



Annual Committee Reports  
2018

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## **Presidential Report - AAGT 2018**

Toni Gilligan, AAGT President

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President's report summarizing the following annual reports was delivered orally at the AAGT Annual General Meeting.

## Vice President Report - AAGT 2018

Tali Bar-Yoseph Levine, AAGT President Elect

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It's been a fascinating year. The idea of president elect sitting on the board for two years prior to presidency is excellent. Would have been a fine practice for some presidents and Prime ministers who come directly into office.

The past year presented an opportunity to learn more by observation at the same time, that some duties were already in effect. It was most educating to watch the CPC dedication to bring us all to a well-planned excellent conference in Toronto. I have learnt about the fundamental importance of maintaining dialogue between the CPC and the board and of course with the membership. It's been a bumpy ride all around, to say the least, from Taormina to Toronto. Membership and board addressed and readdressed conference venue for 2018. There was no simple solution and time elapsed fast. At some point some thought that skipping 2018 would be the better idea. It's pleasing to feel safe in the hands of a CPC that took matters at hand. I certainly am walking into the next two years readier on one hand and feeling the amount of collaboration and support it takes to do right by the AAGT and its membership. What is 'right' is the question at hand. On a more practical level I stood in for Toni, the current president, in running a few board meetings and a few times when time was of consequence and my help was needed.

As it turns out one of the duties of the vice is to take care that open vacancies are filled which means approaching people, informing membership, understanding who keeps their position... Every board position entails the need to take care of a specific task/role and at the same time be a team player and care for the whole.

All in all, a lovely, thoughtful way, into the next job.

Tali Bar-Yoseph Levine

## **Continuing Education Officers Report - AAGT 2018**

Dina Miller & Marlene Blumenthal, Continuing Education Officers

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The following are the tasks that the CE officers have worked on this past year:

- Making determination if AAGT will contract with Amedco for this conference. They charged fees that they did not charge us last conference and the price was quite high. We decided against it.
- We started the process to be a CE provider for ASWB (national social work organization). Due to Dina's poor health and the very particular requirements of the ASWB organization (even more than APA it appears), we were not able to become an ASWB ACE (approved continuing education) provider for this conference. Dina researched other possible options for CE for Social Workers and of the two primary organizations, ASWB and NASW, the former provides the best options, allowing for a possible 3 year approval the future.
- We reviewed presenter proposals to determine eligibility for CE credits.
- We created evaluations for the Toronto conferences and other needed forms.
- Certificates will include the list of each workshop that was attended and credits earned.

Marlene and I met with our CE advisory council and discussed a number of ideas. With the increase in membership from around the world and less US members asking for CE credits from our conferences, we discussed with our advisory council if we should continue to offer CE credits to US members. We discussed what it means to be a "professional organization" and offering CE credits was part of that when we started being an APA provider many years ago.

Our Council advised that we continue to seek accreditation from APA and meet their requirements. There was some support for offering CE credits to other professions, especially if not all US members can use the APA approved credits. Last year, the Board approved our applying to be an Approved Continuing Education (ACE) provider for social workers with the Association for Social Work Boards. The lengthy application process is proceeding slowly.

Additional suggestions from our advisory board in the spirit of both creativity and professionalism included:

- Encouraging and supporting creativity in our conferences through the theme and through workshops that are offered, including those eligible for the awarding of CE credits.
- In the proposal form for conferences, stating upfront the increased number (5) of recent references (within the past 5 years).
- Relationally supporting potential presenters in all areas—writing, finding appropriate references, and writing learning objectives—sending this message out with the call for proposals.
- Suggestion to our members that they consider publishing Gestalt articles in APA Journals (J of Humanistic Psychology, Psychotherapy Journal, and others.)

- Supporting regions or groups in the proposal process if they are seeking CEs.
- Keeping a reference library of evidenced based research and/or practice.
- Advancing Gestalt therapy by fighting for legitimacy of our Gestalt journals.

Respectfully,

Dina Miller, Continuing Education Officer

Marlene Blumenthal, Associate Continuing Education Officer

## Archivist Report - AAGT 2018

Ansel Woldt, AAGT Archivist

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As the Association Archivist I serve somewhat as a historian for the Board, having been a co-founder and association officer since AAGT's inception. One of my tasks is to maintain a running history of the leadership and major functions in "**AAGT's History of Succession of Officers, Board Members, Annual General Meetings and Biennial Conferences - 1989 to 2018**" (*copy included at end of report*). I maintain a copy of AAGT's founding documents and edited tape of our founding meeting.

I regularly watch for new Gestalt Websites in Online resources such as Gestalt News and Notes and other GT Newsletters from around the globe to add to the robust list of GT Websites that was initially created as "**Digital Gestalt Resources**", Appendix A in ***Gestalt Therapy: History, Theory and Practice***. (2005) A. Woldt & S. Toman (Eds.), Sage Publications. This mammoth collection of Gestalt websites has been used to market our conferences.

