th October 2015.

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