



# ***Taormina Memories!***



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***Next Newsletter will be out end of April;  
Deadline for information is April 15, 2017***

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



## Greetings from the Editor!

It is with gratitude and excitement that I am working on this Special Edition of the AAGT Newsletter!

As a newcomer to the Board, I'm pleased to learn about the many wonderful connections made at Taormina and I look forward to one day participating at an international AAGT conference. As a newcomer to the position as Newsletter Editor, I'm working closely with Bob Witchel to begin a transfer of information and direction to this unique publication. Thanks to the fine work done on previous newsletters, I don't anticipate problems in this process.

My gestalt training is from the Pittsburgh Gestalt Institute, Pittsburgh, PA, USA, from 2008-2010 and I continue to learn from workshops at the Pittsburgh site. I'm currently a PhD Candidate at Waynesburg University, PA, USA, in Counselor Education & Supervision and I work in my private practice as a Licensed Professional Counselor.

Please know that you are most welcome to send any submissions for the newsletter directly to my email: [aagt.emeyerstewart@outlook.com](mailto:aagt.emeyerstewart@outlook.com). I'm looking forward to working with you all to collaborate on this newsletter as a place for information and connection in the spirit of gestalt!

Emily Meyer Stewart

**Pittsburgh, PA, USA**

***This photo shows the confluence of the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers, forming the Ohio River, at Point State Park.***



**Some examples of what you can submit to future newsletters:**

- ⇒ ***Your publishable photos from gestalt conferences, workshops, and training centers***
- ⇒ ***Articles, books, or other publication announcements from AAGT members***
- ⇒ ***Upcoming trainings, workshops, conferences that may be of interest to AAGT members***
- ⇒ ***Academic networking opportunities***





## Greetings from AAGT Communications Director!



I am excited to take on the responsibilities of Communications Director and appreciate Toni Gilligan and the Board's confidence in me. My first task was to work with Emily Meyer (newsletter editor) on this post-Taormina conference edition; as Emily is new to the Board and was not able to attend the Taormina conference, we are enjoying working together on this edition.

I am exploring ideas for expanding how AAGT's modes of communication can advance Gestalt Therapy "internationally." For example, I plan to develop an active Facebook page for AAGT; part of serving as co-chair of the publicity committee for the Taormina conference lead to the development of a Facebook page for the conference. The page has 535 "likes", lots of activity, and while the conference ended over 3 months ago, people interested in Gestalt Therapy still access this FB page. An AAGT Facebook page could provide an excellent ongoing means to share and promote information about AAGT and Gestalt Therapy on an international level. More information will be coming soon — watch for an email.

As I talk with the Board about my new position, I am open to ideas from AAGT members to identify new and creative ways to promote Gestalt Therapy. You can reach me at: [Bwitchel@iup.edu](mailto:Bwitchel@iup.edu)

Some information about me - While I have been connected to Gestalt Therapy since 1970, I only became an AAGT member about 3 years ago and attended my first AAGT conference at Asilomar. I wrote my dissertation (1973) on using Gestalt awareness experiences in a group setting. I have made presentations and published on Gestalt Therapy and published on the use of imagery and music with Gestalt. I have taught a graduate level Gestalt Therapy course since 2003. In addition to my practice, I have been and am a Professor of Counseling at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, am a licensed psychologist, and a nationally certified counselor.

I believe I am one of the few who, while identifying myself predominantly with Gestalt therapy, has never attended a formal Gestalt training program. I liked my journey and didn't feel that a "formal" training program fit me and met my needs. Throughout the years, I was drawn to Gestalt folks who contributed to my life and kept Gestalt alive in me. AAGT is home for me and I am excited to contribute as a Board member.

Bob Witchel



***My amazing Taormina meal with Board members***



## Greetings from the President, Toni Gilligan



It seems very strange, one of those time slips better explored by Dr Who, to be writing about Taormina when so much has happened since then. As I write my wood burner is blazing, and I find it hard to imagine weather as warm as that we experienced in Sicily. But staring at my laptop screen works and a kaleidoscope of images does begin. The gardens with a thousand people and the sound of a thousand voices singing; the first impact of seeing Tindari and its rows and rows of chairs; milling people; monsoon-like rain.

For me, as perhaps for most, the conference was a mixed bag. The range of workshops was great; the booking system not so. The meetings with so many people from so many countries were deeply enriching; the opportunities for encounter and chance, surprising and stimulating. And at times I felt like someone faced with too rich a diet: in a Scottish phrase 'staffit foo'. I missed our community meetings, the longer time we allow for workshops. I wanted more breathing and actual space. Of course I 'self-regulated', I didn't try to go to everything, and I wished that the pace of the conference had been different.

For me a conference is a success if I have one real ah-ah moment and if I have satisfying meetings with people. On both counts it was a success. I attended a gem of a workshop, very pertinent to the social issues of migration and rejection of migrants, and had very many good meetings. I was pleased to be part of a political act arising from the refusal of visas to Nepali Gestaltists, and pleased to be part of a conference wishing to attend to that. However it was at the cost of a lot of hard work! Not just all the planning, in which others did much more than I, but in the management of being in such a large conference. I am looking forward to our next conference, in Asheville, with a relief from knowing that it will be smaller, looser and more manageable.