One of the Archivist's functions is to attend to AAGT's Constitution & By-Laws, making certain of any additions, subtractions, updates and edits -- example:

In the past 4 years since our 2014 AGM in Asilomar, CA, the Regional Contact Persons' (RCP) Representative on the Board of Directors has been inactivated for various reasons; yet that Board member remains in the By-Laws. Thus, it is the role of the Archivist to bring this inaccuracy to the attention of the membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in order to update our By-Laws. As a result, the following motion will be introduced at the 2018 AGM: **Proposal to Abolish the Office of RCP Representative: Discussion of AAGT's regional concept, including abolishment of the role and function of RCP's and RCP Representative.**

I attempt to keep abreast of all newly published books and manuals pertaining to Gestalt therapy theory, research and practice. The GT Library located in my office contains over 400 Gestalt books and manuals, numerous Gestalt journals and a few Gestalt DVDs. Since it has become rare that publishing companies will provide gratis books, nearly all are purchased with personal funds. Since many in the worldwide Gestalt community are aware of my having created this Gestalt Library Collection, I am often contacted for assistance with providing author and publisher information, accuracy of quotations, historic and contemporary research, names of universities and professors offering graduate work in Gestalt therapy, etc.

For those more recently involved in AAGT, it may be of value to know that the **Gestalt Therapy Research Collection** was created by me in 1980. A mainstay that is sometimes sought out for research purposes is the **Collection of Gestalt Therapy Doctoral Dissertations and Master's Theses** containing nearly 400 dissertations and

theses of research on various aspects of Gestalt therapy. The original collection was made possible with funds from a competitive \$10,000 grant I won shortly before my retirement as emeritus professor in 1996. This collection contains almost every type of research, including theoretical, exploratory, descriptive, comparative, experimental, analytical, quantitative, statistical, factor analytical, etc. Unfortunately, the absence of funding has precluded continuous updating of this prized archival collection. Whenever I hear of a new Gestalt therapy dissertation having been defended, I request a copy to be included in this dissertation collection.

I continue to request gratis and 'author-signed' (*when possible*) copies of books for the Gestalt Therapy Archives and Research Collections at Kent State University. However, since there was a personnel change in the University Special Collections, the archivist a few years ago seemed to have a disdain for certain collections, the **Frederich & Laura Perls Gestalt Therapy Special Collections** being one of them. Without my knowledge, she worked in cahoots with Joe Wysong to ship the heart and soul of the **Gestalt Therapy Special Collections** to the University of California Santa Barbara Humanistic Psychology Archives. The time, energy, heartfelt and financial commitment I had invested in this archival research enterprise for 30 years trampled my spirit. Not only were all of Fritz and Laura's collections sent to UCSB, but several of the unique contributions such as photo collections from the Edwin & Sonia Nevis, art pieces from Joseph Zinker, and Fritz's antique Wollensak reel-to-reel tape recorder with original leather carrying case and numerous reels of Fritz's Esalen tapes (*that were contributed by George & Judith Brown and shipped to me personally from Santa Barbara for entry into the Archives*), shipped to UCSB without my knowledge or consent. As a result, my motivation and energies to work with the University archivist has dwindled.

However, as with many misfortunes, there is often an "upside" as well. While the University archivist was dismayed at the size of two large Gestalt Therapy Libraries that were donated by families and friends of deceased prominent Gestalt therapists, these collections have helped to fill some of the void left with the dismembering of the Fritz & Laura Perls' Special Collections. Thanks to long-time friendships with Violet Oaklander and Bob Resnick, I was introduced to **Sharon Simkin Meinhoff**, daughter of Jim and Anne Simkin. Sharon contributed the "**Gestalt Therapy Library of Jim & Anne Simkin**" to the Gestalt Therapy Research Collection here at Kent State University. Thanks to long-time friendships with Charlie Bowman and Bruce & Judy Robertson, I was introduced Sol Rosenberg's widow, **Bernice Rosenberg**. With the able assistance of the Robertson's, the **Gestalt Therapy Library of Sol Rosenberg**, long-time editor of ***Voices: Journal of American Academy of Psychotherapy***, is now included in Kent State's Gestalt Therapy Research Collection.

**It has been recommended that AAGT create a budget line for the Gestalt Therapy Archives so that Gestalt therapy archival materials can be added and kept up-to-date.**



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## **AAGT's History of Succession of Officers, Board Members, Annual General Meetings and Biennial Conferences - 1989 to 2018**

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### **AAGT's Founding Officials**

1989-1991	Felicia Carrol Ansel Woldt	<b>Organizational Chair:</b> <i>Planning Meetings in Chicago and Boston</i> <b>Secretary pro-tem</b> -- <i>to keep minutes of planning meetings</i>
1991-1992	Jack Neggerman  Ansel Woldt	<b>Organizational Chair and Treasurer:</b> <i>First AGM held during Gestalt Journal Conference in Manhattan Beach, CA . April 11-14, 1991</i> <b>Secretary pro-tem, Drafter &amp; Editor of AAGT Constitution &amp; By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation</b>
1992-1993	<b>Maya Brand, Charter President; Ansel Woldt, Charter Secretary; Jack Neggerman, Charter Treasurer:</b> <b><i>Incorporating Officers of the Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy, filed November 24, 1992 in State of Delaware, USA -- The Company Corporation, Wilmington, Delaware is AAGT's registered agent.</i></b>	

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**AAGT's Annual General Meeting was held April 22, 23 & 25, 1993 during 15th Gestalt Journal Conference in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. During which it was announced that the *Certificate of Incorporation of the "Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy"* was officially approved January 28, 1993 as a non-stock and non-profit corporation by the Secretary of State for the State of Delaware. Secretary pro-tem, A. Woldt, presented the hand-written draft of AAGT's Constitution and By-Laws, which was contemplated, critiqued, discussed and re-drafted by the 30 -75 gestaltists attending.**

