

AAGT 2017 AGM: SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

CONTINUING EDUCATION SUB- COMMITTEE

Marlene Blumenthal, the new CE associate has provided great support to the CE Officer in organizing and helping re-establish the CE advisory council members. Dina and Marlene are meeting thru Skype at least monthly.

AAGT has discontinued sponsorship of nursing CE credits due to the significant increase in cost of being a provider for California Nursing Board and a member response of 1 person utilizing these credits.

NBCC sponsorship has also been discontinued due to the many changes that don't fit with AAGT's conference processes (expectations of international presenters, policies of co-sponsorship, cost,..).

AAGT contracted with AMEDCO as an experiment for the 2016 AAGT/EAGT Taormina Conference to provide CE credits for psychologists, social workers, and NY social workers. Analysis is being done now to assess the effectiveness of this It appears that about 40 people got CE credits through AMEDCO for this conference. There was feedback that AMEDCO process was an easy/positive experience for some participants. Other participants felt it was not easy at first and then later were successful in getting their certificate.

The CE officer and CE associate officer sent out a survey to inquire about the CE needs of the members. About 1/5 of the members responded so far. It is still possible to complete it.

An evaluation was sent to members for feedback about the Taormina Conference. Very few were returned at this time. It is still possible to complete it.

We are now focused on CE activities for the 2018 CPC Toronto conference.

Although CE credits have been offered for other AAGT events in the past, We are in discussion about new processes and requirements for this to occur.

Thank you!

Dina Miller
Marlene Blumenthal

INTEREST GROUPS SUB-COMMITTEE

In the past year we have (as co-chairs) continued in a steady manner, building on what Bob and Daniel have developed in the previous two years. This has also enabled Billy to settle into the role and to start considering how the 'fertile now' can be nurtured to develop what is 'next' for interest groups. We have been critically

reflecting on the ways to further support contact between members who are organizing around similar interests or indeed any person(s) who may have shown some energy for a particular theme.

We acknowledge there may be interest groups within the membership that we are not aware of due to the self-organizing orientation of our community. If that is occurring - we are delighted. We invite and encourage members to inform us so we can learn and share this with others and to help connect people across groups and the whole membership. Our role is not to manage but to look at ways to create the necessary field conditions for groups to emerge, thrive and sustain. A summary of the activity in the past year is as follows:

- The Gender and Sexual Diversity interest group had a large gathering in Taormina, which gathered both EAGT and AAGT members. As a consequence of this a post conference listserv was established under the auspices of AAGT. This had some initial interest but has waned.
- The co-chairs have been encouraging others through the informal networks to consider joining or establishing interest groups.
- Two AAGT interest groups seem to be meeting regularly and have a core membership: Gender and Sexual Diversity and Gestalt Groups
- Maintenance of the Interest Group Facebook page is ongoing. Posting on this has generated more followers.
- The co-chairs have had some conversations on what may be required next- see below.

Some Proposals for the year ahead to be reviewed and explored with the new co-chair and board:

- Undertake research to understand how the current groups are working and what learning can be shared as a potential support for emerging groups. This is something I don't believe we yet sufficiently understand.
- Developing links between interest groups and other functions on the board. For example, research and membership as a way of supporting our membership / attracting new members.
- More proactive reaching out to members of the community who may be interested in chairing interest groups
- Building on our social media presence to expand into Twitter and more proactive postings to promote the advancement of Gestalt therapy

Billy Desmond & Daniel Bak

MEMBERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE

Maryanne and I have met via Skype on a monthly basis to discuss ways of connecting with student groups near and far. Two mailshots were sent to a number of Gestalt institutes in Europe to ascertain interest in a possible online meeting to discuss the benefits of AAGT membership. Responses to this so far have alas been limited.

We updated the 'Join Us' flyer to include an offer of a year's free membership to students. Maryanne has visited Gestalt Institute of Toronto and Jon has visited Metanoia Institute, London meeting with trainees to discuss what AAGT can offer them.