At this time, when such terrible things happen daily – acts of terrorism, the declared and undeclared wars that rage and rumble on, destroying so many and so much; the deeply worrying state of politics, and the nature of the president-elect of the US – then it is so heartening to remember the spirit and internationalism of the Taormina conference, and the aspiration to inclusivity.

I wish you all Seasons Greetings: of the Winter Solstice, (Summer solstice 'down under') or Christmas if you celebrate that. I love the moment here when the earth turns and the length of darkness begins to shorten.

Toni

[tonigilligan.gestalt@phonecoop.coop](mailto:tonigilligan.gestalt@phonecoop.coop)



## Hello From the President-Elect

Share some thought wrote our new editor, Emily.

Simple, open, yet a challenge. Found myself back from Taormina wearing three hats.

- Intagio ec member for the past 4 years or so,
- The newish (half a year or so) chair of the Israeli Gestalt Association and its rep to the EAGT and
- The president elect of the AAGT.



Feels somewhat a representation of the Taormina conference all in one - attempt/wish to collaborate, to meet. Indeed I attended under two of the hats both the AAGT AGM and the EAGT one. The later for the first time.

I smiled at the closing session of the conference when the EAGT members complaint that the AAGT process of accepting presentation was too rigid. What a reversal of perception. The EAGT an accrediting body which as a result is ruled by regulations imposed by European countries and by itself finds the AAGT who is defined as free spirited and at times as lacking boundaries as too rigid.

To prove the point that the moment one vacates a polarity someone else takes it. My trepidations on route to Taormina dismissed themselves once there. I enjoyed the richness, verity, attempts to meet some of the overwhelming number of people. Even though the cost was that there were people that I totally missed.

My third hat (the one many of the Taormina participants now 'have'...) the Intagio hat took a lot of my time in a surprisingly lovely manner. Loved sitting at the INTAGIO table selling books members wrote, talking about and enjoying the many however brief conversations enabled by sitting at the same place most of the time.

Looking forward to the ride through the learning curve next to Patricia and Toni I find myself more focused on two questions regarding the AAGT. How open are we to diverse opinions, thoughts practices? is the one, and the other – what does it mean to be an international community, are we (if so why are we not called IAAGT?), and what does it take to be/remain one?

Tali Bar-Levine Yoseph

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## Greetings from Vice President, Patricia Tucker

Winter is arriving here in the Northeastern U.S and on this crisp, sunny and blustery day I sit here in the cozy warmth of my living room reflecting on the past four years and my term as AAGT President. What a tremendous honor it has been to take part in the continuing and unfolding process that is AAGT.

I came home from Taormina feeling grateful to you all and happy about so much that we have done together but also a lot of discomfort about all that remains “unfinished.” I want to underscore once again here what an incredible achievement it was to bring together close to 1,000 Gestaltists from all over the world for our first-ever joint conference with the European Association for Gestalt Therapy! That this organizational feat was accomplished entirely by volunteers who worked to overcome cultural, language, distance, theoretical and stylistic differences to put together an amazing array of workshops, plenaries, panels, lectures, posters and events continues to inspire awe in me. My own contributions were often very small – following up on little items, envisioning what might be forgotten, urging a committee forward, etc. – but I often did feel that I was at least trying to hold the whole of the conference. I was glad to play a part but I am especially grateful to the conveners and the committee heads for the countless hours and the clear thinking that they put in that allowed us to arrive and enjoy our time in Taormina!

Our organization over the past two years has grown – membership has increased and new regions are being developed. We are continuing to reach out to new members and in new areas. In the near future we will especially be focusing on bringing in more student members from our training institutes. This has been so exciting to be part of and to witness our growth!

As I said, much is in process. One area that we will continue to look at is the very large topic of AAGT regions. During the past two years, a group of us began to explore the question of the relationship between AAGT and the AAGT “regions”. This turned out to be a much larger undertaking than many of us first realized and began with the tricky question of how to define a “region”. In the early days of AAGT, any area that wished to call itself an AAGT region was welcome to do so. As we have grown, new questions about this have arisen. Among them: What does it mean to use AAGT’s name as the sponsor of a regional conference? What would AAGT expect or require of a region to gain this sponsorship? What can AAGT offer its’ regions? What are the basic criteria for a region to uphold that would ensure its’ adherence to the Covenant of Community? What should the process be for a region to have a conference that is sponsored by AAGT? Our committee moved slowly as we uncovered significant differences among committee members in terms around these questions. The committee did present a report to the board and the board has made recommendations based on this report;

(continued on next page)





I encourage you to take a look at them on the AAGT website: <https://aagt.org/about-aagt/meeting-minutes/> . Still, it saddens me that no conclusions have been reached or changes have been made. So much remains to be examined here.

I have also been so glad to be involved in the Conflict Process Task Force. This committee evolved from our 2015 AGM in New Jersey where many of us reviewed some of our history of unresolved conflicts among members and a desire to put in place a process in which members could be supported to maintain dialogue consistent with the CoC and better work through conflictual interactions. Our committee has presented a report to the board and I hope that we will be able to soon further this effort together.

One more note about our board. I leave my term with a profound sense of gratitude for every one of our board members. What stands out most for me in this regard is how much each board members *cares* about our organization. Sometimes it may seem that we get bogged down in small details of language or process but I now understand that this arises out of deep caring – wanting to get things right, to be clear, to be thoughtful about inclusion, to imagine the other, to keep in mind the whole, to respect all the voices of our members. Each board member has added so much to the richness and depth of our thinking and our organizing in AAGT. Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you to each of you!