1992-1995	Maya Brand, President	Ansel Woldt, Secretary
1992-93	Jack Neggerman, VP Past	Jack Neggerman, Treasurer
1993-95	Carl Hodges, VP-President-Elect	Janice Roosevelt Gerard & Jan Bidwell, Interest Groups Officers Ed Lynch, Newsletter Editor Carl Hodges, RCP Officer

**AAGT's 1st official Board Meeting was held on 5/11/94 in Toronto, Canada and Annual General Meeting (AGM) 5/12/94 in which we decided to have a *Conference Planning meeting in Denver, CO, October 1-3, 1994 to plan for the first AAGT Conference.* Bob and Rita Resnick volunteered to coordinate the meeting, which 18 Gestalt therapists attended at personal cost.**

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**1st AAGT International Conference, New Orleans, LA; October 12-15, 1995. Theme: "Bringing Us Together." Conference Coordinators: Liv Estrup (salaried) & Maya Brand. President Maya Brand and President-elect, Carl Hodges, co-presided at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), 10/12/95, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM with over 100 Gestalt**

therapists participating. *(Historic Note: About 60 went to the pub across the street from the hotel after the meeting adjourned to toast our accomplishments and celebrate with libations and Charlie Bowman got stuck with the bill for all who didn't divvy up.)*

<b>1995-1997</b>	<b>Carl Hodges, President</b>	Steve Stein, Secretary
1995-96	Maya Brand, VP Past	Brian O'Hara, Treasurer
1996-97	Charlie Bowman, VP-President-Elect	Iris Fodor & Joan Benevento, Interest Groups Officers
		Amanda Horan, Membership Officer
		Ansel Woldt, Archivist
		John Espy (½ yr.), Judy Robertson, Newsletter Editors
		Nancy Woldt, RCP Coordination Officer

**2nd AAGT International Conference, San Francisco, CA, April 2-6, 1997: Theme: "Different Meanings, Common Ground."**

*Liv Estrup, 1997 Conference Coordinator (salaried). AGM: 4/6/97. New President, Charlie Bowman, presided over the AGM. (Historic Note: The AGM was extended over 2 days on 4/5 and 4/6 with so many heated issues being addressed that we didn't have time to nominate or elect officers; so a special meeting was held at 9:00 PM for those interested with c. 25 attending.)*

**1996 Annual General Membership Meeting -- June 2, 1996, 1:00 - 6:00 PM**

**President Charlie Bowman presided;** 39 members attended at Gestalt Institute of Cleveland following Gestalt Therapy with Children and Adolescents 3-day conference, with several AAGT members participating.

<b>1996-1998</b>	<b>Charlie Bowman, President</b>	Paul Schoenberg, Secretary
1996-97	Carl Hodges, VP Past	Brian O'Hara, Treasurer
1997-98	Bruce Robertson, VP-President-Elect	Joan Benevento & Bud Feder, Interest Groups Officers
		Bruce Robertson, Membership Officer
		Ansel Woldt, Archivist
		Phil Brownell & Judy Robertson, Newsletter Editor
		Carl Hodges & Nancy Woldt, RCP Coordination Officers

**3rd AAGT International Conference, Cleveland, OH; June 2-6, 1998. Theme: "Gestalt in the World and the World of Gestalt"** *Liv Estrup, 1998, Conference Coordinator (salaried), Edwin Nevis On-site Logistics Coordinator who picked up the tab for the 26-piece band and renting the Antique Car & Airplane Museum for the dinner dance. President Charlie Bowman presided over the AGM on 6/2/98.*

<b>1998-1999</b>	<b>Bruce Robertson, President</b>	Paul Schoenberg, Secretary
1998-99	Charlie Bowman, VP Past	Gail Feinstein, Treasurer; Bud Feder, Treasurer Elect
1999	Carol Brockmon, VP-President-Elect	Cynthia Cook & Jack Aylward, Interest Groups Officers
		Lu Grey & Ansel Woldt, Continuing Education Officers
		Sarah Toman & Todd Butler, Membership Officers
		Ansel Woldt, Archivist
		Elizabeth Palazzi, Publications Director
		Carl Hodges & Nancy Woldt, RCP Coordination Officers

**4th AAGT International Conference, New York, NY, May 26-30, 1999. Theme: "Expanding Our Vision - Bridging Our Diversity."** *Liv Estrup, 1999 Conference Coordinator (salaried), Bud Feder, On-site Logistics Coordinator. Carol Brockmon and Burt Lazarin -- Program Planning Committee. President Bruce Robertson presided over the AGM on 5/30/99. (Historic Note: When we left the NYC Hilton Hotel AAGT owed them over \$100,000 with no way to pay it and no assets.)*

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<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>Carol Brockmon, President</b>	Sarah Toman, Secretary
1999-2000	Bruce Robertson, VP Past	Bud Feder, Treasurer
1999-2000	Bud Feder, VP-President-Elect	Cynthia Cook & Rachel Brier, Interest Groups Officers Linda DiTullio, Membership Officer Ansel Woldt, Archivist & Continuing Education Officer Elizabeth Revell, Publications Director Nancy Woldt & Emil Jech, RCP Coordination Officers

**5th AAGT International Conference, Dallas–Ft. Worth, TX, November 8 – 12, 2000. Theme: “Gestalt Therapy for Our Time: Social Vision and Personal Change.”** Chuck Kanner, Conference Coordinator.

President Carol Brockmon presided over the half-day long AGM on 11/11/2000.