We are participating in ongoing conference planning discussions where our particular focus is on facilitating a New-comers meeting at the start of conference proceedings. This builds on the previous successful orientation event in Taormina.

Jon & Maryanne

ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE

Hi Toni, I do not have to report anything, except that I reply 2 persons who were interested in Organizational Membership. Jim and me have several meetings to brainstorm ideas and made plan. As we presented to the board we had ideas to make a Facebook to our Member Organizations where the Organizations could communicate among each other and us, where they could post a short videos about their Institutes, Org. present the members of the Institutes and present an interesting theoretical piece of work and share the workshops or studies ... Video clips would be also presented to the You-tube, for those who do not have Facebook. To get new members we had an idea to ask ex Regional Contact Persons to help us to get the email addresses of Gestalt Institutes and Org. from their countries (non-members of AAGT) that we would contact them.

This was the plan and just before we started to work on it as you know Jim resigned. After that I did not proceed with the realization by myself, because I have been waiting for new co-chair who would replace Jim.

Nives

RESEARCH LIAISON/RESEARCH SUB-COMMITTEE

Research-related efforts for AAGT over the past year has centred on the coordination of the 2017 International Gestalt Therapy Research Conference.

The 2017 International Gestalt Therapy Research Conference was held on 26-28 May in Paris, France. This was a coordinated effort between AAGT, the European Association for Gestalt Therapy (EAGT), the Société Française de Gestalt (SFG), and the Collège Européen de Gestalt-thérapie (CEG-t). Highlights from the conference included:

- Plenary talks from Louis Castonguay (USA; "Can Research Be Relevant to Gestalt Therapists, or Any Type of Therapists?"), Wolfgang Tschacher (Switzerland; "Embodiment and Synchrony as Fundamental Ingredients of Psychotherapy"), and Xavier Briffault (France; Epistemological and Practical Consequences for Research in Gestalt Therapy")

- Formal and informal discussions around understanding what gestalt therapists do when they work from a gestalt therapy approach, inspired by the research work around a gestalt therapy fidelity scale of Madeleine Fogarty (Australia)
- A variety of presentations, workshops, and talks that ranged from presenting research projects to exploring theoretical and philosophical elements to research for gestaltists
- A number of focus groups that promoted dialogue around specific topics
- A final plenary time to discuss next steps for gestaltists in the ongoing research movement

Additionally, it is hopeful that there will be continued efforts in establishing research as a substantial part of the 2018 AAGT Conference in Toronto, Canada, and having AAGT be an ongoing collaborator in the next International Gestalt Therapy Research Conference in 2019.

As always, AAGT is open to hearing from members about how best to further support the membership around research-related efforts, as well as to welcome members who would like to be more directly involved in these works, especially as members of the AAGT Research Committee. For those who wish to reach out around these points, please contact the Research Liaison/Chair of the Research Committee, Mark Reck (mark.reck.psyd@gmail.com).

Mark Reck

SCHOLARSHIP FUND SUB-COMMITTEE

The AAGT Scholarship Fund had at the beginning of December, 2016, \$8,197.3. On April, 2017, it had \$13,226.81.

The increase is due to:

1) Direct contributions which include:

- People on our website as they pay membership dues or as they register for the conference.
- People contributing by checks to the Fund, paid to the treasurer.

2) Conference contributions from:

The AAGT-EAGT Taormina 2016 conference.

AAGT is very proud of its tradition of helping persons who need financial assistance to participate in AAGT events: biennial, regional and research conferences, and the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

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 regional and research 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 has designed a standard scholarship application form for all AAGT endorsed events available at the following link: <https://aagt.org/contributions/>

In 2017 to date, the Scholarship Fund allocated funding to persons attending the following AAGT endorsed event:

\$1263 the AAGT Annual General Meeting, to be held on July 2nd and 3rd at Reading, UK

Domi Chabre & Adam Kincel