As I look back, one of the things that I am most proud of actually happened before my term began, while Gail Feinstein was President. And that was the coordinated efforts of many that led to a change in our Covenant of Community with the addition of this sentence: “Moreover, we will undertake in whatever way emerges through our experience with the larger social field to support the purpose and ethical values of our community, which include the human worth and dignity of every person. In this way we declare our commitment to social equality and justice among persons within our community and in the wider, external community.” This has never felt more important than it does today and I am truly grateful to be a member of an organization that specifically and expressly vows to work towards equal rights and justice.

This has never seemed more important than it does in today’s world. We live in a time when I believe that the need is great for just what we at AAGT can offer – the ability to help create true dialogue. Dialogue that can take in the “other” and move towards healing while we at the same time look always towards a more inclusive world that respects difference and promotes the equal human rights. From this place I look forward to our next bi-annual conference in 2018 in Asheville, North Carolina, USA!

So I say good-bye to the Presidency with a note of thanks to all of you and your many contributions to the continuing co-creation of our organization and with a wish and a hope to continue to be of service to AAGT.

Fondly,  
Patricia



## From the Research Liaison, Mark Reck



With the Annual General Meeting at Taormina, I am honored to be re-appointed as the Research Liaison to the AAGT Executive Board for another term.

I hope to do my best in supporting our AAGT community – and, by extension, all gestalt therapists, coaches, researchers, teachers, trainers, and students – with collaborating with other organizations in supporting gestalt therapy's growth and development, as well as continued engagement in the larger research movement.

Although it has been almost 3 months since the Taormina conference, I still feel the pleasant vibrations from the conference in meeting new people, reconnecting with old friends, and contributing to the ongoing research efforts from the joint conference. A couple of brief updates about AAGT's involvement in research.

### Research at Taormina

Evident that the research movement in gestalt therapy is gaining ground among our community, research was a focal piece of the conference activities at Taormina. This included (but was not limited to):

- The establishment of a Young Researchers Poster Award, one of the many joint efforts between AAGT and EAGT at the conference. The award went to Vikram Kolmannskog for his research poster, *Gestalt Approaches to Gender Identity Issues*.
- Inviting Leslie Greenberg to discuss research in a plenary speech.
- Including a variety of conference presentations and workshops related to research, whether in sharing research projects and results or in discussing the challenges of conducting gestalt therapy research.
- Holding a lunch meeting of gestalt practitioners in discussing the ground of gestalt therapy research, especially in considering the future of the international gestalt research conferences and dialoguing about how to best organize gestalt therapists within the larger psychotherapy research movement.
- Engaging in recurrent discussion of the upcoming International Gestalt Research Conference in Paris, France in May 2017, another cooperative effort between the AAGT and EAGT (and other organizations).

Mark Reck

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## WARM GREETINGS FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

The AAGT Scholarship Fund Committee wishes you a productive 2017!

The Scholarship Fund committee is deeply thankful to all who have helped in raising money during the two years prior to the AAGT/EAGT Taormina Conference.

For this conference both AAGT and EAGT agreed to have an integrated scholarship application system. This joint effort enabled us to make the most individual grants ever, 43, to persons from 21 countries: -- UK, Finland, Poland, Mexico, USA, Slovenia, Hungary, Canada, Greece, Belarus, Russia, Greece, Australia, Ukraine, Italy, Germany, South Africa, Austria, Belgium, Sweden, Croatia.

Thanks to your generous donations the AAGT Scholarship Fund was able to grant about \$120,000 over the years. That financial assistance has enabled many recipients to participate in our conferences who otherwise would have been unable to do so. In addition to enriching the conferences, many of them have as a result of their experience become members... and many of them very active members: on committees, on the board, regional contact persons, etc. We are very proud of our Scholarship Fund.

**Please consider donating to the AAGT Scholarship Fund on your New Year's resolutions list.**

You can do this by going to the link below:

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

No matter the size, it will be greatly appreciated.

**Thank you!**

*Adam Kincel and Dominique Chabre, Co-Chairs*

*Bud Feder and Cathy Gray, Members*  
The AAGT Scholarship Fund Committee



**P.S!**

*Additionally, keep in mind other ways you can benefit the fund. Members of this committee would be glad to provide guidance in your creating a special event or activity, with all or part of the proceeds designated for this most worthy and important aspect of AAGT.*



## Our AAGT Administrator—Mari McGilton



My name is **Mari McGilton** and I am fortunate to be the Administrator for the AAGT. I am new to the field of Psychology, as I am in my second year of a doctoral program in Portland, Oregon, USA. My focus is in Forensic Psychology and my dissertation is investigating personality factors that influence false confessions, via a meta-analysis approach. I cherish every moment that I have had with the Board and Members of AAGT, and I look forward for many more! In the picture I am standing in a field at a tulip farm that blooms every year in Oregon!

## New Board Members

Dear colleagues!

My name is **Nives Vrečič** and I am the new member of the Board elected in AAGT 2016 Annual General Meeting in Taormina. I was elected for Organization Members Representative.

I come from a small, mountainous country Slovenia in southern Central Europe. I live in the capital city Ljubljana where I practice gestalt therapy in private practice. I am a passionate explorer of myself and others in relationships. For this purpose I continuously attend Gestalt workshops at home and abroad and see myself as a perpetual student of life and relationships from many perspectives.