*(Historic Note: This conference honored Ansel Woldt as he was awarded AAGT's Lifetime Achievement Award for his service to AAGT & Gestalt Therapy. His silk underwear was 'stolen' [by some Irish buggers] and sold at the Scholarship Auction to the highest bidder for \$2,100. This initiated a piece of AAGT history, "The Sacred Shorts of St. Ansel" passed on by the Gestalt Irish Interest Group (IIG) that sold at scholarship auctions on three continents during Gestalt therapy meetings and conferences that reportedly brought over \$10,000 into AAGT's Scholarship Fund.*

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**AAGT's 2001 Annual General Membership Meeting and 6<sup>th</sup> Conference Pre-Planning**

President Carol Brockmon presided, 32 attended at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, April 26-29, 2001.

**On-Site Conference Planning Meeting**

Incoming President Bud Feder presided on April 11-14, 2002 at Kanner's Academy, Sarasota, Florida

<b>2000-2002</b>	<b>Bud Feder, President</b>	Linda DiTullio, Secretary
2002-03	Carol Brockmon, VP Past	Bruce Aaron, Treasurer
2003-04	Brian O'Neill, VP-President-Elect	Ansel Woldt, Archivist & Continuing Education Officer
		Marcy Stern, Publications Director Officer Ann Bauer & Isabelle Fredericson, Membership Officers Nancy Woldt, RCP Coordinator Officer Jack Aylward, Interest Groups Coordination Officer

**6th AAGT International Conference, St. Petes Beach, FL, November 6-10, 2002. Theme: “Holding the Heat: Conflict, Creativity, Contact.”** Chuck Kanner & Phil Brownell, 2002 Conference Coordinators. President Bud Feder presided over the AGM on 11/10/2002.

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**AAGT's 2003 Annual General Membership Meeting**

In the absence of President Brian O'Neil, Past-President Bud Feder presided over the AGM at Unitarian Church, Montclair, New Jersey on June 15-16, 2003, with 38 members present following the New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy's Golden Jubilee -- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

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<b>2004-2005</b>	<b>Brian O'Neill, President</b>	Ann Bowman, Secretary
2004-05	Bud Feder, VP Past	Bruce Aaron, Treasurer, Chuck Kanner, Treasurer Elect
2004-05	Peter Philippon, VP-President-Elect	Ansel Woldt, Archivist & Continuing Education Officer Marcy Stern, Publications Director Officer Peter Cole, Membership Officer Marilyn Myles, RCP Representative Officer

Morgan Goodlander, Organizational Affiliates  
Representative

**7th AAGT International Conference, St. Petes Beach, FL, November 10-14, 2004. Theme: "Re-Creation: Transforming the Field through the Process of Gestalt Therapy."** Bud Feder, Linda DiTullio & Jack Aylward, Conference Coordinators; Carol Brockman and Burt Lazarin, Program Co-Chairs. President Brian O'Neil presided over the AGM on 11/13/2004.

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**AAGT's 2005 Annual General Meeting and Regional European AAGT Conference. Theme: Meaningful Figures:** This first AAGT regional conference held outside of North America at De Ruimte, Amsterdam on August 4-8, 2005. Tine van Wijk was the conference coordinator. President Brian O'Neill presided over the Annual General Meeting held on 8/8/2005. (Historic Note: It was decided at the AGM to re-label us as **IAAGT (International Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy)**. This change of our identity was deemed as illegal due to the Articles of Incorporation. It stirred a fury, especially amongst the founders and long-time members who were not able to attend the meeting in Amsterdam.)

<b>2005-2007</b>	<b>Peter Philippon, President</b>	Ann Bowman, Secretary
2005-06	Brian O'Neill, VP Past	Peter Cole, Treasurer
2006-07	Dan Bloom, VP-President-Elect	Ansel Woldt, Continuing Education Officer & Archivist
		Marcy Stern, Publications Director
		Robert deVoss & Nancy Woldt, Membership
		Tine Van Wyjk, RCP Representative
		Bud Feder, Organizational Affiliates Representative
		Jack Aylward, Interest Groups Coordinator
		Philip Brownell, Internet & Electronics Coordinator

**8th AAGT International Conference, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada: August 9-13, 2006. Theme: "Dreaming the Future: Expanding Our Consciousness through Gestalt Therapy."** Bea Mackay and Warren Weir Conference Coordinators; Victor Daniels Program Planning Committee Chair. President Peter Philippon presided AGM, 8/12/2006. Erving Polster was awarded AAGT's Lifetime Achievement Award.

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**2007 Annual General Meeting, October 5 - 7, 2007. Theme: "Gestalt Approaches to and Ethics of Group Work".** Held in conjunction with AAGT-Southwest USA Regional Conference in Berkeley, CA. AGM 10/6/2007, President-elect Dan Bloom, presided over the AGM on 10/7/2007.

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<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>Peter Philippon, President</b>	Ann Bowman, Secretary
2007-08	Brian O'Neill, VP Past	Peter Cole, Treasurer
2007-08	Dan Bloom, VP-President-Elect	Ansel Woldt, Continuing Education Officer & Archivist
		Marcy Stern, Publications Director
		Robert deVoss & Nancy Woldt, Membership
		Tine Van Wyjk, Brian O'Neill, RCP Representative
		Bud Feder, Organizational Affiliates Representative
		Jack Aylward, Interest Groups Coordinator
		Philip Brownell, Internet & Communications Coordinator

**9th AAGT International Conference, Manchester, UK, July 23-27, 2008. Theme: "Borders and Bridges: Differentiation in Contact."** Sarah Fallon, 2008 Conference Convener. Phillip Brownell and Mae Tang Program Planning Committee co-chairs  
AGM: President Peter Philippon, presided over the AGM on Saturday, July 26, 2008.

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**2009 Annual General Meeting, April 30-May 3, 2009, Held in conjunction with 11th Spanish Gestalt Therapy Association in Madrid, Spain. Theme: "The Union of the Differences"** President Dan Bloom presided over the AGM on 5/3/09.

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<b>2008-2010</b>	<b>Dan Bloom, President</b>	Sarah Fallon , Secretary
2008-09	Peter Philippon, VP Past	Peter Cole, Treasurer; Sharon Warwick, Treasurer Elect/Intern
2009-10	Cathy Gray, VP-President-Elect	Ansel Woldt, Continuing Education Officer & Archivist Peter Cole, CE Officer Elect/Intern Michael Dietrich-Chastain, Interest Groups Coordinator Philip Brownell & Charlie Bowman, Communications Officers Robert de Vos & Maryanne Nichols, Membership Co-Chairs Brian O'Neill, RCP Representative Bud Feder & Morgan Goodlander, Org. Affiliates Representatives

**10th AAGT International Conference, Philadelphia, PA. June 1-6, 2010. Theme: "Continuity and Change: Gestalt Therapy Now"** Catherine Gray & Burt Lazarin, 2010 Conference Co-Conveners. President Dan Bloom presided at AGM on 6/5/10.  
Philip Lichtenberg was awarded AAGT's Lifetime Achievement Award.

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**2011 Annual General Meeting, June 5, 2011, "Celebrating AAGT's 20 years: 1991-2011 in conjunction with a workshop on Group Process at Shetler Studios Penthouse #1, New York City.** Cathy Gray presided at the AGM, 1:00 - 6:00 PM.

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<b>2010-2012</b>	<b>Cathy Gray, President</b>	Rodney Cole, Secretary
2010-11	Dan Bloom, VP Past	Burt Lazarin, Treasurer
2011-12	Gail Feinstein, VP-President-Elect	Peter Cole, Continuing Education Officer Ansel Woldt, Archivist & Associate CE Officer Charlie Bowman Communications Officer Brian Mistler, Assistant Communications Officer Marlene Blumenthal & Anna Bacik, Organization Affiliates Repr`s. Joe DePaula & Ginny McIntosh, Interest Groups Co- Coordinators Nancy Woldt & Maryanne Nichols, Membership Co-Chairs Marilyn Miles, Anne Leibig, Deirdre Winter, RCP Representatives Bud Feder & Judy Graham, Scholarship Co-Chairs

**11th AAGT International Conference, Puebla, Mexico. May 17-20, 20012. Theme: "Cultures - Contact - Change."** Marlene Bloomenthal, Guadalupe Amescua, & Pablo Allen, Conference Co-Conveners. President Cathy Gray presided for the AGM on 5/19/2012.

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**2013 Annual General Meeting: April 17-20, 2013. Held in conjunction with First International Gestalt Therapy Research Conference. Theme: "The Challenge of Establishing a Research Tradition for Gestalt Therapy"** held at

Gestalt International Study Center in Cape Cod, South Wellfleet, MA. President Gail Feinstein presided over the AGM on 4/20/13.

<b>2012-2014</b>	<b>Gail Feinstein, President</b>	Rodney Cole, Secretary
2012-13	Catherine 'Cathy' Gray, VP Past	Burt Lazarin, Treasurer
2013-14	Patricia Tucker, VP-President-Elect	Dina Miller, Continuing Education (CE) Officer
		Ansel Woldt, Archivist & Associate CE Officer
		Charlie Bowman, Communications Officer
		Brian Mistler, Associate Communications Officer
		Alexandra 'Alex' Schlotterbeck, Assistant Newsletter Editor
		Marlene Blumenthal & Anna Bacik, Organization Affiliates Repr's.
		Joe DePaula, Interest Groups Coordinator
		Maryanne Nichols & Nancy Woldt, Membership Co-Chairs
		Adam Kincel, RCP Representative
		Deirdre Winter, Regional Development Coordinator
		Mark Reck, Research Liaison Officer
		Bud Feder & Dominique 'Domi' Chabre, Scholarship Co-Chairs

**12th AAGT International Conference, Asilomar Center, Pacific Grove, CA. September 3-7, 2014. Theme: "Exploring the Diversity of Gestalt Therapy"** Peter Cole and Daisy Reese were the Conference Co-Conveners.

President Gail Feinstein presided over the AGM 9/6/14.

Bud Feder was awarded AAGT's Lifetime Achievement Award.

**2015 Annual General Meeting, at Kean University, Union, NJ, on June 12-14, 2015. Held in conjunction with North East-USA AAGT Regional Conference.** President Patricia Tucker presided, 6/13 & 6/14, 2015

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<b>2014-2016</b>	<b>Patricia Tucker, President</b>	Ryan Tolman, Monique Rodriguez Secretary
2014-15	Gail Feinstein, VP Past	Burt Lazarin, Treasurer
2015-16	Toni Gilligan, VP-President-Elect	Dina Miller, Continuing Education (CE) Officer
		Ansel Woldt, Archivist & Associate CE Officer
		Brad Larsen Sanchez, Communications Officer
		Alexandra 'Alex' Schlotterbeck, Newsletter Editor
		Marlene Blumenthal & Janneke van Beusekom, Organization Affiliates (OM) Representatives
		Robert Witchel & Daniel Bak, Interest Groups Coordinators
		Maryanne Nichols & Jim Battaglia, Membership Co-Chairs
		Adam Kincel, RCP Representative
		Dominique 'Domi' Chabre & Adam Kincel, Scholarship Co-Chairs
		Deirdre Winter, Regional Development Coordinator
		Mark Reck, Research Liaison Officer
		Bud Feder & Gail Feinstein, Ex-Officio Board Members