I became a member of AAGT in 2012 because I had a need to meet and connect with Gestalt therapists outside my borders. In this way I expanded my horizon, gaining knowledge and support for further personal and professional growth. With the help of AAGT scholarship fund I attended 3 conferences so far and always was so rich, full of new acquaintances, exchange of knowledge and experience.

I was involved in AAGT activities as a Regional Contact Persons Representative for a while and I also participated in organizing the Process groups for conference in Taormina. Being part of AAGT and serving the Gestalt community is a great honor and satisfaction for me. I hope that my co-chair James Battaglia and I will find the way and new ideas to present AAGT to the Organizations and Institutes and attract them to the cooperation and exchange in behalf of the advancement of Gestalt therapy.

With good regards,  
Nives



## New Board Members

My name is **Jon Blend** (see picture on page 11). For those who don't know me I recently joined the Board, sharing a brief with Maryanne Nichols to help develop AAGT membership.

I first encountered AAGT back in 1999 when Carl Hodges, a visiting lecturer invited a group of us students to come to the Manhattan conference. Having never visited the US before my curiosity was piqued. Any trepidation I had on arriving was soon dispersed: I received such a warm welcome that joining became very appealing. And so it has remained. AAGT has helped me grow, make friends across the globe, take risks and refine my understanding of Gestalt theory. I would like to return the favour now by informing students in many training institutes of what our organisation has to offer them.

Who am I? I am British, 62, and married to a psychotherapist. My stepdaughter is completing studies in Engineering. Latterly we adopted a rescue dog: who keeps me active! I was born in London to a Viennese mother and a half -Ukrainian father. Growing up in a continental Jewish refugee family has played an important part in my journey; I am fascinated by experiences of difference and diversity and would love to see our organisation broaden its reach, attracting an even wider range of cultures.

I'm a Gestalt psychotherapist, supervisor, international trainer, and a child psychotherapist. I hold the European Certificate in Psychotherapy and am a trainer with the European Interdisciplinary Association For Therapeutic Services with Children and Young People. My background includes thirty years experience of working within adult and child psychiatry. The child therapy I practice takes inspiration from the projective arts based approach of Violet Oaklander; my work with adolescents draws on Mark McConville's developmental approach to working with young persons. My chapter – Am I Bovered, in Harris & Lee's *Relational Child, Relational Brain* owes a debt of gratitude to them both. I teach on the integrated psychotherapy Masters course at the Minster Centre, London, facilitate short courses on working with children at the Gestalt Centre and maintain a small private practice in West London. ([www.gacp.co.uk](http://www.gacp.co.uk)).

I first encountered Gestalt in 1985 through joining a transformational therapy group from which I emerged with more confidence. After travelling extensively in Asia I returned to UK and trained in radio journalism, working as a volunteer reporter. I lived for a while in Central California and interviewed people with mental health difficulties who were participating in a local horticultural therapy project. I came to realise that my passion for this work derived from being with people who openly shared their stories. On returning to London I enrolled on a counselling diploma at the Gestalt Centre. I later continued my training there obtaining my Masters in psychotherapy in 2006.

During the 1990's, I became interested in my heritage and joined a dialogue group of continental Jews and Germans - all second-generation descendants of survivors of the Nazi regime. Lately with the plight of today's refugees never far from our thoughts my partner and I have been exploring similar themes around diaspora, flight and the legacy of intergenerational trauma. We have been hosting CPD workshops for therapists involving improvised enactment and witnessing of a notional refugee journey; after de-roling the sharing has invariably been humbling, rich and profound.

On a lighter note, my leisure time has always involved music - I grew up in an orchestral family. I abandoned playing classical piano during my teenage years in favour of electric guitar, which seemed sexier and caused more of a rumpus! I still get a lot of pleasure today from playing guitar with a bunch of musicians. Having become fascinated too by Colwyn Trevarthen's notion of 'communicative musicality' in mother-Infant dialogue I studied Community Musicianship and Lifemusic practice - increasing my awareness and appreciation of processes of dissonance, harmony and chaos in dialogic relating- regardless of age. Anyway that's enough about me – though do feel free to get in touch anytime if you would like to make contact—

.... Seasons' Greetings, Jon



## From Billy Desmond, New Co-chair, Interest Groups

Hello fellow members ,

I am delighted and humbled to have this opportunity following your support for me in being appointed to the role. I am so looking forward to having more opportunities to work alongside Daniel and continue the great work he and Bob did.

Over the years and in the midst of unexpected life events AAGT has been a home for me. The possibility of friendships with people from different parts of world continue to sources of joy, development and growth. I feel at home in our international community.

After twenty seven years of living and working in London, England, I recently moved to the rural West Coast of Ireland, on the edge of the Burren overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. For me it is a space on our planet that is full of nature's wildness, beauty and sacredness. Yet, it is also one where the impact of climate change is etched on the cliffs, ocean and ancient land. This disturbs me.

I am immersed in a part of our world that fills me and my clients with awe and also presents us with an ongoing existential reminder of the fragility and possibility for our existence. My return to Ireland is an opportunity to explore the land of my birth as a cis-gender queer man and determine how best I can participate in a changing society that is seeking to be more inclusive for those often marginalised.