**13th AAGT International Conference with EAGT, Taormina, Sicily. -September 22-25, 2016. Theme: The Aesthetic of Otherness: Meeting at the Boundary in a Desensitized World.** Burt Lazarin, Gianni Francesetti, Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb, & Jelena Zeleskov Djoric, Co-Conveners. President Patricia Tucker presided over the AGM on Sunday, 9/25/2016: 8:00 - 9:00 AM & 2:30 - 5:30 PM.

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***2017 Annual General Meeting in Reading, England on July 2nd and 3rd following the UKAGP's 25th Anniversary Conference with President Toni Gilligan presiding.***

<b>2016-2018</b>	<b>Toni Gilligan, President;</b>	Ryan Tolman, Secretary in absentia
2016-17	Patricia Tucker, VP Past	Brad Larsen Sanchez, Treasurer
2017-18	Talia Bar Yoseph Levine, VP Pres.-Elect	Dina Miller, Continuing Education (CE) Officer
		Ansel Woldt, Archivist
		Robert Witchel, Communications Officer
		Billy Desmond & Catie Beaulieu Interest Groups Coordinators
		Maryanne Nichols & Jon Blend, Membership Co-Chairs
		Nives Vrecic & Shareefah Sabur, Organization Members Co-Chairs
		Deirdre Winter, Regional Development Coordinator
		Mark Reck, Research Liaison Officer
		Dominique 'Domi' Chabre, Scholarship Officer
		Emily Meyer Stewart, Newsletter Editor
		Marlene Blumenthal, Associate CE Officer
		_____, RCP Representative
		Burt Lazarin & Gail Feinstein, Ex-Officio Board Members

***14th AAGT International Biennial Conference August 14-19, 2018 in at the Delta Chelsea Hotel, Toronto, Canada; Conference Theme: "Radical Respect: Contemporary Gestalt Therapy in Troubled Times" with Carolina Edwards, Jay Tropianskaia and Heather Anne Keyes as Co-Conveners.***

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## Special Interest Group Report - AAGT 2018

Catie Beaulieu & Billy Desmond, Special Interest Group Co-Chairs

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In the past year, Catie and Billy have developed a co-creative process in continuing to develop interest groups. We have continued to brainstorm, build, and 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 continue to 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 field. Our role is not to manage but to look at ways to create the necessary field conditions for groups to emerge, thrive and sustain. The special interest groups that we are aware of, their chair(s), and contact information are as follows:

- Gender & Sexual Diversity Group: Daniel [psycholog.med@gmail.com](mailto:psycholog.med@gmail.com) or Billy [billy.desmond@icloud.com](mailto:billy.desmond@icloud.com)
- Gestalt Group Therapy Interest Group Shanon: [shanon@shanonsitkin.com](mailto:shanon@shanonsitkin.com)
- Researching, Investigating, Inquiring: A Gestalt Research Interest Group: Mark Reck [mark.reck.psyd@gmail.com](mailto:mark.reck.psyd@gmail.com)
- Working with Children & Adolescents: Interest Group - Jon Blend [jon.blend335@gmail.com](mailto:jon.blend335@gmail.com)
- Gestalt therapy People of Color: introducing Gestalt to more people of color and connecting with other Gestalt POC - Catie Beaulieu [gestaltwellnessstudio@gmail.com](mailto:gestaltwellnessstudio@gmail.com)
- Buddhist Psychology and Gestalt Therapy- Eve Gold and Steve Zahm [gttcnw@gmail.com](mailto:gttcnw@gmail.com)

### Special Interest Groups Summary:

- Special Interest Groups which seem to be meeting regularly and have a core membership have increased from two (2017) to five this year: Gender and Sexual Diversity, Gestalt Groups, Gestalt Research, Working with Children & Adolescents, and People of Color.
- Last year, one group: Gender and Sexuality was meeting regularly via Zoom. This year the platform has grown to support a total of four groups: Gender and Sexual Diversity, Gestalt Research, Working with Children and Adolescents, and People of Color. There is record of AAGT hosting Zoom meetings for Special Interest Groups approximately 35 times in 2018.
- Special Interest Groups are advertised independently through their chairs. Chairs have been observed announcing meetings through the member listserv, their own special interest group email lists, Facebook, and the AAGT Newsletter.



- Previously, Gender and Sexuality Diversity interest group had a large gathering in Taormina, which gathered both EAGT and AAGT members. This year, six special interest groups will be provided space on Thursday, 8-16-18 during lunch to meet face-to-face, network with other groups, and invite new members to join their groups.
- The co-chairs have been encouraging others through the informal networks to consider joining or establishing interest 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:

- There have been several conversations between co-chairs in regard to research and some time has been reserved for the co-chairs to meet in person at the conference. The purpose of this research is to understand how the current groups are working and what learning can be shared as a potential support for emerging groups, particularly when convening across the virtual domain.
- Developing links between interest groups and other functions on the board. For example, research and organizational membership as a way of supporting our membership / attracting new members.
- Developing a way to engage and invite student members or those new to Gestalt Therapy to offer their ideas for interest groups so that new emerging needs are being identified.
- 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 and more proactive postings to promote the advancement of Gestalt therapy

## **Membership Report - AAGT 2018**

Maryanne Nicholls & Jon Blend, Membership Co-Chairs

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We have had a substantial increase in our membership numbers over the last year 417 in June 2018, compared with 298 in June 2017, reflecting the general trend of increased activity during a conference year. The number of full-time members rose in this period from 119 to 147; part-time member totals increased from 68 to 96. Organisational members increased from 28 to 29 and retirees from 15 to 18. Student numbers rose from 53 to 105. Students now receive their first year of membership free of charge.