On the professional front I work as a Gestalt psychotherapist, supervisor, OD practitioner/coach and dialogical educator with a particular interest in groups. I am guest faculty at different Gestalt psychotherapy training institutes and business schools, a certified trainer of Ruella Frank's Developmental Somatic Psychotherapy and currently researching its application to psychotherapy groups.

I've published journal papers and book chapters on group-work, experiential ways of knowing, sustainability, spirituality, homophobia, and working with gay men, and co-authored a book Introduction to Gestalt (Sage, 2013).

I look forward to the possibility of dialogue with more of you. Please feel free to contact me to say hi or if you want support for your interest groups or ideas.

Warmly,  
*Billy*



[billy.desmond@icloud.com](mailto:billy.desmond@icloud.com)



## From the Membership Chairs

As membership co-chairs we are exploring making links with Gestalt students and practitioners internationally through a combination of personal visits and video conferencing.



Jon is arranging to speak with students in Austria, Belgium, Hungary and UK ....

....whilst Maryanne is speaking with students at the Gestalt Institute of Toronto, and preparing to send invitations to other institutes in North America.



We offer a warm welcome to new members and remind students that their first year's membership of AAGT is free of charge.

*Jon Blend*

*and*

*Maryanne Nicholls*

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[maryanne.nicholls@gmail.com](mailto:maryanne.nicholls@gmail.com)

### ***As a member of AAGT you can....***

- Connect with, network with and learn from fine gestalt therapy theorists, practitioners, researchers and scholars.
- Participate in a rapidly developing international and intergenerational coalition of creative individuals influencing the present and future expansion and integration of gestalt theory, philosophy and practice into the wider field.
- Receive the AAGT Newsletter to keep you updated on organizational and individual issues, projects, activities and discussions.
- Join or form interest groups and regional liaisons to share information and support, develop joint activities and projects, and widen your circle of friends and associates.

## 2016 Taormina Conference Process Group Committee Seeking Your Help!

As we know process groups are integral to AAGT 's community life during our conferences. And so it was for many of us who were able to attend our first joint AAGT -EAGT conference in Taormina , Sicily.

We know that many of you participated / facilitated these groups and we heard how important these were as a support for individuals in the midst of our international gathering for the few days .

We, the conference process group committee, would greatly appreciate your help as we would like to capture your now 'reflected upon experience' of the process groups .

Claire sent a survey to all members on the 9th November and you may also have received it on December 7th from Taormina conference 2016 . It was designed on Monkey Survey so completion will only take a couple of minutes.

**You can [click here](#) or on the Survey Monkey logo just below to reach the brief survey and complete it. We would appreciate a response before the end of 2016.**

Thank you in anticipation of your support!

Warmly,

*Claire Asherson Bartram, Perry Klepner, Sílvia Tosi, Co Chairs*

*Rosanna Bíasí, Billy Desmond, Judy Graham, Nives Vrecić,  
Perry, Claire , Sílvia, Members*

**The Process Group Committee**





## **Call for Submissions**

### **Exploring Practice-based Research in Gestalt Therapy**

**Paris 2017, May 26/27/28**

[www.gestalt-research.com](http://www.gestalt-research.com)

**You are invited to present and discuss your research.  
We are looking forward to your contribution!**

***The Program Committee:***

***Vincent Beja, Florence Belasco, Gianni Francesetti,  
Mark Reck, Jan Roubal***



This is the **first Research Conference co-organized by the EAGT and the AAGT**. Join us in this exciting experiment in Paris, one of the most beautiful cities in the world. You will be part of this historical movement of building a research tradition in Gestalt therapy!

The conference site will be FIAP - 30 rue Cabanis - 75014 Paris. For information about lodging choices and all other information about the conference: [www.gestaltresearch.com](http://www.gestaltresearch.com)

#### **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS**

Deadline for submitting proposals is **January 31st 2017**. Submit online through the conference submission portal at [www.gestalt-research.com/send-aproposal/](http://www.gestalt-research.com/send-aproposal/). Submission guidelines can also be found there. The conference language is English (see the information about conference language below) and all submissions should be made in English. Presenters will be subject to the usual registration fee for the conference.

#### **CONFERENCE THEME**

The conference called “Exploring Practice-based Research in Gestalt Therapy” offers a unique possibility for networking, collaboration and elaboration of research projects. It also encourages and stimulates clinicians new to the research field. The conference is addressed to Gestalt practitioners, trainees, and colleagues from other modalities. We especially welcome submissions that speak to these themes:

- exploring research relevant to Gestalt and humanistic therapies
- exhibiting current research by Gestalt practitioners
- addressing issues related to methodology and research design

#### **CONFERENCE**

The official conference language is English. When making your conference submission, please note that presentations are given in English. Please rest assured, however, that perfect grammatical English is NOT a requirement, but being understandable to English speakers is required for presentations. Plenary talks will benefit from simultaneous translation into French and some workshops could be held in French with consecutive English translation being available.

***The conference is co-organized by: European Association for Gestalt Therapy (EAGT); Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy (AAGT); Société Française de Gestalt (SFG); Collège Européen de Gestalt-thérapie (CEG-t)***



### Seeking a psychology postdoc for 2017-2018

We are seeking applicants for a full time 12-month psychology postdoc position at Portland Mental Health, a group psychology practice in Portland, Oregon, beginning in August, 2017. The postdoc in this position will provide general individual child, adolescent, adult, and couple psychotherapy as well as psychological testing and evaluations under the supervision of licensed psychologists.