We have a broadening spread of members from thirty countries ranging from Australia to the United States. Membership is highest in the US (162), and then UK (49) followed by Canada (32), Australia (14) and Mexico (11). See enclosed table for more details.

### **Our Work Since Taormina 2016.**

As co –chairs we have met online on a monthly basis since autumn 2016 to liaise and exchange information. Initially we focused in part on informing Gestalt institutes and organisations about AAGT. To this end we spoke with representatives/ students in several organisations (see below) It remains a challenge to do this in person without a budget; accordingly, we have taken opportunities to spread the word when training / visiting gestalt communities elsewhere, following the maxim: ‘think globally, act locally’.

We attempted a dialogue with ten institutes that were further afield (Austria, France, Italy, Belgium, Germany and Croatia) offering online meetings with students and staff. Responses alas were not very forthcoming hence this initiative was put aside for now.

Over the last 18 months our focus shifted to ways of supporting AAGT’s newer members. We redesigned AAGT’s membership flyer to include a reference to students having an initial year of membership free of charge, including this information on the website. Building on a successful New Members’ meeting at the Taormina conference and the positive feedback this event received we have put our energies into developing this as an orienting event to help new members feel welcome on arrival at the Toronto conference and become familiar with AAGT activities such as process groups, community meetings, the auction and AGM. We will be around throughout conference – or leave us a message via the New Members table. Come and say hello, ask us questions - we will do our best to help!

We would like to compile an up- to- date list of Gestalt institutes across the globe (see list on our New Members table.).

Could you help us by adding the name of the organisation where you teach or are training, their web address and a contact email of the student liaison person or administrator? Likewise, if you know of other institutes in your region that may be interested in hearing from us.

Thank you, Jon and Maryanne

**List of places contacted re AAGT:**

Students at Metanoia Institute: London, May 2017

Workshop participants: Manchester Institute of Psychotherapy Developmental conference Manchester UK, Oct 2017

European Association for Interdisciplinary Therapeutic Services with Children & Young People (EAITSCYP: UK), Jul 2017

Workshop participants: Gestalt Centre, London UK, Nov 2017

Workshop participants: Manchester Gestalt Centre, Manchester UK, Apr 2018

Workshop participants: Gestalt Institute of Education, Rzeszów, Poland, Jun 2018

## **Organizational Membership Report - AAGT 2018**

Nives Vrecic & Shareefah Sabur, Organizational Membership Co-Chairs

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Dear Members,

It has been our pleasure to serve as co-chairs in the role of Organizational Membership (OM) Representatives. We met 4-5 times of the past year to plan our activities.

We would like to outline a chronology of activities performed in the past twelve months, in service of organizational members.

### **August 2017**

- Clarified the role of the OM representatives per the by-laws
- Verified that the contact list of organizational members was current
- Sent a letter of introduction announcing that Shareefah was elected and joined to Nives as co-chair OM representative to the Newsletter and obtained information to pass on to organizational members about submitting information.
- Send a presentation with biography of Shareefah as a new member of OM representative to Newsletter.

### **September 2017**

- Sent a letter of introduction announcing the co-chairs, Nives and Shareefah, where we introduced ourselves
- Sent a letter of introduction announcing the co-chairs, Nives and Shareefah, where we introduced ourselves

### **October 2017**

- Announced early-bird registration for the AAGT conference in Toronto

### **January 2018**

- Letter encouraging registration for AAGT Toronto
- Encourage submission of proposals
- Sent a New Year's greeting with thanks for the members especially to Organizational members for their loyalty to the AAGT.

### **March 2018**

- Letter announcing the symposium at the Gestalt Institute of New York

### **May 2018**

- Letter describing how to advertise your programs through:

- emails
- use the listserv
- newsletter
- About receiving reduced conference fees for your organizational representative
- Letter on organizational non-members, inviting them to join to increase membership
- Announcing the lunch meeting to be held for organizational members during the Toronto conference
- Invite agenda items for the lunch meeting at AAGT in Toronto
- Wrote a welcome letter to Organizational Member Representatives with a reminder to our meeting for the Conference Program.

Warm regards,

Nives Vrečić ([nivesv@gmail.com](mailto:nivesv@gmail.com))

Shareefah Sabur ([ssabur@gestaltcleveland.org](mailto:ssabur@gestaltcleveland.org))

(Organizational Membership Co-Chairs)

## Research Liaison Report - AAGT 2018

Mark Reck, Research Liaison

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Research-related efforts for AAGT over the past year has been primarily regarding conferences.