Portland Mental Health is dedicated to building a culturally diverse and pluralistic clinical staff committed to sustaining a multicultural environment and strongly encourages applications from underrepresented or marginalized groups.

For complete details, please see:

<https://www.portlandmh.com/post-doctoral-psychology-resident-position/>

Applicants should email a detailed letter of interest, curriculum vita, and three letters of recommendation to [brad@portlandmh.com](mailto:brad@portlandmh.com). Review of applications begins January 1st, 2017 and continues until the position is filled. Questions are welcome by email or phone at 503-715-5468.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I am very pleased to inform you that Cambridge Scholars Publishing has selected the book I recently edited, ***Timeless Experience: Laura Perls's Unpublished Notebooks and Literary Texts 1946-1985***, to be showcased in their December 'Book of the Month' marketing campaign, launching today, Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December. You will be able to view the Press Release as of today by [clicking here](#) or on this link <http://www.cambridgescholars.com/book-of-the-month-december-2016>

This campaign offers a **60% discount** on the book, which can be obtained by entering the promotional code **BOMDEC16** during checkout on the Cambridge Scholars Publishing website. You must first register on the CSP website with a user name and password in order to be able to apply the promotional code during checkout. <http://www.cambridgescholars.com/book-of-the-month-december-2016>

The discount campaign runs until January 3<sup>rd</sup>, so please feel free to direct your colleagues and friends to the website. If you use listserv or other mailing lists, you are also more than welcome to share the news via these and other social media platforms. I would greatly appreciate your spreading the news about this huge discount. *Timeless Experience* would make a fine Christmas, Chanukkah or birthday gift!

Best wishes from Vienna, Nancy Amendt-Lyon



## AAGT 2017 AGM

We are pleased to announce that our 2017 AGM will be held near London, following the UKAGP Conference: Celebrating our Community, which is planned as a celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the British Gestalt Journal. The Conference begins 3.00pm Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June and ends 4.30 Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, and is being held near Reading, which has very good links with Heathrow and Gatwick airports, as well a frequent and fast rail link to London. For further details see <http://ukagp.org.uk/celebrating-our-community/>. There may also be pre-conference workshops so keep watching this space. UKAGP have very generously offered that AAGT members may register for the conference at the UKAGP members' rate which is less than the standard registration fee. We will post details of cost and transport links later.

Our AGM will follow the conference, starting a 6.30pm with an evening session before dinner, and continuing on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm. Our inter-conference AGMs are a vital part of our continuing contact and development. We aim to allow time for extended conversations about who and what we are as AAGT: our vision and how we might translate that into viable action. For most of the time they are informal: we create loose structures for exploration and review of our activities in order to provide the ground for the final more formal AGM time of making decisions. In the evening we have fun and play together!

Toni on behalf of the Board





## **14th AAGT Conference 2018 !**

**Asheville,  
North Carolina**

***Hosted by the  
Appalachian Gestalt Therapy  
Institute***

***Nicholas Emmanuel and others to be  
Co-Conveners***



***More details in the Spring AAGT Newsletter!***

### **SAVE THE DATES!**

The following 2017 workshops are facilitated by:  
**Jon Blend** MA Dip Psych, Dip Child (UKCP,ECP reg);  
Assisted by experienced child and families counsellor, Crissy Duff.

**Certificate in Working with Children**

*April: 3-7, Venue: The Gestalt Centre, London NW1*

**Working with Children the Oaklander Way: Residential**

*July 17-21. Venue: The Abbey, Sutton Courtenay, Oxon.*

**Certificate in Working with Adolescents**

*November 1-4, Venue: The Gestalt Centre, London NW1*

For details see [www.gacp.co.uk](http://www.gacp.co.uk) (click on links to Events, Lifemusic)



## New Publication!

# TAROT AT A CROSSROADS: THE UNEXPECTED MEETING OF TAROT AND PSYCHOLOGY

by Kooch Daniels, M.A., and Victor Daniels, Ph.D.  
(Schiffer Publications, Atglen, Pennsylvania)

As long ago as Plato and Aristotle, it was known that visual imagery was part of our thought processes. Aristotle used the word "phantasmata" to refer to such inner pictures. In our era we can recognize these mental phenomena in the forms of both "mental pictures" and "mind movies" of the kinds that appear in both dreams and waking life. Indeed, only in the late 19th century did psychologists (notably Wilhelm Wundt's student Oswald Kulpe) realize that thought could occur in the absence of mental pictures or symbols, leading to the historic "imageless thought" controversy. Oddly enough, subsequently psychotherapy came to be dominated by "talking therapies" in which verbal dialogues play the major role and visual imagery is almost completely ignored.

In 1920 Hermann Rorschach, and in 1930 Henry Murray and Christiana Morgan, brought imagery back into psychology with the Rorschach test and Thematic Apperception Test (TAT). But they used these primarily for diagnosis, stopping short of using them as an actual therapeutic tool.

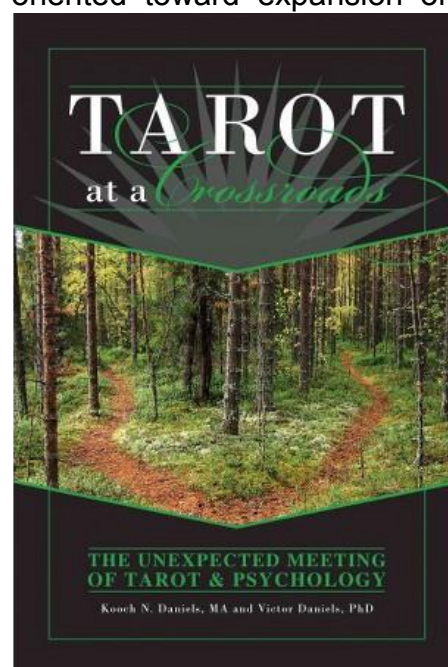
Now Kooch and Victor Daniels have reintroduced visual imagery into psychotherapy and counseling as an active element in the therapeutic process. Their new book, [Tarot at a Crossroads: The Unexpected Meeting of Tarot and Psychology](#), (click link for Amazon site), just released in November of 2016, makes visual imagery available as a central part of gestalt therapy sessions. It is written for both therapists who want to make visual imagery part of their therapeutic work and for tarot readers who want more of a psychological grounding.

The wealth of imagery in a tarot deck encourages not only working through present and past issues and dilemmas, but also transpersonal growth work oriented toward expansion of consciousness. The book shows how the card imagery can be used with traditional methods such as identification, projective dialogues, movement, and family constellation work.

They also present new methods they have developed, such as "emotional stacks" of cards partially hidden beneath one another to show how the images can reveal feelings that underlie those seen "on the surface."

Applications in group work and meditation are also explored, as is therapists' creation of their own collections of images for specific populations of clients. This beautiful hardcover book, with its 208 color images from twelve different decks, is a treasure that can enhance and enrich the work of any gestalt therapist.

***If you purchase and read this new book, please send a book review to the Editor for consideration for the Spring AAGT Newsletter!***





### UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

#### **Awakening the Dream: Gestalt Practice with Dreams, Fantasies, Stories and Symbols** **12 Contact hours** **January 27-29, 2017**

Therapists, coaches and facilitators in human development need to 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. Participants will learn how to orient to and work with dreams, fantasies and symbols, and practice these principles with each other. For full details, please visit our website: [www.gestaltcleveland.org](http://www.gestaltcleveland.org) or

**Call 216-421-0468**

**James I. Kepner, PhD**

**Maria De Lourdes Quiroz Kepner, MHD**

#### **Self in Play at the Boundary: Gestalt Therapy and Metaphors in Body and Speech** **16 Contact hours** **February 3-5, 2017**

Gestalt therapy's unique notion of self—that which emerges in the play at the contact boundary—mirrors the action of poetic metaphor. And just as such an approach to self makes the work of Gestalt therapy possible, an awareness of metaphor as it manifests itself in therapy can facilitate new kinds of work between client and therapist. Ultimately, then, a greater awareness of the play of metaphor can help us better understand our selves as at play at the contact boundary. In this workshop we will examine this cycle by describing the Gestalt therapy conceptualization of self alongside of and along with the concept of poetic metaphor. For full details, please visit our website: [www.gestaltcleveland.org](http://www.gestaltcleveland.org) or

**Call 216-421-0468**

**John Verbos, MA, MFA**

**Lynnette Davidson, MDiv, Med, LPC-MHSP**

#### **Authenticity and Empowerment: A Woman's Way** **12 Contact hours** **February 10-12, 2017**

In this interactive and experiential workshop, we investigate how the cultural conditioning has influenced our beliefs and feelings about being female, feminine and beautiful. We explore ways we feel inhibited, entangled and trapped by life, leading us to 'dimming down', staying hidden and disconnecting from our bodies. Using a Gestalt phenomenological approach, breath and movement, we heighten our awareness of how these introjections are embodied, as well as how deconstructing them supports a more authentic, relational expression. For full details, please visit our website:

[www.gestaltcleveland.org](http://www.gestaltcleveland.org) or **Call 216-421-0468**

**Gail Feinstein, LCSW, LMT**

#### **Dreaming as a Spiritual Path** **14 Contact hours** **March 3-5, 2017**

In this experiential workshop we will examine and work with the language of dreams, symbols and imagery from a Gestalt perspective. We will explore the ways that this work can open doors to our "non-rational world", that is our unique, personal spirituality. We will incorporate principles of Jungian (archetypal) psychology to create a bridge from our evolving spirituality to our work with our clients, communities and in our world. For full details, please visit our website:

[www.gestaltcleveland.org](http://www.gestaltcleveland.org) or **Call 216-421-0468**

**Rosanna O. Zavarella, PhD**

**Maria De Lourdes Quiroz Kepner, MHD**



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

### COACHING PROGRAMS

#### Experimenting with Experiments: A Coach Approach

**14 Core Competency CCEs hours**

**March 27-28, 2017**

As a coach, you can open up space for novel experiences that enable your clients to view themselves in the world differently. As you work with them in the here and now, you co-create creative experiences that support deep personal learning and highlight integrated and sustainable shifts in their experience and behavior.