As many may know, **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). Post-conference highlights included:

- Coordination among the conveners (of which I was one) the development of freely-available videos of the plenary talks, available to both conference attendees and the general public (<https://gestalt-research.com/videos/>)
- Conveners composing and publishing an article in the *British Gestalt Journal* about the conference, its impact, and movement toward the future ("Out of the Paris Conference: A Step into Exploring Practice-Based Research in Gestalt Therapy" by Vincent Beja, Gianni Francesetti, Jan Roubal, and Mark Reck)

Additionally, from the Paris conference, the foundations for **the 2019 International Gestalt Therapy Research Conference** were established. AAGT continued its commitment to support the research conferences by becoming a sponsor for this upcoming conference and having AAGT members participate as part of scientific (planning) committee. The 2019 conference is planned to be held from 29 May – 1 June in Santiago, Chile. More information about the 2019 conference, including registration and proposal submissions, can be found here: <http://congresogestalt.cl/index.php/en/>

Research is also being emphasized at **the 2018 AAGT Conference** in Toronto, Canada from 14-19 August. The conference conveners and larger conference planning committee has collaborated to provide space for research in a variety of ways, including:

- A research poster session to spotlight research efforts of members, allowing conference attendees an opportunity to interact with researchers and see examples of projects within our community
- A research table to inform conference attendees about various gestalt research and research-related efforts, opportunities, and resources
- Including research as one of the special interest groups represented during a special interest group lunch
- The acceptance of conference workshops regarding gestalt research

With support and encouragement from the AAGT interest group coordinators, a **research special interest group** was started in the fall of 2017 and has been meeting through the Zoom videoconferencing platform on a monthly basis. These meetings have been a wonderful opportunity for those interested and/or active in gestalt research to connect, share, and gain support and inspiration.

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](mailto:mark.reck.psyd@gmail.com)).

## **Scholarship Fund Committee Report - AAGT 2018**

Adam Kincel, Dominique Chabre, Scholarship Fund Committee Co-Chairs

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The AAGT Scholarship Fund had at the beginning of December 2017 \$12,875.01. On early August 2018, it had \$25,852.53.

The increase is due to:

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.
- People donating their plenary honorariums.
- People doing fund raising activities and sending in the proceeds.
- People responding to our special appeals for donation such as the one the committee made through a GoFundMe campaign which raised \$3,913.84.
- Training institutes.
- A Board approved donation of \$5000 from the AAGT general fund.

The AAGT Scholarship Fund and the 2018 Toronto AAGT Biannual Conference:

The following criteria have been applied in granting scholarships: financial need, ethnic diversity, geographic diversity, student status, new practitioner status, potential conference presenter, as well as unique circumstances. We also consider specific expenses based on travel distance, etc.

1. The SF committee granted \$21,784 in scholarships to the Toronto conference.
2. Range of grant size (smallest to largest): \$100 to \$2409
3. Number of recipients: 34
4. Size of grant requests relative to size of grants given: Due to limited funds the joint SF committee was only able to grant 100% of the amount requested up to \$750 and 50% of anything over \$750.
5. For the first time the SF committee was able to find free accommodations for recipients in local residents' homes.
6. Number of people who did not accept the grant offered and who will not be able to come: 13. The size of grants, according to the recipients, did not affect their decisions not to attend.

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

The Scholarship Fund is available to allocate funding to all 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 has designed a standard scholarship application form for regional and research conferences: [www.aagt.org/scholarship\\_fund\\_regional/](http://www.aagt.org/scholarship_fund_regional/)

The AAGT Scholarship Fund committee

Co-chairs: Adam Kincel, Dominique Chabre

Members: Cathy Gray, Bud Feder

## **Regional Development Liaison Report - AAGT 2018**

Deirdre Winter, Regional Development Liaison

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During the period since the last AGM the Regional Development Fund (RDF) Committee has been more or less inactive. This is due to the fact that the relative status of the role of the Regional Development Fund alongside that of the new committee set up to implement the Board recommendations in relation to the AAGT regions has been unclear.

As Board Liaison of the Regional Development Fund Committee I (Deirdre Winter) have been serving on the new committee, endeavouring along with the other members to clarify this and other questions relating to the AAGT regions. (Here I refer members to the report of the other committee.)

I have also not been advertising the Regional Development Fund in the AAGT Newsletter this year, partly because of above-mentioned lack of clarity, but also because there have not been many Newsletters over the past year.

We have had only one application for financial support in the past year. This lack of activity may well also have been due to recent problems with the AAGT website (application form and information on the RDF removed).

The Regional Development Fund Committee decided that this one application unfortunately did not meet the criteria for regional development and passed the application on to the new Regional Activities Committee.

This committee could not, however, make a decision on the application as it has not yet been given a mandate to do so and has no funds to disburse. It therefore passed the application on to the Board with some comments.

The Board discussed the application at length at its June 2018 meeting and endorsed the Regional Development Committee's decision that the application did not meet its criteria. The Board also decided that the application did not meet criteria for a grant for other reasons and rejected it, recommending that the applicants should try to find other sources of funds.

Pending the AGM's decision on the work of the new Regional Activities Committee after receipt of its report, the Regional Development Committee is poised to restart work on advertising itself.

The Committee could do with at least one new member and we would welcome any volunteers, particularly members from non-English-speaking regions.

The Regional Development Fund currently has a balance of \$ 6,708.78 (see Treasurer's Report July 2018).

As in previous years, part of the money in the Regional Development Fund has come from organizational funds deposited in the Regional Development Fund to match expenditures on board member activities.

The remainder is donated by AAGT members, whom we gratefully thank for their generosity.

Deirdre Winter, Dipl. Psych., Gestalt Therapist DVG

**AAGT Regional Development Fund Liaison Officer**

Berlin, August 8th, 2018