In this practice-rich two-day workshop, you'll hone your skills of partnering with your client to design, grade and contract for Gestalt experiments. You'll experience what's possible as you witness, coach, and are coached using the soft structure of experimenting. For full details, please visit our website: [www.gestaltcleveland.org](http://www.gestaltcleveland.org) or **Call 216-421-0468**

**Melissa Kelly-McCabe, MS, MCC, GPCC™**

**Mary Ann Kraus, PsyD, GPCC™**

#### Coaching at the Point of Contact

**7.5 GPCC CCEs hours (4.5 Core Competency, 3 Resource Development)**

**March 29, 2017**

This workshop offers a deep dive into the exploration of coaching at the point of contact; the point where growth occurs. Using the contact model developed by the presenter and tested for the last thirty years, the workshop will create a frame of reference for contact that coaches can use to increase the quality and level of contact with their client. The model explores the impact of presence and vulnerability on contact. Understanding these two dimensions and their inter-relationship deepens the coach's understanding and skill in making impactful contact with the client and enabling the client to expand his/her capacity to make impactful contact with self and others. For full details, please visit our website:

[www.gestaltcleveland.org](http://www.gestaltcleveland.org) or **Call 216-421-0468**

**Melissa Kelly-McCabe, MS, MCC, GPCC™**

The Gestalt Institute of Cleveland is approved by the **Ohio Psychological Association** to offer continuing education to psychologists. It is the responsibility of the provider to abide by the OPA-MCE guidelines. **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. The Gestalt Institute of Cleveland is approved by the **American Psychological Association** to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Gestalt Institute of Cleveland maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

[registrar@gestaltcleveland.org](mailto:registrar@gestaltcleveland.org)

[www.gestaltcleveland.org](http://www.gestaltcleveland.org)





# The Aesthetic *of* Otherness:

*meeting at the boundary in a desensitized world*

A joint AAGT and EAGT Gestalt Conference at the crossroads of civilisations

Pre-Conference: 21st September; Conference: 22nd–25th September 2016

## Taormina, Sicily Memories!



### AAGT Board Retreat:

L-to-R beginning with empty chair: Bob Witchel, Maryanne Nichols, Deirdre Winter, Janneke van Beusekom, Daniel Bak, Marlene Blumenthal, Burt Lazarin, Toni Gilligan, Patricia Tucker, Adam Kincel, Dina Miller, Mark Reck, Domi Chabre, Jim Bataglia, Gail Feinstein, empty chair and Ansel Woldt, photographer





Opening Event - Outdoors



Opening Event - Toni Gilligan and Gail Feinstein





**Susan Gregory - Opening Event**



**Conveners: Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb ,  
Burt Lazarin, Gianni Francesetti**



**Conveners / Presidents and President-Elects: (L to R) Michele Cannavo, Beatrix Wimmer,  
Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb , Burt Lazarin, Gianni Francesetti, Patricia Tucker, Toni Gilligan**





**Young Researchers Poster Award - Vikram Kolmannskog (left) for his research poster, *Gestalt Approaches to Gender Identity Issues***



**Gail Feinstein, Dina Miller and Daniel Bak checking out the local fresh caught cuisine**



### Taormina, Sicily



The Teatro Greco ("Greek theatre").



## Rainbow over Taormina, Sicily







***"Tempio della Concordia" after a day-long tour of the Valley of the Temples.***  
**L-to-R: Ansel Woldt, Nancy Woldt, Andy Wohlman, Maryanne Nichols**



**Ansel Woldt, Nancy Woldt**





*Bea Mackay, near the sea*



*Outdoor process groups*





***Beautiful Beaches,  
Quiet Paths,  
Wonderful Memories!***





*Jim Battaglia and Madeleine Fogarty*

*Phil and Linda Brownell*



*Board Members after a long day of retreat*



*Wishing you all a Peace-filled  
New Year!*



*And Hope for a World where  
Peace is Welcomed...*

*Click below for two music videos:*

Click here: [Imagine](#)

Click here: [What's Going On](#)





**Executive Council:**

Toni Gilligan - President  
 Patricia Tucker - Vice President  
 Tali Bar-Levine Yoseph - President Elect  
 Ryan Tolman - Secretary  
 Brad Larsen-Sanchez - Treasurer  
 Dina Miller - Continuing Education Officer

**Ex-officio Board Members:**

Gail Feinstein - Board Member At Large  
 Burt Lazarin - Board Member At Large

**Administrator:**

Mari McGilton

**Officers of the Board:**

Ansel Woldt - Archivist  
 Bob Witchel - Communications Director  
 Emily Meyer-Stewart - Newsletter Editor  
 Daniel Bak - Interest Group Co-Chair  
 Billy Desmond - Interest Group Co-Chair  
 Maryanne Nicholls - Membership Co-Chair  
 Jon Blend- Membership Co-Chair  
 Jim Battaglia - Organizational Rep Co-Chair  
 Nives Vrecic - Organizational Rep Co-Chair  
 Deirdre Winter - Regional Development Liaison  
 Mark Reck - Research Liaison  
 Dominique Chabre - Scholarship Chair  
 Marlene Blumenthal - Associate Continuing Education Officer

*From: Brad Larsen-Sanchez, PsyD*

**As of December 4, 2016:**

**AAGT CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS**

in our general account:	\$4,438.20
in our dedicated scholarship fund account:	\$8,245.38
in our money market account:	\$50,204.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$62,887.58</b>

Included in the above total is:

2017 Reserve (28% of to date expenditures)	\$2,572.30
Regional Development Fund	\$220.00
Research Fund	\$150.00
Scholarship Fund	\$8,245.38
Conference account	\$12,765.00
<b>Leaving encumbered</b>	<b>\$38,934.90</b>